



Water Well Project Idea

Written by Catechist David Okwii

A water project idea conceived by Mike Gardener from the twinning calls, supported by Dan, Paul & Bruce, Fr. Simon Peter Wankya, approved by Fr. Jim Riehle and then subsequently finance by people of good will has brought life to St. Patrick's parishioners.

The ministry of our Lord to serve humanity continues in our twinning relationship. We give glory to God for our pastors thus; Fr. Jim Riehle, Fr. Simon Peter Wankya and Fr. Henry Agit for being network boosters that have kept us connected. As we all know that the project successfully got concluded, there is nothing more to tell than just to talk about life in our Christian communities.



The water project has brought tremendous impact in that:

- Christians no longer walk distances (no psychological strain for water)
- No more delays from the well as it used to be before because of scarcity of boreholes.
- Some Christians are converting to the catholic faith in appreciation to the boreholes drilled in churches.
- Health of our people is getting improved as they are no longer susceptible to water borne diseases.
- Sub parishes can now host prayer conferences since water sources are available.

All the 49 boreholes drilled give clean water to our people as witnessed by Dan and Paul in their visit last year. However, we have a few chapels that missed this opportunity because of natural obstacles like rocks. We continue keeping their needs in our prayers aware that God will one day work out a way for them as well.

Life isn't the Same

Written by Catechist Enyoru John Robert

Life isn't the same since the bull and ox-plough project took root in St. Patrick's Catholic Parish-Madera and Holy Family-Gweri. Many Catechists didn't have oxen for ploughing so as to put food on the table and also have extra penny from the sale of the excess food.

I received two bulls and an ox-plough on **30th March 2020**. Straight away with great delight, I set to train the oxen in ploughing. It took about two weeks for the oxen to learn, perfectly how to pull the plough. In our region, we practice subsistence or peasantry farming and mainly in crops like cassava, maize meal, sweet potatoes, sorghum, millet, peas, ground nuts, fruits and others.

I embarked seriously on planting three gardens of cassava and also three gardens of maize for both consumption and sale. I also



planted sorghum, millet, peas and sweet potatoes mainly for home use. During the peak of famine last year which gave good price for sale of food crops, I did harvest and prepared cassava flour for sale which earned me UGX 4,050,000/= (four million fifty thousand Uganda shillings only).

I also did harvest of maize meal for sale which earned me UGX 3,600,000/= (Three million six hundred thousand Uganda shillings only) (Equivalent to \$1,105.65 in U.S. currency).

So in total I harvested UGX 7,650,000/= (Seven million six hundred fifty thousand Uganda shillings only) (\$2,088.45 in U.S. currency) in cash which helped me clear school fees for my daughter and two orphans under my care. The balance of money left, I used it for buying a heifer for milk in the future. Surely life isn't the same!

Long live St. Maximillian Kolbe Catholic Community, Long live St. Patrick's Catholic Parish Madera and Holy Family Catholic Parish-Gweri.



Accomplishments of 2022

Our Twinning Ministry was very busy this past year and there were many successes in 2022. Ministry members agreed unanimously to support 49 Holy Angels College students with scholarships. Identified by Father Henry Agit, Pastor of St. Patrick, it came at a time of two consecutive years of Covid, sickness, drought and poor farming yields.

Good news! Although it was very spotty, the Fall harvest of 2022 was the 1st successful harvest in two years. St. Max was hoping to host Father Henry Agit, Catechist David Okwii and Stephen Kitembo, former head teacher of Holy Angels, however, this was not successful due to visa requests being denied. We

participated in the Lenten Fish Fry by sponsoring the bake sale and using the proceeds for the benefit of our ministry. The Lenten water well project began with a goal of funding 34 deep water wells for Clean, Safe drinking water. It was an overwhelming success as St. Max Parishioners generously funded 49 deep water wells totaling \$264,000. All wells were dug 160 to 260 feet deep and completed by November, 2022. On average, families need approximately six to ten 5-gallon containers of water a day.

Twinning Ministry Focus 2023

Ministry focus for 2023 will be Holy Angels College scholarship program to sponsor 34 returning children, \$327 a year per student for a total of \$11,118 for the school year.

Update on Fr. Simon Peter

Father Simon Peter has been assigned by Bishop Joseph Eciru to temporarily serve at St. Benedict's Parish about 20 miles north of St. Patrick's. He reported to the parish on Thursday, February 16, 2023. He said that they have enough solar for lighting and cell phones in the parish priest house. Please keep Fr. Simon Peter in your prayers as he adjusts to no running water and frequently walking quite a distance to a well.

Immersion Trip to Uganda 2023

Did Fr. Simon Peter invite you to Uganda? Did his homilies about his people make you curious? If so, now is the time to make your way to Soroti, Uganda! This summer, we will be making another immersion trip to visit our brothers and sisters!

Our informational meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00pm in St. Patrick's Conference Room. A very brief presentation will be followed by a Q&A with the Twinning Ministry members who have traveled there. You will not be required to make a commitment at that time; however, please keep in mind that spaces on the trip are limited.

Holy Angels College

Written by Bruce Murphy

In 2022 St. Max provided tuition for forty-nine students at Holy Angels College providing them with an education. The cost each semester was \$5000 or \$100 per student each of the three semesters. Of the forty-nine, 13-15 students took their final exams



and hopefully will graduate as of February or March 2023. It is the generosity of the St. Max parishioners that continues to provide the poorest with a future of hope.

The monies provided also helped to acquire food for the students. In 2022 food prices increased much like it has here in the United States. A daily diet consists of rice with either beans or corn. Throughout the year, the price fluctuated from semester to semester. Emmanuel, the head of school has to go to the market each month, sometimes weekly, to find the best price. After two years of being closed, 2022 was a good year. We can be grateful for what this has done, but more work continues. A new Ugandan government requirement is for students to use the internet as part of their academic studies. This means the school needs computers, internet access and power to run the computers. A generous parishioner provided some monies for computers along with another parishioner who provided monies for the internet. The school is looking for the best way to make this happen and gathering costs to ensure it can sustain this.

Another effort of the school has been to increase the student population. Holy Angels currently has 239 students and hopes to grow the school to 400, which would make them self sustaining going forward. We have inquired to understand how many of the catechist's children attend school there. Fr. Henri stated that there are some of the children there, but others are not old enough at this time. They encourage the families to send their children, since it is meant for the poorest, which we hope to support. Teachers are very dedicated at the school. Usually they don't get paid at the end of a semester until the next semester starts and monies come in to pay them for the final portion of the previous semester. Our primary goal in 2023 is to work with Fr. Henri and Emmanuel to prioritize the needs of the school and then work with the parish to discern what can be supported.

Thank you to all who generously give. It makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters!

St. Max Water Well Project

Written by Paul Groh

Back on October 25, 2022 Dan Suer & Paul Groh had the opportunity on behalf of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Twinning Ministry to travel over to Soroti, Uganda to visit our brothers & sisters and participate in a celebration of the installation of 49 wells into the communities of St. Patrick. The idea of providing clean, safe water to the people of St. Patrick was first thought of by Mike Gardner, a Twinning Ministry member back in early 2022, along with some help from Fr. Simon Peter Wankya. This well project was then launched as the parish 2022 Lenten service project supported by Fr. Jim Riehle and the Outreach Commission.

They arrived at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda with a warm welcome and huge smile from Fr. Simon Peter Wankya and spent the afternoon enjoying an evening dinner and an overnight stay with him. From there they made their way up to Soroti where they would spend the remainder of their time with the St. Patrick twinning team of Fr. Henry Agit, David Okwii and others as they ventured out to visit the wells. The goal was to physically visit all 49 wells and make our presence there known, most importantly though to share in their joy of receiving the gift of clean, safe, fresh water close to home. Each day they traveled quite some distances out to the village areas (referred to as the 'bushes') to check out/inspect the wells and greet the people with whom the well would support. To say the least, our brothers and sisters receiving the wells were filled with joy to see them arrive at their outstation/chapel where the wells were established. It was considered very honorable to visit the villages of these people. They were very excited for Dan & Paul to visit their dwelling place and honestly it was the probably the first time any of the them had ever seen a 'white skin' person! They greeted them with overwhelming joy, singing and performing their cultural dancing.

Dan & Paul were just amazed at the quality of the wells and the workmanship performed by the company that was contracted to perform the work. This company was responsible for locating good water tables, drilling holes as far down as 265' deep and installing piping and well pumps for the deliverance of clean, safe water at each of the determined 49 sites. Dan & Paul were successful in visiting 46 of the 49 wells and were very satisfied with the quality of each well and it's operation, confirming clean safe water for the people. Each well was identified with a well number, identification of the well belonging to St. Patrick, on behalf of St. Max ('Pat/Max' inscription) and the name of the Catholic outstation/chapel chosen by the people of that village.

Dan and Paul stated that they were very impressed by the Catholic identity associated with each well and the immediate ownership taken by the people whom the well supported to protect this valuable asset. Many of the outstations visited had already constructed fences around the well to protect it from vandalism or animal destruction.

The joy displayed by the people over the well they received on behalf of the parishioners of St. Maximilian Kolbe was just so heartwarming to witness. It truly confirmed that this project would be life-changing for our brothers and sisters in Soroti.

For more information on the wells and the experience visiting the people of St. Patrick please stay tuned for information on a short presentation to be held at St. Max coming soon. Visit www.saint-max.org/WaterWell.



Golf Outing

The 4th annual St. Max golf outing benefitting the Twinning Ministry was held at Walden Ponds Golf Course and sold out in advance for the second straight year. 85 golfers and 12 sponsors made it a very successful event! Heather LeMarca, Paul Groh and Ron Strube led this effort and volunteers joined to make the event a wonderful day that included an Italian meal. Gifts and prizes certainly made it fun! Thank you for your generous support as this event contributed \$3500 to the Twinning Ministry.

Mission Office Dinner

Twinned members from St. Max, St. Suzanna, St. Ignatius, Glenmary priests and staff, and the archdiocesan Mission Office staff joined to support the Mission Office's annual giving and discuss their ministries.

There were 28 attendees.

The meal was made and donated by Lamis Hajjar and prepared by John & Nancy Prince. Dan and Mary Jo Suer hosted and provided dessert and wine. Father Aaron Wessman was the guest speaker. Fr. Araon became aware of St. Max via West Liberty Outreach as he spent his early years there and celebrated his 1st Mass as a priest at St Max.



Twinned Ministry Leadership (including representatives from Finance Council, Staff & Parochial Vicar)

Mission Ministry – Fr. Simon Peter, Fr. Henry Agit & Deacon John Back
Mission Trip Ministry – Kyle Schafer, Lakmé Kodros & Connie Spotts
Family Connections/Pen Pal Ministry – Carol Klinker, Maureen Normoyle & Joy Hunter
Prayer Ministry – Deacon John Back & Susan Brown
Events Planning Ministry Paul Groh & Mike Gardner
Communication Ministry – Dan & Mary Jo Suer
Appreciation Ministry – Lana Elliott
Education Ministry – Bruce Murphy, Nancy Tereba, Nancy Prince & Paul Groh
Connecting Catechist Families – All
Charity/Resources Ministry – Kyle Schafer
Physical Needs Ministry – Mike Gardner

Thank You!

We close this month with a huge Thank You for being partners in our ministry! We thank God for moving this ministry to support the physically and financially poor, yet joyfully spiritual people, on the other side of the world in Soroti, Uganda, specifically in the remote area of St. Patrick's Church, Madera. May God continue to bless each of you abundantly!

Warm Regards,
Dan Suer
Twinned Ministry Chair
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