



HOPE FOR UGANDA

Looking Ahead with Hope in Northern Uganda

SUMMER
2026



AFSS student-led Child Charity Movement supports needy neighbors bordering campus

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



Growing Hope Together

by Father Paul Peter Rom, PhD

Greetings from Uganda and from the Archbishop Flynn Rural Development Education Center—our farm. Through determination and hard work, we continue to make strong progress. The farm has now reached the capacity to cultivate more than 200 acres across two annual growing seasons. However, like many farmers around the world, we are facing increasingly unpredictable weather. This year, El Niño brought a prolonged drought that greatly affected us. Although we cultivated early in the first season, crop yields are expected to fall significantly. Meteorologists are also warning of a possible super El Niño, which could bring even greater extremes, from drought to floods. Yet as farmers, we do not easily give up. Every seed planted is a sign of hope, and every seed harvested encourages us to continue.

In the first season, AFRUDEC planted four main crops - corn, groundnuts, sunflower, and rice - covering a total of 102 acres: 30 acres of corn, 12 acres of groundnuts, 30 acres of sunflower, and 30 acres of rice. Behind every acre is a story of hope, sacrifice, and faith. Our farmers worked with courage, trusting that each seed would one day feed the school, support local farmers, and strengthen the surrounding community.

Although the El Niño drought has reduced the expected harvest, it has not destroyed our hope. Instead, it has reminded us how valuable your support is. Because of your generosity, AFRUDEC can continue standing with rural farmers in difficult times, helping them turn disappointment into determination and uncertainty into renewed strength. Your contribution is more than support for a farm; it is food on a table, confidence for a farmer, learning for a community, and hope for the future.

The installation of micro-scale irrigation has also helped reduce water stress in vegetables, which are performing well. This gives us yet another sign that, with compassion, partnership, and persistence, hope can still grow even in a dry season.

We are also expanding our research work. World Coffee Research is piloting activities on our farm, and we have entered a joint venture with the national research institute to understand why beans have not performed well despite favorable soil-test results. We continue to host student interns from universities across the country, helping us fulfill our objective of making the farm an education center. Our investment in coffee, bananas, and pineapples will be a game changer. These perennial crops are expected to generate more income and make long-term sustainability a realistic goal.

A Heartfelt Appeal

As we work to secure food for our school and build a sustainable future, we humbly ask for your continued support. For more details about our needs, please see our annual narrative report on the HFU website News From Uganda tab, or request a copy directly from Hope For Uganda.

Fr. Paul Peter Rom

A Season of Hope at SHS

Sowing Seeds of Hope Together at Sacred Heart Seminary

by Msgr. Martin Agwee, Rector of SHS

In our Spring newsletter, I wrote from the heart that HFU and its benefactors are truly a hope for Uganda. As we enter the second term at Sacred Heart Seminary, Lacor, that truth is even clearer. Hope is not passive; it is an active, sustaining reality. We see it in young men discerning their vocations, pursuing academic excellence, and living our motto, Caritas et Servitium (Love and Service). The future holds great promise, and your continued generosity remains the foundation upon which that promise is being realized.

Hope looks forward. It sees a seminarian today and envisions the compassionate leader he will one day become. In an uncertain world, forming the next generation of spiritual leaders is a powerful act of faith. Every prayer offered, every gift contributed, and every word of encouragement invests in a future we may not yet see, but one we trust God is shaping through your partnership.

This term has brought important signs of growth. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, celebrated June 12th, five former students advanced in their vocational formation by receiving the ministry of Lector. We also launched Phase II of our Technology Upgrade, installing 15 CCTV cameras and acquiring five new desktop computers. These improvements strengthen campus security, support modern learning, and reflect continued hope for our students' formation.

Phase I of the A-Block renovation is also progressing well, making this essential facility more durable and functional. Although the work has temporarily limited space, we see it as a necessary step toward a stronger seminary. We look forward to Phase II, which will further improve the learning environment and support future growth.

Our formation team also grew this term with the addition of two priests, bringing the number of resident priest formators to six. We welcome Rev. Fr. Stephen Opoka, former Pastor at Blessed Daudi Okelo and Jildo Irwa Parish in Pader, and Rev. Fr. Robert Odong, ordained on May 9th, 2026. Their presence brings new energy, gifts, and strength to our formation team.

Through your continued support, Sacred Heart Seminary provides a secure, nurturing environment and the resources students and formators need to grow. Your generosity is both a financial gift and a shared commitment to leadership, service, and transformation. As Term Two continues, we hold you in prayer and gratitude. Thank you for your partnership, your confidence in these young men, and your ongoing generosity on behalf of Uganda's future. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you abundantly for your steadfast support.



M. Agwee

Monsignor Matthew Odong Legacy Scholarships

In honor of Monsignor Matthew Odong's years of service with HFU and his 2025 retirement as Rector of SHS, HFU has established three scholarships in his name. One SHS student and two AFSS students have been awarded the full tuition necessary to attend the schools. Please join us in praying for the first recipients of these legacy scholarships.



Omara Nobert Mao SHS

Omara Nobert Mao is a first-year seminarian at SHS in Gulu, Uganda. He is a joyful, prayerful, hard-working young man who comes from a humble family with three children. His biggest worry was a lack of funds to allow him to study for the priesthood. This scholarship enables him to look forward to his future with hope. Upon learning of HFU's sponsorship, Omara stated, "Thanks be to God! I will pray for the benefactors of Hope For Uganda to continue to support education for needy children like me."



Ayaa Innocent Angelina AFSS

Ayaa Innocent Angelina, a 15-year-old girl from the Acholi tribe of Northern Uganda, is very disciplined, respectful, and prayerful. She is trusted and loved by students and teachers alike. Her main challenge was the inability of her parents to raise funds to make her dream of an education become reality. On being told that she qualified for the award, she burst into tears of joy. Ayaa hopes to eventually study to become a medical doctor or a teacher. She commits to praying for HFU benefactors for their generosity in awarding her the gift of education.

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Ocana Joshua was all smiles after being told that he was a recipient of the AFSS scholarship. He expressed his gratitude to God and HFU for the privilege of being able to study at AFSS. Ocana aspires to study hard and become among the best students in the school, and he hopes to someday become a teacher, a farmer, or a soldier. He promises to pray daily for generous HFU supporters who are changing the lives of young boys and girls in Uganda.



Ocana Joshua AFSS



AFRUDEC pig barn under construction

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Visit us on the web at
www.HopeForUganda.org



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Meet Board Member Rich Paskach



When I reflect upon why I chose to serve on the board of Hope for Uganda, my answer is simple: because I have seen firsthand the incredible faith, love, and joy of the Ugandan people and I want to do what I can to support them.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Uganda on a mission trip with my

daughter, Lizy. I didn’t know much about Uganda, and honestly, I joined her to make sure she would be safe on the trip. Well, that experience deeply changed us both. I witnessed people whose generosity and hope shone brightly despite significant challenges. I also saw the lasting impact that faith-filled partnerships can have on families and communities. During that trip, I met Mark Whims, Chairman of Hope for Uganda. When Mark and I were catching up at a recent men’s retreat, our conversation took a new direction. Mark invited me to consider becoming involved with Hope for Uganda after my retirement, and I began to see how my experience and passion for service could support the organization’s mission. I am grateful that God brought our paths together and opened the door for this opportunity to serve.

Throughout my professional career, I was fortunate to serve in leadership roles in healthcare research, informatics, and technology. After more than 35 years in the field, I retired in 2026 from HealthPartners Institute, where I served as Senior Director of Research Informatics and Technology. My career taught me the importance of collaboration, thoughtful leadership, and using our gifts to improve the lives of others. I hope to bring those same skills to Hope for Uganda as we work together to achieve our mission.

My wife, Julianne, and I are blessed with six children and two amazing grandchildren (third on the way!). We have lived in Delano, Minnesota for the past 17 years and are active members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church in Delano, where our faith continues to inspire us to serve our community and the wider Catholic church. Our family has been deeply enriched through several mission experiences and by witnessing how God works through people who generously share their time, talents, and resources.

As I begin my service on the board, I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with our dedicated staff, fellow board members, and each of you who support this mission. Hope for Uganda is making a meaningful difference because of the generosity, prayers, and encouragement of faithful supporters like you.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Together, we are helping build brighter futures for the church, communities, and people of Uganda.

Rich Paskach



AFSS Admin Building phase 3 construction progress

Development Director Updates

My dearest brothers and sisters,

I pray that you are enjoying a blessed summer. As always, it is a great joy to have the opportunity to write to you and to share news of the many ways your generosity continues to transform lives in Uganda.

Since I last had the opportunity to update you on Hope For Uganda’s work, our mission has experienced both remarkable successes and unexpected challenges.

Due to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the region and the resulting closures of several United States consulates, we were forced to cancel our planned pilgrimage to Uganda this year. Additionally, at least two of the three priests whom we had hoped to bring to the United States for our annual parish visits (including Father Paul Rom, whom I know many of you have had the great pleasure of meeting over the years) will now be unable to visit us here in Minnesota.

This reality makes your partnership especially important during this season. The needs in Uganda have not paused because travel has become more difficult. Students still need scholarships. Seminarians still need formation. Farmers still need infrastructure to build self-sufficiency. Newly ordained priests throughout the Archdiocese of Gulu still require Mass kits, chasubles, and motorcycles to bring the sacraments to Catholics living in even the most remote villages.

In many ways, Hope For Uganda now finds itself in the position of asking our supporters to continue walking with us even when circumstances prevent us from bringing Uganda to you or bringing you to Uganda. We ask you to trust in the mission that you have helped build over so many years and to continue investing in the people whose lives have already been transformed by your generosity.

2026 Grants & Projects Update - Thank you!

Your generosity funded grants for scholarships and projects totaling \$1,015,124 last year. The following 2026 projects and scholarships that are completed and being worked on include:

Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS)

- Completed:
- Technology phase II upgrades
- In Progress:
- Student scholarships 2026
 - “A” level classroom phase I remodel

Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS)

- Completed:
- Construction of Providence Medical Clinic on the AFSS campus
 - Developing design drawings and construction estimate for the new girls’ dorm and bathroom
 - 2026 Seven Sisters Mass & celebration
 - Technology phase II upgrades
- In Progress:
- Student scholarships 2026
 - Phase III admin building construction buildout

AFRUDEC (the Farm)

- Completed:
- Developing drawings and construction estimate for the new warehouse
 - Survey and drawings for Amoko Road upgrades
- In Progress:
- Construction of new pig barn
 - 2026 salaries
 - Phase II road construction

DF Medical Centre - all completed

- Monthly operating expenses
- Grant request & funding for insurance and taxes for new clinic ambulance

Gulu Archdiocese - all completed

- Grant request & funding of motorcycles, Mass kits, and chasubles for priests ordained in 2026
- Kasese Diocese special project grant request

Looking ahead, we remain hopeful that conditions will improve and that we will once again be able to offer opportunities both for supporters to visit Uganda and for our Ugandan clergy to visit the United States. Plans for a pilgrimage in 2027 remain our hope and prayer, and we look forward to sharing more information as circumstances allow.

Until then, I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider renewing your support for Hope For Uganda’s mission. At this critical moment, your generosity matters more than ever. Through your gifts, children are educated, crops are planted and harvested, priests are equipped for ministry, and faith continues to flourish throughout northern Uganda.

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and friendship. On behalf of Monsignor Matthew, Monsignor Martin, Father Paul, and all of our partners in Uganda, please know how profoundly grateful we are for your support and solidarity during these challenging circumstances.

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

With sincere gratitude, in Christ,

Joe Pratt
Development Director
Hope For Uganda



Providence Medical Clinic - completed

2026 Parish Mission Schedule

The 2026 mission is right around the corner. Plan to hear stories of how your support is enabling many eager young people to receive an education and fully develop their God-given talents.

Church of St. Aloysius

- 302 S. 10th Street, Olivia MN 56277
- Saturday 8/29 5:00 PM
 - Sunday 8/30 8:30 AM

Church of St. Mary

- 210 S. 10th Street, Bird Island MN 55310
- Sunday 8/30 10:30 AM

Church of St. Anne

- 200 Hamel Road, Hamel MN 55340
- Saturday 9/12 4:00 PM
 - Sunday 9/13 8:30 AM
 - Sunday 9/13 10:30 AM

Immaculate Heart of Mary

- 13505 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka MN 55345
- Saturday 9/26 4:30 PM
 - Sunday 9/27 8:30 AM
 - Sunday 9/27 10:30 AM

Church of St. George

- 133 North Brown Road, Long Lake MN 55356
- Saturday 10/10 4:00 PM
 - Sunday 10/11 9:15 AM
 - Sunday 10/11 5:00 PM

Cathedral of St. Paul

- 239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul MN 55102
- Saturday 10/10 5:15 PM
 - Sunday 10/11 8:00 AM
 - Sunday 10/11 10:00 AM
 - Sunday 10/11 12:00 PM
 - Sunday 10/11 5:00 PM

Notes from HFU Board Member, Fr. John Bauer OFS

Dear Donors and Friends of Hope For Uganda,

Hope is one of the great gifts of the Christian life. It is not simply wishing that things will get better. Hope is rooted in Christ. It is rooted in the deep truth that in Him the victory has already been won. Christ has conquered sin and death, and because of Him we know that love will have the final word.

One of the ways we begin to realize this hope is when our eyes are opened to the reality that we are united to one another in Christ in a way that is far more profound than we can often see or understand.

When members of my parish visited the sites of Hope For Uganda in the summer of 2023, I experienced this hope in a way that I had never expected. I would like to share just a few moments that continue to remind me of the deep bond we share with our brothers and sisters in Uganda.

The first took place at Sacred Heart Seminary. I had the opportunity to speak with a young seminarian, and as we were talking he said something that has stayed with me ever since: “Isn’t it amazing that we all worship the same God?”

That simple comment has remained with me, especially during Mass. When I stand at the altar, I think of that young seminarian. I think of the students, the priests, and all of the people I met in Uganda. I think of how deeply united we are in Christ, especially when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. There is something so wonderful about having met the very people we support through Hope For Uganda. It has brought me closer to the reality of heaven and to the wonder that, in Christ, we truly belong to one another.

I also experienced the great charity and generosity of the Ugandan people. When we visited Monsignor Odong’s hometown, we were presented with a chicken and shea butter. I have rarely felt so honored and so gifted. These were simple gifts, but they were offered with such love and dignity.

There was a beautiful paradox in that moment. For years our parish had been supporting this community through Hope For Uganda. Yet when we arrived, we discovered that we were the ones being richly blessed. I encountered a richness of love that could only come from Christ Himself. In many ways, I truly felt as though Christ was kneeling before us to wash our feet.

One final experience has never left me. During our travels we needed to stop to use a restroom. The nearest place was the home of a priest. His house was remarkably simple. There was almost nothing there, and even the toilet barely worked. Yet he welcomed us with open arms and offered us everything he had.

It struck me then that this is one of the essential missions of Hope For Uganda. As we support Sacred Heart Seminary, we are helping to form priests like this—men willing to give up everything in order to serve their brothers and sisters with extraordinary generosity. Once again, I encountered Christ, alive and at work in Uganda.

For me, Hope For Uganda is not simply about projects, schools, buildings, farms, or programs. Of course, all of these are important and essential. But at its heart, Hope For Uganda is about Christ encountering Christ. It is about the Body of Christ recognizing itself across continents and cultures. It is about the spiritual bond that unites us to our brothers and sisters in Uganda.

That bond is real because Christ is truly alive. We are far more deeply united than we often realize. My hope is that all of us may come to know and experience that communion more deeply.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to support this mission through your prayers, generosity, and love. Please know that your support is bearing fruit in ways that are visible, beautiful, and deeply spiritual. Together, we are helping the whole Church realize more deeply the bond we share in Christ.

Peace and every good,

Father John J. Bauer, OFS



SHS students celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 12, 2026



SHS technology upgrade



AFSS girls netball team district championships 2026

AFSS Update by Berna Atim Prisca, AFSS Headteacher



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the students and staff of Archbishop Flynn Secondary School, I send you warm greetings from Pader.

We are pleased to announce that construction of the school clinic is complete and awaiting commissioning. District leaders, parents, staff, students, and community members are eagerly anticipating its opening, as it will greatly improve access to quality health services for both our learners and the surrounding community.

Our volleyball, netball, and girls’ football teams excelled at the District level and qualified for Regional competitions. To further nurture talent and allow for diversity of interests, we plan to introduce basketball and additional indoor games such as chess, scrabble, ludo, and darts.

We celebrate six volleyball players who earned scholarships to Bukedea Secondary School and one student who received a scholarship to Gulu University for outstanding performance in netball. These opportunities have eased financial burdens for families and opened doors for further education.

The student-led Child Charity Movement continues to make a meaningful impact. This term, students mobilized resources to support a widow whose hut had been burned down. They helped repair her home—an act of compassion that brought hope to the community and mirrored the spirit of HFU.

We remain committed to holistic education, preparing learners for responsible adulthood through prayer, charity, academics, co-curricular activities, and financial literacy. On July 14 2026, staff from the Bank of Uganda taught students the benefit of early savings, investment, and retirement planning, giving our youth a valuable advantage.

We are celebrating the excellent performance of AFSS students in their annual exams, completed in July. Among the four students who received government sponsorship, our top performer earned a scholarship to pursue a bachelor’s degree in medical surgery at Gulu University.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Hope for Uganda for your continued support. You are transforming lives, strengthening our school, and expanding opportunities for both learners and staff. Because of your partnership, AFSS continues to grow and thrive.

May God bless and protect you abundantly.

Atim Berna Prisca
Headteacher, AFSS



AFSS students commemorate Good Friday with a solemn Way of the Cross procession

Remember Loved Ones Through Mass Intentions

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 (suggested stipend of \$10 per Mass). A series of Gregorian Masses (suggested 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!




you are invited

Please join us for our annual
HFU Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday September 29, 2026
Wayzata Country Club
200 Wayzata Blvd West, Orono MN 55391
5:00pm Mass 5:45pm Social 6:15 Dinner & Program

Join 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 Friday 9/18/26:
Scan QR code,
call 952-222-8330,
email info@hopeforuganda.org,
or visit
www.hopeforuganda.org and
click on the events tab.



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

HFU Top Funding Priorities

2026 Scholarships

- Goal - \$488,820
- Raised - \$285,145
- Needed - \$203,675

SHS “A” Level Classroom Block

- Goal - \$250,000
- Raised - \$55,000
- Needed - \$195,000

AFSS Girls Dormitory

- Goal - \$250,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$250,000

SHS “O” Level Classroom Block

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

AFRUDEC Grain Silos

- Goal - \$64,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$64,000

AFRUDEC Farm Warehouse

- Goal - \$150,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$150,000

2027 Mass Kits, Chasubles, Motorcycles

- Goal - \$45,000
- Raised - \$0
- Needed - \$45,000

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

Archdiocese of Gulu
Ordains Six Priests
and One Deacon

The Gulu Archdiocese was blessed to ordain six priests and one deacon on May 9, 2026. Through the generosity of HFU donors, they were gifted with Mass kits, chasubles, and motorcycles to allow them to reach their parishioners out in the bush. Newly ordained priests: Fr. Geoffrey Rackara, Fr. Policap Okema, Fr. Eric Acelam, Fr. Felix Allan Torach, Fr. Robert Odong, and Fr. Augustine Oloya.



Msgr. Matthew and Msgr. Martin with newly ordained priests and deacon



The priests receive motorcycles



A joyful blessing!



“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
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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.

