

# GREAT GRADUATION!

Congratulations!! We salute all of our graduates for a job well done; their dedication and hard work has really paid off and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

Imagine what it would be like to come to a new country, not knowing the language, and trying to do well in school. There would be all kinds of roadblocks to deal with. It would be easy to get frustrated and just quit. But the same determination, faith, and courage that brought them safely here have helped our African parishioners succeed academically.

Though he had studied English in Tanzania, taking graduate courses in an-other language wasn't an easy task. But Father Dan worked hard and graduated from Xavier University May 12 with a master's degree in clinical counseling. We will be blessed to have him with us for a couple more years sharing not only his pastoral, but clinical gifts as well.



Several of our Burundian students also are completing classes and moving on to higher education. Francois graduated from Withrow International high school and plans to attend college in the fall. His sister, Ernestine, who was the first of our Burundian parishioners to graduate from high school began her studies at Cincinnati State last fall and had a perfect 4.0 average for the last quarter. She plans to get a business degree and start her own business with her father, designing and making clothing.

Charlotte, Alexis, Pascal, Gerald, Antionette, Mariejane and Fatim graduated from the Academy of World Languages and will be starting high school at Withrow Inter-national. Wendy graduated from St. Boniface and will be a freshman next year at DePaul Cristo Rey high school.

We also salute Donna Groene who received her master's in religious studies at the College of Mount St. Joseph. While doing her internship at St. Leo's last year Donna helped prepare several of our Burundian youth for receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Now that her classes are over, Donna plans to get more involved at St. Leo's.



Anna Combs, a member of our partner parish Our Lady of Visitation, who worked with the children's liturgy of the word program as part of her senior project, graduated from Seton High School and will begin classes at the University of Dayton. Her work with Burundian children reinforced her desire to go to Africa in the future. She's trying to line up volunteers to help with the Sunday liturgy of the word program once she leaves for college.

All of our graduates know that education is the key that opens doors to brighter futures for themselves, their families, and our community. We are all blessed by their success.

—Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate