



# TWINNING

LASALLIANS OF NORTH AMERICA & AFRICA

*Walking Together in Solidarity*



## ST. MARY'S BOYS SECONDARY SCHOOL & CHILD RESCUE CENTER

NYERI, KENYA



### ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. Mary's Boys Secondary School in Nyeri, Kenya, is a Catholic, diocesan, private, boys school open to all, regardless of religious denomination. The Catholic Diocese of Nyeri established the school in 1962. In 1990, the Archbishop of Nyeri invited the Christian Brothers to take over the school's administration. St. Mary's serves more than 700 young men and boys through various services: traditional high school, child rescue center, vocational training center, preschool and college/university support. Most children in the rescue center attend local schools, and St. Mary's pays their school fees and provides supplies, such as textbooks and exercise books, school uniforms and shoes. Like most schools in Kenya, all students board at St. Mary's since the expense and availability of public transportation prohibits commuting. Boarding is also essential to ensure students get regular and quality instruction, food, medical care, electricity, time to study, and time to interact with boys from various backgrounds and tribes.



### A TYPICAL DAY AT SCHOOL

High school students follow schedules seven days a week. School days start with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. followed by a day of classes, which includes a break and lunch, ending at 4:15 p.m. at which time students take part in service. The late afternoon includes free time, sports and clubs, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and preparation time from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Lights out is at 10:30 p.m. On Saturdays, breakfast is at 7:00 a.m., followed by classes and preparation time from 8:15-11:15 a.m. After a period of service, students have lunch, free time, more preparation time, and dinner before lights out at 10:30 p.m. Sundays start with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. followed by Mass, preparation time, free time and lunch. The afternoon includes free time, TV time and more preparation time with lights out at 10:30 p.m. Periods of service teach students to work together as they assist in maintaining the school compound and farm, clean, cook, feed and care for livestock, and look after the younger orphan boys. The students share a stake in their education and its costs, and therefore develop a sense of ownership, maturity, and increased sensitivity to those less fortunate.



### MEET OSMAN



Osman Brandon joined the St. Mary's Rescue Center in January 2018. St. Mary's brought the seven-year-old in after his family became homeless and he was receiving little food and no healthcare. While a good Samaritan hosted his family, Osman called St. Mary's home. At St. Mary's, he lives with the nursery teacher where he receives the medication and care he needs for HIV. He enjoys playing basketball, spending time with friends, and making people laugh. When he grows up, he wants to be a secondary school teacher so he can "write on the blackboard."





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

St. Mary's Rescue Center celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2018. Many students who entered the program have continued on to further education, gone through technical skills training, or graduated from college/university. Former students now hold roles including civil and structural engineer, plant manager, site supervisor and counselor. Moses Maina (pictured at right) is one of the many success stories. Moses entered the rescue center in 1999. He graduated from secondary school in 2013 and later received a degree in business management. In 2014, he became the farm manager at St. Mary's. Today, he is responsible for the farm and greenhouse.



## REASONS TO CELEBRATE



St. Mary's has a number of recent reasons to celebrate, thanks to the hard work of its students, including:

- The mathematics club placed fifth out of 300 teams in an annual competition. The seniors came in second. In another contest, the team placed third. Senior Derrick Mania placed second out of 2,000 seniors.
- St. Mary's ranked third out of 15 schools in a language contest.
- The basketball team came in third place in a regional competition.
- The handball team took second place in sub-county finals.
- The karate team won 10 medals in an annual league tournament.



## TWINNING DONATIONS

St. Mary's uses twinning donations for scholarships for young people in need, and to provide uniforms, shoes, medical care and materials, such as stationery and books. Donations are also used to pay tuition for juniors attending local secondary and primary schools, and to purchase beds, bedding and mattresses.



## CONTACT ST. MARY'S

Headmaster: Brother Peter Kombe, FSC  
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*"Without the support of our twin schools, we could not have kept the programs in operation since 1999. Sponsoring a needy child really does make a difference to their lives. We have to be careful that we choose the poorest of the poor. Children are selected on a needs basis. Street boys, orphans or children from a single mother are automatically selected. These children would not go to school without this sponsorship. Here in St. Mary's, we believe that every student should be given an opportunity for life and is entitled to a bright future."*

– Brother Peter

## RELAN TWINNED SCHOOLS

- Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, Brooklyn, NY, Michael Foley, [mfoley@blmhs.org](mailto:mfoley@blmhs.org)
- Cathedral High School, Los Angeles, CA, Brother John Montgomery, FSC, [brjohnm@cathedralhighschool.org](mailto:brjohnm@cathedralhighschool.org)
- La Salle Institute, Troy, NY, Matt Michaud, [mmichaud@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:mmichaud@lasalleinstitute.org)
- St. Mary's College High School, Berkeley, CA, Brother David Caretti, FSC, [brotherdavid@stmchs.org](mailto:brotherdavid@stmchs.org)
- St. Peter's Boys High School, Staten Island, NY, Sabrina Panfilo, [spanfilo@stpetersboyshs.org](mailto:spanfilo@stpetersboyshs.org)
- St. Raphael Academy, Pawtucket, RI, Steve Vargas, [svargas@saintrays.org](mailto:svargas@saintrays.org)

