

VOCATION DISCERNMENT >newsletter

DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



daughters-of-charity.com

Life as a Missionary Daughter of Charity

by Sister Mary Felice, D.C.



Sister Mary Felice poses for a picture with the hospital secretary, village chief, and one of the chief's wives.

I have been very busy with patient care and developing into the role of Medical Director of the hospital. I am learning a lot about how a health zone in a developing country works. It is all very interesting and sometimes seems a bit overwhelming, but I am glad to have Sister Marie Cecile, D.C. here to learn from. She is from Italy and has been in the Congo for more than 40 years.

Our health zone covers an area of 14,000 sq. kilometers with a population of 150,000. There are 14 health centers, 18 health posts and one reference hospital which is run by our Sisters. The health zone does things such as monitor the number of cases of malaria, typhoid, meningitis, and other less common infectious diseases

(pertussis, tetanus, polio, monkey pox, hemorrhagic fever, etc.) in order to be able to detect the beginning of an epidemic, allowing us to respond early. The health centers send their data on a weekly basis and our staff has a meeting every Tuesday to compile and analyze it.

Last year, our hospital received a grant from "Daughters of Charity International Project Services" to build a cement fence around our hospital. It serves to keep out the pigs, goats, and thieves. The fence also serves to keep our grounds confined. Inside, each of our patients must have a family member or friend who stays with

to our storehouse. Some of the hospital staff have already begun working extra hours to make the bricks.

We recently received two new missionary Sisters, Sister Anna and Sister Theresa, in our house from Vietnam, bringing us to a total of 11 Sisters! One is a nurse and will work in the hospital while the other works in Social Services. On Holy Saturday, they prepared a type of egg roll. I never imagined eating egg rolls in Lukolela, but this just proves the richness of being part of an international community. What a beautiful example of the marvels of God!



Left: Women wash their dishes outside of surgery ward after caring for their respective family member.

Right: Sister Mary Felice outside of the hospital.



them to help with their cooking, laundry, and other tasks.

Now, we have received another grant to build a new lab because the one we have is not large enough for our needs. The cement has recently arrived by boat and teams worked from 8 AM to 10 PM to unload and transport it

learn more about Sister Mary Felice's mission in Congo in our blog. Find it at spiritofthedaughter-sofcharity.blogspot.com

Wholehearted Living

by Sister Lisa Laguna

"When you leave a mission, the last thing you pack is your heart. When you arrive at your new mission, the first thing you unpack is your heart." – Daughter of Charity saying.

How many times have these words been echoed in the life of a Daughter of Charity? How many times has a sister been encouraged by these very words as she transitioned from one mission to the next – feeling the heartache of leaving a mission she loved dearly, while moving forward to embrace a new way of serving.

This is our life. Wholehearted living with and serving those in need wherever we are sent.

WHOLEHEARTED LIVING!

In our lives as Daughters of Charity, we understand that all we do - our life in community, our prayer life and even our vows – they all exist for the stability of our mission – serving Christ in people who are poor. This has always been God's design for the Daughters of Charity – since 1633.

Daughters of Charity spend their life on mission in so many ways. Some sisters minister in a particular field all their community life – for example, in healthcare, social work or education. Some sisters experience many manifestations of how their life on mission will look over the years. A few sisters are called to serve on foreign missions. In our lexicon, these are ALL examples of the life of a Daughter of Charity on mission.

Every Daughter of Charity begins that experience with her first sending on mission upon completion of the seminary (novitiate). We recently celebrated the sending on mission of two Daughters of Charity - Sister Georgina Severin, D.C. and Sister Truc Nguyen, D.C.

When they arrived at their new missions – we know the very first thing they unpacked.



Sisters Truc Nguyen, D.C. and Georgina Severin, D.C. celebrate after receiving their first missions.

upcoming events

Register online at <http://daughters-of-charity.com/retreats>

Come & See

October 7-9 in Los Altos Hills, CA

October 7-9 in Emmitsburg, MD

Summer Online Discernment Retreat

July 10-14, 2016

Dear Discerners,

"I will follow you," "Take Lord Receive, All that I have and Possess."

What are the lyrics that sing in your heart as you discern how God is calling you to lay down all that you are for the Kingdom? What is that passion within you that makes you want to give your all? For the Daughters of Charity, the cries of those who are poor stir our hearts to reach out and share Christ's love. In this newsletter, you read concrete stories of how this call is being lived out by Sister Mary Felice—who is collaborating with others to bring medical care into the heart of the Democratic Republic of the Congo—and by Sister Truc and Sister Georgina who just received their first mission after completing the seminary (novitiate). Sister Lisa explains how we are called to "whole hearted living" as we share God's love in our diverse ministries that reach out to those in need.

People often ask, "How can your sisters say 'Yes' to ministering to and walking with those who are on the edge of society?" The answer is always the same, "The Love of Christ Crucified Impels Us." Take time this summer to reflect on how God "impels you." It takes time to learn what stirs in our heart. Prayer, discernment retreats, service opportunities, and time spent with the sisters are good ways to discover your passion and experience what is at the heart of a community. Call us and we can help connect you with opportunities. We are holding you in prayer. In turn, please pray for our other discerners, our sisters, and those whom we serve.

In the love of Christ,

Sister Lisa, Sister Mary Fran, Sister Theresa, Sister Virginia Ann, Sister Pat, Sister Kathy

from the directors



Scan for retreats
and events info.

share with us.



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