



Contact

Newsletter of Sisters of St. Louis, Nigeria Province

CELEBRATING THE 2019 WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE IN IBADAN AND OYO ARCH/DIOCESES



L-R: Archbishop Gabriel Abegunrin with the executive – Sister Felicia Ogundana, SSL standing third to the extreme right.

by **Anthonia Eneanya, SSL**

The Sisters of St. Louis in Ibadan archdiocese on 2 February 2019, assembled with other members of the Consecrated Persons in Ibadan to celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Oke-Ado, Ibadan. The day was also the World Day for Consecrated Life as declared by Saint John Paul II in the year 1997.

The celebration started with the blessing of the candles outside the Church, followed by the procession into the Church for the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Welcoming all the Consecrated Persons present before the commencement of the Mass, the Vicar for Religious, Rev. Fr. Daniel Aigbona, CSsR thanked the Lord, who is the reason for the gathering. He congratulated everyone who had made it to the celebration beginning with the Archbishop, Most Rev. Gabriel Abegunrin and the Religious Superiors.

In his homily, Archbishop Abegunrin said that the purpose of the gathering was to pray together and for renewal of identity. The presence of the Religious in Nigeria, he said, is a big blessing. They are the hope of the Church in Nigeria and more so in Ibadan Archdiocese where many religious orders have come to settle. Although many, he reminded all of the need to work together bearing in mind that every consecrated person is a worker in the One and Holy Catholic Church and so,

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L-R: Sr Theresa Peter, Monica Ogodo, MaryTheresa Ogbo and Roseline Ogunbanwo with members of the Consecrated Persons in Oyo diocese.

by **Theresa Peter, SSL**

"Today's liturgy shows Jesus who goes out to meet his people. It is the feast day of encounter: the newness of the child encounters the tradition of the temple; the promise finds fulfilment; young Mary and Joseph encounter the elderly Simeon and Anna. Everything, therefore, meets as Jesus arrives."
----- (Pope's homily on February 2nd 2019).

For us in Oyo Diocese we went out to encounter Jesus and one another at St Lawrence Catholic Church, Saki, a parish run by the Claretian Priests. The celebration began with candle light procession after the opening blessing by the Local Ordinary, Most Rev. Emmanuel Badejo. After the homily, each congregation made an act of offering accompanied with a symbol placed at the foot of the altar, signifying total and renewed offering of each consecrated person present united with the Eucharistic sacrifice.

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L-R: Sisters Isabel Mann, Josephine Tiav, Kehinde Ojo, and members of the Consecrated Persons in Ibadan Archdiocese dancing to the altar.



SSL with members of the Consecrated Persons in Oyo diocese during candle light procession.

no Congregation is better than the other. Instead, everyone is to work for the common good of the Church, the body of Christ, protect it and be proud of it by doing what is needful.

The Archbishop further explained that the feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a call for all to empty themselves and allow Christ to come in so that the purpose of God for creating man (to know, love and serve Him) can be fulfilled. He congratulated the organizers of the 2019 celebration for the well organised liturgy which he adjudged to be the best in the last four years. The Archbishop was also impressed by the turnout of Priests and the Consecrated Persons in the archdiocese.

The high point was when all the consecrated persons renewed their commitment kneeling with a lit candle and read the formular. It was really a visible sign of sharing in the one and holy consecration of Christ.

The celebration was wrapped up with the presentation of the new executive of the body of Consecrated Persons among which is Sister Felicia Ogundana, ssl as the treasurer. After Mass there was the reception where the Consecrated Persons shared meals and drinks brought together by each congregation in the archdiocese to celebrate one another. There were also songs and drama presentations by pre-assigned congregations.

After the holy Mass, we had reception where presentations were made by different groups; exchange of gifts with our invisible friends, etc. and all went home joyfully. The following day, the parishioners of St John the Baptist, Iseyin, came to celebrate with us in the community and brought us gifts. This was the first of its kind. We were very happy about such gesture and prayed God to bless them for their generosity and give us the grace to work well with them and make our impact felt in Iseyin.



L-R: Sisters Ann Amadi, Theresa Peter, Bridget Monehin, Lucia Akinusoye, MaryTheresa Ogbe with the Parish Priest & parishioners of St John the Baptist, Iseyin.



MARCH		
3rd	Sr. Mary Okewola	Birthday
7th	Sr. Perpetua Oloba	Feastday
17th	Sr. Patricia Ojo	Feastday
17th	Sr. Patricia Ebegbulem	Feastday
25th	Sr. Maureen Ugbo	Feastday



L-R: Benedicta Adesua, Rosemary Ometa Nzube, Anne Omotayo, Joy Pius, Tabitha Jonathan, Ruth Tobias, Mercy Wakili, Anastasia Agbo, Cynthia Adomi, and Helen Falaye.

RECEPTION CEREMONY OF SET 2019/2020 POSTULANTS

by Cynthia Adomi & Tabitha Jonathan

What a joyful day! Our hearts beamed with joy on our reception as postulants in the Institute of the Sisters of St. Louis on 2 February 2019. The venue of the event was St. Augustine's Parish, Dassa, Benin Republic. Rev. Fr. Nicodeme BALLE was the Officiating Priest.

The ceremony started with candlelight procession to the image of our Blessed Virgin Mary on the altar. It was a wonderful and colourful day as the church also marked the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord. After the procession, Mass started immediately with a brief introduction by Benedicta Adesua. The introduction was about "HOW RADICAL GOD'S CALL IS" and that this call is sudden and demands one's inner and physical being.

The first reading was taken by Mercy Wakili. The psalmists were Anne Omotayo and Rosemary Ometa while the second reading was taken by Tabitha Jonathan --- all were new postulants. The presentation



of the candidates for reception was done by Sr Theresa Peter Shehin after which Rev. Sr. Constance received the candidates and demanded to know what each asked of the Lord. Each of us responded, "I humbly ask to be received as a Postulant in the Institute of the Sisters of St. Louis." Sr. Agnes Abba, Postulants Mistress, then received us on behalf of the Institute.

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CATHOLIC NURSES' GUILD OF OYO DIOCESE, ISEYIN AREA CELEBRATES 2019 WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

"You received without payment; give without payment" (Mt 10:8)

by Theresa Peter, SSL



L-R: Sisters MaryTheresa Ogbe and Theresa Peter with a Staff attending to patients

In his message for the 27th World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis urged believers to promote a culture of generosity, noting that the joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian. Pope Francis said that those who care for the sick and give of themselves with generosity and straightforward love --- like St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta --- are amongst the Church's most credible evangelizers. In his message for the World Day of the Sick, which was celebrated on 11 February 2019, the Pope focused on Jesus's words to the Apostles:

"You received without payment; give without payment" (Mt 10:8).



A cross session of Parishioners at the Mass

Established in 1993 by Saint John Paul II on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, a different city is chosen each year to host the World Day of the Sick. This year the choice was Calcutta in India, and Pope Francis highlighted the figure of Saint Teresa of Calcutta as a model of charity who made God's love for the poor and sick visible. The following is an excerpt from the Popes' message for 2019 world day of the sick:

"A spirit of generosity ought especially to inspire Catholic healthcare institutions, whether in the more developed or the poorer areas of our world, since they carry out their activity in the light of the Gospel. Catholic facilities are called to give an example of self-giving, generosity and solidarity in



L-R: Sr. Theresa speaking at one of the Masses

response to the mentality of profit at any price, of giving for the sake of getting, and of exploitation over concern for people. I urge everyone, at every level, to promote the culture of generosity and of gift, which is indispensable for overcoming the culture of profit and waste.

Catholic healthcare institutions must not fall into the trap of simply running a business; they must be concerned with personal care more than profit. We know that health is relational, dependent on interaction with others, and requiring trust, friendship and solidarity. It is a treasure that can be enjoyed fully only when it is shared. The joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian."

In Iseyin area, we chose St John the Baptist Parish, Iseyin for the celebration. Health talk was given at 8.am and 10am Masses respectively. The parish Priest and the parishioners were very happy and responded well. A total of 400 hundred people including adults, children and youths were screened for HIV and blood pressure check. "Each of us is poor, needy and destitute. When we are born, we require the care of our parents to survive, and at every stage of life we remain in some way dependent on the help of others. We will always be conscious of our limitations, as "creatures", before other individuals and situations. A frank acknowledgement of this truth keeps us humble and spurs us to practice solidarity as an essential virtue in life." --- Pope Francis.

Let us take care of one another especially our sick ones. Health is wealth. When we have good health, we are rich.

SSL MOKOLA COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WITH CHIEF SAMMY



L-R: Sisters Anthonia Eneanya, Christie Udebor, Angela Ogu, Felicia Ogundana with Chief Samuel Anigboro and his wife on his coronation day.

by **Anthonia Eneanya, SSL**

The Sisters of St. Louis, Mokola Community on 2 February, 2019 were at the residence of Chief Sammy Anigboro at Apata, Ibadan, to felicitate him on his coronation ceremony as the Royal Highness, the Okobaro R'urhobo of Ibadan land by Urhobo Progressive Union.

Chief Samuel Anigboro now the king of all Urhobo indigenes in Ibadan, Oyo State is popularly known by the majority of Sisters of St. Louis, Nigeria as 'Oga Sammy the Welder'. Although may not be known as a registered friend of St. Louis, yet Chief Sammy can be described as 'a friend in need'. A friend who is always at the beck and call of any Sister who reaches out to him. He is a selfless and ever grateful man who always speaks well of the Sisters of St. Louis. It is not surprising that his wife, Mrs. _____ Anigboro is now an associate of St. Louis. Congratulations, Oga Sammy. May you continue to follow the footsteps of Christ, the King of the universe!

WE CELEBRATE THE WONDERFUL WORK OF CREATION!



The new born triplets at Our Lady's Hospital, Iseyin.

by **Theresa Peter, SSL**

Our Lady Catholic Hospital received a set of triplets on 12 February, 2019. A booked woman with her second pregnancy had walked in at about 12.30pm on 12 February 2019 with the complaint of labour pains. She had done an ultra sound scan earlier and a set of twins was diagnosed. As the process of delivery progressed to a safe vaginal delivery, it was discovered after the delivery of the second baby, that another membrane was bulging, this was ruptured and a live baby boy was delivered making a set of triplets (a baby girl and two boys). They all shared the same placenta but were in different Amniotic sacs! These children, though from the same placenta, are as separate individuals with potentially different visions and aims in life. We pray that they will be good children to their parents, family and the society at large. Without discrimination, they were born to a poor family.

Your generous donation is solicited through Our Lady's Catholic Hospital, Iseyin. Remember the theme of this year's World Day of the Sick and the Pope's homily on generosity. God bless you as you extend your hand of generosity to this beautiful family. Payments for this family could be made to: Sisters of St. Louis, no. 2000138383, Zenith bank and the money will reach us in Iseyin. when payments are made, clearly indicate it is for this family in Iseyin by contacting 09032523282 (Sr. Theresa Peter - e-mail: aniekanpee@gmail.com).

RECEPTION OF SET 2019 POSTULANTS —continued from page 3

As part of the ritual, our Mistress called us out each by her name, made some pronouncement on us and then placed the Mantilla on our head. Other objects like the Divine Office and the Praying Companion were offered us as a call to a prayerful life. The session was concluded with a special song by the new postulants titled, "HERE I AM LORD". After the liturgy of the Eucharist, there was a communion reflection by Cynthia Adomi, one of the new postulants. When the Mass came to an end at about 12:31pm, Sr Constance thanked the officiating Priest Fr. Nicodeme and all those in attendance. We took group

photographs with the Priest, the Sisters and our immediate seniors postulant.

We had a reception at home afterwards. It started with an opening prayer led by Immaculata, a year two postulant. Amidst wining and dining a sumptuous meal, we were treated to delightful presentations, namely: dancing competition, speech interpretation, pick and act, beauty pageant, drama, special song renditions, riddles and toasts.

Finally, one of us gave a vote of thanks to the Sisters for the warm reception. The day was indeed a great and memorable one.

International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking



L-R: Monsignor John Aniagwu (Second to the right) and Sister Patricia Ebegbulem.

by **Bridget Nwankwo, SSL**

The Catholic Church celebrated the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking on 8 February, 2019. It is the Optional Memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita. Patron Saint of Victims of Human Trafficking. The Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos, Justice and Peace Commission and the Sisters of Bakhita (St. Louis Empowerment Network) organised a press conference which was anchored by Monsignor Aniagwu, Vicar and Dean of St. Leo's Catholic Church, Ikeja. He gave the historical background of the life of St. Bakhita. Sr. Patricia Ebegbulem also shared the deep involvement of Rev. Sisters in the drive against human trafficking and answered participants' questions on the provision of shelter for rescued girls where they can be kept for counselling and reintegration. Fr Raymond, the Director of JDPC Lagos in the archdiocese shared their involvement in combating human trafficking too. A number of public and private media houses including NTA, Lumen Christi and AIT covered the event. It was indeed an eye opening for the public who asked series of questions and were challenged to keep creating awareness and join in the fight against this scourge.

As part of the celebrations, we had prayers in the various parishes in Lagos at 6:00pm. At St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, Boys Town, Ipaja, Sr. Bridget gave a brief talk on St. Bakhita. According to her, St Bakhita was born in Sudan. She was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She experienced the physical and moral humiliations and sufferings of slavery. She was then bought by an Italian Consul and was taken to Italy. Providence led her to join the Canossian Sisters where she experienced God and loved to live the rest of her life as a Religious. She was a sister for 50 years and breathed her last on 8th February 1947. She was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II on the 1 October 2000.

The parishioners were encouraged to join in the fight against human trafficking. For wider awareness,



Participants at the conference.

parishioners were encouraged to talk about it in their circles and to report any case of human trafficking, especially within the country. They were encouraged to continuously use the pamphlet of St. Bakhita for prayers in their families.

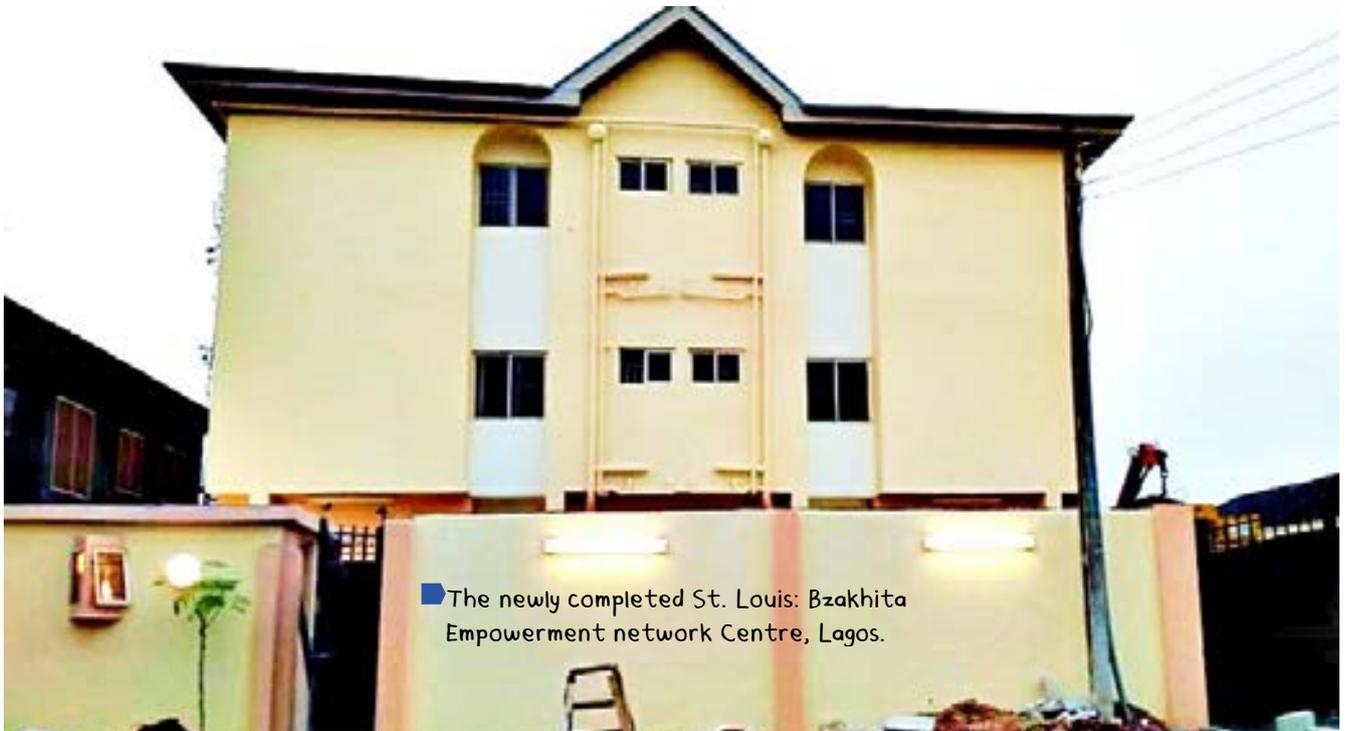
The Sisters of St Louis live and work with victims of human trafficking where they gave a Safe House for them. When they are deported or rescued, the Sisters pick them and take them to the safe house where they throw them a party called NOWHERE LIKE HOME. There, they have a lot of counselling, prayers, rehabilitation and reintegration. They learn different skills. Those that can go back to school do so. These treasures as we call them come back all broken and without hope but they experience love, hope and care at the Safe House.

May St Bakhita continue to intercede for them and for us.



Sister Bridget Nwankwo giving a talk to Parishioners

ST LOUIS: BAKHITA EMPOWERMENT NETWORK CENTRE READY!



■ The newly completed St. Louis: Bzakhita Empowerment network Centre, Lagos.

by Josephine Tiav, SSL

The ITB Building Company officially handed over the completed building that will soon be commissioned as the shelter for returned trafficked victims. Sr Josephine Tiav received the signed documents from Engineer Raphael representative of the company after inspecting the building with the Engineer and the Sisters in the Project: Sr. Patricia Ebegbulem (Coordinator for ANANTH and TALITAKUM), Sr. Bridget Nwankwo (Project Manager), Sr Angela Onyema (Secretary).

The edifice is “impeccably finished” as one of the officials from IOM (International Organisation for Migrants) remarked on a visit to see the shelter for their referrals. It is such a secure and homely abode to receive and welcome the victims who have been scourged by the harsh experience of insecurity and abuse. It will surely afford them the comfort, solace and relief needed for rehabilitation to reassert and reinsert themselves meaningfully in society. The standard of the building is exemplary of what a building should be with zero maintenance value. It is a place to visit that would leave you with a lasting and memorable impression and lots of lessons to take away!

More details on the project when the building will be commissioned on 26 March 2019. Make it a date to be there.



■ L-R Engineer Rapheal, Sister Josephine Tiav signing the document



■ L-R Engineer Rapheal handing over the document to Sr. Josephine Tiav



Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery – “for in hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf.



*2018 Lenten
Message of
His Holiness
Pope Francis*

Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly

threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the

More details from <https://zenit.org/articles/popes-message-for-lent-2019/>

St. Louis Grammar School, Ikere-Ekiti turns 58



L-R: Sisters Mary John, Isabel Mann, Maria Ilo, Kehinde Ojo and Lucia Adenle cutting the anniversary cake with Fr. Augustine Ogunyemi & others.



Sister Isabel Mann and SLOSA dancing to the altar during the thanksgiving.

by Lucia Adenle, SSL

Thanksgiving Mass for the anniversary celebration began at 8:30 am in the newly dedicated chapel of the school. In attendance were old and present students of the school. The Priest, Fr Augustine Ogunyemi prayed for past principals, Rev Sisters, old students, present students and the

entire school community. He encouraged all to be faithful to the mission of Christ despite persecution and trial just as the gospel of the day enjoined. Everyone, led by Sr. Isabel Mann and SLOSA, danced to the altar. There was cutting of the 58th anniversary cake and a talk by an

old girl for the students. After the thanksgiving, the principal who is also an old girl of St Louis was presented with an award by her fellow SLOSA for all the good works and renovation she is doing on the campus.

VALENTINE DAY CELEBRATION IN ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS (IKERE AND MOKOLA)

by Lucia Adenle, SSL

It was a fun-filled day for the Staff of St. Louis Nursery and Primary School, Ikere-Ekiti, and Louisville Nursery and Primary School, Mokola, Ibadan as they all congregated in their respective school halls after the day's work to celebrate love. The moment was charged with banter, trilling dance steps, jokes and laughter as the staff happily exchanged gifts. Indeed, the only one happiness in this life is to love and be loved.



Staff of St. Louis Nursery & Primary School, Ikere

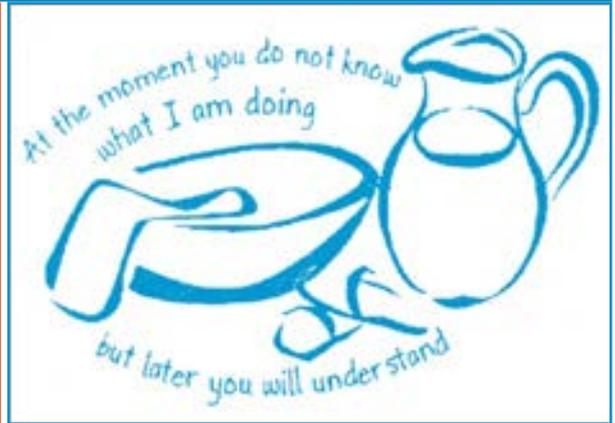


Primary 1 Pupil of St. Louisville Nursery & Primary School, Ibadan.

Deepening GC 2015 Calls



MISSION FOR LIFE



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13th February 2019

GC 2015 CALLS MONTHLY REFLECTION

I wish to thank you on behalf of the PLT for all your rich reflective contributions in the column in *Contact* dedicated 'to promote the Calls of GC 2015'. Our commitment continues in deepening our response to the GC 2015 Calls.

For 2019, we invite you to share:

1. Your challenging experiences of living out the SSL Mission Statement at work, in the community and pastorally.
2. With practical examples emerging fruits of your personal interaction with the Mission Statement.
3. Yours dreams to make the Mission Statement more visible and alive in our society today.

No	Community	Month
1	Zonkwa Convent/ Kano	March 2019
2.	Gidan Mariya / Ikere	April 2019
3.	Owo / Kolapo / Dassa	May 2019
4.	Marywood Lagos / ALBRC, Itele	June 2019
5.	Iseyin / Bida / Akure	July 2019
6.	Gwagwalada/ Oka / Novitiate	August 2019
7.	Ondo / Grigny	September 2019
8.	Ijio / Uromi / Bakhita Villa	October 2019
9.	Louisville Itele / Ewulu	November 2019
10.	Mokola / Akpassi / Etampes	December 2019

Send your articles to Communication Office on or before the 10th of the month assigned to you.

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Josephine
For PLT

Heart of the MATTER

by Rita Akin-Otiko, SSL

Maturity: Essential Oil for Authentic Vowed Life



As I ruminated over the subject of maturity, I remembered a story Sr. Juliana Nwabuzor, SSL, of blessed memory relayed to me many years ago. The story was about a teenage boy who had put a teenage girl like himself in the family way. After he reluctantly accepted responsibility for his irresponsibility, he was told by his dad that he should prepare himself for the task of fatherhood. He looked at his father and said choking on his tears, “But dad, I am not mature enough to be a father”. His father retorted, “Oh! So, you are not mature enough to be a father, but you are mature enough to put a girl in the family way, eh!”

Whenever I read our Institutes documents, or the Church’s writings such as *Perfecta Caritatis* (1965) on the Consecrated life, I wonder how much understanding many Consecrated persons in this generation have of the enormous responsibility inherent in the commitment we freely and publicly profess in following and imitating Christ through the evangelical Counsels. According to *Perfecta Caritatis* (1965, #5):

“Members of each institute should recall first of all that by professing the evangelical counsels they responded to a divine call so that by being not only dead to sin (cf. Rom. 6:11) but also renouncing the world they may live for God alone. They have dedicated their entire lives to His service. This constitutes a special consecration, which is deeply rooted in that of baptism and expresses it more fully. This service of God ought to inspire and foster in them the exercise of the virtues, especially

humility, obedience, fortitude and chastity. In such a way they share in Christ’s emptying of Himself (cf. Phil. 2:7) and His life in the spirit (cf. Rom. 8:1-13)”

SSL Constitutions (1999) affirm the above quote on the Evangelical Counsels as explicated in *Perfecta Caritatis* (1965) thus:

“Through our vows of chastity, poverty and obedience we take upon ourselves a special obligation to respond to God’s loving call by the total gift of ourselves. Our profession of these public vows commits us to live more fully for Christ and the Church” (pg. 9, # 7)

According to Barret (1992), Mere Therese de Vaux,

“did not expect the novices to be perfect, But certain qualities were essential in those who were to be admitted to vows. Chief among them were simplicity, candour, trust in their superiors and willingness to be guided. They add up to childlikeness” (pg. 32).

Putting these three articulations on the vowed life in perspective, a popular Yoruba adage comes to mind. It says, “Atari ajanaku, kii se eru omode”. This translates as, “The head of an elephant is not the type of load children can carry”. Does this make sense in the light of the immense sacrifices involved in the vows we freely make? In living the vowed life, there are certain expectations, chief of which in my opinion is maturity. That is, maturity in all its ramifications – physical, emotional, spiritual, social, psychological, and the capacity to decipher between needs and wants, and integrity to

make right choices in diverse circumstances.

I ask myself, as a vowed woman, how do I react to missions (postings)? Do I feel some apostolates are punishments while others are for the privileged? Or do I rather view mission as sharing in Christ’s salvific ministry? How do I handle conflicts? Do I keep malice and harbour animosity, or do I forgive and make them learning experiences? How do I engage in relationships? Are they opportunities for personal gratification or mutual growth? How do I feel when others achieve success? Do I become envious, or do I rejoice with them and make the best of my own situation? How do I treat workers in my community or workplace? As “inferiors” or how I would love to be treated? How do I view persons/views different from me/mine? How do I understand the Consecrated life? A chance to eat my cake and have it, or a rare privilege to serve Christ in humanity, and for salvation of souls? Indeed, responses to these questions and other related questions, and the choices I make, go a long way to reveal my maturity. Without verbalizing it, my actions tell whether I am mature or not.

“We come nearest to the great [Christ] when we are great in humility.” – Rabindranath Tagore

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What a Great Loss!

by Joy Nosa, SSL

"As for a human person — his days are like grass, he blooms like the wild flowers; as soon as the wild blows he is gone, never to be seen there again." Psalm 103:15-16.

Mrs Udoh, a native of Eket in Akwa Ibom was employed in 2015 to work as a cook at the Retreat Centre, Ijebu-Itele, Convent. She was blessed with children who are now orphans. Mrs Udoh was a honest and trusted worker. She was hardworking, committed, cheerful and caring. She was hospitable to everybody. She hardly got angry even when challenged for not doing the right thing. She would simply say *"E ma binu"* (Don't be angry). She demonstrated her love for the sisters by continually getting in touch with all the sisters even after they might have gone on transfer and would not close for the day until each sister's meal is prepared.

Mrs Udoh had come to work on 5 February 2019 and closed as usual without any sign of illness. However, a distress call came from her daughter at about 1:00 am asking for help to move her to hospital. We responded immediately and she was taken to a nearby hospital. Unfortunately, she gave up the ghost at about 5.30pm the same day.

"Iya Convent" as she was fondly called by the workers at the centre will be missed by her children, the sisters, her colleagues at the centre and all who came in contact with her.

Adieu Mrs Udoh. Rest in the bosom of our Lord Jesus.

Contact

EDITORIAL

Get Ready



Dear Sisters and friend,

Lent is almost here again! Let us all get ready! Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and especially with our neighbour. Lent helps us to deepen our commitment to follow the footsteps of Christ. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have not done well or failed to do and to be generous to those in need. As we anticipate this great season, the Holy Father, Pope Francis invites us not to allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Conversion therefore, no matter how little must take place in us. May God lead us all to the path of true conversion.

Here comes another edition of the Contact. We are sorry that this is coming late. Please bear with us. We hope you will find this edition interesting. Kindly send us your feedbacks. God bless us all!

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« Word to Live By »

Stay where you are, in a spirit of peace (and) childlikeness, because that is where God wants you to be.

— *Besson vol.1 p.147 in Words to live by pg.29*



CORPORATE EMAIL
The Communications Office now has a corporate email, sslcomm.ng@gmail.com. Expect to get *Contact* and updates via the mail address regularly. Write to us too.

