



***Sisters of Notre Dame
Holy Spirit General Delegation
June 2015 Newsletter Volume 7 #2***

New Life All Around Us!

Our new Delegation Superior and Team

What a great blessing was bestowed on us as the new Holy Spirit General Delegation was installed on May 24, 2015. Sisters Mary Kristin and Sreeja were present for the Inauguration and Installation and also conducted the week long in-service that followed. Truly this is an historic event as Sister Mary Kristin shared in her May 11, 2015 letter, "It is the first time a unit is made up of sisters from six countries." It was a simple celebration filled with meaning. We all felt like the first Pentecost gathering, all experiencing an outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Adapting the Scriptures, "we were Ugandans, Kenyans, Germans and Americans, there were inhabitants from Tanzania and India as well as travelers from Rome, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." Join us in celebrating this wonderful new graced moment in our Congregation's history.





Sisters Mary Kristin and Sreeja Were inviting the new Delegation Superior and Council to come forward.



New Delegation Superior and Council:
Sister Mary Roshini, Delegation Superior,
Sister Mary Colette, First Assistant, Sisters
Mary Sawmya, Elizabeth and Immaculate
councilors



Sister Mary Kristin expressed her gratitude in the name of the Congregation for the tremendous gift Sister Mary Mukti has been to our Holy Spirit Delegation!

Sister Mary Mukti also gave the new Delegation a beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit to place in our new Delegation Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Sister Mary Roshini, as the new General Delegation Superior received the gift in the name of all of the Sisters.



The Holy Spirit General Delegation Administration Team



May 24, 2015
Left to right...
Sister Mary Annete, Delegation Secretary
Sister Mary Colette, First Councilor
Sister Mary Elizabeth, councilor
Sister Mary Sawmya, councilor
Sister Mary Roshini, Delegation Superior
Sister Mary Immaculate, councilor
Sister Mary Pramila, Delegation Treasurer



New Profession Group



A day filled with much joy and jubilation was May 9, 2015 as our 10 novices pronounced their First Vows. Parents arrived the day before as well as many sisters to prepare for the celebration. The theme for the First Profession was "Lord make me a channel of your blessings." Our Parish Priest, Fr. Benedict Ole Kashe was the main

celebrant and was joined by several other neighbouring priests and parish priests of our newly professed. The Candidates, Postulants and Novices did an outstanding job of singing and dancing for the liturgical celebration as well as directing and playing the keyboard. The simple family celebration in our Notre Dame style was another witness of the "new life" we are experiencing here in our delegation. May each of them continue to live their theme of being a channel of blessings to all God's people in their new communities and ministries.

New Novices

Our joy continued as 11 postulants were received into the novitiate on May 13, 2015. They had the added joy of having Sister Mary Beena, the Provincial Superior of Our Lady of Assumption Province, Patna, India here for their reception into the novitiate as well as for the First Profession a few days earlier. Their theme was "...They Recognized Him at the Breaking of the Bread." Having journeyed with Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus and entering into a deeper understanding of the Eucharist, each one was able to recognize Jesus in their lives, in their past and could experience the gift of the Eucharist as they move into the future as Novices of Notre Dame.



They continue to pray each day for a deeper conscious awareness of the gift of his presence in their lives. May they continue to be bread for one another.



Sister Mary Beena's visit

It was an added gift and joy for us to have Sister Mary Beena with us. We have been a delegation under Our Lady of Assumption Province, Patna, Bihar, India with Sister Mary Sreeja first and then Sister Mary Beena as the Provincial Superiors. The tremendous support we have received on so many levels has kept us alive and moving forward. Sister has been a great source of inspiration for us and has shared her wisdom and understanding with each of us in our delegation. Her encouragement and challenges were well received and appreciated. In this visit as Provincial Superior, we also extended our gratitude to her as she visited each local community in the Delegation. We can never thank her enough for the blessing she has been to us these past few years.

Two Special Graduations

Dear Sister Mukti and our dear sisters,
We thank God for having brought us to the completion of our course in Chemchemi Institute. As we thank God, Sister Mary Susan and I want to express our sincere gratitude to you our dear Sister Mukti, the council, our Sisters in the Holy Spirit Delegation and the entire Notre Dame Family, for giving us this opportunity for studies, to deepen our spirituality, self-awareness, as well as widening our world view through



His Lordship Most Reverend Bishop James Maria Wainaina, The Bishop of Muranga Diocese and the administrator of all the catechesis programs in KECB (Kenya Episcopal Conference Of Bishops).

our encounter with religious from different congregations and countries. **"I am because you are and you are because I am"** was our maxim during this period of time because you have been very close to us, supporting us with your valuable prayers, encouragement, timely help, material support and your presence through visits to us. Having been part of the institute as the name describes **"Chemchemi ya uzima"** meaning **spring of the living water**, we have been nourished, encouraged, empowered and transformed by Jesus for formative encounters for authentic witnessing. We are fully convinced that it was not by chance that you dear Sister Mukti and your council thought of sending us there.

We believe and pray that what we have gained in this past nine months will be an effective instrument to serve both the church and the congregation. We thank God in a special way for our sisters in Notre Dame –Syokimau community who have been supporting us with sisterly love, prayerful support, care, concern and material support during this period of nine months. Thank you dear sisters may God bless you!

Commissioning for Sister Mary Susan was on 4th May, 2015, and then our graduation took place on 6th May, 2015 and both events were officiated through a solemn ceremony preceded by Eucharistic celebration. Thank you sisters for joining us during these events both with your prayers and presence, may our good God reward all of you for the love



and sacrifices you have made for us to renew and equip us for the mission of Christ in the world. *By Sisters Mary Pascalia and Susan, SND*

Visit of Bishop Francisco Silota from Mozambique

We thank Bishop Francisco Silota for accepting the invitation of our Formators Sisters Mary Jyosita and Annete to visit the formees from Mozambique. The Bishop was visiting his fellow Missionaries of Africa at their novitiate and so was able to come for the celebration of the Eucharist and a short visit. After the visit of the formees and a wonderful Eucharistic celebration, the Bishop joined us for supper in the Upper Room where we were having a special meal and programme for our dear Sister Mary Mukti who was celebrating her birthday.



“Our hearts are full of gratitude to the Almighty God for the surprise visit of our Bishop to our International Novitiate House and to spend over an hour with the six of us from Mozambique. We really appreciated his readiness and simplicity towards his flock here in Tanzania. Words are not enough to express the joy we felt having him around us. May Almighty God bless him and his ministry to the people in our Diocese of Mozambique.” By the Novices: Sisters Finita Marie, Turesse Marie, Maria Ema Virginia and Postulants: Julieta, Ester, and Mariana.



Sharing our Easter Gifts

It was on Holy Saturday, that our dear Sister Mary Jyosita and our formees packed bags with gifts for the poor. The sisters and formees sacrificed all during Lent and the money that would have been used for some different foods, was saved and put aside for distribution of food to the poor.

“It was on April 4, 2015 that all the formees in their village visit groups, left the formation house filled with joy. During our regular weekly visits, we came to know the needs of certain people. The Holy Saturday walk we took as we carried gifts for the poor, gave us reason to praise the Lord. The people were so happy, surprised and appreciated so much the generosity of the sisters. They experienced the presence of the Risen Lord as they received food to eat. We entered homes that had large holes in the walls and in the iron sheets of their roofs. Some had only one room to live in but had chickens and other animals also in that place. Our hearts were really broken but we remained in his love and gave the peace and joy that filled our hearts. Like our dear Foundress Sister Maria Aloysia, we felt the compassionate love for the poor and knew in a new way our Notre Dame spirit. We thank our Formators for this opportunity.

By the Postulants: Betty, Juliet, Romana, Lilian, Julieta, Mariana, Petronilla, Magdalena, Sarah, Ester, and Hellen.



Sister Mary Mukti's farewell

A special evening of prayer and thanksgiving was shared in our delegation with our dear Sister Mary Mukti who has been our Delegation Superior for the past six years. She was in many ways the pioneer in helping begin our Holy Spirit Delegation. Each sister in the delegation wrote on a paper heart their prayers and wishes for Sister and this was formed like a book of wishes and held between two paper hands.



After offering prayers of thanksgiving for all Sister has done for our delegation, everyone extended hands in blessing her. Then we went to the Upper Room for a wonderful supper together followed by a programme by the formees. A special gift was given from our Delegation to Sister as an expression of our gratitude for the gift she has been to us. We always look forward to her message back to us which comes in the form of a story...a tradition that has been part of her time with us. We continue praying for God's special blessing on dear Sister Mary Mukti and entrust her into the loving hands of our good and provident God.

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL, NJIRO, ARUSHA

Sister Mary Shaija and the School Staff at Njiro, Arusha can be proud of its achievement for 2014 National Examinations of Form II and IV. In Form II we were 1st in Arusha City and 8/363 in the Region and in Form IV we were 4/146 in the Region and 34/ 2322 in the country. At the Regional Heads of Schools meeting we were acknowledged for this achievement and I had the privilege of receiving the certificate of acknowledgement. We thank you dear Sister Mary Shaija for all your hard work.

Notre Dame Primary also can be proud of its little Scientists. In the ward level Science competition, their three Science Projects were chosen for the District level competition in



August. If you want to see the exploding volcanoes ask the Class III and you will be surprised. They do explode and spout out red lava

Another important day for the School was on May 22nd. The whole School gathered in our multipurpose hall to thank Sister Mary Mukti who has done so much as the Bursar of the school and also as the Delegation Superior. They had a lovely programme of dances, songs, poems and speeches to express their gratitude to Sister. Thank you sister for all the trips you made to provide the various items needed for our school for different occasions, for the time you spent to meet the teachers, for stepping in to help whenever we needed you, for the time you spent watching and encouraging the school programmes and sharing with us all the meaningful stories to spice up your talk to us. You did a great work for Notre Dame School, Njiro. Thank you. *By Sister Mary Neelima, SND*

Annual SND Formators' Meeting

Every year, the Formators from our various units meet, usually at the time when the Formators bring their Candidates to prepare for Postulancy. Then what follows are several days of hard work to plan and share all that has been taking place in our various units.

This year we worked hard on the Profile of a Sister of Notre Dame that was shared at the



last meeting of Formators in Rome. We also welcome Sister Mary Immaculate to our group; Sister is responsible for the Aspirants and Candidates in Uganda. We said farewell to Sister Mary Annete who was completing 10 years of formation ministry here in Tanzania.

As Formators, we look forward to this gathering each year as it gives us an opportunity for some in-service. Our presenter this year was Sister Teresia from the Congregation of the Precious Blood who had our morning presentation.

Both Sister Mary Beena and Sister Mary Roshini joined us for part of the meeting. Dates were set for the next gathering and plans we made to shift our Postulants to Mpala next June. We thank our good God for the gift of each other and our call to the ministry of Formation in Notre Dame.

Coming Events

Our next newsletter will come under our new **Holy Spirit General Delegation** and include news from our three units: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. We already look forward to the many contributions from our Sisters to you our readers. Enjoy each and every issue.

Your newsletter team: Sisters Mary Annete and Shobha, SND