



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Saving Lives During COVID

By Genevieve Morlino

In this ministry, we often witness our CARITAS Family's desire and ability to reach across the world and help someone in desperate need. One such case is a woman named Edith.

Four years ago, Edith's husband disappeared without a trace, leaving her in a desperate situation: alone, without a source of income, and unable to provide for her four children. Soon after, she was evicted from the small room they used to call home.

Her only recourse was to take her children to live with her mother as she looked for work.

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Without an education, the only jobs she could find were cleaning compounds or working as a day laborer on a farm. **These jobs only gave her enough to keep her children fed, but thankfully CARITAS found sponsors for three of her kids to attend school and receive daily meals, easing Edith's burden significantly.**

Unfortunately, her mother passed away within a year, leaving her without family support. Her siblings then increased her hardship when they decided to sell their mother's house without her knowledge, leaving Edith and her children

homeless. After another period of uncertainty and desperation, she found some relief when a school headmaster, a religious sister, gave her shelter and food in exchange for doing some cleaning work at the school.

Most recently, however, as all the schools shut down during the Covid lockdown, she was no longer able to work and her three sponsored children were no longer fed at school. **Two months ago, we found her and her children on the brink of starvation in their small room at that school. Thanks to our Special Feeding Program, Alon, our CARITAS Liaison in Uganda, was able to bring them enough food to save their lives! He also enrolled her youngest child in our program, and we hope to [find a sponsor](#) for him soon.**

For the time being, Alon will continue to bring her family food. Sadly, we know of many more families who are suffering with the increased food shortages during these last few months. **We ask you to please pray for Edith and all those who suffer extreme hunger during this pandemic.**

We also thank everyone who has donated to make it possible for us to help Edith and many other families too.



How Fr. Frank Became Farmer Frank

by Arnold Lezcano

In late March, when Uganda was forced into a sudden lockdown, Fr. Frank couldn't continue to work as Dean of Studies at St. Joseph Seminary. Since all public Masses were also forbidden, he reached out to CARITAS hoping to do something significant through our [Special Feeding Program](#).

When 24 acres of land were made available to him, and with more time on his hands, Fr. Frank decided to put it to good use by starting a farm!

Thanks to funds raised in our Special Feeding Program, Father was quickly able to purchase seeds, farming tools and supplies. CARITAS was also able to support his creative initiative by paying local laborers and several seminarians to help him work the land.

For the past three months, they've been plowing the fields and planting cassava, corn, beans, potatoes and bananas, which are all staple foods for Ugandans.

The first year's harvest will be used to feed 300 children at a local Catholic primary school. In the coming years, **Fr. Frank hopes to feed an even larger number of school children – possibly even 1,000!**

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As our next step, we are discussing options for expanding the farm, such as installing a well and irrigation system.

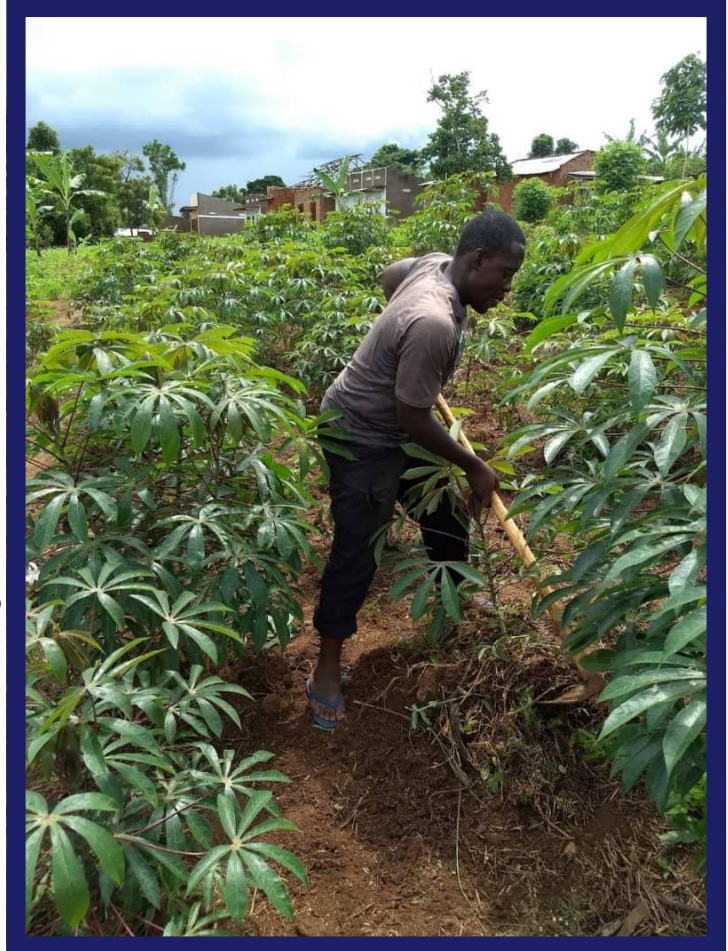
Currently, the farm workers have been spending much of their time carrying heavy buckets of water to the fields; an irrigation system would greatly save them time and effort, as well as lower expenses. In addition, it'll also provide a much-needed source of clean water for potentially 5,000 local residents who otherwise must walk 9 miles to and from the nearest ground-surface water supply.

In knowing that Father Frank will be going back to his regular priestly duties after the corona virus crisis has subsided, we are **now consulting with him on how to make this farm sustainable, so that it may benefit a nearby primary school for years to come and employ some locals as well.**

It's been very inspiring to see Fr. Frank, who graduated from our [Sponsor-a-Seminarian](#) program in 2017, now use his time, treasure, and talent to expand the blessings that our organization brings to his Ugandan brothers and sisters.

Father is very grateful to our CARITAS donors who are making this agricultural initiative possible, and we are thankful to him for his dedicated service as a priest for the Church, a mentor at the Seminary, and even a farmer in the fields!

CARITAS has found a generous donor who will match any donation made towards this [African water well and irrigation system](#) which will cost a total of US \$10,000.



Writing to Your Child Online

by Arnold Lezcano

CARITAS has a lot of exciting developments to share! 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.



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, and keep our sponsors and friends informed 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. We are currently designing the website and making it very intuitive and easy to navigate.

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.



Sponsor Highlight: Bethany Snyder-Morse

by Genevieve Morlino

Bethany Snyder-Morse is the mother of six children living in Illinois. In addition to the great task of motherhood, she is currently working on a novel while raising her young ones.



While it may seem like Bethany already has an extremely full life, she has always wanted to do more. Since she was twelve, she wanted to foster and adopt children, but since she and her husband decided they weren't yet ready for that step, **Bethany chose child sponsorship as a great alternative way to make a difference in a needy child's life.**

As she began to sponsor, she began to feel the joy and love that comes from helping these children, and she kept finding more that she could help through a one to one sponsorship. **Now, Bethany can't even remember the exact number of children she sponsors, but she said it's around twenty!**

"I started with six sponsored kids because of my own six children. But the number is always evolving because the kids grow older and graduate from the programs, so it's a very fluid number. I quickly realized I couldn't just limit it to six because I found another child I just had to add!"

Bethany found her children through several organizations, and currently sponsors seven through CARITAS. She was drawn to us because of our Polish origins and her own Polish heritage, but quickly found many children to support in Uganda.

For Bethany, her love of writing has helped in
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an important way to form a bond between her own family and her global, sponsored family. “A lot of [the kids] are orphans and I feel like many of them are gaining another perspective by having someone write letters to them, almost a family in some ways. **I love connecting with the kids, and each month when I write I also do some decorating on the letters such as stickers, and we always include a photo. Our letters always center around a theme, so the kids can learn about us and we can show them more about things we want to share with them through pictures.**”

Bethany’s experience communicating with her sponsored children shows what a positive impact letter writing is having in her own family: **“This has affected my children in a big way. Letter writing is not a fast process, but it’s very real– letters are a lost art!** Whenever my kids get stickers at school, they give them to me and say ‘Here mom, these are for your kids!’ Some of them are too young to write, but the older ones have helped in some capacity with the writing and the little ones like to draw pictures. **My kids are very involved in the process of writing and learning about other kids. They’re very willing to help in whatever capacity they can.**”

During COVID-19, communication has been especially difficult, but **Bethany kept writing and also created a lovely video to express what sponsorship means to her!** It is called "The Same Stars" and can be found by [clicking here](#).



Want to see what our kids are up to?

CLICK TO FOLLOW US!



The Spotlight

Shedding light on the stories of a child who needs a sponsor.

Ezra, 8 Years Old

We are putting a special highlight on Edith's youngest child from the first article above.

His name is Ezra Kuteesa born on November 29th, 2011. He enjoys repairing things like toys etc and he would like to become an engineer in future just if he gets a chance to go to school.

He has seen the beauty of Caritas (God's love) first hand through his 3 other siblings being sponsored. **We are praying that he get's a sponsor as well so that he can go to school, have daily meals, and have an opportunity to do great things for his community in the future.**

If you know someone who would like to sponsor Ezra, or if you would like to sponsor him, please click on the button below:



"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13: 35