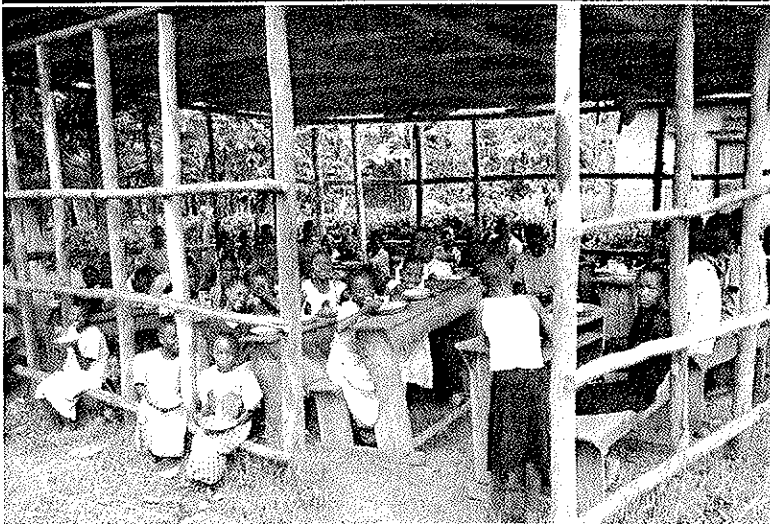


## Ashleigh Ormsby Reports from Uganda



Students who board at school enjoy a meal in the "dining room."

### Our Uganda Connection

*In February, parishioners Ashleigh Ormsby and Bill Monaghan made a month-long visit to St. Charles Lwanga Parish in Ibanda, Uganda, at the invitation of the Pastor, and a friend of our parish, Father Joseph Sserugo. Fifteen others will join them for another trip to Ibanda and the St. Charles Lwanga community from June 26<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Ashleigh returned to Uganda, and will remain until the rest of the group joins her. They will all return together in July, and Father Joseph plans to accompany them.*

*This is her third report.*

### The Hospital at Kasese

*Hey guys! — This is what the kids usually say when I walk by, trying to mimic me.*

Last Wednesday, I went with Father Joseph and two of his friends to Kasese (about three hours west of Ibanda). Father had a meeting there, and I joined his friend Kellen to visit a patient of hers at the hospital there. I had been in the hospital in Ibanda, but saw only administrative offices, so this was my first time "in" a Ugandan hospital.

### A 1½ Year Wait for Surgery

The woman who we visited had a broken hip, and the ball in the hip socket became dislodged causing constant pain in her leg. She had the surgery two weeks ago, but has been in the hospital for a year and a half. When I asked why she has been in the hospital for so long, Kellen smiled and said, "This is Uganda, there aren't enough surgeons." Those that become surgeons often leave the country to go somewhere where there is money. When I saw a price list that was painted on the front wall of the hospital, I noticed that the price of major surgery was 50,000 Ugandan shillings, less than 35 U.S. dollars.

This woman has been in pain, barely able to move, waiting in a dingy, dirty hospital room for a year and a half, just to have a broken bone reset.

— continued in next column

## Ashleigh's Report *(cont. from last column)*

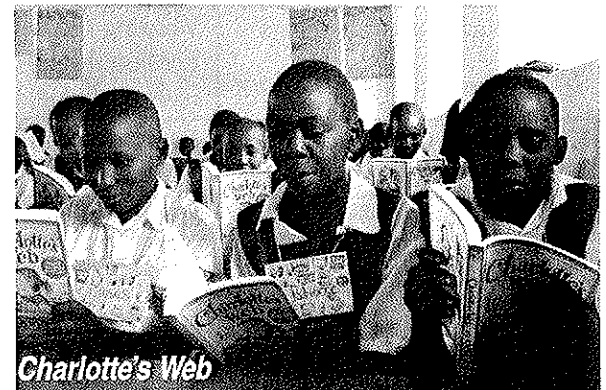
She spoke no English, but I knew from her smile and the way that she spoke that she was kind and sweet. Sitting in her hospital room, she reminded me of my Nana, and I just couldn't imagine visiting her in a hospital like this.

### The Boarders at the School

On Saturday, I went to visit the boarders at the school. Sixty students board in the three rooms at the school. On Saturdays, they have lessons until lunch. After lunch we made necklaces with beads, then they gave me a tour. The girls have one room, and the boys have two. They were so happy to show me where they sleep, all shouting from their beds, "I'm here, Ashleigh, I'm here!" Only one out of the sixty children sleeps with a mosquito net. I didn't understand why, and thought maybe they didn't want to sleep under nets, so I asked. And with wide eyes, they all said, "Yes, we would love nets."

Many of the deaf students also board at the school, and while the kids are great at communicating with them and helping them out, they aren't receiving the attention they need.

I just can't imagine being a boarder at a school in Uganda. When the rest of the students leave at 5 P.M., the boarders have more lessons to do. But on the other hand, some students walk over three miles to and from school, and have chores to do when they get home. So maybe for some, even though the living conditions are rough, it may be better than staying at home.



Charlotte's Web

Charlotte's Web is going fantastically. More and more kids are raising their hands to read or answer questions. They are trying so hard, and doing really great. I hope this experience encourages them to continue to read. The school is in the process of converting a room into a library. Right now the shelves have mainly old teacher manuals, but, hopefully, it will soon be full of books that the students want to read.

Everyone here greets all of you! And we thank you for your continued support and prayers!