



Growing together in the fulness of the Gospel

“Called to Serve”



Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa “Life to the full...” Jn 10:10

282 November 27

'Blessed Among Us

Servant of God Wanda Blenska **Missionary Doctor (1911-2014)**

**(She worked with FMSA in Uganda at
Leprosy Treatment Centre)**



Born in Poznan, Poland, Wanda Blenska trained as a doctor, all the while dreaming of a missionary vocation. But when she applied to various mission societies, she was rejected. They were convinced, she later observed, that no solitary lay worker- "especially a woman" -could stand the arduous life. After earning her medical degree in 1934 she worked in a hospital in Torun. During the Nazi occupation she was active in the underground resistance and barely escaped death.

Following the war she pursued further studies in tropical medicine in Germany and England, waiting for the chance to pursue a mission to Africa. The opportunity came when she was invited to work in Uganda, at a leprosy treatment center run by an order of Franciscan sisters. After her arrival in 1951 and under her leadership, the facility expanded to St. Francis Hospital, which would remain her home for the next forty years.

Her chief work was the care of lepers. A pioneer in the treatment of Hansen's disease, she combined medical expertise with compassionate care, earning her the title "Mother of the Lepers." Treating her patients with dignity, she began by offering each patient a handshake- "even for patients with hardly any hands left;" as one of her colleagues recalled.

Eventually she retired and turned over the work for other hands. She died on November 27, 2014, at the age of 103. Her cause for canonization is in process.

"What she saw in the lepers was not just the disease. She saw the entire human being, along with their fears and hopes, who deserved, apart from professional care, respect and tenderness."

-Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Wanda Blenska

Final Commitments, FMSA



Sr. Leonidah Nechero 20/08/2021



Sr. Topistar Kataike 25/03/2022



Sr. Rumbidzai Mafuu

02/10/2021



Sr. Josephine Mutyembu

15 / 10/2021

Developing Future leaders
(St. Francis of Assisi Secondary School, Nairobi).



St. Francis of Assisi Secondary School is located in one of the slum areas of Nairobi, Korogocho.

Learners are from very humble background. Where getting a meal in a day is a struggle, domestic violence is a daily norm, consequently they end up in the nearest dumping sites looking for food and in prostitution for a source of income. As a result, the school offers an accommodative learning environment where students develop their talents and take initiatives, and school-feeding program for the learners to be in school. This has motivated most of students to actively participate and own the school, being at home.

The teachers are self-motivated and compassionate in helping the students to grow. There is parent-child relationship, where students feel free to share their stories with teachers.

Hence., a place of extra ordinary witnesses.

As a teacher in St. Francis, it is always my joy to see young people succeeding in life. Taking initiatives in developing their talents. And St

Francis is a home where talents are developed and future leaders identify themselves.

Learner's are self-motivated, willing

to learn, aiming higher, activity in co-curriculum activities (identifying, developing and nourishing talents)

School Anthem

A pillar of hope for the broken hearted,
A fountain of love for many, Empower
students with education and, The
bright morning star of achievements.

A place of knowledge, The centre of
heroes, Nurtured with quality education,
A home of unity for parents,
teachers and students.

Assisi we stand on Christ' love. A
place of the disciplined and self-driven
learners. Full of talents and a home of
joy.

Education our power and star shine for
ages, our spirit
is of great conquerors.

By Kelvin Ooko
Obara, a former
student.



Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa “Life to the full...” Jn10:10

Who is Kelvin Obara?

*My name is **Kevin Obara**. I am 26 years old husband and a father of two boys. I am the 11th born in a family of once 12 but was reduced to 6 by tragic Incidences. This forced us to shift from my birth place Juja to Nairobi in 2006.*

By this time my dad had already left and we came with our mother who was job-less then.

I stayed out of school until 2007 when I was introduced to a rehabilitation centre ran by a

*Franciscan Missionary Sister for Africa, Sr. Lydia Padeller. **May her soul rest in peace.***

She loved me on first site and pulled me closer to her, I shared my worries with her and she vowed me her best capacity. She asked if I had siblings, and I brought in my tw sisters with whom we started attending the program. After the construction of St. Clare Primary School, I continued with our studies. As I was about to partake my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), Sr. Lydia passed on. Her passing on disturbed my performance, the future looked bleak but God is faithful. I passed well my exam and recruited in St. Francis of Assisi Sec. School, which became a home, discovering who Kelvin is.

So, for me St. Francis Sec. School is my

home and a pillar of hope for the broken



hearted.

I am gifted in music and dance, since I was a school choir master, I felt that I should leave something memorable to the School, the Anthem.

After my High School, I got a scholarship to Germany to further my musical studies.

After my training in Germany, I came back home and opened my own music workshop (Obara Music and Dance).

Giving back to the Community.

As my gift to God for all what He did to me through Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, I felt the need to help a needy student in St Francis, so I have some students I pay school fees for ,since I am earning something form my workshop.

ASANTENI SANA, NA MUNGU AWABARIKI!

John Bosco Pre-School, Hands of Care and Hope, Korogocho,

The nursery pre-school has 120 pupils coming from poor backgrounds. As the result of Covid-19, most parents have lost their casual jobs and as a result, most students go hungry.

Thankfully to the Sister in Charge (Sr. Pauline Nakayale) provides for the children who attend John Bosco Pre-School.

The school has no bus, and the children admire those schools around that have school buses. That desire made them nickname me as their "school bus" because I have been helping some of them to cross the road after school.

Above the challenges mentioned, there are times that we are off from school and have a trip to relax. Outing days are the

best days they really enjoy.

The joy of being with them is unexplainable.

Thank you

Sr. Memory Zulu, FMSA.



New Beginnings in Zimbabwe.



Official handover of the School to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa by Bishop Paul Horan.



Celebrating the new beginnings for St. John the Baptist High School.

The new mission is located in Odzi, a rural village located 45 kilometres North-West of Mutare off the Mutare – Harare highway with population of 10,704 (5,574 males and 5,130 females) 10.56% attend early education, 65.76% primary, 23.32% secondary and 0.35% tertiary level. Source of water is mostly boreholes & deep wells. Subsistence farming of maize & tobacco is seasonal, so families lack income. They get implements on loan & after repaying, there is little profit, so men do gold panning & road construction. Females engage in transactional sex. Anxiety and fear awaits the reopening of schools amid Covid 19 hence calls for an urgent need of adequate classrooms, staff houses near the school and improve water and sanitation.

Odzi rural lacks Primary & High School facilities. The nearest Primary is 1km away & high was 13km away. Poor education leads to high poverty & early marriages. The ground breaking ceremony held on the 4th of February 2022 was a momentous occasion that brought together all stakeholders interested in the upgrading and improving the quality of education for the primary and High school. It also brought joy to FMSA as they were officially handed over the school by the bishop. The thrust is to bring good news to the rural folks of Odzi and offer them the path to enjoy life to the fullest through various programmes including child protection and child rights awareness, sexual reproductive health education, gender based violence awareness and environmental awareness. On this day, the community of Odzi embraced the project and assured their support in making this dream a success of bringing the school nearer to the children.



Blessing of the ground and all future construction projects and ministries of the Sisters by Bishop Paul Horan.



Planting of tree with Sr. Eunice Quigley FMSA and other stakeholders look on.



Fr. Roy Matyatya giving the welcome remarks.
(Parish priest)



Sr. Patience Nyamangodo FMSA and the Diocesan Education Secretary marking the ground breaking



Sr. Loice FMSA explaining the objectives of the project and the FMSA Mission.



Acting Deputy Provincial Education Director Mr. Munyeza expressed his continuous support in the development of the school.



A Thanksgiving poem from a primary school learner.



School Development Chairperson appreciating the new developments.



Government officials and commissions within the Diocese who came to witness the ground breaking ceremony.

LOVE AND HOPE, (An icon of Hope)

Postulants in “Love and Hope” are developing their gifts in creative gifts. Their activities includes baking, knotting, crocheting, candle and soap making. They are honing (perfecting) their skills so much that they can decorate the place for occasions, for example they made mats, scarfs and ponchos for Love and Hope Fundraising Day.



Bishop Maurice and Sr Patricia (FMSA) shares a few encouraging words with John in Mother Kevin's Hall at Love and Hope.



Bishop Maurice receives a Trophy from Love and Hope in Thanks Giving for all the help Bishop gives us. In the Picture are a few members of Love and Hope Board.

F.M.S.A in South Sudan, Wau Diocese.

“My Wish is Collaboration for Better Pastoral Work,” An icon of hope; the new Catholic Bishop of Wau Diocese, Matthew Remijio Adam Gbitiku

Pope Francis on Wednesday November 18, appointed Fr. Matthew Remijio Adam Gbitiku, a member of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ) the new Bishop of South Sudan's Wau Diocese.

In an interview with AMECEA Online on Thursday, November 19, the Bishop-elect, by then, a native of South Sudan from Wau Diocese has appealed for collaboration to enhance pastoral work in the pastoral district.

“This appointment came as a surprise,” the Bishop disclosed and narrated, “But I have taken it positively and it is my hope that we collaborate for better pastoral work in the diocese. Through mutual collaboration and understanding, a lot can be achieved.”

He acknowledges that being familiar with the people of Wau, their language, their culture, and most of the priests in the diocese is an advantage as he begins the new mission.

Wau Diocese has been vacant since 6 Mar 2017, after the death of Bishop Rudolf Deng who served for over 20 years but has been under the leadership of Archbishop Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla who was appointed by its Apostolic Administrator in September 2020.

After the announcement of the appointment on November 16, the Comboni Missionaries Provincial Superior for Kenya Province Fr. Austine Radol in a message to his confreres asked them to pray for the Bishop Mathew Remigio, in his new mission saying, **“We accompany him with our prayers in this new responsibility.”**





March 15th 2022 the FMSA, Staff at St. Francis and well-wishers gathered together to celebrate the achievements of CAFOD to the vulnerable people here in Livingstone.

It was a celebration with a tinge of sadness because it marked the official closure of CAFOD'S Financial support to St. Francis CICP.

During CAFOD's 25 years (1997 TO 2022) of dedicated support, a deep bond was formed and strengthened which will remain through their Technical support and friendship.

CAFOD will always be remembered as the pioneer Donors for HIV/AIDS in Livingstone and in Zambia at large.

On behalf of the FMSA, Staff at St. Francis and beneficiaries, we extend our gratitude and appreciation to CAFOD. Your support and friendship will always remain invaluable to us.

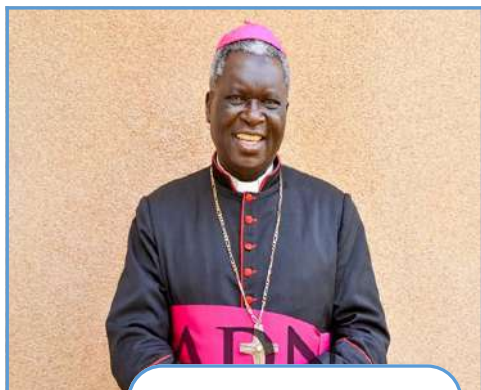
We wish CAFOD God's blessings as you continue your good works into the future.

Sr. Mary Courtney, FMSA

Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, Livingstone, Zambia Forever Grateful for your support!



Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa "Life to the full..." Jn10:10



ARCHBISHOP OF NAIROBI,

A New Dawn in the Archdiocese of Nairobi as Archbishop Anyolo is

We were all excited and privileged to go to Msongari for the installation of Archbishop Philip Anyolo Subira., the new Shepherd of the Archdiocese. He was installed in a solemn and also joyful celebration held on 21st November at St. Mary's, Msongari.

May the Good Shepherd guide him as he undertakes the important work of leading His people.



Rt. Rev Bishop Paul Ssemogerere, Archdiocese of Kampala

Ssemogerere, 65, takes over the mantle as the fifth Archbishop of Kampala. In his brief message, Ssemogerere said he was "highly honoured" to be appointed as the new Kampala Archbishop. He said he has gathered "courage to take up this responsibility" and that he desires "to remain a good and simple priest".



Who will go?

you will do with the special gift of life?

*Who will go and preach God's Holy Word,
To the many souls who have never heard?*

*He needs your hands, your life,
COME...*

*Who will go forth sowing and weeping?
For there will be souls for the reaping.*

*Jesus has only your **hands**, your **heart**, to reach out in love and friendship to do the work He wants done today.*

*Who will go to the next door neighbor,
To tell them about Jesus Christ, their Savior?*

Reflection: Will you **give your life for others** as He gave His life for you?

*Who will go to help those in need?
Whether poor or rich, who will plant the seed?*

Are you ready to be a missionary?

*Who will go to the regions beyond you,
To share the Gospel, whether to many or few?*

Contacts:

*Who will go to a foreign field,
Where souls of the Harvest are ready to yield?*

*Who will go? God asks the question.
Here am I, send me. Go without hesitation.*

For more information:
www.fmsa.net

By Deborah Smith Plemmons

Have you ever considered what

Nuns in Ukraine rescue, escort stranded foreign students to border



The Sisters of St. Joseph of Saint-Marc at Mukachevo, Ukraine, serve food to rescued foreign students before helping them to cross the border. (Courtesy of Ligi Payyappilly).

An Indian Catholic nun and her associates are working round-the-clock to help stranded students and others fleeing war-torn Ukraine. "God is using me to save people from death in Ukraine," said Sr. Ligi Payyappilly, the 48-year-old superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Saint-Marc in Mukachevo, Ukraine. Payyappilly, who is Indian, and 17 sisters of her congregation are giving shelter and food to the distressed students, besides helping them cross the Ukrainian border to escape to countries including Hungary, Romania and Slovakia." Being in Ukraine for over 20 years, I have a lot of contacts and networks that helped me carry out this mission so far," Payyappilly told GSR by phone after midnight March 3, just before her scheduled two-hour sleep. Her convent in Mukachevo in western Ukraine is some 480 miles southwest of the national capital of Kiev.

People helped by Payyappilly's team profusely thanked the nuns.

"We never thought we would be alive now," said Vignesh Suresh, a third-year student of medicine who hails Payyappilly as "God's angel who came to help us when we were

totally lost."

Speaking to GSR en route to Bucharest by train, Suresh said he and 45 other Indian students were stranded at the Polish border for 15 hours when Payyappilly and Sr. Christina Tymurzhina, a Ukrainian, came to help them. "The sisters took us to their convent in their vehicles, hugged each of us with their love and warmth, gave us food, a warm hall to sleep in and escorted us in the morning to cross the Romania border," Suresh said as his friends slept on the train.

**"We never thought
we would be alive
now"**



Planting of Trees led by Sr. Paula, fmsa

Launching of the Ecosystem Restoration Project: **planting trees, production of biogas** and **keyhole gardens** in Chibombo. Courtesy of Micean Cara Innovation Fund

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT,

FMSA, Lusaka,

Zambia.



Sr. Mary, FMSA

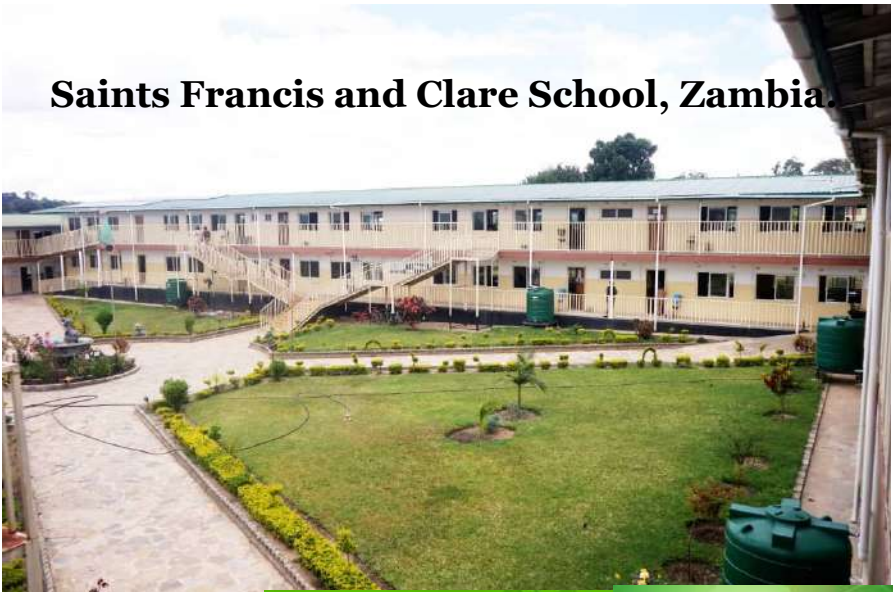


Production of Biogas



Located in Ngwerere in the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia to improve the accessibility and quality of education.

Saints Francis and Clare School, Zambia

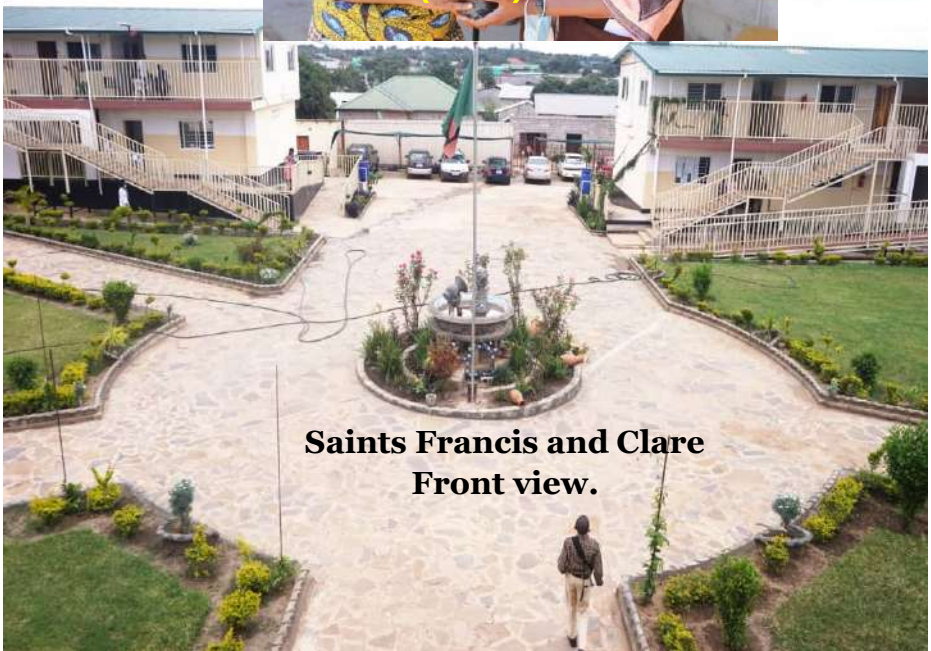


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Saints Francis and Clare School, Zambia.



Sr. Loice (FMSA) and a student



**Saints Francis and Clare
Front view.**

Welcome Sister Death

Sr. Mary Inglis



Sister death has once again visited Moredun community with the sad death of Sr Mary Inglis. For quite some time Mary has suffered from ill health and during the year when the possibility of heart surgery, which might improve her quality of life was mentioned, Mary decided to pursue this option. Eventually on the 18th November Mary entered the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Glasgow to prepare for surgery on the 19th. While the operation itself may be considered a success Mary's underlying health problems meant that in the end she did not have the physical resources to aid the healing process. Mary did not realise that the surgery would take so much out of her and expected to be back in Moredun in the near future.

Mary was well known in St. James' Parish Renfrew and the parish priest and parishioners were praying very specially for her. She

had three sisters, Margaret, Anne and Agnes and one brother Douglas, nieces and nephews who will certainly miss her. The funeral Mass took place on the 11th January in Motherwell Cathedral at 10.00. It was live streamed. Mary's wish to be buried beside her parents in Motherwell Cemetery was respected.

Despite Covid restrictions Sisters Jeanette and Marie Deans attended the funeral to represent all.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support, messages of sympathy and Masses offered for Mary.

Love and peace,
Ann for the Regional Team

Time to renew your contemplative journey: Lenten journey.



As we enter the Lenten season, I felt that a renewed contemplative practice might be just what is needed.

There are so many things attracting our attention throughout the world and in our lives: Russian troops poised on the border of Ukraine. Climate change affecting some areas with drought and others with horrendous storms. Inflation causing us to spend more money on essentials like food

and gas. The toll of COVID-19 expressed in ongoing illness, death, isolation, uncertainty and divisiveness.

Contemplation helps us to "see" in new ways, inviting us to respond out of love and not fear.

Liturgically, the Lenten season takes us on a journey. The story of Jesus' public life is told once again. We witness a man who responded to the injustices of his time in ways that reflected a different worldview. He saw all as equal and not divided by the purity code of his time.

By Nancy Sylvester

Holy Week Reflection

A week of **silence**,

A week of **listening**,

A week of **recollection**,

A week of **meditation**,

A week of **adoration**.

May it be for us a passage

from darkness to light,

from hatred to Love,

from the Cross to Glory, and

from death to Life. *Unknown*

Without Jesus,

we are nothing!

Two donkeys were walking in Jerusalem, when one donkey said to the other, "Just yesterday I was here carrying Jesus and the people were singing and shouting Hosanna and throwing down their clothes for me to walk on, and today they don't even recognize me". The other donkey replied, "That's how it is my friend.....Without Jesus you are nothing. *Anonymous*

Who is the greatest man in our Salvation History?

He had no servants, but they called him Master.

He had no degree, but they called him teacher.

He had no medicines, yet they called him Healer.

His army wasn't here, but Kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, but He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him

He died and was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

His name is **JESUS!**

Anonymous

Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa "Life to the full..." Jn 10:10

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb”



“They have taken my Lord”!

Easter marks the beginning of new life in the history of our salvation. New life in Christ, Baptisms, Weddings, etc.

Has the Lord truly Risen in our hearts, lives, families, communities?

It is always difficult to identify the Risen Christ in the midst of uncertainty, the suffering Christ continue to be reviewed in our World today.

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb” Mary said.

When Mary saw what had happened at the tomb, she run to spread the Gospel of Resurrection to His disciples. Spreading the Good News of Christ is our Mission.

I always ask myself this question

that why is it that it was Mary Magdalene who recognized first the Resurrection. The reasons could be, Christ knew the giftedness of women that upon seeing, women can not keep the message to themselves rather they have to spread the news.

Like Mary who went to tell the disciples, may we have the courage to spread the Good news of Christ.

The disciples, like Peter, could not believe Mary, rather they had to go and see it to themselves first then believe.

Men do not trust women!

In society, women are well known in spreading news. Maybe, that is why the disciples doubted Mary.

May we all be Mary Magdalene spreading the Good News of Resurrection to all!

Blessed Easter to you all.

He is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia Alleluia! Alleluia!.

Sr. Rumbi, FMSA.

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Christ to all!

FMSA reaching out to the elderly, St. Joseph's Care Centre, House of the elderly, Nairobi.

