

# GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



*Sr. Oyin-osa Asishana,  
Provincial Leader*

Winter 2022

Dear Friends in Mission,

There is so much for which to be thankful. In the spirit of giving thanks, 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 2022, 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, pastoral and social centers where we serve.

This year on our congregational feast of December 8th seven young women will profess their first vows as School Sisters of Notre Dame for the Province of Africa. There are nine postulants who have been readied to begin their two-year program in the Novitiate in Rome in early 2023. God has blessed us with wonderful new life and it is our responsibility to give these women the very best preparation for religious life. 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. Our outreach is particularly to women, children and youth.



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.**



In this issue of Good News from Africa, we wish to invite you to be a part of our Advent Prayer. The annual quilt insert celebrates the artistic talents of Sr. Josephine who served in Sierra Leone. Please join in the Great News African Quilt Raffle. We invite you to get to know the Sisters making perpetual vows by following the work of our Sisters as shared on our website at [www.africassnd.org](http://www.africassnd.org).

## Transforming Hearts, Minds and Lives Through Education



*Sister Beatrice Chepng'eno SSND*

Since July 2022, I have been teaching in St. John the Baptist Nyalieng'a Primary School. Similarly, I have been working with Pontifical Missionary Children (PMC) of St. Arnold Nyalieng'a Parish. Another opportunity for serving has been through Notre Dame Children Outreach (NDCO) Program, initiated to take care of Orphans and Vulnerable children in Nyalieng'a Parish jurisdiction. My life in mission is prompted by my openness to love and reach out especially to the vulnerable. My availability and readiness to embrace the newness each day, enables me and others to grow in communion with God.

I give guidance and counselling for moral formation and spiritual nourishment. Our Children have been affected so much by poverty and gender inequality. Cases of teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS infections are high. Such situations make girls see school a safe place. The sisters work together with the school community to guide and counsel these children.

The school gives us opportunities to assist children to grow spiritually. The pupils long for the weekly Pastoral Instructions and Holy Mass. We are happy that our children in St. John the Baptist have learnt to animate Mass through singing, proclaiming the Word and performing liturgical dance. The openness of the children to learn new things has made it easy to share with them my gifts. The pupils who practice Catholic faith from our school are also members of PMC, and this has helped us journey together spiritually both in school and in the Church. We meet once a week with PMC in the Parish and we share with them about prayer, participation at Mass, being responsible, helping the needy and teaching them to carry out activities that they must do at their age. I have learnt from them how children are innocent and generous in sharing their gifts and talents. Through NDCO and the Parish community, we strive to find justice for the vulnerable children. I have appreciated our NDCO children for their fast learning and interest to be assisted to reach the fullness of their potential.



*Sr. Beatrice and children*

Together with NDCO team, we reach out to our parishioners who are parents and/or guardians of the sponsored children. The readiness of the children, their parent/guardians, teachers, NDCO staff and Parish Community to be who they are reminds me of Mother Theresa's words "with the good Lord, what we do is less important than how we do it". The children are encouraged to share the joy of the word of God with their colleagues in their various schools. We pray for these children that they may grow to know, experience God and be responsible people in the society.



Our gift to you this Christmas is our prayer for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in your hearts, in your family, in your neighborhood and in our world. Your special prayer requests may be listed on the top flap of the enclosed return envelope. All the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the African Province will be praying with you through the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on February 2nd 2023. Each year our Christmas appeal is for the education of our African SSNDs. Thank you for your generosity. End of Year gifts are also deeply appreciated!



**Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year of health and prosperity in 2023!**

## Celebrate with us....Perpetual Professions and Jubilees



Sister Esther Alaam professed her perpetual vows on September 24, 2022. The Sisters of the Province in the Ghana Area were elated to travel to Holy Angels Parish at Garu-Tempani in Upper East Region of Ghana to celebrate the perpetual profession of vows with Sr. Esther's family.

*Sister Esther Alaam cuts her Perpetual Vows celebration cake*

On the 15th of October 2022 seven sisters in the Nigeria Area headed to the cathedral of St John the Baptist in Gboko to make their perpetual Profession of vows in the congregation. Together with Sr Nentaweh Wakger whose Silver Jubilee was honored as well.



*Sisters Nduke, Uzo, Ejura, Nentaweh, Sarah, Oyin-ozu, Patience, Maryann, Dawida and Monica on the Perpetual Vows and Silver Jubilee celebration. (Srs. Oyin-ozu and Dawida are on the Provincial Leadership Team)*



We congratulate Sisters Ruth, Edna, Sarah, Julianna and Lilian for their openness to cooperate with God's grace at work in them as we celebrated their perpetual vows on December 10 in Kenya. We thank God with Sister Carolyn for saying YES, each day for 25 years.

*Sisters Roxanne Schares and Elis Viebeck were also Jubilarians in 2022. May all of these Sisters enjoy many fruitful years in the Lord's vineyard!*

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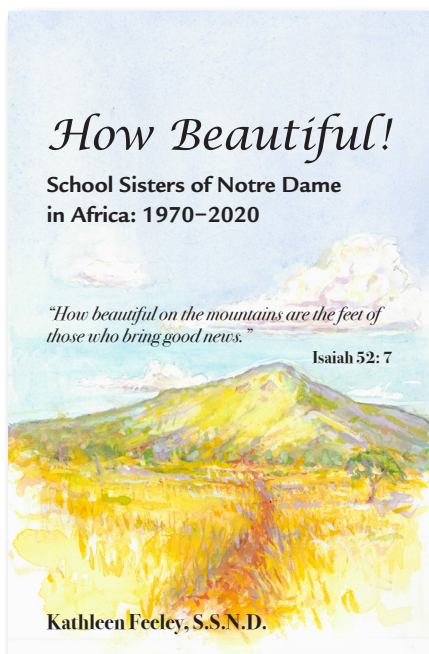
Good News From Africa tells the story of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia.

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### **How Beautiful! School Sisters of Notre Dame in Africa, 1970 -2020**

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.”  
Isaiah 52:7

“I felt inspired by this story every day for two years while I was writing it.  
May it inspire its readers in the same way.”

Kathleen Feeley, SSND, Notre Dame of Maryland University

This book tells the story of miracles. The book was written to mark the 50th anniversary of the pioneering mission of the SSND on the continent of Africa. The early missionaries were so united as a community. They never surrendered in the face of challenges, letting their struggles guide their path into future successes. As their efforts have brought us to where we are today, may our own endeavors build on their achievements and guide the future generation of SSNDs in the furtherance of God’s kingdom.