



Thanksgiving gift for FR. GERALD's Village



We have been blessed with stories of **Christ the King Church in Nkalagu**, Fr. Gerald's much-loved village in Nigeria, a beautiful community filled with hard-working families. Life is hard. It is predominantly a farming community. Farming in this part of the country is hampered by the wet climate and poor soil. The average family consists of seven members. And sadly, the average annual family income is equivalent to only \$ 1,500.00 to \$ 3,000.00 divided by the priorities of Food and Education. *The need is great!*

In Nkalagu **Food** is, of course, the priority. The main sources of nutrition are rice, sweet potatoes, yams and cassava. Cassava is a tuberous root which yields important food products, and its flour is fried to produce a popular food called garri.

Poor soil conditions require **Fertilizer**, also an essential expense. Without good fertilizer the farms would not be productive and would not produce enough to feed the families.

Education: The public educational system is ignored in the rural areas and thus the schools are substandard. Most families strive to provide a Catholic school education for their children. The annual cost of Catholic school tuition, uniform and supplies is \$ 200.00 per child. It doesn't take a mathematician to realize that with an average of 5 children per household, it just doesn't add up.

The country of Nigeria, in an apparent attempt to support their own businesses, has a stringent import policy. Many of the items we would like to send back with Fr. Gerald are prohibited. So, the very best way to help is through monetary assistance.

One exception to this policy is **READING GLASSES** commonly referred to as “cheaters”. They are non-prescription. They are basically magnifiers meant to enable one to read better. They are available at Ocean State Job Lot, BJ's, WalMart, CVS and many other stores. We will also happily accept gently used, clean, unscratched pairs as well as new. These will be easy for Fr. Gerald to transport home. There will be bushel baskets in the Churches to collect the reading glasses.

So as not to compete with Christmas programs, we would like this start on November 1st and conclude on November 15th.

Please make your checks payable to:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and **make sure to put “Fr. Gerald” on the memo line** or somewhere on your check, you may also note how you wish it used. If you are using cash, please make a note that it is for this project.

Thank you for considering this very meaningful way to show our appreciation to Fr. Gerald for all he has done to enrich us with his special homilies in our Collaborative. We will present this gift from the parishioners of our Collaborative sometime in December.

We are modeling this after programs like Heifer International where you can gift a particular animal or part thereof. With your gift you can “buy” much needed items of your choice or if you choose to make a monetary gift in any amount as unrestricted, you can do that!

- _____



Donation of any amount: \$ _____

Please check the items you wish to support with your donation & attach to your check or envelope.

_____ RICE:	\$23.00 will buy ½ sack of rice (25 Kg)
_____ GARRI (FRIED CASSAVA FLOUR):	\$ 28.00 will buy a bag of flour 50 Kg
_____ SWEET POTATOES:	\$ 18 will buy bushel pf sweet potatoes
_____ YAMS:	\$ 13 will buy a large tuber
_____ FERTILIZER:	\$ 25.00 will buy a 50 Kg bag
_____ TUITON:	\$ 200 will pay for one year of Catholic school tuition, uniform and books for one student
_____ UNDESIGNATED GIFT	

Checks may be sent to the Rectory, put in the collection in a separate envelope (we have Special Collection envelopes in the Churches) **well-marked** for **Fr. Gerald's village**, or given to Kathy Whalen-Giannandrea, Dawne Hamel, Linda Poulin, Sue Reid.