



Pastoral Page

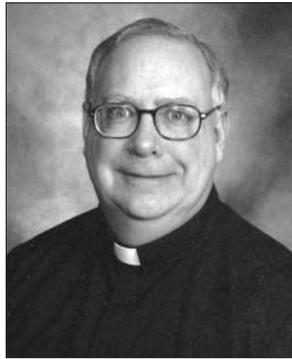
We dined on goat!
 We saw ant hills ten feet tall.
 We stood on the equator.
 We used primitive latrines.
 We saw the source of the Nile River.
 We saw thousands of people living in shacks.

We prayed on the spot where a page-boy was stabbed to death for being a Christian. We saw the name St. Francis Borgia on a nursery school built with our funds. We went to bed dead tired but very happy each night.

And, most importantly, we brought the love, prayers, gifts, best wishes, hello's and hope from 6,000 members of St. Francis Borgia Parish in Cedarburg, Wisconsin to the 26,000 members of our sister parish, St. Paul the Apostle in Mukono, Uganda.

The elevation and climate of Uganda is ideal. Hot sun, daytime temps in the 80s, cool breezes all day, absence of bugs and flies, abundant vegetation. A perfect summer day in Wisconsin is a daily occurrence in Uganda. And they have no winter.

But the poverty is overwhelming. While there is a growing middle class, the majority of the population lives in squalor. One room shacks with no plumbing. There are electrical blackouts



Fr. Tom Eichenberger

several times each day. Most families have barely enough money to buy food for that day only. People never enjoy any luxury that we would take for granted.

That's why we were so pleased to see how our SFB prayers and donations have been put to such good use, helping Ugandans permanently pull themselves up and out of poverty. The successful projects we sponsor include teaching women the craft and occupation of sewing, the piggery projects that provide a permanent income, and the schools in the sub-parishes.

As we visited a number of outback stations or sub-parishes, we were greeted by bongo drums and dancing children. They were so happy to see their friends from America, and so grateful for the small gifts we brought them, like the Tootsie Rolls donated by the Knights of Columbus, the rosaries provided by the SFB Women's Guild, and the pencils and baseball caps given by our parishioners.

We would like to return to Uganda in 2009, and invite you to seriously consider joining us.

I say to God what the Ugandans kept saying to us. "Webale, webale." Thank you, thank you for this blessed opportunity.



Fr. Tom accompanied by school children at a subparish in Uganda.

Photos by Anne White



The Messenger is published to keep all St. Francis Borgia members informed about parish activities, to foster a greater sense of parish community, and to provide spiritual guidance and inspiration.

Schedule: Fall, Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, Summer

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

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The pastoral page features messages from Fr. Tom Eichenberger, Deacon Paul Huber, Fr. Mike Lightner, and Fr. Al Veik.