



## DIVINE FACE NEWSLETTER

HONOR TO THE DIVINE FACE, IN YOU AND ME!

September 20, 2016

Dearly beloved in the Divine Face,

HONOUR TO THE DIVINE FACE, IN YOU AND ME! I truly regret my inability to communicate to you more often than just once a year. Please, bear with me and pray that I get over my disability, of course, at God's own time.

Here are some updates since our last Newsletter that I believe you would be delighted to get.

1. The St Philip Vocational building is almost ready, by our standards, for use if we put in the protective railings in the balconies and the staircase (not visible here), and succeed in equipping it. Just to refresh your minds, we are hoping to be able to train the students who have the aptitude for these: welding, furniture making, auto mechanics, plumbing, on the ground floor; electronics repair, sewing and bakery upstairs.



Already, here are some of our students interested in carpentry helping to repair one of our buildings. There is one hardly visible on top of the roof.

2. Our High School graduates this year, again, maintained the record of a 100% success in the West African Examination Board graduation exams. Circumstances were such that we had only 7 students in that graduating class. But they all passed very well. We are proud of our teachers and students. Your efforts are yielding very good results. I am delighted that you are happy to keep the wheel of well-being rolling to bring the best it can to those needy people and their children.

School reopened yesterday, September 19, 2016. I have been informed that many new students are being admitted into our school. No doubt, this must be because word has made its round about the wonderful success in the graduating exams that has become characteristic of our school. For now, we have 253 children. This number is likely to increase before December. We give glory to God!



Some of the graduates and myself



*This little 2<sup>nd</sup> grade girl was crowned "Miss know all" because of her performance during the graduation ceremony, and was given a scholarship for her remaining years in our school. Her mother is a single underprivileged mother.*

**CHALLENGES:**

The economic condition of Nigeria is now more than alarming. As a result, people are dying of hunger. Yet the so-called government is not concerned. Parents do not have any income to contribute even the barest minimum we ask for, because workers are not being paid. We are afraid if our school is going to make it through this year. Please keep up your much-needed support! There is a serious economic crisis in the country and no one knows the way out.

This situation affects our Mission of the Divine Face very much. There is more poverty to be attended to. Then in our school, we do not know what to do. The costs of food items have all doubled. Just to feed 100 students we expect to have in the High School this year will over \$7,650.00. Out of these 100 students, 20 are on full scholarship, the parents of the rest are supposed to contribute. But ...! We spend \$205.00 a week to fuel the school buses. That is again going to affect the transportation of our little ones to and from school. Oh Lord, come to our aid!

Even, equipping our Vocational Centre now would be challenging. And yet, we need to start the training of our children for their future to be bright and not blighted, as the present administration in the country is threatening. At least let us start with the welding, auto mechanic, plumbing, sewing, and furniture making workshops

The estimates I have for equipping the Vocational Centre is as follows:

- 1) **Putting up the railings ----- \$500.00**
  - 2) **Mechanic Workshop ----- \$650.00**  
Saw - \$200, Bench Grinder \$150, Hand Tools \$300
  - 3) **Welding Workshop ----- \$600.00**  
Welder \$300, Welding Rods \$150, Hood \$100, Gloves \$50
  - 4) **Furniture Workshop ----- \$1200.00**  
Table Saw - \$300, Lathe \$300, Planer \$300, Belt Sander \$200, Wood \$100
  - 5) **Plumbing Workshop ----- \$700.00**  
Hand Tools \$300, Vise \$150, Hand Saw \$50, Supplies \$200
  - 6) **Sewing Workshop-----\$1090.00**  
3 sewing machine \$450, Weaving Machine \$340, 2 Tables \$200, Fabric \$100
- Total-----\$4740.00**

These are the barest minimum to start with for now, especially now that things are very expensive to buy in Nigeria. The students will be very grateful to have the opportunity to learn something that can help them survive. Please, choose any of the above you would like to have your name or that of your loved one put on it as a memorial in our Vocational Centre.

We would like for you to consider going on a pilgrimage with me as your Spiritual Director and several of our DFO members to Italy, including Rome and many holy sites in November 2017. The cost is very economical at \$1999 including airfare from Dallas with Golden World Tours. Please plan to join us. For more information, contact Connie Stubblefield at 817-992-0950.

As you can see from the date at the beginning of this Newsletter, it has taken almost a month since it was started. The difficulty in communicating with those from whom I got the different pieces of information I needed for the Vocational Centre contributed to the delay. However, I have had some health issues that also hampered my putting it all together. Please, pray that our loving Father in Heaven may use the medical treatment I am getting (thanks to His grace) to grant me the healing I need for His work. A major aspect of that grace is that these health issues surfaced very shortly after I arrived here at the end of July. I truly appreciate and am grateful for all the help I have received from many of you, especially in this situation. I am sure you know that you and your dear ones are always in my humble but earnest prayers and sacrifices.

God bless all of you most abundantly!

Sincerely yours in the Divine Face,

Fr. Gerard Mary A. Anyanwu