

School Sisters of Notre Dame

# GOOD NEWS FROM AFRICA



Winter 2012

## May I Introduce You to . . .

We now have seven novices living and studying and praying at our novitiate in Sunyani, Ghana. These two years are a very special time when a woman studies in depth the charism and history of the congregation she is entering. It is a time for discernment, to listen to God's call to her and also to the congregation. It is a time of living in community, sharing prayer, growing in faith and being guided by the novice directors. It is also a time of learning to live with sisters of different cultures. At our novitiate community now there are two from Kenya, six from Nigeria, one from Canada and three from the United

States. Imagine the many flavors of dinner as each takes a turn to cook!

Besides studying some theology and the history of the congregation, the novices also study our constitution and way of life. There are classes in prayer and spirituality. Most of the vegetables and fruit needed at the novitiate are raised there so the novices also help with gardening. Time is spent in prayer and reflection each day as well as attending the celebration of the Eucharist. Each novice also is involved in some apostolic work outside the novitiate one day a week. And, of course, there is time for fun, playing cards or

games and singing and dancing and celebrating together birthdays and other special occasions.

Here these seven novices introduce themselves to you. Two are from Kenya and five from Nigeria. I hope you enjoy meeting them!

### You're Invited... April 20-21, 2012

And for those of you within driving distance of St. Louis, I invite you to come to our huge **RUMMAGE SALE.**

April 20 - 21, 2012  
Maria Center,  
336 East Ripa Ave.,  
St. Louis, MO 63125

Last at this annual event, we raised almost \$8,000 to help support our ministry. See you there!

Sister Ruth Emke, SSND  
Director of Development

### Novitiate Community Photo

*Back (left to right)*

Sr. Bessey Eze, Sr. Mara Frundt, Sr. Lillian Corriveau, Nov. Meg Philip Umoh, Sr. Therese Marie Merth, Nov. Lucy Clement Etim, Sr. Delia Calis, Nov. Vera Owoh

*Front (left to right)*

Nov. Terngu Emmanuel, Nov. Linet Kerubo, Nov. Millie Achieng' Oduor, Nov. Eti-ini Solomon Udom



# Novices Introduce Themselves

*Vera*



My name is Vera Owoh. I hail from Abia State in the east of Nigeria. I was born on April 23rd 1983. As of now we are six in my family, four brothers, my mum and I. My father died many years ago.

I studied Community Health as a profession. I was drawn to the School Sisters of Notre Dame by their simplicity and hospitality. As a novice my outreach involves working with the poor through collaborating with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Cathedral Parish. I hope as an SSND to respond in service to the needs of the time.



*Terngu*



My name is Terngu Emmanuel. My name, “Terngu”, means “God is with us.” I am a first-born child of seven children, four girls and three boys. I am from Vandekya, Benue State, Nigeria. I am a teacher by profession.

I was attracted to the SSNDs by their simple life style and their spirituality of transformative education. Mother Theresa says “Educate a woman and you educate the whole world.”

It is my deep desire and hope that as a future SSND I will continue in the charism and spirituality of our foundress, Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, through transformative education responding to the signs of the times.

*Eti-ini*



My name is Eti-ini Solomon Udom. I come from Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria and was born on the 21st of August, 1983. I am the second of six children and have two brothers and three sisters. Both my parents are teachers. I, too, am a teacher by profession having a BSc/Educ.in Mathematics.

I was attracted to the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame about 11 years ago because of their simplicity in lifestyle and their love and devotion to the poor, their generosity with time and their energy in ministry towards transformative education. As I continue discerning God’s call in my life, I desire to play a role through holistic education in reshaping the world as I devote myself to others, especially the poor, in enabling them to reach the fullness of their potential.

*Lucy*

I am Lucy Clement Etim. My native home is Mbribit Itam in Akwa Ibom State in the southern part of Nigeria. I am from a family of six children, three boys and three girls. My parents are Clement S. Etim and Cornelia C. Etim. I am a teacher and specialized in Mathematics.

My interest to join SSND developed when the Sisters got involved with us in our parish church through some activities with the youth. I love the way they educated us to bring out the potential in each of us. My hope is to continue this kind of transformative education of helping each individual, especially the poor, reach the fullness of his/her potential.

*“I was attracted to the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame about 11 years ago because of their simplicity in lifestyle and their love and devotion to the poor, their generosity with time and their energy in ministry towards transformative education.”*

*Novice Eti-ini*

## **Linet**



I am Linet Kerubo and was born in September, 1984 in Nyamira, in the southwestern part of Kenya. My parents are Francis Morwabe and my mother is Mary Mokeira, although my mother is deceased. I am a first-born twin with my brother and we have two other siblings.

I am a professional hospital chaplain and medical health and psychological counselor.

I got to know the SSNDs through my aunt, Sr. Carolyn Anyega, who is a finally professed SSND and also by studying in an SSND girls secondary school. Their simple way of life, hospitality and the approach they used to teach us motivated me to join them. As a novice I feel my heart resonate “Yes” as I listen to how God is calling me each day to do whatever he tells me. I hope that my very being as an SSND will make Christ more visible to his people.

## **Millie**



I am Millicent Achieng’ Oduor. I am 30 years old. I am a Community Health Worker, including giving First Aid, and a Pastoral Counselor. I am a Kenyan and am first-born in a family of seven children. I was drawn to the School Sisters of Notre Dame by their simplicity and their approach towards education with a global vision. Their approach is stated this way in You Are Sent, the constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame:

“For us, education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God’s image and assisting them to direct their gifts toward building the earth. Like Mother Theresa, we educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons.”

As an SSND novice I desire to share my gifts with the world with this same vision.

My name is Magdalene Philip Umoh. I hail from Ifuho, Ikot Ekpene in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. I come from a family of ten children, seven boys and three girls.

I am the fifth child and the second daughter in the family. I have a degree in Medical Biochemistry (B.Sc.) My father is deceased and my mother is a retired teacher.

## **Magdalene – “Meg”**



My love for the Congregation of SSND has grown deeply right from the time of my first contact with them to this moment. It will continue to grow as I keep learning more intensely about the charism and spirituality and strive to live it authentically in my day to day life. I have known SSND since my high school as I am one of the beneficiaries of their formal education at Notre Dame Girls School in Urua Edet Obo. Presently I am a first-year novice.

I desire to grow continually in openness to reaching out and being with the poor in creative love and response, assisting them to grow in recognizing God’s unconditional love as the ultimate source of love, hope, unity and peace. 3

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Province of Africa  
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## *Soon we will be starting Lent, the 40 days of preparation for Easter.*



This year during Lent let your mantra be:

***“What can I give?” rather than “What can I give up?”***

Even if you use the time to improve yourself by dieting or breaking the habit of smoking, don't think of that as giving up but think about what you can give by doing that. Give the money you might have used on cigarettes or fast foods to others who need it for the basics of life such as clean water or medicines.

Give a smile to someone who needs it.

Give a hug to someone you see in Church.

Give a surprise visit to someone in the hospital or a nursing home.

Give the gift of your time to a parish or school project in your area.

***Be creative!***

There are so many ways to give... and the funny thing is, you will be happier and richer after giving. And what better way is there to share in the joy of the Resurrection! Of course, you are invited to share in our mission in Africa. What you give will touch and transform lives very directly in countries so far away.

***This is a great way to wrap our world in love!***