

From the Desk of Monsignor Matthew Odong

Dear Friends and Benefactors of Hope for Uganda:

I write to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you for supporting **Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS)** and all the other **Hope for Uganda** projects.

As many of you know, Hope for Uganda started way back in 1990, when I traveled to Minnesota as a young priest of only three years, to make an appeal at the parish of Dan and Bobbi Vaughan. I had recently been appointed Rector of SHS in Gulu and was eager to tell my story of how desperately the seminary needed financial support. It was then Dan and Bobbi decided to share their blessings, and began to introduce me to their American

friends who also became benefactors. Dan Vaughan passed on March 10, 2013 and gratefully his legacy will carry on. Here I would love to acknowledge each of the longtime benefactors by name, but space does not allow.

Special prayer intentions are offered daily for our benefactors.

In love and gratitude, however, special prayer intentions are being offered on a regular basis at both SHS and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School. They will not be forgotten.

Today we see the fruits of generous benefactors throughout the Hope for Uganda mission, but at SHS alone we have accomplished so much, including renovation of several buildings to help preserve the campus, financial aid for hundreds of students who could not otherwise enter the discernment process, and support for newly ordained priests with motorcycles and stipends from Mass intentions. In 2018, there are 176 minor seminarians at SHS.

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Above: AFSS students help on the farm.
Below: AFSS leaders and Fr. Paul visit the farm.



The Farm Report

The Hope for Uganda mission to implement sustainability through modern farming is off to a great start! Careful planning, lots of sweat equity, and a successful grant challenge all played a major role in these first exciting results of Phase I. Fr. Paul shares highlights elsewhere in this newsletter, from the purchase of land to planting the first crops. In addition, 60 trees have been planted on the first 50 acres, including mango, citrus, and banana.

In Phases II and III, projected from September 2018 – September 2019, another 50 acres will be cleared for a total of 100 acres for cultivation. Due to the good climate and fertile soil, two crops per year can be planted and harvested. In Phase II the crops will include beans, corn, cabbage and cassava - a highly nutritious root vegetable.

The primary goal of this farm project is producing food to substantially reduce the cost of operations at Archbishop Flynn Secondary School by supplementing their food supplies and earning income by selling excess production. A second, but very important goal is to teach students and local farmers more productive farming techniques. Hopefully by teaching these techniques and using The Farm as their model, Hope for Uganda can help move the local community from subsistence to income producing farming. To date, the locals have been amazed by the cultivation and planting success, watching as this idle land for the past 30 years comes to life. Excitement is building as God works through your generosity and the will of those who are doing the work.



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It's Time to Celebrate

From the Desk of Fr. Paul



Dear Friends, Since the beginning of the year, we have been blessed with many successes at Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS) and The Farm Project. We paid off the 261 acres of land purchased for the farm, 50 of which were cleared, cultivated and planted with beans and corn. This year we expect the farm to produce one third of the annual corn and beans necessary to feed the students. It was a challenging year but your prayers, support and encouragement motivated us. Because of your generosity, we purchased a 4-row planter and boom sprayer to add value to our venture. We also hired a competent and committed farm manager, Olum Andrew Livingstone, who shares in our dreams for sustainability. An added joy is the involvement of the students who have cultivated plots around the school. We intend to reach every family with modern methods of agriculture through our students.

We could not wait any longer to honor the founders of Hope for Uganda. This year we will begin construction of the Dan and Bobbi



AFSS students welcome visitors to their beautiful campus.

Vaughan Visitor Center, a shelter at AFSS for every American who comes to Uganda for mission trips, volunteering, internships, or good will visits. It will be our "tent of meeting". Great things happen when we unite our wills to that of God. AFSS continues to excel in academics, sports and social life on campus. We are proud of our 506 students. Our finalists will soon be sitting for the final National Examinations, and as before, they will begin with a Novena for success. Our help and strength comes from the Lord.

Having stood the test of time, AFSS will be celebrating ten years of progressive and successful existence in 2019. We invite our friends and

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These young men are being given a chance for good education, moral formation, and an opportunity to realize their dream to serve God their entire lives in whatever vocation they ultimately choose.

Because of war and other circumstances beyond their control, most families still experience abject poverty in Northern Uganda, earning about \$150 per month. This makes it very difficult for parents to pay for the cost of education for their children. We ask that you prayerfully consider strengthening our sponsorship program (\$900 per student for one year) or answering the call for more computers or science equipment and chemicals for the classrooms at SHS. Your generosity has and will continue to change the course of history in Northern Uganda.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2019!



Msgr. Matthew Odong
Rector Sacred Heart Seminary
Chairman Archbishop Flynn Secondary School



Two newly ordained priests bless Archbishop Odama



176 young men enrolled at Sacred Heart Minor Seminary



Msgr. Matthew instructing SHS seminarians



Gammill and Vaughan families admire the beautiful SHS chapel

Fall Appreciation Dinner: September 19th

On September 19th, benefactors and friends gathered at **Providence Academy** for Mass, dinner, and an update from Hope for Uganda dignitaries. Monsignor Matthew Odong and Father Paul Peter Rom concelebrated Mass in the school's beautiful chapel, followed by a time to socialize and dinner in the Great Room. After dinner, Bill Kottemann, president of Hope for Uganda, moderated an hour of presentations by those whose "boots are on the ground" in Uganda. Monsignor spoke to the group of his gratitude for his American friends and his ongoing responsibilities at Sacred Heart Seminary, while Fr. Paul inspired everyone with his good news and enthusiasm for The Farm Project and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School.

Then Tim Vaughan, with his wife Natalie and their children, recounted their visit to Uganda in July. Tim is the first of Dan and Bobbi's children to visit the Hope for Uganda projects. Their story moved the audience and inspired others to consider such an adventure. Board member, Peter Westerhaus, closed the evening by sharing his vision to take Hope for Uganda into the future.

It was an evening of warmth and good will, giving both donors and advocates a wonderful opportunity to connect and reaffirm everyone's "hope for Uganda." Watch future newsletters and the website for your chance to attend this special dinner next fall.



First Annual Appreciation and Update Dinner at Providence Academy

The Farm Report continued from page 1

Of course, to continue this wonderful plan of action we need your help. To accomplish the harvest and begin the next phase, The Farm requires funding for these high priority items:

- Tractor, plow and disc
- Harvesting equipment
- A well
- Shelters for food storage
- Shelters for farm workers

The Farm represents yet another major shift from surviving to thriving, using modern education as a means of improving the lives of not only children, but also families in Northern Uganda. **Dollars you donate now will pave the way for dreams** to become reality for a people who once could not imagine tomorrow, much less a future filled with hope and prosperity.

These are God-fearing, loving and hardworking people who will never forget how your generosity breathed life into their world. Thank you!

Education, Agriculture and Sustainability



"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up."



Galatians 6:9

News from AFSS continued from page 1

benefactors to join us in celebration. Please come visit if you can, but if you cannot, join us in thanksgiving prayers to God for this wonderful gift. Through your generosity and God's grace, students at AFSS are given the benefit of good education, moral formation, and the promise of a better tomorrow.

Our plan for the future at AFSS is to continue to develop towards self-sustainability.

We will be measured in our steps and will take the time to learn from the mistakes of others. We also ask for support towards the publication of the History of AFSS, to mark our 10th Anniversary, and the publication of a five-year strategic plan for the farm.

I thank all of you for your sacrifice and resources to support us. May God bless you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2019!

Fr. Paul Peter Rom



May God bless you abundantly!

Executive Notes



Dear Friends,

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you! I hope and pray you and your loved ones are well.

We have so many reasons to be grateful this year. Because of your generosity, this newsletter is filled with examples of activities that are changing lives

in Northern Uganda. We look forward to 2019 with great anticipation and hope that the Lord will provide the resources needed to continue this good work through the faithful and generous support of you, our partners in this mission.

The annual fall visit to the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis by Msgr. Matthew and Fr. Paul was very fruitful. Our heart-felt gratitude goes out to the nine parishes who welcomed our priests to share the story of hope and gratitude from their people in Northern Uganda (St. Patrick-Oak Grove; Immaculate Heart of Mary-Minnetonka; St. Anne-Hamel; Ss. Peter & Paul-Loretto; St. John the Baptist-Jordan; St. Aloysius-Olivia; St. Mathias-Hampton; St. Mary-New Trier; St. John the Baptist-Vermillion). During the visit, the HFU Board offered a matching grant for donations of \$100 or more. Many responded generously, exceeding our goal!

Additionally, **the \$60,000 challenge grant offered to jump-start the farm project has been fully funded.** Please read **The Farm Report**

for more details regarding the next phase of this already proven effort toward sustainability.

As we celebrate this very generous response to our call for help, we humbly present the next highest priority needs as we go forward with this mission:

- **Providing financial aid for tuition, room, and board.** *In 2018, 392 girls and boys required financial assistance to attend school. Your gift of \$900 will cover these costs and bring hope for a brighter future to a student for one year.*
- **Purchase a tractor, plow and disc for The Farm.** *Investing in basic equipment will enable the farm to produce abundant crops to feed the students and sell the excess for income. These tools are needed ASAP for the next cultivation season.*
- **Complete the Dan & Bobbi Vaughan Visitor Center.** *The Vaughns have always been a great example for extending hospitality to others - you can help us honor them by making a gift to finish this new place for visitors. Please contact me if you would like to sponsor the construction costs of one of the 6 guest rooms. You and your loved ones will be remembered with a memorial plaque in the room.*

Hope for Uganda is excited to welcome a new board member. Please read the brief introduction to Corrina Conley on the back page of this newsletter.

And finally, I'd like to thank my son, Luke, who helped us design the new logo, build a beautiful new web site (please check it out!), create the fall



Fr. Paul speaks to students at Providence Academy

visit brochure, and several other promotional materials. We hope you enjoy our new look!

On behalf of the board members of **Hope for Uganda**, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your prayers and generosity. In all ways, large and small, you have helped to advance our mission - bringing hope to the people in Northern Uganda through faith, education, health, and sustainability.

May the hopeful anticipation of the Advent season lead to a joy-filled Christmas!

God bless, *Paul*

Hope For Uganda

Hope For Uganda is a Minnesota 501(c)3 non-profit corporation legally established in 1998 to bring hope to the people in the Archdiocese of Gulu in Northern Uganda through faith, education, health and sustainability.

Remember Your Loved Ones: Prayer Intentions

One of the greatest gifts you can give loved ones (living or deceased) is uniting their prayers and intentions to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Many parishes have Masses booked months in advance or don't have dates open meaningful to you. For a modest stipend for the priest (\$7-\$10

per Mass), you can have your special intentions offered by a priest from the Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda. In fact, because priests in Northern Uganda receive no other compensation, a Mass offering is often the only money they receive to help perform their ministries.

To honor your loved ones as well as helping to support our friends in Gulu, 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!

David Fagerlee Medical Centre Update

Since reporting on this clinic in our last newsletter, The David Fagerlee Medical Clinic (DFMC) in the remote village of Adilang in Northern Uganda continues to flourish. Patient numbers are substantially rising in all areas of care, reflecting the very real need and response to available care where there has never been any before.

Using the month of October as an example, more than **1200 patients** were seen in the clinic for some **30 different conditions**. During that time, **48 babies** were born, **668 newborns were inoculated**, **291 lab tests** were administered, and **218 women received ante-natal care**. And that's just a bird's eye view!

David Fagerlee, a longtime friend and benefactor of Hope for Uganda, not only provided for this dream-come-true facility, but continues to work tirelessly with the staff to sustain the "miracle of Adilang". If you would like to help support their efforts to bring hope through health to the people in this very rural part of Uganda, please send your donation to Hope for Uganda and designate DFMC.

NEXT STOP UGANDA!

Hope for Uganda is entering a new era! With many people expressing interest in visiting SHS, AFSS, and The Farm in Northern Uganda, the Board is launching a visitor program to coincide with the building of the Dan and Bobbi Vaughan Visitor Center. This building is being constructed on the AFSS campus and, thanks to the Gammill and Hetland families, it will be open and ready to welcome visitors in July of 2019.

Dan and Bobbi Vaughan Visitor Center set to welcome visitors summer of 2019

Several parishes have already begun planning mission trips for groups of parishioners. Immaculate Heart of Mary in Minnetonka, MN is slated to be the first group to inaugurate the visitors center next summer.

We are happy to announce the that long-time friend of Msgr. Matthew (and wife of board member Joe Ditsch), Marcia Farniok, has volunteered to be the chair of the Mission Trip/Visitor Program. *"It's an exciting time for me personally and for Hope For Uganda.*

I have visited Msgr. Matthew and his people in Northern Uganda twice and I know the powerful impact it has had on my life. I'm eager to help others have that same life-changing experience!"

If you're interested in learning more about the new visitor program, please send an email with your contact information to info@hopeforuganda.org.

To be more inspired, read **Mission Possible** in this newsletter.



Ground-breaking ceremony for Dan and Bobbi Vaughan Visitor Center

Mission Possible: A Visit to Uganda by Tim Vaughan

It began as a harebrained idea with old friends – wouldn't it be amazing to take all our kids to Africa? Reality hit when our flight touched down at Entebbe International near Kampala and the "Welcome to Uganda" sign greeted our group of four adults and eight children between the ages of nine and seventeen.

After a day's tour of Kampala, including the Uganda Martyrs Shrine, we boarded two vehicles with Msgr. Matthew and Fr. Paul. Our journey north to Gulu opened our eyes to the wonders of Uganda. Memorable were the swarming street vendors, the powerful Nile, and curious baboons along the way.

We arrived at Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS) to a warm greeting by seminarians lining the drive and our first glimpse of the iconic chapel and Jesus statue that we'd seen in photos for so many years. Msgr. Matthew gave us a tour of the campus where we saw evidence of funding from Hope for Uganda in restored buildings, and the on-going need to fight the ravage of termites in others. We spent the night in the location where refugees were sheltered during the war – prepared with care for our visit by the religious sisters at SHS. That first impression of seminary life at SHS – **their devotion and fervor for the Lord** – will not be forgotten.

Pader was our next stop where we were warmly welcomed by the Archbishop Secondary School (AFSS) student choir at the nun's house, very near the location of the soon-to-be built Dan and Bobbi Vaughan Visitor Center. Fr. Paul showed us the farm and the amazing work that has been done

there. We hiked the African bush with hoes to where each of us planted saplings to mark both the Eastern border of the farm and the occasion of our visit.

While at AFSS, our children spent time in the classroom, getting to know the students and the educational system in Uganda. In exchange, each of them taught a lesson and answered questions about life in America, their schools, and even how to make ice cream! Time at AFSS revealed to all of us the quality of students and staff, the high expectations and the excellence that is being achieved. Our kids were impressed (and frankly humbled) by these students who – without computers, smart boards, and all the amenities we have in the western suburbs of Minneapolis – are learning the same things in their classrooms. **Both SHS and AFSS are preparing the future of Northern Uganda by instilling in their students the strong values of wisdom and service.** It was an amazing experience to witness!



Molly and Kiara captured the attention of the AFSS students

The high point of our trip was the celebration Mass for Msgr. Matthew's anniversary of his ordination. For a glorious 2 1/2 hours we worshipped God in the African way with traditional singing, dancing, and the unforgettable "Halleluia" sung by the choir. Festivities continued with more dancing by traditional dancers dressed in skins and feathers, and a presentation of science and musical equipment for the school purchased by friends and family prior to our visit, a beautiful meal, and our receipt of many gifts including two goats – one to consume there and one to take home!



Enjoying an afternoon visit with a Ugandan family

We also made an impromptu visit to the village of Agago, where Msgr. had built a home at a young age. We were greeted by the elders and the rest of the clan, who gave us the same warm African welcome of food, gifts, hospitality, and smiles we received in all locations we visited. Our last stop was Murchison Falls, where we experienced an outdoor Mass with lodge staff, the majestic wildlife of Africa, and a cruise on the Nile.

We were sad to say farewell to Uganda, but remain excited that others like us will soon have the opportunity to visit and stay in the new visitor center on the grounds of AFSS. We are especially grateful to our traveling companions, the Gammills, for supporting the cause so close to our hearts with their gift that is making the dream of the visitor center possible.

Our greatest takeaway was the personal connection we made with the people of Northern Uganda. We were so blessed by the cultural immersion, their incredible hospitality, and the acute awareness of shared goals for the future of our children. What began as a seemingly crazy idea ended in a life altering experience of wonderful memories.

Note: Tim Vaughan is the youngest son of Dan and Bobbi Vaughan and the first of their children to visit the Hope for Uganda projects.

Welcome Our New Board Member

The Hope for Uganda Board of Directors is very excited to welcome **Corrina Conley** to the board. For more than 25 years, Corrina has worked in executive leadership positions in financial organizations, most recently as past-president of Paragon Strategic Solutions. She also brings extensive board membership experience and is currently serving on several other local boards, including a highly respected Catholic High School in the Twin Cities. She will serve as Treasurer of the Board and Chair the Finance Committee. Corrina and her husband, Paul, have raised three

grown children, live in Eden Prairie, MN, and are members of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Minnetonka. They have supported Hope for Uganda for many years. Thank you, Corrina, for joining our team!

If you have questions for any of our board members, please contact them at info@hopeforuganda.org

YES! I want to make a donation to: HOPE FOR UGANDA

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$1,000 \$500 \$250

\$100 Other \$ _____

Make this a monthly gift

I want to Donate Stock (please call me)

Please designate my gift as follows:

General Fund (area of greatest need)

Sacred Heart Seminary Support

AFSS Support

The Farm Project

Please mail checks made payable to: **Hope for Uganda, PO Box 1863, Minnetonka, MN 55345.** You may also make a credit card or e-check donation via the website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

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Parish Affiliation: _____

Or Donate by **Credit Card**:

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