

# NEWS FROM **SACRED HEART SEMINARY** ARCHDIOCESE OF GULU, UGANDA

www.sacredheartseminary.com

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## FROM THE DESK OF MONSIGNOR MATTHEW ODONG, RECTOR

Dear friends in the Vineyard of the Lord,  
Warm greetings and prayers from all of us; the staff and seminarians of Sacred Heart Seminary along with the staff, students and School Board of Archbishop Flynn Secondary School in Northern Uganda.

The year 2012 has moved on so fast. It is our prayer and hope that it has been a good one for you and all your loved ones. Thank you for your continued prayers and support to our two educational institutions, so dear to our hearts, namely Sacred Heart Seminary and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School. Also, thank you for your support to our priests in the form of Mass intentions and provisions of transportation (motorcycles) for their pastoral work. Thank you for your support to the many orphans who could not afford to pay for their education. May the Good Lord reward you abundantly in return for your generosity. Please know that you and all your loved ones are in our prayers and thoughts on a daily basis.

When I recall and physically look at the magnitude of the projects accomplished each year with your prayers and financial support, we give glory to God for bringing you into our lives. Believe me, the many friends and benefactors from among you who had the opportunity to visit us in the course of this year were very pleased with all that has been accomplished. It is a testimony that your gifts were put to good use. Indeed, quite a number of projects have been accomplished with your help but more still needs to be done. **IN GOD WE TRUST.** We have no doubt that His Providence will continue to come. The pictures in this Newsletter show some of the work and needs accomplished with your support for which all the beneficiaries are grateful. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our world. May God reward you abundantly.

### UPDATE ON SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

On a joyous note, I am pleased to update you on some of the recent achievements made. 1. Sponsorship program to benefit needy students, especially the orphans, students with single parents which include both seminarians and ordinary students at AFSS and other schools around. They are more than appreciative to you for the sacrifices you make to provide a brighter future

to them.; 2. Construction of two new boy's dormitories at AFSS; 3. Hiring some men and women at the service of the two schools; 4. Installation of a solar system at AFSS to provide light for the students in the classrooms; 5. Purchase of some basic textbooks, including some science apparatus and chemicals; 6. Feeding and meeting the costs of spiritual exercises such as retreat and monthly recollection for our students and staff; 7. Purchase of a used Double Cabin Pick-Up to serve AFSS in the area of transportation.

### CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

AFSS has the following CHALLENGES and NEEDS: 1. Purchase of 120 chairs, 120 desks and 120 beds to cater for the school enrollment for the coming academic year 2013; 2. Construction of a Church for the spiritual growth of the students and the community around the school. We think a Church with a capacity of one thousand people would be ideal. This Church would be dedicated to "The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus", symbol of God's love for His people. Thanks to the presence of our school chaplain, Fr. Felix Opio, is helping our students to deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. We believe that Archbishop Flynn Secondary School will soon be a great source of many vocations to priesthood and religious life to our Church; 3. Construction of a Library and Computer Lab would provide our students with the opportunity to read widely with the help of Computer literacy. It will also help to improve and enrich the intellectual development of our students; 4. The school needs additional solar



Seminarians with Msgr. Matthew in front of Church at Sacred Heart Seminary.

systems to provide light in the dining hall and in the dormitories.

Lastly, I wish to inform you that AFSS has employed a qualified nurse to take care of the health of the students and staff. The school has assigned to her one classroom where she can examine the sick and administer medicines. Malaria is a deadly disease, which claims thousands of lives of children and the elderly who cannot get access to medicines each year in Africa. Our school faces two challenges related to health care; the school nurse does not have a house to live in within the school campus in order to attend to students who may fall sick in the night; secondly, the community around the school looks to AFSS for medications and treatments especially when they have malaria since there is no good health Center or Clinic where they could go for treatment. As a solution, we think that putting up a simple house with three rooms which will serve as a store for keeping medications, for examinations of the patients and to provide accommodation for the school nurse so that she is available 24 hours within the school to attend to the sick would save lots of lives. It is always a painful experience to see people die of malaria and other treatable diseases. May I humbly request you to include this need and all the other needs of Sacred Heart Seminary and Archbishop Flynn Secondary School in your daily prayer so that the Lord may provide for His needy children. Again, we thank you for your love, care and continued support. Sending you our love and best wishes for a fruitful Advent Season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2013.



Yours in the Hearts of Jesus and His Mother Mary,

### GRADUATE CLASS OF 2012 THANKS THE BENEFACTORS

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

It is with joy that I write this short note on behalf of my fellow Seminarians of Sacred Heart Seminary to thank you for your prayers and financial support over the years to cover the cost of our seminary education. May the good Lord reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Our Rector, Very Reverend Monsignor Matthew Odong has ever shared with us your concern, love, prayers and generosity which have been very instrumental in our priestly education. Given our situation here in Northern Uganda where the population has just come out of the 22 years of conflict, life at Sacred Heart Seminary would not be the same without your generosity for which we are very appreciative. We have no better words to express our sentiments of joy, gratitude and apprecia-



AFSS Students Receiving Instructions Outside Classroom Block.

tion other than say a **BIG THANK YOU for sharing your blessings with us.** I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully completed our 6 years of priestly education on November 30, 2012 and have graduated and now look forward to joining the major Seminary in the coming academic year 2013 to begin philosophical studies. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we continue with our journey to the priesthood.

We, the Seminarians, wish to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dan Vaughan, president of the Sacred Heart Seminary apostolate and his wife Bobbi Vaughan, who is the secretary for giving their lives to this important apostolate. We are aware of the sickness of Dan along with other benefactors. Please know that you are among the brothers and sisters we pray for daily. We entrust you into the hands of Jesus Christ, the healer.

Here below are some of the highlights of the events we wish to share with you:

\* Our Rector, Msgr. Matthew Odong, celebrated 25



Students in Front of Boys Dormitory.

years in the priesthood on July 19, 2012. He is a man of God with a **BIG HEART.** He has done so much for the education of young people in our Archdiocese of Gulu. Our prayers and love are with him.

- \* The Lord blest our Archdiocese with 4 new priests ordained between the months of July and August 2012.
- \* 9 of our Seminarians will be ordained Deacons sometime in the middle of 2013 and priesthood in 2014.
- \* 17 senior six students graduated from Sacred Heart Seminary in November 2012 and are looking forward to joining the major Seminary in the next academic year 2013. Praise the Lord.
- \* More young men continue to positively respond to the call of Jesus to join the Seminary and become priests for which we thank the Lord.



Students Eating a Meal in the AFSS Dining Hall.

We wish you blessings in this Holy Season of Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2013.  
**Odokonyero Emmanuel, year 6 seminarian**  
**(On behalf of Seminarians of Sacred Heart Seminary)**

**FROM PIONEER CLASS OF ARCHBISHOP FLYNN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Dear friends,

Receive our greetings, love, gratitude, prayers and appreciation to you for your financial support to our beloved school dedicated to the memory of Archbishop Harry Flynn. My name is Angelina Ajalo, a member of the pioneer class who has been a student of Archbishop Flynn Secondary School from its academic beginning in January 2009 to December 2012. We sat for Government's Examinations for the first time this year. The exams were fair and we are expecting good results. Both the students and teachers worked so hard to prepare for the final exams.

I have been asked by my fellow pioneer students, the graduating class of Senior 4 to write and express our sincere gratitude to you for the generous donations you have made in support of our education. We thank those people who managed to travel from the U. S. to come

to visit our beautiful school and us. We count ourselves blest to have been the pioneer class and thank you for the care, love and quality education we received during this four- year period. We shall always remember all the good things AFSS has done toward our intellectual, spiritual, social and human formation. Our science laboratory, soccer field dedicated to Msgr. Michael Devine, the girls dormitory dedicated to Jack & Clara Dolan, the new dormitories for the boys, the classroom blocks and the big dining hall are considered to be the best in this poor area of Pader. Indeed, the environment of AFSS is very conducive to learning.

Daily prayer, study and work characterize life at AFSS. We love to be part of the daily celebration of the Eucharist and evening prayer of the Rosary in which we remember all of you, our dear American friends. We have a special prayer intention for the healing of Dan Vaughan and for his wife, Bobbi, who is very involved in looking after Dan's needs as he heals. Other co-curriculum activities we are involved in include sports. We are blest with a good soccer field to enable us to learn to play soccer. The girl's soccer team recently won the girl's trophy of the year 2012 Coca-Cola tournament. We are proud for our school. We beat all the girl's teams in the Pader District. Our goal is to be strong in everything: academic, spiritual, moral and sports.

Thank you for reading this article that reflects the mind of the pioneer class of senior four, the first graduates in the history of AFSS. We are very appreciative of the support you have given to us. May the almighty Father bless you and all your family members during this Holy Season.

Sincerely, your daughter,

Angelina Ajalo, S.4 Blue (Pioneer Class)



Inside Church at Sacred Heart Seminary.

100% of all funds received go directly to Monsignor Matthew for the work of the Church in the Archdiocese of Gulu. All the costs of mailing, printing of the newsletter, accounting, office expenses, non-profit reporting to Federal and State agencies and Dan & Pete's travel expenses to Africa and Washington, DC are paid by the Vaughan and Truax families.

## DAN & BOBBI VAUGHAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MSGR. MATTHEW

It was 22 short years ago that we invited then Father Matthew Odong to our home for Sunday dinner while he was making an appeal at St. George Church on behalf of the Consolata Missionaries. Since Fr. Matthew is a diocesan priest he had to receive permission from his Bishop to represent the Consolata Missions.

He had been recently appointed Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary in Gulu, Uganda, where they had only 38 seminarians studying because of a lack of funds for salaries, food and other classroom necessities. The seminary had been closed for a while, due to the violent activities of the LRA rebel army. One of his colleagues asked him "What great sin have you committed to be given the job of Rector of SHS?!!

Since 1990 Monsignor Odong has visited the United States at least once a year to make appeals on behalf of his own people and has made thousands of friends as a result of his warm generous heart and his joyful spirit.



Honor Guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus with Msgr. Matthew at St. George's Church.

So it seemed most appropriate to throw a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party for Msgr. Matthew at our home parish of St. George's in Long Lake, Minnesota to mark his 25 years as a priest. He was ordained on July 19, 1987. St. George's was the first parish that he made his first mission appeal to in the U. S. that July of 1990.

On Saturday evening, September 22, 2012, we gathered in the St. George's Community Center to honor Msgr. Matthew for his 25 years as a priest, serving the Church and his people through some very difficult years. It was a joyful occasion and people from all over the city came to greet and congratulate Msgr. Matthew. Some friends even came from as far away as Alabama to celebrate

with him. The Honor Guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus delighted Msgr. Matthew with their presence at the 4:00pm Mass preceding the celebration.



Silver Jubilee Souvenir.

Everyone who has met Msgr. Matthew would agree that he carries with him a special joy that spreads to all that he meets. Some of his former seminarians (some who are now priests) honored him at the big celebration they held for him in Uganda by putting together a book about the profound impact his presence among them had made in their lives. The book is titled "A Man With a Big Heart", a most appropriate description of who he really is. We thought it was such an inspiring book that we arranged to have some copies printed here to share with his "American friends" as well. If you would like to have a copy of this book you can contact us. We would ask only that you help us cover the cost of the book and postage with a donation of \$10.00. Our contact information is at the bottom of the last page of the newsletter.



Sr. Juliana Apio with Fr. Cyprian Ocen, Msgr. Vincent Ojok, Fr. Allan Paul Eilen of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis and some parents.

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