



LITTLE SISTERS EDUCATION FUND

EDUCATING CHILDREN - CHANGING LIVES

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Season of Advent which is soon coming to a close has prepared us for the great Incarnation event in our Salvation History and its meaning in our lives as Christians. This week we entered a special preparatory week that we recall Jesus' historical coming as a little Baby in Bethlehem. The Church being pilgrim in nature journeying between Jesus' second coming, historical coming and His daily coming to us, invites us as Jesus invited His disciples "be on your guard, to stay awake, because you never know the time the Master will come...evening, midnight, and cockcrow or dawn...if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep (Mk 13:33-17). So, we need to stay awake, alert and vigilantly watchful in His daily comings in our lives in different circumstances and in people by being docile, receptive and responsive to Him by staying awake.

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas when Baby Jesus, who is the Word and the Second Person of the Holy Trinity becoming flesh and dwelling among us as Emmanuel - GOD WITH US, may our hearts and lives be filled with joy, peace and love that this season brings. Jesus Christ shared in our humanity so that we can share in His divinity. By coming down to our level (John 1:14), Jesus has shown that it is possible to be holy in every circumstance of life and to focus on His mission as stated in Lk. 4:18-19; seeing and serving Him in the poor and needy, vulnerable and marginalized in society as you are all doing by volunteering your time, ideas, energy, money to empower the poor children in Africa. Whatsoever we do to the least of His children/people we do it to Him (Mt. 25:40). You are all making a big difference in lives of the children you are sponsoring - by giving them a bright future and hope in life. Your reward is great in Heaven. May God bless you abundantly.

At Christmas welcome Jesus to the cradle of your soul and allow Him to remove the darkness of sin and fill you with His light as He did to the Shepherds. The shepherds after hearing the good news from the angels that Jesus' mission was to enlighten those who walked in the darkness of sinfulness and dwelt in the shadow of death; they believed and rushed to the crib of Bethlehem and they received the light from Baby Jesus and were transformed into shining witnesses of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. This experience brought them great Joy. Till then they were content in warming themselves around the fire. It is not enough to warm ourselves with the comfort of this world. If we have to experience the light of Jesus, we have to read, contemplate and believe in the word of God in order to make a shift from darkness to light, leave the wilderness of our sinfulness and approach the crib of Holiness.

What stops me/you from experiencing the light and joy of Christmas?

May this Christmas Season fill you with God's abundant Blessings, Joy and Love as you continue to make God known, loved and served in all you do and say.

Be assured of our prayers for you, your families and friends.
Wishing all a fruitful New Year 2018.

Sincerely Yours,
Sister Mary Cecilia Njeri, LSOSF
Superior General, Little Sisters of St. Francis



Little Sisters Education Fund Committee

The first year of the Little Sisters Education Fund (LSEF) Committee has been a busy and productive one. We are very happy to inform you that with assistance from the Little Sisters of Saint Francis (LSOSF), and thanks to the generosity of our sponsors in 2017, sixty-nine children and young adults are currently receiving an education or vocational training at schools and universities throughout Uganda.

We are truly grateful for your support as we grow and expand our program in 2018 and look forward to providing greater numbers of disadvantaged and orphaned children with the financial means to obtain an education.

We're also in the process of developing our new website which will provide access to news and information about the LSEF, our students and the ways you are changing the life of a child through sponsorship.

We look forward to 2018 and another year filled with faith, hope and blessings for the volunteers, sponsors and especially the children in Uganda. A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Treasurer's Report by Terrance O'Neill

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Little Sisters Education Fund. A small group of volunteers organized this group under the direction of Sr. Lucy Marindany and sent funds to Uganda for twenty-seven students last February. There are now sixty-nine students being sponsored in this organization with sixty different sponsors. The students range from nursery school through primary and secondary school and including vocational school and universities.

There are seven highly energetic and active volunteers in Milwaukee working to support this effort. We are compensated zero dollars. There are three people in Nkokenjeru, Uganda on the ground, working with the students and administrating the program.

Of all the funds we send to Uganda 95% pays for school fees, school requirements, and personal needs. The administrative cost in Uganda is under 5%. These expenditures are for supplies, communication, transportation, etc. The administrative costs in the U.S. is slightly less than five percent (5%) of donations; used for banking and credit card fees, postal charges, web development, etc. In summary, over ninety percent (90%) of your donations are going directly to the education of your student.



We are currently reviewing all of the program fees to determine if the costs of sponsorship can be adjusted to more accurately reflect the cost of the education and support of your sponsored child.

In January you will receive a 2017 Charitable Contributions Statement.

In the new year we hope to continue to grow in sponsorships. Please help to spread the good work of the Little Sisters of St. Francis.

The children of the First Grade at St. Alphonsus school send you warm holiday greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.