

# GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Spring 2021



## Blessed Theresa of Jesus' Call to Unity

The Mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is to proclaim the good news directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. YAS #4

Through the ministry of transformative education SSND enables individuals and groups to reach the fullness of their potential. Education that transforms calls each of us to work at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies providing access to justice for all.

The foundress' call to each SSND was a call to work for "unity". In a recent reflection by Pope Francis on the biblical account of God calling Abraham, God invites Abraham to look upon the stars, and places ourselves in that account: "God asked Abraham to raise his eyes to heaven and to count its stars (cf. Gen 15:5). In those stars, he saw the promise of his descendants; he saw us." Those stars illumine the darkest of nights because they shine together. Heaven thus imparts a message of unity: God invites us never to separate ourselves from our neighbors.

As our world and its entire people continue to deal with the Corona virus pandemic, this time has also stirred up the spirit of greater solidarity especially with the vulnerable. The rapid spread of COVID-19 across borders has had a great impact on every aspect of our lives and ministries and has caused us to significantly rethink our identity as global citizens. The pandemic has reawakened our conscience to human interconnectedness, underscoring the inescapable reality that what affects one affects all.

Though the pandemic is not yet over, there are glimmers of hope as more people around the world see the possibility of vaccinations. In the countries where SSND serve in Africa only about 1 to 2 % of the people have received vaccinations. We thank God that Covid 19 has not taken so many lives in those countries but the impediments to the global economy are making the daily lives of the people very challenging.

As many in the US have received support from the government issued stimulus checks over the past months, if you are in a position to do so, we ask that you please consider including support of our African ministries in your giving. The Sisters of the Province of Africa are deeply grateful!



In this issue of Good News from Africa we share the stories of how the Sisters adapted to the challenges of Covid 19. Sr. Ruth finds hope by expanding St. Joseph Nursery School in Bumbuna. Sr. Vera celebrates her Perpetual Profession of vows. Srs. Joyce and Denise celebrate Jubilees. SSNDs receive degrees as they finish their studies online due to Covid. Pictured on page 4 is the Convent in Nyalienga which you helped to build through your matched gift last Spring. The convent was blessed in January of 2021. New website coming!

## **MINISTRY: HOPE DESPITE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Sr. Ruth Nyanchama Mose, SSND



Serving at St. Joseph's Preschool as an administrator has given me an opportunity to open myself to responding to the needs of the larger Bumbuna community. Good rapport among the teachers and parents has helped us to work together for the good of all. Appreciating the effort of students has encouraged many of the children to do well both in academics and in the extra-curricular activities of the school.

Because the needs of the very young ones vary so greatly there is flexibility in terms of who teaches which class. For instance, the newer pupils found it hard to acclimatize to their new environment, new teachers and the school system. We encouraged them to stop crying and become involved. Now they are all settled and eager to learn. The parents place trust in the staff.

This academic year's admission of pupils is much higher than the school has seen over its five years. Parents want their children to be part of St. Joseph's Preschool family. It is a family that nurtures all-round growth of pupils.

Those who attended last year's academic Nursery Three graduation witnessed a clear sign that learning had taken place despite the COVID-19 pandemic that had led to the closure of the schools for six months. When allowed we resumed school despite the Covid-19 pandemic challenges always hoping that there would be diminishing cases of the infection in Sierra Leone.

Teachers attended workshops on the prevention of the corona virus. We carefully observed all the precautionary measures given by the WHO. I am hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic will pass soon and that we will continue to have a positive impact in the lives of pupils and those with whom we collaborate at St. Joseph Preschool.

**The Province of Africa hopes to establish more Preschool and Nursery Programs so as to give children a strong foundation for learning.**

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**Sisters choose productive ways of using Covid lockdown time by working in the community gardens, making rosaries, sewing masks, making soap and sanitizers and preparing gifts for the elderly.**





## Rejoice with sisters celebrating final profession, Jubilees and graduations so far in 2021!

Sr. Vera Owoh celebrates perpetual profession



**APRIL 24, 2021**

St Benedict's Cathedral Ogoja  
Diocese



Sisters celebrate JUBILEE at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Sr. Joyce Nyakwama and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Sr. Denise Houston taking place in Kenya



**Sr. Gloria Adoga**

Bachelor of Science, Business Admin  
Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria



Graduates from University of Makeni

**Sr Sarah Tanjo**

Bachelor of Science, Laboratory in Public Health

**Sr Juliana Wangao**

Bachelor of Science, Epistemology in Public Health

**Sr Ruth Mose**

Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics/ Literature with Education  
University of Makeni, Sierra Leone



**Sr Magdalene Umoh**

Master of Science, Occupational and  
Environmental Health and Safety  
Kwame Nkrumah University of  
Science and Technology, Kumasi,  
Ghana



**Sr. Ndukeobong Clement**

Bachelor of Science, Economics and  
Business Administration  
Catholic University College of Ghana,  
Sunyani, Ghana



**Sr. Grace Okon**

Master of Arts, Administration  
and Supervision  
Notre Dame of Maryland  
University, Baltimore, MD

**All of these milestones were reached through your continued support.**

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and The Gambia.

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## Our Home in Nyalieng'a

This is the convent for which you sent matching gifts last Spring. It was officially opened and dedicated to Mother Theresa Gerhardinger on 17th January 2021.



The Sisters of the Province of Africa are deeply grateful for your generosity in helping our missions develop.

Our **"NEW"** Province of Africa website will be live July 2021. The new website will highlight our mission, history, leadership and ministries.

Please visit <https://africassnd.org> to explore stories and opportunities to support our mission.

