St. Al’s school serves the Kibera slums, home to more than one quarter of Nairobi’s population. Kibera is roughly 1.5 square miles with an estimated population of 1 million. There are no residential buildings over a single story. The average home is 10 feet by 10 feet, housing five persons. Urban services such as water or sanitation are minimal.

The Challenge of HIV/AIDS

The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS poses a great threat to education in Kenya. It is estimated that Kenya has over 3 million AIDS orphans with the number steadily increasing. Many of them are found in slums and streets begging. In the Kibera slum, over 30,000 AIDS orphans of secondary school age are not able to continue with education, due to poverty, prohibitive cost of secondary education, and few secondary schools in the country.

Our Mission

Since its inception in December 2003, St. Aloysius has been a Catholic school dedicated to serving AIDS-affected youth from Kibera slum who have either lost both parents, or one parent with the second infected. It serves bright youngsters of all faith backgrounds by providing a college preparatory education and support to overcome the deficits of their environment. This education and support is completely free to talented youth who otherwise simply could not afford a secondary education.

Our educational philosophy is based on Ignatian Pedagogy, the educational tradition of the Jesuits, proven by over 450 years of experience.

We strive to help our students:

* **Discover** the richness and diversity of creation and their place in the world.
* **Recognize** their potential based on their individual uniqueness
* **Realize** a personal dream arising from one’s relationship with God, family, society and the world
* **Become** men and women for others, dedicated to bettering the society in which they live.

Help Us Build a School for AIDS Orphans in Kenya

At present, St. Al’s Secondary School functions in this blue structure.

Fr. Terry Charlton, SJ assisting students in a temporary classroom in the slum of Kibera.

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St. Al’s school is named after St. Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ, a young Spaniard who lived between years 1568 and 1591. After an outbreak of hunger and plague in Italy, the young Aloysius left his Jesuit studies to care for victims of the plague in the streets of Rome. While on this noble mission, he died from exhaustion at the age of 23.

The Catholic Church has honored him as Patron Saint of Youth, and recently he has been chosen as patron of people afflicted with the modern day plague—HIV/AIDS.

Fr. Terry Charlton, SJ, from the Chicago Province is the co-founder of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

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Plans for the New Campus
Our dream of a permanent school is quickly moving toward realization. The budgeted cost for the new 1-acre campus is an economical $2 million. We plan to begin building in January, 2009, on land just a 5-minute walk from Kibera. The building program will increase enrollment from 270 to 420 students as well as provide labs for science and computers, a library, and other facilities.

Generous benefactors have contributed over $1.5 million towards the total cost of $2 million. We hope to raise the remaining funds before beginning construction in January, 2009. Our goal is to complete the building project by December, 2009. Please contact Jeff Smart (773-975-6920) to learn more about the building fund and naming opportunities.

Our commitment to our students does not end with graduation from high school. We assist them in finding suitable tertiary education so that they may care for their families and become productive members of society. A career development and guidance counseling office is already in place to help students identify and build their futures.

We provide the ongoing support so that our graduates can truly become persons who are “Men and Women for Others,” committed “In All Things to Love and Serve.”

You Can Sponsor a Student at St. Al’s

It Costs so Little to Change a Life
Since our modest beginnings, we have been blessed by benefactors who have provided great prayer and financial support. There are many ways to make a contribution to St. Aloysius. You can contribute to the building program or to the ongoing operating costs of the school.

We especially invite you to consider sponsoring a student. This can be done by an individual, a family or a group. The total cost to sponsor a student at St. Al’s is only $1000 a year for four years which may be paid in installments. You may also sponsor a student for $1000 a year for their “gap” year or their college years. (Please indicate that contributions are for “St. Aloysius School Fund”)

For additional information or to make a gift, please contact:

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Phone: 773-975-6920
Email: Jeff@jesuits-chi.org

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To view videos about St. Al’s, please visit the Chicago Province website at www.jesuits-chi.org/about/video_gallery.htm or request a DVD or VHS by calling Eileen Meehan at 1-800-922-5327