

Out of Africa

Uganda Pilgrimage: Progress Since 2001

by Karen Guskowski, Twinning Committee Member

The journey this summer to Uganda was my second. I went with the first group of pilgrims in 2001, when our twinning relationship with St. Paul the Apostle parish in Mukono, Uganda was new, and we didn't know what to expect. We were worried about going to exotic Africa, catching diseases, and communicating with strange people.

In 2009, going back to Uganda was filled with joyful anticipation of visiting with loving friends. What I want to share with you, dear parishioners, are my observations of the fruits that have ripened during the eight years of the relationship between our church family in Cedarburg and our brothers and sisters in Mukono. I want you to know that you were with me in Uganda, in my heart, and I thank you for your prayers while we were away. I felt prayed for the whole time.

In 2001, St. Paul's Church was under construction. Today, because of your help, it is a well-built brick church, with lovely stained glass windows, a heavy wooden door, pews and kneelers. There is a sound system, an overhead projector, and a piano keyboard to accompany the drums and singing. St. Paul's is a prominent Catholic presence, located on the main road connecting Kampala to Nairobi, Kenya. This year, the surprise gift from our parish was a beautiful tabernacle, purchased in Nairobi. The Blessed Sacrament will now be kept inside the church, instead of locked up in the sacristy. The people of Mukono are thrilled with this.

Also in 2001, the nursery school at St. Paul's looked like a poorly built chicken coop. Today, it is a well-constructed two-classroom block, with a fenced-in yard. Your contributions to this year's journey will provide playground equipment for the 100 little boys and girls who attend the program. Since my last journey, you have also donated money that has built a latrine and shower facility for the parish and for pilgrims on their way to the shrine to the Ugandan martyrs. A new priests' house is a hub of activity for the parishioners as well as the parish priests and visiting priests. There is a water cooler in the lobby so parishioners can get a cup of **clean water**.

As part of our building fund appeal, SFB parishioners agreed to help the Ugandans build a school of their own. I am thrilled to report that in the Buguju sub-parish, there is a seven-classroom building under construction, with two offices, that is being called **St. Francis Borgia Secondary School**.

There are so many positive outcomes from our relationship with our “twins” in Uganda, especially the love and faith-sharing between our people. Thanks to the Holy Spirit and thank you all for making this happen!

9/13/09 St. Francis Borgia Parish Bulletin