

MMM

Rooted and founded in love



MEDICAL
MISSIONARIES
of MARY

SUPPLEMENT TO HEALING & DEVELOPMENT — VOLUME 75 — EASTER 2014

**Christ is Risen.
Alleluia!**

*“The water that I will give will
become in them a spring of water
welling up to eternal life.” Jn 4:14*

Thank you for helping
to bring new life to others.

New life in MMM

The theme of new life seems appropriate for this Easter Supplement. We are celebrating the Resurrection and seeing signs of renewed growth around us. These pages tell you about MMMs at various stages on their life's journey. Thank you for being part of their journey and for helping to make new life possible.

A. Carol Breslin



The newly professed MMM Sisters: Chinenye Imoh, Leticia Enujuba, Danielle Darbro, Magdalene Upev, and Christine Natweta

First Professions in Nigeria

After joining MMM in 2010, five women completed their initial training in our novitiate in Ibadan, Nigeria in February 2014. They made their First Profession of vows on 1 March in Ibadan, and received their first mission assignments.

*In virtue of their baptism,
all the members of the
People of God have become
missionary disciples
(cf. Mt 28:19).*

The novitiate is a time "for realising the gift and the challenge: to follow Christ in a life of consecrated celibacy, poverty, and obedience lived in community. It is also a time "for imbibing a deep missionary spirituality born of prayer and reflection." *MMM Constitutions*

● **Sr. Chinenye Gertrude Imoh**, 32, is from Imo State, Nigeria. There are ten in her family including her parents. She is a nurse-midwife by profession and had eleven months working experience before joining MMM. She is assigned to Zaffé, Republic of Benin.

● **Sr. Leticia Uzoehina Enujuba**, 31, is from Anambra State, Nigeria. A nurse-midwife, she is assigned to Honduras. She is from a family of nine. Leticia lectured as a nurse tutor in Ogun State School of Nursing, Ijebu Ode, during her youth service in Nigeria.

● **Sr. Danielle Darbro**, 40, is from California, USA and is from a family of six, including her parents. She has a degree in English. Before entering MMM, she worked in a HIV clinic, a homeless shelter, a nursing facility, and in social services. Danielle completed her postulancy in New York. She is assigned to Honduras.



As part of the group of novices at the MMM International Novitiate in Nigeria. Their life involves prayer, study, work, and times of formative activity outside the novitiate community.

● **Sr. Magdalene Iyua Upev**, 32, is from Benue State, Nigeria and is a nurse-midwife. She has a brother and five sisters and step-brothers and sisters. She worked at the School of Nursing and Midwifery Sick Bay, Makurdi, for two years before joining MMM. She is assigned to Fuka, Niger State, Nigeria.

● **Sr. Christine Natweta**, 32, from Kabale Diocese, Uganda, is from a family of ten including her parents. She is a trained midwife and worked in Kitovu Hospital for about two years before she joined MMM in Uganda. She is assigned to Makiungu, Tanzania.

This year, four MMMs have been admitted to Perpetual Profession. Also at this time, six Sisters are participating in the School of the Lord's Service in Benin City, Nigeria. This is a time of renewal and exploration as part of their preparation for final commitment to the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

Quotes from: *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

The challenges of new needs, opportunities and approaches

MMMs living in a rapidly changing world may be required to study for more effective participation and ministry. This is only part of our preparation to meet emerging needs. We must also be ready to live out our healing charism in new ways, sometimes in a new environment and culture. Two of our MMMs at our House of Studies in Nairobi, Kenya told us about their life in MMM and about the courses they are pursuing.



Sister Margaret Nakafu told us about her studies at Tangaza University College.

"I am from Uganda and am thirty years old. I entered MMM in 2007. Before I joined, I had an Advanced Certificate of Education and a Diploma in Computer Science.

"My first assignment after profession was to Eldoret, Kenya, where I worked in the Social and Development Programme. I participated in HIV counselling and testing, education, support group formation, income-generating activities, and child protection.

"Since August 2012, I have been pursuing a BA in Human Sustainable Development from Tangaza University College in Nairobi. I feel my studies are very appropriate for our healing mission in MMM. I am gaining skills to work with individuals, groups and communities to identify their potential and capabilities. We will reflect together on the local situation, identify the socio-economic, political, and cultural problems, and listen for the voice of God through theological reflection. Communities will work towards holistic and sustainable human development and prepare a healing action plan. They will be involved in its implementation and evaluation.

"I will be able to work in human rights promotion, justice and peace; management of development projects; and research in various community issues. My studies will also help me to deal with the dynamics of human growth through counselling.

"As an MMM student, I receive a great deal of support from my local community, the wider MMM community, friends, family and college staff. I am grateful for God's blessings and graces and want to put more effort in balancing my commitment to prayer, community, and student life.

"I am looking forward to joining other MMMs, MMM Associates, and other people of goodwill on mission."



Counselling room at Saint Mary's Medical Centre in Eldoret, Kenya

"In all the baptised, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization." (119)

Sister Nancy Ong'era described her experience on mission and her course at Kenya Methodist University.

"I am thirty-three years old and am from Kenya. I obtained a diploma as a medical laboratory technologist before joining MMM in 2005.

"After my profession in 2008, I was assigned to Abuja, Nigeria. I was excited over my first missionary journey but it was my first time out of Kenya. We were two Nigerians, one Irish, and one Kenyan in community. Abuja was like an oven with the dry heat. I wondered, 'Is this how it is going to be and will I survive?' I did survive and made it my home for two and a half years. I worked in the laboratory and helped with administration and with sonography for antenatal mothers. It was a life-giving and challenging experience.

"In September 2011, I started my studies for a B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Science. I have nearly completed the course and am writing my research paper and doing a hospital attachment. Gaining practical skills in this area is very relevant in our healing work, with our world so money-minded and not service-minded. It is a vital field since almost sixty per cent of decisions regarding a patient's diagnosis and treatment is based on laboratory results.

"Gone are the days when most laboratory work was done manually. Technology has taken over so upgrading is an opportunity to serve those who come to our facilities with confidence and competence. Nevertheless manual skills are also important in remote areas where we work.



Sister Nancy at work in the laboratory

"As a religious in a Protestant institution, Sisters are a focus of interest for many. I have to be a witness of my faith and of consecrated life. This challenges the choices that I make and the need to be sensitive in sharing ideas with others.

"I am immensely thankful to God, our benefactors, and all our Sisters for their prayers and encouragement and for this opportunity. In the university I realized that I had to set priorities as a student living away from community and as a religious. Experience taught me that this calls for discipline and faithfulness to personal prayer and spiritual growth."

That they may have life



Sister Alice Ashitebe, from Nigeria, is on mission in Viana, Angola. She told us the story of Veronica*, just one of many who still suffer stigma and rejection simply because they have an infection.

“Veronica was eighteen years old when she came to our clinic. She had a cough, fever, weight loss, and no appetite. I asked if she wanted to be tested for HIV. She agreed only if I would do the test. I counseled her about the test and its implications. The result was positive. She then told me that she was married and had a two-year-old child. Her husband had made another girl pregnant and she had left him.



Sr. Alice discusses clinic statistics with staff.

“Veronica cried bitterly as she told her story. When she was pregnant she had booked late for her antenatal appointments so she was close to delivery when she had a HIV test. That first test was also positive and she was sent to a maternity hospital in the town. She said that a nurse read her card and returned it to her without saying a word. She waited two days without being seen by other medical personnel. At this point her mother took her home. She arrived at midnight and delivered a baby boy with her mother as her midwife.

“Veronica is very bitter with the health system. She said she did not have the courage to have her child tested but feared that she may lose her only child to AIDS. Her mother was also very sick and was being treated in a chest unit. I sent Veronica for a CD4 count and encouraged her to come back. I gave her my phone number. I have not heard from her since.

“I reported the case to the local government health office and to the HIV coordinator in the Luanda Provincial Ministry of Health. I gave them our monthly statistics, which showed fifteen HIV positive tests that month, of which ten were for pregnant women. Since then the government has gone to most of the health centres and hospitals and given nurses training on helping pregnant women living with HIV.

“To contribute to reducing HIV transmission from mother to child we have agreed to stock HIV drugs for pregnant women even though we are short of space. We are also doing awareness-raising for voluntary testing and counseling. I inform the health ministry if any of the other people I counsel cannot access treatment. Usually the coordinator refers them to another centre or sends the drugs to our clinic.

“Though these are signs of progress, there are too many Veronicas in Viana, judged and rejected because they are sick. We are grateful to those who help in restoring them to life.”

“The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line... in bearing witness to Jesus Christ.” (24)

*Not her real name

Called to eternal life with God



Sister Muredach Hallinan

Sister Muredach was born in Knockroe, Castleconnor, Co. Mayo in 1927. She trained in shorthand and typing before joining the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1950. Muredach worked in Drogheda and Nigeria. She did fundraising through the Sweepstake for twenty-six years and was the sacristan in the MMM Motherhouse.

In 2009 she moved to Aras Mhuire. She died on 13 December 2013.



Sister Dympna Hannelly

Sister Dympna was born in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon in 1922. She joined the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1941 and trained in nursing, midwifery, and public health. She worked in Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Sister Dympna returned to Ireland in 2002 and served part-time in the Motherhouse Guest Department.

She died in Aras Mhuire on 9 January 2014 after a short illness.



Sister Mairead O'Kane, MMM

Sister Mairead was born in Belfast in 1920. She trained as a physiotherapist before joining MMM in 1947 and worked in the general and maternity hospitals in Drogheda. Mairead worked enthusiastically for the missions for many years in charge of the mite boxes. She transferred to Aras Mhuire in 2008 and helped the Stamp Department to support the missions. She died in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on 1 February 2014.



Sister Leonora Quealy

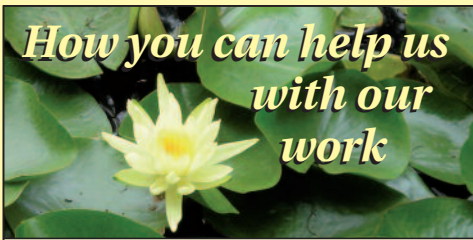
Sister Leonora was born in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford in 1936. She trained as a nurse and specialized in children's nursing. She worked in Ireland, Rome, Kenya, Romania, and Rwanda.

Leonora went to Dublin in 2005 and to Aras Mhuire in 2009. She continued her interest in helping to nurse others. She died in Aras Mhuire on 4 February 2014.



Sister Opportuna Cypriani Sanka

Sister Opportuna was born in Bashanet, Tanzania in 1935. She joined MMM in 1960 and trained in nursing, midwifery, tropical medicine, and nursing education. She worked in Tanzania and Angola as a nursing tutor, in clinic and vocation work, and in MMM leadership. Sister Opportuna returned to Tanzania in 2008 and helped in the MMM community in Arusha. She died in Arusha on 4 February 2014.



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We wish all our friends a Happy Easter

Our Addresses:

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OR Mission Development Office, 4425 W. 63rd St., Ste 100
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