

From the Roof of Africa

Holy Spirit Delegation Newsletter
Arusha, Tanzania

May, 2013
Volume 5 #1

2012-2013 - A Year of Faith

Faith begins with Joy!

Jubilee bells were ringing early in the morning to welcome the new day of celebration for our dear Sister Mary Annete who was celebrating her Golden Jubilee here in our Holy Spirit Delegation. The Sisters prepared for the celebration well in advance so that all would go well on April 13th. Special prayers, decorations, meal planning and practising by the novices and postulants all made it a very colourful occasion. The theme of “Aglow with Colours” was shining everywhere from the chapel wall and decorations throughout the house, the theme song, and the celebration of the morning Liturgy. Rev. Fr. Eustaki Tarimo, our Parish Priest and Vicar General for Religious was the main celebrant and Fr. Edmund Mallya, SJ gave the homily. Nine other priests who were friends and/or formators were present for the day. Most of the invited guests were the formators of the International group of Formators to which Sisters Mary Roshini and Annete belong.



The introduction highlighted the many colours in the life of Sister Mary Annete, the various ministries to which she has been involved, and the gift that she is to our Holy Spirit Delegation. Having Sister Mary Saina, the Assistant Provincial from the Patna Province with us was an additional gift that added colour to the celebration. She brought with her a beautiful garland to greet Sister Mary Annete for the occasion.

All the creative ways in which colour was used was a wonderful tribute to the giftedness of our Delegation, from the theme song written by our Juniors, to the beautiful cake, the chapel and dining room, and the catered meal. If you ever wanted to experience our family spirit here in our Delegation, this was a wonderful expression of that gift. An added gift was the presence of two Sisters from Uganda, Sister Mary Janet and Sister Anita Marie. My first mission in Africa began with seven years in Uganda, so it was a special gift to have the Sisters here from that mission.



I would like to express my gratitude to each of you my dear Sisters present and absent for the celebration, for making it such a meaningful occasion surely “aglow with colours.” You’ve blessed me and graced me with who you are and I treasure each of you and hold you in my prayers. From our multicultural community and International Novitiate I say, **Asanteni Sana.....Mwebale Muno..... Muito obrigada and Thank you so much!**

By Sister Mary Annete, SND

Faith begins with growth

New Aspirants

Three new aspirants from Tanzania arrived in the month of April: Judith Kagashe from our Holy Family, Njiro Parish and our own Notre Dame Secondary School. She is the first one to enter from our school here in Njiro and we are very happy. Romana Fidelis arrived from Rombo, and Magdalena Manka came from Kibosho. These three young women left for the Aspirant House in Kenya on April 30 and will be joined by several young women from Kenya: Anne Mutuo Musyoka from Mwingi, Maureen Osayo from Mbale, Catherine Nzisa and Sabina Kamene Kioko from Matunguiu May God continue to bless our Congregation with new vocations.

New Postulants

Meet our 11 new postulants who entered their postulancy on April 6th here in Njiro.



Each one is eager and ready for this stage of formation and had a wonderful celebration at our evening prayer service. Sister Mary Annete had been preparing them for this day and they want to thank in a special way their formators during their Candidacy: Sister Mary Irene in Mozambique, Sister Mary Colette in Uganda and Sister Mary Prerna in Kenya. Join us in welcoming these women to our Notre Dame family and do stop by to meet them when you can. Surely God is so very good!

Left to right:

Sicholastica, Mary, Ema, Livia, Mary Assumpta, Winfred, Pascalina, Turesse, Juliet, Finita and Damaris.....from Uganda, Kenya and Mozambique

New Novices

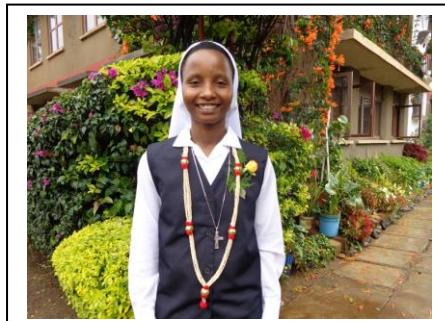
Did we say come and greet our new Postulants? Well don't stop there, we also have 13 new novices who entered the novitiate on April 20th. You'll love and appreciate their lively spirit and creativity as you meet and greet each of them. Sister Mary Annete has prepared them during their postulancy and they had as their theme for their one month intensive preparation: *"Plant me near the stream of 'Living Water.'"* Do pray for each of them that they continue to draw strength from Jesus, the Living Water in their lives.

Left to right: Back row – Sister Mary Juliet, Sister Teresa Marie, Sister Mary Esta, Sister Brigid Marie, Sister Anita Marie and Sister Mary Jescah.

Front row: Sister Angela Maria, Sister Mary Resty, Sister Mary Monica, Sister Mary Veronica, Sister Mary Noela, Sister Violet Marie, Sister Resty Marie. This group comprises women from Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.



By Sister Mary Annete, SND

First Profession

Needless to say, April was a very busy month for us, one full of celebrations. We brought that to a conclusion on 4th May with the First Profession of our dear Sister Mary Gladness. Sister Mary Saina, our Assistant Provincial from Patna, represented Sister Mary Beena for the occasion and we were happy she was with us for this event. Rev. Fr. Julius Kamuti Mutune, CMI Father, was the main celebrant for the occasion.

The theme for her First Profession was *"Here I am Lord, Use me for your glory."*

Her mother and other family members were present for the celebration as well as seven priests and guests. The novices and postulants sang beautifully and in perfect rhythm to the selected music that Sister Mary Gladness had requested. Sister Mary Saina, our Assistant Provincial from Our Lady of Assumption Province received the vows of Sister Mary Gladness and also placed on her the garland as all came to greet her. The day was colourful with the beautiful Liturgy, the catered meal and the programmes prepared by the formees. Welcome Sister Mary Gladness to your life as a professed Sister of Notre Dame.

by Sister Mary Roshini, SND

Formation: Year of Faith

Another way we have grown in the Year of Faith was with the presentation of Fr. Kurian Kachappilly, one of the CMI Fathers (Carmelite Missionaries of Mary Immaculate) who was visiting us. Fr. Kurian has been giving presentations around the world on the Year of Faith and gave all of us present at the Delegation Centre that evening, a very meaningful PowerPoint presentation. We could not have asked for more. Father is such a dynamic presenter and can explain in a simple manner what he wants to convey. His PowerPoint was

well created and portrayed his message clearly. We were so grateful for the opportunity for this presentation.

Faith begins with new life

General Team's visit



How blessed we were to have our Dear Sisters Mary Kristin, Alcidia and Sreeja with us for our General Visitation beginning at the end of December, 2012. Arriving on December 27th, the Team had a sharing session on the following day and then the Leadership Workshop in which all 30 members of our Delegation were present. What a joy this was for all of us to be together. Their departure was all too soon after the New Year began, but we are very grateful for the time spent with us, especially for the blessings and

challenges we face as a Delegation. Our days of being together for the strategic planning with our dear Sister Mary Sreeja are all part of our growth as a Delegation and our life together. We can only hope, pray and trust that what each Sister committed herself to, will be lived out in the coming year.

From Sister Mary Kellen:

Dear Sister Mary Mukti and all my dear Sisters in Holy Spirit Delegation, Greetings of peace love and joy of the New Year. My third year of studies has come to an end. The sixth semester began in December, but there have been a lot of activities for our experiment and learning experiences. Early January we had gone for study tour in Mysore. We interacted with tribal people there, the experience which enabled us to know about their culture, food habits, beliefs and the development which has taken place through the help of NGOs and TRUSTS. They have helped them to make use of forest product for their economic resources, they have also given them training in different areas and offered them with jobs besides opening the school with the help of the Government. It was a very inspiring moment for us. Here are few photos from this tribal visit experience

Rehabilitaion: Ashram school



Interaction with Jenukuruba Tribals

Interaction with Panchayta PDO



community organization and motivation, organized by student social workers of Jyothi Nagar community Vamanjoor-Mangalore on Sunday.



Street play on solid waste management by NSS students of School of Social Work Roshni Nilaya

Thank you so much dear Sister Mary Mukti and all my dear Sisters. My studies are over and after my TTC in India I will return to our Delegation. Your prayers have helped me so much.

I am so grateful to Sister Mary Beena and all my Sisters in the Patna Province, to Sister Mary Sandhya and the Visitation Province for accepting me during this time of my studies and making me feel so much at home. Thank you again, Sister Mary Mukti and all in our Holy Spirit Delegation for this wonderful opportunity for studies. Surely I will put my studies to good use upon my return.

My heart is so full of gratitude and thanksgiving. May God bless each one of you.
Sister Mary Kellen, SND

Faith begins with reaching out to others

Family Day- Bringing People Together

All the teachers had proposed in 2012 to have a Family Day for the Secondary School. This year, the event took place on 27th of April. We started the day with subject exhibition and every teacher tried his or her subject to be the best in presenting the topics. It was a wonderful experience of punctuality of the parents and teachers. To our surprise, some of the parents were here at 8:45 A.M. We opened the exhibition for the parents and almost all the parents arrived by 10:30; just a few students did not have visitors or family people. From 11:30 A.M. onwards, the students started to sit with their family members to eat and to enjoy. The few who did not have anyone were taken in by their friends for the lunch. A few who had no one to represent them had tears in their eyes but their friends took care of them

well. Surely it was good to see students building character for their quality life. "You can get a reputation in a moment but to build character is a lifelong work." Thank you teachers and parents for providing opportunities to build character and quality life. God works through you and me to transform the world and to make a better place to live in. *by Sister Mary Shaija, SND*

Three in One

April 15th was a very special day for Notre Dame School because we have a culture of honouring the patron of each house. April is a very important month because the first President of Tanzania who is also the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu (teacher) Julius Kambarage Nyerere, was born on 14th April. It was a good opportunity to show our appreciation, love and gratitude for the gift of our teachers and to honour them on his birthday. This year, 14th April fell on a Sunday so we decided to have the Nyerere House celebration on the 15th of April along with the Teachers' Day Celebration.

We were privileged to have the Assistant Provincial of the Assumption Province in Patna, India in our Delegation at this time. We invited Sister Mary Saina to be present, in order to welcome her and to introduce her to the entire school community. Hearty Welcome to Notre Dame, dear Sister Mary Saina. We started the day by honouring the teachers and Sister Mary Saina with a guard of honour by the Girl Guides and Brass Band of the School. Each of the teachers were given badges and garlands to show our love and appreciation for their dedicated service. The Assembly began at 8:45 A.M. followed by a variety of entertainments by the entire student body from Montessori I to Form IV lasting 3-4 hours. Sisters Mary Teresa, Magdalene Musila and Shaija worked hard with the students to make it a great success. After morning tea, the students went to their respective classes with their class teachers and a subject teacher and had a special programme. By 2:00 P.M. all the staff members went for lunch and the student leaders took care of serving the staff, supervising the students and washing and cleaning the utensils. It was a wonderful day!

Of course, we missed our dear Sister Mary Shobana for the occasion of the "Three in One" event. All of us continue to pray for her speedy recovery and for the recovery of Mama Omari, our school cook who underwent an emergency surgery. May God keep us in good health and protect us from every danger and from every evil. Hearty welcome once again to Sister Mary Saina to East Africa and feel at home with us.

By Sister Mary Shaija, SND

NDSS Hostel

Our site for the new boarding facility is slowly taking shape. The tresses for the roof are going up now and soon we see a roof on our new facility. While the due date to complete the project is May 31, we wait with abated breath for its completion.

Simanjoro

March 26th turned out to be an unforgettable day for the people of Loiborsiret, Simanjoro. For the first time, 16 elders, above the age of 75 were gathered together to be specially honoured... "Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and that you may live long on earth." Eph. 6:23. The Sisters were able to motivate and enlighten the Small Christian Community to organize the special event for the parents and the elders. The special guests of the day, the 16 aged members were garlanded and received. Our Assistant Parish Priest, Fr. Lawrence, SVD made the Holy Mass extra meaningful. It turned out to be a celebration for the whole village. All the local leaders, members of various denominations and neighborhood joined the celebrations that the open corridor was not enough to accommodate all. All that was needed for the feast was generated from the SCC and other

well-wishers. There were 2 goats, 2 crates of sodas, 25 kgs of rice and over 20 liters of milk, tea, sugar, oil and other food supplies that were gifted, making the whole event a real “Osotwa” (united in love) experience for the community gathered there. The Sisters gifted each one with a blanket which was donated by a friend of the Sisters who had turned 80 years. The repeated chorus by the young and old were, “we have never seen or heard anything like it...” All were very touched and thanked the sisters



Sister Mary Rashmi has been moving around to take classes for the women and to awaken them. We have 13 vibrant



groups of women who are very enthusiastic about the Self-Help Groups (SHG). The first initiative is to generate enough savings that every woman gets at least one goat before Christmas. The Maasai women usually do not own anything. The groups were begun only in the beginning of March. They have already saved enough for around 39 goats of which thirteen women have purchased their goats. More are coming to join the groups.

Notre Dame Osotwa School has 52 lively children. A good number dropped out of the school after the first year because the parents wanted to give a chance to other children who take the cows, goats, and sheep out. Is often the duty of the children and they are so often exposed to many dangers including wild animals.

After continuous rain, everything is fresh and green. The people are hopeful to get sufficient food this year if the wild animals do not destroy them. On the other hand we are very much cut off after the rain. Rivers have overflowed and the roads are spoiled, bridges are washed away and even communication is affected. But we are grateful for the fresh fields and milk that the villagers share with us. Welcome to Osotwa Boma!

By Sisters Mary Rashmi, Hellen and Susan

Jubilee Cross: In preparation for the Golden Jubilee of Arusha Archdiocese, the “Jubilee Cross” has been going around with great jubilation and excitement. The cross was received by our people in Loiborsiret. It was a deep “God-experience” for our simple humble people. Crowds of people followed the cross taking it from family to family for 12 days in our Small Christian Community. We often heard people saying “Jesus is with us....these days we are busy....Jesus is staying overnight with us”. Every family did their best to receive the “Cross of Jesus” as a very special guest, slaughtering goats, feeding everyone and making offerings in thanksgiving. Several people never left the cross but would sleep at the foot of the cross. After moving around the whole day, hundreds of people of all faiths gathered to sing and dance and pray until midnight in honour of Jesus.

Many gave testimony to healing and others who were not in good terms came together. Each one of us felt that Jesus truly visited us, gathering men and women, young and old especially the youth. God be praised.

By Sister Mary Rashmi, SND



ND School Kenya: Rains

When we have constructions going on we pray,

"Lord, please do not send the rains till we finish casting or whatever."

When we are ready for planting we pray,

"Lord, send us sufficient rains."

At the time of harvest again,

"Please Lord, no rains now."



I wonder how the Lord manages it all for there will always be someone building, another planting, and another harvesting!

Well our father in heaven seems to figure it all out for all of us. This year we were blessed with timely rains and all our fruit trees loaded with delicious fruits, mangoes, papayas, guavas, white sappotas, figs, and apples. We shared them with all our Sisters and friends. Half of the mangoes went to the stomach of our workers even before they were ready which we were not happy with. Then the Lord gave us an overdose of rains and so we lost some of our precious flowering plants as they decayed in the stagnant water.

So goes life. We wade through water if no one comes here for Holy Mass and Sister Mary Winfred, who is having her holiday classes, really has a hard time going to get a transport to her school. But somehow she manages. Since our buses were getting stuck on the way, we closed the school two days earlier. Maybe we need to pray,

"Lord, please make the black cotton soil porous".

By the way the mangoes are over, the guavas and white sappotas are still there and the figs are producing non-stop. So we can still share some fruits if you come for a visit.

By Sister Mary Neelima, SND

The Blooming Notre Dame in Kiomboi

"The past months comprised of a stream of significant events. One of these events was the farewell for Rev. Bishop Desiderius Rwoma who is already transferred to Bukoba Diocese. We were really happy to be graced with Bishop Rwoma's visit to our school before his transfer. The wonderful programme by our little darlings left him in great surprise, and he wondered how our first children had learned so much within a short time. Our dear Bishop blessed the entire school building and thereafter blessed our children. After the programme we had lunch with him and as a token of love and gratitude to us he gifted us with a beautiful Vatican flag for the school. That is not all!

We were also privileged to have a visit from Sister Margaret Mary Gorman, the Provincial Superior of the Chardon Province and Sister Marie Manning from the Global Mission Office. On another occasion, we were happy to welcome our dear Sister Mary Saina our Assistant Provincial from Our Lady of Assumption Province, Patna, India who also visited our school. All these Sisters felt at home with us and enjoyed the special programmes prepared by our children.



It is encouraging to see how our children are growing day by day. Before closing for Easter holidays they had mid-term exams. Their parents came on the closing day to pick their

exams and sign the report card. They were so amazed to see the performance of their children; some parents couldn't believe that it was their children who had written that exam. They thanked all the teacher for being committed in teaching and shaping their children. At present we have 55 children. Since our school building is not yet completed, we are still using the garage and guest house as their classrooms. The people are still asking for admissions but there is no place.

The process of getting our school registered is going on as well. All the important documents were sent to the Ministry of Education and soon we will be getting inspectors from Dodoma. Please keep this intention in your valuable prayers. Thank you."

By Sisters Mary Christine and Magdalene Mukonyo

From Mt. Meru University

We are grateful to God for his love, care and protection. We thank you our dear Sisters for your prayers in our studies. Special thanks to our dear Sisters in Njiro for your love, care, support and warm welcome whenever we come home on weekends. We are getting ready for the end of the 1st year exams which begin on 20th May, 2013. Thereafter, holiday begins in June followed by the Block Teaching Practice commencing on 8th July. Thank you one and all and may God bless each of you. *By Sisters Mary Jacinta and Teresa, SND*

Faith begins with every good gift

Special Visitors

We were absolutely delighted to welcome to our Delegation, the Provincial Superior, Sister Margaret Mary Gorman from the Christ the King Province in Chardon, Ohio and also the Director of the Notre Dame Global Mission and Advancement Office in Chardon,



Sister Marie Manning. Both Sisters visited the Mission in Uganda, then on to Kenya and finally reaching Tanzania on March 21. These visits gave both Sisters a good insight in our ministry activities in Africa as a way of expanding the knowledge of others who are friends and collaborators with our Global Mission and Advancement Office in Chardon. It was a special gift to Sister Mary Annete to have her Provincial Superior visit our Delegation and see the contribution that Sister is

prayerful support and contributions of the Sisters in Chardon are a blessing for all of us.

Mt. Sinai Convent: Crazy for Vocations

Sr. Emma and I have spent the past two weeks in vigorous vocation work. Since all the girls who had come to us for *Come and See* had not turned up after their school exam results were out, it was very clear that this would be a 'zero year', with no candidates joining us. We decided it was time to wake up and cast our nets into the deep. In the spirit of finding at least a few to join us this year, we embarked on the most sensitive and unpredictable ministry of promoting vocations. Through friends we made new contacts with five girls from the dioceses of Machakos, Meru, Kitui and Kakamega. We made trips to the families of each of our aspirants and spent a night with them. This gave us ample time to come to know the girls, their families and parishes. It also gave us a good chance to share with them a lot about our way of life. We also faced parents who resisted completely and would not let their daughters come to us because of the dowry issue. Some claimed that it would be a big

loss to them after spending a lot of money educating their girls and get nothing.

The trips were long and tiresome many times on the famous 'boda bodas' (motor cycles) taking us as far as 20km to the interior villages. The farthest we went was to Mumias, in Kakamega Diocese. This is a nine hours trip to Western Kenya with only ten minutes break at one point. This was the most blest trip because we managed to fish out one aspirant and traveled back with her. We also had a chance to meet the youth of a parish in Makueni. Although all the areas were strange and new to us, we traveled by faith and felt very much at home in every family we visited. At times we found reasons to laugh especially when a mad man met us at the roadside and offered to marry both of us. We told him we are married and showed our rings then he left us alone though he stood far and kept staring at us. We also managed to exercise our pericope expertise as the priests asked us to give homilies in their parishes and outstations which we did so well.

All in all, our efforts have been rewarded because two aspirants have joined us, one more is coming in two weeks time while a fourth one is yet to get permission from her father. Our joy is that we have been able to make Notre Dame known far and wide, in new parishes. We have also made new contacts with more girls who are studying and are possible candidates for next year and the years to come.

We are grateful to God for His divine protection and providence. We thank Sr. Mukti and her council for giving us this chance to go for vocation work and the prayers and support of our sisters in the delegation during our trips especially Sisters Mary Shobha, Neelima, Sawmya and Winfred. The families who have given us their daughters did so generously and wish that we take good care of them. *By Sister Mary Elizabeth, SND*

Don Bosco School, Shinyanga

GRATITUDE TO GOD!

This year in our hostel we have about 218 girls. Though the results for her whole country were not satisfactory we were proud to have for the first time a girl getting Division One from our hostel. We are grateful to God for his blessings. We hope for the best from this year's group.

SPORTS DAY

April 27th was a memorable "SPORTS DAY" for all of us in our school. The theme for the Sports day "POSITIVE COMPETITION FOR UNITY" was well expressed by the various activities performed. The students had the opportunity to express their talents specially in playing different games, marathon, field events, etc. The day before the most awaited day the students had the opportunity to design their tents according to their house colours. The six houses were free to use any materials to decorate their tent and creatively make it colourful. In the morning when we gathered we couldn't believe our eyes! The day was well planned and all went well. At the end guess what! Victoria House won! How can it be otherwise since the lake is just very near to us? Other houses are dreams!

RENEWAL OF VOWS

2nd May was a significant day for the community here in Shinyanga. Sister Mary Irene renewed her vows during a simple but solemn Eucharistic celebration. In preparation, Sister Mary Irene spend a whole day in recollection at Bugisi. Fr. Juliato, SMA directed her in the recollection. OLA sisters accommodated her in their formation house. During this special day the Mass was celebrated in our Julie Hall and the girls sang melodiously. Fr. Babu Augustine was the celebrant. The OLA sisters also joined for Mass. After the Mass, we had congratulatory wishes for Sister Mary Irene. Sister gave sweets to the girls after which they

carried her from the hall to the house door as a sign of their delight and appreciation for her. The day ended with a delicious meal together.

HOSTEL PROGRAMME

Though it is challenging with the number we have here, apart from normal duties we have for our girls, we get some special time with them. On Monday we conduct group prayers; Sister Mary Celine takes the Form III and Form IV students, Sister Mary Pascalina takes Form I and Form II students and Sister Mary Irene takes Pre-Form I students. After the prayer we allow them to express their desires and then we advise them accordingly. We have special adoration on Thursday with the girls. The girls are prepared to lead the adoration which is very inspirational.

Congratulations!

Credit goes to all the pioneers of Shinyanga community for they had a chance to form this newly ordained priest Fr. George Kulwa. He is the first priest from Don Bosco school - Didia. With the number of celebrations that we had and the involvement of the students in the Ordination, we hope the vocations to priesthood and sisterhood will be awakened. Following that event of Ordination which took place on 16th April, we had vocation Sunday. Fr. Babu, SDB, Sister Mary Pascalina SND, Sister Comfort, OLA and two postulants from OLA conducted a seminar for the vocation group in our school. About 25 girls and 40 boys have joined the vocation group. We pray that the voice of the Lord may continue to ring in their hearts. *by Sisters Mary Irene and Pascalina*

Faith begins with trust

NDPS Njiro

All of us here in our Holy Spirit Delegation have surely experienced and witnessed the gift of each other, the gift of solidarity with one another, the gift of being one heart, one hope and one mission and committing ourselves to global transformation.

With all that has been part of our March 16th event with the theft and shooting of our dear Sister Mary Shobana, we can share some of what supported us and helped us.

Sister Mary Satya writes:

It was on 16th March at 10:45 A.M that the heart breaking incident took place right in front of our Note Dame School gate in Njiro. Sister Mary Thara and I were busy in Zinduka with the 'Planet Children's' programme. Suddenly we were alarmed by the screaming of the children outside and the women who were on the top floor of our Zinduka building. We told the children not to come out and both of us ran out of the hall and reached the road. We were shocked to see our dear Sister Mary Shobana sitting between the school gate and the school van holding the phone close to her ear; her leg was bleeding profusely. I could not believe what I saw and asked her what happened and she could only respond... 'motorcycle.' By the time the driver and one of the staff came, all three of us lifted her back into the school van. I ran to get first aid, my hand filled with blood, but by the time I came back out, the vehicle left for the hospital accompanied by Sister Mary Magdalene Musila and Massawe or handyman.

Sister Mary Thara and I secured another vehicle and reached AICC Hospital in Arusha. The doctors and nurses attended to her quickly with all the medical procedures. By 12:30 she was taken to the operating theatre to attend to the wound and put an open cast. By 4:00 P.M. she was out of the operating theatre and was in good spirits and began explaining everything to the Sisters and those around her. She said that as she was coming out of the school van, one man shot her on the left leg twice and then in the upper left arm and two

men behind her grabbed her bag of money and escaped on the motorcycle. Massawe, one of our workers got a huge stone to throw at them, but when they showed him the gun and fired in the air he ran and hid. More details will surely be revealed as Sister reflects back on the incident and can recall what happened."

Having our dear Sister Mary Sreeja here from Rome was a tremendous support not only to our dear Sister Mary Shobana but to all of us. We are so grateful to Sister Mary Kristin for taking the initiative in sending Sister Mary Sreeja to be here with us. We are so grateful for the outpouring of prayers from around our Congregation for Sister Mary Shobana and for each of us who were trying to deal with the situation. Please know of our gratitude for "the prayers and support of my sisters" as we say in our vow formula. Surely each of you will be held in our prayers. What a beautiful witness of solidarity.

Sister Mary Satya continues: *"On the 19th of March, Sister Mary Shobana was transported by a special medical plane to Kenya, Agha Khan Hospital that had the special facilities as Sister needed additional surgery. On 22nd March she had another surgery and did the internal fixation of the bones. During the operation, she could hear sounds and asked the doctors what kind of carpentry work was going on? They told her she could look at the screen if she was interested and see what the doctors were doing. The operation was very long but successful. On the 24th she was again taken for skin grafting since this was an open wound and that also took a long time. After having been given a blood transfusion, she remained in much pain. Surely she was with Jesus in his passion during Passion Week. It was on Good Friday that she had her first physiotherapy treatment and it truly was a 'crucifixion experience' having to stand on her leg for a long time. She went through the pain and persevered."*

Many friends and well wishers visited her while she was in the AICC Hospital in Njiro and also in Agha Khan Hospital in Kenya. This was a great consolation to her and surely an outpouring of their love and concern for her. Sister was finally transported to India on 3rd April and I was privileged to accompany her during these days and stayed with her in India until 16th April. She was able to walk with the support of the walker and managed to take care of herself.

Despite the shock and horror of the event, we have recently heard that our dear Sister Mary Shobana, now in India, came to chapel for the first time on April 25th for Mass. What great progress. Soon her months of physiotherapy will begin and she will be up and walking around before you know it. Sisters Mary Shaija and Magdalene Musila with the continuous support of our Delegation Superior, Sister Mary Mukti are continuing with the smooth running of the school from now until we can make further plans to enhance the continued growth and management of the school. Sisters Mary Mukti, Roshini and Pramila have been a tremendous support in overseeing the continuing construction of our boarding facility that had been a big responsibility for Sister Mary Shobana. We are grateful to all who are participating in helping us continue the work of education in both of our schools here in Njiro. Our hearts can't forget the many good people who have helped us through their presence, prayers, material and moral support rendered during this time. May God Almighty bless and protect all of us, our families, friends, well wishers and benefactors. *By Sister Mary Satya, SND*

Thank you to everyone who made this publication possible with your wonderful contributions. And thank you to everyone who takes the time to read our newsletter. We are happy to share our life and ministry with all of you in our Congregation.
The Newsletter Staff: Sisters Mary Annete, Shobha and Shaija, SND