

## Foundation for the Education of the Children in Uganda

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### The first news to share with you is Fr. David's visit to Uganda this Summer, in June - July.

The first item on his agenda was to visit the school, St. Pontiano Secondary School, where the 20 students sponsored by the FECU are studying. Friday June 29 was the date. The Principal of the school informed the parents of those students, and invited them to come to the school on that day. Most of them did; all in their Sunday best, and on time! They joined their children in a classroom, and waited

anxiously for the special visitor from Canada. It was the first time for Fr. David to meet those students and their parents. Besides Fr. David there was another visitor, Fr. Peter Ntege, the diocesan Education Secretary.

The Principal introduced Fr. David to the group, expressing



gratitude to the FECU for the support given to the students. Then it was Fr. David's turn to speak. He emphasized to the students that each of them should appreciate the opportunity given to them to attend a secondary school. Their good grades would be the best way of showing gratitude to the people in Canada, who were

making sacrifices to help them. Fr. Peter also spoke, urging the parents to be interested in their children's academic performance, to read carefully their report cards.

After that meeting the Principal gave Fr. David a tour of the school campus to see, among other developments, the 6 large tanks (10,000 litres each), which the school had managed to purchase with a grant received from Terre Sans Frontières, through the FECU, for a water supply system; a simple one. The rain water is collected from the roofs of the buildings and stored in the tanks. During the

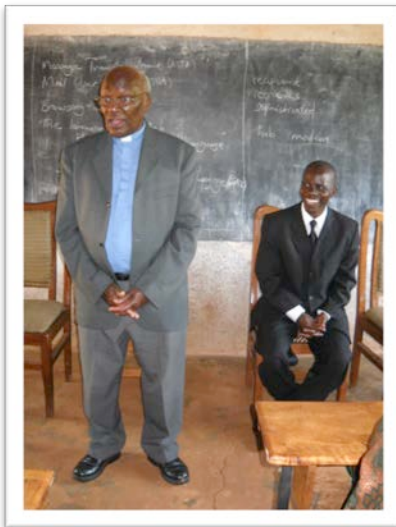


rainy season this system saves the students the daily trips to the village well, which is about 1km away.

Fr. David wanted also to visit a couple of the students' homes. Two parents volunteered to have us visit their homes. Students, parents, the Principal, Fr. Peter and Fr. David got on the school bus and visited the two homes.

The houses were poor but well kept; considering the fact that they didn't expect us to visit them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> family (to right) were building a new house.

At the end of our excursion we made a short prayer, got on the bus again to return to the school.



*Other News to Share!*

The other exciting news to share with you is an INVITATION to you, your family and friends to a Bowling Fundraiser on Sunday, **November 11, 2012**. Come and enjoy a Sunday afternoon with us; having fun, while supporting the education of children in Uganda!!



Before going to lunch Fr. David had the opportunity to meet with each individual student for a few minutes. Some of them would go down on their knees (*a cultural practice*) to express their gratitude, in their own words, for the help they get from the FECU. That was quite touching!

Kind people at St. Edmund church had responded to Fr. David's appeal; they brought bed sheets and towels for him to take to the FECU students. Another person donated pens. Those gifts were handed to the Principal to distribute to the students in need. Other than the tuition and boarding fees paid by the FECU, their parents also need to be able to provide the



following: bedding, plates, cups, basin, bucket, stationery, toilet paper, towels, soap, plus the uniform. The parents of some students often find it difficult to provide those necessary items. So their children would go without them, or would have to beg, or to borrow from their friends.

Fr. David returned to the school during his last week of stay in Uganda; it was to bid goodbye to the FECU students. This time they were even happier to see him. They felt proud and important that someone had so much interest in them. Now they know they have to be good students and to get good grades!

On behalf of both the FECU students and their parents the Principal sent you a message to thank you for doing so much for those children. He said the demand is big; there are so many more children in this rural region who really need help. Responding to that plea is the mission of the FECU; with your continued support we will be able to take on more children.

