LITTLE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS (LSOSF)

LSOSF MISSION STATEMENT:
We seek your monetary support because we are building St. Joseph Anthony Center (SJAC) for hosting orphans and the elderly when attending their medical services and also for the students who need affordable accommodation in Nairobi, Kenya. We will use this center too for integrated programs like seminars on prevention of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases and other community services as per need.

In Kenya many women of childbearing age are dying of HIV/AIDS, leaving many children orphaned. Sadly these orphans experience social rejection from their extended families and their poor grandparents have to play the parenting role. In fact, it is estimated that 2.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and 1.1 million is the estimated number of HIV/AIDS orphans and 30 to 40% of the babies born by infected mothers are susceptible to HIV/AIDS, which means their life span is very short. Can you imagine what these innocent children have to go through in their desperation? Your generous donation will make the difference in support of the LSOSF of East of Rift Valley Region, Kenya.

WHO ARE THE LSOSF:
This is a Catholic Community of nuns of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi founded by Mother Kevin Kearney of the OSF in Uganda, May 3, 1923. She founded this community for the purpose of evangelization of the Good News in a missionary spirit giving preference to the poor and needy.

MEMBERS OF THE LSOSF:
Currently number about 800 and are widely spread in East Africa Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Europe, and USA. We have four formation houses in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Each year we have an average of 30 newly professed nuns.

LSOSF USA:
We have three communities here in the USA and with many students. We minister to people with disabilities, visiting nursing homes, shut-ins, hospitals and hospital follow-ups, and bereavement ministry. Through these ministries we have found fulfillment because this is another special way of meeting Christ in our midst. Those to whom we minister experience a special touch of a Franciscan Joy and tender loving care. We are most grateful for your continual support for our mission in the EORV Region and promise to pray for you and your entire family’s special intentions in our daily masses and prayers.

OUR MISSION:
Our mission is governed by prayer and love of our neighbor in particular the poor and needy. Before our Mother Founder died (in Brighton, Boston, Massachusetts) she told the LSOSF "my dear ones you are to be missionaries; that means you must open your hearts to the needs of the whole world. Your little corner of the vineyard may be Africa, but remember the needs of the whole church. Your prayers, sacrifices and mission must embrace Africa, United States, China, India, Europe...the whole world, the whole Church."

We fully dedicate and commit ourselves to pastoral care, the aged, the orphans, street children, HIV/AIDS programs, social wellness, the homeless, those who are mentally and physically challenged, health care, education, youth programs, empowerment of women, peace and justice, refugees, the destitute, and educational programs on prevention of infectious diseases, cutting across the geographical cultural, social, political, religious, and economic boundaries.

Sr. Anisia Muthoni of the Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi will speak at St. Luke Church on Saturday, August 5, and Sunday, August 6, 2006.