



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Caritas for Capuchin Franciscan Seminarians

By Genevieve Morlino and AJ Lezcano

We are overjoyed to announce that we are expanding our Sponsor a Seminarian Program.

Thanks to a deepening relationship with the Capuchin Franciscans, we are now offering sponsorship opportunities for young men pursuing their final years of priestly formation in Uganda.

We would like to introduce you to a recently sponsored seminarian, Br. Justo "Jubilee" Madira.

Br. Jubilee grew up in the Nebbi District of Uganda with his five biological siblings and four step-siblings. After the death of his mother, his father remarried and they became a family of ten children.

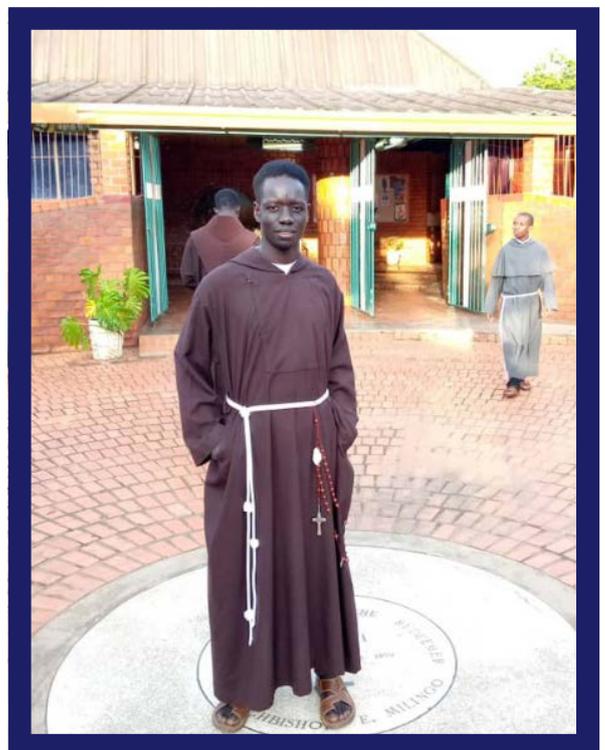
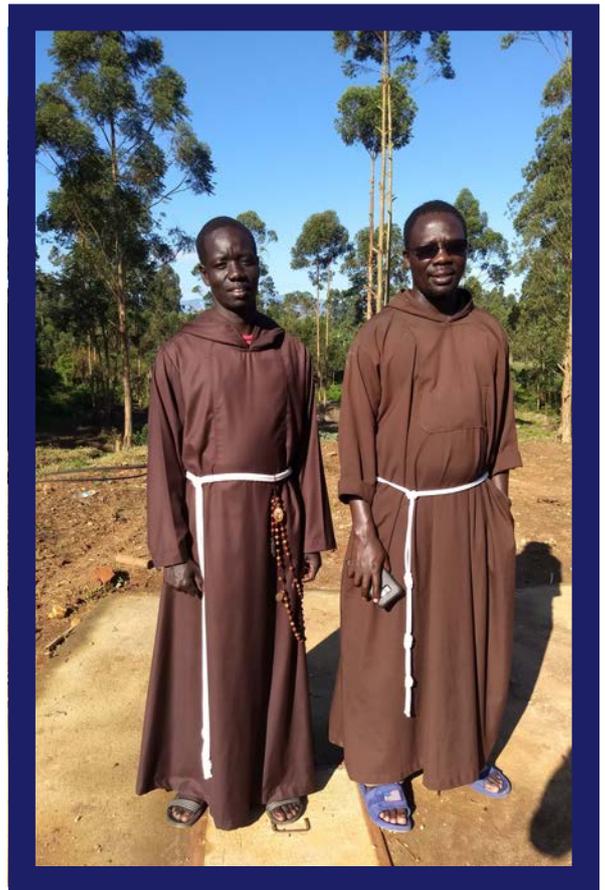
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He tells us that he started hearing the call to the priesthood at the age of seven: ***“Usually when I attended mass, I would feel the zeal to do exactly what the priest was doing, it was so burning in me that when I went home I would imitate the priest!”***

Thankfully, Br. Jubilee received support in fostering this calling from an early age. ***“The person who first encouraged me in pursuit of my vocation was my father. Although he couldn't afford my school fees, let alone my siblings', he always encouraged me and took me to prayer gatherings. At these gatherings, the poor prayer group members supported me, and I used to dig people's gardens to earn money to pay my tuition. Eventually, our parish priest also helped me to join the seminary.”***

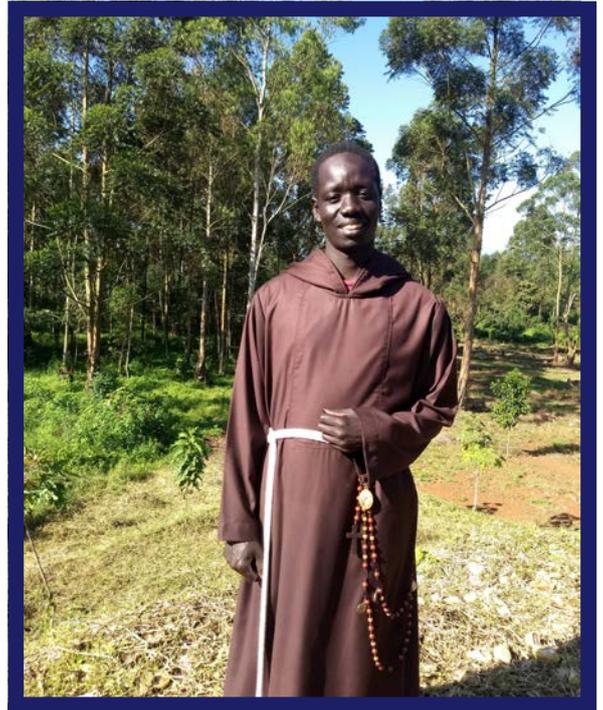
Remembering the assistance he received in his childhood has been a great incentive for Br. Jubilee as he prepares for the priesthood: ***“First I identify myself with the poor Christ who loved everyone regardless of their status. Second, I feel I'm being called to pray for the poor: beggars, helpless sick, the elderly, widows. Most of all I feel called to pray for poor children like orphans and street kids. I wouldn't wish any child to go through what I went through when I was young! And I would love to be a teacher too, to impart knowledge to these needy people who lack education.”***

We at CARITAS, along with Br. Jubilee, are overjoyed to have found him a sponsor to help him to finish his seminary education:



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“I see this sponsorship as a sign from God that He is there for me through His people, materially and spiritually, and I feel it’s another confirmation that God is really calling me to work in His vineyard. For those who have helped me thus far in my journey to the priesthood, I have nothing to pay them back and I wish I had the power to do so! But I hope they know that I have never forgotten to pray for them for even a day, and when I am ordained I will be celebrating Mass and praying for those who have helped me to realize my dreams of the priesthood.”



What a great gift! A priest remembering their sponsors every day for their entire life at the moment of consecration, praying for them and their entire families.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Capuchin Franciscan seminarian like Br. Jubilee, please call us at (414) 323-5000 and we would be happy to tell you more about the program. Please feel free to also [Click Here For Video](#).

Please also help us spread the word in your parish or communities; anything that will help these young men move a little closer to their vocations!



Caritas Home Schooling Support Program

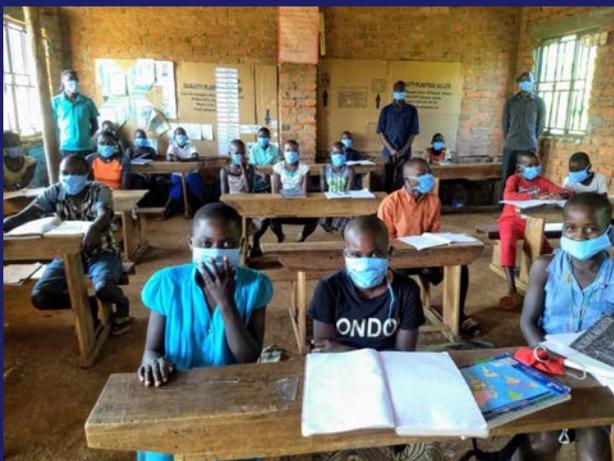
By Genevieve Morlino and AJ Lezcano

Over these many months, our sponsors have shared our concern for our sponsored children in Uganda after the very strict lockdown that began in March. As you may have seen in our updates and previous newsletter, our ministry coordinator Alon and Jean have visited our sponsored children and their families to check up on their situations and to bring them food supplies, counseling, and educational packets to read. **We are so happy to share with you an update on our children's education programs.**

In October, the Ugandan government allowed the senior classes from both primary and secondary schools (candidates) to return to in-person learning. These students are preparing for their final exams for their respective levels of education, so their return to school has been prioritized. This means that any of our sponsored children in either of these grades are back in school as normally as possible and we will continue to minister to them at their school, not at their homes.

For our sponsored children not in these three grades, we preemptively designed a Caritas Home Schooling Support Program (CHSSP) to ensure the continued education of our children in the other grades as well!

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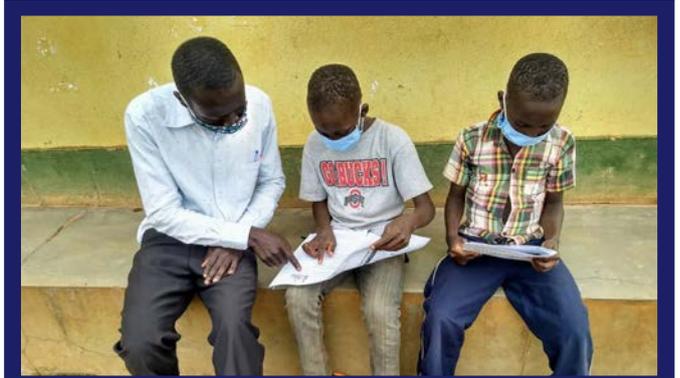
This program was launched by hiring formerly unemployed teachers to create, distribute, and grade homework packets for our children. We also coordinated dates and times for the children to receive in-person instruction, counseling, and tutoring while following the regulations of the Ugandan Ministry of Health and Education.

In creating this unique program, a sense of real structure has been restored that is bringing our children some peace of mind over their future in what has been a very difficult time for them.

Due to the government's mandates, no other organization is doing anything to prevent these student's education from suffering unduly under the heavy restrictions. This makes us even more proud of our ministry team in Uganda for working diligently to design, organize, and finally implement the Caritas Home Schooling Support Program.

During this incredibly uncertain time, our children are even more blessed than usual to be sponsored by our CARITAS family.

Most Ugandan children who are not in our program don't have this schooling opportunity, and we are told that some children have heard of our program and decide to travel from great distances just to attend the in-person instruction. As always, our children and our CARITAS team are very grateful to our sponsors, donors, and supporters who make our ministry possible.

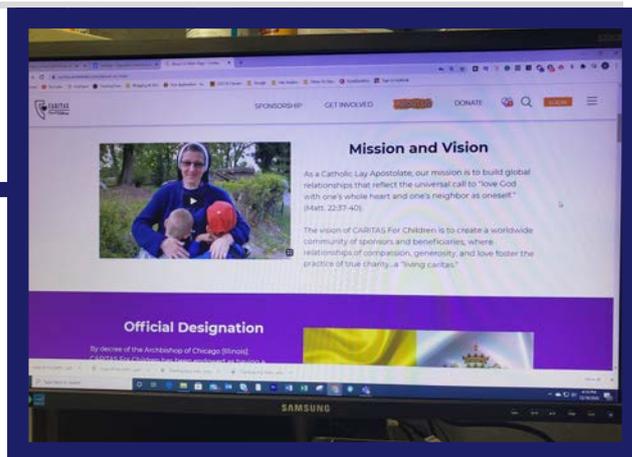


FALL 2020

New Website and Sponsor Dashboard

by Arnold Lezcano

After taking some time to analyze and discuss our options, we have decided to make a big change to the software that our nonprofit uses to operate. **The upgrades are planned to be launched by February 2021.**



On our end, all our technology will be more integrated and automated, reducing our yearly operational expenses and enabling us to better serve our children, sponsors, donors, and friends more efficiently.

For people finding CARITAS for the first time (and for those who are already within our family), we will be launching a new and more modern website. This will allow for a more user-friendly experience to learn about our mission and hear about any news and updates.

For our current sponsors, there is more great news! This change will enable sponsors and children to send letters to each other electronically. The exchange of letters and pictures will be stored in the cloud and will make all interactions more efficient than the “snail mail” we are used to.

We hope that this will further enhance the sacred family relationship between our sponsors and their children. We at CARITAS are so excited to continue to better assist you in caring for your sponsored children, and we hope you enjoy all these upgrades.

Want to see what our kids are up to?

CLICK TO FOLLOW US!



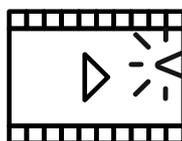
Three Christmas Spotlights

We are highlighting three children who lost their sponsors in this difficult year. They all rely on sponsorship for their general wellbeing and education since their parents either cannot send them to school or can barely afford to feed them. Please help us find them a new Sponsor for Christmas.

Grace, 15 Years Old

Grace's father was unemployed but moved from village to village looking for food to feed her and her sister. Grace was blessed with a boarding school sponsorship through CARITAS and would stay with her aunt during the school's vacation days.

Unfortunately, Grace lost her sponsor at the beginning of 2020 and she can't progress in her education. Grace is a very clever girl who wants to help her community in the medical field.



**Play
Video**

Ben, 11 Years Old

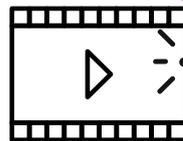
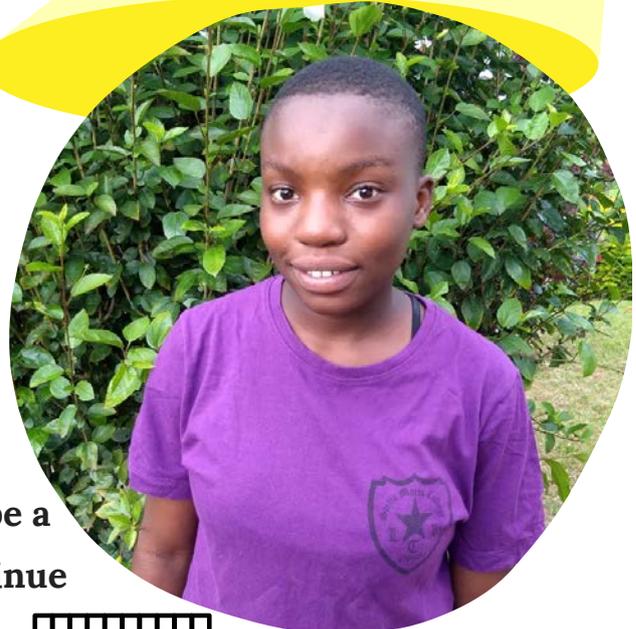
Ben also lost his sponsor this year. His stepfather works hard but does not make enough money to support Ben, his mother, and sibling. Ben's mother is not employed but tries to provide for them by growing their own food; unfortunately, she cannot also provide for their education. **Ben hopes to be a teacher when he grows up but needs a sponsor if he is to continue his education.**



Ritah, 17 Years Old

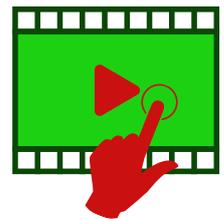
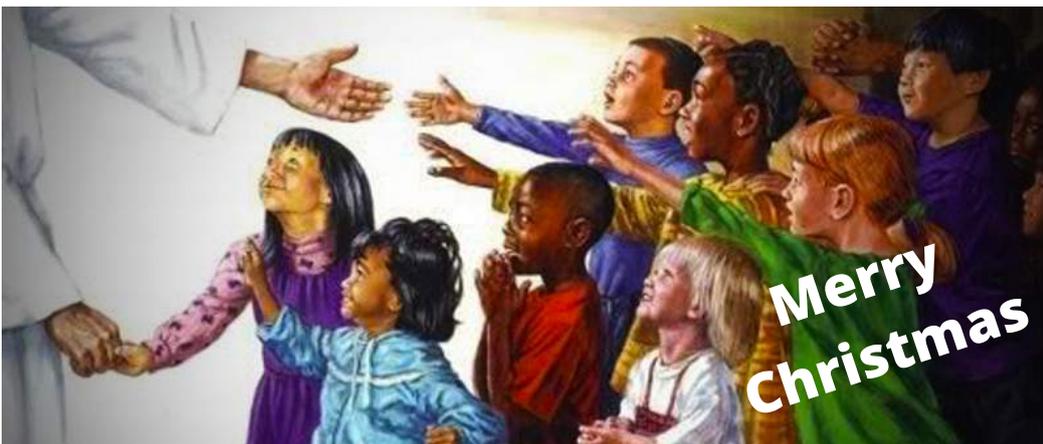
Ritah's parents are both alive but very poor, and cannot afford to pay for her schooling now that she has lost her sponsor. **Ritah has shown herself to be one of the best and brightest students at her school, excelling particularly in chemistry.**

She has been working towards becoming a medical manufacturer to be able to treat diseases like AIDS that have killed so many people in Uganda. **We are confident she will be a great scientist if she is able to continue her education, which will only be possible with the help of a sponsor.**



Play Video

Please, if you or anyone you know can sponsor one of our children for Christmas, contact us via our website: www.caritas.us/stay-connected/contact-us



Short Christmas Video