

JMJT

## **WEEBALE** **(THANK YOU in LUGANDA)**

OCDS Communities of the California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph  
June 2009

The purpose of this letter is to thank OCDS Communities and individuals participating in the Sponsor A Child Carmelite (SAC/C) Program of our Mission at Kyengeza, Uganda, and to add a little more information about what you are making possible through your faithful and generous prayers, sacrifices and donations. Before highlighting a few achievements, it is worthy to acknowledge the singular gift and grace our OCDS Communities hold through this Mission.

In his 2003 letter introducing our Constitutions, Fr. General Luis Arostegui, OCD, said “This is an exciting time in the history of the Secular Order.” We now share the same Rule of St. Albert as the Friars and Nuns, and we have the same OCDS Constitutions worldwide. The Constitutions confirm that our vocation is truly ecclesial (#26), and direct that where possible, we participate in the apostolate of the Order (#26). But now here is the amazing turn of events: the Fathers welcomed us to participate in the Mission in Uganda! It is unprecedented that lay volunteers would participate from the inception of a mission. Fr. David Costello, OCD, Founder of the Carmelite Kyengeza Parish, was assisted by Len Powers of the Oakville OCDS in the planning stages. Br. Bernard Olk, OCD, who had been with Fr. David in Nairobi, Kenya, volunteered for Kyengeza. However, Fr David knew that three members were needed to start the Mission. And so it happened that, as a representative of our OCDS Communities of the California-Arizona Province, I joined the opening of the Mission in February 2002. Upon arrival, we met three Ugandan OCDS who had been meeting with the nuns in Kiyinda since 1999. Two of these joined four parishioners and formed the St. Elijah Secular Carmelite Group, Kyengeza, currently with Fr. Paul Koenig, OCD, as Spiritual Assistant. Given these beginnings, this brief letter focuses on your support of SAC/C in the development of leaders and vocations in Uganda.



*Sr Antonia, Prossy and Sharon track SAC/C students.*



*St. Ambrozio, Our Parish Secondary School.*



*One room per grade level.*



*Betty the Bursar with her reliable ledgers.*

Currently our Mission is assisting 192 students in Primary, Secondary, and vocational levels, and OCD seminarians through SAC/C and some General Mission funding. An additional 52 students, mostly in Primary levels, are sponsored by the Christian Foundation for Children and the Aging (CFCA). However CFCA sponsorship ends when the individual reaches age 18. For our Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, only 9% of people aged 20 years and older have attended education levels beyond Secondary-1, and 0.2% have reached university level (Profile of Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese, Social Services & Development Commission, March 2001). In 2004 physics, chemistry and biology became mandatory subjects in all Secondary Schools in Uganda. There are no student textbooks for any subject at our Parish Secondary School, including the now mandatory sciences. Thanks to Mission sponsors, students are beating these odds and reaching their dreams.



*Frank Ssempala holds his S-6 Certificate, qualifying him for university level. He wants to be a Secondary School Teacher.*



*Fr David with a few Xaverians, an international movement named after St. Francis Xavier. One in the photo was 26 years old before he completed S-4.*



*Fr. David receives eggs, chickens, and hand-woven mats among gifts in gratitude for SAC/C and all the development you are bringing to Kyengeza.*



*Jubilation Dance in honor of Fr. David Costello, OCD, Parish Priest, November 22, 2008*

Please share this good news at your next meeting. If you are interested in meeting our family in Kyengeza, praying at the shrine of the Uganda Martyrs, and seeing the beauty of Africa, consider making the **Carmelite Pilgrimage to Uganda** with Fr. David, November 9-19, 2009.

If you have questions, comments, or would like a Mission Talk, please contact me (after July 6, 2009).  
In Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

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*Adoration Chapel St. Kizito Church Kyengeza*