Mission Moment

Three Holy Women’s Sister Parish in Uganda Africa (Padibe) has a special place in our hearts. Deacon Gary and his family have gone over multiple times and every few years someone from Uganda gets to come over here. We have always opened our school and our hearts to our visitors. Each time they come, we wish there was more we could do. Simple things that we take for granted is a wonderful miraculous thing to those who live with nothing. The surprise and wonder of being able to safely drink water from anywhere you see it is amazing. They get a multitude of diseases and Parasites including intestinal worms from drinking water. You are rich to be able to boil your water or purchase bottled water. If people throw out bottles after using the water they will take it and use it (not cleaned) not knowing who had it before because their need is so great. The 1st graders asked questions that many would sound silly but ended up opening a whole new lesson and understanding. I wish I recorded the entire interaction. Here are a few things we learned: it is not unusual to see children (even 10 year olds) walking around naked because they have never had clothing, the second hand clothing that is donated and shipped overseas is sold for profit, anything that is sent to uganda needs to have an armed escort otherwise it will be stolen, they do not use toothbrushes but instead use a twig they pull off a tree, they do not have toilets but have holes in the ground separated by gender, they do not have stores to buy food but need to grow their own, often people only eat one meal in the evening before bed, children are in a class with 40 to over 200 scholars with one teacher, teachers are respected and well paid, children do not have shoes 90% of the time, sometimes during school children will get malaria from mosquitoes pass out during class start seizing and die before anyone could even get to them from the nearby clinic (this is not an unusual occurrence), those in the nearby villages have never seen a white person before and are frightened when they come because white people are a “mysterious creature you only heard about” (direct quote and the way she said it was as if white people were almost god like). We truly are blessed but not once did she or any of our visitors ever say anything or imply we are nothing but blessed and they are happy for our support. Our access to plenty is something I have been reflecting on for days and even though I did nothing to deserve it, I am grateful to be with all of you are doing God’s work and I will continue to try to make a difference in my small ways.~Mrs. Dahlgren-Campus Minister and Faith Formation