

Poverello Report 2018

This year's write up we focus on the learning environment of the girls in Holy Cross Secondary School in Mongu.

I write this report myself as I visited Holy Cross Girls Secondary School over a period of 3 days to not just check what is going on in the school but to look at how best the Poverello Project is being implemented.

There are 28 girls for whom schools fees are paid. The rest are from other schools. The two who were in the college have since completed.

Much as there are only 28 girls on the fees list, there are many girls who have no food. The sisters therefore, extended some funds to feeding programs to encourage the girls to attend school. The Province donated maize. The girls are fed once a day with either nshima and relish or tea and a scone depending on the funds. This encouraged many girls to come to school. In 2018, over 100 girls were on the feeding program. Those are the ones in the picture.

We also took a walk around the school. The girls produce good results and are able to be accepted in colleges and universities. However, in some classes they don't have enough chairs and desks and the classrooms are dilapidated. Looking through the books of accounts, we realise the Government, does not help the school to maintain infrastructure. The girls pay about USD60 per year. However, since the school is in a rural area, only 150 girls pay out of the 550 girls. The school is located in one of the poorest areas of Zambia.

It is sad because last year alone, 9 girls dropped out of the school with pregnancy. The sisters attribute this to the high levels of poverty.

We were however, impressed by the way the sisters run the school. In classrooms where there are no chairs or not enough chairs, the girls sit on local mats to learn. The school doesn't have enough water. And again the sisters have improvised with Pit Latrines which the girls use while at school.

We are trying to lobby the Government to at least help with the repairing of the classrooms so that the buildings are safe for the girls to use.

The uniforms and the jerseys that the girls wear are sewed and knitted in the Skills Centre in the Homecraft with machines donated through the Missions Prokura. For this we are grateful for all the help we get to keep life going for these young people here in Zambia.

Sr. Hilda Chilufya
Provincial Leader
18.02.19