



African Basket Weavers
-E.S. Keritas (African Corridor)

St. Olaf Catholic Church ▪ Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 ▪ 612-332-7471 ▪ www.SaintOlaf.org

The School That Saint Olaf Built

The community of Rabondo lies in the Western area of Kenya in East Africa. Forever it seemed it would be a bartering community, residents farming as best they could, exchanging goods and managing without the benefit of community schools, electricity, safe water, and medical facilities.

At some point in the 1950s, a young man named Timon Bondo left the Rabondo area seeking a better future. He went to school and earned his degrees in the United States. Settling in the Twin Cities, Mr. Bondo began working in sales and insurance. In 1996, life changed dramatically. Returning to Kenya for the first time, he found his family and friends in dire need, and he decided to do something about it.

Back in Minnesota, Timon Bondo set up a 501c3 non-profit organization, giving it the title Rabondo Community Project USA (RCPUSA). The challenging task of raising funds began. Placing a priority on education, the Project established a primary school, the first in the Rabondo area. Given the prevalence of AIDS at that

time, their second priority was to build a small clinic. RCPUSA had two other priorities, namely, safe water and electric power.

In 2003, Timon was determined to find a way to provide secondary education for his community. When Timon heard that I, as the Pastor of St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis, had been to Kenya and was raising funds for various projects there, he scheduled an appointment with me. His plea was straightforward: "You need to help me build a secondary school in Rabondo!" At first I resisted, but Timon insisted. The rest is history.

Appeals were made and within a short time, nearly \$100,000 was donated, the major portion coming from Colleen and Jim Ryan and the remainder from the parishioners of St. Olaf. To ensure that his gift was viable, Mr. Ryan - a noted builder himself - sent Fr. Ben Oleket, a Kenyan serving a one-year assignment at St. Olaf, to visit Rabondo and see if the people there would support a high school. He returned with photos of huge

sand piles and bales of straw that the community had gathered. They were already in the process of making bricks for the much anticipated school.

In 2006, along with four members of St. Olaf parish, I presided at the dedication Mass of St. Timon Secondary Day School in Kenya, "The school that St. Olaf built." More than seven hundred local folks attended the daylong celebration, including dignitaries from both Church and government agencies. Soon after the school opened, the government brought electric power to Rabondo. With power available, a borehole (well) was dug and safe water soon flowed to the high school and was made available to the community at large. Eventually, funds were raised to add a dining hall and kitchen. This year's enrollment is 386 students. Including its current graduating class of 89 students, 765 boys and girls have received diplomas since its inception. Among its graduates are plumbers, carpenters, electricians, teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, finance officers, police officers,

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Information Technology professionals, and medical practitioners. Many have gone on to college. St. Timon's School is noteworthy for several reasons. Not only boys, but now girls, too, can achieve a high school education, which had not been possible for girls before. This place has brought a level of pride and a hopeful spirit to the entire community.

Thousands of miles from Minneapolis, an excellent high school is educating future generations of Kenyans. Their gratitude is on display on an outside wall for all to see. Thank you to the "Philanthropic men and women of St. Olaf Parish Minneapolis USA." Thank you, indeed!

(Learn more at the Rabondo Community Project website www.rcpusa.org.)



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Additional info at SaintOlaf.org/events

WELCOME TO ST. OLAF'S! Are you thinking of joining St. Olaf's? We hope so! Please contact Fran Rusciano Murnane, Director of External Relations, at 612-767-7635 or FRMurnane@SaintOlaf.org.

New Parking Option! St Olaf has entered into an agreement with the Minneapolis Club (directly across from us on 8th St) for parking on Saturdays and Sundays beginning the weekend of October 6/7. We will pay them a monthly stipend and you will be able to park there for free!

Book Club Sunday, October 7, 2018 from 2:30 to 3:30p.m.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis delivered a series of broadcasts about faith, suffering, pain, and evil to the war-weary British people in the early 1940s. These speeches were gathered into this book which has sold millions of copies world-wide.

Wednesday Organ Recitals: Wednesday afternoons, immediately following the noon Mass, come hear the organ as talented organists showcase a variety of repertoire. Recitals run from Sept 26 through Dec 5 (no recital Oct 31), and will be approx. 30-40 minutes.

Mass with Anointing: Saturday, October 20, 12:00 noon, followed by a light lunch in the Sacrament of the Sick we pray for Christ to strengthen and heal those who are suffering the effects of physical or emotional illness or aging. The sacrament is especially recommended for anyone whose condition has recently or who is anticipating medical procedures. All are welcome.

Be a Part of "FOREVER." October 12 is about you. Steadfast in your presence, you are the soul, the history, the very heart of St. Olaf. If you miss this event, you will be a listener to others' stories. Add your voice to the FOREVER of St. Olaf's future with The Steeles at OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC. Help replenish the Reserve Fund. Look for invitations in the Plexiglas stands. Enjoy delicious food and hosted drinks and a concert. Thank you if you're coming or have already made a gift. More info: www.suemclean.com or: FRMurnane@SaintOlaf.org or 612-767-7635.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional info at SaintOlaf.org/events

Saturday, September 29, 2018

9:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
10:00 a.m.	RCIA
12:00 p.m.	Mass/Confessions
2:00 p.m.	African Choir Rehearsal
2:30 p.m.	Venite Choir Rehearsal
4:00 p.m.	Mass w/Venite Choir

Sunday, September 30 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 a.m.	Mass
8:00 a.m.	Mass
9:00 a.m.	Nursery Opens
10:00 a.m.	Mass
12:00 p.m.	Mass
4:00 p.m.	Mass

Monday, October 1

7:00 a.m.	Mass/Confessions
7:30 a.m.	Samaritan Ministry Hospitality
12:00 p.m.	Mass
12:00 p.m.	AA

Tuesday, October 2

7:00 a.m.	Mass/Confessions
12:00 p.m.	Mass/Confessions
6:30 p.m.	Contemporary Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 3

7:00 a.m.	Mass/Confessions
7:00 a.m.	AA
12:00 p.m.	Mass
12:00 p.m.	AA
12:30 p.m.	Organ Concert
6:30 p.m.	Parish Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Alanon

Thursday, October 4

7:00 a.m.	Mass/Confessions
12:00 p.m.	Mass/Confessions
6:45 p.m.	From Age to Age Rehearsal

Friday, October 5 *Office Closed on Fridays*

7:00 a.m.	Mass/Confessions
12:00 p.m.	Mass
12:30 p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, October 6

9:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
10:00 a.m.	RCIA
12:00 p.m.	Mass/Confessions
2:00 p.m.	African Choir Rehearsal
4:00 p.m.	Mass