



Latest Happenings In the Diocese: The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi - The First in a Series on the Religious in Jamaica in Celebration of 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life

The Religious Order of the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi A.S.N. has been sending Sisters to Jamaica since a chance meeting in the USA between the late Bishop Paul Boyle, C.P and the Superior General of the A.S.N. Sisters, Sr. Mary Theresa Gachambi. From this meeting came the invitation from Bishop Boyle to the Sisters to come to Jamaica to serve in the Diocese of Mandeville. This invitation was graciously accepted and so the A.S.N. Sisters began their work in Jamaica.



Sr. Lucy Kamene, A.S.N. leads the children of St. Joseph Basic School in song.

Currently, we are fortunate to have five A.S.N Sisters working tirelessly in service to the Diocese. They live in two Communities, with one located in Mandeville, and the other in Santa Cruz.

When Sr. Lucy Kamene, A.S.N. first arrived in 2002, she worked at Our Lady of Hope Children's Home which was then located in Black River, up until it closed in 2012. After taking a Sabbatical, Sr. Lucy then accepted the mantle of Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Coordinator for the Diocese.

As the MCA Coordinator, Sr. Lucy has dedicated herself to the spiritual development of the children of the Diocese. She has been visiting with each parish and school, facilitating the training of animators and introducing the children to the Missionary Childhood Association.

Sister Lucy teaches the children that, through membership in this Association, they too can learn how to be missionaries. Through prayer and sacrifice, she shows the children how to play their part by praying for and helping other children in all parts of the world.

Sr. Susan Ng'endo arrived in Jamaica in January 2002. She began by teaching at St. Theresa Basic School in Black River in the daytime, and caring for the children of Our Lady of Hope Children's Home in the evenings. In 2004, she became the principal of St. Theresa Basic School. She received her Diploma in Primary Education in 2011, and then a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education in 2013 at the Catholic College of Mandeville. Over the years, she has overseen the growth of the school popula-

The Congregation was founded in 1953 by the late Archbishop John Joseph McCarthy, C.S.Sp, the Archdiocese of Nairobi. They received a Decree of Pontifical Recognition on May 27, 1998. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, the A.S.N. Sisters engage themselves in works of education, catechetical instruction, care of the sick, social welfare, pastoral work, counselling, rehabilitation of street children, agriculture, HIV/Aids and any other work that contributes to the upliftment of the human being.

Students of Holy Cross give Sr. Lucy Kamene, A.S.N. a loving welcome as she arrives at their school.



tion. When she first began teaching, there were approximately 80 students in the school. Since then, that number has almost doubled.

The parents are very happy with St. Theresa's and it continues to have the largest population of pre-school aged children of all the Basic Schools in the town. Along with creating a strong foundation for academic learning, the school takes great care in imparting to its students, spiritual and moral values, by introducing them to prayer and scripture, as well as reminding them to love and care for each other in their daily interactions.

The relationships formed between the students and the staff of the school is long-lasting, as the children and parents check in year after year to let Sister Susan know how they are doing. Proud past students recently called the school to boast of their acceptance to prominent high schools after success in their GSAT examinations, and parents still credit St. Theresa's with setting their children on the path to success.



Sr. Susan Ng'endo, principal of St. Theresa's Basic School with some of her students.



Above: Sr. Hellen Kisolo, A.S.N. teaches students about HIV/AIDS.

Sr. Hellen Kisolo came to Jamaica in April 2010 to work at St. Croix clinic in Santa Cruz as a nurse. A year later, she was asked to take up responsibility for the AIDS Ministry of the Diocese that was founded in 2001 by Sr. Mary Ann Kamau. In collaboration with governmental social workers and clinics, Sr. Hellen makes contact with persons suffering from HIV/AIDS, and brings all available resources to their assistance. She leads support group meetings in the Diocese for both adults and teens. At these meetings, affected persons are given emotional support, as well as practical information on how to manage the disease and care for themselves. Sometimes Sr. Hellen arranges skills training sessions. She also does home visits and gives material assistance by distributing donated food and clothing to persons in need.

Sr. Hellen Kisolo A.S.N. assists a family in obtaining baby chicks to raise as livestock.

Sr. Susan Ng'endo A.S.N. and Sr. Agnes Mwongela, A.S.N. along with other religious at the Mass to Celebrate Consecrated Life. at St. Paul of the Cross Cathedral.



Sr. Agnes Mwongela, A.S.N. came to Jamaica in 2003. She has been doing Pastoral work in Santa Cruz in the parish of St. Croix. She dedicates herself to teaching catechism and preparing persons for Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. She also does pastoral work in Braes River at Christ the King Church.



Sr. Patricia Kinaro came to Jamaica in 2011 to work as a nurse in the St. Croix Clinic in Santa Cruz. She has been practicing as a nurse in Kenya since 2003. The St. Croix Clinic opens from Mondays to Thursdays, 8-5pm. Dr. Charles Hyera and Sr. Purita Ringor, I.C.M. alternate as the attending physician each Tuesday.

The clinic sees an average of 40 patients per day. Patients are asked to pay a small fee, but are not turned away if they can not afford it, or if they can only pay a portion of what is asked. The pharmacist, Natisha Dennis, dispenses medication from the pharmacy. For the past three years, there has been a group of three general practitioners who visit from Poland each year and attend to patients during the months of October to December.



Sr. Patricia Kinaro, A.S.N.

The Sisters have truly dedicated themselves to caring for persons in the Diocese. They give their all to their tasks and continue to make a huge impact in the communities in which they work. The Diocese is truly grateful to all the Sisters for their hard work and dedicated service as they continue to live out their calling.



Sr. Agnes visits with an elderly parishioner



Pictured from left to right: Kaylie Dygon (PVI Volunteer), Sr. Patricia Kinaro (nurse and director) and Denisha (pharmacist).

Assumption Sisters of Nairobi who have served in Jamaica

Sr. Mary Anne Njeri Kamau, A.S.N
Sr. Jacinta Mwikali Ngula, A.S.N
Sr. Matilda Kavinya Mutuuga, A.S.N
Sr. Eva Banzanya, A.S.N
Sr. Jane Wanjiku Chege, A.S.N
Sr. Mary Mungai, A.S.N
Sr. Agnes Njoki, A.S.N
Sr. Judith Machuma, A.S.N
Sr. Lucy Kamene, A.S.N.
Sr. Susan Ng'endo, A.S.N.
Sr. Patricia Kinaro, A.S.N.
Sr. Agnes Mwangela, A.S.N.
Sr. Susan Ng'endo, A.S.N.