

Mission News

Newsletter of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul, Province of Ireland

2021
Edition



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Stories of Success



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The Story of Daniel Ambani



Ghana Revisited



Upendo Street Children



Good wishes from Sr. Goretta Butler, Provincial Leader

Greetings to all our readers from St. Catherine's Provincial House, Blackrock. It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. As we approached Christmas last year we were still trying to cope with how life had suddenly been turned upside down and we were wondering how we would adapt. Our plans were altered. We could not travel to visit the Missions and they could not visit home or visit within the country. In all countries caring for the sick and vulnerable was often a huge ordeal and attendance at funeral services was restricted to immediate families. This has caused much pain. We remember in a special way those of you who have lost loved ones during COVID. May the God of love grant them peace.

Despite this it has been a very productive year in the Mission Development Office here in Dublin. You will see many stories that demonstrate the work done throughout this newsletter.

Sr. Geraldine and her team faced an uphill battle but met the challenge with energy and enthusiasm and were able to continue to support Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Ethiopia. This could not have been done without the help of our volunteers, and I want to thank each volunteer for their generosity and commitment.

We are fortunate in having so many supporters and volunteers who help us in different fundraising activities. Without the generous collaboration of so many it would not be possible to maintain many of the services to those most in need. With your continued support we are able to reach out and assist people build better lives for themselves and their families.

On behalf of the Daughters of Charity I want to say a special Thank You to each of you. Your support is valued both by us and by those who benefit from your generosity.

May 2022 be a year of peace and joy for you and your families.

With every blessing.

Goretta Butler

Sr. Goretta Butler



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A special thanks to all those both at home and abroad who kindly took the time to contribute their knowledge, stories and personal experiences.





News from the Mission Development Office

Greetings from the Mission Development Office. It is two years since our last publication and while Covid-19 has curtailed many of our fundraising activities, thanks to our very generous donors we have still managed to support many poor people in Africa. Just before the lock down in 2020, I managed to visit Nigeria and Ghana and continue to be amazed at the developments that are taking place. Unfortunately the pandemic has had severe effects on many people especially women and children who were surviving on the proceeds from petty trading etc.

They were unable to leave home to go to the market and this in turn led to hunger. One of the sisters told me that some people said they were more afraid of dying of hunger than Covid!. During this time we have been able to support many people with food and other essential items to curb the spread of the virus.

Misean Cara through funds received from Irish Aid continues to support many of our development projects and enables us to serve so many people who otherwise would be deprived of health care, education and social development. We have also received much needed help from Misean Cara to assist those affected by the pandemic. We are also able to carry out capacity development of the sisters and staff through the use of 'ZOOM Meetings' this has been a new and innovative experience for all of us.

In this newsletter you will read some of the success stories that have been achieved over the past two years, even during these challenging times.

A big thank you to all who contributed stories and those who edited and helped to put this edition of Mission News together.

God bless

Geraldine Henry

*Sr. Geraldine Henry DC.
Mission Development Co-ordinator.*



Health & Community Development

Maryphine was a 34 years old separated mother of five who also cares for her sisters children.

She came to the Daughters of Charity seeking assistance as she was struggling to pay house rent, buy food and pay school fees for her children. Following our assessment we felt that Maryphine would do well with her own business. She was called to join other beneficiaries in the Income Generating Activity training programme after which she was supported with an initial startup grant which enabled her start her own business selling vegetables. She is now able to provide food and house rent for her family.

She purchased a small piece of land and is working hard to save money to build her own small home to free her from paying rent and let her start concentrating in only paying school fees and providing other basic needs for her children.

Maryphine is grateful for the assistance she received to start her business and the donation required to run the income generating programme.

Mercy Masitsa

Maryphine selling her vegetables.



A changed life of William Munyasya

William is 17 years old and was born with a physical disability.

For many years, he lived his life in house confinement and his movements were very minimal. When the Daughters of Charity arrived in Kiio area, William became one of the first beneficiaries of the program for children and young people with special needs. In 2019 through the help and intervention of the Daughters of Charity, William benefited from a sponsored surgery that was carried out in Kijabe hospital. After the successful surgery, William continued with physiotherapy at Mwingi level 4 hospital and by the end of 2019 he had gained some mobility without relying on his single mother to move him around or turn him in bed. As a child he had enrolled in a special school to learn for skills but his participation was limited as he could not use a wheelchair for a long time without needing a support or rest.

After the surgery William's life has greatly improved and he better able to use his wheelchair to move around and live a more independent life. This year when the schools were closed due to Covid-19 pandemic, William has started his own small business of rearing chickens and repairing shoes which earns him some little income. He also started making bricks to build a house for himself. Around the house William has become a big help to the mother with the home chores such washing dishes, washing his clothes, and minding the goats. William's mother acknowledges that it is a great relief to know that William is better able to manage his life and this gives her time to do some casual work without too much worry about William. Indeed, William has come a long way from his childhood to the present.

He is all smiles whenever the DCs visit him and he is determined to live his life to the fullest. On the other hand, his mother confirms and affirms the old saying that 'disability is not inability.'

Sr. Celestine Kiiki



Daughters of Charity - Lindalva Inclusive School

The Lindalva Inclusive School was established in 2018 for children with special needs and those from very poor families. The School was supported with funding from Misesan Cara which benefitted many children with and without disabilities.

The School has been able to support seven children from single mothers who are victims of trafficking. These mothers came back from Italy with their children but the trauma they endured means that they find it difficult to settle and are unable to provide the basics for their children, especially food and clothing. These children depend solely on the school feeding program.

Increased numbers of undernourished and underweight children in the School has led to many health issues and poor performance in school coupled with the stress due to economic uncertainty specifically of COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the children are from poor homes whose parents are struggling to survive with their little hard earned money and the spread of COVID-19 made their situation worse. Rampant poverty has resulted in an increase in child labour, some children are used as cheap labourers (on building construction sites). Those who are able to come to school, come with little or no food, resulting in a lack of concentration in the class, or with anaemia or other health related issues. We have over fifty children who come to school everyday without breakfast. The school provides the children with breakfast and lunch everyday before they go home.



Donations received through the Mission Development Office are used for the feeding of children especially those from poor homes. These children are deprived of essentials such as food, clothing, and medicines and of course protection and safety.

According to some of the children, they described their experience of poverty in their families and community as not having enough food to eat and having to go to the street in search of food, resulting in poor school attendance and some of them also complained of hostility, harshness and lack of care and neglect they experience in their home.

Woman Empowerment - Stories of Success

Jane has three school age children. She took the women's sewing class and passed the national exam for Level 1 seamstress.

As a result we gave her a sewing machine. Jane used the machine to create a profitable business for herself. She buys bales of second hand material for a very low price and she uses all the different materials to make bags, placemats and pot holders.

They've become very popular among the women of our rural villages. Jane said she is able to feed her children a more balanced diet (more protein), pay secondary school fees, other school expenses and help her parents financially. Here she is pictured with two customers who bought her bags.



This is Alice, Mum to Olivia who is a student in our Kisima program who has cerebral palsy. Alice is a single mother, though she does have some support from her family in caring for Olivia.

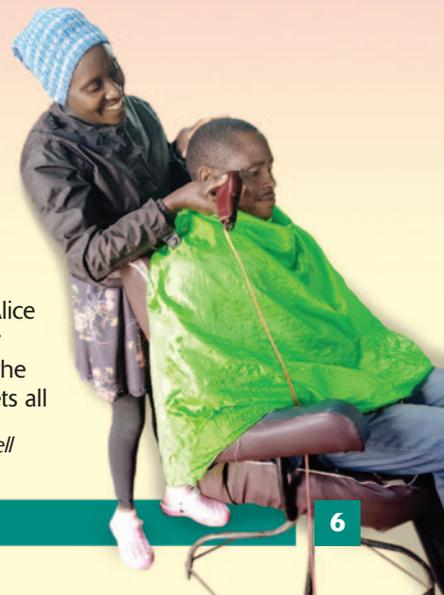
Her brother loaned her some money to open a chip business and she was working six days a weeks to operate it. She tried it for a year but it was very hard on Olivia, who would lay on the ground in the kiosk for hours while her mother tended the business.

The inflation in Kenya and the rising price of oil and potatoes made the business unprofitable, so Alice needed to do something, perhaps another trade and preferably something she could do while Olivia is in school. We made an arrangement with a local 'kinyozi' (barber) to teach her barbering and hairdressing skills.

She now works in the shop and is learning the skills. She is very skilled at men's shaving and has many clients now. We provided the shaving kit she needs to be able to work out of her house in her village. Now she can earn a living for Olivia with flexible scheduling that works for both her and Olivia.

This picture is from the kinyozi where Alice is working as a trainee. The shop owner gets a percentage of her earnings, but she can also work from home where she gets all of her income.

Sr. Elizabeth Riddell



Success story of Maduka Emmanuel - Inclusive School

The day Maduka arrived to the Inclusive School in Benin, he was the last child left on the bus. He had to be carried off the bus and laid on a mat in his class because he could not sit or use his hands. Every part of his body was rigid and he could only communicate with his eyes and by using facial expression. He was scared of the children and the children were scared of him too.

As the month progressed, Maduka started to improve and his facial involuntary movements became less. The first significant improvement was in Maduka's behaviour. He was beginning to smile with the other children, which led to the children accepting him.

With support received from the School Community, especially his class teacher,



Maduka began to sit in his wheel chair and wheel himself around with the assistance of the other children. Maduka began to eat independently and communicate with the other children. As the year progressed with the help of a physiotherapist, Maduka has developed greater strength allowing him to sit independently for longer periods of time though he still needed assistance. By the end of the school term he had exceeded all expectations.

Maduka's family could not believe the change and progress he had made. He may be non-verbal, but he knows how to get his point across and he has great sense of humour and loves music. He will continue to require assistance but he is capable of growth, change, humour, friendship, communication and development like all other children.

Maduka has made a lot of friends in the School, all the other children that were afraid of Maduka now compete and fight over who will be the first to assist Maduka from the School bus to his class!

Maduka is so happy with his new world of love, care and acceptance. Thanks to Miseen Cara and our kind donors who have brought hope to the hopeless.

Sr. Matha Ali



Maduka and his classmate.

Tackling Climate Change

The Daughters of Charity, St. Louise's inclusive school was opened in 2017 with support from Miseen Care for vulnerable children with and without disabilities in the province of Kossi in the north western region of Burkina Faso. The zone is a Sahel zone with an average three months rainfall per year, with recurrent droughts and floods. Sustaining plants is a great challenge.

Our staff member Lucien Diarra the school gardener took up the challenge and committed himself to improving the effects of climate change. When Lucien arrived in the school there were little or no trees in the compound, so he made a plan for planting trees. He attends the nurseries all year round and schedules for the trees to be planted during the short raining season. Lucien got all the children with and without disabilities involved in the tree planting and watering.

In the compound there is also a poultry farm and a cereal farm. The residues from the poultry is being used to nourish the young growing trees and the residue from the cereal after harvest is being converted into compost manure to improve the soil nutrients.

The villagers nearby have also benefited from the nurseries and the methods used by Lucien to sustain the trees in the school compound of the Daughters of Charity. Sixty children are involved daily in environmental activities to protect the environment. Up to ten villages, each averaging up to 5,000 habitants have been educated on the techniques for planting trees and maintaining them.

Thanks to the activities of Lucien, many villagers have planted economical trees that help to sustain them by the sales of the products.

As result of Lucien's work there is a micro climate created in our environment, which make it cooler and less dusty because the planted trees take a lot of the dust.

We wish to congratulate Lucien Diarra for his resilience in promoting climate change and encouraging others to do so in a difficult climate zone.

Sr. Toyin Abegunde.



Lucien teaching locals how to plant trees.



Funds raised from the Christmas Gift Appeal 2020

Gift 1

Bedding and blankets for poor and vulnerable families.

610 @ €20 €12,200



Gift 2

Medical equipment essential for children with disabilities.

300 @ €15 €4,500



Gift 3

School uniforms for nursery children and children with disabilities.

435 @ €20 €8,700



Gift 4

Transportation costs to and from the HIV Clinic for poor women.

200 @ €10 €2,000



Gift 5

Christmas hampers for vulnerable elderly people.

250 @ €10 €2,500



Gift 6

Galvanised sheets for vital roof repairs on homes of poor families.

100 @ €50 €5,000



Gift 7

School supplies for poor children including books and stationery.

420 @ €5 €2,100



Gift 8

Nutritional support for poor malnourished children.

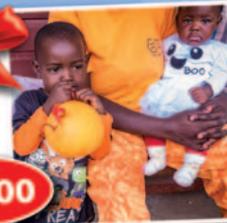
1,000 @ €10 €10,000



Gift 9

A Christmas gift for a child affected by HIV/AIDS.

300 @ €10 €3,000



Gift 10

Support with kitchen gardens for poor families.

105 @ €25 €2,625



Gift 11

Support to enable poor children to attend school.

280 @ €15 €4,200



Gift 12

To provide live chickens to a poor family for eggs and a small income.

800 @ €10

€8,000



Gift 13

To provide goats as a source of income for poor families.

300 @ €25

€7,500



Gift 14

Payment of school fees for poor children with disabilities.

500 @ €15

€7,500



Gift 15

Seeds for planting to provide a source of income for poor families.

400 @ €10

€4,000



Gift 16

Badly needed house repairs for vulnerable elderly people.

900 @ €10

€9,000



Total amount received from the 2020 Christmas Gift Appeal:

€92,825



Emergency Covid Appeal 2020

The emergency funds that were received in Kitale in June 2020 from Irish Donors came as a huge relief to the Sisters. The nutrition programme had trebled with more and more cases every day. Many former clients had no choice to return to us as they were no longer able to work.

Children were home from school and hunger was on the increase. The combination of the 'stay at home order' and a poor harvest resulted in food shortages. Along with hunger, housing became a major issue as land lords started to evict people when they missed a few months' rent.

The money received through generous donations allowed over 500 families to be assisted regularly with food. The Sisters were able to assist with rent for families and also provide much needed soap and face masks. Money was also provided for essential medical care in hospitals. Below are two stories from our social worker Mercy to give you demonstrating the terrible situations people were in.

Nutrition Programme

Hadija Abdi an elderly lady with has two children who are both unstable and are unable to take care of their mother. When she arrived at the compound, she had been locked out by her landlord and had slept outside for a few nights. We paid her rent so she could go home but we were shocked at the conditions this elderly woman was living in.

She had an old mattress on the floor and a few clothes and cooking utensils and it was obvious she is unable to care for herself. Hadija now attends the nutrition programme and receives regular sanitising products.

Sr. Mary Holland

Upendo Street Children

Upendo street children's programme is a 'drop in centre' which was set up by the Sisters in an effort to help the rapid growth of street children in Kitale. The centre has a day shelter with laundry and showers. The centre provides children with shoes and clothes and offers rehabilitation to assist these children age 15-18 to be reintegrated in their families and society. The pandemic has rendered the street children in dire need of shelter and support.

In a bid to keep these rehabilitees at home, the centre provides home visits bringing food, mattresses, blankets, soaps and masks. It is so important to keep these children at home in order to prevent the spread of Covid 19 further.

We wish to express our gratitude to all our kind and generous supporters during these challenging days.

Sr. Winifred Mutuku



Masks and soap being distributed.

The Story of Daniel Ambani

Daniel Ambani is the second child in a family of two. Angela, his mother had mental health issues and was also HIV reactive. They used to live near the Daughters of Charity compound but she was always moving and taking her children with her.

Angela's illness caused her to hallucinate and make up stories about her children. Their education was severely affected by all the movement so therefore intervention was needed.

We decided to trace her relatives who could care for her children. We found her grandmother in Moi's Bridge who took the children in to live with her. We enrolled them in school in Nzoia Centre primary, but unfortunately when we went back for follow up we found that Angela had rented a house and transferred her children to Bwayi Primary, which is far from her grandmother's house. Living with her children again created a bad environment for them because Angela's illness caused her to scream at night and accuse people, including her landlord of telling lies. The village elder (Mukasa) had even written to her asking her to leave the house and the area.

Daniel and Nathan were moved once again by Angela. This resulted in the children lacking supervision and stability. People in the area had started taking advantage of the children by giving them a lot of work to do which included cleaning the compound and fetching water before going to school. Angela's brother offered to take Nathan because he was older but the felt Daniel is young and would still follow his mother if she looked for him.

After reporting the case to the Government Children Office, Daniel was rescued and taken to a Children's Home where he is receiving care, protection and a good education. His brother is living near enough to visit Daniel so they can stay in touch. Angela is aware that her boys are being well taken care of and that it is better that they stay where they have been placed. Angela returned to Kitale and is selling tomatoes as an income generating business. She is now renting near us, so she comes to the compound to talk to staff or receive assistance when necessary.

Mercy Kashagira Masitsa.



In January 2020 I had the privilege of visiting the Daughters of Charity mission in Ghana. It was a memorable and exciting trip for me because almost 30 years ago, Sr. Philomena Okwu and I were asked to visit the Archbishop of Kumasi, Bishop Sarpong, to discuss the possibility of working in his Diocese. It was a successful visit and within two years the DCs had put down roots in Ghana. Today we have three communities serving in three different Dioceses.

Arriving in Accra late in the evening, I had booked into the Diocesan guesthouse. The following day I linked up with Sr. Geraldine who was coming from Nigeria to Kumasi where she was doing a workshop with Health Care Leaders. We left by bus to my first port of call - the Sisters house in Kentinkrono, Kumasi. We received a warm welcome from the Sisters and the residents.

The principal work of the Sisters in Kumasi is the care of vulnerable children and young adults. In Ghana many young adults leave their rural villages in the hope of making a better future for themselves in the large towns. Many of them become victims of exploitation and even human trafficking. The Daughters of Charity 'Safe Child Advocacy Programme' advocates on behalf of such children by raising awareness of their plight and by empowering them with opportunities for education and enterprise development. The younger children go to local Primary and Secondary schools, the young adults do a two year Sewing and Knitting course in the Centre on site. For sustainability the Sisters have poultry, pig and goat rearing projects and they sell water.

The following day Sr. Geraldine and I visited the Drobonso community. Drobonso is about three hours journey from Kumasi. The Sisters here run a modern Clinic with Maternity facilities and have outreach Clinics as well. They have just celebrated 25 years of dedicated service to the people of the Afram Plains. We visited a local Primary school where the children lacked basic educational materials.

The third Community is in Kongo Logre, Bolgatanga. It's about a twelve hour bus journey from Kumasi. This Community is situated on

a hill in a very dry, arid region. The Community is home to the Postulant, there were four Postulants present. Two Sisters work in a Diocesan Clinic and another one teaches in the local primary school. A third Sister works full time for the Diocese. I did some work with the Postulants - sharing our vocation stories and we engaged in cooking classes. The Sisters are involved in farming and in rearing guinea fowl. I stayed with the Sisters and Postulants for a week. I returned to Kumasi by night bus which broke down twice on the way.

As I reflect on my visit to Ghana, I am amazed at the developments that have taken place over such a short period. All the Sisters, both Nigerian and the Ghanaian, are giving a great witness in their various services. They touch and improve the lives of so many vulnerable people. I thank God and the Community for giving me the opportunity to visit Ghana. I also thank the Sisters in each of the three Communities for their warm welcome and the great care they lavished on me.

Sr. Christina Quinn



Access to Affordable Healthcare and Physiotherapy

Shem Muturi is four years old. He was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at aged only four months when he started showing signs of delayed milestones. Shem was immediately started on therapy which he has been attending since.

When he came to the clinic he could not stand without support. After a lower limb strengthening programme Shem has progressed to a walker and with continuous physiotherapy he will be able to move on to crutches which will give him much more of a range of motion and independence.

Shem making good progress during his physiotherapy.



Impact sometimes happens one person at a time and often one step at a time. Two patients who received physiotherapy at Holy Cross Dispensary's physiotherapy unit have given permission for the Daughters of Charity to share their stories.

With the support of Misesan Cara and your donations, the Daughters of Charity provide affordable Healthcare including physical therapy available in Thigio Kenya. We can truly say that with God's help and our own hard work, 'the lame walk'. In terms of world problems the impact may be small but in terms of a person's quality of life the impact of greater mobility is immense.

James Ngigi who is 58 years suffered from a severe stroke attack in August 2020 and was immediately rushed to hospital where he was admitted to Nazareth Hospital. He was managed for high blood pressure and later discharged on advice to seek physiotherapy services. James started physiotherapy session later in the month where he was assessed for functional independence measures. He was seen to be entirely dependent on caregivers for all his needs. James had a communication problem where he could not talk but understood verbal communication. A plan was made and implemented which resulted in James now just using one crutch. His communication has also greatly improved and he continues to attend the clinic once a week to continue his progress.

Sr. Deborah Mallott



Cribs - From Bethlehem to Ireland

Since the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the world, so many people have been seriously affected not only in health but livelihood and this has led to a rise in poverty. Tourism to the Holy Land has been seriously affected and tourists to Bethlehem have been non-existent. The people who trade in Bethlehem are now struggling to survive with little income.

In 2020 Mary Murphy one of our great Mission supporters and a member of the Mission Development Fundraising committee decided to do a two-way support programme and purchased handmade cribs directly from a local carver in Bethlehem who posted them to Ireland. Here in Ireland, we sold the cribs and used the profit for our overseas projects in Africa, thus people in two parts of the world benefitted from this wonderful initiative.

This year the initiative has been repeated and we have many beautiful hand-carved cribs that will again support the people in Bethlehem and also many people in Africa who are struggling on a daily basis to survive.

Pictured here is one of the handcrafted cribs. They are available for purchase directly from the Mission Development office in Dunardagh, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

You can also call us on 01 288 2896. They are also available to purchase online on our website:

www.daughtersofcharity.ie



Atse Tekegiorgis Catholic School

Atse Teklegiorgis is a Catholic school run by the Daughters of Charity in Addis Abba, Ethiopia. Over fifty years ago we started our school to provide free education and food provision to poor children.

The school has many successful stories. Those who have passed through Atse School found employment allowing them to support their families. Wubitu Mokonen is one such success story.

Wubitu is 55 years old and was born in Gojam 402km. from Addis Ababa. Forced to marry when she was only eleven years old she faced many challenges including giving birth every year and losing five of her children because of hunger and lack of basic needs. She was physically abused by her husband who left her and she was forced to leave the house and live on the street.

One day while she was begging at the church gate, her friend gave her information about the Daughters of Charity Atse School. She went to the school and told her story to Sr. Hirut who was in charge of the school at that time. She began to go to the school every day for and received food and Medical treatment.

The Sisters built her a house and she was employed as a cleaner in Atse School. She said *"though I was abandoned by everybody, God visited me through Daughters of Charity. The Daughters of charity not only changed my life they also taught me what true love means".*

She since remarried and has two children from different fathers. The first husband died during the war and the second husband also left her, so she is now a single mother.

Her two children were educated by Daughters of Charity in Atse School and supported for further studies and are now able to support their mother.

Wubitu is grateful for the Daughters of Charity and how Atse school transforms the lives of many children and their families.

Sr. Elsa Bazima



A Life of Happenstance by Virginia Hardy

A Volunteer with a difference – A book review by Anna Byrne Daughter of Charity.

A Life of Happenstance by Virginia Hardy is indeed a marvellous read. Born in Holywood, Co Down in 1929, Virginia, affectionately known as Gin, now lives in Strangford. Her memoir was printed for her extended family, in Europe and America, and friends. At the end she says, "I hope readers will recognise a happy and content person who has had an interesting life and is grateful for genes which have kept her healthy, so far, for 91.8 years." Indeed, an adventurous life lived in four continents is vividly described and is taken from her diaries and photographs. Many of the events chronicled are the result of chance meetings or being in the right place at the appropriate time -hence 'happenstance' in the title.

The latter section of Virginia's memoir is of special interest to me, here she describes her 30 years travelling to Ethiopia for periods ranging from a year to several months -she must be one of the longest serving volunteers with the Daughters of Charity. (DC) Virginia's many trips followed her retirement as The Secretary for BBC Northern Ireland, where she worked for 32 years. Sr Genevieve O'Farrell DC, the only religious sister Virginia had ever met, and a member of the broadcasting council of the BBC Northern Ireland, advised her to contact the DCs on her arrival in Ethiopia.

Virginia's role as a volunteer in Ethiopia was varied- she responded to the needs of the day. Her main task was teaching English to young women who wished to join the DCs this was extended at different times to young men preparing for the priesthood. Given that she had no teaching qualification, she was given the job in her opinion -because of her BBC English accent! A contributing factor, she feels, was that the Sister in charge at the time, was a fellow Northern Irish woman, Sr. Zoe O'Neill. When in Ethiopia, Virginia

lived with the Sisters in all of their thirteen houses, in different regions of the country. As 'a lapsed Protestant' - her own words, staying in a 'convent' as she saw it, certainly would not have been part of her initial travel plan. She writes fondly about her experience; 'I was never ever made to feel anything but welcome' and 'as one of the family, I had never before felt such genuine love from so many.'

A second and substantial aspect of Virginia's volunteering life is her fundraising efforts. This coupled with her gift of bringing people from all sections of her local community together in Strangford and Downpatrick realised substantial funds. Evidence of this enormous generosity is shown in the photograph of Sr Ayelech and the 'St Patrick' minibus. Her many friends and acquaintances respond generously to her frequent fundraising events. Virginia's love for 'my Sisters' was recognised over the years, as many were invited to visit her Irish home. Her hospitality included accompanying the Sisters to daily Mass where they were introduced to Virginia's many friends in the village.

It has been an honour for me to be among Virginia's friends and to read this intriguing and well worthwhile memoir. I wish her a blessed and healthy 'second' retirement from her generous years as a volunteer with the Daughters of Charity.

*Anna Byrne,
Daughter of charity.*



Urban Development Programme

Woyneshet Wondemneh, aged 35 is living with her daughter in a rented house. Previously, she was an employee of a woman who was engaged in flat bread baking and a selling business.

Woyneshet prepared the bread for her employer but was paid so badly that the money didn't even cover the cost of the ingredients. She said, *"I had a very hard time that I could not fulfill my basic needs including food and house rent expenses. I was deeply frustrated and anxious all the time. Now thanks to the Daughters of Charity Urban Development Programme everything has changed"*

With the support from the Urban Development Programme who received funds from Misean Cara in Ireland, Woyneshet started her own business of bread preparation. On average, she sells 100 pieces of bread per day.

Woyneshet's quality of life has greatly improved. She has begun to save to buy essentials for her home and she can contribute to her daughter's education.

The programme gave her the confidence and resources to start her own business and change her life. Woyneshet offers her thanks to all involved in changing her life.

Sr. Tiblets Teum



Upcoming Events in 2021 / 2022

20th Nov 2021

Christmas
Gift Appeal. Belfast

**12th December
2021**

Christmas Fair-
St. Brigid's Parish Centre,
Killester

**SPRING
QUIZ**

**EASTER
RAFFLE**

5th June 2022

Women's Mini
Marathon

**Co-ordinated
Parish Appeal**

December 2022

International
Crib Display.
Kilcoole Parish

WHAT WE DO in the Mission Development Office

Support We are the first point of contact for all overseas missionary activity for the Irish Province and offer practical support to sisters going to, and returning from mission.

Fundraising We obtain funding and donations from individuals and agencies such as Mísean Cara to support our projects in Africa. We also raise funds through many fundraising events during the year. These include the Christmas gift appeal, Easter Sale, Quizzes, Concerts and participation in the Women's Mini Marathon

Field Trips We visit the projects overseas and discern with the development committees the needs on the ground and work together to apply for relevant funding. During the visits, information from Mísean Cara is disseminated to staff and sisters.

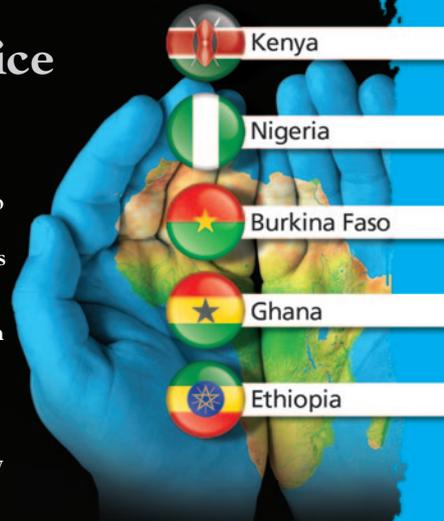
Finance Management We manage all the funding and donations received through the Mission Development Office, and in association with the Provincial Finance Office ensure accountability and transparency.

Volunteers We recruit, organise overseas placements and support volunteers who wish to spend some time in our projects in Africa.

Disaster Relief We support emergency responses to disasters in countries where the Daughters of Charity are present for example the earthquake in Haiti and typhoon in the Philippines.

Mission Appeal We participate in the Co-ordinated Parish Promotion Programme in collaboration with AMRI (Association of Missionaries and Religious in Ireland)

Mission Development Committee We have a very enthusiastic group of committed people who work with us and help plan and take part in all our fundraising activities. They give advice from their own fields of expertise.



Mission Development Office, Daughters of Charity, St. Catherine's Provincial House, Dunardagh, Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Telephone: 00 353 1 288 2896 Email: missiondevelopment@daughtersofcharity.ie www.daughtersofcharity.ie

Registered Charity No: CHY7137. To donate or place a standing order please use bank details below:

Daughters of Charity Mission Development Account: Bank of Ireland, Main Street, Blackrock, Co Dublin.

Account Number: 47514842. Sort Code: 90 10 28. IBAN: IE38 BOFI 9010 2847 5148 42 BIC: BOFIE2D