



HOPE FOR UGANDA

Looking Ahead with Hope in Northern Uganda

SUMMER
2025



SHS seminarians cleaning the
Grotto of Mary Queen of the Apostles

Archbishop Flynn Rural Development Education Center (AFRUDEC) - AKA “The Farm”



Our Hope Remains
High with the Farm

by Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

Dear Friends,

It brings me great pleasure to
connect with you once again
and share the remarkable

progress we are achieving at the Farm, thanks to your
consistent encouragement and unwavering generosity. Each
season presents new challenges and victories, and together
we are continuing to plant seeds of hope and harvest
progress in all our endeavors.

In addition to volunteers, the farm currently employs 29
individuals, including technical staff, livestock attendants,
machine operators, security guards, a cook, and casual
workers. There are also seven university agricultural
students (men and women) serving internships on the Farm
this summer as part of their studies. This diverse team
plays a vital role in ensuring the efficient operation and
management of our farm projects.

During the first season of 2025, we successfully cultivated
30 acres of corn (ready for harvest by the end of July),
15 acres of peanuts, 10 acres of rice (to be harvested in
August), 10 acres of cassava, and 10 acres of various
vegetables, all thriving. The second season planting will
begin in the next couple of weeks and will include corn,
sunflower, and rice.

AFRUDEC continued on page 3

We've Changed.

But it's all good! The new and
improved Hope For Uganda website
was launched in March 2025. It is
now even easier to navigate, to stay
updated on projects, and to discover
new things about our mission.

Visit www.hopeforuganda.org to
check it out.

We would love to hear your feedback.
We hope you love it as much as we
do!

Preparing for the Future with Hope at Sacred Heart Seminary

Dear Friends and Benefactors of Hope For Uganda,

Prayers and warm greetings to you from the students and
staff of Sacred Heart Seminary Lacor and the Archdiocese
of Gulu, Uganda. I have been the seminary rector for
the past 35 years. More than 60% of the clergy of the
Archdiocese of Gulu have passed through the doors of
SHS. Praise the Lord!

I would like to wholeheartedly thank you for supporting the
education of our young future leaders at SHS with your
prayers and donations through Hope For Uganda. May God
reward you abundantly for assisting these young men who,
without your prayers and financial support, would not have
the opportunity to discern a vocation to the priesthood. Your
solidarity with us has become a source of encouragement
to continue working and looking towards the future with
great hope.

UPDATES/ACHIEVEMENTS

- SHS 2025 student enrollment was 165. These young
men are grateful for the opportunity to study and discern
a vocation to the priesthood.
- A total of 28 students graduated from SHS. Many are
planning to continue their priestly education at major
seminaries this fall.

- On a national level, the
academic performance of
the students has greatly
improved in the last two
years due to the renovated
science laboratory and the
availability of computers and
access to the internet. The
urgent need for more laptop
computers remains.

- Our students have been excelling in sports, especially in
interschool soccer competitions at the district and national
levels. Their trophies are proudly on display at SHS.

- Seven deacons have completed their theological studies
and are anticipating their priestly ordination later this
summer. Photos will be shared in the next newsletter. After
ordination, the priests will be presented with motorcycles,
chasubles, and Mass kits to assist them in their duties.

Because of your continued prayers and financial support,
we have great hope in the future of the church in Northern
Uganda! May Our Lord bless you abundantly for your
generosity.

Rev. Fr. Matthew Dany



Students helping cooks prepare vegetables



Students display project using
recycled plastic water bottles

AFSS Update

by Berna Atim Prisca, AFSS Headteacher



Warm greetings to you all!

It is with great joy and
gratitude that I present
to you a report on our
achievements and activities
at AFSS during the 2025
academic year. This year is
particularly special for us, as
it is a Jubilee Year - marked
as a time for renewal,
gratitude, and hope.

The academic year began with tremendous enthusiasm
and dedication from both our staff and students.
This energy has already translated into significant
accomplishments. Our senior students at both 'O' and
'A' levels performed exceptionally well in their national
examinations of 2024. We are proud to share that six
of our students (14 girls and 2 boys) have qualified
for government sponsorship to various universities - a
commendable milestone indeed!

In the spirit of charity, our students conducted a
fundraising drive and used the proceeds to visit inmates
in a local prison. They celebrated Mass with them and
generously donated a table, table linen, and a crucifix.
The prison authorities and inmates received this gesture
with deep appreciation. We extend our heartfelt thanks
to HFU for instilling in our students the values of
sacrifice, generosity, and compassion.

Environmental stewardship
remains a key focus at AFSS. Our
students and staff are actively
engaged in environmental
clean-up campaigns, climate-
smart agriculture, tree planting,
and other awareness-raising
initiatives. In June, two of our
students represented the Northern Region at a science
fair in Kampala. They showcased an innovative ethanol-
powered cooking stove designed to reduce deforestation
by offering a sustainable alternative to firewood.

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Visit us on the web at
www.HopeForUganda.org



info@hopeforuganda.org

Hope For Uganda Top Funding Priorities

2025 Scholarships for talented students unable to afford tuition and fees

- Goal - \$415,000
- Raised - \$242,083
- Needed - \$172,917

2026 Scholarships for talented students unable to afford tuition and fees

- Goal - \$415,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$415,000

AFSS Administration Building

- Goal - \$400,000
- Raised - \$100,000
- Needed - \$300,000

SHS A Level Classroom Block

- Goal - \$300,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$300,000

Grain Silos

- Goal - \$16,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$16,000

For additional funding priorities, please visit the projects page on the website:
www.hopeforuganda.org/projects-funding-priorities.



Mass at AFSS

Grant & Projects Update - Thank you!

Items that are completed and being worked on include the following:

- Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS)
- Student Scholarships
 - Furnishings for new home on SHS campus for Archbishop Emeritus Odama
 - Developing design drawings and construction estimate for “A” level classroom remodeling

- Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS)
- Student Scholarships
 - Construction of the new clinic building - in progress
 - Foundations for the new Administration Building - in progress
 - Development of Campus Master Plan - in progress
 - School brass band instruments
 - Developing design drawings and construction estimate for the new girls’ dormitory and bathroom facilities

- AFRUDEC (the Farm)
- Construction of new pig barn - in progress
 - Salaries
 - Developing drawings and construction estimate for Phase II road construction
 - Developing drawings and construction estimate for the new warehouse

- DF Medical Clinic
- Monthly Operating Expenses

- Gulu Archdiocese
- Motorcycles, Mass kits, and chasubles for seven priests ordained in 2025
 - Motorcycles, Mass kits, and chasubles for two priests to be ordained in 2026

Development Director Updates

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am very glad to be writing to you all once again and I pray that your summer has been exceedingly blessed! Indeed, I must confess that I felt particularly blessed this past June, as it marked one year that I have been with Hope For Uganda.

In reflecting on my first year with HFU, I must say that it has been a gift to witness the extraordinary faith, compassion, and vision for the future that motivate you all to continue supporting this ministry. I remain humbled and inspired by your generous support and prayers, which continue to fuel this life-giving work. In testament to that, here are just a few examples of the achievements that your generosity has helped to bring about since I last wrote to you:

Scholarships at both AFSS and SHS continue to ensure that hardworking students from poorer backgrounds can receive high-quality Catholic educations, even if their families are unable to pay. Additionally, at AFSS, construction continues to move forward on the new medical clinic (Providence Medical Center), while the foundation for the administration building is now in progress. Please note that we are still in need of \$300,000 to complete the administration building, so please consider making a gift for this vital capital improvement!

Meanwhile, at the Farm, construction continues on the hog barn, while our Projects Committee works on plans for the next major upgrades at AFRUDEC, including a grain silo, a warehouse, and further upgrades to the roads. These improvements are key to helping the Farm achieve its mission of greater self-sufficiency, both for itself and AFSS, and I encourage you to think about your donations to these efforts not as mere gifts but as investments in the health and sustainability of both institutions!

As we look forward to the remainder of 2025, we are especially excited to welcome back Monsignor Matthew and Father Paul to the United States. Their visits are always a blessing and provide a wonderful chance to learn more about how your support makes possible the important work that Monsignor, Father, and their colleagues do every day to build faithful minds and communities in Uganda. So, even if Monsignor and Father might not be visiting your community in 2025, I strongly encourage you to take a look their schedule of visits on page 3 to see if we'll be at a parish near you!

See the blue box at left for our top funding priorities, or visit the projects page on the website for a full list: www.hopeforuganda.org/projects-funding-priorities. These priorities



AFSS students on pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gulu

range from scholarships to a variety of capital improvements across both schools and the Farm. Also, HFU continues to provide the new priests of the Archdiocese of Gulu with the Mass kits, chasubles, and motorcycles that they need to minister to the faithful, even in the most remote areas. In different ways, each of these projects will build on HFU’s past achievements while also ensuring that our Ugandan partners continue to have the resources needed for sustainable, long-term success. Through your gifts, children are educated, crops are planted and harvested, and faith is nurtured, and so I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider renewing your support to HFU.

We’re also thrilled to announce that plans are underway for a pilgrimage to Uganda in the Summer of 2026! This will be a transformative opportunity to see the fruits of your generosity firsthand, by visiting the schools, the Farm, and, most importantly, meeting our Ugandan brothers and sisters.

If you’d be interested in learning more about joining HFU for this life-changing journey, I invite you to email me directly at jpratt@hopeforuganda.org to learn more.

Thank you again for your support and I hope to meet many of you during Monsignor Matthew and Father Paul’s upcoming visit.

St. Joseph, patron of Hope For Uganda, pray for us!

With sincere gratitude, in Christ,

Joe Pratt
Development Director
Hope For Uganda

Joseph W. Pratt



Seven Sisters group with priests July 2025

Great Hope with the Seven Sisters at AFSS

by Anita Whims

In the summer of 2023, I had the privilege of introducing the Seven Sisters Apostolate to a group of girls at Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS) in Uganda. At that time there were 70 girls who agreed to pray for 10 priests.

It was apparent to me from the first Holy Hour I witnessed with them that they were not only willing to pray but they put their very heart and soul into their commitment. Last year I visited the group again and was also introduced to the committee they had formed to ensure that the program ran as it was intended, and that when a student left the school another student was introduced into the Apostolate.

It was decided before I came to Uganda in July of this year that there would be a Mass and celebration for the girls and the priests they were praying for. Although

not all of the priests were able to attend, those who were there certainly made an impact on the girls. During the Mass, all of the Seven Sisters stood and recited the Commitment Prayer which is said every year by every Seven Sister around the world. It was profound.

After Mass, presentations were made by students and priests. The love and gratitude for their priests was so very powerful in their talks. Poems written by the girls were read, and it again became obvious how dedicated they are. My heart was so moved and my own commitment to my participation in the Seven Sisters has been inspired and re-energized.

At the present time there are 126 girls praying a Holy Hour each week for 18 priests. It is currently the largest extracurricular student group in the school. I only wish that I could express in words what I had the honor to witness in person.

I can assure you this Apostolate will grow at AFSS, and their prayers will be as powerful as ever. Please keep them in your prayers.

Bringing hope to the people of Uganda through
FAITH, EDUCATION, HEALTH, and SUSTAINABILITY

Remembering Loved Ones

One of the greatest gifts you can give loved ones is uniting their intentions to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Many U.S. parishes have Masses booked months in advance or do not have dates open that are meaningful to you. For a modest stipend, your special intentions will be offered by a priest from the Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda. Because priests in Northern Uganda receive no other compensation, a Mass offering is often the only money they receive to help perform their ministries.

Masses may be offered for an intention, for the living, or for the deceased (stipend of \$10 per Mass). A series of Gregorian Masses (stipend of \$300 for 30 consecutive Masses) may be requested for a deceased individual.

To honor your loved ones, as well as to support the priests in Gulu, visit www.HopeForUganda.org/support-our-mission. Include 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!



Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel at SHS



Monsignor Matthew with a group of SHS soccer team members celebrating victory



AFSS administration building



Pig barn construction



Providence Medical Center at AFSS under construction



“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



HOPE FOR UGANDA

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.

See enclosed donation form, scan QR code, or visit www.HopeForUganda.org/support-our-mission.

