



My name is **Ikokonyi Felix** a student in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School in form three. In our family, we are eight children and I am the second born.

I love my school and the education that is provided to us, but due to the death of all my parents, the situation sometimes forces me to be out of school when I am sent to go and bring school fees.

My life in school is possible due to the support I receive from the Marist brothers and during the holidays I stay to work in the school farm as a sign of appreciating for their support and my contribution.

I aspire to be a computer specialist because I like computer studies in our school, and that is why I don't want to lose this chance of studying in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School.

Am indeed happy and can see my life bright in the future because of the encouragement I receive in the school. I am working hard to reach my dreams.

FELIX IKOKONYI

FORM THREE STUDENT 2015



My name is **Orroto Benard Otieno**. I am a form two student. I come from a family of six children and I am the second born.

My family background is very sad since my beloved mother died in 2009. Since that time, we were left to search for ourselves because even my father was sick for so long too.

My education had been under the mercy of the Marist brothers who accepted me in the school. Every day I walk a distance of 4.5 kilometers to and from school. I would wish to stay in school as a boarder like most of my fellow students so that I have more time to study and socialize with the others.

I am always grateful to the Marist Brothers for their support and willingness to accept some of us who without them could have been street children or fishermen at our young age.

I am studying very hard to become a dentist so that I can help people who have dental problems especially the aged people. I can now put on school uniform and say that I am a student of the Marist Brothers and that I will always remember.

ORROT BENARD OTIENO

FROM TWO STUDENT 2015



I am **Dorine Akasiba** a student in form four in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School.

I grew up being told that my mother gave birth to me and left me to my grandparents and never to return back till today. My grandfather aged 71 is taking care of me and now, I am 16 years old.

I went to my primary school education as my grandfather was struggling to work in the coffee plantation to pay for my education. After finishing my primary education, things started becoming difficult for me because there was nobody to take me to acquire secondary education. I stayed at home for one full year.

One day I came across a Marist brother in our church and after sharing with him my experience, he offered to admit me in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School. From that hour till today, I am happy student in Bishop Mugendi because the holistic education I get. Now I am able to pray, integrate with others well, work hard and get good marks and I have become aware of what is expected of me. I am studying so hard to become, 'a nurse' to take care of others for the Marist brothers have taken care of me and my grandfather.

I am happy to learn in this school, and I am aware that somebody somewhere is sacrificing to support my education and that is why I will never forget to say thank you the one reading my story. I promise to fulfill my dream. Thank you

Your very child

DORINE AKASIBA

A FORM FOUR 2015 CANDIDATE



My name is **Calvince Ouma Otiemo**; I come from Roo community a village surrounding our school. In our family, we are six children with my father present who is a polygamist. I am the first born but my mother died some years ago.

Most of the holidays, I work in the school farm because it from this that the school feed us for our school fees is so little that cannot pay teachers and cater for our food. My father is a mason who struggles so hard to pay for my education and care for my younger siblings.

I aspire to become an electrical engineer because I like physics and other applied sciences so that I come back and improve the electrical system in our school and in our village. And to achieve this, I am working so hard in class and trying my best to be well disciplined inside and outside school. Our school has the project of constructing and administration block improve the library, and equip well the science laboratory but we lack financial support. And if all goes well, I will come back to contribute to the development of my school in future.

I like playing volleyball and like watching my fellow students play football. Our teachers also participate in these activities which is a motivating factor to us. Thank you

CALVINCE OUMA OTIEMO

2015 FORM FOUR CANDIDATES



My name is **Otiengino Omuruoni Simon** a 4th born in our family of 6 children.

I am a total orphan. My father who was remaining died in 2013 when I was in form one and this made me drop out of school for one trimester because, there was no body to pay for us (2) boys in the same school, Bishop Mugendi Secondary School. My elder sister is a house worker who earns very little and cannot be able to pay for us and care for herself.

After thinking deeply and sharing my sad experience with the brother in charge of our school Bishop Mugendi, he accepted us back to school. I am happy to be in school learning with other students, praying together, eating together, and doing other school activities together; and this has taught me on how to integrate well with others who are not from my community. Living in a school community, and promise to work hard to fulfill my dreams of becoming a Marist brother because, I am inspired by the holistic education offered in our school following the school.

In our school, we eat well, play sports, go to church and I love participating in all these. I am not exaggerating but sincerely I love what is offered to us and my contribution as a junior student is obedience and adherence to the school rules and regulations. In case I am sent home for school fees, I know I will drop out of school because my parents are not there and even my elder sister cannot pay all the school fees for us two. This is my story

SIMON OMURUON

FORM III STUDENT 2015



I am **Kisaka Brendah** a student in form 3 in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School. I come from Roo village near Lake Victoria a village near our school.

I grew up in a family of five children and I was told by my grandmother that my parents left me when I was in baby class. My mother has never come to see me. And even as I am writing, I don't know how when she will come back!

During my primary education, a Good Samaritan educated me from class one to class eight. In the candidate class eight I was the best student in our school during the release of the National examinations in 2012. Having been called to the best secondary school, the Good Samaritan found it hard to pay for me school fees because he had his own children to pay for also. He sent me back to my grandmother who put me in a day secondary school. I stayed in that school for one year but I could not continue because of lack of money. I left that school and then came to Bishop Mugendi and requested for admission. I was accepted and since that day, I am happy with others and with the encouragement I get from the teachers who are teaching us. Am happy because I feel that I have found a home where I am accepted and given a chance to study despite of my background.

The environment is friendly to me though I am looking forward to get a chance to stay inside the school with other students so that I may get more time to study and compensate what I have lost in the past. I thank the people who will read my experience, for it may appear false but if I write all of it, I will shade tears because of the challenges I have passed through as a girl. In brief, thanks to the well wishers and the Marist Brothers.

BRENDAH KISAKA

FORM THREE STUDENT 2015

MESSAGE FROM BROTHER THOMAS OMARI, Principal

I am Brother Omari Thomas, a Marist Brother, the school principal. I am a Kenyan brother who has been entrusted with the leadership of this school since 2013. After my secondary education I also was trained as a mason in St. Martin Youth Polytechnic, Ramba Mfangano Island. Thereafter I joined the Marist Brothers and I obtained my further academic qualifications at Marist International University in Nairobi.

The motto of our school is “to provide Holistic Education for Sustainable Development to all.” This is fulfilled through our daily academic schedule and our distinctive Marist style: presence, family spirit, simplicity and love of work. In order to supplement in some way our running costs we utilize our school’s arable land to grow maize and local vegetables. This farm work is done by all of us as it helps to subsidize our food expenses.

As we live in a remote area of Kenya which historically has been neglected by the government, we experience numerous challenges: HIV/AIDS, permissiveness in the society, widespread poverty with young children going fishing to bring something to the family instead of attending school. Girls are especially vulnerable in this environment and this prompted us to make Bishop Mugendi School co-educational. Working in such a deplorable environment we have at the moment 40% of our students who are orphans and more are knocking at our door for admission. We, the Marist Brothers, are in the right place to implement the charisma of our founder to provide EDUCATION TO THE MOST NEEDY.

I am deeply touched by the support of the OLD BOYS OF St. FRANCIS XAVIER, Hong Kong, and other friends of Brother Hans (Gregory), who have in the past supported many children acquiring basic education and life skills and are still doing so. In my few years of experience here in Bishop Mugendi Secondary School as a leader, I have seen many children appreciate and thank the Brothers for their support, something which is achieved through solidarity and self-sacrifice from well wishers and from the commitment of the brothers and all the staff.

BROTHER OMARI THOMAS

PRINCIPAL

1. Phidelis



I am Phedelis Walubengo, a student in general fitting at St.Martin Youth Training Centre. I have a vision to excel from Grade THREE all the way to Grade ONE in my trade. This will be of great benefit to me and my family in future. I completed my fourth form in 1997, but due to lack of school fees I was forced to stay at home till I got a chance through God's grace to be a student of St. Martin Technical. My many challenges are shortage of school fees, food and clothing which are essential for life. Am grateful to the Marist Brothers and their Old Boys and friends for their support.

2. Felix Sikuku



I am a general fitter student of St.Martin Youth Training centre. I have completed secondary school but I need to learn something practical to stand on my own. Through the support of St. Martin we can still stand to face the challenges in life by working with our hands to earn our daily living. We appreciate your support as students of St.Martin Youth Training centre.

Thanks a lot.

3. Beatrice Ogola



I am a student of St.Martin Youth Training centre, taking a tailoring and dressmaking trade course. I am coming from a family of seven siblings and all are in school. Practical skills will enable me to give support to this large family in future. Your great support is making my learning possible; hence I hope to be a good tailor in future.

4. Pauline Adhiambo



I am a tailoring and dress making student of St.Martin Youth Training centre. My dream is to obtain grade two and one to accomplish my goals of becoming a good tailor and get a chance to be employed in some big company in Kenya.

We thank you for the facilities and the support we are getting in the school from you. We are mixed students and we are all aiming to better people in the society and have good jobs in future.

Thank you