



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

February 2018



Fasting for South Sudan — it is no secret that South Sudan has become one of the largest crises in the world, and the fastest growing crisis on the African continent. In reaction to this crisis Pope Francis declared a day of fasting and prayer for this crisis-embroiled country. People around the world joined in solidarity with over 7 million South Sudanese, 1.1 million of whom are under the age of 5, and who do not know where their next meal is coming from.

The young women enrolled at the Loreto Girls Secondary School approached Sr. Orla about their desire to participate—to fast during lunch. They decided to donate the food that they would have eaten for that meal to Pan Ngath, a women and child center run by the Missionaries of Charity in Rumbek town.



Loreto has been working to support the community through this time of extreme food insecurity and is providing over 2000 meals each day and distributing over 2 metric tonnes of dry rations each month. Thank you for standing in solidarity with us and our community and for all of your support throughout this time of great need.



New Beginnings— the Loreto Schools have started their largest year yet. In the Loreto Primary School, which helps support and educate young community members from Maker Kuei there are over 1000 students enrolled between the morning and afternoon sessions. More importantly, the school has an average female enrollment of 44% girls—a 3% increase from last year. National rates of female enrollment vary from as low as 25% to about 33% depending on the source—we hope to reach about 50% female participation in the coming years.

In the Loreto Girls Secondary School we had nearly 350 students attempt to enroll, sadly we only had placements for about 100 students. We are excited to welcome the next generation of the Loreto Rumbek School families!



Kindergarten Kids—Last year we celebrated our first Primary 8 class, this year we are adding our Kindergarten, completing the primary school cycle here in Maker Kuei with a full Kindergarten through Primary 8 curriculum for the primary age students of the community! We are in the process of building the classrooms but are excited to welcome them under the trees until the classrooms are ready.

(*Pictures show Kindergarten students being given their new uniforms)



A Special Thank You to all of the donors , advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.

Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.

For more information about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: Loretorumbek.ie