

ADVENT GREETINGS *from* AFRICA

Stephen Zimmerman, Executive Director

Greetings of Peace and Love from East Africa. After landing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on November 2nd, it was a whirlwind tour of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya travelling with MSFS Provincial Fr Mathew. Highlights were the opening and blessing of the MSFS Seminary at Bowooya in the Lugazi Diocese of Uganda, meeting my sponsored student Thomas and brother Innocent at St Jude Parish, Osia, and the newly opened SFS Primary School in Bissil in the Ngong Diocese of Kenya. Back at my home base of the Lumen Christi Institute in Magi ya Chai in Tanzania, I've visited the Kilimanjaro Sisters in Moshi, and met sponsored student, Caroline in Rambo. Other days have been with the Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph at Emboreet Village in the Simanjiro District, the site of their recently funded St Clare of Assisi Primary School, and the Little Sisters of St Francis of Assisi's Mama Kevina Feeding Center in Kijenge, plus a day with the Arusha Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop and Canaan Center for HIV affected children in Kisongo.

In early December, I will travel with the St Ann Provincial for the first professions of novices and final vows of junior Sisters at Monduli Juu and then on to other St Ann missions in Tanzania before parting ways to go to the Kigoma Diocese and missions of the Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Africa in Sumbawanga and Mbea. After Christmas celebrated with friends in Monduli Juu, I plan to visit the missions of various religious in Malawi and Zambia, and then crossing back into southern Tanzania.

The rains have been slow to come in much of East Africa. Please join with me:

"COME HOLY SPIRIT; RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH."



"Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly (on the night of Christmas) entered into our night." - Pope Benedict XVI

Wishing you love, peace, and joy this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year, and thank you for your support in 2021!

Steve, Brian, Karen, Ann, Emma, Ellie, Eileen, Tina & Jeane



Steve poses for a photo with Fr. Augustine Mangatt & students at SFS Bissil



Thomas, Innocent, their mom & Steve



Lady of Mount Kilimanjaro Sisters & Steve



Sister Maria, Caroline, and Steve



Spotlight

By Eileen Hartl



Today's Spotlight is on 22-year-old Ms. Juliet Wanja from Nguruki, Kenya. She is a graduate of Human Resources Management from Murang'a University of Technology.

There is a fundamental question we should ask ourselves every morning before setting out for the day: How can I live in such a way that it will enhance my life and the lives of those around me? For sponsor Mary Ehnerd of DePere, WI, it was her dedication and commitment to a vocation of educating children. In 2005, LWI asked Mary to consider sponsoring Juliet's education. The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod in Iruma, Kenya found Juliet's mother and children abandoned by their father, without food. Mary understood that the only way out of this family's poverty would be through education. Mary's entire family got involved and took on the critical role of sponsoring Juliet's education.

Sister Rosemary Kainga, SCC, Superior and Mission Site Coordinator shared her excitement of Juliet's milestone. "We are going to have a big celebration here so as to inspire other students to advance in their studies as Juliet did." Sister has known Juliet since 2006 and played a key role in her faith formation. Juliet shared the greatest lesson Sister Rosemary taught her: "Never take anyone's sacrifice for granted." And she doesn't. "Some of my friends have to drop out of school because the fees are just too expensive."

Service to the church and works of mercy are intentionally scheduled into Juliet's daily activities. Juliet and her fellow choir members visit parish members

who are sick and cannot attend Mass. "We have fellowship with them and do their basic shopping. I see their dependence on others even just to move them about, and it is so difficult; I do not take my good health for granted and I

thank God for it." She also cleans the church and lends her voice to the choir and enjoys faith sharing within the group. "The most important thing I've learned from sharing my faith is to never give up on God!"

We can see how Juliet's choice to enter Human Resources Management studies came quite naturally for her. Yet it is always a necessity to hone one's skills; she has worked hard at it and now, "... I really work well with minimum supervision and relate well with people despite being introverted. My skills will also be useful for things like mobilizing my fellow colleagues and facilitating bible studies and outreach in the community. It will really be my happiness doing that."

"Never take anyone's sacrifice for granted."

I have heard it said that true happiness is not about getting what you want; it is about getting what you need. The Lord provides, but he also depends on us to cause ripple effects that will enhance the lives of those around us. "I am very, very grateful to the mission, Mary Jane, and family. I do not know how to express my gratitude to them, but I believe I will soon be able to touch another child's life because of what she has made me. It is an admirable purpose to sponsor a child. It brings light to a child's life."

We are all so incredibly happy for you Juliet. Sincere congratulations on this momentous occasion. May the good Lord bless and keep you; you serve him so faithfully.



Students In Need



Lewandre Jacobs

Gender: Male **Birthdate:** July 22, 2015

Country: South Africa

Favorite Subject: ABC's & 123's

Favorite Pastimes: Playing with friends

Other Remarks: Lewandre currently lives with his mother in a 1-room brick house with a cement floor and asbestos roof. There is running water and electricity. The local municipality gave them the house. His father does not care for the child in any way and the mother has financial difficulties.



Ivan Elias Eduardo

Gender: Male **Birthdate:** April 20, 2010

Country: Mozambique

Favorite Pastimes: Playing with other children and listening to music.

Favorite Subjects: Mathematics

Other Remarks: Ivan lives with his bedridden mother and a brother. His Father abandoned them. As of now, Ivan's aunt is a cook and she can help a little, but she has a family of her own to support. The boy is very intelligent. He does all the work in the house other than finding time to pursue his studies. He is truly in need of a sponsorship.



Maria Nankunda

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** July 4, 2007

Country: Uganda

Favorite Pastimes: Dancing and playing with other children

Favorite Subjects: Unknown

Other Remarks: Maria lives with both parents and five siblings. Her father was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident. Her mother sells food in the market. They all live in a one-room brick hut with a tin roof. There is no running water, but they have electricity. Her mother's income is not sufficient to help with their tuition. Please kindly consider helping Maria get a fair chance in life through an education.



Sifa Nasoro Nyoni

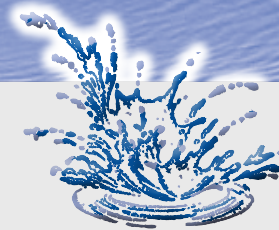
Gender: Female **Birthdate:** August 22, 2010

Country: Tanzania

Favorite Pastimes: Listening to music, singing, and playing drums

Favorite Subjects: Science

Other Remarks: Sifa's mother is deceased, and her father abandoned her. She lives in the SFS Girls Home and stays with her grandparents during holidays. Sponsorship would benefit her: education, medical, nutritional, Christian formation, and clothing needs. She needs your help!



Student Sponsorship

\$30 a month provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$30
- Quarterly \$90
- Semi-annually. \$180
- Annually \$360

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.



To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at: www.livingwatersinternational.org

Goretti Update

From what we know now, Goretti and family need your prayers. The surgical procedure, urine diversion, was performed on November 17. She began the process of recuperating, but within a few short days, she began to develop stomach pain and vomiting. She is now back in the hospital and the doctor has inserted tubes for the purpose of removing liquid bile.

Her aunt, Feliciana, requests our prayers, "We are getting to a place where we are regretting that we brought her for this surgery because we are only human beings. We know even now that God will do something for Goretti that she may be healed. Kindly join us in prayers for her and pass all our love and blessing to all members of LWI at this time. We remember you with gratitude."

(Collectively we raised \$3,265 for Goretti at our summer fundraisers. Another \$500 went to Greatest Needs. Thanks to all who worked, donated goods, and patronized the events, and thank you Catholic Financial Life!)

