



EDUCATING  
CHILDREN

CHANGING  
LIVES

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## ADVENT and CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

From Sister Mary Cecilia Njeri, General Superior, LSOSF

Dear Beloved Friends and Sponsors,

The year 2018 is about to say goodbye. How was 2018 for you? Please take stock of all that has been and all that is in your lives, families and ministries. And turn to Emmanuel whom we await and long for, His coming, to make next year even better as we strive daily to see Him in the poor, vulnerable and those marginalized in our society. God is faithful!

Recently, our Holy Father issued an Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today's World*. With this exhortation to "Rejoice and Be Glad" Pope Francis insists on the call to holiness that the Lord addresses to each of us: "Be Holy, for I am Holy" (Lev 11:44; I Peter 1:16).

It is a worthwhile spiritual book to read. God created us in His image and likeness in order to resemble Him (Gen 1: 26-27). He wants us to be Saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. In Genesis 17:1 God told Abraham, "Walk before me, and be blameless". The Lord has chosen each one of us "to be holy and blameless before him in love" (Eph. 1:4). How are you on this faith journey of Holiness dear friends?

On Sunday December 2, 2018 we started the Season of Advent, a time of waiting in Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The Word of God puts us in the mood of expectation and alertness for the Lord's "coming" – First coming as helpless baby at Bethlehem; His constant coming to us through the events of our lives and through all that surrounds us; and His final coming at the end of the world to call us home. Let us stay awake, alert and vigilant, praying at all times for the strength to go through this Holy and Grace-filled Season. May the Good Lord "confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord comes with His holy ones" 1 Thessalonians 3:13).

As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's entry into our world let us with grateful hearts thank God for this great and tremendous gift of Jesus to us human beings. "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). Jesus came to share our human condition, becoming one of us, assuming fully our human condition except sin. Phil 2: 5 -8 tells us that Jesus emptied Himself of the Divine glory in order to enrich us (2 Cor. 8:9). To those who accept Him "He gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12) and that is what we are. Yes, from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace 9John 1:16 0.

By becoming human like us Jesus accepted the limitations of human flesh. He became vulnerable to our natural weaknesses – hunger, thirst, physical weariness, pain. He experienced emotional trauma that we experience – anger, fear, disappointment, sorrow, hurt, loneliness and rejection. In all these He remained steadfast and focused in His Father's love, call and will, conferring on us humans



a Divine dignity that He would like to see restored especially to the poor, vulnerable and powerless members of our society through us in our Mission as Little Sisters Of Saint Francis and the Little Sisters Education Fund, as we strive daily to walk in the Master's footsteps.

Thank you dear Sponsors for your great commitment, generosity and hard work, as you continue to empower the Children here in Uganda with education. Our committee members are doing their best to co-ordinate the program; guide and counsel the children and their families and guardians.

Wishing you all a fruitful and grace-filled Advent, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019 full of God's abundant blessings.

Yours sincerely in Christ and St. Francis,  
Sister Mary Cecilia Njeri



## LSEF sponsored students enjoyed a Christmas Party

in celebration of the Advent Season and in thanksgiving for a full year of hard work on the students' behalf by the Ugandan and US Teams to keep the program responsive to their educational needs.

The program started with a short prayer by Sr. Sylvia and was followed by introduction of students from various schools. Letters from sponsors were then distributed to the students.

Lunch was prepared and served by the Sisters and assisted by the college students. Everyone enjoyed a filling meal with rice, matooke, posho with beans, chicken, beef, g-nut sauce, cabbage, and plenty of melon and pineapple.

Volunteers from the Korea University Council for Social Services attended the party and enjoyed interacting with sponsored students attending St. Peter's Senior Secondary School, St. Alphonsus Demonstration School, Little Angels Primary School and St. Anthony Nursery School.





After lunch representatives from various schools took turns thanking the US and Uganda Teams and their sponsors for the year of support for their studies: Sylvia Nankabirwa, S6 from Stella Maris College, spoke first, as did Halimah Namwase and Joshua Wabwire for St Claire Primary School; Susan Kyeswa – St Peter’s SSS; Maureen Nantale – YMCA - Mukono; Vanessa Namagga – St Balikuddember SSS; Jackline Namaganda – YMCA-Jinja; Sharon Nabutto – Stella Maris Primary Boarding School and Tracy Namugerwa representing the students at Kyambogo University.



High student achievers for School Year 2018 were recognized by Sr. Sylvia. Solomon Muwanguzi and Flavia Nalwadda were honored for being first in their respective classes.



Special recognition was also given to Flavia Nalwadda for being a member of the team of Lacrosse Players who competed in Kenya and won the championship. Team members are training during December in preparation for their competition in Canada next year.

Solomon Muwanguzi won the Academician of the Year Contest. This contest was carried on by the Little Angels Primary School. Solomon was the contestant of P1 but defeated all the other contestants in P2 through P7. For his achievement he was awarded a cow and several additional gifts.

Students receiving special achievement tokens included Anna Namatende, Martha Namazzi, Joshua Wabwire, Cathy Namukwaya, Rosemary Nakato,, Daniella Nayiga, Dorothy Kwagala, and Susan Kyeswa.

The ceremonial cutting of the cake was done by Maureen Nantale, Jackline Namaganda, Vanessa Namagga, Stella Nabakooza, Anna Namatende, Cathy Namukwaya, Dorothy Kwagala, Berna Kyazike, Halimah Namwase and Frank Musoke.



Dancing and singing by various children was part of the entertainment after the recognition. The students of Providence Home sang traditional Christmas carols as coached by the Korean Volunteers.

One of the teachers from Stella Maris Boarding Primary School thanked the Sisters and the Sponsors and encouraged the students to do their best. He also reminded everybody that Christmas is a celebration of Christ as the Saviour of the World and who enabled everybody to make the LSEF a success.

Our Christmas party ended with a prayer led by Jackline Namaganda.





Solomon receiving a gift for being first in his class.

From all of us in Uganda we thank you, the US Team and Sponsors for making it possible for us to celebrate thanksgiving and Christmas this year and above all for your generosity to support our children. May God bless you abundantly!

### A Note from Your Little Sisters Education Fund (LSEF) Team

Due to the generous support of our sponsors the Little Sisters Education Fund (LSEF) is continuing to support 74 students in Uganda in educational levels ranging from kindergarten through university. During 2018 \$61,047 has been sent to Uganda with over 95% of those funds used to pay school tuition and requirements and personal student needs. Thank you to each of our sponsors.

May God continue to bless us in this ministry of *Educating Children - Changing Lives.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR**

Sister Lucy Marindany, President, Board of Directors, LSOSF

Mary Ann McEllistrem, Chair, LSEF

Terrance O'Neill, Treasurer

Vicki O'Neill, Sponsor Communications

Tracy Flood, Secretary

Jeanie Lewandowski, Uganda Liaison

Carl Malischke, Advisor