

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“LOST BOY OF SUDAN” GABRIEL BOL DENG TO SPEAK AT ST. MARTIN DE PORRES ACADEMY

St. Martin de Porres Academy will host Gabriel Bol Deng on March 24 to share his experiences as one of Sudan’s “Lost Boys.”

Deng, a refugee from Sudan, fled his homeland at age 10 to escape civil war and was separated from his parents and siblings. After living in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, Deng and other refugees arrived in the United States and settled in Upstate New York. Deng settled in Syracuse and went on to earn degrees from Onondaga Community College and Le Moyne College.

In May 2007, he returned to Sudan to search for his family. He subsequently founded the Helping Offer Primary Education (HOPE) organization to provide educational opportunities and health services to people affected by political turmoil in Sudan. He is now working to build a school in his village.

“Gabriel Bol Deng is a hero to the families in and around his village in the newly-formed country of South Sudan,” said Jim Messina, Director of Spiritual Development at St. Martin de Porres Academy. “Everywhere he goes, Gabriel reminds students that here in the U.S. their education is not only a right but also a privilege with incredible responsibilities. He will surely inspire our students to see that the only limit to their potential is the limit of their dreams when it comes to making a difference in the lives of others.”

Deng is a human rights activist and national speaker who has shared his experiences at more than 300 venues, including the United Nations Cornell University, American University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Seton Hall University, Model United Nations Clubs, Amnesty International Chapters, Rotary Clubs, congregations, high schools, elementary schools, and many others.

For more details on the event, contact Jim Messina at (203)772-2424 or info@saintmartinacademy.org.

About St. Martin de Porres Academy:

Founded in 2005, St. Martin de Porres Academy is a tuition-free, faith-based middle school that empowers children from low-income families to reach their full potential. The Academy’s mission is to prepare each student for a quality high school and college education.

www.saintmartinacademy.org

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