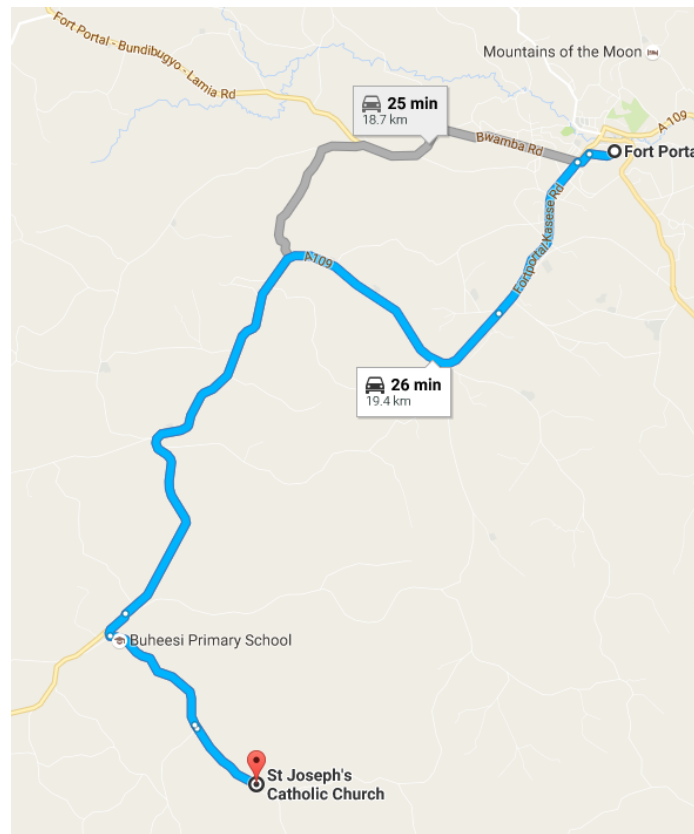


## Fr. Francis Muhenda Adyeeri and St. Joseph's Parish in Kyamatanga, Uganda.

Fr. Francis Muhenda Adyeeri was ordained to the priesthood on July 28, 1990 in the Diocese of Fort Portal. Since then, he has served in a number of different roles in the Diocese, including pastor of several parishes, chaplain in a high school, instructor at the Diocese's Major Seminary, and the Diocesan Pastoral Co-ordinator responsible for the Diocese's Catechetical Training Center. In 2008, he first visited St. Thomas parish, after which he returned to Uganda to serve as the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul parish in Butunduuzi. It was during that visit that St. Thomas began supporting his work. In 2015, Bishop Robert Muhirwa assigned Fr. Francis the dual role of being pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kyamatanga and also Financial Administrator of the Diocese. Since then, he has visited St. Thomas twice more, in the summer of 2015 and again in the summer of 2016.



*Map of Uganda. Notice Fort Portal and St. Joseph Parish with red marker at left a third of the way from the bottom.*



### *Closer view of the road from Fort Portal to St. Joseph Parish*

St. Joseph Parish in Kyamatanga is considered a 'small' parish, although it serves 15,000 people. These parishioners are spread across 20 small village centers. Kyamatanga is in one of the poorer parts of Uganda, about 19 kilometers (11.8 miles) by road from Fort Portal, near the western border of the country. The last few miles of roads to St. Joseph are unpaved and unmaintained. In fact, essentially all of the roads in the parish are unpaved, and frequently turn into muddy morasses during the rainy seasons.





St. Joseph's parishioners have an active and lively faith. Since Fr. Francis has to travel between all twenty village churches, he can celebrate mass at such a church only once every few weeks. So the villagers are always waiting for him when he arrives to say mass. They enjoy coming together to worship, and their services are full of music and singing. They linger after mass as well to socialize.



The most urgent problem faced by the people of St. Joseph is disease, both water-borne and mosquito-borne. The worst of these diseases is malaria, which is carried by mosquitos. The disease flares up twice a year, during the two rainy seasons. You can read more about how mosquitos carry malaria in [this article by the U.S. Centers For Disease Control](#). Malaria is treatable, but it is crucial that the patient receive the proper medication quickly. Unfortunately, there are chronic shortages of the free government-supplied medication, so patients have to purchase that medication from private clinics which is very difficult for most of them. It is also vital to get the patient to a medical facility quickly. The poor condition of the roads during the rainy season makes this difficult. During the rainy season, Fr. Francis frequently serves as an 'ambulance driver', since he has a four-wheel-drive truck that can navigate the muddy roads. However, he simply cannot take care of all of the needs for transportation, so parishioners have to do the best they can when he is unavailable.



*The village ambulance: men carrying a sick person on a stretcher to a local clinic*

Another cause of serious diseases is unsafe water. Most of the villages have to go to places like this for their water.



Every day it is the children's job to fetch water for the family.



Only two of the twenty villages in St. Joseph parish have wells that provide safe drinking water. Those wells typically cost about \$3000 to build, and they look like this:

Fr. Francis has asked St. Thomas for help in building these wells for all of the villages in his parish, as well as to help with their many other needs. If you would like to help, you can make a one-time or recurring donation through the [Barnabas Almsgiving Fund](#), an Ann Arbor-based 501c3 organization which raises money for Christians in need all around the world. Here's how to do that:

- Go to [the Barnabas Almsgiving Fund's donation page](#).
- Click on the link for the **Barnabas Fund at ConnectNow Giving**.
- On that page, you can:
  - Click the Quick Give link if you would like to make a one-time donation without registering. **Be sure to choose the '[St. Thomas – Uganda Fund](#)' entry from the pulldown list on the donation page.**

OR

- Click the First time link to register if you would like to make multiple donations. **Be sure to choose the '[St. Thomas – Uganda Fund](#)' entry from the pulldown list on the donation page.**

If you have questions about Fr. Francis's work, or about making a donation, please email [bill.cavnar@gmail.com](mailto:bill.cavnar@gmail.com).