



Dear Friends

Many Journeys, Many Stories, One Family

The journey of Jesus from birth through death to new life is what we celebrate at this time of Easter: New life and Renewed Hope! Our journeys, our paths, are all different but we are one family on this earth.

National Migration Week celebrated in January drew attention to the fact that we are all migrants. Jesus himself was a migrant. Each of our families has a migration story. Some stories are recent and raw, while others happened in the distant past, and may be almost forgotten. But regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family. Our stories are important. Our journeys are important. Pope Francis calls us to reach out to migrants and share their journey. This year, while walking the journey of Jesus through Lent to Easter, I have reflected on what it means in our lives as healers, you and I. Because we share this healing mission, how are we meant to respond to the stranger, the migrant?

It is true to say that MMM as a group of women religious do wonderful work in our 25 different health projects scattered around the world. We have a network of friends, co-workers, and partners like you who share in our service to those in need. From the very beginning of MMM, we were all told that more important than our “work” was how we received and treated others: our willingness to appreciate, learn, experience, and value other cultures, other ways of being. We were to listen with open hearts. In many ways, that was and certainly is today, our greatest challenge. I do believe that today, in a world so polarized, divided, and judgmental, our greatest witness is hospitality to one another. Ours is to be a sincere welcome and respect for each person and their journey or story. This acceptance extends first if all to ourselves, then the MMM’s with whom we share life, and with those around us wherever we are assigned. It is not an easy choice but is one to which we have been called. We are

called to be “migrants”. In our openness to other’s experiences, we have the life of Jesus as our guide.

MMM Constitutions 7.2-3

*“In a world where so many
are estranged from their past,
their culture and nation, their families
and friends, from their real selves
and perhaps from their God,
let your hospitality express
Christ’s concern for His people.*

*Wherever you are, whatever you do,
let there be in your heart
a space for others to be,
so that, unafraid, they may experience
themselves as loved and so be healed.”*

Being faithful to the words quoted above is not easy, but I do not know any MMM or Associate who has not taken this to heart and is not trying to live it out in their lives. For this newsletter I will introduce you to Sisters who are trying to live this out and ask you to pray for them. We come from so many countries and cultures, but we are one in this commitment to hospitality of heart. As our partners in mission, I know you pray for us as we do for you and your families. This Easter, let us pray for each other that we will **“let there be a space in our hearts for others to be, so that unafraid, they may experience themselves as loved and so be healed.”** Let us gift our world with a “hospitality” towards others that heals and makes whole.



Sister Joanne

Sister Joanne Bierl MMM
Development Director

Front Panel Photo:
Easter Lilies, Garfield Park
Conservatory, Kathie Shea,
MMM, Photographer

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY

Mission Development Office
4425 West 63rd St., Ste. 100
Chicago, IL 60629-5565
www.mmmworldwide.org
www.facebook.com/medicalmissionariesofmary.usa

Easter 2018



The Witness of our Christian lives...



Sister Rosalinda Gonzales is from Manila, Philippines and has worked as a medical doctor in Asia, Africa, South America and Ireland. "Let your hospitality express Christ's concern for his people... which she sees as a hospitality that transcends culture, race, and creed. Rosalinda is now part of our team as Casa Visitation in Honduras.



Sister Danielle Darbro is from San Jose, California USA and has lived and worked in USA, Nigeria and now in Honduras in Casa Visitation using her training in social services. She responded to the question with this: "The phrase that has most meaning for me is 'that they may experience themselves as loved and so be healed.' It has meaning for me because love is the greater healer!"

Sister Irene Balzan is from Zebbug in Malta and has lived and worked in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ireland, Republic of Benin and is now using her skills in Nursing/Midwifery and administration in the Republic of South Sudan. She expanded on the phrase "Experience themselves as loved" by saying... "When loved we become our true selves, can blossom and give light and color to each other and our surroundings making up the kaleidoscope of life."



Sister Gladys Dimaku is from Isiekenesi ideato South Local Government Area of Imo state In Nigeria. As a nurse/midwife Gladys has worked with the Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, Gbari, Fulani and Efik tribes in Nigeria. She now ministers in Brazil in Project Consolation and finds the sentence "Wherever you are, whatever you do, let there be in your heart a space for others to be, so that, unafraid, they may experience themselves as loved and so be healed" has great meaning for her along with the words of Marie Martin, our Foundress, "If God wants the work he will show the way"



Sister Bernadette Heneghan is from Claremorris, Co Mayo Ireland and has worked as nurse-midwife in Malawi and has been in Honduras in both Marcala and now in our new project in Siquatepeque. The phrase for Bernie is: "Let there be in your heart a space for others to be" as she feels "Each one needs a space where they can be themselves and know they are loved no matter what...."



Sister Miranilza dos Santos (Nilza) is from Capim Grosso town, Bahia state, in the northeast of Brasil. has a BA in sustainable Human development and has worked with the youth and small christian community advocating for Peace and justice with land issues in Brazil and her current ministry is in Projeto consolação empowering the women affected by violence. The phrase I like most is "wherever you are, whatever you do, let there be in your heart a space for others to be, so that, unafraid, they may

experience themselves as loved and so be healed." "I like this sentence because it reminds me that others are better persons when they are accepted and loved, and thus challenge me to be a better person myself more accepting, more tolerant, and reach out to them in any way possible."

can be the birthplace of an outrageous hope.



Sister Margaret Nakafu (Maggie) is from Masaka in Uganda. She has lived and worked in Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ireland during her Formations and studies and is now assigned to Honduras. "The phase 'so that unafraid, they experience themselves as loved & so be healed has great meaning for me. Someone said that love is

the greatest medicine and that if it seems to be not effective, I then need to increase the dose. This has been my experience and I strive each moment to treat everybody including myself with unconditional love & I have witnessed not only transformation but total healing."



Sister Liana de Jesus is from Salvador-Bahia state Northeast of Brazil. In her time of Formation she lived and worked in Ireland, Tanzania and Kenya and did her novitiate in Nigeria. She has recently been assigned to her home country Brazil to join our community there working in Projeto Consolação. For Liana, the words: "In a world where so many are estranged from their

past, their culture and nations, their families and friends, from their real selves and perhaps from their God, let your hospitality, express Christ concern for his people". "I like this sentence from our Constitutions because it reminds me of my responsibility to transmit God's love for those who suffer."

Sister Justina Odunukwe is from Oraukwu, Anambra state, Nigeria and has lived in Nigeria, USA, Ireland, England and Tanzania using her skills in business and administration in many of our ministries and now is involved in those affected by human trafficking. She finds the phrase "a space for others to be" gives meaning to her present ministry working with those affected by human Trafficking in Lagos in Nigeria.

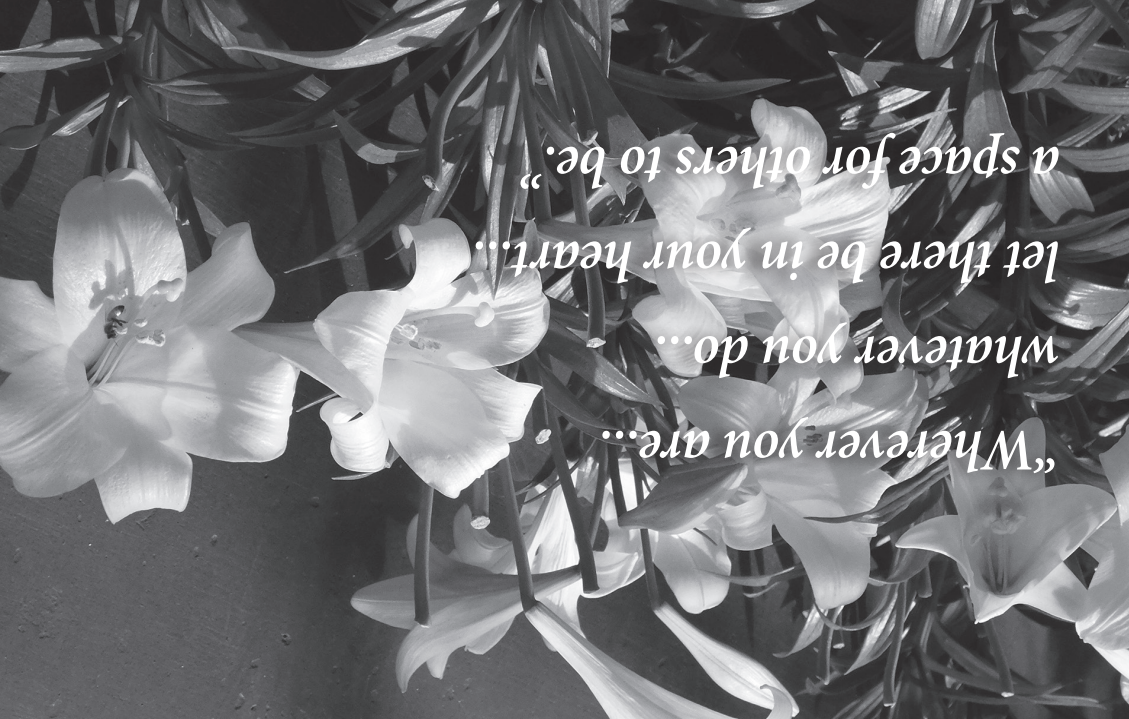


Sister Ekaete Ekop is from Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. She has lived and worked with: Nigeria (Ibibio/Annang, Yorubas, Igbos, Beni), Benin Republic (Idaatchas) as a medical doctor (obs. Gyn) and is now on our Congregational leadership team in Ireland. 'Enstranged... from their real selves' is the phrase that gives meaning to Ekaete.



Sister Helen Spragg is from Sheffield in England. She has worked as a pharmacist in England, Ireland, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Now, with her Chaplaincy studies, she is leader of our Mother house community in Ireland. "let there be in your heart a space for others to be, so that, unafraid, they may experience themselves as loved and so be healed." Helen recounts: "This sentence speaks of opening my heart to receive what the other person is conveying in an accepting, respectful and non-judgmental way. It speaks of empathy, of totally giving of self to the other."





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Addresses of Houses in the U.S. • www.mmmworldwide.org

Medical Missionaries of Mary
Mission Development Office
4425 West 63rd Street, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60629-5565
773-735-3712
Fax: 773-735-4661
e-mail: mdommm2014@gmail.com

179 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143-1515
617-666-3223
e-mail: mmmsomerville@comcast.net

16 Downey St.
Malden, MA 02148-2056
781-912-2173
mmminmalden@gmail.com

3410 West 60th Place
Chicago, IL 60629-3602
773-737-3458
e-mail: mmmchi2015@gmail.com

Route 1 PO Box 329
Clinchco, VA 24226-9702
Tel/fax: 276-835-9312
email: srberniekenny@yahoo.com

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For more information please contact:
Sister Joanne Bierl, MMM
Mission Development Office
4425 W 63rd St., Ste 100
Chicago, IL 60629-5565
Tel: 1-773-735-3712



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