

***Sisters of Notre Dame
Holy Spirit General Delegation
January 2016
Newsletter Volume 8 #1***

Jubilee of Mercy

Encountering the Word - Engaging the World!
The Holy Door was not at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, but first at the Cathedral in Bangui, in the Central African Republic. The Year of Mercy was inaugurated not in Vatican City, but in one of the poorest and most war-torn countries in the world. The Prince of Peace came not to the wealthy, but to a poor family in Nazareth. Jesus goes first not to the powerful but to the powerless. God is a God of surprises--always going beyond our boundaries and always inviting us to the margins.



What a graced event we participated in as Sisters of Notre Dame in Kenya and Uganda. The Holy Father, visiting both countries gave everyone a wonderful opportunity to hear his message, a message that was delivered first in Kenya before His Holiness spoke it in Uganda

In the midst of pouring rain, the people flocked to Nairobi University grounds in Kenya to be present for the Eucharistic celebration offered by the Holy Father.



The meeting with priests and religious in both countries was powerful. “There is no room for lukewarm religious or priests,” he said, “be careful not to fall into the sin of indifference. Be faithful. My dear priests, remember that you are ‘servants’ to God’s people not demanding that others serve you!”

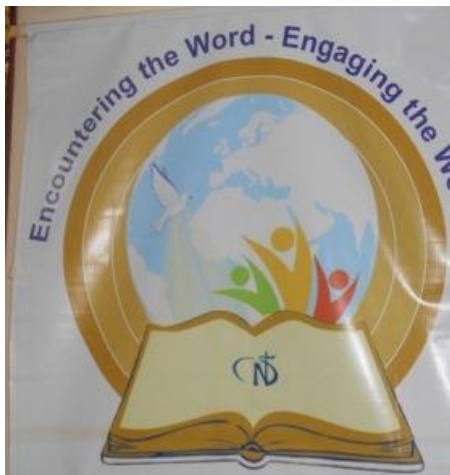
Visiting the people in Uganda at Rubaga Cathedral and at the Ugandan Martyrs Shrine at Namugongo, gave him and the people a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the life of the Ugandan Martyrs and the 50th Anniversary of their canonization. The Pope also visited two other shrines and gave the people such hope. At the same time, he was not afraid to confront the violence, terrorism and corruption that envelopes the government of these countries.



We feel so grateful that our Holy Father chose to visit Kenya and Uganda. His messages of reconciliation and forgiveness rings true of his constant invitation to experience mercy, be mercy and live mercy. May this Year of Mercy continue to be a blessing for all of us especially as we read, reflect, ponder and share his book on the *The Church of Mercy – A Vision for the Church*

The Bull of Indiction is also worth your time. It is the fundamental document for the Holy Year that outlines the overall spirit and intentions for the Jubilee, as well as the spiritual fruits that are hoped for.

Jubilee of Chapter



One of our chapter banners.

Our first Holy Spirit General Delegation Chapter was a grace-filled experience and an historic event. As Sister Mary Roshini expressed in her recent letter, “It was a rich experience of deep union with the Lord and a time of discernment, a journey of self-introspection and self-evaluation. It transformed our minds and hearts and we felt empowered and energized; we are not the same.”

We couldn’t help but feel the power of the Holy Spirit and as Sister Mary Sreeja, our chapter facilitator so aptly said, “It was truly a bursting forth of the Spirit and I felt energized.”



The beautiful ambience was the perfect setting for our chapter room at the International Novitiate “Upper Room.” The opening Eucharistic celebration to the Holy Spirit was



particularly meaningful and Fr. Dave Sullivan, M.ofAfr. shared such a meaningful homily, in fact each day’s homily was significant to the chapter theme. The chapter facilitator, presenters, and moderators did a wonderful job of keeping the whole chapter experience moving and focused.

We were happy to have the election of our chapter delegate, Sister Mary Elizabeth Wanza, who will be our first African Sister to be present at a general chapter. Sister Mary Colette is our substitute delegate for the chapter. We will continue to take time to review our proposals and recommendations so that we can continue to grow from all we experienced. We know that taking a closer look at our evaluations

will help us as we plan for future meetings. Above all we pray that we can keep alive that Divine Energy that filled each of us. As the Administration Team prepares to meet in May in Uganda with Sisters Mary Kristin and Sreeja, we will look again at all the proposals, recommendation and guidelines to “take the process forward into a realistic plan.” May God bless each of us for all we did to make this first Holy Spirit General Delegation Chapter a success.



Our first Holy Spirit General Delegation Chapter group....what a wonderful group of women on fire for the mission of Jesus!



Jubilee of Multi-faceted Treasures



January 2nd was a beautiful celebration of God's faithful love and the vowed commitment of both of our Jubilarians. What a meaningful way to welcome in the New Year! Just coming to the end of our Chapter, we were happy to welcome into the Golden Circle, our dear Sisters Mary Pramila and Kusum. The day was filled with joyful anticipation and grand celebration. The concelebrated Mass was the highlight of the day. All of the 26 strong temporary professed sisters, and the novices and postulants sang and danced to make the whole celebration colourful. Having both Sister Mary Pramila's brother and our dear Sister Mary Sreeja present was a gift. May this Year of Golden Jubilee be for you and everyone you meet a source of joy and happiness.





A Jubilee of Congratulations!



A big smile on the face of Sister Mary Winfred can only express what she felt in receiving her Montessori Diploma from the Montessori Teacher's Association of Kenya.



Hearty congratulations to you dear Sister!

Congratulations Sister Mary Christine for being #1 in your graduating class at Mwenge University earning a Post-graduate Diploma in Education.



A gold star for you!



Study  Determination  a Diploma in Primary Education from Nkumba University! Congratulations Sister Mary Sunday. The children you are teaching are profiting from your having reached your goal in school. Teach them to do the same.



Sr. Elizabeth completed her Diploma in Education and now is continuing on for her degree. Congratulations Sister!

A Healthy Jubilee

The seminar at Zinduka was attended by at least 25 women from the women's groups around Njiro. Five of the Notre Dame Candidates from the formation house were also present. While Doctor Anita Boring made her presentation in English, Sister Mary Kellen helped translate into Kiswahili. The group learned many health practices and acquired much



knowledge on health through the recognition of the illnesses that affect different age groups. They learned that most of these illnesses are preventable and can move them toward unnecessary expenses and even death. Learning about health maintenance through boiling water, elimination of flies, washing hands, protection of feet and personal and general hygiene was a positive experience. Each group had a chance to present in a creative way some of the topics they learned. All the groups were very effective which showed that they had really understood the topics taught.

The seminar concluded with the awareness of sexually transmitted diseases which was a good learning and they wished that many young people could also be educated on this topic. Each participant who attended from beginning to end graduated and were encouraged to teach at least 15 others about what they learned.

Sister Mary Roshini expressed her hope that the trainees can empower others and become instrumental in bringing healthy practices in their own families and in society. Doctor Anita expressed her ardent desire to see the transformation of society as well. The women from Olkerian, who had received this training last year, came and shared about their project of making toilets and wanted to express their gratitude to Doctor Anita for her support and training. **GRATITUDE IS THE ATTITUDE OF LIFE!** *By Sister Mary Kellen, SND*

A Jubilee of Gratitude

What a great gift to have our dear Sister Mary Sujita with us. Sister is taking classes with our eight Tertians on topics such as Charism, spirit, mission, vows and Mary in our Congregation. She will continue the Feminine Spirituality, discipleship, our prophetic mission today, world realities and JPIC. Our tertians are so grateful to have this opportunity to have Sister not only widen and deepen their understanding on these various topics, but sharing so much of herself, her experiences and the deep faith reality that must encompass her life in Jesus. Before she leaves, Sister will be able to travel to Tanzania to see the growth that has taken place since she left and also have a short visit with our sisters.



Thank you Sister Mary Sujita for being with us and giving yourself so generously

Chapter and Jubilee Memories



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Opening prayer service



Chapter Secretaries



Closing prayer service



Vote of Thanks



Group sharing and discussion



Jubilee programmes



Cutting the cake

Thank you for reading our first issue of the new year. We hope you enjoyed seeing how we have been celebrating and growing. Our next issue will have more contributions from our sisters in their local ministries and we know already that you will enjoy reading every part of it! Sisters Mary Annete and Shobha, SND