



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

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Dialog Projekt in Simanjiro, Tanzania - Oh, how good is the dear good God!

As early as 2006, our Dialog Projekt group from Germany came to Tanzania and began building a multi-purpose hall in Lesoit. They didn't stop there. When Sister Mary Sujita met the group in Coesfeld, she spoke to them about our ministry that we planned to begin in Simanjiro, and that was the impetus to move forward so that when we began our ministry in Maasai Land, they were there to help. When they visited the site, plans were discussed, decisions and plans were made and the project began.





The group over the years built the convent, the school, a shop, teacher housing, a dorm for the boys and one for the girls complete with bathing and toilet facilities, a guest room, installed a solar pump, a green house, supported children in their studies, and renovated the convent when it needed to be done. The kindergarten and computer room were furnished by them, a school kitchen and watchman's house was completed along with a school kitchen, storage room and now, the digging of the foundation for a multi-purpose hall.

Each year, sometimes several times a year, the group from Germany's Dialog Projekt makes their way to our mission in Tanzania, East Africa, makes themselves at home and begins their work. At the end of their time, sometimes a week or two or a month, they come to our convent in Njiro and the Sisters prepare a wonderful "thank you" meal for them; everyone enjoys sharing all the great stories of their experiences. We don't know what we would do without them in this far-away part of Tanzania.



It is a challenge for many of the volunteers to live in Maasai land which can be without water and all the comforts they are used to in their home country. We marvel at how all of them adjust to their new surroundings. You can see, by the two pictures, how the group began digging the foundation for the multi-purpose hall and how much is completed at this point. We anticipate a group coming again next year for the next phases of this building project.



Sister Maria Almuth, from our International Emmaus Community in Coesfeld, has been part of this project for many years. She has taught the women how to bake bread and much more. From the very beginning she has picked up the shovel, carried bricks and done every piece of hard work possible, making our charism come alive among God's people.



May God abundantly bless these young men and women who give of themselves so generously to building up the kingdom of God in Simanjiro through who they are and what they do. God bless all our benefactors who are so much a part of this mission and also a gift to us through their presence.

By Sister Mary Annete, SND

First Graduation in Simanjiro

“What a blessing to celebrate the first class seven from our Notre Dame Osotwa School in Simanjiro. Our dear parents contributed food for the day of organized events. The Chief Guest was our District Education Officer who joyously accepted the invitation. We thank God for Sister Magdalene Musila whose presence with us made a great difference. It was a privilege to have Sister Maria Almuth and our German Dialog Projekt friends who had a great impact on the event. We have something to celebrate for the good results our students received. The results were eight students received grade B while one had grade C. We are ranked 3rd in the District and the school is one best schools in the District..” *By: Sister Mary Winfred Nduku, SND*

We Witness Intercultural Living Together-together

In our Professed Sisters community at Njiro, Tanzania, we planned to celebrate our cultural differences in any way they wanted. Actually in more ways than one, we were living out living interculturally together – together. It was lots of fun and very informative, too.

We started with Iraki culture from Mbulu by Sister Mary Flavia. Sister explained their practices at various occasions and we tasted some of their special dishes. We came to know some more about the Iraki culture.

Then came the Kamba tribal culture. Both Sisters Mary Elizabeth and Pascalia took time to get ready, and the detailed explanations about their customs, traditions, and practices from birth to death were very well done. We were asked to come early with two “Kangas” [two pieces of regular clothes worn by people of Africa in various styles in their areas]. The sisters helped us to dress and then we had a traditional Kamba dance and varieties of delicious food preparations. We had a lot of laughter and fun.



Next, it was the turn of the Indian Sisters to share their culture, traditions, and practices. Sisters Mary Pramila, Neelima, Jyosita and Anjali took time to prepare a tasty three course dinner. Before we started the meal, we had a slide show explaining the culture of the Syro-Malabar Christian traditions and practices from birth to death. They put on Indian attire, the “saree”, and helped the other sisters to dress by using the “Kanga” but draping it like the saree. All were served on banana leaves with delicious “appam” chicken curry, onion salad, rice and other items. At the end of the meal, all were served with rice “payasam” [a special sweet dish]. The whole experience enabled us to come to know more about our Indian Sisters and their culture.

Our Ugandan Sisters educated us about the Bunyoro culture. Sisters Mary Therese Marie Nabakka and Sister Mary Hilda [one of our second year novices] shared their culture through a slide show, singing and dancing. Again our “Kangas” were handy for the dress code. The food, typical of their culture, was well appreciated and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



Sister Maria Eva, our second year novice from Mozambique, also joined in the fun. Since she was alone, others stepped in to help her in her preparations. Here again, before the meal, we had a short talk by Sister Maria Eva and then some singing and dancing as well. The “Kanga” took another shape in our dressing and we danced with an “Ungo” in our hand [A flat shaped bamboo container .]

The last presentation was one was by Sisters Mary Gladness and Edna, our Sisters from Tanzania. They shared their Chagga culture, traditions, songs, dances and food. Both of them were busy in the kitchen in order to make it really beautiful. We had a variety of food which we have never heard about or tasted before. Here again, our “Kanga” became very useful and the Sisters helped us to become Chaggas for the time being in dress and food. The sharing of our cultures was very informative and all appreciated the experience.

Wow! Our International cultural living experiences became much more meaningful and acceptable among us. We all re-committed to living as one Notre Dame culture, and it was and is beautiful. We thank God for this great gift of one another from different lifestyles, cultures, traditions, food and practices. *By: Sister Mary Neelima, SND*

Community Experience

Our Second Year Novices have returned after their community experiences at Njiro, Kiomboi, Shinyanga and Simanjiro. They were thrilled by their experiences, and below is a brief sharing from them.

Sisters Mary Hilda and Maria Eva were placed in the Njiro Community and they said: “During our experience, we had many opportunities to take up different responsibilities in the house and at school. We enjoyed gardening and we planted, watered and harvested. At the school, we taught various classes and took care of the school stationery store and uniform store. We prepared the students for the Annual Day and Class Seven Farewell programs. We visited the families around the area who helped us to improve our Kiswahili. We have grown spiritually and kept good health throughout our stay with the Sisters. We are deeply grateful to our Delegation Superior, Sister Mary Roshini, and to our Formator, Sister Mary Jyosita, for this opportunity given to us. We sincerely thank each sister in the community for her share in our growth.”

Sisters Mary Justina and Elizabeth Marie were in the Kiomboi Community and they said: “We are grateful to God for this experience of the last four months of community experience. We were enriched in different aspects of our lives. In the Community, we were able to participate in various activities that were entrusted to us. In the school we took care of the Nursery Classes, the children in our Aloysia Home and taught Catechesis. We visited the families around especially the sick, old, and the poor. We thank our superiors for giving us this opportunity and are grateful to the sisters of the community for supporting us in all the situations.”

Sister Mary Juliet Ahaisibwe was alone in our Community at Didia and this is what she has to say: “I thank God for this opportunity to grow in the spirit and charism as a Sister of Notre Dame and I grew strong through my experience. I helped the young students of Don Bosco School, taught them, accompanied them in their sports activities, participated in the choir, helped and advised the Notre Dame hostel girls. I learned how to live in community through the support of my Sisters, their timely corrections, advice and affirmation. I had an opportunity to use my talents and that increased my confidence. I am grateful to my superiors for this opportunity and to my Sisters who accompanied me in the community.”



Sisters Mary Rebecca and Mary Magdaline said: *"It has been such a wonderful experience for the two of us to share our life with our beloved Maasai people. We have been able to understand their culture more deeply, their way of living, and the food they eat. It was a privilege to visit many places here in Simanjiro, some of them being Emboreet Parish and Kimotoroc, among others. Our encounter with the children in the classes gave us an opportunity to grow and understand the deep woundedness they have. We tried to share with them a lot of things that will bring transformation in the future. We were able to visit Milimani; we managed to climb mountains and enjoy ourselves with the staff from Notre Dame Osotwa School. We are grateful to God that our experience has been enriching and so wonderful for us, and we really enjoyed all that came to us. God bless Sister Mary Winfred, and the Simanjiro community at large, for the love and care bestowed upon us. We wish you all the best as you continue to minister to God's people."* By the Second Year Novices

A Few Farewells

Sister Maria Bernarde Derichsweiler has been a wonderful teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Head Teacher and more at our St. Julie Model Primary School in Buseesa, Uganda. Her gift of music has been shared not only with the students,

but also with the formees. She formed the group for the former students known as JOSA, Julie's Old Student Association, and former students have kept in touch over the years and will surely miss her.



Sister, you have contributed so much since your arrival in 2001, leaving your footprint in the hearts of many. May our good and provident God continue to bless you as you return to Coesfeld, Germany and the ministry that God has in store for you. We will surely miss you.



Sister Mary Judith Averbeck, a great teacher at our Notre Dame Secondary School in Buseesa, Uganda has contributed much in the science department of the school with her expertise in Biology. Students learned so much under her guidance and excelled in this area of study. Arriving in 2006, Sister quickly made herself at home in her new surroundings and joined the school staff. Her leadership as local superior was a gift to the community.

As you return to your home province in Covington, Kentucky, we know you will miss us as we will surely miss you. We know God has special plans for you when you return and begin a new ministry. Take our love and prayers with you and know we will continue praying for you with much gratitude.



Sister Anita Marie Stacy has been teacher and head teacher at our Notre Dame Academy in Buseesa, Uganda since 2002. She recently planned and oversaw the building of the new A Level (Forms 5 and 6) for our secondary students. Her quick wit and willing spirit made her a favorite with the students. So many who thought that they could never learn math were helped by the great gift she has in that area.

We will surely miss you, dear Sister, and ask for God's continued guidance in your next ministry back in your home province of Covington, Kentucky. We know that you carry each of us in your heart and know that you are in heart and prayers as well.



Far across the mighty ocean,
Is a land of palmy plains and baobab trees
An enchanting and fascinating abode
of peace loving, welcoming, and joyful people.

I am here to express my heart felt gratitude to all of you for the wonderful time I had in Tanzania and Kenya. On 20th June as I landed at the Tanzania airport and Sisters Mary Thara, Jyosita, and Mukti were waiting eagerly me. I felt welcomed right away!

The timing was perfect for me to witness celebrations in African style. I could witness the Perpetual Vows of Sisters Mary Irene and Gladness, and the first vows, and meet many Sisters. That was the beginning of the celebrations! I had the joy of interacting with the candidates, novices and teacher trainees as my students and we learnt from each other. It was great having spent a few days with the Zinduka women sharing with them some health tips. On 29th August I went to Kenya. Sister Mary Namita gave me a tour of the entire campus; looked like a lush green park with all the greeneries around. I felt at home right away with Sisters Mary Roshini, Annete, Teopista and the lively Juniors. I enjoyed the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of Kenya. I had a chance to visit the Sisters and the mission in Simanjoro, Singida and Shinyanga communities. I was very fortunate to accompany the novices going for their community experiences.

What I enjoyed most was the peaceful interreligious climate of the place. The beauty of the people is that they have plenty of time for celebration and socialization. Every event is a celebration, be it in the church, school, or small Christian community gatherings. The faithful give generously to the church. Sunday liturgy is a celebration of life and blessings received. And the entire church participates wholeheartedly body, mind and soul!! They know how to celebrate and they mean it!

I am indebted for this opportunity to come to this fascinating continent and witness the life of the Sisters and the people here. I express my gratitude to Sisters Mary Kristin, Sreeja, Tessy, Roshini and the congregational fund committee for giving me this opportunity. Great indeed is God the Heavenly Father and Mother who planted Notre Dame in this part of the world and I felt grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of the Sisters, past and present who dedicate their life to make a difference in the lives of the people. Hats off to the Notre Dame pioneers and all the sisters who left



their footprints in this part of the world and continue to do so. God is raising the Sisters in Holy Spirit Delegation strong and sturdy as Baobab trees, symbol of life and positivity, sustaining the ecosystem.

My ministry experiences in the *Sisters Without Borders* experience included, teaching the Candidates English and



teaching computer skills to the novices and those in the SND teacher training course, and visiting the various communities to experience life in and among the Sisters and the people in Tanzania and Kenya.



I would like to pray like Jabez: Oh that God would bless you and enlarge your territory! Let the hand of almighty be with you, and keep you from harm so that you will be free from pain. And God granted his request. May God answer our prayers.. Wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year. Stay Blessed. It is time for me go back. I will miss you all.
By: Sister Mary Anjali, SND





Congratulations, Graduate

Sister Mary Annet Namakula received her Diploma in Primary Education from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi, Uganda. We congratulate her on her years of study and on all she accomplished.



A Special Visitor

What a gift and blessing to have Sister Dr. Rani Joseph Mary Shruti with us in our delegation. Our Juniors are particularly privileged to have Sister conduct a seminar on Missiology during their Junior Get-together in Njiro. Sister spent 10 days with classes for our novices. Sister did her Missiological studies at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome. Her experience is vast and her contributions to the Church, to our Congregation, and to so many people, show her total dedication. Presently she is teaching at the United Theological College, Bangalore. Thank you Sister for being with us and for teaching our temporary professed Sisters and Novices.



*Dear Readers, with this newsletter, we bring 2019 to a close. There is so much more we can say, but our volumes only hold so much, so we encourage you to continue reading each newsletter as it comes to you. The year 2020 will have many more interesting articles and we know you will enjoy each one. A very Blessed Christmas to each of you and God's blessing on our New Year.
From your Newsletter Team: Sisters Mary Annete, Neelima and Namita, SND*

A Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year