

OUT OF AFRICA

UGANDA PILGRIMAGE: PROGRESS SINCE 2001 by Tom Guskowski, Twinning Committee Member

“**Courtesy of St. Francis Borgia Parish**” is the prominent inscription displayed on the preschool building adjacent to St. Paul Catholic Church in Mukono, Uganda, East Africa. This inscription is also on piggery units in the rural subparishes of St. Paul Parish.

It was both a surprise and an honor to see our parish name so far from home during a late August pilgrimage to our sister parish. Headed by Fr. Tom Eichenberger, our nine-member delegation included Bob & Martha Slobig who have been married 50 years; parish council member Linda Fehl and her daughter Susie; religion teacher Anne White who founded the Tablesetters (a social justice group) at our school; human concerns committee member Chris Siudak and her son Nathan; and me.

During the first pilgrimage to St. Paul Parish in July 2001, my distinct impression was that our Uganda brothers and sisters hoped for better circumstances for their parish, especially in their children’s education.

I am pleased that our twinning relationship and your generous contributions are beginning to meet the hopes of St. Paul parishioners. For example, the preschool building that we visited in 2001 was little more than a wooden shack with a dirt floor. The new preschool building is larger, built with bricks and more conducive to education. Progress is most evident in the work of the St. Paul Women’s Guild, including agricultural demonstration projects, piggery units, sewing instruction to young women, and loans to women for projects that have a good likelihood of repayment.

All those we visited (including Bishop Mattias Ssekamanya, Fr. Paul Ssebitoogo, his associate pastor Fr. Denis, and hundreds of parishioners) were effusive in their appreciation for the Cedarburg brothers and sisters.

Our twinning relationship is very important because it allows us to experience the universality of the Catholic Church, and to play a small part in alleviating the many problems confronting Africa.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to strengthen our relationship with St. Paul Parish.

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