



SPOTLIGHT

ON THE PROVINCE OF NIGERIA

Volume 11. No. 1. 1st Edition 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

OUR NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE IN KOLONKOURA! – PG 05

FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH – PG 11

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS ON POVERTY – PG 14

NEWS FROM SR. FRANCESCA EDET DC – PG 20

ST. LOUISE PUPIL'S CAREER DAY – PG 21

RENOVATION OF VOWS



Renovation of vows is a special event in the lives of the sisters in the little company of the Daughters of Charity. Every vowed sister looks forward to that day, because it is a day, they renew their commitment to God and also pray for more grace and increased zeal for the service of persons living in poverty. It is always preceded by a day of prayer and review. The seminary sisters prepared

candles and beautiful flowers and cards that they placed on each sister's altar the night before while the sisters had their holy hour.

This annual event which takes place every 25th of March except when it falls within the Holy Week took place this year on 25th of March. The seminary sisters carried out the customary practice of waking the sisters at 4:30am. The sisters entered the chapel





for the morning prayer and mass looking so beautiful and radiant like new bride ready to be taken by their spouse, Jesus Christ. even Fr. Dennis testified to that. Then we had a lively mass which was celebrated by a Vincentian priest Rev Fr. Dennis Asomugha, CM and the sisters renewed their vows during the mass.

The second part of the event for the day took place at the

refectory where we all had a lavished breakfast but before this took place, the seminary sisters sang songs of praise to God and we all ate and enjoyed ourselves. To crown it all, the sister servant Sr. Christiana Igechi gave gifts to each sister in the local community including the seminary sisters. We all appreciated her effort.

In the evening, during supper, the seminary sisters



presented a mime of the annunciation story and a beautiful dance to round up the celebration. The sisters were happy and relaxed as they watch us display. It was indeed a great day to remember.

Poem

The Psychology Of Salesmanship

Patience, self satisfaction, yes I can do, cheerfulness,
Hope positive, own confidence., language in loyal voice.
Opportunity's proper utility while within selling process
Good faith or good wishes yields yes path of success.
Good physical appearance plus the better psychology,
Great assets of Salesman to make own business easy.

OUR NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE IN KOLONKOURA!

“If the Lord had not been on our side, this is our song. If the Lord had not been on our side terrorists arose against us, then would they have swallowed us alive when their anger was kindled...” (Psalm 124:2). This was the song on our lips in the morning of 23rd November 2021 when we saw daybreak. We had literally died and resurrected from fear of the unknown. The hours of the night seemed longer than usual with our tears long dried.

On the 22nd of November, we had retired for the night surprisingly earlier because it was a Tuesday and Tuesdays are free night for us in the community. Normally, some of us would have been up

working late in the room or making contacts with family and friends outside as network was an issue in our locality. But I think God just planned everything in His Providence that night, by 9pm, were all in our rooms with lights turned off. This was the first apprehension we had that saved us.

At 9.20pm, I had slept off when I heard several gunshots that woke me up and I heard our dog barking. Usually, Jack, the dog is very friendly and hardly barks at people. It can even walk up to the school premises and sniff around children if not properly fettered in the morning. This made us think that Jack was a pet dog rather than a watch dog.



Surprisingly, it proved us wrong that night and immediately I knew all was not well. But I felt it was the police patrolling at night to

ward off the terrorists that we were known to be going around disturbing the peace of simple villagers. Alas, this was different!

The next thing I heard was the hooting of the car as I sat up. I wondered who it was that was going out that late in the night. I had thought a sister was intending to go out, so I went out to see for myself, to be sure. I had a pink pyjama on which would give me out easily if it were a danger situation so I instinctively wore a navy-blue sweater to cover me and took a touch and went out as quietly as I could to the front door. I peeped through the 'see-through' at the door and saw movement at the car side. To be truly sure and to have a better view, I went out to the visitors' parlour and immediately saw a boy ran to the car and joined the other already there. It dawned on me immediately that this was danger, and we were trapped!

At this point, I ran in to alert my sisters who were now all

awake and we hid in one room. Immediately we made calls to the police to inform them that we were in danger. We also sent text messages to them and to our sisters in the Mount Tabor Community to inform them to look for alternatives in case the police did not hear us well as we were whispering. They replied that the police said they were on their way.

Each of us started praying and hoping that help will come. When the terrorists tried in vain to drive off the Hilux and other cars parked at the garage but couldn't, they became angry and came to the front door and started banging it. We had two students with us in another room who had also gone to bed before the incident, but we chose not to wake them so that they wouldn't be frightened and give us out.

But as the banging and breaking became stronger, we were afraid that the children would wake up, so my prayer was for God to put them in a deep sleep like he did Adam. So it was for the boy. We also hoped that the police will arrive before they had the time to break in, but they never came. They eventually broke through the chapel toilet window and got in at after 10pm. The one that entered now went to open the doors for the others from inside as the keys were at the back of the doors. Then they went on rampage destroying everything on their wake!

They entered the chapel and broke the tabernacle, thinking it was a safe for money. They scattered all the cupboards and dragged everything down, from the linens to the breviary and hymn books. They went to the visitors' parlour, laundry, community

room, refectory and kitchen and did the same destruction. They were excited when they entered the kitchen and refectory as they found the fridges were stocked full. They carted away a deep freezer with fresh foods in it, three of our bikes, sewing machine, a box of alter linens and curtains from the windows. Clothes littered all over the place, same with food items they couldn't carry. They were consoled with the things they got even though their aim of going away with the cars were defeated. They broke the wind screens of the Highlander, Toyota HiAce, and Toyota Hilux. They took their time to do all these destruction and pillage with no hinderance from anywhere! Their operation lasted till midnight before they left. You can imagine our state of fright between this period of hours.

I had thought that was my last night being alive when they came in and I started saying my last prayers. So were my sisters as we were all crushed under the bed and on the floor. We were dead quiet and heard all their chatter and clatter just beside us. God made it that they did not imagine we were inside because it would have been another story. For they had come on the Sunday afternoon to ask if this was the sisters' compound and the day watchman told them yes, but that we had all travelled. Therefore, it meant that they had come for a reconnaissance of the place to be sure of striking later! Thankfully, the response of the watchman that we had travelled doused the need to search for us! And God kept one of the children from hearing all that destruction, so he never woke up!

Although, the bigger one came out to look for us when she heard the banging, she went and hid inside the Minth flower as she couldn't find us. This was where she stayed for the two hours plus that they operated, and they never saw her too! It's the miracle of the year!

We had cried, prayed, hoped in vain for help until 6.15am. The hours seemed unending and morning so far. It was then the commissioner of police came in and called out for us! He said they could not come because it was dangerous for them as they had no ammunition to withstand the terrorists. So, if God and our Lady had not covered us, they would have come to meet our dead bodies either butchered and lying mingled with our blood or our absence after being kidnapped!

We can never stop thanking God for His marvels in our lives that day and beyond. It was a miracle that He did, just like He saved the Israelites from the Egyptians! What marvels the Lord worked for us, indeed we were glad! (Ps. 125). Since then, we have been living in Mount Tabor community. We are grateful for their openness and generosity in sharing their limited space with us. May God bless Sr. Marie-Therese Ukwak, the Sr. Servant, and her sisters, Sr. Ojonoka ACHENEJE and Sr. Cecilia AKONG abundantly.

Our school is evacuated to the town where we had several classrooms given to us by the Bishop, Joseph SAMA for learning to continue. Things are not easy operating from different locations and facing the challenge of a new way of life. But we dare to go towards

and encounter Christ in this new circumstance that we are.

There have been reprisal attacks in the school and the community house with more destructions and looting that we managed to evacuate the remaining things we had with the help of the military and some men of goodwill from the town. They are in one warehouse of the diocese. Living in Kolonkoura has ended in reality!

St. Louise's Community is made up of Sr. Toyin ABEGUNDE, Sr. Servant, Sr. Angelina MARK, school Directress, Sr. Lynda OPKARAEKE, School Bursar and Sr. Janet E. DEINANAGHN, Community Bursar.

Reported by Sr. Janet E. DEINANAGHAN DC.

Feast of Saint Joseph

19TH MARCH, 2022



The Feast of St Joseph, Husband of Mary, foster father of Jesus and Patron Saint of those under formation is celebrated on 19th March by the Universal Church.

For us the Seminary Sisters, the day began with Morning Prayer prepared by the sisters of the local community, followed by Holy Mass. They sang wishing us a happy feast day. We had a sumptuous breakfast before leaving the house for the first Profession of the two Daughters of St

Joseph novices at The Holy Family Parish, Woji- Port Harcourt. It was indeed a great privilege for us to witness how first profession is done in other congregations. It gave us a better appreciation of the simple nature of our own sending on mission. The mass was lively and the homily was inspiring.

Away from there, after the reception, we also visited Next Cash and Carry Supermarket Shopping Mall for window shopping and then proceeded





to Mile 1 market still to shop for some personal effects.

It was indeed a day of joy for us especially those who have never been to the supermarket for the first time. At least window shopping was allowed as we fed our eyes with all the goodies in the mall. From there we began our journey home. We thank the

Visitatrix, the sisters and all who made our day. May God bless you all.

Sr. Basilia Anozie

Words of Pope Francis on Poverty



These words of Pope Francis can help us to reflect more deeply on how our experience of God's love can open our hearts to solidarity with our neighbors, and move us to action. As you read these quotes, ask for the Holy Spirit to help you discern how you might be called to love-inspired action to address poverty.

Reflections on Poverty

“I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and

of the environment.” (Pope Francis, Homily at Inauguration, 3/19/13)

“The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry.” (Pope Francis, Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools—Q & A, 6/7/13)

“A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and

not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.” (Pope Francis, Address to the Food and Agricultural Organization, 6/20/13)

“Poverty calls us to sow hope. . . . Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures.” (Pope Francis, Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools—Q & A, 6/7/13)

“While encouraging the development of a better world, we cannot remain silent about the scandal of poverty in its various forms. Violence, exploitation, discrimination, marginalization, restrictive approaches to fundamental freedoms, whether of

individuals or of groups: these are some of the chief elements of poverty which need to be overcome. Often these are precisely the elements which mark migratory movements, thus linking migration to poverty.” (Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 8/5/13)

“We are not simply talking about ensuring nourishment or a 'dignified sustenance' for all people, but also their 'general temporal welfare and prosperity'. [159] This means education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free, creative, participatory and mutually supportive labor that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives. A just wage enables them to have adequate access to all the other goods which are destined for our common use. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 11/24/13, no. 192)

“In today's world, voices are being raised which we cannot ignore and which implore our Churches to live deeply our identity as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first of these voices is that of the poor. In the world, there are too many women and men who suffer from severe malnutrition, growing unemployment, the rising numbers of unemployed youth, and from increasing social exclusion. These can give rise to criminal activity and even the recruitment of terrorists. We cannot remain indifferent before the cries of our brothers and sisters. These ask of us not only material assistance – needed in so many circumstances – but above all, our help to defend their dignity as human persons, so that they can find the spiritual energy to become once again protagonists in their own lives. They ask us to fight, in the light of the Gospel, the structural causes of

poverty: inequality, the shortage of dignified work and housing, and the denial of their rights as members of society and as workers. As Christians we are called together to eliminate that globalization of indifference which today seems to reign supreme, while building a new civilization of love and solidarity.” (Pope Francis, Address at Patriarchal Church of St. George, Istanbul, 11/30/14)

“Discussions are needed in which all those directly or indirectly affected (farmers, consumers, civil authorities, scientists, seed producers, people living near fumigated fields, and others) can make known their problems and concerns, and have access to adequate and reliable information in order to make decisions for the common good, present and future.” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, 5/24/15, no. 135)

“The coexistence of wealth and poverty is a scandal, it is a disgrace for humanity.” (Pope Francis, General Audience, 12/2/15)

“Let us open our eyes to our neighbor, especially to our brothers and sisters who are forgotten and excluded, to the “Lazarus” at our door. That is where the Church’s magnifying glass is pointed.... By right but also by evangelical duty, for it is our responsibility to care for the true riches which are the poor.” (Pope Francis, Homily for Jubilee for Socially Excluded People, 11/13/16)

“Combat poverty and at the same time learn from the poor.” (Pope Francis, Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Members of the Representative Council and Personnel of Caritas Internationalis, 11/17/16)

“The principal ethical

dilemma of this capitalism is the creation of discarded people, then trying to hide them or make sure they are no longer seen. A serious form of poverty in a civilization is when it is no longer able to see its poor, who are first discarded and then hidden. The economy of communion, if it wants to be faithful to its charism, must not only care for the victims, but build a system where there are ever fewer victims, where, possibly, there may no longer be any.” (Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the Meeting of the Economy of Communion, 2/4/17)

“If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the

most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: "If you want to honor the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honor the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness'." (Pope Francis, First World Day of the Poor, 11/19/17, no. 3)

"Tragically, in our own time, even as ostentatious wealth accumulates in the hands of the privileged few, often in connection with illegal activities and the appalling exploitation of human dignity, there is a scandalous growth of poverty in broad sectors of society throughout our world. Faced with this scenario, we cannot remain passive, much less resigned. . . . To all these forms of poverty we must respond with a new vision of

life and society." (Pope Francis, First World Day of the Poor, 11/19/17, no. 5)

"Today as in the past, liberating the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted is an integral part of the mission entrusted by God to the Church." (Pope Francis, Address to International Catholic Migration Commission, 3/8/18)

"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (Ps 34:6). The words of the Psalmist become our own whenever we are called to encounter the different conditions of suffering and marginalization experienced by so many of our brothers and sisters whom we are accustomed to label generically as "the poor". The Psalmist is not alien to suffering; quite the contrary. He has a direct experience of poverty and yet transforms it into a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

Psalm 34 allows us today, surrounded as we are by many different forms of poverty, to know those who are truly poor. It enables us to open our eyes to them, to hear their cry and to recognize their needs.” (Pope Francis, Second World Day of the Poor, 11/18/18, no. 1)

“The Lord listens to those who, trampled in their dignity, still find the strength to look up to him for light and comfort. He listens to those persecuted in the name of a false justice, oppressed by policies unworthy of the name, and terrified by violence, yet know that God is their Savior.” (Pope Francis, Second World Day of the Poor, 11/18/18, no. 1)

“God's answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity. God's answer is also a summons to those who believe in him to do

likewise, within the limits of what is humanly possible.” (Pope Francis, Second World Day of the Poor, 11/18/18, no. 3)

POEM

Honesty Hides Tasty Honey Within Own Body

Honesty minus letter S becomes honey,
Honesty is highness of the noble brainy.
"Honest hearts produce honest actions"
High class quotation offers inspirations.

Here an illustration from current contest,
"Hello, hugs and smiles"- honesty of host
Highly obliged for such honest quotation,
Honesty one humanity quality of human.

Honest heart holds Omnipresent happily,
Hate is hidden word word in heart secretly.
Heart minus hate is equal to Alphabet 'R',
Heart on right road becomes heaven sure.

However, dishonest heart prefers hell,
hate,
Honest actions flow from the honest heart.
Honor goes to the host for such a subject,
Heart's tribute for Brigham Young, noblest.

News from Sr. Francesca Edet DC

Dear Sisters,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all now and forevermore!
AMEN.

I have received the visa to start the new mission with the United Nations in Geneva. As a result, I will be departing on Monday the 28th of March 2022, to join the Community from where I will live and commute to work daily.

The address is as stated below:-

Communaute des Soeurs de St. Vincent de Paul,
Filles de la Charite,
Av. des Communes Reunies 16,
1212 GRAND LANCY
Land line:- 0041227948182.

With the appointment to the UN in Geneva, I have been posted from Abbey Wood Community to the Provincial House in London from where I will come and go in the true spirit of the Company. While on duty, I will be in Geneva and while on recess, I will be in Mill Hill as my Community.

The address is as shown below:-

Provincial House,
The Ridgeway,
Mill Hill,
London,
NW7 1RE,
United Kingdom.
Land Line:- +442089063777.

I will continue to use my UK line which is +447398128441 until I get the Geneva work phone. You may wish to circulate this information among the Sisters should anybody wish to make contact with me. My email for now remains mmaedet@gmail.com I will need to set up a work email for the UN and I will share the information with you at a later date.

Once again I thank you and all the Sisters for your prayerful support. May I request that a hard copy of the updated Provincial address book be posted to me at any of the above addresses provided. Sometimes, the soft copy that is sent is not compatible with my device, therefore I am not always able to open it and print.

Thank you Sister for everything and be assured of my prayers for you always. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do to contribute to the up-building of the Province through leadership, Community living or formation. I will always be willing to create the time when I come home on holidays as part of my contribution to the home Province.

Once again,

Many blessings and good wishes to you all on the feast of annunciation of our Lord. Happy renewal day to us all!

With warm regards from Sr. Francesca Edet.

ST. LOUISE PUPIL'S CAREER DAY







TRANSFERS

S/N	Name	Coming from	Going to
1	AFANGIDE, Sister Ima-Obong George	Marguerite Naseau, Gamashina, Kano	St. Louise's Provincial House, Nchia Eleme
2	ACHENEJE, Sister Ojonoka	Mont Tabor, Community, Nouna, Burkina Faso	De Paul House, Ossiomo
3	ARINZE, Sister Ifeoma Francisca	Our Lady of the Missions, Emu	St. Louise's Provincial Curia, Nchia Eleme
4	EKEWUBA, Sister ElmaMary	De Paul House, Ossiomo	Ozanam House, Ikeja, Lagos
5	IGECHI, Sister Christiana Ilamosi	Adiaha Obong, Uyo	St. Louise's Provincial House, Nchia Eleme
6	IJEGWA, Sister Mary	St. Vincent's, Kubwa, Abuja. (Student)	St. Vincent's, Kubwa, Abuja. <i>(placement after studies)</i>
7	GIMA, Sister Gertrude	Lindalva Community, Ikhueni, Benin City	Madonna House, Okpanam
8	MBANU, Sister Stella	St. Louise's Provincial House, Nchia Eleme	Adiaha Obong, Uyo
9	UKWAK, Sister Marietherese	Mont Tabor Community, Nouna, Burkina Faso	Divine Mercy, Ikorodu, Lagos



CELEBRANTS

APRIL BABIES

- 05-Sr. Helen Ojuh
- 06- Sr. Mary-Cynthia Amaudo
- 09-Sr. Stella Mbanu
- 12-Sr. Baridi Diidi
- 14-Sr. Franca Opara
- 14-Sr. Franca Okoemu
- 16-Sr. Martha Achumie
- 17-Sr. Onyemowo Ogbanje
- 20-Sr. Martha Uko

- 20- Sr. Grace Daniel Oyok
- 23-Sr. Fidelma Akata
- 24-Sr. Theresa Anosike
- 24-Sr. Fidelia Zabbey
- 25-Sr. Theresa Anthigha
- 27-Sr. Regina Achor
- 28-Sr. Ojonoka Acheneje

MAY BABIES

- 03-Sr. Esther Osuagwu
- 09-Sr. Bibiana Emenaha
- 10-Sr. Josephine Okwori
- 11-Sr. Theresa Eke
- 11-Sr. Anna Machine
- 12-Sr. Martha Ali
- 15-Sr. Perpetua Essien

- 15-Sr. Odion Sadoh
- 18-Sr. Mary Okoro
- 20-Sr. Bernadine Chimeziri
- 22-Sr. Monica Akpan
- 25-Sr. Benedicta Osih
- 25-Sr. Blessing Adie Agba
- 27-Sr. Joyce Ikott
- 29-Sr. Elma Mary Ekwuba
- 31-Sr. Patricia Nwakaego Amadi

JUNE BABIES

- 03-Sr. Francisca Isiuwe
- 03-Sr. Rita Osuere
- 06-Sr. Aniebiet Matthew Edeminam
- 10-Sr. Theresa Duru
- 12-Sr. Maria Kanabe
- 17-Sr. Bernadette Uko
- 19-Sr. Victoria Nwosu
- 20-Sr. Catherine Eking
- 20-Sr. Mary Okeke
- 20-Sr. Toyin Amoko

- 21-Sr. Victoria George
- 22-Sr. Sylvia Efekalam
- 23-Sr. Bernadine Pemii
- 24-Sr. Oluwatoyin Osibowale
- 29-Sr. Juliet Ugwu
- 30-Sr. Ima-Obong Afangide