

## **A Letter to SFB from St. Paul Mukono**

*In November, Karen Guszowski of the St. Francis Borgia Twinning Committee received an e-mail message from Cate Kitooke Namutebi of St. Paul Parish in Mukono, Uganda. Cate is one of several members of the St. Paul community who escorted Karen and other SFB visitors throughout the 135-square mile St. Paul Parish area during their visit to Uganda in July. She is also St. Paul's communications liaison to our parish. Excerpts from Cate's letter appear below.*

Dear Karen,

Thank you very much for your e-mail. It really thrilled me. How are Tom and the rest? The twinning group? We were really sorry about the tragedy that befell your country. We prayed and are still praying for you for peace.

In brief, the following are some of the activities that we carried out in our diocese and St. Paul Parish since September. There was an evangelization seminar about witchcraft at the diocesan level. Witchcraft is still a big problem in Africa as a whole, whereby it urges the witchdoctors to kill innocent people, mostly children, which is a real insult to basic human rights and also an insult to God. One Fr. Ruso Joseph, a Comboni Missionary, has done a great job in fighting this. He has so far converted over 400 witchdoctors to Christianity, and they have denounced their evil practices before the Church. They visited our diocese to convert ours also through real demonstrations and testimonies. A good number of people attended, including our Bishop Mathias Ssekamanya, priests, and laypeople.

At St Paul, we had our Women's Day celebration — the Catholic Women's Guild, whose uniform you have, yellow and white Gomesi [ceremonial dresses]. It was really a success.

Two kindergarten schools have been selected as model schools in the parish; they are the ones that will first receive help from your side [from SFB bimonthly collections]. Every last Sunday of each month, there is a special collection of offerings by a particular selected Christian community at St. Paul in order to support both the Church and our priests. The offerings include foodstuffs, wine, carpets, etc. The Bishop [Ssekamanya] is making a pastoral visit to our parish on the 24th and 25th of November. During his visit, he shall give Confirmation to several children and also administer the sacrament of Matrimony to a number of couples.

We prayed and continue praying for you, especially the children of St. Paul. We also began the Sunday School system at the parish. The children say they remember you most while in fields playing football and netball because of the balls that you brought; also the crayons are really wonderful, the pencils, etc. They really love you so much and are preparing Christmas gifts for their counterparts in Cedarburg!

Greetings from everyone on this end. God bless! Greetings to all.

Love, Cate.

-Provided by John Schauble for the *Messenger* parish newsletter, Lent 2002.