

GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Winter 2021



We Give Thanks!

Dear Friends in Mission,

As I ponder our graced history as a Province of Africa, there is so much for which to be thankful. In the spirit of thanksgiving, let us realize this time as an opportunity to praise God for the beauty of life and for the many blessings we have enjoyed.

As we approach the end of 2021 we stand in gratitude for God's goodness and protection of each of us. We are particularly grateful for your generosity in partnering with us in our mission and ministry in the schools, clinics and pastoral/social centers. This year in the Province of Africa, we have seen eight young women begin their Novitiate. There are an additional 9 women in initial formation in the postulancy. God has blessed us with wonderful new life and it is our responsibility to give these women the very best preparation for religious life. We continue to put a priority on the education of our young Sisters working toward degrees or professional certification.

As the number of Sisters increases our ministries continue to grow in number and intensity. There are now 23 communities of SSND's living and praying together, supporting each other in their lives of service and ministry to all God's people.

The growth of the SSND congregation in Africa is truly God's work! As you are able, we ask that you continue to remember us with your financial support. Along with God's blessing, you are the power behind what we do. You are always included in our prayers!

Having reached another Season of Holiday Celebrations, I take this opportunity to thank each of you for the ways you reach out to our SSND ministry in Africa. Through you, we have been able to reach out to many, alleviate some pain and suffering, give hope and 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. Oyinoza Asishana,
Provincial Leader



In this issue of Good News from Africa, we wish to invite you to be a part of our Advent Prayer. Join us in giving Thanks for reaching the ten-year milestone as a Province of Africa. Celebrate with our Sister Silver Jubilarians. Join us as we prayerfully engage with Catholics around the world in responding to the Laudato Si Action Platform. Sr. Gabriel's letters are now in a book. The annual quilt insert celebrates the artistic talents of Sr. Josephine who served in Sierra Leone by participating in the Great News African Quilt Raffle. We invite you to follow the work of our Sisters as shared on our website at www.africassnd.org.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the Province of Africa August 28, 2021

Awed by the mystery of God's action in our midst we gratefully celebrate life" (YAS, C#7). The province tenth anniversary celebration took place in our Provincial House in Accra, Ghana on August 28, 2021. It was a very memorable and historic day for us as we came together as a family to celebrate and thank God for his faithfulness and guidance, love and generosity during the past fifty-one years of SSND presence on the continent of Africa, and most especially, for the last ten years as a province.

We sincerely thank all the pioneering sisters who courageously took the challenge to plant our charism on the continent of Africa and on whose shoulders we stand tall today as we look towards the future. Great excitement was brought to the Holy Eucharist, the centre and foundation of our lives, which was celebrated to climax the occasion.

Province Celebration:

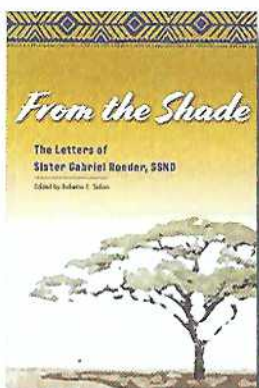
With hearts full of gratitude, we celebrate God's faithfulness and Love

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, we all recessed with songs and dance to plant a peace tree on our compound to mark the tenth anniversary using soils brought by delegates from the various countries where we serve in Africa as symbols of those lands and peoples. The different soils were mixed to represent the unity of heart and spirit of all the sisters in the entire province. Two sisters were chosen to do the planting of the evergreen



peace tree; the eldest sister represented wisdom and the youngest, the future and hope of our Congregation. The symbolism of the tree represents the intergenerational bond that we School Sisters of Notre Dame share, a bond that has been present from the past and will continue as we move forward to the future.

As the peace tree with time will spread out its roots deeply into the ground, so may our charism continue to flourish throughout Africa and the rest of the world.



From the Shade: The Letters of Sister Gabriel Roeder, SSND: Sister Gabriel Roeder, Roberta E. Sabin: 9781935911593: Amazon.com: Books

"Sister Gabriel's deep concern for education, her commitment to the people of Africa, and her love of our sisters kept Sister Gabriel ministering in Nigeria for more than thirty years. [She] was a theologian, a teacher, a preacher and a person of great wisdom and generosity. Sr. Charmaine Krohe



Laudato Si' Action Platform

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a major grassroots effort to mobilize Catholics worldwide to put into action the message of integral ecology in Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," during a decade scientists say is critical for global responses to climate change and other environmental destruction.

The launch of the Vatican's major initiative to implement Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment and care of creation throughout the global Catholic Church is happening now in November of 2021. In a letter announcing the new campaign, Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, formally invited Catholic organizations to join the Laudato Si' initiative during what he called "this crucial decade" for "radical societal transformation" as increasing climate change and environmental degradation threaten both the planet's ecosystems and people.

"The platform will create a space for the universal Church — and beyond — to respond to the global emergency we are facing. Through it we can learn and grow together as we take decisive action to build a better future in the spirit of Laudato Si'," he said.



Congratulations to our Jubilarians

Jubilee is an occasion of gratitude to God

With immense Joy, we unite with our sisters to praise God for his faithfulness and love in their daily "Yes" to Love and self-offering for 25 Years.



Sr Victoria Swanzy Essien



Sr Regina Oluoh



Sr Bessey Eze



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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.

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Design: Genevieve Cassani, SSND
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Layout: Heather Wilborn, Murray Print Shop
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*In this season of "giving thanks":
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 color
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)