## MISSION APPEAL -BROTHERS OF ST, CHARLES LWANGA (BANNAKAROLI)

Brothers of St Charles Lwanga (The Bannakaroli in our native language), are the oldest indigenous Institute of Brothers in Sub-Saharan African. Based in Uganda, the Institute was founded 1927. They are also known as the “Bannakaroli” which means “Sons of Charles in the Luganda language. They took their name from the leader of the Uganda Martyrs, a group of boys and young men who were pages to the king of Buganda, between 1885 and 1887, 22 Catholics and 23 Anglicans pages chose martyrdom over renouncing their Christianity at the order of the King .

The Brothers serve children and youth from the marginalized communities through schools, Vocational programs and Orphanages in Eastern Africa. We accompany young people in the creation of hope-filled future, the Brothers have extensive network of schools and training institutes for Vocational skills.

We give special attention to the education of girls, young women, including teenager mothers who have been forced to leave school to care for their small children and who are among the most vulnerable human being in the society. We work with them to protect their unborn children and their depended young ones.

Some of the Brothers work in orphanages and slums where we rescue, rehabilitate, educate and reintegrate thousands of children from streets and slums.

Our way of life is reflected in our services to the poor, we are committed to human dignity and social justice and we try to integrate faith and hope in our services.

A major drive for the Brothers is WATER security for St Leo’s Boarding Primary School. They need Tanks for harvesting rainwater and especially digging Wells to provide water throughout the year for bathing, raising crops and livestock. An average Well costs $35k. In African we have a proverb which says “One by one makes a bundle” even One Dollar makes a difference.

In brief, the message of today’s gospel is this: Jesus invites us to cooperate with him in working miracles not unlike those he worked in biblical time.

Whatever we give him, our time, our sacrifices, our responses to those in great need, he will use it in a way that exceed our greatest expectations. He will multiply it beyond anything we dreamed of, just as he did with two loaves and two fish.

We are called to do what the Apostles did in today’s gospel. We must give Jesus our five loaves and two fish and let him do with them whatever he will.

And if we do this, we can be sure of one thing. He will multiply them beyond anything we ever imagined possible.

Pope Francis calls us to care and support the poor as part of our spiritual lives.

Thank you for your generosity, thank you for being part of our ministry.

Bro. Nuwagaba Charles BSCL

cnuwagaba@gmail.com

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