

GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Fall 2016



From Sr. Grace Okon SSND
Provincial Councilor

Happy Anniversary to ALL in the Province of Africa



We are pilgrims on a journey, We are travelers on the road, We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load ... It has been this verse of the Servant Song by Richard Gillard that has lingered in my mind recently. These same musical lyrics pertaining to the journey punctuated all the then 18 communities of the district in 2011 as we prepared to become and embrace a new structure as a province. It was many who dreamt of how becoming a province would look and feel as we sensed God was “doing something NEW among us.”

*We thank God
who is ever present with us and who
has brought us this far!*

For the past five years this new structure has become home to now 77 sisters, 2 novices and presently 13 postulants. Little did we know that we would mature to this point. Thanks to all our early SSND who risked coming to Africa!!! We live in very culturally mixed communities as we have sisters from the United States, Canada, Poland, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and The Gambia. We thank God who is ever present with us and who has brought us this far!

We have all of *You, our friends and faithful partners in mission* to thank for supporting our beginnings and our growing on this wonderful continent. We have here a little of our history in Africa as well as an explanation of our celebration. In the years after the Vatican Council II, the Church looked outward toward the world in its mission to evangelize. The SSND General Chapter then issued a call to all SSND's to carry the vision and charism of Mother Theresa – specifically by ministry with the “poor” to Africa. The many years of scattering and planting seeds of SSND in Africa from the early 70's began taking root and growing into sturdy, flowering plants throughout the continent of Africa: Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia (we also serve in South Sudan through an Intercongregational outreach in education).

continued on page 2

*We are pilgrims
on a journey,
We are travelers
on the road,
We are here to help
each other walk
the mile and bear
the load ...*



The current Provincial Assembly - August 2016

We now have a house for postulants, the first step as young women enter the congregation, located in Kisumu, Kenya where 13 postulants live this year. Two novices are in the newly established International Novitiate located in the SSND generalate in Rome. The Province of Africa, and indeed the whole congregation is grateful to God for this new life. Without the generosity of you, our dear friends, we could never provide for the quality formation that our Postulants and Novices are receiving. These women have the potential of carrying on our SSND charism and ministry into the future. There are many more young women that are still in the process of discerning their call to join our Congregation and we continue to pray for them each day.

To clarify for you the importance of this step in a religious congregation, a province is a part of the congregation recognized by the church. Each province of the larger congregation has its own leadership and specific policies which enable the sisters of that part of the congregation to minister and to live out their lives according to the charism of the foundress,

but adapted to the culture and customs of that part of the world, as is the case here in Africa. All of the provinces of our international congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame are then united under our general leadership which is located in Rome. The move to become a province is a sign of growth and recognition of the potential for leadership and new members. Today and throughout this year, we celebrate these five years of growth!

We as SSND's of The Province of Africa are deeply grateful to God, one another and the many like you who have journeyed with us in birthing the Province of Africa five years ago. We trust in the faithfulness of our God as we continue to move into a future filled with Joyful hope. You are held in our prayers in a special way as we celebrate and we ask for your continued support in prayer and funding. Happy Anniversary!
Sr. Grace Okon, Provincial Councilor

Celebration at our Formation Centers !

First Profession

On July 9, 2016, The SSND Novitiate in Sunyani, Ghana was filled with great joy, gratitude, love and peace as Sister Maryanne Lawrence Ekam, Sister Sarah Jepkorir Kipsang and Sister Uzoamaka Chimal Moneme celebrated their 1st Profession. Srs. Maryanne, Uzo and Sarah professed publicly, freely and joyfully their generous response to God's loving call to share God's mission of love. The Sisters from the Ghana area along with invited friends joined the newly professed to celebrate and give thanks.



Sisters Uzo, Maryanne, and Sarah

International Novitiate Established

The Novitiate in Sunyani, Ghana has been a center for formation of novices for 25 years so it has indeed served as a sacred place for the Sisters of the Province of Africa. For the past two years preparations have been underway to establish an International Novitiate at our Generalate House in Rome to prepare novices coming from countries around the world where SSND's serve. On Sunday, September 18, 2016 the International Novitiate was officially opened with two novices from the African Province among the group.

Parish Mission Appeals for 2016



Sisters Petronella Muteshi, Rosanne Rustemeyer, Christine Spour

Thanks to the many SSNDs who traveled to parishes assigned by Diocesan Propagation of the Faith offices to share the story of our work in Africa. We are grateful to the following Arch/dioceses for the invitation in 2016: Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange in CA; Dubuque in IA; Chicago, Joliet and Springfield in IL; St. Louis in MO; Rochester in NY; Milwaukee in WI; and Hamilton in Toronto, Canada. Contributions received in these appeals help to educate our young Sisters and support both the life and ministries of the Sisters.

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Province of Africa
PO Box 16415
St. Louis, MO 63125

Address Service Requested



Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 495

Good News From Africa tells the story
of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone,
and The Gambia.

© 2010 All rights reserved.

Publisher: Rosanne Rustemeyer, SSND
314-633-7051
ssndafrica@gmail.com

Design & Layout: Genevieve Cassani, SSND
gcassani@ssndcp.org

Good News from the United States

Our winners are:

Winner of the “Star White, Flower Delight” quilt is Sr. Marjorie Rosenau, SSND of St. Paul, MN.

Second prize winner of the colorful afghan is Mariellyn Kuske of Waverly, MN who is an SSND Associate Member.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Great News African Quilt Raffle this year. We raised almost \$5,000 which goes toward the building of our provincial house in Ghana.

Sr. Josephine is already hard at work on the quilt for 2017. Her banners and quilts show the influence of her African experience evident in the bright colors and occasional bold patterns and textures she uses.

