

Lockdown in Uganda;

It was on the 19th march 2020 when the government of Uganda communicated for close down of all the schools, the institutions of learning, all the places of worship, market, hotels, bars and various businesses due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Only essential services were allowed to operate; health services, security etc. Therefore our Sr. Annonciata at Rushoroza health centre continued working and so Sr. Rosemary at Divine Mercy Hospital.

It has not been easy having young people in the house who would be teaching and doing some studying! Some activities have been going on quietly and they have brought life to the community.

In Emmaus community, different programs were set. Each day had different prayers, praying for the pandemic. Knitting, sewing and crotchet, sign language, music, use of IT [Zoom] to some of the sisters. It has excited the sisters and beautiful cardigans and crotchets are on Market!

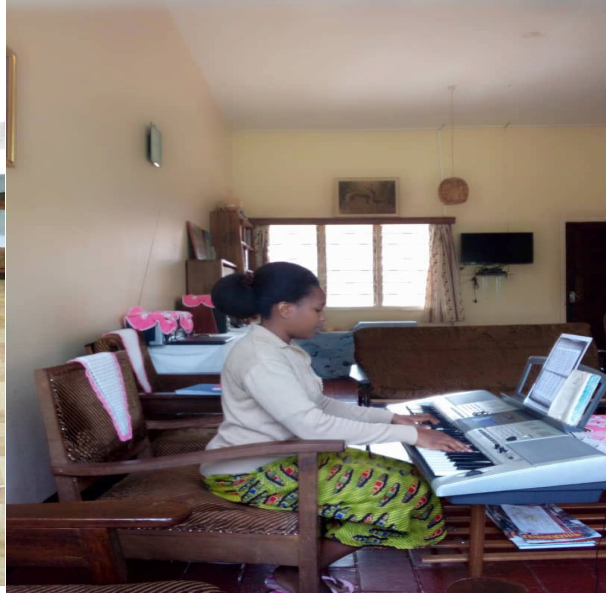
Different workshops were done online; Governance and Finance management, Project Management, Local Fundraising, Training workshop for the young sisters arranged by ARU, How to use the protective gears etc. Some courses offered certificates.

We had challenges during total lock down like high prices of food, since all the borders were completely closed. Another challenge was access to medical facilities to COVID-19 patients were in most of the hospitals around us.

Below Sr. Anatolia putting on one of the cardigan made by one of the students of Eileen and, Sr. Eileen giving knitting lessons



During the COVID 19 other gifts have been discovered. For instance the two sisters Sr. Monica (Right) and Sr. Diana (Left) Both students taking online courses in Education are again playing a keyboard during liturgical masses and community prayers.



The regional organised a gathering for all the sisters in uganda to share about how to live in a 'new normal' of pandem and follow the protective measures both at work and in our communities. Sisters were encouraged to support one another in this difficult situation of pandemic.



Sr. Lucy Lolem Chegem celebrated silver jubilee on 15th August 2020.

The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter O'Reilly (Missionaries of Africa).



Spiritual Nourishment;

Our young professed sisters also had a three days workshop at the Montfort fathers which was organized by the regional. Different courses were done for instance; sexuality, Leadership and skills, Balancing apostolate, community and prayer.

Many sisters had their retreats arranged scientifically as proposed by the Regional



Other activities

At Nyamitnga farm different activities have been improved and this has kept many sisters busy planting and harvesting crops like sweet potatoes, ground nuts, beans and maize to sustain themselves during COVID -19.

Bisheshe Farm

Different activities on the farm continued as usual since the pandemic did not affect the agriculture sector. Below is the green house for sweet peppers.



With Green house farming, one doesn't need to have a big fertile piece of land (as is the case in ordinary farming) and production is throughout the year regardless of harsh weather conditions and seasons.

During pandemic, the road construction destroyed our container for the workers and wall fence at Ggaba house Kampala. Now the construction of the new wall fence and the shifting of the container is in progress. Thanks to our Sisters for the support.

St Francis Family Helpers Program

During the long closure due to COVID-19, Sr. Christine kept the office open for work as usual. She had a chance to renovate some of the buildings which were not in good condition like; the tailoring building, guest house and Mary's apartment.

The challenge came in the child sponsorship department where some of the donors were badly affected by COVID-19. The funding will be a big challenge due to the death of some sponsors and staff members this will affect the students' education. May their souls rest in peace.

MARYHILL HIGH SCHOOL

As directed by the Ministry of Education and Sports to open Schools for only Candidate classes. The schools were officially opened on the 15th October and closed on the 18th December 2020.



In preparation to start the Term, the School purchased seven calibrated Temperature Monitors, 5 Step-on Hand washing equipments, Hands Sanitizer for the Staff, and COVID-19 messages to create awareness of how to remain safe from COVID 19 Pandemic. These were displayed on key point areas like Notice boards, Dormitories, Dining and Sleeping space. In addition, Jik for daily disinfection in classes and liquid soap for hand washing were purchased.

In order to observe social distance among the Students, Dormitory allocation and Bed labelling was done. Labels were put in the Dining room, Chapel to cater for the sitting arrangement. The classes were also split to cater for less numbers

Training of Staff on the use of Temperature Monitors and how to fix the cells. The trained Staff included Security Staff, the Nurses and Staff on COVID-19 Management Team.

A sensitization discussion was conducted by the District Health Officer Dr. Ssebutinde and his team concerned with COVID 19 awareness and survival measures that are expected to be adhered to when Students report for School. The question and answer session was highly informative.

In addition to encouraging the Staff and Students to have masks, the School purchased a Face Shield for each Staff member to ease communication while teaching.

A procedure for reporting a suspected COVID 19 patient was drawn by the Health Department of the School. Both Staff and Students were taken through it before it was displayed. This has guided Staff and Students not to be drowned in stigma in case a member of our Community has flu or cough.

At class level, each class has a representative on the Committee. These are our 'eyes' at class level to emphasize Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). They also ensure that Classes are disinfected on a daily basis. They are fully supported by the Students Leaders.

COVID 19 Awareness and Control in School

Integrating COVID 19 Awareness in the Teaching –Learning Process

As a directive from the Ministry of Education to integrate COVID 19 awareness in the teaching-learning process, teachers were encouraged to always bring out something about the pandemic to the learners as they teach. This is geared towards positive change of behavior for safety during the Pandemic. Students and Staff are aware that Uganda is at stage 4 of the pandemic so more vigilance on the individual and community protection is a MUST. The Chaplaincy has also constantly emphasized Special Operating Procedures following at all times.

On a sad note , the School lost a Parent, the late Winyi Robert Moses, father to Ateesa Cynthia Winyi S3. We pray that his soul rest in peace.