

December 4, 2010

Dear Friends of St. Gerard's Church,

Greetings of peace from Ggaba, Kampala. I trust all goes well for you. It was great to be with you in September. I thank you again for your friendship and generosity to the mission of the Religious of the Sacred Heart here in Uganda and in Kenya.

On returning to our Uganda/Kenya Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart, I was asked to take over once again the work of the Provincial Secretary. It has been an especially busy time as we prepare to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. The first Religious of the Sacred Heart came to Uganda on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1962. Our first mission was at Nkozi, on the equator, where we administered and taught in a Teacher Training College, now Uganda Martyrs University. From there, we spread to several places within the country and thereafter to Kenya.

When we celebrated 200 years since the Congregation began in France in 1800, we realized Sacred Heart Primary School for Girls in Kyamusansala, Uganda. There are now 500 pupils in this school. Those who are able pay the full tuition and a good number pay half or less according to what they can manage. Some are fully sponsored.

Now to celebrate our Golden Jubilee as the Province of Uganda/Kenya, we could think of no better way than taking up an educational institute in Eldoret, Kenya, that responds to the needs of the youth and in particular of young women. The first thing we saw as an urgent need is a hostel to accommodate female students attending colleges and universities in Eldoret. We thought then to begin by building a hostel as a sustainable project so that it can generate funds for further projects. This project will provide jobs for our Sisters and collaborators and it will give us financial support to help us realize other suggestions that have come forward, i.e. a nursery school, primary and a secondary school. Do keep this project in your prayers and if you would like any of your donations to go towards the realization of the Sacred Heart Institute of Education in Eldoret, Kenya, please indicate this with the donations you send. Otherwise your donations go towards the tuition of students who without this help would not be able to be in school.

We are now well into the Season of Advent and very soon will be celebrating Christmas. May God bless you and your families with His peace and joy this Christmas and in the New Year.

Sister Jo, rscj

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What good is it to me  
if this eternal birth of the divine Son  
takes place unceasingly  
but does not take place within myself?  
And what good is it to me  
if Mary is full of grace and  
and I am not also full of grace?  
What good is it to me for the Creator  
to give birth to his Son  
if I do not also give birth to Him  
in my time and my culture?  
This, then, is the fullness of time:  
when the Son of God  
is begotten in us.

—Meister Eckhart (c. 1260–1327)

*Dear People of St. Gerard's,  
May the joy and peace of Christ  
be yours this Christmas  
and throughout  
the coming year.*

*Sr. Jo Wright, rscj*

Webmaster's note: The illustration  
is from a woodcut by Sister Jo Wright.