



## NOVENA TO PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DINNER ON JULY 12 TO BUILD A DORMITORY FOR ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN UGANDA

Fr. Ssonko Missionary Fund of St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna, Nebraska

**Novena Begins on July 3 (St. Thomas, Apostle) through July 11 (St. Benedict, Abbot)  
and Concludes with a Prayer to Our Lady of Africa on July 12**

Join us in praying with our faith community as we pursue efforts to raise funds to support the dormitory building project for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda! We are blessed to start the Novena on July 3, the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, Patron Saint of Architects, in which we are especially reminded of our role in building the Kingdom of God. We are on a mission to bring Jesus to all; to be a builder of faith. Education in our Catholic faith around the world is a very important work in the Church to form souls and help lead students to lives of holiness. Faith in God leads to peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, our church, among nations, and in the world!

Let us ask our Lord Jesus, with the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph, to open the hearts of every parishioner of St. Patrick and the greater community of believers in the Archdiocese of Omaha to help us provide the spiritual and material support for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 1 – July 3**

*(Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, Patron Saint of Architects)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

Instruction in the faith is very important for the good of souls. Many people in our modern world do not receive the education in the faith that they need. Our world is in great need of strong Catholic schools to do this work of education. You can help all such Catholic schools that are struggling. *Please help St. Mary's Primary School to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You help us to raise the financial support needed for the successful construction and completion of the dormitory for St. Mary's Primary School.*

O Lord, help us to always rely on You for all that we need in our lives. Give us the grace to surrender all aspects of our lives fully to You.

Dear Saint Thomas, you were once slow in believing that Christ had gloriously risen; but later, because you had seen Him, you exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" According to an ancient story, you rendered most powerful assistance for constructing a church in a place where pagan priests opposed it. Please bless the architects, builders and carpenters of St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda that through them the Lord may be honored. Saint Thomas the Apostle, pray for us!

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 2 – July 4**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.



Catholic schools face many challenges and difficulties in our modern world. All Catholic schools are in great need of strong leaders that will keep them faithful and successful. You can help all Catholic school pastors, principals, and administrators to do their important work well.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You bless and assist all pastors, principals, and administrators of St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda.*

O Lord, help us to always do all we can to build up Your Kingdom here on earth at every opportunity we encounter. Give us the grace to strive to serve You faithfully each day of our lives.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 3 – July 5**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

Teachers, employees, and volunteers working in Catholic schools carry out a very important work in our world and in the individual lives of their students. The work of teachers in Catholic schools is even more significant, as they have the opportunity and responsibility to form their students in the Catholic faith.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You bless and assist all teachers, employees, and volunteers at St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda.*

O Lord, help us grow in love for You and Your Church each day of our lives. Give us the grace to always do all we can to bring souls to You at every opportunity.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 4 – July 6**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

Faithful Catholic schools do vital work for our Church and for the lives of individual Catholic school students. Many Catholic schools are in great need of support and help from parents and family members of Catholic school students. Parents of Catholic schoolchildren should do all they can to assist in the Catholic education of their children.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You help, encourage, and inspire all Catholic school parents and their family members of the school children who attend St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda to be living examples of the Christian life.*

O Lord, help us to always appreciate all the ways You bless us in our lives. Give us the grace to serve You faithfully in all things each day.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 5 – July 7**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.



Our Church is in great need of institutions that faithfully teach the Catholic faith to students. Catholic schools that strive to fully teach the faith and form students into saintliness are not common in our modern world. We ask that You bring more such schools into our world.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You grant success to all the efforts to educate the children of St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda to help them grow in the virtues of holiness.*

O Lord, help us to always turn to You for all of our needs each day. Give us the grace to rely on You for all things, in every circumstance we face in our lives.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 6 – July 8**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

There are many forces in our society that try to pressure us into conforming to worldliness. Many people wish to force secular values upon even such institutions as Catholic schools. You can help all Catholic schools to remain strong in the midst of pressure to conform to secular society.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You help us provide spiritual works of mercy through persistent prayers for the needs of St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda so they can combat the pressure to conform to secular society.*

O Lord, help us to grow in commitment to serving You each day. Give us the grace to serve You more devotedly at every opportunity.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 7 – July 9**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

Faithful Catholic schools do very important work for our Church, instructing students in the faith and leading souls to You. But many Catholic schools in our world today have strayed from Your truth and have prioritized pleasing the world over faithfulness to You.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You help St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda to always retain its sense of Catholic identity.*

O Lord, help us to always be faithful to You in all matters, each day of our lives. Give us the grace to grow in holiness at every opportunity You give us.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 8 – July 10**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.



The work of Catholic schools is very significant for our Church. The instruction in the faith and formation of souls that faithful Catholic schools carry out is vital for the health of our Church. You can help all faithful Catholic schools to continue the important work they are doing.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You help St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda nurture and form their youth into faithful and lifelong Catholics.*

O Lord, help us to always do all we can to bring souls to You and help build up Your Kingdom. Give us the grace to do all things in our lives out of love for You.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Novena for St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda – Day 9 – July 11**

*(Feast of Saint Benedict, Abbot and Patron Saint of Students)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for the gift of our Catholic faith. We ask You to bless and assist St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda in their important work of teaching the faith.

Many Catholic schools face difficulties in our modern world, but the work they carry out for our Church is very important. Catholics should do all they can to ensure that Catholic schools are able to continue carrying out their important work.

*Please help all Catholic schools to flourish in every way, and we particularly ask today that You ensure that St. Mary's Primary School in Uganda receives all the support they need to continue their good work in the Church.*

O Lord, help us to serve You faithfully in every circumstance in our lives. Give us the grace to grow to a deeper love for You each day of our lives.

(This brief prayer is attributed to Saint Benedict): Gracious and Holy Father, give us the wisdom to discover You, the intelligence to understand You, the diligence to seek after You, the patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You, and a life to proclaim You. Amen. Saint Benedict, pray for us!

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless St. Mary's Primary School. Lord, hear our prayers!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Concluding Prayer to Our Lady of Africa – Day 10 – July 12**

*(Evening of the Uganda Fundraising Dinner for St. Mary's Primary School)*

Our Lady of Africa, Mother of us all, be especially mindful of the peoples of Africa. Gather together all those who follow Jesus Christ. May they be one in the Church of your Son. May all those who have not yet recognized Jesus as the Son of the Father be drawn by His Light. May all those who have been seized by Christ proclaim the Good News by their whole life. You who were present with the Apostles at the beginning of the Church, support the apostles of today that they may boldly proclaim the Word of God.

Our Lady of Africa, you who were open to the Holy Spirit to welcome Jesus within you and give Him to the world, obtain for many young people a like openness and availability. Our Lady of Africa, Queen of Peace, obtain the gift of peace for all nations torn apart by hatred, resentment and racism. May your Son's law of Love win over and unite all hearts, so that together we may sing the Glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN UGANDA!**