HOPE FOR UGANDA

Looking Ahead with Hope in Northern Uganda

SHS seminarians cleaning the Groto 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.

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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,

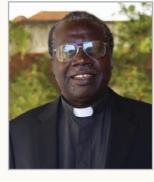
Prayers and warm greetings to you from the students and staff of Sacred Heart Seminary Lacor and the Archdiocese of Gulu, Uganda. I have been the seminary rector for the past 35 years. More than 60% of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Gulu have passed through the doors of SHS. Praise the Lord!

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.

Liv My Matthew Day



Students helping cooks prepare vegetables



Students display project using recycled plastic water bottles

AFSS Update by Berna Atim Prisca, AFSS Headteacher



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.

Warm greetings to you all!

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, climatesmart 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 ethanolpowered cooking stove designed to reduce deforestation by offering a sustainable alternative to firewood.

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• Remembering Loved Ones

Hope For Uganda Top Funding Priorities

2025 Scholarships for talented students unable to afford tuition and fees

• Goal - \$415,000

Raised - \$242,083Needed - \$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
 Turnishings for now b
- 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 on
- 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





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 excurricular 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.

Chairman of the Board Notes

by Mark Whims, Chairman of the Board

Greetings to All,

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are working with our donors, Ugandan partners, and Hope for Uganda to continue carrying out the mission of the Church. I have recently returned from Uganda, and there is so much to report and be hopeful for that it would be impossible for me to cover everything.

Both SHS and AFSS students continue to excel spiritually, in the classroom, and in athletics. This is a testament to the teachers, staff, and, of course, Father Paul and Monsignor Matthew. The Farm continues to make great strides with the addition of coffee, bananas, and expansion of the pineapple garden.

This is the first time that there have been three major construction projects occurring at the same time. The new Providence Medical Center on the AFSS campus is nearing completion, with roofing, windows, doors, and finishes currently being worked on. The administration building foundations and first-floor columns are expected to be completed in September pending fundraising for Phase II. The pig barn construction on the Farm is in full swing, with work on foundations and grade beams. The contractor anticipates completion of the building by December.

During our visit, Archbishop Raphael p'Mony Wokorach announced that Monsignor Matthew is being replaced by Monsignor Martin Agwee as rector of Sacred Heart Seminary after 35 years of service. Last October, Monsignor Martin took over for Monsignor Matthew as Vicar General of the Archdiocese after 30 years of service. Monsignor Matthew will continue to help fundraise for HFU and will be here this fall for the annual parish visits. Monsignor Martin is a great priest and will be a wonderful advocate for HFU in the future. Please join me in praying for both men.

Finally, I would like to end with a story about a table. It is the dinner table at Sacred Heart Seminary for priests, seminarians, staff, and visitors. A young priest approached me during my recent visit and said, "Mark, do you remember me?" and I said, "Absolutely." I will never forget an event that happened eight years ago when he was a seminarian in his pastoral year at SHS. He was being taught in his formation by Monsignor Matthew and several other priests during dinner one night. The evening was full of laughter, deep discussions, and great joy. That table was better than any classroom for anyone who had the privilege to be present. I can't help but compare that event to the accounts of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles breaking bread, praying, and sharing the deposits of the faith. While I have witnessed many, there are thousands more stories of young men and women impacted by Monsignor's generosity and kindness.

Well done good and faithful servant. May God continue to bless you abundantly,



Seminarians celebrating Mass

2025 Parish Visit Schedule

The 2025 annual visit by Monsignor Matthew Odong and Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom is right around the corner. Plan to see them at one (or more!) of the following locations:

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Msgr. Matthew Odong

13505 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka MN 55345

- Saturday 9/20 4:30 PM
- Sunday 9/21 8:30 AM
- Sunday 9/21 10:30 AM

Church of St. Aloysius Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

302 S. 10th Street, Olivia MN 56277

- Saturday 9/20 5:00 PM
- Sunday 9/21 8:30 AM

Church of St. Mary

Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

210 S. 10th Street, Bird Island MN 55310

Sunday 9/21 10:30 AM

Church of St. George

Msgr. Matthew Odong

133 North Brown Road, Long Lake MN 55356

- Saturday 9/27 4:00 PM
- Sunday 9/28 9:15 AM
- Sunday 9/28 5:00 PM

Cathedral of St. Paul

Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

- 239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul MN 55102
 - Saturday 9/27 5:15 PMSunday 9/28 8:00 AM
 - Sunday 9/28 10:00 AM
 - Sunday 9/28 10:00 AM
 Sunday 9/28 12:00 PM
 - Sunday 9/28 5:00 PM
 - Sunday 9/28 5:00 PM

Church of St. Anne

Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

200 Hamel Road, Hamel MN 55340

- Saturday 10/4 4:00 PM
- Sunday 10/5 8:30 AM
- Sunday 10/5 10:30 AM

Church of St. Charles Borromeo

Msgr. Matthew Odong

2739 NE Stinson Pkwy, St. Anthony MN 55418

- Saturday 10/4 5:00 PM
- Sunday 10/5 8:00 AM
- Sunday 10/5 10:00 AM

Both priests will share stories of how your support is enabling many eager young people to fully develop their God-given talents.

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In celebration of the Jubilee Year, our students have been actively participating in spiritual growth activities such as daily rosary prayers, formation sessions, and regular Mass. Recently, they embarked on a pilgrimage to Gulu Cathedral to pass through the Door of Mercy, a significant journey that prepares them to better navigate the challenges that young people face in today's world.

Mack Whens

Leadership development is also flourishing at AFSS. Many students have taken on roles in student governance and extracurricular activities. The new student guild was recently inaugurated into office by Rev. Fr. Ronald Reagan Okello, the Executive Secretary for Education of the Uganda Episcopal Conference. This experience will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their leadership journeys.

On the sports front, we have some great news. Both our boys' volleyball team and girls' netball team have performed exceptionally well at the regional level and have emerged as the best, qualifying for the National Championships. Their commitment and teamwork

continue to bring pride to our school.

We are also extremely grateful to HFU for their ongoing development projects at the school. The construction of a clinic will soon provide advanced medical services not only to our students and staff but also to the surrounding community. The new administration block will offer much-needed space for our management team, and the boys are especially thankful for the improved bathrooms.

In conclusion, the AFSS community extends its deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. As we continue to pray for you, we also look forward to your continued partnership in helping our school reach its full potential. Together, we are shaping a brighter future.

Atim Berna Prisca Head Teacher, AFSS





Please join us for our annual HFU Appreciation Dinner

Thursday September 25, 2025
Wayzata Country Club

200 Wayzata Blvd West, Orono MN 55391 5:00pm Mass 5:45pm Social 6:15 Dinner & Program

Join Msgr. Matthew Odong, Dr. Fr. Paul Peter Dr. Rom, and friends of Hope For Uganda to celebrate the good work being accomplished in Northern Uganda.

Complimentary dinner and drinks will be served.

Courtesy valet service provided.

Business Casual Dress.

Bring a friend to introduce them to our mission of hope!

RSVP by Mon. 9/15/25:

Scan QR code, call 952-222-8330, email info@hopeforuganda. org, or visit www.hopeforuganda.org and

click on the events tab.

AFRUDEC continued from page 1

In order to promote farm sustainability, we have expanded into perennial crops by planting 4 acres of bananas, 2 acres of coffee, and 3 acres of pineapples. Construction of the pig barn is currently in progress, and we anticipate beginning pig breeding by December 2025, fulfilling a long-standing goal. The Farm has now started small livestock production, including tilapia and catfish ponds, goats, pigs, and 5 beef cows. Excess corn from last year's production is being used as feed.

Domestic Initiative:

The farm has forged a significant partnership with the local district government to improve water access for production and crop productivity. Through a cost-sharing agreement for irrigation, the government covers 75% of the irrigation material cost while the farm contributes the remaining 25%. This small-scale irrigation project is expected to enhance year-round production capacity, especially for water-sensitive crops like rice and horticulture. We are eager to utilize local resources and grow alongside the community.

We are grateful for the support we have received. The farm is committed to achieving its objectives for sustained success. Agricultural activities planned for the future will prioritize innovation, sustainable practices, and collaborative partnerships. With ongoing support and efficient resource management, the farm aims to boost food production, increase farmer incomes, and serve as a model for integrated rural development in Northern Uganda.

cos Rumpulples:

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

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



MATTHEW 25:40



Hope For Uganda PO Box 1863 Minnetonka MN 55345



(952) 222-8330



info@hopeforuganda.org



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.