



From the Republic Of Benin, Doyenne de Save.

I left Cotonou for Save on Monday the 7th of October 2013, On my arrival I was faced with the challenges of language so I had to start attending classes in French at St.Joseph Catholic Secondary school where I also teach the English language.

We run a boarding house for girls but due to a problem in the school, which is managed by the diocese, the number of the boarders was reduced to nine. In order to survive we had to start up a restaurant which folded up after a while, but thank God the school is gradually picking up. We hope that with time, the number of girls in the boarding house will increase.

The Mission in Save is a very interesting one, in the sense that we try to do a lot in order to survive. We rear poultry, rabbits and goats.

We are fully involved in the parish Apostolate. I just started the Legion of Mary in English and I see that there is a lot to be done as regards the quality of faith of the Catholics in the Anglophone community. Also, the plan of teaching catechism in English is on the line which we hope to begin soon.

The people are so nice and caring even though to them, it was a shock to see three young sisters in the community because for a long while Save has experienced only aged sisters. It is our prayer that through our presence, many will come to discover God and know their personnel vocation.



Theresa Oluchi Michael

“To live Mission one cannot be animated by any other spirit than that of the love of God and the desire to make Him known” (Augustine Planque)

REGARDS FROM WHERE GOD DWELLS: MY FIRST MISSION

I am Juvenale Yevide from Benin Republic. Papiri is my first community as an OLA Sister. I came to Papiri on the 16th of October 2013. I had three weeks to learn Hausa, the main language spoken here. My first assignment is to teach in St. Mary's Private (Catholic) Secondary school. We have four classes of JSS1 to SSS1. I am also involved in pastoral work; I am with the choir and trying to do a little with the Youth.

Papiri, as my first community has been a great experience for me. Working in the school, I discovered how our presence is so helpful to all the girls and boys whom we have the task to teach and to educate. Saint Mary's is a co-ed boarding school. Sr. Charity Ifere is the Principal. I have discovered that as daughters of Fr. Planque, we have a great responsibility over these young boys and girls from different places, cultures and backgrounds. It is our duty to help them to live amicably together. Working with them, I have come to appreciate the richness of their different cultures. Their way of life is different from the one I am used to, for example, the way they greet respectfully, their method of building houses etc. Hence I am trying to adapt myself. As I give them the little I have I am also receiving from them.

The education given to these children takes care of their whole person. I teach the French language in the school. My joy is always great each time I enter a class and notice the eagerness of the students to know more about the French language. I am aware of the difficulty of learning another language, especially French, therefore I try to make each lesson interesting and down to their level. Gradually I am a witness of the progress made by some of the students who were just looking at me, the first few weeks I started teaching. Those I took over from (Srs. Sophie and Grace Awhansu) did a great job. I am just doing my best. Thanks to each one of them. Sr. Charity and I take care of the boarders. I am learning so much from her since it is my first time in this kind of apostolate. Thanks to her and the members of my community, I am able to feel at ease among the students and the staff of the school.

PASTORAL

St. John is an outstation under the Holy Family parish in Guffanti. I am with the choir trying to learn the Hausa songs and also with the youth. Being with the parishioners is helping me to learn the Hausa language better. Home to home visitation is a priority of our community. Therefore, I have time for that every week. Home visitation is not limited to the Christians but also to some Muslim families. It is usually a great joy when I enter a house just to greet with my little knowledge in Hausa. My only gift is my presence and the joy I share with them. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to live the charism of our institute; that is "primary evangelization", on my first missionary journey.

COMMUNITY

It is true that I came here with some fears and expectations, but as the days go by, I am feeling more at home among the students, the parishioners and all those around. My community is very helpful as my senior sisters, each one of them, makes herself available by showing me the way I should live my religious life. After some months in this community I am able to say “yes that I am happy to be a missionary sister of Our Lady of Apostles”.

May the Loving God help me to keep my light lit through the prayers of the Queen of the Missionaries. May God fill us with the missionary spirit wherever we find ourselves.

Juvenale Yevide



“Happiness is a Perfume you cannot pour on others without getting few drops yourself”

LOVE FROM SR. CELESTINA IKPENI



Dear Sisters,

Shikamoo

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and our Lady Queen of Apostles!

Today makes it three months since I left for mission in Tanzania. It has been wonderful and by the grace of God things have been good. Although I miss home.

This is a great opportunity for me. For the first time leaving a familiar ground for the unknown, although not totally unknown because I have read about the place and also heard stories. I felt very empty and I needed something to drink but I was not thirsty for water but some thing more, as I boarded

I got here (Tanzania) at 12:15pm Tanzania time. I was received by Srs. Kathleen Costigan and Cassie Hurley at Mwanza airport. I stayed with them for one week in the community. After which, Sr. Cecilia Amissah came for me.

On Sunday morning 30th March, after Mass I was set to go to my new community in Mwamapalala, Simiyu region of Tanzania. It is in the Catholic diocese of Shinyaga which is about three and half hours drive from Mwanza town. At the point of entering the car, I became nervous and (I said to myself God na you know). Anyway, we left and we got home safely. I was welcomed by the sisters in my new community. I was happy to be home after a long journey, days of waiting. I unpacked that very evening.

An international community indeed. We are four in the community (Srs. Anne Cahill from Ireland, Cecilia Amissah from Ghana, Angele from Ivory Coast and myself from Nigeria). I am happy to be here so in my heart I have made four tents with love for each of us.

I started work almost immediately. The next day I followed Sr. Anne to the School (Mwamapalala Catholic secondary school). I was introduced to the Fathers, staff and the students. They took me round the school environment.

(As they will say body no be fire wood,). I had malaria. At least it gave me opportunity to rest for some days.

The system of education here is different from Nigeria but any way, a teacher will always be a teacher (some one who teaches and also learns from others). In the school I teach form two English language and form one Christian Religious Knowledge. 18 periods in a week. I am paid 250,000 Tanzania shillings every month. I also work in the school library. Every Saturday I teach the English Language to some of the primary school pupils. I also work with the Young Catholic Students (YCS) in the school

Since I don't have the language I am not yet involved with any of the Parish groups. I wash and iron the altar linen every weekend and set the altar every Sunday before mass. As a community we are involved in the Small Christian Community. I went some out stations to talk on vocation with the help of the Priest.

I have gotten my residential permit for two years and my Drivers licence. I shall join the language course from August 8th -December 4th.

I thank God; the sisters have been very good to me.

My main challenge is the language; not being able to communicate freely can be frustrating. But anyway it is consoling I shall be going for the language course soon. Sister Anne got a Swahili teacher who taught me for some weeks before we vacated from the school, she also gave me an English/Swahili dictionary, books and Bible. These have been very helpful to me in the school, parish and in general.

The food, Ugali is like semolina in Nigeria although I don't eat it much.

Culture; I am still learning.

Generally, the people are good and they work hard (farm work) to help themselves some of them don't speak swahili language they speak their local language (Sukuma).

Thank you very much for this opportunity given to me to live out my missionary life. And I must say a big thank you for the news letters you send through email.

God bless you all.

Asante.

CELESTINA

“Live in the most intimate union with God...do not forget God's presence in your being, but bring Him wherever you go into the heart of your works.”(Augustine Planque)

NEWS FROM ROME-VATICAN CELEBRATES A DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING:



The first World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was marked on Wednesday 30th, July, 2014 with a call to action i.e. to step up a fight and support to the survivors.

Human Trafficking is a problem which touches virtually every part of our global Community.

In a statement, the UN Leader Ban Ki- Moon spoke about the need to cut off funding to the traffickers, while at the same time dealing with the root cause of human trafficking, such as Poverty, inequality and ignorance.

Pope Francis has defined Human Trafficking as “an open wound on the body of Contemporary Society, a Scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a Crime against humanity.

Tracking progress being made around the world on a triple paradigm of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution and the millions of people still falling victim to this Crime. Does that mean we’re making progress against the trafficking gangs? Certainly yes said USA Ambassador Luis CdeBaca. He listed numerous Countries that have introduced Anti- Trafficking Laws but there is still not enough Political will to tackle the more hidden forms of this widespread phenomenon.

Human trafficking is a Crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that has become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals but the foundational values of Society.

Quoting Mira Sorvino, UN Goodwill Ambassador “It is our flesh that is at stake here; It is our flesh that’s being sold! The same flesh I have, that you have is the one on sale! And you are not going to be moved on account of the flesh of your brother or sister?”

The message is clear. We must all wipe the slumber from our eyes and jump up to act. How? It must start at the very top and go all the way down to the individual in our global Society.

On the Declaration of Commitment at the end of Human Trafficking and Slavery Conference in the Vatican, The Holy Father Pope Francis endorsed the event and stated!

“I exhort the international Community to adopt an even more unanimous and effective strategy against human trafficking, so that in every part of the World, men and women may no longer be used as a means to an end, and that their inviolable dignity may always be respected”

I was privileged to meet Pope Francis during the Conference. I gave him the greetings from the young women; we meet on the road at night, those at the deportation camp, Ponte- Galeria, and those in our safe homes. They always ask us to greet “Papa” for them.

Pope Francis said “Thank you for your good work, may God bless you, tell the young women that I love them, tell them to pray for me”.

The Popes’ greeting was sent to the young women, which they received with thankfulness.

May the Lord continue to assist us and May our Lady watch over us as we work together to confront the scourge of human trafficking and Slavery in the World today.

St. Josephine Bakhita Pray for Us.

Sr. Monica Onwunali, OLA Rome

Reflections from the Heart



THE POWER OF GOD THAT MAKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

There are three elements of this power

- Connection
- Utilization
- Application

Connection: This connection is made by one's Spirit—"a living connection". You must be in a state of grace. Sinfulness disconnects us from God that is why we do not really live up to the potentials of who we are; 'children of God' whom he has given all authority and power. (Mt 28:18-20, Jn 1:11-12). With God all things are possible, so when you are connected to God, the possibilities are endless. There is no formula to destroy one who is connected to God, because you are connected to a power that is unimaginable.

Utilization: The power of God is already and always available. (Jn 1:12) You are the one who has to make this power useful to you.

- For the woman with the issue of blood, faith activated that power.
- A Christian must live a life of purposefulness. Anyone without a purpose cannot activate this power. Commit yourself to this divine purpose; **living for God, Living in God, Living with God**, if you want to utilize the power of God.
- Note: Everything is working for God's purpose, so align yourself with the purpose of God. The purpose activates the power of God.
- **Meditate/Reflect on the word of God. Listen to the word of God, possess the word of God.** When you "eat" and "digest" the word of God, it becomes Spirit and life in you, then use your tongue as an instrument to release this power because the tongue mobilizes the power in the body.
- You need 4 things to finally release the power of God

- A working soul (engaged in the affairs of God) continuously activates the power of God. An idle soul kills the power and becomes the instrument of the devil.
- A willing soul, i.e. obedient, work with the will of God (Gen 17:1), we are called followers of Christ by action, not by designation.
- A waiting and a watching soul--- reflection, meditation, prayer, quiet time etc.
- Warring: to war you must be a fighter. Do not fear your enemy, you must confront them, do not run from the devil. (1Pet 5:8-9). Condemn evil everywhere.

Application: Keep thy tongue from evil. Evil communication corrupts. Join forces with God.

- Faith—living in agreement with God. Speak positively! When you speak, you act. Your destiny is affected by what you say. (Ps 35:28, Prov 15:4, 21:23, Lk1:38). The tongue is a spiritual instrument. (Jn17:18, Eph1:17-19, Phil3:31)
- You must be committed to whatever you are doing, working hard and diligently both in the vineyard of God and in your own work. Note: your mind becomes effective in the things you train it with and for.
- Distractions of any sort, “God understands syndrome—I am only human”, these occur so that you do not stay connected to God in order to unleash the power that makes all things possible. Watch out! Be alert!
- Always remember that with God all things are possible and once there is “life in God”, the possibilities are endless.
- Stay connected to God always using all the available resources; especially THE EUCHARIST.

Sr. Cynthia Nwadike

