

IOCC and St. Paul's Hunger Strike

at work in UGANDA

Problem Description:

Uganda has more than two million orphans and the government does not have the resources or the capacity to take care of them. Some of these orphans stay with grandparents, many of whom are too old to take care of themselves let alone their grandchildren. Some orphans have drifted into the streets to fend for themselves. Many orphans do not attend school and of those who do many are unable to afford school tuition fees and school supplies. The drop out rate among orphans is significantly higher than among other children. In response to this problem, the Holy Archdiocese of Kampala and all Uganda under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa decided to admit orphans at its own expense in one of its schools administered by the St. Mary Orthodox Parish located 50 kilometers outside of the capital city of Kampala in the town of Katente. Feeding these orphans and paying their fees as well as providing them with school supplies is becoming increasingly difficult for the Church to sustain. The school currently has an enrollment of nearly 400 students, 40% of which are orphans. The school has a Primary and a Secondary section.

Goal:

The goal of the project is to improve the living conditions of orphans and vulnerable children at the St. Mary Parish School through the local Orthodox Church in the District of Mukono-Nakisunga by providing immediate food sustenance/nutrition and proper diet, as well as generating income, while teaching job skills, and at the same time helping to build the capacity of the local Church to advance humanitarianism based on the Gospel.

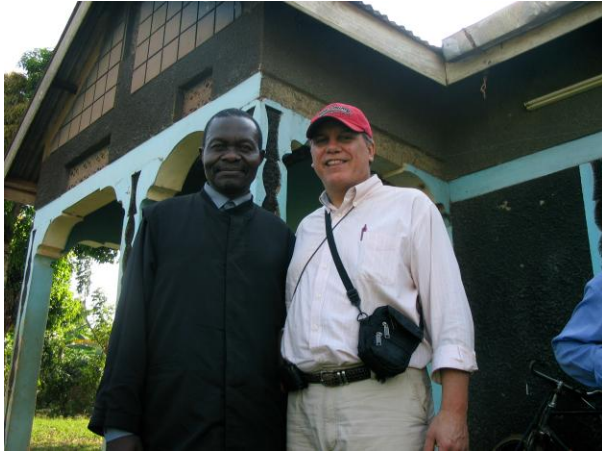
Focus:

1. To provide income generation at the school through:
 - Buying and installing a corn mill at the school;
 - Setting up a poultry farm at the school; and
 - Providing job skills training to students.

Results:

- Corn mill purchased, installed and operational, and the community continuing to produce and consume corn flour and use the corn mill at the school, resulting in increased income for the school to cover the costs associated with the orphans.
- Poultry farm built and chicks purchased with the students welcoming and taking part in the day-to-day operation of the farm and mill after receiving training.

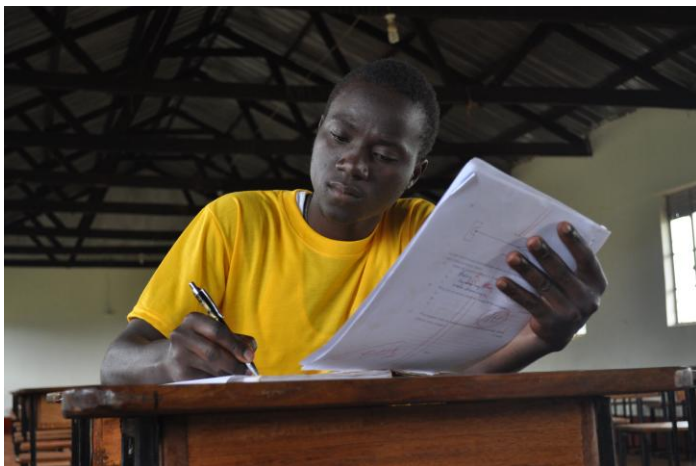
\$3,000 from the 2009 Hunger Strike at St. Paul's helped IOCC finish this project for the school of St. Mary's at Katente.



Fr. Emmanuel Ssekaywa, graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Boston and pastor of the community with Dan Christopulos, Development Director of IOCC



New desks IOCC purchased for the school



Apostolos, an orphan who is graduating from the school this year