

When I first heard about female genital mutilation, only about 10 years ago, I could hardly believe it. I was horrified, angry and overwhelmed. I felt powerless to do much about it and went on with my life. I started the 'Girl Up' group with my junior high girls and rationalized that I was doing what I could in my own simple way. When I wrote the 'Fund for Teachers Fellowship' to visit the Grail's Saint Teresa School in Tanzania, I didn't know that my journey would take me straight to the heart of this terrible violence.

Seeing the work that Honorata and Feliciano are doing among and with the Maasai community made me so proud to be a Grail sister. I heard Mary Daly, the feminist theologian, speak at Grailville in 1974. She said women have to be willing "to jump off the cliff and have the faith that the ground will rise up under them." Though she may have been referring to something entirely different, this phrase always resonated with me as a challenge to follow your heart, be brave and respond in a radical way to the Spirit working in your life. Surely the choice of the Tanzanian Grail to take on raising the Maasai girls is all that and more.

So, now the Universe has presented me with something I CAN do about FGM. I have met these bright and beautiful little Maasai girls and even some of their families. I have visited their homes in the bush and seen where the mutilation takes place. I know the people who are keeping them safe and getting them an education. They are my friends. They are part of my Grail family. I trust them. I promised them I would come home and tell their story and get them some help in this great good work.

So, if you have been horrified and enraged by the very existence of FGM like I was, there is something you can do too. We need your help. We need some generous supporters who are willing to trust their hearts and us, and donate something, something they can afford each month so that Feliciano can feed and clothe the girls at Chekechea. She figures it takes about \$400 a month. If 40 people promised \$10, we'd have it. Or if 20 people promised \$20 a month, we'd have it. You get the picture.

I can't save all the little girls who face the horrors of FGM, but I can help these 15. The ones I know. I can help you know them too. And you can help keep them safe. Please consider it.

-Mindy Burger, Grail Member