



Providing a Future for Students in Africa Alumna Builds School in Uganda

What should have been a regular Sunday Mass for Nancy Kovich '64 Berrigan and her husband Paul has transformed into a globe-trotting adventure that neither of them would have ever expected.

It was during a Mission Appeal Sunday that a missionary priest from Uganda spoke to the congregation about the poverty afflicting his homeland. Deeply touched by the priest's testimony, she and Paul decided to talk to him about the possibility of helping the people of Uganda. They eventually made the decision to build a school in the remote area of Chelekura.

"At some point in your life, you get called (to do something)," Nancy said. "It was just meant to be."

Paul and Nancy Kovich '64 Berrigan stand proudly beside the sign leading the way to the school they built together in Chelekura, Uganda.

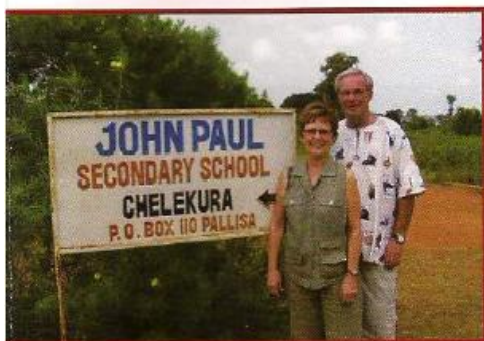


Students take roll outside of the flourishing John Paul Secondary School in Chelekura, Uganda.

Building a school in an area that has neither electricity nor water can be a challenge very few people are willing to take, but Nancy and Paul dove headfirst into their endeavor. They opened the John Paul Secondary School in 2007 and it has done nothing but grow since its completion.

There are, of course, daily challenges: Chelekura is so remote that students have to walk up to five miles to school each day. But, as Nancy said, "They do it because they want to learn," and are therefore willing to do whatever it takes to receive an education. Nancy credits the

continued on page 3



continued on page 3

values instilled in her at Bishop Ward as the inspiration for her mission.

"(Bishop Ward) didn't only prepare me academically, it prepared me spiritually," she said. "We were always taught to help others and give back. When your time comes, you should jump at it."

For more information and additional photos of the John Paul Secondary School, please visit their website at www.johnpaulschool.com.