

In the hills of the Archdiocese of Tororo Uganda, most people are subsistence farmers depending on the fruits of their own labor – and that of their children – to grow their own food. Because of this, many children do not go to school. Complicating matters even more is the remote hilly country that children have to travel, sometimes unaccompanied to attend a government school. Rather than not only give up the work of the child's hands but also that of the travel companion's as well, many families choose to keep their children out of school.



Father Cyril Buyeera, Archdiocesan Director for **The Missionary Childhood Association** in Tororo knows that mission schools can make all the difference, especially for girls. "Mission schools are attractive to families because they are flexible in their policies. If a child is needed at home during harvest, it is seen as necessary for the good of the family.

Also, mission schools are positioned more locally making them more convenient to attend for partial days when necessary. We see many girls who are kept out of school completely due to an illness or death in the family. When the school is close by, we are more likely to convince the family to send her for at least a partial day."



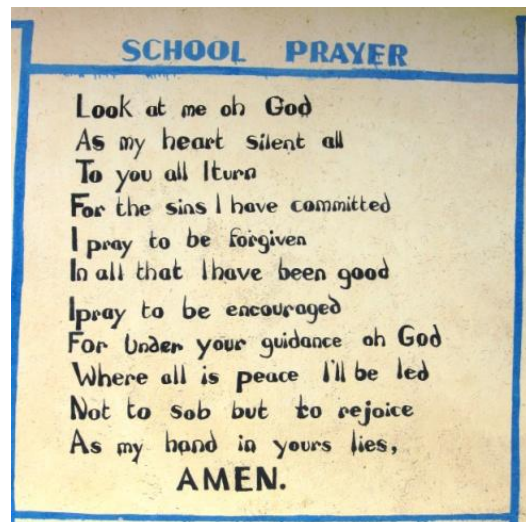
will be educated as well. They see the future of Uganda lying in the education of their girls.

St. Maria Goretti School is a mission school for girls. The students are taught to read, write and do math. They are also taught to sew by making their own uniforms, do specialized needlework and other hand crafts that will not only help them in their daily life but provide them with a skill that makes them employable off the farms later in their lives. Most importantly, the Sisters who run the school teach the girls that they are important in the eyes of God – that their lives matter. Scattered around the campus are motivational signs urging the girls to "Work Hard at Home and at School" and "Value Your Education". The Sisters know that when a girl child is educated, she is more likely to make sure that when she is grown, married and has children of her own, that they

Every day, the girls gather at the school wall to read together the prayer painted there:



Hear the girls sing at this link: <http://bit.ly/HyC2SW>





Last year, **The Missionary Childhood Association**, a Pontifical Mission Society, provided the Archdiocese of Tororo with \$30,000 sacrificed by its members worldwide. These funds were used to maintain an orphanage for preschoolers and reconstruct classrooms at a local primary school.

The Archdiocese of Tororo covers an area of 3413 square miles (compared to Boston's 2465). There are 82 Diocesan and 11 Religious priests serving 665,000 Catholics for a ratio of 7150 Catholics to one priest. In Boston, we have 399 Diocesan priests and 489 Religious priests serving 1,702,410 Catholics for a ratio of 1917 Catholics to one priest.

While serving as the Archdiocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Tororo, Fr. Cyril is also the pastor of one parish with 41 outstations and chapels attached to it, covering an area of approximately 200 square miles. Simple math tells you that many of the places see him for Mass only a few times a year.

To see a video of Fr. Cyril being joyfully greeted by the parishioners at one of his rural outstations, St. Tereza's, go to this link: <http://bit.ly/HZgc7Y>