

# GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Fall 2018

## In this season of giving thanks...

### *Short Thanksgiving Prayer*

Lord, thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives.  
For the winter, when we are held safe in your arms through the darkness.  
For the hope of spring, as we are filled with new promise and life.  
For summer time, full of warmth and colour  
And for autumn days as leaves fall to seed new growth.  
You are always with us. Amen.

*(a short prayer of thanksgiving from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))*

I take this opportunity to thank each of you for the ways you reach out to us here in Africa. Through you, we have been able to reach out to others, to many, to alleviate some pain and suffering to give hope, to share life and God's love. May God continue to bless your efforts, bless your families and those you care about as you continue to support our SSND mission.

*Sr. Joyce Nyakwama, SSND  
Provincial Leader*

## Workers for the Vineyard!

The School Sisters of Notre Dame continue to grow in number on the continent of Africa. We thank God for calling more workers into this vineyard and promise our prayers of support.

On August 25, 2018 Sr. Emelia Ayambire and Sr. Esther Bassey made their First Profession of Vows at Theresa House in Sunyani, Ghana! With their profession Srs. Emelia and Esther become the 63rd and 64th African Sisters to become School Sisters of Notre Dame. They now begin their ministries to the people of Africa at one of our 21 mission communities.



This October 10 Novices from Africa joined three young women from Argentina and Hungary at our International Novitiate in Rome where they began a two-year program of indept discernment to become SSNDs.

The Postulancy House in Kisumu, Kenya welcomed twelve young women to begin their initial phase of discernment and formation into the congregation on October 15.

# Helping to achieve their Potential

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) began the Children's Outreach Program in Nyalieng'a Parish in Homa Bay Diocese of Kenya in September 2009. The parish of Nyalieng'a is geographically spread out and has 34 outstations. In consultation with the catechists at each outstation the SSNDs selected 34 of the neediest families in the area with 119 children of different ages to start what is now called Notre Dame Children Outreach (NDCO).



Most of these children are orphans due to their parents' deaths of HIV/AIDS. Homa Bay is the area of Kenya hardest hit by HIV. SSND had been supporting the children from the homes of relatives but now have put up a make shift structure where some children are housed. This has proven a viable solution and with other factors considered the idea of a boarding school was born where the Sisters could better oversee the learning environment of the children. The NDCO provides their schooling through provision of fees, uniforms and accommodation for those who have nowhere safe to stay.

The Sisters already own some ample pieces of land earmarked for the building of a school and has the full support of the parishioners of Nyalieng'a to establish such a school. On one part of the land there already exists two semi-permanent iron sheet structures that currently serve as dormitories to about 30 children that go to local public schools. The sponsored children in NDCO are hosted in different boarding facilities while attending various schools and this has become very expensive. In addition, the Sisters have already put up two modern classrooms on site that would support the establishment of the new school. Because of this and the perceived demand for a primary school from the Nyalieng'a community, SSNDs would like to develop the site into a boarding primary school in order to address the educational needs of the community and take care of the sponsored children more effectively.

A study was conducted in February 2018 that established the viability and need of a primary school with boarding facilities in Nyalieng'a. All the respondents stated that there was a need for a boarding school in the area. They gave various reasons for this need including:



High rate of orphans in the area due to the deaths caused by HIV/AIDS

High rate of poverty in the area with broken homes that cannot cater for children's basic needs

Vulnerability of the girl child due to many instances of abuse

Other boarding schools are far off and costly.

The envisioned primary school is to be a preferred school that takes both boys and girls with day and boarding options providing quality educational services to the community to transform lives of the young people and help them reach the fullness of their potential.

### THE CURRENT NDCO HOSTEL



SSND'S provide safe places for orphaned children to live, taking care of their basic needs paying their school fees in the schools they attend while giving individual Guidance and Counselling.

### Impact and Accomplishments over the years:

236 children now in the NDCO program

120 children have successfully completed their various levels of education

30 alumni now have jobs and means of livelihood

### WANT TO HELP? Here is how...

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference but regular donations give us financial security to provide consistent support and to plan for the future.

A donation of **5 dollars** can buy a **uniform** for one child

A donation of **10 dollars** can buy **one iron sheet** for the school roof

A donation of **50 dollars** can buy **7 bags of cement**

A donation of **1,000 dollars** can make **12,500 bricks**, enough to build two classrooms' walls

A donation of **10,000 dollars** will help pay the contractor for 4 finished classrooms

*"I support Notre Dame Primary School because I can see how and where my contribution will help realize the potential of so many children."*

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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.

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Design: Genevieve Cassani, SSND  
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Layout: Murray Print Shop

## Report on the African Quilt Raffle

*Our winner is: Sr. Maureen Ulatowski of Wilton, CT*

We are very happy to report that the proceeds of \$3,500 from the Great African Quilt Raffle will go a very long way in supporting the healthcare of our Sisters in Africa. Thank you to everyone who participated in our drawing this year. Special thanks to Sr. Josephine Niemann who is preparing the quilt for 2019!

