

# **Mission Partnership**

*Between St. Theresa's Center in Ghana and Blessed Sacrament Parish*

Sunday, September 6, 2015

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *United in the Eucharist, Blessed Sacrament Parish and School desires to grow in Gospel values by sharing the gifts of God in a mutually beneficial relationship with St. Theresa's Youth Development Center in Wa, Ghana. This partnership affords each of us an opportunity to strengthen our faith as we stand with the people of Ghana and reflect the love of Christ in each other.*

Dear Parishioners,

The new school year is upon us, and we wanted to provide our parish family with an update about our continuing work with St. Theresa's Youth Development Education Center in Wa, Ghana. It is our hope to continue creating a solid partnership with St. Theresa's in the coming year and to build on what we have already begun. Here's a re-cap of what has happened so far.

Since 2012, a group of Blessed Sacrament parishioners have been working with Fr. Jeff Grant to build a relationship with the youth center. Fr. Jeff and Deacon Tom Burns traveled to Ghana in 2013 to visit the school that was under construction and still in development.

## **How Blessed Sacrament is in Partnership**

Over 280 students attend classes each day at St. Theresa's! Our students at Blessed Sacrament school have contributed \$1,250 toward uniforms for the girls, our Eagle Scout, Will Moran, sent a container of school supplies for his Eagle Scout project, and last year the parish gathered more school supplies that filled four containers, and all have been delivered to the school. We want to do much more.



## **Today, St. Theresa's Center is Moving Forward**

Fr. Paul Kala, the founder of St. Theresa's, who is in ministry in our diocese, has founded a new religious order of priests called the Missionary Society of St. Therese, who will be serving the school and the Diocese of Wa in Ghana, bringing God's love to the people. St. Theresa's Center is fully staffed now with a headmaster and teachers for each class. They have electricity and 15 computers but no internet service yet. We hope that once we can help them establish internet service we will be able to communicate more freely with them on a more regular basis.

The public school in Wa closes at 1 p.m. each day and most of the students then walk to St. Theresa's where they continue their education through tutoring, reading, computer skills, faith formation, learning life skills, good hygiene and so much more. They have begun an RCIA program in the Chapel each week for adults. Many children in neighboring villages walk as far as five miles to attend school each day and then five miles home again.

## **Ways You and Your Family Can Participate**

Our deepest hope is to continue building a solid relationship with the good people involved with St. Theresa's Center, to encourage, not only our school children, but every family that belongs to Blessed Sacrament to participate in some way in helping to build this partnership. It will take some time to develop this. We ask your prayers as we continue to work toward this goal.

Today, we are inviting you (our parishioners), our students and staff to **pray each Tuesday at approximately 9:30 a.m.** for the children and staff of St. Theresa's Center while they are praying for us at approximately 2:30 p.m. Ghana time. We will be praying for each other at the same time.

We have ideas for some future projects and we are open to new ideas. Please contact Deacon Tom Burns at 793-0328 or call the office at 528-7521. We would love to have you join our planning team.

We are making plans to collect new or gently used bikes in October. We will be sending the bikes to Wa, Ghana to help the children who have such a long distance to walk to school. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details and a drop off date in the coming weeks. We have found a way to ship the bikes for free, however, we will need to cover some shipping costs once they arrive in Ghana. If you cannot donate a bike, perhaps you could make a donation toward the shipping costs. No gift is too small. Just place your gift in an envelope in the Sunday collection marked, "*Mission Partnership.*"

As we continue to discern how best to reach out in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Ghana, please join us in praying the Mission Partnership Prayer each Tuesday, or as often as you like. God bless each of you for your support of this parish ministry outreach. May we join our hearts and hands together as we thank God for this opportunity to serve.

God bless you,

*Fr. Jeff Grant*

*Blessed Sacrament Mission Partnership Team*

### **Mission Partnership Prayer**

Gracious and loving God;

we ask you to bless our efforts

in building a lasting relationship with

the people of St. Theresa's Center in Ghana.

Help us to be open to learning about the needs of the people of Ghana; their hopes and dreams.

Be with us as we pave the way toward building a mutual relationship which leads our parish toward a deeper understanding of how truly blessed we are.

Guide us as we learn and treasure the the gifts of our brothers and sisters in Ghana.

May our mutual efforts be for the building up of Your Kingdom now and forever. Amen

"Let us open our eyes and see  
the misery of the world,  
the wounds of our brothers and  
sisters who are denied their dignity,  
and let us recognize that we are  
compelled to heed their cry for  
help!"

- Pope Francis  
*Misericordiae Vultus* (#15)

