



***Sisters of Notre Dame
Holy Spirit General Delegation***

July 2017 Newsletter Volume 9 #5



Jubilee Bells are ringing!

A Jubilee Gift

A jubilee gift this year was the First Profession of seven of our novices on June 10th. They are: Sisters Mary Lilian, Magdalena, Romana, Hellen, Petronilla, and Sisters Sarah Marie and Maria Juliet. Their theme for their time of intensive preparation and for their First Profession Liturgy was "May I be a flowing stream nurturing your Creation," taken from Ez. 47: 1 and following. Rev. Fr. Delfinus, SDB gave a beautiful and challenging homily. Many Sisters were able to be present to support our Sisters in this celebration. They were especially grateful to have Sister Mary Sreeja, our First General Assistant present and Sister Maria Nonata, another General Assistant responsible for JPIC in our congregation. The day was colourful and everyone was grateful for the new life in our delegation. After the home visit of the newly professed, they will travel to Kenya to begin their SND Apostolic Orientation Programme.





Annual Formators' Meeting

This year our annual formators' meeting took place at our International Novitiate House. Present were the formators from Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania. Sister Mary Sreeja was able to be present for the meeting as well as Sister Mary Roshini, our delegation superior. Every year they look forward to this event for planning and implementing new ideas. For this year's meeting, Rev. Fr. Amandus Kapele, Provincial

Superior for the Spiritan Fathers gave the input on "African culture and its impact on formation." This was following by sharing by each of the formators and discussing and making plans for the coming year.

At the time of this annual meeting, the formator from Mozambique brings the pre-postulant/s who will join the group in Uganda to begin their postulancy. This year, Sister Maria Diva Jacoby brought Eva Braz Tomo who joined the other young women in formation who began their postulancy on July 13, 2017. We ask God's special blessing on each of them.

Planning meeting at Maji ya Chai



We felt privileged to have Sister Mary Sreeja with us to help us visualize the past 25 years of our presence and ministry in Africa and actualize plans for the future. Both in the meeting with the Sisters in Uganda and the one in Tanzania, we were recalling our past experiences and putting them into perspective. Sister reminded us that we are called to look at our rapidly changing world and how that impacts the life and mission of the Church of which we are active participants. She emphasized how "we need to be creative thinkers in the mission field, to see the possible and to liberate the potential" not only within each member of the delegation but also within the extended charism family of our collaborators, associates, and all other people who are under our care. Reflections, discussions, group sharing were all part of the activities of these days and especially looking at how we can grow and develop as we plan for the future of our delegation. We were very united as one Unit even though the meetings took place in different countries. No matter where we are, we are united in mind, heart and spirit.



We cannot thank Sister enough for the time and energy she shared with all of us during these important planning days. God Bless you dear Sister Mary Sreeja. *By Sister Mary Annete, SND*

Sister Maria Nonata's Visit

Sister Maria Nonata, one of the General Assistants in Rome had a wonderful opportunity to visit our delegation in Tanzania and Uganda. She visited Simanjiro and saw the work and ministry of the Sisters. She was very happy to meet some of the Maasai people. We know she has taken so many more pictures than we could ever put in our newsletter and would have so much more to share. Sister travelled to Kiomboi and witnessed our Sisters and their ministry particularly in our Aloysia Home and Notre Dame School. She was happy to share some sessions with the Candidates and Novices in Tanzania about JPIC since she is the congregational representative in this area.



In Uganda

The Sisters in Uganda were so happy to welcome Sisters Mary Sreeja and Maria Nonata. The Sisters met with the Sisters in Mpala first. Sister Mary Colette arrived a few days later and took the Sisters to Jinja to explore an educational institution there. Seeing the Nile and spending a little time there was a relaxing bit of fun for our General Councilors. The next day was spent in traveling to Buseesa, about five hours from Mpala. After lunch and a short rest, Sister Maria Nonata gave a JPIC presentation to the candidates. The candidates were blessed to have the two Sisters pray with them and eat supper with them. Of course the candidates welcomed them with a lovely programme. The next day Sister Maria Nonata was shown around the schools and the farm and met some of the local people. The primary school children welcomed them with a programme of singing and dancing. The Sisters especially enjoyed the traditional dance of the Banyoro people. The sisters each spoke encouraging words to the pupils. *By Sister Mary Colette, SND*



A visit with Sister Mary Immaculate, the Candidates and pre-postulants in Buseesa, Uganda



Sister Maria Nonata visited our St. Julie Model Primary Boarding School in Buseesa, Uganda and the students were so happy to be with her.



Sisters Mary Sreeja, Nonata, Colette and Sister Polly a Little Sister of St. Francis had a visit near the Nile River in Jinja, Uganda.

New Pre-postulants

The preparations to welcome five young women into their Pre-postulancy and receive their medal began with evening recollection on 11th of July. Each one took this day of recollection seriously and was eager to take this next step on their formation journey. The next day, the 12th of July was our Spiritual Mother Saint Julie's birthday and a fitting day to celebrate and welcome these five young women.



We began the prayer service in the evening with Adoration, and then followed the Entrance Ceremony to Pre-Postulancy. The theme chosen was "Like the Sunflower that follows the direction of the sun." Sister Mary Satya, on behalf of our Delegation Superior Sister Mary Roshini, presided over the prayer service. We are grateful to our Sisters from our Zinduka and Njiro Community for their presence to witness, encourage, and support our young women in formation. We pray for you dear Judith, Anne, Getruda, Virginia and Anneth, as you live out the entrance theme in your daily lives and let your lives be attuned to God. *By Sister Mary Susan, SND*

New Postulants



“And Mary Said Yes” was the theme for the entrance to postulancy. It was a day of joy and gratitude for our community and for the entire Holy Spirit General Delegation. On this day eight vibrant women entered the postulancy. They are Catherine, Magdaline and Elizabeth from Kenya, Eva from Mozambique, Justina from Tanzania and Hilda, Juliet and Rebecca from Uganda. Sister Mary Colette our Assistant General Delegation Superior received them as postulants. Prior to this she spent a day with them giving them reflections and provided a time of personal sharing with them which they appreciated.

I am very grateful to you Sr. Mary Colette for taking your time for our postulants and accepting them into postulancy.

Since the universities are having holidays and our student sisters are away for their practice teaching, we wanted to have more representation of the Sisters and our joy was doubled by the presence of our newly professed Sisters from Uganda and by the presence of Sister Therese Marie. They added much joy and colour to the celebration; it was a beautiful day. This is a very unique group representing four African countries. Sister Mary Margaret took them through group dynamics which helped them a lot. I want to thank you dear Sister Mary Margaret for helping our postulants. I am grateful to their previous formators, Sisters Mary Pascalia, Immaculate and Irene for preparing these young women. Thank you dear Sister Mary Roshini and all our dear Sisters for your prayerful support for these young women in their faith journey. *By Sister Mary Prerna*

Apostolic Orientation Programme Begins

The eight temporary professed Sisters gathered with Sister Mary Shobha to begin their Apostolic Orientation. Sister prepared them as they began their life as temporary professed Sisters giving them all the basic information from her as Director. Sister took time to meet each of them personally over the next few days giving her an opportunity to come to know them.

On July 17th the newly professed student Sisters met in chapel with Sister Mary Annete for a sacred moment to begin this part of their formation journey. Sister began the opening prayer with many reflections from the book by Sister Mary Regina Alfonso entitled “Go Teach!” And Jesus Showed Us How. There was time for quiet prayer, sharing on Jesus the Master Teacher, on the various Apostles and who they might identify with and included so many insights that Sister Mary Regina offers in her book. The week continued with laying the foundation through our educational heritage.

Using the snd1.org resources, we were able to focus our educational heritage with the video presentations by Sister Mary Rita Geoppinger on our Educational Principles. If you haven't had a chance to view these presentations, you are missing a wonder gift that Sister offers.

As part of their programme, Sister Mary Susan came to give her presentations on Catechesis and this was greatly appreciated by them. Sisters Mary Pascalina and Elizabeth had been at our Delegation Centre at the beginning of the second week. The two Sisters offered an enriching and energizing presentation regarding teaching and some of the experiences and helpful hints. This gave the students a chance to share from their community experience as novices some of their experiences that fit into the presentation made by these two sisters.

Following Sister Mary Annete's presentations will be those of Sister Maria Bernarde who will continue the Apostolic Orientation Programme until the second week of September. The group will then travel to Uganda for the rest of the programme. After these six months of the programme, the eight temporary professed will then be assigned to one of our local communities and schools and be observed and helped during the next six months. At the end of that time they will have their final evaluation and receive a grade for the course. We have all found this a wonderful way to orientate our newly professed before sending them out for a full year of ministry. We ask God to continue to bless Sister Mary Colette who will oversee the programme in Uganda and all the sister who will be helping her. *By Sister Mary Annete, SND*



New Associate Candidates

On Sunday, July 2 we welcomed nine more associate candidates for the Sisters of Notre Dame. We gathered in chapel for a "Ritual of Welcome" and each received a small lighted candle and journal to keep notes from each of our meetings. Afterwards, all nine plus the first group of six met in the dining room for refreshments and introductions. It was really an energizing time and we all felt so positive about the experience. The first group of six, after introducing themselves, shared something of their year of preparation to become associates and it was interesting to hear each of them share their deep desire to come to know God at a deeper level, to come closer in their relationship with God and various aspects of their learnings during the first year. We look forward to the first gathering for the new group on September 3rd. Sisters Mary Annete, Roshini and Namita will be their companion Sisters on their journey.

New Associates

July 30th marked a special day for our Holy Spirit General Delegation in our year of Jubilee. In our afternoon Eucharistic Liturgy we welcomed our first six Associates: Immaculate Wanyaga, Antony Munyao, Angeline Mulwa, Rosalia Mutiso, Juliana Kimanzi and Victor Kivinda. Sister Mary Annete, as Director of the Associate Programme, had been accompanying these six men and women with the assistance of Sisters Mary Roshini, Namita and Aruna. Fr. Josephat Manau was the main celebrant on this day and also gave a presentation during their retreat. Some family members were present for the liturgy and witnessed them making their Covenant. Fr. Josephat blessed their associate cross pins and Sister Mary Roshini received them into this associate relationship. Each of the companion sisters was present to pin on their associate pin. Sister Mary Roshini spoke to them about this call and reiterated Fr. Josephat's words the previous day regarding lay leadership in the church and our universal call to holiness. Entering into the associate relationship has and is a grace and blessing for all of us.



From the Newsletter Team:

These are some of the highlights of the past few months and so much more is to come. This year, as you may have noticed, there have been a few more newsletters as we try to give a short summary of the past 25 years and where we have been in ministry since our arrival in East Africa. The coming newsletters will have a few more places of ministry as we try to capture our humble beginnings in "the sacred soil of Africa. Our culmination will be on December 18, 2017 as we gather to celebrate the "Flowering in the sacred soil of Africa"our theme for this Silver Jubilee Year. We hope that you have enjoyed travelling with us this year in each newsletter to a different community's beginning. Thank you for being our readers. We always welcome any feedback that will make our newsletters better. From the newsletter team: Sisters Mary Annete, Shobha and Namita, SND