

One Heart, One Spirit

CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Newsletter for the Province of the United States



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Scottsdale priest cares for NFL players' spiritual well-being

(Ambria Hammell/CATHOLIC SUN)

SCOTTSDALE — Spiritan Father Phil Evanstock is a man of many titles. He's a calculus teacher, math club moderator and faithful Notre Dame Saints football fan.

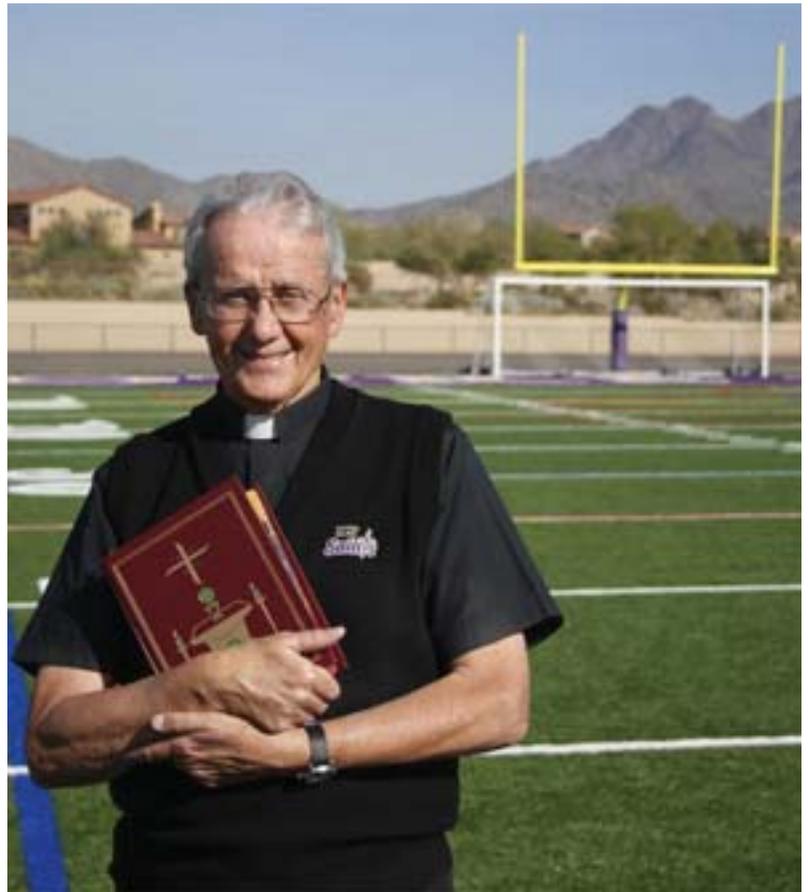
His team loyalty doesn't solely lie with the Scottsdale high school team though. It extends to professional football players who visit the Valley to play against the Arizona Cardinals Pro Football team.

This marks at least his fifth season offering vigil Masses for National Football League players, coaches and other team staff who are Catholic and might find it difficult to attend Mass at a dedicated church on game day. Fr. Evanstock essentially brings the church to their hotel conference room. That means regular visits to the Ritz Carlton and one hotel in downtown Phoenix. Fr. Evanstock brings his Mass kit, which contains the chalice, communion hosts, chasuble, wine and other liturgical essentials.

The coach, player or other team staff member serves as lector. He recalled one time when Matt Ryan, quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons, shared the readings. The priest described him as a very strong Catholic, but somewhat quiet. Teammate Sean Renfree, a Notre Dame alum, usually attends too.

Fr. Evanstock has developed a rapport with some of the teams. He said it's convenient for them to have the same priest return each year. Up to 15 people attend the Mass with religious services for other denominations often going on next door. Homilies often tie in morality, football and sports. "You have a chance to meet players, coaches and owners who have a strong faith in what they believe in," Fr. Evanstock said.

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Spirit Father Phil Evanstock, pictured here Dec. 10 at Notre Dame Preparatory, is a big football fan. He's on Saints' sidelines, in Arizona Cardinals' seats and behind the altar offering Masses for visiting NFL teams.

Scottsdale priest cares for NFL players' spiritual well-being *(continued from front cover)*

He found a Mass that he offered for the Seattle Seahawks one Wednesday at noon particularly inspirational. Their game was the following evening and the priest reminded them that the liturgy did not fulfill their Sunday obligation. He asked why they requested a Mass. "We feel that recognizing our faith is just a very natural part of our life, just like football," team members told him.

Massgoers might even hear an invocation, "Our Lady of Victories, pray for us," toward the end of the liturgy like Fr. Evanstock says at Masses for Notre Dame's football team before every game.

When the San Francisco 49ers come to Arizona, the brief pre- and post-Mass fellowship goes a bit deeper. It focuses on Scot Bemis, a former Notre Dame coach who lost his battle with cancer nearly three years ago leaving behind a family including two who were under the age of 6 at the time. "Ever since then, they always ask, 'How is the Bemis family doing?'" Fr. Evanstock said. Coach Jim Harbaugh of the 49ers, particularly remembers Bemis. He once coached for Stanford University and met Notre Dame's coach while recruiting a player for the team.

Pope Francis' request

VATICAN CITY — When Pope Francis met before Christmas with Vatican employees, mostly lay people with families, he asked them to do these things. The list sounded remarkably like suggestions for New Year's resolutions:

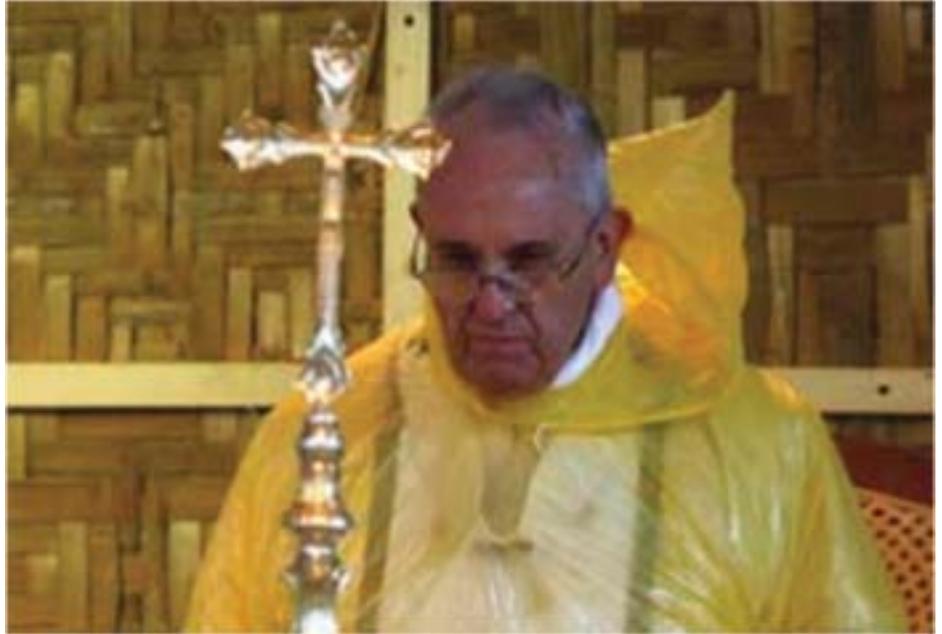
- "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
- "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
- "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
- "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
- "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
- "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
- "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
- "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
- "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."

Provincial Message – January-February 2015

Rev. Jeffrey T. Duaine, C.S.Sp.

St. Francis of Assisi is famously quoted as saying, “Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words.”

Words, tweets, posts, blurbs, quips, and sound bites abound in our society and our church is not exempt from the monsoons of information the media place before us. Nevertheless, the papal patron of Pope Francis would be proud that this bishop of Rome, loquacious as he often is, sometimes prefers reverent silence and strong actions to preach his most powerful messages.



During his recent trip to the Philippines, Pope Francis went out of his way, up against difficult weather and a looming typhoon, to travel to Tacloban, the site of the 2013 typhoon that killed 6,000 people and left more than four million homeless. Many saw the risk of traveling there foolhardy; yet, the pope persisted, citing the visit with the disaster's survivors as an original goal of his entire trip.

Many of us have entered into others' suffering and wondered what to say. Whether at a wake, bedside, or in the aftermath of a trauma, we might feel helpless at our speechlessness. It appears that the pope can relate. Upon his arrival in Tacloban amid the down-pouring rain, he chose to don the same flimsy yellow rain poncho that everyone else was wearing, offering the appearance that every worshipper was dressed in the same vestment! He scrapped his prepared text, and spoke “off the cuff” or, more accurately, from the heart.

Keeping his remarks brief, the pope said: “Some of you might tell me, ‘Father, I’ve lost all hope, lost my home, my job, I’m ill. I’ve been disappointed by Jesus.’ I respect those feelings, but I see [Jesus] nailed to the cross and from there he doesn't let us down,” he said. Pope Francis then concluded humbly: “I don’t know what to say to you. So many of you lost members of your family, so I remain silent and walk with you with my silent heart.”

Solidarity.....Companionship.....Silent prayer and Open Hearts.

Our God is with us in the deep, darkness of our days. Our God walks with us and opens his loving, sacred heart.

So does our pope. He was just himself, faithful to the ever-popular maxim of St. Francis de Sales: “Be who you are and be that well.” Let's follow that example when we see our neighbors suffering, even if we don't know what to say.

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Anniversaries of Ordination

Congratulations, Fr. Okoye and Fr. Kapument, and may God sustain you in celebrating the Sacraments, in proclaiming the Gospel, and in consecrating your life to God for the good of the people entrusted to your care.

Fr. James Okoye	04/18/1970	45 years
Fr. Jean-Pierre Kapumet	04/02/2005	10 years

Request for Mass Intentions

We have received a request from the Provincial Superior of Ghana, Fr. Peter Laast, C.S.Sp. for some Mass stipends in support of their upcoming Provincial Chapter which will take place in March 2015.

These masses would be distributed to delegates and other priests taking part of the Chapter. If you have or know any surplus Mass Intentions in your parish or ministry that would be available for this purpose, please send them to the Provincialate at Bethel Park, and we will see that they are forwarded to the Provincial of Ghana for the purpose of supporting their Provincial Chapter.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS -

- Effective February 3 Fr. Vincent Stegman is assigned to Campus Ministry at Duquesne University.
 - Fr. Simon Lobon is appointed Administrator at St. Stephen Parish in Hazelwood effective February 3.
 - Fr. Clement Uchendu has been assigned Pastor at St. Benedict in Houston TX effective February 10.
 - Fr. Bill Smith has been appointed Associate Pastor, Our Lady of the Valley, Hemet CA effective February 10.
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES -

Please update your directories to reflect these changes:

Pg. C-17 - Lobon, Simon to St. Stephen Church, 5115 Second Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15207-1724, 412-421-9210;

Pg. C-26 - Smith, William to Our Lady of the Valley Church, 780 S. State St., Hemet CA 92543-7163, Rectory 951-925-9210, Church 951-929-6131, Fax 951-929-8009

Pg. C-27 - Stegman, Vincent G. to Campus Ministry, Duquesne University, Trinity Hall, Pittsburgh PA 15282;

Pg. C-28 - Uchendu, Clement to St. Benedict the Abbot, 4025 Grapevine St., Houston TX 77045-6320, Phone 713-433-9836, Fax 713-433-3949

Pg. D-3 - Add **Fr. Smith** as Associate Pastor, blpsmith8@gmail.com; remove Fr. Uchendu's name

Pg. D-9 - Add **Fr. Lobon** as Administrator, at St. Stephen Church, remove Fr. Stegman's name;

Pg. D-10 - Add **Fr. Stegman** to Trinity Hall resident list; phone 412-396-6157

Pg. D-11 - Add **Fr. Uchendu** as Pastor at St. Benedict the Abbot in Houston, cnuhenducssp@yahoo.es; remove Fr. Dinh's name



Go Green! Receive One Heart, One Spirit via Email!

In an effort to conserve paper and cut costs of printing, we are offering the option to receive our newsletter via email. If you would like this option, please email usnewsletter@spiritans.org or call 412-831.0302 to let us know. We appreciate your help in saving our environment.

Triple celebration at St. Henry's Parish with unique history puts on new 'face' at 45

POMPANO BEACH - Just before Christmas, parishioners at St. Henry Church celebrated three significant milestones in the history of their parish: the 45th anniversary of its founding, the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the parish church, and the newly completed expansion that has given a "new face" to the church building.

Hundreds joined Archbishop Thomas Wenski at the Mass and blessing Dec. 20. "I congratulate your pastor, Father Francis, and all of you, for bringing to a successful conclusion this work of renovation here at St. Henry's," said the archbishop during the homily. "This is more than just a little face lift – this involved some major reconstruction, and the results speak for themselves."



Exterior of the new entrance and building extension to St. Henry Catholic Church in Pompano Beach.

St. Henry's modest beginnings resemble those of other parishes in the archdiocese but its history sets it apart.

On May 16, 1969, with the permission of then Archbishop Coleman Carroll, the parish was founded on six acres of land. In June of the same year, newly appointed pastor, Father Brendan Grogan, arrived and began looking for a place to worship. As word spread that a new parish was starting, people began attending Mass at a nearby warehouse and eventually a high school. The parish's unique history begins with Masses being held for a time at the Pompano racetrack. This led to Mass times fluctuating in order to accommodate the races. Father Grogan knew this arrangement couldn't last too long. A building fund campaign in 1972 led to the construction of St. Henry's Church, which was completed in 1974 and dedicated by Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 14, 1974. This in turn led to a decade of growth in the parish community.

In the summer of 1980, parishioners said goodbye to their founding pastor, Father Grogan, and welcomed their second pastor, Father James Reynolds. Father (now Msgr.) Reynolds saw the immediate need for a parish hall and began the necessary steps to make it happen. Within three years, the hall was completed and blessed by Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy. A donation by a former restaurateur led to another unique moment in the history of the parish: the start of "Henry's Hideaway". With the donated bar installed in a room in the rear of the parish hall, Henry's Hideaway operates as a private club, licensed by the state to serve liquor to members. During the tourist season, when attendance at St. Henry's swells with "snow birds", its Hideaway hosts weekly dinner shows with a full slate of musical and comedic performers.

Since 2005, when Msgr. Reynolds retired, the parish has been led by Father Francis Akwue, C.S.Sp. He has successfully overseen the completion of renovations that included adding a front facade to the church's main entrance on Andrews Avenue and McNab Road. The construction was completed in just 11 months after four years of fundraising.

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Triple celebration at St. Henry's *(continued)*

"These improvements solved a few key problems aside from just the curbside appeal," said David Prada, senior director of the Building and Property Office of the archdiocese. "The first is giving the parish a covered drop off, second was adding cry rooms for families with young children. "Of course, all of this gives the idea, nice idea, of expanding the church without adding much square footage and gives it a presence it never had, useful spaces to gather, a sacristy, new roof and confessionals," added Prada.

"This was a special project to be involved with because I'm a parishioner here," said Brian Herbert, project architect for the firm Gallo Herbert Architects. "My parents were founding members of the parish. In fact, I remember being an altar boy at the original groundbreaking of the church. It feels nice to have been part of this, to design and build it." During the construction phase of the remodeling project, longtime parishioners, founders and others left their mark in the structure by signing their names on stones that were cast into the new foundation. This significant detail serves as a symbolic gesture that the work of the people is what led to the growth of the church; all for glory of the Lord.

"I am so happy, so very, very, happy" said Father Akwue. "This has been in our minds for such a long time. We've been dreaming and planning this for so long that even some that donated money towards it didn't live to see the project fulfilled. My hope for the future of the parish is to see more families, especially with children, become more involved even if that means coming here from other areas," Father Akwue said. "Those families will shape the future of the parish."



Father Francis A. Akwue, CCSp, pastor at St. Henry Catholic Church in Pompano Beach, and Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Diocese of Miami, exit the church in procession after a Mass celebrating 45 years since the establishment of the parish and 40 years since the building of the current church.



Interior of the new entrance and building extension to St. Henry Catholic Church.

Photographer: Jonathan Martinez



Fr. Joe Seiter had the best seat in the house for Christmas caroling with a group of dads and daughters from nearby St. Thomas More parish.

The Magic of Christmas - *Mary Kay Hindes, Activities Director*

Libermann Hall was decorated from top to bottom! Beautiful trees, wreaths, table centerpieces, and of course a gorgeous Nativity! Christmas Spirit was everywhere!! It started just after Thanksgiving when beautiful poinsettia plants started appearing with a simple note that stated... "thanks for all you do"! Then there was the usual exchange of gifts between friends that work together, friends of the Fathers, friends from the community, and so on. On December 18th there was a wonderful catered dinner for the residents and the staff and their spouses. The Hall was beautiful, the meal delicious, and an amazing young magician to entertain everyone! The closer to Christmas it was, the busier everyone became. But on Monday, December 22nd, after the evening meal, the Fathers gathered around the beautiful Christmas tree. They could enjoy the quiet joy and beauty of the decorated tree and be delighted by a small group of little girls and their dads. The girls were from a neighboring parish, St. Thomas More. On this busy night they put aside everything else and came to Libermann Hall to sing carols with the Fathers, and share some homemade cookies. Because it was evening, the hall was lit mainly with the tree lights. Libermann Hall is quiet at this hour. It seems contrary to say we were listening to music, but it was quiet. What I mean is, the peace and the magic of the season is all you heard and felt. It was a beautiful night.

We are so grateful to everyone for all the Christmas joy that was extended to all of us, residents and employees, here at Libermann Hall and The Spiritan Center.

The Spirit lives on!!

Happy Birthday greetings to these Spiritans!



February

3	Fr. Philip D. Evanstock
6	Fr. Benoit K. Mukamba
8	Fr. Martin T. Vu
12	Fr. Timothy J. Hickey
15	Fr. Michael Onwuemeli
16	Fr. Anthony J. Gittins
22	Fr. George J. Spangenberg
25	Fr. Joseph A. Seiter
26	Fr. James P. McCloskey

March

3	Fr. Neil T. McQuillan
4	Fr. Huy Q. Dinh
7	Fr. Ralph J. Poirier
19	Fr. Joseph L. Deniger
21	Fr. Joseph Q. Nguyen
22	Fr. John J. Costello
27	Fr. Joseph L. Nguyen

April

1	Fr. William R. Headley
11	Fr. Daniel S. Sormani
20	Fr. Andy V. Do
23	Fr. Ned T. Marchessault
29	Fr. Adrien T. Hebert

Being Remembered in Prayer

Please join us in praying for the recently deceased:

Mr. Henry Mroz, brother of the late Fr. Walter Mroz, CSSp
Rose Bernacki Rhodes, sister of the late Fr. Edward Bernacki, CSSp

and for those who are ill:

Mary Anne Saunder, niece of the late Fr. Gene Hillman



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for 2015

January

- Universal: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.
- Evangelization: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

February

- Universal: That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.
- Evangelization: That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

March

- Universal: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.
- Evangelization: That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

April

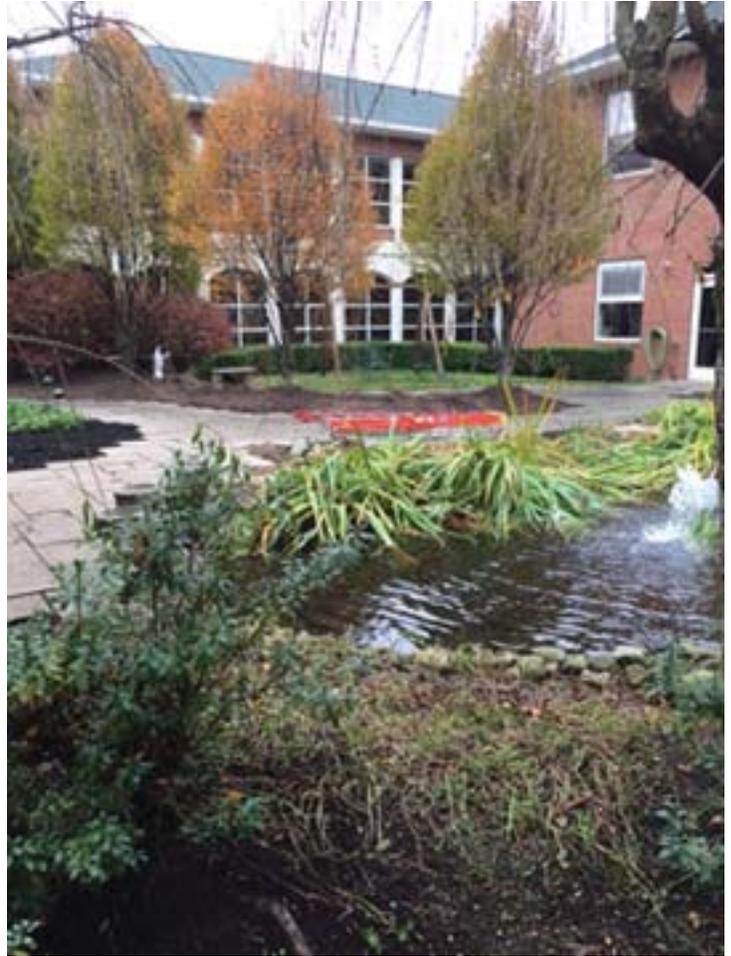
- Universal: That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.
- Evangelization: That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

Eagle Project Completed at Libermann Hall

Ryan Gaupp of Boy Scout Troop 228 led an Eagle Project at Libermann Hall the weekend of November 15-16. He and other members of Troop 228 spent the two days scraping and painting the windows in the garden. They also cleaned out overgrown bushes and vegetation and mulched around the garden and fish pond. They even repainted the worn statues of The Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph. Ryan was awarded his Eagle Scout rank in January 2015.

Ryan chose to help Libermann Hall because his mother, Marsha, went to Duquesne University and he attends Saint Anne's Catholic Church in Castle Shannon. He wanted to do something for the retired priests that reside at Libermann Hall. He and his family enjoyed meeting and talking with some of the residents and are glad to make their living space a little bit more enjoyable.

Ryan is a Senior at Bethel Park High School. He is planning on studying business and then pursuing a law degree possibly at Duquesne. Congratulations to Ryan and his Troop for a job well done, and best wishes for a bright future!





Duquesne Presenting Honorary Degree to Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe February 2nd, 2015

As part of its 2015 Founders Week: Faces of Courage celebration, Duquesne University will present an honorary doctor of humane letters to Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe, director of the St. Monica's Girls Tailoring Center in Gulu, Uganda, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5, at a special event in the Power Center Ballroom on campus.

Honored by Time Magazine as one of its 100 Most Influential People of 2014, Sister Nyirumbe is the subject of the critically acclaimed documentary, *Sewing Hope*, which will be screened at the Duquesne event and will be followed by the degree conferral. Narrated by Academy-Award winning actor Forest Whitaker, *Sewing Hope* chronicles Sister Nyirumbe's work at the Gulu vocational school, where she helps to restore dignity, independence and hope to young women and girls-survivors who were kidnapped from their families and forced to be child soldiers during the tumultuous Ugandan civil war.

A member of the Sacred Heart Sisters order and native of Uganda, Sister Nyirumbe first began her work at St. Monica's in 2002, teaching literacy and vocational skills to the young women, most of whom have lost or become estranged from family and relatives. "For these children, their rights have not only been violated, they have never existed," Sister Nyirumbe writes. "We are working, one day at a time, to restore their dignity and to give them the skills and support they need to move forward in life."

Under Sister Nyirumbe's direction, St. Monica's has taken in more than 1,400 girls. Because these girls no longer have the support and help from families and communities, the school developed a more comprehensive program that offers nationally accredited courses in tailoring, catering, secretarial studies and computer programming. In addition, the school provides many health services for the students as well as specialized care for those who are mothers with children.

In 2011, Sister Nyirumbe earned an M.S. in Community Leadership with a concentration in leadership in mission from Duquesne University. The part-time master's program was developed to assist sisters in integrating their spiritual formation with professional development in leadership and management to provide spiritual, ethical and organizational leadership in a variety of local apostolic settings.