



## *From the Roof of Africa*



***Sisters of Notre Dame  
Holy Spirit General Delegation  
September 2015  
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### ***Season of Creation***

#### ***Our New Delegation Centre***

What a great adventure it was to pack up the Delegation Centre office and archives in Njiro, Arusha, Tanzania and travel to our new destination in Syokimau, Nairobi, Kenya! The week before the move, boxes were packed with folders and binders and tied and labeled. Then came the two four-drawer files. The files were locked, covered for protection and tied. Next was the big copy machine protected by pillows and placed in a large box. Lastly we covered and wrapped two tables that held the copy machine, stabilizer and large paper cutter. Needless to say, it was quite a feat! The two workers and the novices were a big help to Sister Mary Annete in tying boxes and wrapping all the necessary materials. Arrangements were made and on July 1, 2015, Sisters Mary Roshini and Annete made the five hour bus ride to Kenya, our new Delegation Centre and community. What a joy it was to be in our new home.

Little did we realize that the truck that was to transport the boxes and files would not arrive for another month! Try running a Delegation Office and Archives with only a laptop....no printer, no copy machine, no supplies and no wifi.





Yet we managed and finally the day came when all arrived EXCEPT two boxes. Someone is enjoying the contents or probably throwing it away as it would not be of any use to them. Fortunately all the necessary legal documents, sisters' files and other basic material was intact and we can only thank our good and



and provident God that nothing more was lost. If you are in the area of Syokimau, Nairobi, Kenya, do stop by; we would love to have a visit from you and welcome you to our new Delegation Centre. Karibuni Sana!

### *Creating new life: "African Child Day" Celebration at Moshono Park!*



Our Aloysia children in Njiro had a wonderful time at Moshono Park on 20<sup>th</sup> of June. Sisters Mary Satya, Kellen and the two first year Novices, Sisters Ester Marie and Romana accompanied them. It was the first time for the children to go out to a park with so many play facilities and a swimming pool. They really enjoyed running in and out of the big balloon houses, jumping on trampoline, swinging back and forth and going on the merry-go-round. They enjoyed a spring animal ride and wished to go swimming but the weather was too cold and the pool

had just been treated. In the afternoon there was a little sun, water was just right for swimming and those who could swim had an enjoyable time.

After swimming they were given some time to get dry and they were taken back home from the park by three o'clock in the afternoon. One of them led the prayer and another one gave a vote of thanks to the Park attendants. Each one alighted at their destination. It was a really beautiful experience for the Aloysia children. Thanks to Sister Mary Mukti, Satya, Pramila and the Novices for their support and to the park management for the concession they gave to the children.





### *Creating helps that can aid others: Zinduka Women's Centre's First Aid Course*

We were privileged to have an Africa First Aid Organization help us to educate our women, workers, novices, teachers and students on how to go about handling different types of accidents through First Aid. Most of the learning took place at the Zinduka Women's Centre except for those who came from far; we had to take the two young teachers Anna and Karla there. About 150 people became the beneficiaries of this programme. Each group composed of at least 30 members would be taught for one week. At the end of one week the learners would get a certificate. This took one month and it was very beneficial for all the learners



Novices, postulants and candidates graduate after the First Aid course



First Aid course in the village



Putting the casualty into a recovery position (First Aid practice in the village and with the students)

### *Creating a love of music: Music Competition in Kenya*

Selected students from Mt. Sinai C.M.I. School and Notre Dame School in Syokimau, Kenya travelled by plane to the Kisumu National Music Festival from August 2-6<sup>th</sup>. They presented various items using recorder, the violin, guitar, and piano among others. They had such a wonderful moment at the Lake region where they got a chance to see the beauty of Lake Victoria, the historical stone "Kit Mikaiji" and they visited a museum. Several of the teachers and the music teacher along with Sisters Mary Namita and Teresa Marie accompanied them and surely they had a memorable trip with many experiences.



Probably the highlight for this school year at Mt. Sinai was the invitation of our student Andrew Opolo, together with the best students of the various counties, to be guests to President Uhuru Kenyatta and the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta. This was from Monday to Friday in July and was done under the student Reward Scheme initiated to nurture future leaders of the country. The students participated in all the activities of the President and First lady in a family atmosphere.

Another wonderful activity was the privilege of attending a three-day Mentorship Programme at Alliance High School. The students were accompanied by Sister Mary Elizabeth and four teachers from our school. This programme was facilitated by different speakers who challenged them to set goals in life, to be open minded in all aspects of life and look to the future with great hope.

*By: Sisters Mary Shobha, Elizabeth, Teresa Marie and Jescah*

“Here are some budding musicians:”

### ***Creating hope for God’s people: The Year of the Consecrated Life***

In a special way, we, the Kiomboi Community, thank God for “The Year of the Consecrated Life.” Here in Kiomboi we have experienced God’s immense Goodness and Love in a unique way from our Parish Community and all the sub-stations. Rev. Fr. Aloyce Mossi and his Assistant Fr. Thomas Mangi, along with each Christian Community, shared their appreciation and gratitude towards our service and our dedicated and committed life. Each Basic Christian Community, (BCC) invited us into their groups on different weeks. They had Holy Mass arranged or Rosary together followed by words of appreciation, a meal, gifts like cooking oil, rice, wheat flour, chickens, sugar etc. We had a golden opportunity to talk about Vocations and more especially the vocation to Religious Life and how to foster it.



It is true that all the Basic Christian Communities are not that well off. TUTU VILLAGE is about 6 kms away from our convent. They had invited us and as usual the parish priest came with his car to take us to the village. When we saw the condition of the people, we realized their poverty and suffering. There were only two small brick houses and the rest were mud houses. They have



no electricity nor water facility. This year the crops failed and they have only the dry land. We had Holy Mass outside a mud house under a very small tent with a handful of people. After the Mass we greeted them and shared about religious life. They felt bad that they couldn't offer anything to us.

They invited us another time and Father took us there. This time we prayed rosary with them and returned home.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> time when we were supposed to go, there was a funeral. After a week they invited us again and the 4<sup>th</sup> time they made it so well. They had Holy Mass and

invited all the denominations from the village, including our Muslim brothers and sisters. After the Mass they welcomed us and asked us to say something. Sisters spoke about the Call of God to the individuals and the call to Religious Life. Many of them had not seen Sisters before. Afterwards, they served a very delicious meal for all the people. In spite of their poverty they shared their joy of having us with them. They hope that after ten or fifteen years, there may be someone who may have a high school education. It was really an experience of *ENCOUNTERING THE WORD AND ENGAGING THE WORLD*. We hope and pray that our sharing will produce much fruit in the lives of our people in TUTU VILLAGE.



The Feast of the Assumption was a special day for us. The Parish Priests and the Parish Committee had organized a Pilgrimage to the sub-station, Misigiri (17 kms away from Kiomboi Parish) where the First Missionaries had pitched their tent when they came to this area. It was the Culmination of Celebrations for us "Religious in this Parish". The parish priest took us by car to the place at 8 A.M. Though the church is dilapidated, our community of Sisters, along with the parish youth and all the people of that sub-station decorated the place and put up the altar for Holy Mass. The strong wind and the scourging sun had no mercy on us and on the flying little tent! Amid all these inconveniences the choir sang so well and kept everyone in the mood of celebration and prayer.



Rev. Fr. Thomas Mangi inspired everyone with his homily on Consecrated Life. After the Mass the youth entertained us with their melodious songs based on Consecrated Life. The children had a song for us followed by gift giving from all the sub-stations represented by their committees. It was a very touching experience when Kiomboi Parish Committee remembered each Sister who lived here with love and gratitude. At the end we had a chance to share about Vocations in general and the Vocation to Religious Life. The Sisters, Priests and Brothers joined in and concluded with a song on God's Call. The day ended with an agape meal. Both of our parish priests,



Fr. Aloyce Mossi and Fr. Thomas Mangi, were inspired with goodness and wisdom in reaching out and celebrating this wonderful year with all of us. As we move on towards the next year in our Congregation, may we continue to creatively Encounter the Word more and Engage the World even more. *By Sisters Mary Edna and Veronica, SND*

### *Creating our Congregational Renewal: Spiritual Heritage Retreat*

Sisters Mary Immaculate Namugga and Sister Therese Marie Nabakka led eight Sisters of Notre Dame serving in Uganda in the Congregational Spiritual Heritage Retreat Programme. The retreat was held at Notre Dame Education Centre in Mpala, Uganda. Both Sisters were trained to be facilitators of the programme in July 2014 in Coesfeld, Germany. The Sisters participating in the retreat ranged in age from 29-79 years. The Sisters were professed as early as 3 years ago or as long ago as 50 plus years. In spite of these and other differences, the retreat atmosphere was indeed an atmosphere of unity and joy and the sharing was very rich. Each Sister, even the most experienced, learned something new and deepened her insights into the amazing women and historical contexts that make up the congregation. Many have been inspired to read more about our congregational beginnings.

The missionary Sisters on the retreat had the added pleasure of seeing the younger members take on the leadership of the retreat and to do so in such an outstanding way. One missionary commented, "I have no fears about the future of our young Ugandan Sisters. They have the charism, spirit and mission very deeply rooted within them." Each Sister in Uganda is so grateful for the opportunity to make this retreat.



Sister Anita Marie Stacy and Sister Therese Marie Nabakka



Sisters Mary Immaculate Namugga, Rozaria Katusabe, & Paulyne Tubick

### *Creating an appreciation for water and life together*

This is a short article from our Shinyanga Community and especially about life in the Notre Dame Hostel. Every day after school hours, girls went to fetch water for bathing and washing. They have learned how to minimize





the usage of water because of the tremendous water shortage. With all this, life has to move on. Our girls are happy and ready to go on with their studies.



Despite all the challenges here and much work every day, Sisters do enjoy their community life together. They always have time for each other when they come together for prayer, meals and community meetings.



Sisters Mary Margaret and Sunday have gone to Rome for a gathering of young religious from all over the world, a gathering initiated by our Pope Francis. You can be sure to read more about that in the next edition of our newsletter. May the good God continue empowering us. *By Sister Mary Berita, SND*

### *Creating a spirit of new life from our Postulants*

It is with great pleasure that we write this to share with you about our life in Njiro. This year, we are eight Postulants from Mozambique (2), Tanzania (3) and Kenya (3). It is our joy that we come from different places, cultures, and languages thus bringing different ideas and making us to grow well as far as understanding one another. It was on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the feast of our dear Foundress, Sister Maria Aloysia that we became Postulants of Notre Dame; the day was colourful and full of joy.

In our formation community we do so many things together with our Formator, Sister Mary Prerna who always brings light and joy to us. It is also an enriching experience for us to be in our formation house, as Sister Mary Neelima from our Notre Dame Primary School came to teach us how to make cards, bouquets and flowers using stockings. We learned how to create a play by



using Scriptures. Our classes with our Formator have helped us to know our deepest desires and how to grow spiritually. We have learned how to use pericopes from the Gospels and share them in the group with the novices each week. Besides our classes, we have an opportunity to create a love of Jesus as we teach catechism in a nearby government school, teach children belonging to the Holy Childhood group, participate in our Small Christian Community and go out to the village every Friday to visit our brothers and sisters, pray with them and share the love of our good and provident God. This is just one

small way we as postulants feel we are "Encountering the Word and Engaging the World" at this early stage of our religious life. We ask for your prayers as we continue our journey as



postulants in our Notre Dame Congregation, that we may be firm in our faith and continue in our discernment. We promise to pray for each of you as well. *By Flavia, Domingas, Jackline, Digna, Catherine, Mary, Brenda and Julitha, PNDs*

### *Creating new growth as ND Osotwa Opens First Chapters for Loiborsiret*

Notre Dame Osotwa School is the first private and registered English Medium School in the area owned and managed by religious Sisters. Fifty-eight of our little children had their “maiden trip” to Arusha. They visited the airport and were able to go inside the airplane. They went to the snake park, climbed on a camel and visited other places of importance. They even visited Nane Nane grounds on Farmers Day which was very informative and educative. Our Sisters at Zinduka Women’s Centre graciously accommodated them for two nights. The children returned with many stories of wonder and excitement.

The Maasai women of N.D. Osotwa had seminars on “Women’s Rights and Human Rights”, etc. They have started to think aloud and speak about it. Twenty-two women had a two-week workshop on Leather Goods Production and many men came, with great admiration, to see the products made by women. Two of them have travelled around 1000 kms to Mwanza to continue their studies for a month in the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, Mwanza. One of them is getting out of Loiborsiret for the first time. We have helped 13 Self-help Groups (SHG). They have just registered and are getting ready to travel to the District Headquarters to open their own bank accounts. The women have begun a “bee keeping project” and there is much joy in them as they set out on the road to self-reliance.

Our hearts are also filled with gratitude to Sister Mary Mukti who helped to put a chain-link fence around the compound. Now we are not constantly troubled by domestic and wild animals. It is a great joy to accompany the construction work of the water tank and gutters for harvesting rain water. We thank and praise God for the grant received from the Hilton Foundation that has made this project possible. Sister Maria Almuth, our Golden Jubilarian from Germany, continues to accompany the Dialog Projekt team, working with them and bridging N.D. Osotwa and our beloved German roots, to continue the construction of ND Osotwa classrooms.

And yet another gift is the fact that Sisters Mary Esther and Esta spent a day with over 100 Tanzania Young Catholic Students (TYCS) from the Maasai Land at Terrat. Their presentations were highly appreciated by the students and other resource members.

*By: Sisters Mary Rashmi, Jacinta, Esther and Esta*

### *Season of Creation*

What a wonderful gift it has been to have Sister Mary Patricia Dorobek with us in our African Delegation. Visiting Tanzania and Uganda has been an enriching experience; Sister then travels to Mozambique before returning to Rome. The presentations regarding JPIC have nourished us, especially in view of Pope Francis’ recent Encyclical *LAUDATO SI’*, his Proclamation of the “Season of Creation” and all we are about as Sisters of Notre Dame in our global community. May we make each of these learnings a part of *“Encountering the Word and Engaging the World”* in this coming year.

*The newsletter team, Sisters Mary Annete and Shobha, would like to thank all of you for your contributions and thank our readers for their continued interest in what is taking place in our Holy Spirit General Delegation. Look forward to our next edition which will highlight our first Holy Spirit General Delegation Chapter and much more.*

