

Troubadour

Volume 64, No.4

Spring 2022





In the 12th century Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi from this cross:

"Francis, go and rebuild my Church which you see is falling down."

Don't complain about the Church in the 21st century.

Hear Our Lord's call and do something about it!

The Friars Minor have followed St Francis' example for the last 800 years.

Why not be one of them?

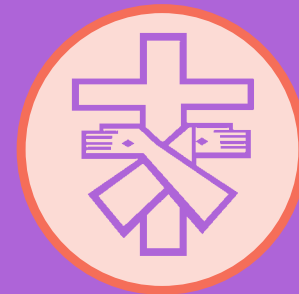
Contact Br Donal Walsh OFM, Franciscan Friary,
160 The Grove, Stratford, London E15 1NS
Tel: 020 8534 1964. Email: vocations@friar.org

Troubadour

A MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

at the service of

- The Franciscan Missionaries working throughout the world but especially in disaster areas.
- The Franciscan Missionary Union.



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MISSION OFFICE:

FMU Director
Franciscan Friary,
270 Ballater Street,
Glasgow.
G5 0YT

EDITOR:

Br. Edmund Highton, ofm

Registered Charity
No. 232177; SCO 39191

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A mother's pride and joy.

Back cover:

Precious friendships.

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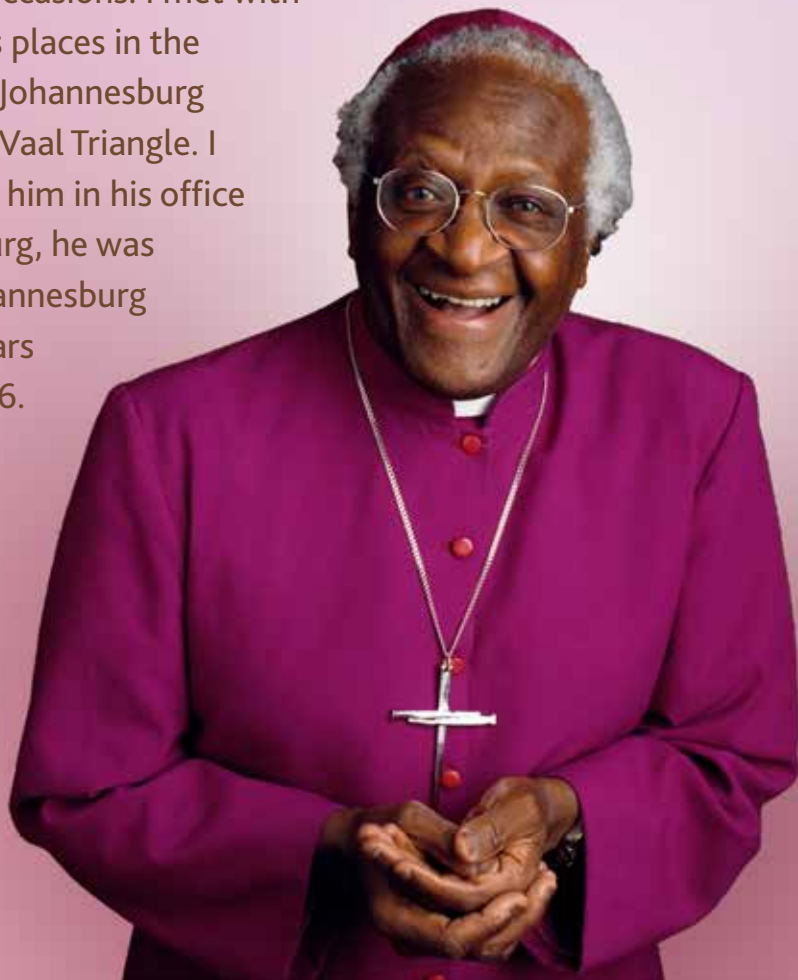
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Desmond Tutu – Franciscan

by Fr Teddy Lennon ofm

When Desmond Tutu was Bishop of Johannesburg, I had occasion to meet and interact with him on a number of occasions. I met with him in various places in the area south of Johannesburg known as the Vaal Triangle. I also met with him in his office in Johannesburg, he was Bishop of Johannesburg during the years 1985 and 1986.



On one occasion I had the privilege of joining one of his suffrage Bishops, Simeon Nkoane, together with a group of Church Ministers from the Vaal area. We were on our way to meet with one of the ministers in the South African government at that time, a man called Sam De Beer. The Government ministers who served under P.W. Botha were regarded as being very difficult to engage with in a meaningful dialogue and were seen to be of a demeanour that was harsh and unfriendly. We met Tutu in Johannesburg on our way to the meeting, he told us as we prepared to leave him, that this particular Government minister smiled at people - he was giving us a word of encouragement. As I found out over many years Tutu was a great believer in dialogue. He encouraged dialogue with everybody, with people who were seen to be friendly and supportive and with those seen to be negative. I think it was Nelson Mandela who said you need to dialogue with your enemies and Tutu was a great supporter of this approach. When Bishop Tutu met me and I was wearing the Franciscan habit he always greeted me as

his brother. As I learned, he was also a Franciscan, a member of the third order of St Francis or as they are known now Secular Franciscans in the Anglican tradition.

In 1984, in late September or early October, shortly after the outbreak of the uprising in the Vaal Triangle, a group of Church Ministers formed what we called the Vaal Ministers Solidarity Group. We were made up of Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, Dutch Reform, Presbyterian and Independent African Church Ministers and this group included three Franciscans, Lucas Bambezela, Patrick Noonan and myself.

Tutu was a great source of support to us and to our ministry. Whenever a crisis erupted in our area, he would leave his very busy workload in Johannesburg and travel to the Vaal. He showed in this way his care for the people, his concern for all who were suffering and his courage in the face of danger. His presence became a source of great support for all of the people of the Vaal and for all of us who were involved in ministry there at that time.

A good example of this care

and concern came after he had moved from Johannesburg to Cape Town as Archbishop. Peter Lenkoe and Ben Photolo, two of our Anglican brothers related how at a meeting in Maseru, Lesotho in September 1990 when there was a problem between people living in the Sebokeng area and a group aligned with the Inkatha freedom party, this story was confirmed by one of the bishops at the meeting in Maseru, Peter Lee. Tutu told the gathering, we have a very long agenda but our brother priests have come to tell us about what is happening in Sebokeng, he asked the Bishops, "Can we shorten the agenda and then travel to Sebokeng." The Bishops agreed and they travelled together to Sebokeng. They had a Mass at St Michaels Church in Zone 13, Sebokeng and after the Mass they travelled through the township to the local hostel complex. On the way they were stopped by a large

crowd near the post office in Zone 11. The Archbishop engaged with the crowd, some of them were shouting - "Liberation before Education" Tutu told them that that was nonsense - all of them should go to school - the country will need you to take over the running of this country and it will need engineers, teachers, doctors etc.

It was a courageous message for him to give to such a crowd - it was the truth.

I was with the Archbishop and many other Church leaders during the Mass funeral for the victims of the Boipatong Massacre on the 30th June 1992. 37 members of the Boipatong community were buried following a



It was claimed by members of the African National Congress that the South African police force in cooperation with the IFP (Inkatha Freedom Party) had organised the raid in Boipatong. A claim which was denied by the authorities.



Forty-five people died and many were maimed or injured during the massacre.

funeral service at a soccer field in the township. The atmosphere was one of great anger. Tutu was able to calm the large crowd and he spoke about our need for peace, he led the people in chanting- "we want peace"

I remember some young people standing in groups outside the stadium and cursing all the Church ministers who went into the service. Tutu was the only one who could encourage such a large crowd to be restrained. He called for the

Government to apologise and on the large crowd to show restraint. I remember thanking God for this man. He goes wherever there is suffering and pain and he brings a glimmer of hope, a call to look forward

Desmond Tutu, with longtime friend and fellow veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, Nelson Mandela.



and to dream of a better tomorrow.

I attended the Truth and Reconciliation hearings in Sebokeng at the then campus of Vista University during the week beginning on the 5th August 1996. The Archbishop was chairing the proceedings. At one stage during a break he spoke to a group of us Church Ministers, some members of the Vaal Ministers Solidarity group and some Council of Churches officials, among them was Gift Moerane and a man called Patrick who worked in the local offices of the Council of Churches which was in Vereeniging at that time. Tutu said to us that this process of Reconciliation will have to be carried on by the Churches. We listened carefully to him because we had seen his actions, his work and his witness to this form of ministry. I admired his patience during the hearings, his listening ear, his empathy with those who suffered. He was teaching us by his actions. St. Francis is reported to have told his followers –always preach, sometimes use words - Tutu lived by these words.

It has been a privilege to live at the same time as Desmond Tutu. He is a man of God, he taught me by his words and his deeds. I have learned many lessons from him, among them - Don't be afraid to speak the truth to those who are in power. Don't be afraid to speak the truth to those who are suffering - let Reconciliation be a challenge for you.

When he received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on the 10th December 1984, the first part of his speech summed him up for me:

“God calls us to be fellow workers with Him, so that we can extend his Kingdom of Shalom, of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, joy and reconciliation, so that the Kingdom of this world will become the Kingdom of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. Amen”



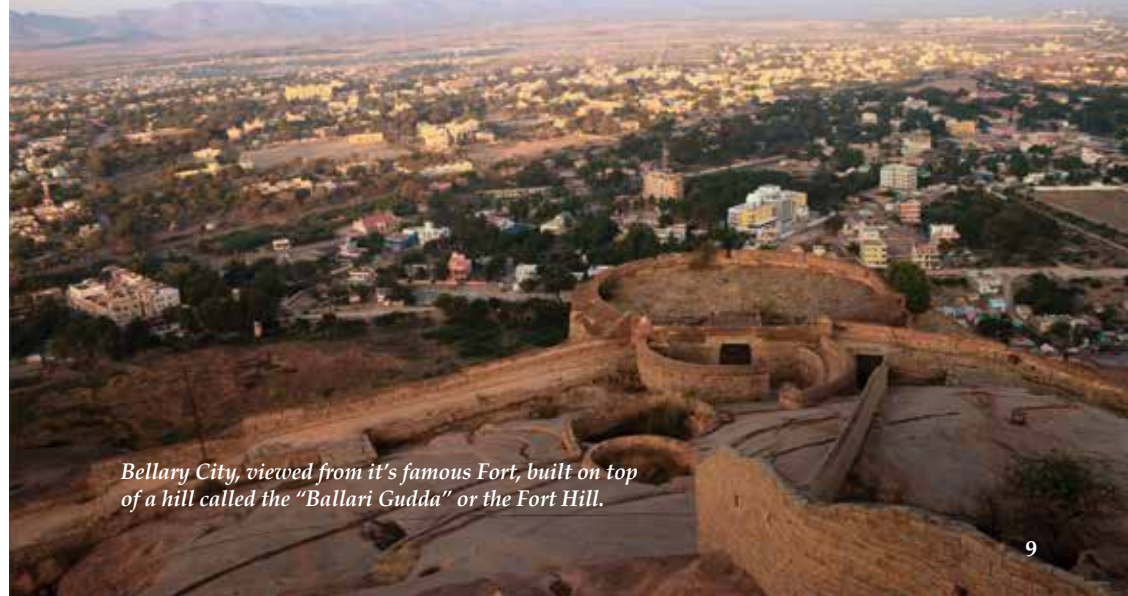
Fr Teddy Lennon ofm.

Bellary Diocese INDIA

Over the years we have often referred to the Diocese of Bellary in India. I remember listening to Bishop Ambrose Yeddanapalli ofm in the Friary Church in Liverpool sometime in 1964 during the St Antony Novena. He was the successor of the first Bishop of Bellary, Bishop John Forest Hogan ofm, a member of the Franciscan Province of Great Britain, who died on his way to

the Second Vatican Council. He had been appointed Prefect Apostolic of the Bellary Mission in 1934 and Bishop of Bellary Diocese in 1949. Thirty three friars of the GB Province worked in India over the years sowing the seeds of faith in the rocky dry soil of Northern Karnataka, India.

In the year 1815 British Military Engineers designed and built a



Bellary City, viewed from it's famous Fort, built on top of a hill called the "Ballari Gudda" or the Fort Hill.



Bishop John Forest Hogan, O.F.M., the first Bishop of Bellary, who displayed an unflinching spirit of sacrifice and dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel

house in Bellary City which was purchased many years later (1931) by Fr Ernest Reilly ofm, then Mission Superior. This House was bequeathed to the Diocese and became the Bishop's residence.

Though it was already an old building it had been strongly built and had been well maintained. Electricity came to the House in 1952 and a

many years. The building itself is an historical monument and, if in Britain, would probably be cared for by the Historical Monuments organisation or by Lottery funds. However, this is not available to the present Bishop Henry D'Souza. Some of the photographs



Episcopal Ordination of Bp John Hogan ofm, 1949.



Images show-

Top:

Episcopal Ordination in London, May 4th, 1949 of Bishop John Hogan ofm, first Bishop of Bellary.

The front view of the Bishop House at present.

Centre:

Friars at bungalow No. 18, Munro Road Friary, 1934.

The Orphanage School adjacent to Bishop House, run by Friars, 1934.

Inter religious dialogue meeting at Bishop House, December 3rd, 2021.

Bottom:

Bp Henry D'Souza, present Bishop, addressing some students at Bishop House.



Friars at Bungalow 18, 1934.

telephone installed in 1964 when the second Bishop, Bishop Ambrose arrived.

This building is now being repaired and renovated after so



Pupils and Friars at the Orphanage School.

show the building in the old days of the British Friars and later the work of renovation being done. I am sure that you will agree that this a project worthy of

support in order that the great work done by so many Franciscans over the years in this venerable building may continue to grow.





Top:
The roof and walls condition, the Conference Hall, Bishop House.
ibid.

Present condition of a door in Bishop House

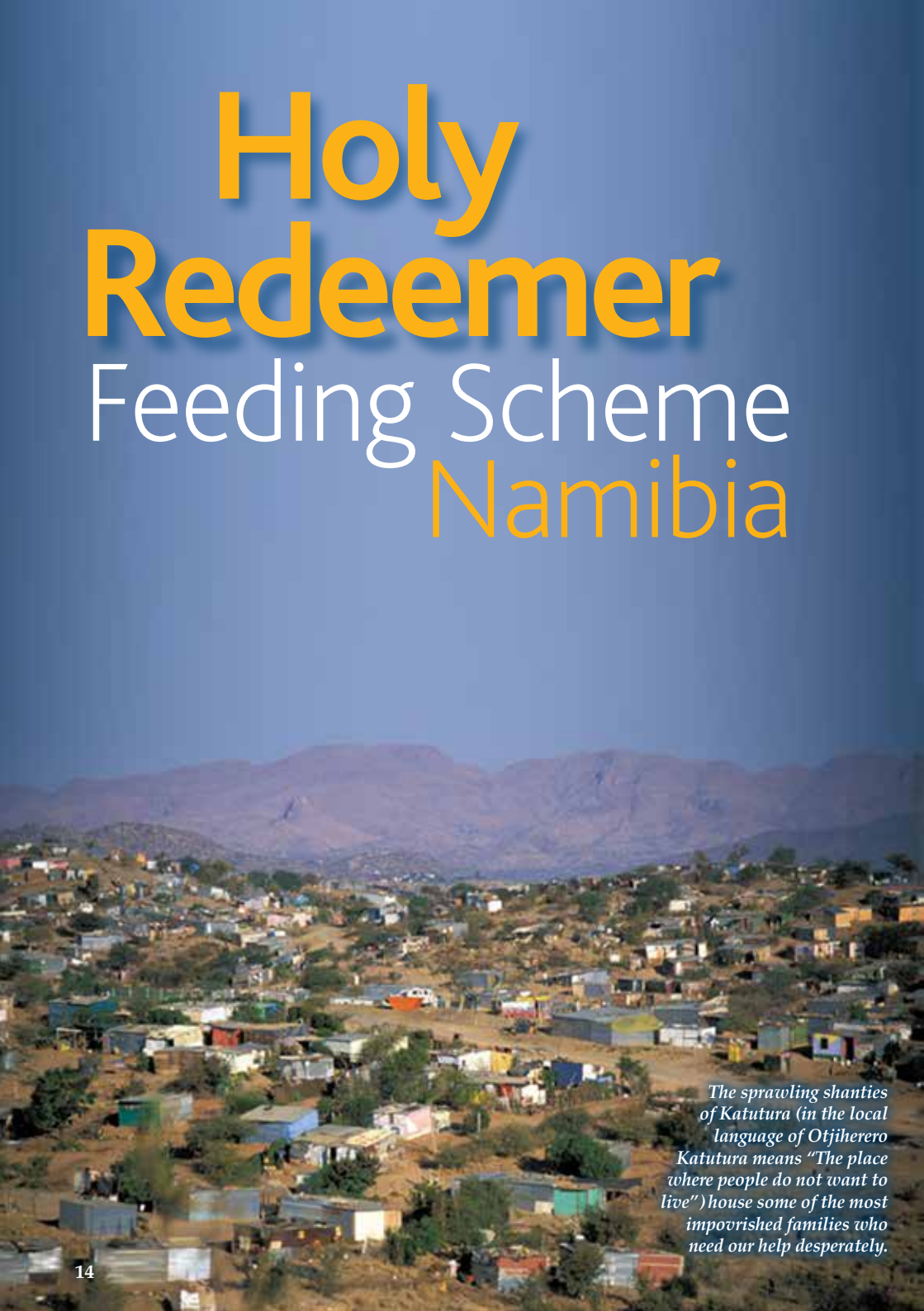
Centre:
Renovations started with Blessing and Prayer Service on
December 8th, 2021.

Renovation work in progress.

Bottom:
Dismantling of the roof, made of a mixture of limestone,
bricks and wood.



Holy Redeemer Feeding Scheme Namibia



The sprawling shanties of Katutura (in the local language of Otjiherero Katutura means "The place where people do not want to live") house some of the most impoverished families who need our help desperately.

Holy Redeemer Parish, Katutura, Windhoek

The Franciscan Friars of the South African Province have been reaching out to the poor of Namibia for a number of years. Many good projects have been started and are continuing, among these are a Feeding Scheme, Creches for younger children and an

excellent scheme for the "Healing of Memories".

The Feeding scheme, at present, is helping some 42 families and these are made up of 6 families having a man and woman in the household, 2 are men headed households and 34 are women headed

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households. The number of children benefitting from this scheme is 347.

The intention is to increase the number of families and children being cared for. The number of people applying for help is always on the increase especially because of Covid. Three young unemployed women monitor the families, visit them regularly, listening and monitoring their needs. The aim is also to overcome social isolation and give help to attain a sense of worth within their community. This is achieved by helping people to take more control of their health and welfare as well as promoting healthier eating. Many of the people regain their human dignity and help the promoters to appreciate that what they are doing for and to the people is what they want to do for the Lord. Help is also given to enable people to getting Identification Documents and so enable them to benefit from Government programmes.



Creches: The Creche is beneficial to the community it serves, especially the children. They are able to stay at the Creche from 6am to 6pm while their parents are at work. This relieves pressure on the parents and enables them to work without worrying about the well being of their children. The children are aged from one to six years and by providing balanced diets and learning and recreational opportunities help the children to develop



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prepare for primary school. Parents are also informed on how to prevent diseases as well as emphasising the need for immunisation for their children. All of this is done under the help and guidance

of the “Children’s World Creche” established to render service for the underprivileged communities of Katutura and Khomsdal.

Healing of Memories: The need for people who have

been through war, imprisonment and abuse is for them to be healed not only physically but also mentally. The programme of Healing of Memories is brought about through discussion, sharing of

memories and bringing recognition and peace to those traumatised by past experiences: a much needed programme for so many people after so many bad experiences.



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St Kizito Minor Seminary Malawi



You may remember how we helped this Seminary to provide better washing facilities for the students.

Latest news from St Kizito's is that the students celebrated with great joy the Easter Triduum, not having the opportunity to celebrate them fully at their own home parishes.

The Seminary is now in the process of renovating some of their classrooms. As you can

see from the photos on the following pages some of them are in a very bad state of repair. The classrooms have worn out ceiling boards, worn out floors, doors and windows without handles and unfriendly usable chalk-boards and walls badly needing repair and repainting. They are starting with just four of these classrooms and will proceed to repair the rest as soon as time, money and opportunity provides. A good classroom



Dear Fr. Eddie
Greetings to you from St. Kizito Minor Seminary, I do hope you are kept well. We are in the second term of the academic year of learning. The students are back from holidays and they observed all Easter festivities here. It was quite amazing celebrating Easter with them here.

As we have started the new term I wanted to present a request before you for your consideration.

REQUEST: ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE TO RENOVATE FOUR JUNIOR CLASSROOMS

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Since its inception the Seminary has always undergone major and minor renovations. Following the same trend of caring the structures we wish to bring old glory of four classrooms of the same size that are in very bad state. The classrooms have some worn out ceiling boards, worn out floors, doors and windows without handles, unfriendly usable chalk-boards and walls with old aged paints that require repainting just to mention.

THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE NEED TO RENOVATE THE CLASSROOMS.

Education becomes meaningful by creating a favorable learning atmosphere to learners. This can only be achieved by making sure that structures are user friendly and learning materials respond to the needs of the present age. The students too have the right to access quality education where different stakeholders join hands in facilitating such aspirations.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The renovations of classrooms will enhance students' concentration on their studies as they are often distracted by the dirty walls. Furthermore, the old used paints could be harmful to students' health.

Below I have the summary of the bill of quantities.

NO	ITEM	QUALITY	COST	AMOUNT
1	Renovation materials	Assorted	Assorted	3,715,000.00
2	Transport costs	Varied	Varied	100,000.00
3	Labour charges	Varied	600,000	600,000.00
4	River sand	3 trips		Seminary
TOTAL				4,415,000.00

MKW 1020		EURO 1
FUNDS REQUESTED	4,415,000.00	€ 4,320

Wishing you Easter Joy, the Lord is risen Alleluia Alleluia.

Fraternalty Yours,

Fr. Mathews Chimtendere
(RECTOR)



environment is essential for creating a favourable learning atmosphere.

We are now again happily helping St Kizito's to improve the classrooms and bring about this better learning environment so that the students may grow in wisdom, age and grace.



‘Friendship is one of
life’s gifts and a grace
from God’

Pope Francis

