

DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION EASTER NEWSLETTER 2012.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. PAT WALKER, THE FIRST AMERICAN TO EMBRACE THE DIVINE FACE MISSION AND THE FIRST AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION NOW ENJOYING THE FACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Beloved in the Divine Face,

May the peace and joy of the risen Lord be yours always! As usual, I find joy in writing to you. It is my special delight to share Easter blessings with you this **special year**.

At this time last year, we were all together with our dear sister, Mrs. Patricia Walker, preparing to celebrate our **victory in Christ** over death in **mystery**. Today, I have no doubt at all that she is **now enjoying that victory in person**. She was such an ardent believer in the mystical union of Christ and **all** who believe in Him that when she heard of the Divine Face mission to convince the poorest in Nigeria that God loves them, she spontaneously volunteered to help. She stayed faithful and continually improved her commitment until she ended up as the chairperson of the Divine Face Organization here in the US. It is to her credit that her last act of public service on earth was conducting the meeting of our Organization on September 11, 2011. Two days later, she was called home. Since that day, our Organization has had nothing but series of blessings! Praise God! We certainly miss her physically. However, we rejoice for we have evidence that she is happy where she is.

At the beginning of the year 2012, I told some people that this was going to be a year of special divine favours, since it started on a Sunday. Quite a few things that have happened so far have shown me that the prediction is not far from the truth. I hope it has been the same for you!

I came, this time, on March 7th, bringing with me a shipload of greetings of love and gratitude from our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. I quite appreciate the loving concern expressed by many whom I have met since I came regarding my safety and that of our Churches and particularly our school, given the irrational violence going on in Nigeria. I imagine that all of you have the same sentiments. Thank you very much. We are safe in our part of the country. But some from our part have been victims in the volatile northern part where they lived. May the Lord grant them eternal rest! I will be in the US until April 27th when I hope to return to the school.

At the school, our enrollment has continued to increase. This year, we have a total of 265; that is from the Kindergarten to the High school. Yes, as I expressed the hope in my Easter Newsletter of last year, the graduating class of that year did very well. I believe that, in the main, explains why the continued increase in our student population. Our staff strength has increased as well, since we have had to hire three new teachers.

Encouraged by the help we got here last year, we have been able to complete the block work on the school auditorium and put a roof on it! Before long we hope to get the long reading tables ready. Then, at last, we can have the students study more effectively under supervision. They can surely be a handful overflowing otherwise!

February 26, 2012 was a gold-letter day for us. On that day, a young woman zealous in her love for God and enthusiastic to show it made her life-long commitment in our Congregation of Stewards of the Divine Face. Her name is Steward Catherine Mary Iroakazi. There is every hope that this is the beginning of the end of twenty years of waiting and praying for this Community that is the base of all our efforts to make God's love for the very poor and the needy take on human faces.

On that joyful note, I thank you all, once again, for your years of solid support.



Some of our children at the diocesan children's day celebration in Nov. 2011



Steward Catherine Mary Iroakazi making her religious profession



The auditorium at the roofing stage before I left home

Once again, **HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!**

Fr Gerard Mary A. Anyanwu