



For We Are God's Helpers

2024 Annual Newsletter

Share your gifts, live your faith, change the world ... and let the world change you.

Hope Through Education

Your support of Nancy Magloire's service at the newly established St. Ignatius University in Kabale, Uganda, has resulted in the school reaching significant milestones recently. Not only did Nancy lead the launch of the Education Department at St. Ignatius University-Kabale, but as the Chief Quality Assurance Officer, she also secured the university's membership in the Inter-University Council for East Africa and its inclusion in the National Council for Higher Education. Both memberships provide the university with access to quality improvement resources for policy creation and enforcement, data collection and analysis tools, and methods to monitor, evaluate, and enhance higher education processes. This is having a significant impact across all university departments, positioning it to become a leading institution of higher learning that will change countless lives!

Meet Loyce Katushabe, a determined young woman is pursuing her dream of studying accounting at the university. Nancy's oversight on the quality of education that your support makes possible ensures that students like Loyce receive the best preparation for their future careers.

Loyce, a 22-year-old native of Nyamirama, a town near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, knows the journey she's embarked on has the power to change her life. With hope shining in her eyes and a shy smile, she recognizes the incredible opportunity before her and is determined to make the most of it. When she graduates, she will join the small 2% of Ugandans with a college education—a remarkable achievement, especially as the first in her family to do so.

Loyce wisely chose accounting because it's a grow-



Loyce Katushabe (above) is pursuing her dream of becoming an accountant at St. Ignatius University in Kabale, Uganda, where Lay Mission-Helper Nancy Magloire oversees the quality of her education.

ing field in Uganda, offering a strong path to a stable and well-paying job. She envisions a future filled with possibilities and understands the life-changing impact that completing college will have on both her and her family. As she puts it, "I selected accounting because it would meet my targeted goals, as I hope to work in a bank. It will also allow me to support my elderly mother and help my siblings."

In Uganda, an accountant's salary is double the national average, which means Loyce won't have to worry about providing for herself and her loved ones. (cont. on page 3)

You're Building a Sustainable Future

Mark McGraw, who manages the diocesan Unity Centre—a central hub that generates essential revenue for the Diocese of Damongo—reports on the impact of his work, which is possible only because of support from kindhearted people like you.

“As I quickly approach the two-year mark of my initial three-year commitment to serve with LMH, I find myself deeply enmeshed in the fabric of a culture that felt so unfamiliar not so long ago. I arrived in the Diocese of Damongo in early February 2023, following a valuable four-month formation period at the LMH Mission House. My appointment has expanded from facilities manager and contractor to advisor to the restaurant and bar. In late 2023, through your generous donations, I was able to facilitate the refurbishment of a truck, which increased my mobility and expanded my role. Currently, I am managing the bar, the entire Unity Centre, and its 25 employees.

The needs of the diocese are great, and my many roles in managing the Unity Centre are crucial to the church here, as it serves as their sole source of income. The Centre can best be described as a small convention center, hosting numerous conferences with two meeting halls, two guesthouses, and food and drink services for guests. We also provide these amenities to individuals and smaller groups from the town as walk-up sales. With outside appeals from the U.S. and Western Europe becoming more challenging, building a sustainable, profitable business venture owned by the diocese is invaluable. I'm both humbled by the faith placed in me to accomplish this and excited by the challenge of building something that will make a real difference.

Since my arrival, overall sales across all three facilities (restaurant, bar, and guesthouse) have increased by 53% and continue to grow. Damongo was named the capital of Ghana's newly created Savannah Region about five years ago, and the corresponding growth should be exponential. My task is to harness this upward trend for the benefit of the diocese. While the Unity Centre offers a unique and attractive rural environment, I encountered several challenges less appealing to the modern consumer. These include product selection and availability, entertainment options, maintenance, grounds beautification, and customer service. As any business owner knows, these aspects are in constant need of improvement.

The physical improvements include enclosing the outdoor kitchen area and a smaller area near the bar to store empty crates and returnable bottles, as well



Mark McGraw, manager of the Unity Centre in Damongo, poses with his team (above) and his new grill station (below).

as enclosing the entire bar and outdoor dining area. We've painted the kitchen building, renovated the bar area, constructed an actual bar, and added another building dedicated to grilling meats and fish. We also put the finishing touches on a new three-story guesthouse, which opened earlier this year. Most recently, we added a projection TV to the bar to attract local soccer fans. Damongo faces several supply chain issues, so keeping the 30 or so regular items in stock is always a challenge.

My fellow missionary, Josie Cruz, who handles accounting for the diocese, and I are humbled and grateful for your continued support. We wish you a joyful and healthy holiday season filled with blessings for you and all those you hold dear.”

Godspeed, Sally!

Missionaries don't just go; they are sent! The commissioning ceremony for our mission candidate, Sally Rojas, will take place at St. John the Evangelist Church in Los Angeles (6028 S. Victoria Ave.) on Sunday, December 8, during the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Sally, a Registered Nurse specializing in Pediatrics from Divine Mercy Church in Clovis in the Diocese of Fresno, will be sent to the Diocese of Makeni in Sierra Leone to serve for three years at Holy Spirit Hospital. Her expertise will be invaluable in caring for the 300 inpatients and over 12,000 outpatients who receive treatment at the hospital every month! Thanks to your generosity, Sally will be well prepared for her service, having successfully completed the four-month residential formation program. (Mary Liepold, a candidate from Franciscan Mission Service, with whom we partnered this year for formation, will be commissioned for Jamaica by FMS in Washington, D.C., later this year).

During the commissioning, Sally will publicly pledge to live out her baptismal call to mission in service to the people of the Diocese of Makeni and to follow the directives of the Lay Mission-Helpers Association. As a sign of her commitment, she will receive an LMH ring inscribed with our motto, "For we are God's helpers," from 1 Cor 3:9.

This public ceremony is open to all, and we hope many friends like you will join us to help bless and send Sally!

Sally will give herself to mission by going overseas, and you can join her in that mission by supporting her prayerfully and financially. Thank you for being part of the mission that Jesus entrusted to his disciples.



Sally Rojas (right) will be commissioned as a Lay Mission-Helper on Sunday, December 8. Sally did Formation with with Mary Liepold (left), a candidate from Franciscan Mission Service.

Hope...

(cont. from page 1)

But for her, it's not just about financial security—it's about earning respect. In a culture where women often face almost insurmountable challenges, accounting, a highly respected profession, will open doors for her to leadership roles in finance, business, and public administration.

Your continued support of Lay Mission-Helpers is what makes all of this possible. You are helping ensure that students like Loyce receive a high-quality education and a chance at a brighter future. Without this opportunity, as Loyce reflects, "I think I wouldn't be able to study due to the problem of tuition. I would have started farming activities at home instead." Farming is noble work, but for Loyce, accounting represents a life of new possibilities.

This Christmas, Loyce will be reflecting on the blessings she has received, and we, too, are deeply



Lay Mission-Helper Nancy Magloire (second from left) and her colleagues at St. Ignatius University in Uganda.

grateful for your kindness. Thank you for supporting our mission and for believing in students like Loyce, who will not only transform their own lives but also lead their communities into a more prosperous future.

Going, going... almost gone

There are only a few spaces left for the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, taking place from April 29 to May 5, 2025.

As part of our 70th Anniversary Year, this pilgrimage promises to be an unforgettable experience of faith and fellowship. Led by our Executive Director and Fr. Paul Redmond, the journey will bring us to some of the most spiritually and historically significant sites in Mexico.

In addition, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City has been designated as a site for the Jubilee 2025, pilgrims who visit the shrine and meet the necessary conditions "will be able to obtain a plenary indulgence from the Church's treasury, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can also be applied in suffrage for the souls in Purgatory" (Papal Decree, May 13, 2024).

You can register at versoministries.com/lay-mission-helpers until the end of December, with prices starting as low as \$2,385.



Thank YOU!

We are profoundly grateful for your generous support of this year's Rose Gala! Whether you attended in person, bid in our Silent Auction, or sponsored the event, your participation made a world of difference.

Thanks to the generosity of partners like you, we raised \$28,000 this year. These funds will support our work in Ghana, Uganda, Peru, and Sierra Leone. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for walking this journey with us.

A recording of the event is available on our YouTube channel (link at www.laymissionhelpers.org).

You can make a tax-smart gift

If you're among the growing number of donors who prefer to support our mission while benefiting from potential tax-saving opportunities, we're pleased to offer several tax-smart giving options.

You can make a gift of stocks, contribute through donor-advised funds, or make qualified charitable

distributions from your IRA. We hope you'll consider these options as you plan your charitable giving for year-end!

For more information on these options, which do not impact your cash flow, please call 213-368-1874 or email director@laymissionhelpers.org.