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OUR LADY'S TEARS

News Letter of the Orphans of Our Lady of Sorrows Foundation



Good Words for Great Souls

BY REGINA NSANZIMANA

A few weeks ago, our Gospel reading was from Luke 16:19-31. We heard the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Through this Gospel, our Lord calls us to pay greater attention to the poor and to help them in whatever we can. As I listened, I found myself reflecting on this beautiful message and it became even more clear to me that this is confirmation from God that our Foundation, with your help, is being called to help the poor, orphaned, and destitute children of Burundi in whatever way we can. I hope that one day our children in Burundi will be able to know the great love that God has for them. I pray that through our work we might not only feed their physical bodies but also their souls.



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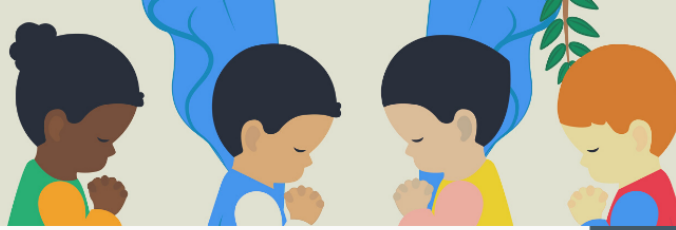
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Our Lady's Tears

The first time I went to Burundi was in November of 2021. I originally went to Burundi for a vacation with my family. The Sunday before Christmas I went to church with my cousin, and as we were coming to a stop outside of the Cathedral of Regina Mundi I saw a small boy laying in the red dirt of Bujumbura. I asked the driver to stop the car so that I could check on the boy. The most shocking thing to me was that everyone walked right past him as if he was not even there. It was a disparaging image. Christians, well dressed for Sunday mass, entering a church and ignoring the poor. In my mind, I saw Jesus laying on the ground pleading for mercy as everyone walked right past him. It then made me question, what is our mission as Christians? I walked to where the boy was sitting and shook his shoulders. He wasn't responding and at that moment I was afraid for the boy's health. When the boy finally woke up, I had the chance to talk to him. He told me that ever since his parents died, he didn't have anyone taking care of him. He told me that he hadn't eaten in several days. When I asked him how old he was he was unsure of his own age. My heart was moved with pity and compassion for him. I gave him what little money I had on me and then I heard the bell ringing for Mass. While I was in Mass I could not stop thinking about the boy. The homily and readings also pointed at how we should help the poor. To me this was a clear indication of what God was calling me to do. I thought to myself how our Blessed Mother must cry for these poor children. Often times people will wonder, why God would allow such suffering from children? It's not that he allows it, only that he calls those who are able to devote their lives to the service of the poor. This is the mission of the Orphans of Our Lady of Sorrows Foundation: that every poor, orphaned and destitute child in Burundi knows they are dearly loved and that other people, even strangers, care about them.

Each one of them is Jesus in disguise

MOTHER TERESA





The Children Go to School

BY REGINA NSANZIMANA

This past September many of the children had the opportunity to attend school for the first time. Many of our children had very little schooling due to how expensive it is for children to attend school in Burundi. According to Burundian law, primary school aged children should be able to attend school for free. Unfortunately, many schools have found a way around this law. They charge children for "administrative fees" such as renovating the schools. Of course, no renovations are ever actually made since the money is usually pocketed by those who run the school.



In addition to paying administrative fees, many children will also need uniforms and school supplies which adds to the expenses. Many families opt to not take their children to school because of this, so many of our children find themselves in this situation.

Our nine children were able to start school, and we have very high hopes for them. They are also receiving tutoring from a private teacher that we have hired. Many of them are behind others in their age cohort. We hope that through tutoring they will be able to catch up to others in their age groups.

Whoever
receives one
child such as
this in my
name
receives me

LUKE 9:48





Upcoming Projects

On Sunday afternoon, November 13, 2022, the Orphans of Our Lady of Sorrows Foundation will hold a fundraiser from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Basilica of St. John in Des Moines, Iowa. We invite you to join us to learn more about our Foundation, our goals and ask questions. It will provide an opportunity to learn how we can work together to promote awareness about the children in Burundi and provide for some of their most basic necessities of life. Please visit our website at www.orphansofourladyofsorrows.org. If you have questions, email us at orphansofourladyofsorrows@gmail.com. Please like and follow our social media pages for more frequent updates about what we are doing!

God reward you for your service!
Regina

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