



What if God was one of us?

Dear Friends,

'What if God was one of us?' These words of a popular song came to me while I was waiting for a bus in the pouring rain. I thought of other places in the world that we were hearing about at that time: places such as Thailand with too much rain and the Horn of Africa with too little. There were stories of people suffering from the effects of earthquakes, volcanoes, and conflict. There were other people in distress with the present economic situation. At the same time we were hearing of the sacrifices and heroism of those helping the people affected by these tragedies, putting themselves at risk and some even giving their lives.

I was reminded of that song and asked myself where God could be in all of this hardship. Another verse of the song came to mind: 'If God had a face what would it look like?'

Christmas reminds us once again that God has come among us; God's Son, Jesus, is indeed one of us, and we see His face in those who suffer as well as in those who give of themselves to relieve that suffering. Our mission as MMM is to bring the healing love of God where human needs are greatest. At this special time we remind you, our friends and supporters, that you, too, show the face of God for others as you support our work. Thank you for your help over the past year, a real sign that God has come among us and is truly one of us.

Christ is risen. We pray that you will have a very happy Christmas and a blessed year in 2012.



S. Carol

Sister Carol Breslin, MMM
Editor

P.S. After twenty-six years in Nigeria and Ethiopia as a physician and administrator, over the past few months I have been working with Sister Isabelle to learn a new ministry as Director of MMM Communications. I look forward to keeping you in touch with MMM and our activities around the world. I know from experience what your support means to us. We are most grateful to Sister Isabelle, who has done this work so well for 18 years and who, in addition to her mentoring role, is now taking on other equally challenging and important assignments for the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

You helped to support those affected by violence with a new healing ministry in . . .

Brazil

In the city of Salvador, north-east Brazil, more than 15,000 people were victims of homicide in the past fourteen years. This year we opened a House of Consolation in this city to accompany families bereaved by violence. Now an international team of MMMs – Sisters Sheila, Miranilza, and Regina, with Rita Silva, an Associate member of MMM – works full time to address the pastoral, social, psychological, and legal needs of victims' families. Stigmatization by neighbours can be an added burden.

Our Area Leader for the Americas, Sister Jean Clare, said, 'The first person I met as I entered the centre was a grandmother who had lost five members

of her family. These families are so grateful that members of the Project Team visit them, listen to their story, and connect them to one another and to available services.'

A mother who lost two sons and cares for a third, confined to a wheelchair because of a bullet in his spine, was helped to claim her pension. The project includes other neighbourhoods with workshops on human rights and dealing with trauma. Awareness is raised using radio interviews, newspaper articles, and blogs.



Sister Miranilza with a young man who was shot in the back. The Project helped him to get his ID card so he could claim benefits

Sister Sheila is from Belfast, a city that has known its share of violence. During seven years in Salvador she has been providing healthcare to women caught up in the violence of prostitution and has helped them to find alternative ways of earning a living.

Sister Miranilza, from Brazil, who made her first profession in MMM last year, spent time in Rwanda during her novitiate. 'The people there are still dealing with the horror of genocide', she says, 'but there is something of the pain I sensed in Rwanda here, too, in Salvador'.



Sister Sheila with the brave grandmother who lost five family members.

You helped to
work miracles in . . .

Malawi

Earlier this year, during the cold season in Malawi, Mary, who was only sixteen years old, delivered premature twin boys at Kasina Health Centre. They weighed just 1.2 kg and 1.1 kg at birth. Moses and John were so tiny that their mother found carrying them difficult and frightening. Our first instinct was to refer her and the babies to a bigger hospital where there would be an incubator for the babies. We suggested this to the family but they told us that they would go home if we asked them to go elsewhere.

We have a little room that we use as a nursery. The young mother and newborns stayed there and our practical 'kangaroo' nursing was put to use. In kangaroo nursing, the infant is nursed lying skin to skin with the mother to keep the baby warm. This also helps bonding with the mother. Since there were two babies it was a bit difficult but Mary was eager to learn. We put a small heater in the room. Every aspect of their hygiene and feeding was closely monitored by our nursing staff and it was exciting to see their lively movements.

Mary's family was poor and she was not producing enough breast milk. 'Likuni phala', a mixture of soya beans and maize, is used in our nutrition clinics. With this help she was soon producing enough milk to feed the babies. She did not give them any artificial feeding or water. She learned

to care for her twins and the babies' weight increased steadily as the weeks went by. The tiny legs and arms began to fill out; their hair started to grow; their faces became rounded. It was a wonderful to see such a miracle of life growing before us.

Moses and John stayed in the health centre for six weeks until they weighed 2.5kg. The day they were discharged was a very happy one for Mary, her proud parents, and the nurses. The mother and babies have been coming to the under-five clinic since their discharge and all are doing well.



Moses and John can't wait to explore the world.

You helped to provide better care and safe deliveries for mothers and their babies in . . .

Rwanda

Our MMMs in Rwanda are excited about the completion of a new outpost at Cyahafi, seven km from their main mission at Kirambi Health Centre. Their work in mother and child care has been helped because pregnant women are now spared the long walk to attend antenatal clinics. The outpost has four rooms that are used for consultation, counselling, examinations, and a store. A big waiting area is used for health education and there is a kitchen and pit latrines outside.



Sisters Goretta and Angelina watched excitedly as the new health outpost was being constructed.

All of this was made possible through the efforts of three English women: a doctor, Sharon Bennett, and her two friends, Carol Shread and Anne Higham, who walked from coast to coast seeking sponsorship from their friends. Their target was to raise £8,000 to cover the estimated cost of the new outpost. Their enthusiasm was so contagious that their generous friends raised enough to cover the cost of a water tank as well as the buildings, and for much-needed repairs to the nutrition unit at Kirambi Health Centre.

Care for mother and child is a particular concern for MMMs. Sister Goretta gave us just one example of how we provide this in Rwanda:

'A young mother, Claudine, delivered at home on her own at 11 a.m. and stayed in the house with an undelivered placenta, which was still attached to the baby. No one knew that she had delivered until a neighbour discovered her. The local health worker phoned us at 4 p.m. and our staff members, Beata and Joseph, went immediately with our ambulance to collect her.

'They had no clothes – nothing.'

'The mother had eaten nothing and the baby was not yet breastfed. They had no clothes – nothing. Claudine was living by herself in very poor conditions, with no relatives around. The neighbours started running in different directions to bring milk to the mother and some accompanied her to our health centre. Our staff delivered the placenta successfully, thank God, and weighed the baby. She weighed only 1.8kg. The mother also was very malnourished.



Claudine's beautiful baby is now blooming with health.

'We kept them for two weeks and looked after them. When they went home the young mother's health had greatly improved and the baby was thriving.'



Nancy Ong'era

□ **Sister Nancy**, 30, from Kenya, pictured left, is one of seven Sisters at our House of Studies in Nairobi. A qualified laboratory technician, she is upgrading to a BSc in Medical Laboratory Science at Kenya Methodist University.



Jovita Niwebyoana



Chiagoziem Onwuguruike



Pauline Kongo

□ **Sister Jovita**, 29, from Uganda, was missioned to Rwanda after religious profession. She is working on her BA in Sustainable Human Development at Tangaza College in Nairobi.

□ **Sister Chiagoziem**, 34, is from Nigeria. She gained her BSc in Biochemistry and Microbiology before entering MMM. After an assignment in Kenya she completed a Diploma in Theology. She is now studying medicine at the University of Nairobi.



Jaquelline Nalubega



Evelyn Akhalumenyo



Angela Katalyeba

□ **Sister Pauline**, 30, from Kenya, had a Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technology before entering MMM. After experience in Makiungu Hospital in Tanzania, she is upgrading to a BSc in Pharmacy at Kenya Methodist University.

□ **Sister Jacquelline**, 44, from Uganda, is a nurse-midwife. An experienced missionary, she has served in Brazil, Rwanda, and Angola. She is doing studies to prepare her to accompany women who will be entering MMM.

"Reading the signs of the times in a rapidly changing world we shall be alert to new needs, opportunities and approaches and be ready to undertake such appropriate study as may be necessary for our more effective participation and ministry."

MMM Constitutions

□ **Sister Evelyn**, 28, from Nigeria, joined MMM after graduating with a Diploma in Applied Microbiology. She has had mission experience in the Republic of Benin. She is now studying medicine at the University of Nairobi.

□ **Sister Angela**, 34, from Tanzania, has a BSc in Food Science from Sokoine University of Agriculture. After experience as director of our Mapambazuku Training Centre in Tanzania, she is upgrading in administration. She is also studying French to prepare for her assignment to Rwanda.

You have helped women
to become empowered in . . .

Honduras

Ethel came to our centre in Choloma, *Casa Visitación*, proudly presenting a certificate from the Conference of Religious Women of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula. She related her life story to the group, which was conducting a seminar on the reality of life here.

Ethel came from a family of eight children. She never knew her father. When she was eight years old her mother gave her away to another family because she was very poor. She was taken care of by her new family but longed to be back with her mother and siblings. When she was eleven Ethel returned to her family, but her mother would not accept her. Deeply hurt, she went to live on the streets.

Life was tough. To survive she slept with different men, earning a little money for food. At fourteen Ethel was pregnant. She lived with her child's father, who was very abusive. She stayed with him for two years while his family raised the child. She met another man and had three children. Two months after the birth of the last child the father of these children died of AIDS. Ethel then discovered that she, too, had AIDS. She struggled greatly as she suffered from recurrent infections. Now she is living with a man who has a drug problem. Unfortunately she has little choice and is grateful for the roof over her head. To earn a little money for the family she washes clothes for about four hours a day. For this she gets about two dollars.

Ethel said she grew up longing to be cared for and loved. She found the rejection of her mother almost unbearable. Her mother has since died and she finds it very difficult to forgive her. Ethel came to our programme six years ago. Our staff helped her to get treatment and she joined the support group. She says this has helped her immensely. She has taken part in workshops on topics such as human rights, self-esteem, etc. Practical sessions have helped her in income



Ethel receiving her certificate from the leader of the Conference of Religious Women, accompanied by Sister Renée Duignan, MMM (right).



Sister Cleide da Silva, from Brazil, is responsible for vocation promotion in Honduras. She has completed a formation course and has now begun to work with a youth group in Marcala. With the help of friends she has developed vocation literature in Spanish.

Cleide says, 'I hope to promote MMM and our way of life and to help young people to discover their vocation, whatever way of life they choose to go. Our mission is to support and awaken in young people the desire to follow Christ... I do believe this is our time and that God continues to call disciples to MMM.'

generation. The Programme also helped with funds for her children's schooling and occasional food baskets. Most of all, she says, she has received much love and care. During the Conference she spoke highly of the programme of *Casa Visitación* and the Team. She said: 'I am here speaking with you to-day because I feel good about myself. I am so grateful for all I have learned and received these past six years.'

You put a family
on wheels in . . .

Uganda

Fatima, Rahima, and Ibrahim with their wonderful big brother



It's not Formula 1, but Fatima and Rahima think this is a much better way to travel.

On her village health rounds one day in Makondo, Sister Benedicta's heart was moved by the plight of four children living in particularly dire circumstances. Their mother, feeling she could take no more from their abusive father, had run away and left the family. The father did not care for the children and was suspicious of outsiders. The baby, one-year-old Rahima, was malnourished. An older girl of four, Fatima, could not walk or stand and did not speak. Six-year-old Ibrahim was also malnourished and the oldest, fourteen-year-old Yassin, was mentally challenged. None of the children smiled: they had little to smile about.

It was a sensitive situation, but the father agreed that Fatima and Ibrahim could come to St. Kizito's Nursery School each day. Because Fatima could not walk, Yassin would carry her, which meant that the three oldest children would get the food that was distributed at the school. Sister Benedicta brought soya, powdered milk, and maize each day for Rahima at home but soon realized that the food was not being given. A kind woman agreed to care for the baby and both of them were able to attend the nutrition unit in Kitovu Hospital, fifty km away. Rahima and her carer stayed at Kitovu for two months. Even though the baby improved she was still wary of people. She was allowed to return to Makondo to attend the nursery school because she seemed to be missing her siblings.

Carrying four-year-old Fatima was a lot for Yassin, and now there were two children who could not walk needing to attend the nursery. Undaunted and willing to use whatever wheels were available, Yassin resorted to a wheelbarrow to bring his two youngest siblings to the nursery every day. One Sunday when the MMMs were together for dinner the unusual taxi service was a topic of conversation. Sister Maura Lynch said that a double buggy had come in a container of hospital equipment donated by friends in Dingle, Co. Kerry when a new hospital was built there.

The buggy has made it much easier for the children to come to the nursery together. Soon Rahima began sitting by herself and taking steps on her own. Fatima is now able to walk a little, sings nursery rhymes, and counts to ten. She takes her teacher's hands and dances.



Sister Celine (left) has now passed over the nursery school to the care of Sisters Maria José (right) and Dumka (centre) and their dedicated staff. Before she left for Ireland she was delighted to have yet another happy story to tell us. Fund-raising for St. Kizito's continues to be important for her.

This year eight MMMs celebrated their Golden Jubilees.
They have served in ministries in Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Angola,
the Republic of Benin, Brazil, Malawi, Kenya, the USA, Ireland, and the UK.

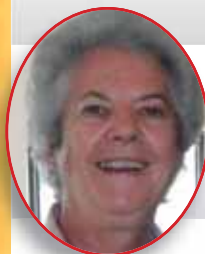


Sister Sheila Berthiaume, from Detroit, Michigan, is a general surgeon who has served in our hospitals in Uganda and Tanzania where she is still kept busy at Makiungu Hospital.

Sister Cecilia Asuzu, from Nigeria, nursed at many of our missions in Nigeria and Angola. She was Regional Superior in Nigeria and served on our Central Leadership Team. She is now in Zaffé mission, in the Republic of Benin.



Sister Ursula Cott, originally from Co. Cork, worked for many years in Nigeria and Brazil, where she helped to improve the lives of many women, a special aim of MMMs.



Sister Maureen Clarke is from Leeds, England and was missioned to Kenya, where she helped to improve the lives of countless people as a social worker. She is now based in Ealing.



Sister Andrea Kelly, from Glasgow, Scotland, was a pioneer of our missions in Kenya and worked in many of our clinics there, especially in the Turkana Desert.



Sister Virginia Sheridan is from Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. For many years she provided nursing care at our hospitals in Nigeria and Tanzania. She is now based in Ireland.



Sister Lucia Lynch is from Callan, Co. Kilkenny and spent many years nursing in Tanzania and Malawi. Returning to Ireland she joined our community in Kilmacow.



Golden Jubiliarians

Golden Jubilarians

Golden Jubilarians



We are very proud of another of our jubilarians, Sister Therese Jane Oguh

This year Sister Therese Jane was honoured with an award from Nigeria's Health Ministry and its development partners. Dr. David Okello, the WHO country representative for Nigeria, made the presentation. She had not been told beforehand about the award, for which she received a standing ovation. Sister Therese was recognized for running mobile antenatal clinics for many who could not travel long distances to medical services. She was sometimes 'in the nick of time to take a difficult delivery and save the life of mother and baby'.

Her work began when she was twenty, training for midwifery in St. Luke's Hospital, Anua. Later she started a single-room health centre with two other MMMs at Ikot Ene, a rural area. After gaining her Grade One midwifery qualification she was responsible for the maternity work in Ogoja, where there were few doctors.

Even during the Civil War she bravely carried on at Ndubia under difficult circumstances. She was under house arrest for eleven months but continued to work. After this she gained a Diploma in Public Health and graduated in general nursing in 1978. Armed with these she headed to set up services in yet another outpost in Zungeru Community Health Centre. In Gussoro she established a model for primary health care services.

This woman with a holistic approach has not stopped working in her later years. Sister Therese Jane said that it is her dream to ease the unbearable suffering for women caused by obstetric fistulae. These usually occur after long labour when mothers do not have access to the kind of services that Sister Therese and other MMMs have worked to provide.

These are Golden Years indeed.

Also in this group were six MMMs called to eternal life with God:

Sisters Agnese Carty, Cornelia Costello, Vera Fitzgerald, Breda Hogan, Presentina Murphy, and Julie McLoughlin.

Ponder in your hearts the mystery of the Visitation.

Be inspired by Mary's selfless love, her simplicity and faith, as she goes in haste to answer a human need, bringing with her the light that is life.

MMM Constitutions

You helped to provide a much-needed staff hostel in Makiungu . . .

Tanzania

Makiungu Hospital is located in a semi-desert area of Tanzania. Patients flock from near and far to get much-needed treatment. One of the greatest challenges is attracting and retaining qualified staff. Sister Maria Borda says, “‘Looking for greener pastures’ is a phrase we hear a lot. This is understandable because staff need to raise and educate their families. They want to work in places where good facilities are available and these can be difficult to provide in a rural area.”



The completed hostel will provide lodgings for staff and visitors.

Staff accommodation was needed for the two resident surgeons and a resident obstetrician. Another feature of life in Makiungu is the constant stream of visitors who provide essential services. Some – doctors, nurses, physiotherapists – come regularly for short periods with specialist medical skills. There are long-standing relationships with several medical schools. The students who come for placement gain valuable experience and are generous in their fundraising efforts. There are many volunteers with maintenance skills.

Sister Maria says these visitors “have lifted our hearts, our standard of services, and the morale of our co-workers”. They come over long dusty roads on journeys lasting many hours. Some come by small plane to the hospital airstrip. All need to be housed and lodgings are scarce in this remote area.

The answer to this accommodation predicament was provided by 31 committed people from Malta’s Mission Fund, who built a wonderful staff hostel, co-funded by the Cork-Singida Group, and other groups and individuals. Thanks to this, urgently-needed senior staff, including a dentist and a pharmacist, have come to stay in Makiungu. A spurt was also given to the new extension to the maternity unit, co-funded by Dr. Gerard van der Leij and his team in the Netherlands. It will take the overflow of ‘at-risk’ mothers who cannot be allowed home until after delivery because of potential complications. Other volunteers from the Mission Fund group and their contacts installed a system for piped oxygen to all the wards and theatres. They raised EU funds to complete an environmentally-friendly biogas system for sewage disposal. The X-ray building is also being completed.

“We often see a stretcher being rushed in, accompanied by anxious family members. It may be a man bleeding from an accident. It may be a mother with complications of labour, who has been carried for several hours from her village. They believe that at last they have reached the place where they will get the urgent care they need. We forget our exhaustion and thank God that all systems are in place so we can provide for those who are sick the care and dignity they deserve.”

You have shared our MMM spirit as Associates . . .

Ealing, U.K.

Pat Deeny, one of our UK MMM Associates, is married to Reverend Dave Deeny, an Anglican minister and teacher. Seven months ago they set off on a mission tour to Australia with their two youngest daughters.

Pat's life has been transformed in the last few weeks. She had applied for a Chaplaincy position in Perth and was amazed to be offered the Area Chaplaincy. She will be responsible for the pastoral care of about thirty other chaplains of several different religions, including Anglican and Catholic. It also means that ecumenism, which has always been a large part of Pat's apostolate, will continue in a new way. The interview panel took into account her extensive counselling experience and the fact that she is an Associate MMM. The question arose about how Pat would renew her Associate covenant from so far away. It is usually done with a special ceremony. Using Skype for the renewal offered an ideal solution.



Sister Maureen receives Pat's covenant while Sisters Mary and Helen look on.



Pat Deeny with her proud family: husband Dave, and Nicole and Stephanie

The plan became a reality in July. Sister Maureen Clarke, who accompanies our Associate MMMs in the UK, described the event.

'We arranged the renewal for 11 a.m. London time and 6 p.m. Western Australia time. In Ealing we were a bit nervous about the technical proceedings but Sister Helen McKenna directed them ably. Sisters Anne Curtin, Mary Shephard, Helen, and I were in Ealing. Pat, Dave, and daughters, Nicole and Stephanie, were in Perth with Maggie, an Anglican minister and friend, and her husband.

'After Evening Prayer, Maureen and Pat read from Pat's Covenant booklet. Pat signed the Covenant forms we had previously sent to her and she sent one back to Ealing. We all had the chance to congratulate her at the end. We found the whole experience uplifting and a great blessing.'

Those who joined us as MMM Associates this year

In USA:

Joan Gagnon and Ann Hook

In Angola:

*Simão Shinda, Cândido Haulay,
Beatriz Ndamona, Francisca
Agostinho, Francisca Ndatuonisi,
Ana Vatatu, Fátima Nakambueti,
Felicidade Filovaputo and
Serafina Rosa da Conceição*

In Nigeria:

*Andrew Effiom, Chief Paul Chima,
Mrs. Lola Prisca Chima, and
Albert Llussà i Torra*

May God support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Inspired by Bl. John Henry Newman

Following are the stories of our MMM Sisters whom God called home in the last year. They are the human stories of pioneering, heroic women who joined the Medical Missionaries of Mary in our earliest days and are examples to us of faith, courage, and trust in God. They touched the lives of countless people, bringing the healing love of God to the poor and marginalized in many countries. Now that the evening has come for them we miss them deeply and pray to them for inspiration and support.

Sister M. Josephine Grealy (1926 – 2011)

Annie Patricia Grealy came from Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo and entered MMM in 1946. She trained as a nurse and on the day she finished her nursing exams she received her yellow fever vaccination. Within a month she was in Nigeria, where she spent several years. She then trained as a midwife and was assigned to Tanzania where she worked for about eighteen years. She was present there during the frightening earthquake of 1963.



Sister Josephine showed characteristic adaptability. Once, between mission tours, she was asked to nurse Sinéad Bean de Valera. She then went to Uganda for almost ten years, where she experienced a war situation. Two years in Liberia followed, where she nursed people with leprosy and saw yet another war. She returned to Ireland in 1993 and worked in the Tropical Unit in Drogheda and in the infirmary, also serving as community leader. She was noted for her wisdom, common sense, and humour. Her anniversary is January 3.

Sister M. Eugene McCullagh (1918 – 2011)

Gortin, Omagh, Co. Tyrone was the home of Elizabeth Ellen McCullagh. She trained as a nurse in Birmingham, England and also worked in England before entering MMM in 1950. After qualifying as a midwife she worked for eight years in Drogheda as a labour ward sister. Her mission experience began in 1961 when she went to Nigeria. There she used her skills in nursing and administration in Anua and Urua Akpan.



Continued on next page

Returning to Ireland in 1968 she spent sixteen years in our general and maternity hospitals and was known as an excellent midwife. After 'retiring' from professional duties Sister Eugene spent a further eighteen years on many activities in our MMM Motherhouse and was known for her gentleness and care for those in her community. She was a warm and welcoming presence, interested in our younger Sisters and those coming from overseas, especially from Nigeria. Her anniversary is on January 25.

Sister Mairin Jones (1922 – 2011)

Mary Philomena Jones was born in Loughnavalley, Co. Westmeath. After obtaining an MSc and a Higher Diploma in Education at UCD she worked in Dublin and was in charge of a unit that made penicillin preparations at P.C. Cahill & Co. She researched a formula for penicillin ointment, which was an important breakthrough at that time.



She joined MMM in 1946. In view of her experience, she was a real gift in the laboratory of our hospital in Drogheda. After a refresher course in the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, Sr. Mairin spent many years in Tanzania and Kenya. After returning to Europe she spent eleven years in Ealing, London as a business administrator. She finally retired to Mell, where she took a great interest in gardening and read widely. She was noted for her graciousness and sense of humour. Her anniversary is on April 26.

Sister Eileen Carmel Keogan (1923 – 2011)

'Pioneer' is a word that well describes Eileen Carmel, who came from Kilmainham Wood, Co. Meath. She worked as a governess before joining MMM in 1944. She then trained as a midwife and worked in the Maternity Hospital in Drogheda. In 1953, she was assigned to Tanzania. She pioneered the work at Makiungu Hospital, where she devoted thirteen years. She then did promotion work in the US and opened yet another MMM house in Chicago.



While in America she was introduced to Pastoral Care and in September 1975 she obtained a certificate in this fairly new field. She returned to Ireland, where she introduced the concept of clinical pastoral education. From then on she devoted herself to establishing pastoral care of the sick. In connection with her work, Sister Eileen arranged courses, gave input at the European Bishops' Conference in 1989, and worked in pastoral care in Drogheda. We remember her for her deep prayer life and sense of fun. Her anniversary is on June 1.

Obituaries continued overleaf

Sister Margaret O’Conor (1921 – 2011)

Born in Wexford, as a teenager, Peg as she was then known, moved with her family to Cork. She was the only woman in her class at UCC, graduating with a B.Comm, then a Masters in Economics and a H. Dip in Education. Later at the University of Edinburgh she took a Diploma in Community Development and at U. Mass a Diploma in Gerontology.



She joined MMM in 1946 at the age of twenty-five. She hoped for an assignment to Africa. Instead she was chosen to pioneer the work of MMM in the United States, and flew from Shannon in 1950. She was appointed Directress of Novices and was in charge of our US Novitiate and later, the one at our Motherhouse.

At last she received her assignment to East Africa and worked at Kabanga, Makiungu, and Namanyere Hospitals.

In 1984 she returned to the USA. In 2006, as her health began to decline, she retired to our Motherhouse community, as ever full of challenge to the status quo!

Sister M. Helena Mulcahy (1921 – 2011)

Sister Helena was from Newport, Co. Tipperary. A woman of deep faith, she entered MMM in 1943, when the Congregation was only six years old. She was part of the pioneer group that established MMM in Tanzania in 1947. She later founded our hospital in Dareda, where she spent thirteen years. She then went to the USA, where she was Sister in Charge in Winchester for nine years and also trained in home economics.



She returned to Ireland and among her assignments there she looked after the needs of our Sisters on home leave from overseas. She was asked to go to Rome to work with Czech refugees, until it became possible for them to return to their homeland. Resettled in Prague, she helped the poor to cope with the new political situation. She returned to Ireland in 1997. She bore several years of ill health courageously until God called her home. Her anniversary is on June 13.

Sister Marie Slevin (1932 – 2011)

Mary Angela Slevin was born in Dublin. Before entering MMM in 1953 she earned a secretarial certificate and worked as a private secretary for Fine Gael at Leinster House. After entering she worked as a medical secretary in our hospital in Drogheda before going to Tanzania in 1960 and then to Uganda. In 1968 she returned to Ireland to study for her Commercial Teachers Diploma and spent four years in Ireland as a secretary.



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Sister Marie attended All Hallows College in Dublin, where she obtained a Diploma in Pastoral Ministry. After five years as a parish Sister in Artane she trained in Clinical Pastoral Education in the USA. On returning to Ireland she spent eleven years as a chaplain in Waterford Regional Hospital. After 'retiring', there followed nine years of pastoral visiting in the Respond Housing Scheme in Waterford, work with the Waterford Immigrant Network, and spiritual accompaniment for the Legion of Mary. She was very much involved in these activities when we were stunned by her unexpected death. Her anniversary is on June 13.

Sister M. Annette Walsh (1922 – 2011)

Brigid Walsh was from Kilkenny and took the name Sister Annette after she entered MMM in 1955. She trained as a radiographer and soon made use of her talents in Tanzania, where she spent five years. She served for a year in Malawi and then returned to Tanzania for a further three years.

She returned to Ireland, where she did updating in radiography, and twelve more years as a radiographer in Tanzania followed. When she was sixty-five she returned to the MMM community in Europe and spent six years in Romiley, England doing parish work, going around on her bicycle. Sister Annette spent the next thirteen years in Clonsilla, Dublin as housekeeper and bursar and was also involved in parish work. In 2006 she retired to the Motherhouse where she spent the next five years. She remained active during that time, setting up a shop for Sisters unable to go out for things they needed. She had many interests and enjoyed them until failing health necessitated transfer to Áras Mhuire for a few months. Her anniversary is on July 12.



Sister Agnes Maria Essien (1931 – 2011)

Sister Agnes Maria, born in Anua, Uyo, Nigeria, could also be described as a pioneer. She qualified as a teacher and was inspired by Mother Mary Martin, whom she had met in Nigeria. She came to Ireland in 1953 to train as a nurse-midwife before entering MMM in 1960. Because she was the only African in her class, this waiting time required courage and perseverance. She was assigned to Afikpo, Nigeria, where she spent three years as ward sister. She also worked for two years in Urua Akpan and for two years as acting matron in Anua.

Sister Agnes went to Belfast in 1970 to become a state registered children's nurse and obtained her state registration in nursing and midwifery. She returned to Nigeria and was matron in Anua for seven years. In 1982 she completed a Diploma in Professional Studies in Nursing Administration and then turned her talents to primary health care for twelve years. After five more years in Anua, at the age of seventy, Sister Agnes went to Abakaliki, where she worked part time in antenatal care and children's outpatients. She then had to retire because of failing health. Her anniversary is on October 8.



YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT

In careful compliance with Data Protection legislation, information you provide to us is stored on computers that are not connected to the Internet. It is never shared with another agency, except for the purpose of a tax claim when you request us, in writing, to do so.

OUR PROMISE TO OUR DONORS

When a donor specifies a country, project or special need (e.g. famine, AIDS), 100% of that donation is transferred to the specified country or project.

Non-specified donations are allocated by us to the most urgent current needs overseas, or may be added to our General Mission Fund, which pays for airfares, professional training of young Sisters, and the numerous emergency needs overseas for which assistance is required.

Our Addresses:

Please mail your donation to:
MMM Communications, Rosemount Terrace,
Boosterstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: +353 1 2887180

OR Mission Development Office, 4425 W. 63rd St., Ste 100
Chicago, IL 60629-5530. Tel: 773-735-3712

OR Direct to our Bank Account:

Medical Missionaries of Mary, Bank of Ireland, Merrion Road,
Dublin 4, Sort Code: 90-12-12. Account Number: 62835417
Ireland. IBAN IE88 BOFI 9012 1262 8354 17 BIC (Swift) BOFIE2D

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This attractive Christmas scene is crafted from banana bark. Products using banana bark pictures are made in many of the countries in which we work and provide income for young people, women's groups, prisoners, and others.

Thank You!

If you have donated to MMM recently, please ignore the enclosed Appeal.

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