

November Mission Intention

That the people of Africa may find in Christ the strength to seek the path of forgiveness and justice.



Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Country Focus: Uganda - Seeking Healing after Decades of War.

Uganda is located in East Central Africa and contains several large lakes and lush forests and wildlife. Uganda has also been marked by civil war.



Since the end of British colonial rule in the 1960's, Uganda has endured many leaders, military coups and dictators causing massive losses of a way of life for millions of Ugandans. Since 1985, there has been a more stable leadership. However, until 2008, a civil war in northern Uganda has raged on against rebels known as the Lord's Resistance Army.

One of the greatest casualties of this war was the forcing of thousands of young boys to become child soldiers. This phenomenon of child soldiers and terrible violence has left a lasting scar on a whole generation of Ugandans.

Despite decades of war and violence, the Church has stood with the people and tried to be a force for peace and healing.

Since the end of conflict in Northern Uganda in 2008, the Church in the Archdiocese of Gulu has established broad programs for peacemaking, helping people return home who were forced to leave and providing assistance to former child soldiers to help them find a way to return home and reconcile with those they have hurt.

The ministry of reconciliation reaches across everything the Church does to help this country return to wholeness someday.

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

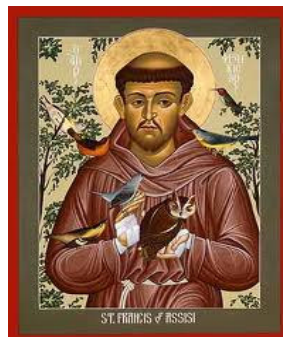
"God has been reconciled to us through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation...entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us" (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

"There is no peace without justice. And there is no justice without forgiveness. To pray for peace means to pray for justice. ...And to pray for peace is to seek God's forgiveness and to implore the courage to forgive those who have trespassed against us" (Pope John Paul II: 2002 Message for World Day of Peace).

Saint for Peace - St. Francis of Assisi

Education for Community Life

Francis was born around 1181, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant in Assisi, Italy. Several events as a young man had a significant effect on his life - a lengthy captivity as a prisoner of war, a serious illness and a life-changing encounter with a leper. Then, while in prayer before the crucifix in San Damiano, Francis received a message from God, "Francis, go and repair my church." He renounced his former life and dedicated himself to imitating Christ by living a life of poverty and serving the poor; "Preach always and, if necessary, use words."



*Patron Saint of animals and ecology:
feast day October 4th.*

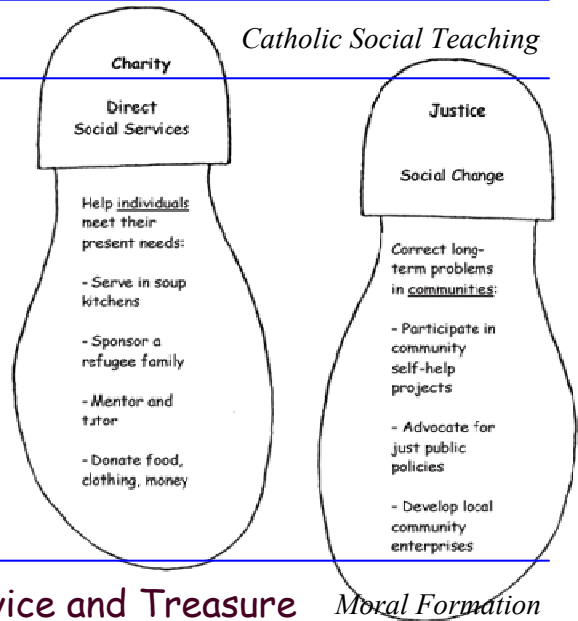
Francis' witness inspired others to join him in this mission that took them all over Italy, Europe and North Africa, including visiting with Muslims in Egypt. His community of brothers became known as the Order of Friars Minor to highlight their call to be totally identified with the poor. Eventually communities of sisters and lay people followed his vision.

Francis has inspired an international movement dedicated to peace, poverty and deep love and care for the earth and all God's creatures.

Seeking Mission

Two Feet of Charity and Justice

Catholic social action is rooted in following the path of Jesus who showed charity to the poor through healing and serving their needs. He also was willing to raise the hard questions of why people are poor and lack basic needs and human dignity. This is the work of justice. Together, charity and justice form the anchors for Catholic ministries of peacemaking, serving the poor, the immigrant, the homeless, the prisoners and neighbors at home and abroad.



My Mission Gift - Offering Prayer, Service and Treasure *Moral Formation*

Give an hour of Prayer

- Pray for peace in Uganda and places recovering from war.
- Pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament: in your room or in nature.
- Pray for those who have hurt you, scared you or are hard to love.

Give an hour of Service

- Skip dessert at a meal.
- Volunteer at a food shelf or shelter.
- Seek forgiveness when you hurt somebody by your words or deeds.
- Learn about resolving conflicts.



Give a Buck for Mission

- Give \$1 to **The Holy Childhood Association**, a worldwide mission of children helping children by learning about and serving one another.

The Association provides assistance to communities in northern Uganda and other war torn areas trying to welcome home and foster healing and reconciliation for child soldiers who have been traumatized by their involvement in warfare.



Place gift commitments and offerings in your Holy Bucket. If you do not have one and would like one, contact Eric Simon at simone@archspm.org.

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray for the people of Africa who are seeking forgiveness after years of war and conflict.
- ✚ Let us pray for a change of heart and policies that cause injustice and harm to individuals and communities.
- ✚ Let us pray for the strength to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed by our words and deeds at home, at school and around my community.
- ✚ Let us pray for an end to bullying in our schools. May we find peaceful ways to resolve conflict.
- ✚ Let us pray for the peacemakers who give their lives for the sake of justice and restoring relationships between individuals, communities, nations and nature.

Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Dear Jesus, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury, let me bring your healing. Where there is darkness let me bring your light. Where there is despair let me bring your hope. And where there is doubt, let me bring true faith in You. Amen.