

From the Roof of Africa



Sisters of Notre Dame
Holy Spirit Delegation – Tanzania/Kenya
December Newsletter ***Volume 6 #3***

A reason to rejoice – A reason to be glad – A reason to shout for joy!

Perpetual Vows – December 10, 2014



The final preparation after returning from India, was to have a day of recollection with Fr. Thomas a Fransalian Priest from Lumen Christi Institute. The next day, family members arrived and there was much joy and happiness throughout. Sisters had been coming in as there was going to be our 5th African Conference, so we could all look forward to a full crowd for the celebration of Perpetual Vows. We were privileged to have our Superior General, Sister Mary Kristin with us, our General Assistant and Mission Coordinator, Sister Mary Sreeja and several Provincial

Superiors: Sister Arací Maria Passo Fundo Province in Brazil, Sister Mary Ethel from the Covington Province in the United States and Sisters Mary Shobha and Colette, the two Formators for the temporary professed. The day began with beautiful weather and the celebration of Liturgy by Rev. Fr. Peddy, SVD. Several priests and other guests were also present. Our novices and postulants sang in the choir and danced in the liturgy making it a very colourful celebration. Sisters Mary Emmah Cindy, Mary Juliet and Mary Magdalene Musila pronounced loudly and clearly their vows before the assembled community “for the term of their whole life.” May God continue to bless each of them in their firm commitment.



Sister Mary Margaret's graduation



Both Sister Mary Margaret, from our Delegation and Sister Therese Marie from the Uganda Mission graduated from Kisubi Brothers University College in Uganda. There was a lot of joy and happiness as the day unfolded. Our Sisters from Uganda made the day a rich experience for each of the graduates. Congratulations to both of you!

Sister Mary Margaret received her Diploma in Counselling Psychology from Kisubi Brothers University College which is a Constituent College of Uganda Martyrs University. Sister Mary Margaret did very well in her studies and had many experiences in her counseling sessions with individuals from

many walks of life. Surely it was a very enriching experience for her. We are grateful for all our Sisters in Uganda did in making the day for both graduates so meaningful. God bless you Sister Mary Margaret.

Sisters Mary Jacinta and Teresa's graduation



Both Sisters Mary Jacinta and Teresa graduated from Mount Meru University in Tanzania. Sister Mary Jacinta received a Diploma in Education with an emphasis on Geography and English and Sister Mary Teresa received a Diploma in Education with an emphasis on Mathematics and Geography. A few of our sisters were able to attend the graduation and we



know that both did very well in their studies. We are proud of all of our graduates and we know that all you learned will be put to good use in your future ministries. May God bless both of you.

Our 2nd year novices are back

After their three-month experience in our local communities, our 11 second year novices are back in the novitiate community. All the formees are so happy to have them back again. Two novices were in our Simanjiro Community and had the added responsibility of preparing a programme for the welcome of our visitors from the December African Conference, so they came back a little later. Four were in our two communities in Kenya, two were in Shinyanga, two in Kiomboi and one in our Zinduka Community here in Njiro. Surely, if you come to visit them, they will have much to share with you. We trust that they have learned much and are also excited about the possibility of gaining even more experiences when the time comes for them to be appointed to a local community after their First Profession. Thank you for your generous spirit our dear novices and thank you to all the local communities that helped make this a rich experience for them.

Farewell to our dear Sister Mary Shaija

Many of our sisters went to the airport to say good-bye to our dear Sister Mary Shaija. Sister has been with us for the past 20 years in our mission here in Tanzania and has been a pillar in the field of education. Hundreds of young men and women passed through her hands and moved on to make positive contributions to society. Many of the sisters gathered to say farewell to her and presented her with a wonderful programme and many words of gratitude. We surely will miss her.

We pray God's blessing on you dear Sister Mary Shaija and thank you for the gift of your presence with us and all you contributed to us and the people of Africa.



Farewell to our dear Sister Mary Lalita

You are "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!" What a great farewell song for our dear Sister Mary Lalita who spent the last eight years with us here in our Holy Spirit Delegation. Truly she was extra special and super in many ways as our formees attested in their song. Our special prayer service prepared by our temporary professed sisters highlighted all the special virtues that

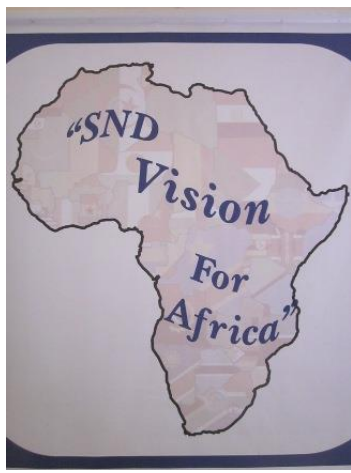


have been part of her life and these were indicated on the heart shaped flowers that decorated the bouquet on our altar. We are so grateful for the time Sister has spent with us and we wish her God's blessing as she returns to India for treatment and to begin her new ministry. God bless you dear

A preview of our great Notre Dame Family Gathering! Keep reading!



5th African Conference Moving toward becoming...one



Our Coesfeld Cross and flags from the countries represented at the Conference were part of the setting.

Our General Team receives wonderful African gifts



and always a big thank you!



Thank you to Sister Mary Sreeja for facilitating the Conference. You did a great job!



Pre-planning between Rome and Tanzania Delegation



Enjoying each other and meeting anew

Ready to begin???



Sisters Mary Pramila, Bernarde, Roshini and Tine have a good chat



Sisters Maria Bernarde and Prerna enjoy a cup of coffee while Sisters Mary Rashmi, Beena and Kusum enjoy talking and



Our sisters from Mozambique meet with Sister Maria Alcidia

We were praying, planning, discussing, and presenting

Sister Mary Annete, thanks for all the minutes!



What are some hopes and dreams?



Welcoming, Performing, Visiting



We are called to be a shining light on the faces of our brothers and sisters around us. It was a great satisfaction to the Maasai people after being the chosen ones among many to be honoured with a visit by so many special visitors from Rome, Brazil, the United States, India and especially from our Superior General, Sister Mary Kristin. The people lined up for the grand reception, the women, church choir and Notre Dame Osotwa School children had organized a programme. The climax of it all was the Maasai dance from the students, thanking God for the gift of the guests

Visiting with our Zinduka Aloysia Children



and praying for the mission in their land. Sister Mary Kristin expressed her joy in seeing the unity, love and friendship existing between the sisters and the villages. Indeed, "we are because they are" and this challenges us to share their joys and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their needs, to offer them deep and genuine friendship especially as we educate them for the future. *By Sister Mary Jacinta, SND*

Having reflected on the Qualities of Leadership, I write my suggestions.....



***Praying,
Discerning, Waiting***



Prayerfully concluding with a ritual



Mozambique



Uganda



Tanzania/Kenya



Preparing our ambience for the closing ritual



One new light for our new creation!



We all prayerfully gathered to thank our good and loving God for the gift and blessing of the Delegation that will be formed on Pentecost, May 24, 2014 with Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya



Thank you dear Sister Mary Kristin for bringing the light to fruition!



Meeting all novices and postulants with welcomes, programmes, song and dance and tea together



Dancing and singing was a great treat for all present. Thank you our dear novices and postulants.



Sisters Mary Berita is sharing with Sister Mary Celine about her new experiences while Sister Mary Damaris listens well.



Welcomes come in different ways, like a hug, a good laugh or just sharing all that has happened.



Sister Mary Sunday, Paulyne and Colette have much to share about all that is happening in Uganda.

We end our year on this very wonderful note of thanksgiving! We are grateful for all that has been part of our experiences this year, for the many gifts and talents shared among us, for the life-giving spirit that characterizes us as Sisters of Notre Dame in our Notre Dame family.

Thank you for your interest and contributions that make our Newsletter a gift to all. Bless you and may you have a wonderful New Year.

From the Newsletter Committee: Sisters Mary Annete and Shobha, SND

Happy New Year