



From the Desk of Msgr. Matthew Odong Greetings from Pader

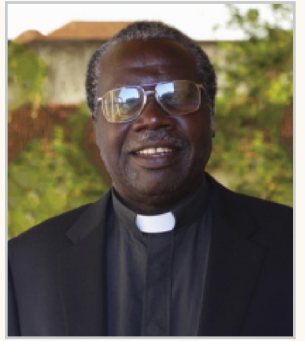
Greetings of peace, love, and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ! With profound gratitude, I write to thank you wholeheartedly for your continued support of Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS), Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS), Archbishop Flynn Rural Development Education Center (AFRUDEC - The Farm), David Fagerlee Medical Center (DFMC), and Providence Medical Center (PMC) through Hope For Uganda. I compare this support to the planting of a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, in July 1990 by a generous American couple, Dan (now deceased) & Bobbi Vaughan, to provide financial assistance to Northern Uganda. This seed continues to flourish through the generosity of each of you, our dear benefactors. I thank God for making you part of Hope For Uganda and for the privilege of being co-founder of this great charitable organization.

My homily on that Sunday morning in July 1990 called for generosity to support the education of a young boy studying for the priesthood at SHS. This inspired and touched the hearts of many people, leading them to share in the mission of HFU. Because of your support, SHS has been able to form many priests for the past 35 years, AFSS was opened in 2009 to educate both boys and girls, two medical centers have been established, and newly ordained priests were provided with Mass kits, chasubles, and motorcycles for transport to local communities.

At HFU's annual appreciation dinner this past September, I announced my retirement after 30 years of service as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Gulu and 35 years as Rector of SHS. I consider this a semi-retirement, as I will be involved in the development of AFSS, AFRUDEC, and Providence Medical Center. I plan to settle down on the grounds of AFSS to continue pursuing my life's dream, with your continued support. I will also continue to be part of the appeals for projects, including support for Mass intentions to help our unsalaried priests in their pastoral work.

On that note, I am pleased to welcome my successor in the roles of Vicar General and Rector, Monsignor Martin Agwee, an alumnus of SHS. Msgr. Martin will need your prayers and support as he takes on these important roles. Please help him to complete the unfinished projects at the seminary. See page 2, Grant and Projects Update, for funding priorities, or check out the Funding Priorities page on our website.

Wishing you God's blessings and grace as we embrace the Advent season, celebrate Christmas, conclude the Jubilee Year 2025, and welcome a blessed new year in 2026.



Rev. Msgr. Matthew Odong

In the Footsteps of Monsignor Matthew



by Monsignor Martin Agwee, Rector of SHS and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Gulu

My desire to become a priest began when I was in primary school. My parish priest at the time, Fr. Alfonso Poppi, helped me recognize God's call to me. He encouraged me to join Sacred Heart Seminary. I am convinced that a priestly vocation

often manifests early in life, and the seminary is the best place to nurture this seed of vocation to maturity. It is a fertile ground to engage with young people who are brimming with curiosity for knowledge and searching for adequate answers to life's fundamental questions.

I first became acquainted with Msgr. Matthew Odong in 1987 when he was a major seminarian and I was a young boy at Sacred Heart Seminary, where he would later become Rector. After completing my university studies, he welcomed me to stay and teach at SHS. He encouraged and supported me and many others on their journey to the priesthood. Most of the diocesan priests currently serving in the Archdiocese of Gulu have passed through SHS under Monsignor's guidance during his 35 years of service. I know him as a prayerful, kind, and generous man who has a deep love for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

I now find myself following in the footsteps of Msgr. Matthew, first as Vicar General and now as the Rector at Sacred Heart Seminary.

The two months I have spent at SHS have been very exciting, especially since I was used to sitting behind a computer at the chancery and mainly handling administration for the archdiocese. Our days at SHS begin with early-morning prayer, followed by academic programs that take up most of the remainder of the day. In the evening, we participate in sports (football and volleyball), community service, or attend conferences. Each day is concluded with prayer.

This term, the seminarians took part in a pilgrimage to the Wipolo Martyrs Shrine in Northern Uganda, a 3-mile walking pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Cathedral in Gulu, Christmas anticipation activities, and various other formation activities. Additionally, national examinations for S.4 and S.6 (corresponding to US sophomore and senior years of high school) have been completed.

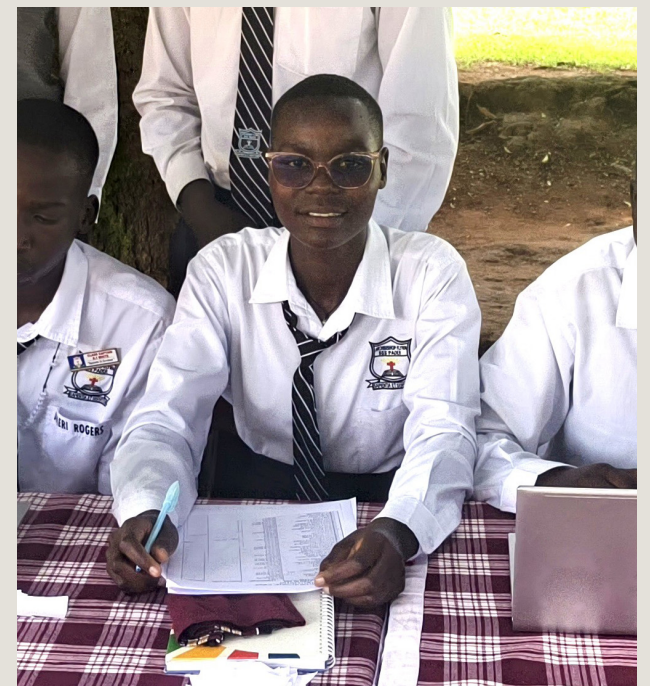
I am pleased to be joining and leading the formation team at SHS. I have known and loved the work of HFU through Monsignor Matthew, who has been a strong supporter of my vocational journey. The ongoing and generous support provided by Hope For Uganda to SHS has been crucial in shaping the future priests of the Archdiocese of Gulu.

I look forward to collaborating with HFU in this great mission of bringing hope to the people of Northern Uganda.

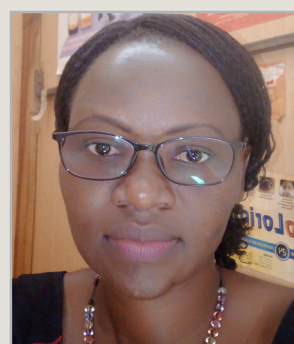
M. Agwee



Students with computers donated by parishioners from IHM Church, Minnetonka MN



AFSS Update by Berna Atim Prisca, AFSS Headteacher



Greetings to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

On behalf of the AFSS community, I extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support throughout the years. Your commitment has brought numerous transformative impacts to our institution year after year!

It is with great honor that I share some recent effects of your love on our people and country..

Technology Upgrade

AFSS's IT department has successfully undergone the first phase of a technology upgrade. This upgrade includes new computers, CCTV cameras, and reliable internet connectivity. With the implementation of the New Lower Secondary Curriculum, which is learner-centered and emphasizes rigorous research, these tools empower students, teachers, and all non-teaching staff to engage in digital learning. This preparation is vital for our learners as they enter a fast-paced, digitalized world.

Monthly Financial Support

Your consistent monthly contributions have greatly supported and stabilized our operations. This has

enabled us to retain students, provide essential learning materials to every department, and fund other extracurricular activities to ensure holistic education.

Construction of the School Clinic

The newly constructed clinic stands as a testament to HFU's compassion for humanity. It will not only offer quality, safe, and timely medical care to students and staff, but also to the local community that previously had difficulties accessing good medical care. AFSS will be a unique school with such a wonderful establishment, ensuring a healthier learning environment for all!



AFSS continued on page 3

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Hope For Uganda Top Funding Priorities

2026 Scholarships for talented students unable to afford tuition and fees

- Goal - \$415,000
- Raised - \$225,000
- Needed - \$190,000

SHS A Level Classroom Block

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

Girls Dormitory

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

Auditorium Repairs for Sacred Heart Seminary

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

Grain Silos

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

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

save the date

The 2026 Hope For Uganda Shareholder Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 4:30pm.

Contact Joe Pratt jpratt@hopeforuganda.org for details.

Grant & Projects Update - Thank you!

Items that are completed or in progress include:

Sacred Heart Seminary (SHS)

- Student Scholarships (2025 complete, 2026 in progress)
- Furnishings for new home on SHS campus for Archbishop Emeritus Odama - complete
- Developing design drawings and construction estimate for "A" level classroom remodeling
- Grant request & funding for Phase II Technology Upgrade - complete
- Grant request & funding for new accounting software for the school - complete

Archbishop Flynn Secondary School (AFSS)

- Student Scholarships (2025 complete, 2026 in progress)
- Construction of the Providence Medical Center
- Foundations, columns, beams, and 2nd floor slab for the new Admin Building - complete
- Admin Building construction buildout
- Development of Campus Master Plan - complete
- School brass band instruments
- Developing design drawings for the new girls' dormitory, bathroom facilities, and construction estimate
- Grant request & funding for Phase II Technology Upgrade - complete
- Grant request & funding for new accounting software for the school - complete

AFRUDEC (the Farm)

- Construction of new pig barn
- Salaries
- Developing drawings and construction estimate for Phase II road construction
- Developing drawings and construction estimate for the new warehouse
- Grant request & funding for 2nd season crops - complete

DF Medical Clinic

- Monthly Operating Expenses
- Grant request & funding for ambulance - complete

Gulu Archdiocese

- Motorcycles, Mass kits, and chasubles for seven priests ordained in 2025 - complete
- Motorcycles, Mass kits, and chasubles for two priests to be ordained in 2026 - complete
- Grant request & funding for building upgrades to Blessed Daudi & Jildo parish in Pader - complete

Development Director Updates

Dearest brothers and sisters,

I pray this message finds you richly blessed and amidst a most joyous Advent! Indeed, even in the cold of Minnesota, this season before Christmas brings with it a special warmth that is very welcome this time of year.

Prior to providing my usual fundraising update, I also wanted to take a moment to thank the great many of you that I had a chance to meet during Monsignor Matthew and Father Paul's annual visit to the United States. Between our visits to various parishes, meetings with donors in both Minnesota and Florida, and HFU's annual appreciation dinner, I was lucky enough to meet well over a hundred HFU supporters, both new and old. Thank you for providing such warm receptions to myself, HFU, and to Monsignor Matthew and Father Paul. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated, and I hope to meet many more of you in the new year.

As we approach the end of 2025, I am pleased to share with you several exciting updates regarding HFU's projects and funding goals:

First, I am thrilled to announce that a group of HFU's most generous donors has provided the funding needed to complete construction of the new administration building on the campus of AFSS! This building will not only serve as the nerve center for the staff of AFSS, but will also free up classroom space, which is currently being used for administrative functions. We are extremely grateful to the donors who came together to push this project over the finish line in such a short amount of time.

Additionally, thanks to the benefactors mentioned above and to the combined generosity of all of you, HFU is going into 2026 with annual scholarships for both AFSS and SHS already more than halfway funded! Moreover, one of the pairs of donors who helped to fund the administration building also funded the second phase of technology upgrades at both AFSS and SHS, as well as the total cost for motorcycles and Mass kits for the Archdiocese of Gulu's 2026 class of new priests. At the risk of being a bit repetitive, I want to again express my sincere gratitude to the generous supporters who have helped HFU tackle or make major progress on so many of our top priorities at such a rapid pace.

Looking Ahead: Funding Priorities

Thanks to the many successes that HFU achieved in 2025, we will be heading into 2026 with a revamped list of funding priorities. While you can find an expanded list at left (and a complete list on our website at www.hopeforuganda.org/projects-funding-priorities), I wanted to briefly highlight some

of our top goals for the new year:

At both AFSS and SHS, scholarships remain HFU's top priority and \$190,000 is still needed to fully fund this goal for 2026. Additionally, AFSS is looking to build a new girls' dormitory on their campus, while over at SHS, the top funding priority is the construction of a new classroom building for Advanced (or A-) level students. And at AFRUDEC (the Farm) we are still seeking funds to build a new grain silo, and we are also expanding our goals to include a new milling facility and road improvements.

Thank you all for your generosity and prayers! Your support has made 2025 one of HFU's most exciting years on record and I can't wait to see what 2026 has in store.

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

With sincere gratitude, in Christ,

Joe Pratt
Development Director
Hope For Uganda



Providence Medical Center under construction at AFSS



Providence Medical Center Terrazzo sinks & countertops



AFSS Admin Building under construction

Chairman of the Board Notes

by Mark Whims

As the Jubilee Year of Hope comes to a close, we cannot adequately express our gratitude to all of you.

Over the past six months, our travels have taken us to Uganda, Florida, Minnesota, and North Dakota, where we met with donors, staff, students, teachers, priests, parishes, volunteers, farmers, engineers, and contractors. I am truly amazed at the growth of Hope For Uganda and the impact it has had on many in northern Uganda and here in the United States. Your stories never fail to inspire me, showcasing the profound influence that HFU has had on your lives, whether you are a donor or a recipient.

I would like to express my gratitude to Karen, Joe, and the board members of HFU for their dedication and professionalism. They go above and beyond in their service, working tirelessly to make HFU transparent to our benefactors.

We are pleased to welcome Monsignor Martin Agwee, who is making his debut in this newsletter with his first article as the rector of Sacred Heart Seminary. We look forward to meeting him next year during our parish appeals.

Finally, I would like to close with a big thank you to Monsignor Matthew. Without his vision, passion, and love for the Acholi people of northern Uganda none of this would be possible. I am excited for the next phase of his ministry and what God has in store for him.

May God bless you all and have a blessed Advent and Christmas!




AFSS Admin Building under construction



Msgr. Matthew Odong, Archbishop Raphael p'Mony Wokorach, and Msgr. Martin Agwee

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



Gratitude Amidst Challenges

by Dr. Father Paul Peter Rom

Dear Friends,

We would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support in the

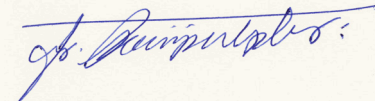
development of the farm. The year 2025 has presented us with significant challenges due to extreme weather patterns. For approximately six months, our farmland experienced widespread flooding, making access to most areas of the farm nearly impossible. These challenges serve as opportunities for us to enhance our strategies for overcoming obstacles. No farmer can honestly declare a total loss at the end of any season, and we do have reasons to celebrate.

We have managed to establish coffee on two acres of land and entered into partnerships with the National Coffee Research Institute, World Coffee Research, and Gulu University, making our farm a centre of coffee experimentation in Northern Uganda. Four acres of bananas are growing vigorously and showing signs of great prospects. Three acres of pineapples are also thriving, benefiting from the abundance of rain on the farm.

This year, the farm has once again been able to produce 70% of the food needed for AFSS, including more than 28 tons of corn, 4 tons of rice, 6 tons of groundnuts from 18 acres, 1.25 tons of assorted vegetables from .35 acre, 9 tons of cassava from 5 acres, 1.5 tons of pineapples from 2/3 acre, and 30 acres of sunflowers. We have stocked 3000 tilapia fish in the fishpond, which will be ready for consumption next year. The farm now has 12 beef cattle, some of which were donated by parents. As one American visitor recently stated, "This isn't just a farm anymore, it's a farm, a ranch, and a plantation."

The construction of the pigsty was interrupted by a flood, but work will resume in December 2025. By February 2026, our goal is to stock our first batch of piglets with the aim of reaching a maximum production of 500 pigs. We have trained 28 students (17 male and 11 female) from various universities as interns. Learning and production are ongoing, and we are proud to say that the farm is meeting all the objectives for which it was founded. We extend all credits to our friends and benefactors for their unwavering support.

Our next planned projects include the second phase of road construction on the farm, acquiring grain tanks, and purchasing a combine harvester to handle harvests in a timely manner and maximize production in the upcoming season. After eight years, we are currently reviewing our farm program and developing a strategic plan for the next ten years. Although we have not yet reached the break-even point, we are confident that we will get there as the farm continues to expand and explore new profitable ventures. We want to express our profound gratitude for your previous assistance, and we humbly request your continued support for our farm program.




A Day in the Life of a Student at AFSS

by Lamaro Fortunate Lusaka, S.5 Head Prefect

There is a master key that unlocks life's possibilities: pursuit. Faith, dreams, and goals are important, but alone they are not sufficient. We must prove our faith, dreams, and goals through action. Pursuit is the only way to transform them into reality.

With the help and guidance provided by all the programs at AFSS, we have consistently remained one of the top schools in Uganda. The uniqueness of our school lies in its holistic approach to education, which focuses on nurturing the mind, heart, and soul.

If you are interested in learning about the daily activities that elevate us to greater heights, I hope that this article will inform and captivate you.

At the sound of my faithfully annoying 4 a.m. alarm, I jump out of bed to fetch water for bathing and prepare myself for the mandatory Morning Preps (personal revision time) which begins at 4:30. I then independently review the material already learned. At 6:20 the bell rings out "kri-ing", signaling it's time to clean up the compound and our dormitories. We all head to our designated areas to sweep and mop, with my favorite task being removing cobwebs from around our classrooms.

At 7:15 a.m. another bell rings, calling us to the morning parade. For 15 minutes, we assemble by class to sing

the school anthem and national anthems, and listen to brief communications from our student leaders, teachers, and the head teacher. We are then dismissed for morning classes.

"Breakfast is served!" is the hidden message conveyed by the bell that rings at exactly 9:20 a.m. We all gather to enjoy our breakfast prepared for us by our mother, Reverend Sister Olga, and her team. Thirty minutes later, we rush back to class for mid-morning lessons until noon, when we break for a 10-minute recess. It's a rough transition between 12:10 and 1:30 when lunch is finally served. However, our teachers always make it interesting by giving us activities that keep us busy and engaged during the lessons.

We have afternoon classes from 2:30-4:30 at which time we are excused to return to our dormitories.

On Mondays and weekends we have sports, Tuesdays and Thursdays we do community service, Wednesdays we have Holy Mass, and Fridays we have a general assembly. We pray a rosary at 5:15 p.m. each day, and Mass is celebrated every Sunday morning.

"Kri-ing," it's 7:30 p.m., time for "Evening Preps", another session of personal and peer revision. I check my personal reading timetable and choose a book to start the work that lasts until 10 when we finally head to bed.

We are always happy to take each small step, inspired by Zechariah 4:10: "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." We are grateful to the committed staff at AFSS for making our dreams come true. To our donors, your love has greatly impacted our lives, especially in our region of Northern Uganda, which has been significantly affected by war, famine, and poverty. You have enabled us to pursue our faith, dreams, and goals. May God bless you all.

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

AFSS continued from page 1

Administration Block

The modern administration block currently under construction will enhance our efficiency and offer a professional space for both management and visitors. This will help alleviate the congestion in the classrooms currently being used as offices, creating more space for students. Your generosity in supporting our capital developments throughout the years extends beyond the physical construction and technology used. It fosters love, generosity, confidence, and creates more opportunities. Most importantly, it truly does bring hope for Uganda.

Annual Visits

We would like to express our gratitude to members of the HFU board and pilgrims from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Minnetonka, MN, for their annual visits to AFSS. These visits not only bring hope, encouragement, and deeper insights to both parties, but also help to strengthen our partnership and deepen our understanding beyond our virtual interactions. Your presence on campus and your ability to share our stories with those who are unable to visit Uganda, and vice versa, inspire us to strive for greater excellence.

Scholarship Opportunities

Through the scholarship programs, many of our benefactors have supported students in ways they never imagined! These deserving students now have access to quality education at AFSS and are sure of a bright future because these scholarships are shaping the lives of our future leaders.

May God bless all of you abundantly!



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!



Monsignor Matthew with a group of major seminarians in the Archdiocese of Gulu



Fr. Paul with NET Ministry Team



Appreciation Dinner September 2025



Msgr. Matthew greeting donor at Appreciation Dinner



Divine Will Unity Congress Tampa FL



**“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.

