

GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Summer 2018

Called and Sent to Make Christ Visible

By Sr. Joan Mukhwana

Final vow celebrations are moments of joy, celebration and sharing of this joy with the larger community of the sisters, parishioners, friends and family. On the 19th of May in Kiptere Parish in Kenya, at St Francis Girls' Secondary School, SSNDs celebrated the joyful occasion of the final profession of Sisters Judy Sambu and Merceline Anyega. In line with the theme of the day, "Called and Sent to make Christ Visible," there was lots of collaborative effort put into the preparation for the day by the sisters in the Kenya area and parishioners. For the parishioners of Kiptere parish, it was their very first big SSND celebration to host and they were grateful that we had chosen their parish for the venue of the profession. For the Sisters it was an opportunity to witness to the gift of "making one" and sharing our love, joy and hope with the people of Kiptere and Nyabururu Parishes.

It was a beautiful day and even the threatening clouds in the sky did not dull our joy. Families, friends, well-wishers from far and near, priests and religious from different religious congregations and the School Sisters of Notre Dame all converged at St. Francis Girls' High School to witness the solemn profession of perpetual vows of our sisters. The choirs from Nyabururu and Kiptere parishes filled the air with their sweet melodious voices, while the liturgical dancers from St Francis and from the Pontifical Missionary Childhood Movement helped in animating the beautiful liturgy. The Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Bishop Emmanuel Okombo of Kericho Diocese and concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Obanyi, the Bishop of Kakamega Diocese.

Sr. Joyce Nyakwama, the Provincial Leader of the SSNDs Province of Africa, in her welcoming remarks set the tone for the day. She invited the congregation present to share in the joy of the day by enlightening us on the commitment the Sisters were going to make. It was an invitation to witness to the self-giving of two young women. She recognized the fact that these Sisters chose to live out their baptismal call more profoundly by daring to follow Christ more closely in this act of self-giving.



Sr. Merceline and Sr. Judith

General Leadership of SSND supported by Years of Service in Africa

The 24th General Chapter which was held in Sept-October of 2017 was a Chapter of Elections. The Province of Africa is delighted to have three Sisters serving on our new General Council in Rome who represent many years of service in Africa. Sr. Roxanne Schares, General Superior comes with nearly 30 years of service and experience in many countries especially from her time as Shalom Director. Sr. Julianne Lattner worked for many years doing formation of young women entering the congregation in Africa. Sr. Carolyn Anyega is our first African Sister to serve on the General Leadership. Sr. Carolyn comes from Kenya but did wonderful work in our Girls' High School in Sunyani, Ghana.



General Council, 2018-2024

Left to right: Irmã Inês Camiran, General Councilor/Vicar; Sestra Martina Radež, General Councilor; Sister Roxanne Schares, General Superior; Sister Carolyn Anyega, General Councilor; Sister Julianne Lattner, General Councilor; Sister Kathleen Storms, General Councilor.

Formation News from around the Province of Africa

First Profession

The date for the first profession of vows for Sr. Esther and Sr. Emelia has been set for Saturday 25th of August, 2018. This will facilitate a larger number of our sisters from across the province, particularly those who will be at the Provincial Assembly to be at the celebration. Please let us continue to hold Novice Emelia and Novice Esther in prayer at this time.

From January through April of 2018 four School Sisters of Notre Dame participated in a Program on Augustinian Spirituality. This is very significant for SSNDs as our rule of life is based on the Rule of St. Augustine. Sr. Eunice Dagi was one of those Sisters. Sister Eunice will now assume the ministry of Postulant Co-director. Sister Eunice has a variety of skills and experiences relevant to this new ministry but she will soon begin her formation training in Nairobi and will assume her new role in mid-2019. The new class of Postulants will begin their formation studies in October 2018.



Csilla Makai from Hungary, Eunice Uwer Dagi from Nigeria, Africa, Roberta Socha from Poland, Rose Huelsmann from North America participated in the Augustinian Spirituality Program.

International Novitiate Program in Rome

The Novitiate Program for 13 young women who will be received into the congregation in September includes 10 participants from Africa.



Celebrating 285 Years of Service as School Sisters of Notre Dame!

We take this opportunity to congratulate 7 Sisters from the Province of Africa who are celebrating their Jubilees this year:

25th Anniversary of Service: Sr. Dorothy Enang, Sr. Grace Okon, Sr. Priscilla Onwuka

50th Anniversary of Service: Sr. Margaret Malone, Sr. Mara Frundt, Sr. Cecilia Gros

60th Anniversary of Service: Sr. Marie Antoinette Naumann

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The Provincial House moves toward completion of Phase One!



Thanks to all who keep this project in mind and heart! Your continued help will be needed for Phase Two!!