



The community celebrates Msgr. Matthew's 35 years of service as a priest.

## From the Desk of Msgr. Matthew Odong

Dear Friends & Benefactors of Hope For Uganda,

Peace and blessings in Jesus the Lord! At the last annual Board of Governors and Management meeting for Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS), there was renewed excitement as the board shared their report with the parents of seminarians. Like the rest of the world, SHS endured setbacks, challenges, hardship, and sorrow during the pandemic, but we can now acknowledge a visible path to restoring hope for the future.

Financial support from Hope for Uganda continues to keep the seminary operational – thank you! Among the positive impacts of this support are renovations to a much-needed teaching space, which includes two classrooms and a computer room. The construction of a simple poultry and rabbit shelter is also underway to provide seminarians with entrepreneurial skillsets, along with the gardening, cleaning, and maintenance that is expected of them to instill an appreciation for the dignity of manual labor.

The new Government-imposed curriculum requires that teachers and students have greater access to technology for learning. Given the high level

of poverty in this community, it is difficult for parents to afford a laptop, computer, or iPhone to meet these requirements. I have witnessed local students walking miles to find internet service so they can access information for their studies. It is common at SHS to find 5-8 students sharing one laptop and, as the number of seminarians grows, this is becoming very concerning. I appeal to you, dear friends, to consider a donation in this area of necessary development in the education of the young men who seek formation to the priesthood.

Please also prayerfully consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund that supports a majority of the students whose families struggle with tuition. \$900 US dollars will keep a student in school for one full year - \$300 per term. Keeping these young people in school is a fundamental step to restoring hope for the future.

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## Farm Report by Fr. Paul Peter Dr. Rom



I am glad to have this opportunity to update you on our dream for sustainability through agriculture at Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS). With your help, we are steadily growing this dream of becoming an economic hub for AFSS and an education center for our

community. Although the global fuel crisis is hitting us hard, we remain determined to overcome the effects of the pandemic and move forward. Working the earth and seeing the fruits of our labor do wonders for restoring hope for our future.

Currently, the farm is operating on 135 acres, 95 of which are planted with crops and the other 40 acres are in progress. Edible beans, corn, soybeans, sunflowers, and other assorted vegetables are all producing well. These crops, along with 14 acres of cassava, have already begun generating income for the farm. The government is promoting the production of cassava to meet several local needs and we have been contracted to supply cassava cuttings (roots) to the local farmers to grow more of this crop. This marks the achievement of an important goal of the sustainability project – helping local farmers develop cash crops.

So many things have contributed to the early success of the farm. Your donations have procured 262 acres of land; purchased a tractor, plow, disc, planter, and boom sprayer; built roads; drilled a

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Harvested cassava roots loaded for sale to the community.

## You are our Beacon of Hope

by Miss Atim Berna Prisca/ Headteacher

Greetings from Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS) in Northern Uganda, where your donations are renewing hope for all our students, particularly the most needy. In spite of being tormented by COVID-19 and the accompanying lock-down and restrictions over the last two years, we are currently in the second term and students have resumed their studies with zeal.

Our current enrollment is 694 students – 333 girls and 361 boys. Each has a story and comes from varying degrees of need, but they are all infinitely grateful for your prayers and financial support for their school and are keenly aware that education is the key to a promising future. There are still many qualified young people who want very much to attend AFSS, but whose families cannot pay the fees. Poverty is common in Northern Uganda. Supporting a child's education and nurturing his or her formation is the best possible way to rebuild a poor and suffering community.

We are excited to share examples of your support over the years by highlighting some alumni who are current AFSS teachers. Mr. Okane Kenneth Rolexson teaches economics and history. Mr. Oyoo Franco teaches biology and chemistry. Mr. Olweny Steven teaches English and literature. Mr. Onen Daniel Nyeko teaches agriculture. Mr. Ayoko Nelson Mandela teaches computer science. The central motivation of these alumni to work at AFSS is to show their appreciation for the generosity shown to them as students. They want to support the school and pass on the values they learned themselves. We look forward to welcoming more alumni, who are a sign of renewed hope for a bright future at AFSS.

The difficulties continue surrounding the new government-mandated curriculum. Without your support we are unable to meet the need to equip all students with wireless internet, giving them access to global learning materials. We are very concerned about our students falling behind and what the ramifications of that would be, both in terms of their education and the government's involvement.



A few of the AFSS alumni who have returned to inspire the next generation of students.

Security for our students is still a major concern. There are many areas in the fencing surrounding the school that is open to theft and roaming animals that destroy students' clothes and other personal property. We are especially concerned about exposure to human predators of young girls. They could so easily be lured off campus and even sexually exploited. A secured wall around the school is very important to our children's future.

I conclude with a word of thanks to all of you. May God shower you with infinite blessings.

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In closing, I want to once again encourage volunteers to bring their skills in education, business, engineering, farming, health care, etc. to share with our students. Both SHS and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School would welcome your generous presence with open arms! You would see firsthand the value of your contribution and leave with an understanding of how giving hope truly builds better lives in Christ.

May God bless you and keep you,  
Msgr. Matthew Odong



## Your Prayers and Support are bearing fruit!

On July 30, 2022, thousands of the faithful gathered in the Archdiocese of Gulu to celebrate the ordination of 3 new priests and 8 new deacons at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Gulu. Thank you for helping build up the Church in Uganda!



Congratulations to SHS debate team for winning a recent competition.



A portion of the bean crop being harvested the traditional way – beating pods off stalks.



HFU-donated bean thresher in action – reducing threshing time and harvest loss.

## Farm Report continued from page 1

well; and generally provided the tools, seeds, and all things necessary to get us to this point. The corn sheller and bean thresher equipment shipped to us by HFU benefactors is being put to use now with season 1 crops. Praise God and thank you! But our job is far from over. Our next high-priority funding project is for the construction of a drying shed. It is essential as it will greatly reduce post-harvest losses and enhance drying to the right moisture content for storage. The use of the shed will also increase the shelf life of the produce and reduce high costs during the drying process.

We are growing with God as our guide and you as the hands and feet of Jesus. The Farm is a reality – the product of great imagination, hard work, and the true spirit of giving during a trying time. Thank you and God bless you for helping to restore hope in Uganda.

Fr. Paul Peter Dr. Rom



A successful corn crop requires the use of the new road due to no current drying facilities.

## Alumnus Profile



Ceaser Ayella – SHS alumnus and teacher of chemistry and mathematics at SHS.

Greetings to you in Jesus the Lord,

My name is Ceaser Ayella. I am an alumnus of Sacred Heart Seminary Lacor (SHS) and a beneficiary of HOPE FOR UGANDA. During the six years I spent at SHS, I experienced firsthand the generous financial support and prayers from the benefactors who remained mostly unknown. As students, we prayed for you and were humbled by your love and desire to change our lives forever. With your help, Sacred Heart Seminary educated and molded us, not only academically but also spiritually.

I am writing to thank you for changing my life. Because of your kindness, I was able to finish SHS and further my education for higher learning. Today I am a teacher of chemistry and mathematics at SHS. I am grateful to have been given a chance to also change the lives of my fellow citizens as a professional teacher. Now I have an even greater appreciation for your charity and will help instill it in my students.

As a teacher of science at the Seminary, I am grateful for your support for our science lab renovation currently in progress. The dilapidated facilities made it very difficult to teach the students important chemistry, biology, and physics lessons and inhibited their performances on national examinations. The new lab will be a blessing to our current and future students and teachers!

Thank you, again, dear benefactors of HOPE FOR UGANDA for changing the lives of many needy young people who strive for a better life through education. I pray for God's blessings upon you all.

Yours faithfully,  
Ceaser Ayella  
Teacher, Sacred Heart Seminary



SHS Science Lab renovation – removing old gas lines buried in the floor.

## 2022 Parish Visits

Help us welcome Msgr. Matthew Odong and Fr. Paul Peter Rom back to the US this fall! Below is the current schedule for weekend Mass visits to our Parish Partners. Visit the HFU website for Mass times at each parish.

**September 17/18 – Msgr. Matthew Odong**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minnetonka

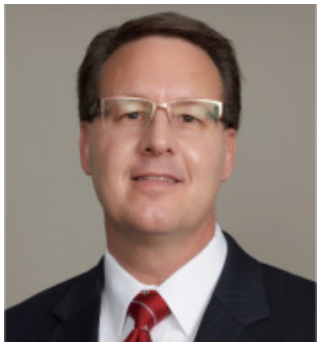
**September 17/18 – Fr. Paul Peter Rom**  
St. Anne's in Hamel

**September 24/25 – Msgr. Matthew Odong**  
St. Patrick's in Oak Grove

**September 24/25 – Fr. Paul Peter Rom**  
St. Aloysius in Olivia

Each priest will share stories during their homilies of how your support is helping many young people eager to more fully develop their God-given talents, and there will be a Q&A session following each Mass. We hope to see you at one of these parishes!

## Executive Notes



Dear Partners in Mission,

The theme of this newsletter is RESTORING HOPE at a time when students and families are working hard to recover from the pandemic. Your prayers and financial support have allowed both of our schools to

survive this very difficult two-year period when many other private schools in Uganda have not. We praise the Lord and give you thanks for keeping our mission alive.

Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS) and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS) have both increased their number of students. Together they are now inspiring almost 1,000 young people in a hope-filled environment to be future leaders in the Church, their families, and communities. As you will see throughout this newsletter, your support of our mission to "bring hope to the people of Northern Uganda through faith, education, health, and sustainability" is bearing abundant fruit in a country alive in the Christian faith. The Archbishop Flynn Rural Development Education Center (aka The Farm) continues to progress and flourish. Yet another abundant harvest in season one inspires us to reflect on the often used quote "GIVE a man a fish and he will eat for a day. TEACH a man how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime." We are excited to announce an opportunity for two Ugandan interns to spend two years at BASS Hybrids agriculture facilities in Puerto Rico. While there, they will learn how to improve crop production and develop local hybrid seeds in Uganda. More details about this program will appear in the Winter newsletter. Your generous support will help make this important opportunity a reality.

It is with great joy that our dear friends Msgr. Matthew Odong and Fr. Paul Peter Rom will visit the US again in September and October. They will be appearing at parishes, schools, the Appreciation Dinner, and many personal meetings during their visit. For many of our benefactors, their visits bring a very



Sheila Kruesel visits AFSS to help with the government-mandated technology upgrade.

## Restoring Hope – One Life at a Time

It is because of your generosity that HOPE FOR UGANDA is able to continue our mission of bringing hope to students, their families, and communities. Through education, faith formation, and a vision for agricultural sustainability, HOPE FOR UGANDA seeks to develop the God-given potential of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit.

We know the competition for charitable donations is intense. We work hard to keep you informed of how your support is making a difference through annual parish visits, offering an Appreciation Dinner, and quarterly updates or newsletters. You are truly a partner in this mission to lift up the people in one of the youngest and poorest countries in the world. We passionately believe our areas of focus – education, faith formation, and sustainability – will bear fruit for generations to come.

real sense of this mission of HOPE to a people so far from our shores. Date, time, and location details are available on our website. Please join us as we share in their stories of gratitude and goodwill.

I hope you enjoyed our first-ever "Celebrate" newsletter sent in May of this year. Its purpose, like all of our communications, was to show you how your support is bringing hope to students and families at SHS and AFSS. You can access all past newsletters on our website by clicking on the "Get To Know Us" link.

If your heart has been touched by our mission, please read the RESTORING HOPE column below to see how you can continue blessing our brothers and sisters in Northern Uganda. Thanks to current and past HFU board members, a **\$70,000 Fall Challenge Grant is being offered and will match gifts of \$100 or more – doubling your impact!**

Your brother in Christ,  
Todd Ziesmer

## Remembering Loved Ones

One of the greatest gifts you can give loved ones (living or deceased) is offering their prayers and intentions with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Unfortunately, because of its popularity, many U.S. parishes are booked months in advance or do not have dates available that are meaningful to you.

There is a way to address your wishes AND encourage priests in Uganda. For a modest stipend (\$7-\$10 per Mass), you can have your special intentions offered by a priest from the Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda. Because priests in Northern Uganda receive no other compensation, a Mass stipend is often the only money they receive to help perform their ministries.

To bless your loved ones, as well as to help support the priests in Uganda, please send a list of your intentions, preferred dates, and a donation to Hope for Uganda and we will coordinate with the Archdiocese of Gulu.

Thank you!



## 2022 Appreciation Dinner

**SAVE THE DATE!** October 5, 2022, is the date set for our annual appreciation dinner. We are pleased to have Msgr. Matthew Odong and Fr. Paul Peter Rom with us this year! The priests will share inspiring stories of how your support is touching the lives of students and families at Sacred Heart Seminary and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School, and they will also honor past HFU board members, Pete Truax and David Fagerlee, who passed away a few months ago. Once again, we will meet on the beautiful Providence Academy campus in Plymouth, MN.

The agenda is the following:

- **5:00-5:45** Mass in the chapel
- **5:45-7:00** Social time and delicious dinner in the Great Room
- **7:00-8:00** Updates from board members and our friends from Uganda

Please plan to be our guests at this year's event. Simply email us at [info@hopeforuganda.org](mailto:info@hopeforuganda.org) and you will be added to our invitation list.



With almost \$2 million of identified needs at SHS, AFSS, and the Farm - through God's guidance and your generosity, HFU strives to help with as many as possible. The following is a list of the highest priority needs:

**Financial assistance.** Our goal is to provide \$325,000 in financial aid next year that will help hundreds of students continue their journey of hope. Please help us raise \$230,000 by December 2022.

- \$900/year or \$75/month pays a student's tuition, room, and board for a full year.
- \$150/year or \$12.50/month will feed a student for one year.

**New technology.** This is a \$60,000 investment mandated by the federal government of Uganda. Thanks to previous gifts, the remaining amount needed is \$35,000.

**Security fence.** We need to raise \$56,000 to bring safety and security to the girls and boys at AFSS. A generous donor is willing to match gifts up to \$28,000 to complete a much-needed security fence.

**Drying bay and storage facility.** The Farm is bursting at the seams with crop production. They need our help to build a drying bay and storage facility to keep their crops from spoiling in the fields. The cost of this project is \$30,000.

When considering a gift to HOPE FOR UGANDA, here are some things a faithful steward might think about:

- What will a gift in proportion to my ability look like?
- What does God want to do through me to fulfill the work in Northern Uganda this year?
- Is there something important to me that I could do without so that something important to God can happen in Northern Uganda?

Thank you for choosing HOPE FOR UGANDA to be your partner for international mission outreach! First and foremost, throughout our efforts, we are a Catholic mission. We are committed to faithful stewardship. The HOPE FOR UGANDA board of directors will forever be diligent in working with our partners in Uganda to plan and use our resources wisely, bringing hope to a part of the world where poverty continually threatens the future. We are tasked with making your gifts life-changing and work hard to honor that responsibility with everything we do.

**Remember that the Fall Challenge will double the impact of gifts of \$100 or more, so please be as generous as possible.** Thank you!

# TRIBUTE TO PETE TRUAX AND DAVID FAGERLEE

by Msgr. Matthew Odong

Pete Truax and David Fagerlee dedicated years of their life to restoring hope for the people in Northern Uganda before being called back home to be with the Lord forever.

I met Pete Truax in 1996 during a Cursillo weekend in Minneapolis. David and I met a couple of years later while I was sharing the plight of my people at a Minnesota parish. They were both deeply touched and inspired by the story of pain and suffering surrounding the decade of conflict between the government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. During this time, Pete worked tirelessly as



Pete & Dottie Truax catching up with Msgr. Matthew Odong during a 2019 visit.

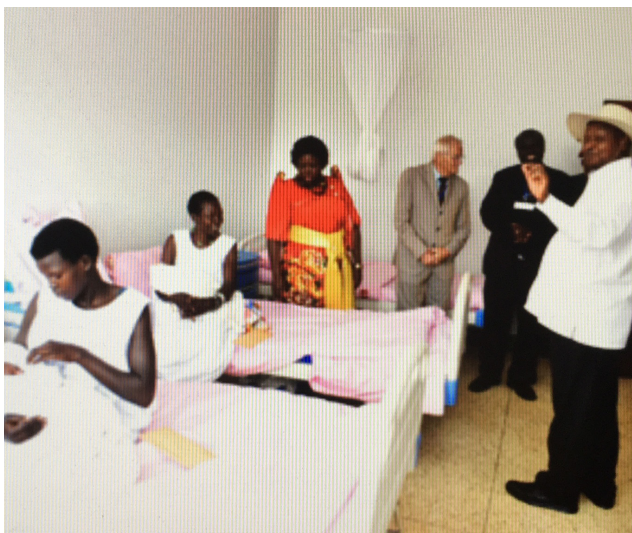
a political advocate, using his influence to open doors in Washington DC and the UN to bring about peace and global awareness. This conflict took many innocent lives and left Northern Uganda in abject poverty. After prayerful consideration, both Pete and David decided to visit me on separate occasions to see firsthand the war's devastation – which was the first of several trips.

Their early visits to Uganda always began at Sacred Heart Seminary. They would stay in my home with no running water or electricity and eat the food of the locals. As board members of HOPE FOR UGANDA, both Pete and David were instrumental in the renovation of the seminary and the cost of operations, helping to fulfill the mission of educating young men to become priests who could then serve the suffering population.



Aerial view of the David Fagerlee Medical Center (DFMC) in Adilang, Northern Uganda.

Later we traveled to many parts of the Archdiocese of Gulu so they could see for themselves the poverty and suffering of the poor people in that region. I recall watching both men cry when they witnessed women with dying babies on their backs walking 20-30 miles seeking medical care for their children. There were no health facilities, decent schools, clean water sources, or public transportation. Children and the elderly were dying of malaria, water-borne diseases, and simple wounds. From these visits, plans were formed to build a school for both boys



Uganda President Yoweri Museveni visits the DFMC during grand opening in 2017.

and girls, where children could be well-educated in a safe environment, and in the arms of a loving God.

Today we are grateful to these two pioneers who gave so much to so many in the form of Archbishop Flynn Secondary School and Sacred Heart Seminary. And, in later years, David and his dear wife Vicki, built a medical center that is saving thousands of lives in the rural area of my hometown. I call these men heroes of charity and hope. May God reward them with eternal life. I pray that God will inspire others to start legacies like Pete and David through HOPE FOR UGANDA.



Heroes of charity and Hope For Uganda – Pete Truax and David Fagerlee.

## Are You Being Called to Serve?

Does the Lord have your attention after reading this newsletter? That could be God's call to serve and bring hope to the people of Northern Uganda by sharing your talents as a committee or board member of HFU ☺

Right now our greatest need is for a communications specialist who can help in communicating our amazing story in parishes and beyond. Please contact Todd at [info@hopeforuganda.org](mailto:info@hopeforuganda.org) to learn more about how you can help.



**“AMEN I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS OR SISTERS, YOU DID FOR ME.”**  
**MATTHEW 25:40**



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Visit us on the web at  
[www.HopeForUganda.org](http://www.HopeForUganda.org)



Hope For Uganda is a Minnesota 501(c)(3) Non-profit corporation legally established in 1998 to support educational, faith formation, and relief activities in the Archdiocese of Gulu in Northern Uganda.

## Make a Difference

### Pray

Please keep the people of Northern Uganda and our mission in your prayers.

### Volunteer

If you would like to offer your skills or time to the organization, please contact us.

### Donate

Financially support the organization, which in turn provides hope to the people of Uganda.

**YES!** I want to give hope to the people of Uganda through my generous donation.

See enclosed donation form.