



Loreto Rumbek Newsletter



APRIL 2017

Celebrating the Life and Vision of Sr. Teresa MacPaul: We are sad to share the news of the death of Sr. Teresa MacPaul who passed away earlier this month. Sr Teresa was the Irish Loreto Provincial 2004 and 2010 and it was under her leadership that our mission in South Sudan began. The Loreto Sisters first began to explore the idea of opening the school in 2004 and just as the peace was being signed in January 2005, Sr. Teresa was already in Rumbek meeting with Bishop Mazzolari (Sr. Teresa MacPaul pictured right with Bishop Mazzolari), government officials and community leaders.

In 2006 she missioned the Sisters to begin the girls boarding secondary school. This year we celebrate our 10th year. Sr. Teresa was an experienced missionary with a passion for girl child education and serving the poor. We give thanks for her life, her passion and courage. She certainly lived and helped fulfill the mission of Mary Ward (our foundresses) *“that women in time to come would do great things.”* We continue to follow Sr Teresa's dream in helping our young women in South Sudan to do great things.

May she rest in peace.



Mommy and Me under a Tree: Many of the young children (1-3 years) being treated for acute malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies at the Loreto Primary Healthcare Unit (PHCU) show signs of delayed development. During treatment, the PHCU staff noted that the children were usually immobile and listless. To help the children to reach their development milestones, the PHCU has started an early childhood development program that encourages movement, social interaction and curiosity through play. Every day, the children and their caregivers gather under a tree to play with toys designed to support cognitive development, to improve gross and fine motor skills and to promote language development. The children are attracted to the bright colors and sounds of the toys and instinctively move towards them. Caregivers are encouraged to point out colors and numbers, and to talk with and encourage the children as they play. There has been a dramatic change in the behavior of the children; they move around, playing with the toys and each other. They appear happier and are more curious about the world around them.

As demand for early education increases, Loreto has started to explore new methodologies, and programs for early child education, kindergarten and mobile classrooms. Working to increase opportunities for young children and girls to attend school on time.

Loreto In the News— The Sacred Heart Messenger, a magazine produced by the Jesuits in Ireland, published a story about our community, girl child education, and hope in Rumbek through the eyes of Sr. Orla Treacy. Read more about it [here](#)

The Principal's Cup—As part of a new initiative promoting health through sports for primary school students, the school has organized the first annual “Principal's Cup” pitting classes against each other in volleyball and football. Last year, our teachers were trained in ‘Sports for Peace’ skills and they are using this knowledge to help students to use sports to learn about team work and cooperative play. Sports are also a great form of stress relief as the students begin their end of term examinations.

Many of the primary students, especially the youngest and most vulnerable, rely on the school for their main daily meal. This meal, provided through generous support from our friends and partners gives the students the energy they need to succeed on the field and in the classroom.



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.