



# Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church



## Featuring David Okwii, St. Patrick Catechist and Ox Plow Coordinator

David became a catechist in 2002. At just 20 years old, David said it wasn't easy at his age standing before the congregation to lead a service and give the homily.

"Thanks to God who gave me the grace to begin reading the holy book (Bible) at home while just 7 years and in church when I made 10. This gave me a very good foundation and it's where all the courage to stand before the congregation was developed. Considering what I am today, I attribute my calling to be a catechist to be God's plan because the Lord picked me from a crowd of youth of whom many have defied the voice of the Lord and have remained in devastated life status to date.



Serving as a catechist has won many people to my side. The Christians I have around me outweigh the number of my relatives and this all courtesy of the humble service I render to the church. Furthermore, serving as a catechist for all those years gives me time to listen to myself. In most cases I have to cogitate about what I preach to my Christians thus; making myself to take a lead in practicing the message I preach (Mathew 23:1-7). What not to forget is that serving as a catechist has given me tangible rewards on earth. Some people whom you serve get back and greet you with a few gifts, an indicator that God Himself touches their hearts and later propels them to share whatever little they have with the laborers of His vineyard. The greatest of all is the grace He (the Lord) has given me through the twinning ministry/ox-plow project. I am a beneficiary of this foreign almsgiving and if it wasn't because of God's work, no one could have seen me from the dark angle of the world.

Not to forget is vocations! I have encouraged the young, formed seminarians who are now priests. I am too happy to be a lay formatter."



## St. Patrick's Holy Angels School

Our priority to build the science lab occurred because of the school potentially being closed by the Ugandan government due to inadequate science space. Thank you for your generous donations to complete this important project. We expect to transfer \$6000 next week to fund the completion of (2) science lab room slabs. The building will then be useable. We will need approximately \$9000 to finish the exterior plastering, ceiling and solar lighting.

This private school, developed by Father Simon Peter, has more affordable tuition and has flourished! Currently, only seniors have been permitted to return by the Ugandan government. Our support of this school has helped to make it a "model school" for the Soroti Diocese. Boys' and girls' dorms have created a safe, secure environment for the children to focus on education.

Join us Thursdays, January 28th and February 25th at 6:00 pm in church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 7:00 p.m. We will pray for the needs of our sister parish with a rosary, private prayer, vespers and benediction. Please come and join us. There is nothing greater that you can give our brothers and sisters at Saint Patrick's than your prayers!

### **Ox Plow Project Update**

186 sets of oxen, yoke and plows have been delivered. Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful contributions and prayers. Thank you to Father Henry Agit, Pastor, and catechist, David Okwii, for their leadership and strength to complete this important and huge project. There are many positive stories of the catechists sharing their oxen with their communities.

### **Bibles**

We learned in March while visiting Soroti that the catechists did not have bibles and have since funded the purchase of new bibles translated into Ateso. Production has been delayed due to the priest doing the translation contracting Covid-19. Please pray for his recovery.

### **St. Patrick Church Madera Soroti, Uganda**

Our twinning sister parish is eight hours ahead of our time and has 30,000 plus parishioners and growing. There are 93 outstations/chapels managed by 186 catechists and deacons. Means of travel is walking or taxi motor bike. The existing church is very large, new and beautiful. It was developed by our Parochial Vicar, Father Simon Peter. To give you an idea, it took him several years, a few trips to the U.S. and the grace of God to fund the roof with appeals to surrounding parishes.

A little helpful information...living areas or neighborhoods are called compounds and most live in huts. More than 90% live for the basic needs of life: water, food, healthcare and shelter. Most have no running water or electricity

We expect to help complete important projects in the church in 2021 such as: a PA system, electrical needs and stained glass windows.

### **Donate**

Our ministry operates without any funding from the St. Max budget and solely relies on donations. Several parishioners have committed to a reoccurring weekly or monthly donation to Twinning Ministry via Faith Direct . Just visit [www.saint-max.org/Twinning](http://www.saint-max.org/Twinning) and click the red donate now button to get started. It's simple and only takes minutes. You can also make a one time donation there! All donations and checks made to St. Max Twinning Ministry are 100% for St. Patrick's Church Madera Soroti, Uganda.

### **Twinning Ministry Leadership**

Dan Suer, Chair  
Bruce Murphy, Vice Chair  
Kyle Schafer, Financial Secretary  
Mary Jo Suer, Secretary.

We would like to thank all of you that are reaching out and trying to find ways of supporting our Twinning Ministry and more importantly, those that desire to find a way how to help their catechist. We have been blessed to be on the front end of these requests and humbled to learn and hear of your generous and loving support. When Father Jim told us that he wanted Twinning to be a parish wide ministry, it was his way of letting us know he would support it 100%. Thank you, Father Jim! We look forward to the many opportunities to grow in love and charity, as well as the many paths God is leading us to help the people of St. Patrick Church Madera Soroti, Uganda.

Pray often that our relationship continues to develop and grow into brothers and sisters in Christ!

May God bless each of you abundantly,  
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