

My name is Dan Suer and we are excited to introduce the New Twinning Ministry. I'd like to share my journey of what I define as One Step Closer to Jesus Christ.

My wife Mary Jo and I have spent a lot of time with Fr. Simon Peter. We've not only been blessed by his friendship, but our eyes have been opened to the life of his people in Soroti, Uganda where he has been pastor of St. Patrick's Madeira Parish. 80% of his 30,000 parishioners live in poverty, lacking food, shelter, water, education and healthcare.

In the past, I donated money to various charitable organizations that serve the poor, but that was the extent of my involvement. The more I learned from Fr. Simon Peter about the plight of the Ugandan people, the more I felt the Holy Spirit working in me! I knew I wanted to do something to help his people! Through prayerful discernment, God led me to this new ministry at St. Max - Twinning!

Connecting with other parishioners who also wanted to help Fr. Simon Peter's parish plus a meeting with the director of the archdiocesan mission office and our pastoral associate for outreach last fall, led to this day! The Twinning leadership team and I are thrilled to announce the Twinning relationship between St. Max and St. Patrick's Madera! Twinning is building a spiritual and cultural relationship, mutually sharing resources in order to support one another in prayer and love. It is far more than fundraising!

Please stop by our display in the gathering space after Mass for more information and register to receive regular updates. We have prayer cards for everyone today, including the children that both parishes will be praying together for a successful Twinning relationship. Fr. Simon Peter will be sharing the joys and struggles of his people at an education session on Wednesday February 13 7pm and again on Saturday February 16. 930 am in the large conference room. See bulletin for details.

A huge thank you to Fr. Jim for his support, and may your hearts be open to the call of the Holy Spirit and bring you One Step Closer to Him by sharing in this ministry!