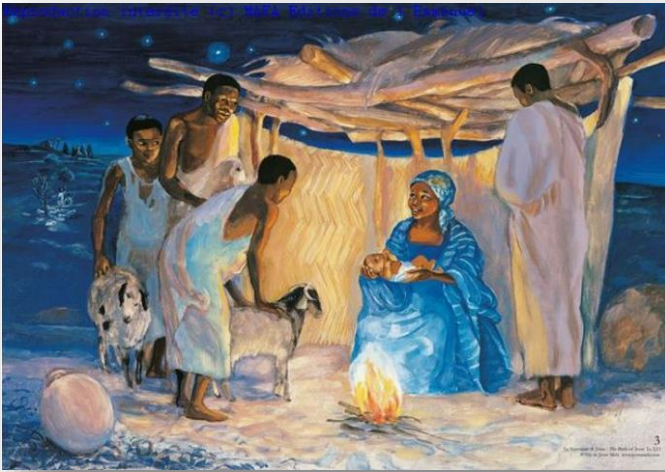


News of Group

Sainte Angèle d'Afrique

December 2022



*This is the message:
God does not rise up in grandeur,
but lowers himself into littleness.
Littleness is the path that he chose
to draw near to us,
to touch our hearts, to save us and
to bring us back to what really
matters.
Pope Francis, Christmas 2021*

Dear Sisters, Dear Friends,

This Christmas, let us enter together into the mystery of the smallness of God, who becomes a Child! Together, let us allow him to reach us in our littleness, let him touch our hearts, save us and bring us back to what really matters... Then, and only then, will it truly be Christmas, for us and for those who live alongside us.

Merry and holy Christmas, in the contemplation of the Little One who is not afraid of our smallness, but assumes it to give us the fullness of Life!

With all my affection

Sr Bernadette DIOUF, osu,
and the Ursuline Sisters
of the Saint Angela of Africa Group

BICYCLES FOR CATECHISTS



From time to time, the MIVA POLSKA organisation announces a project to buy means of transport: bicycles, motorbikes or motorboats, horses, etc. In short, anything that will enable missionaries to move around and preach the Gospel more effectively. Thinking of our catechists in Léhar, in gratitude for their selfless contribution to the catechesis of our children, we drew up, with the help of the parish priest, a project called "Bicycles for catechists". To our great joy, the response was positive: the project was approved. With the help of Mr. Cyprian Diatta, we bought 22 bicycles in Dakar, which were transported to Lehar, blessed in a small celebration and given to the catechists. The joy was great. Let us thank God for all the benefactors who put their hearts into this project.

ALMOST A “NEW COMMUNITY”

This year, our community of 2 people has changed a lot. Let us thank God for the past year and for the gift of Sister Anastasie, who was now transferred to Thiès. Sister Mado has been sent in her place to Léhar with a mission in the diocesan school.

LEHAR TRAINING CENTRE

After intensive training, we completed the first professional training course for women and men from our region. Among us there were people who



commuted every day from very distant places like Tivaouane. This year, 21 women and 1 man were trained in fruit and vegetable processing and 22 ladies attended a cutting and sewing course.

The graduation ceremony took place in the presence of important people, such as the Prefect of Pambal, representatives of 3FPT, the Head of the Social Action Department of Tivaouane, the Director of the CFP of Mont Rolland, the Imam of Pambal and religious authorities.

The village came to life, the ladies signed up for the next session and the lists for this new course were full the next day. Many are waiting to sign up for next year, God willing. A Mass was celebrated in thanksgiving to God, for the ideas and the people who helped us to organise this project.

Ngaoundéré



This year the community was happy to welcome Elisabeth for her second year of postulancy. Her presence is stimulating and challenging to our way of being and living in our Ursuline community. Elisabeth has a few apostolates at school, in the parish and in community services.

Sainte Angèle school opened its doors on September 05, 2022 for the 2022/2023 school year. This return to school was a new experience: The primary opened its doors to boys; there are 87 boys and 482 girls, making a grand total of 569 students. The kindergarten has 189 pupils. Thanks to everyone who helps us meet the many challenges we face. The presence of a lay coordinator is also an innovation that

breathes new life into our habits and attitudes.

Our diocese has just celebrated its jubilee of 40 years existence since November 19, 1982 to November 2022. With all the Christian faithful we have looked together at the past, the present and the future. November 19, 2022 was the closing mass of activities during which a young priest was ordained. What a coincidence? He is the 40th priest ordained for this diocese.

Sandiara

This year, our community has grown: we have one more member. We are pleased to welcome Marie Noël, a 2nd year applicant for her internship. As usual, the community is very dynamic. All the Sisters are at school: Sister Angélique Odette Mbaye continues her classes at Sandiara High School as an English teacher; Sister Christine Faye is director of the two schools (Sainte Angèle Merici and Saint Charbel Makhoulf); Sisters Catherine Bop and Georgette Niane hold the CP and CI classes respectively. Sister Nanré Martina Selkap and Marie Noël are in internship and will gain experience in all classes from the kindergarten to grade 6 in primary school. Apart from that, we are involved in the life of the parish (Catholic action movements and various activities.)

At this moment we are busily preparing for the patronal feast of our parish Saint Michael the Archangel. This year, the parish has chosen to pay tribute to Babe Jean Sarr, a faithful parishioner from the Soussane sector. He was fully engaged in parish life and contributed so much to it, before being overcome by illness and old age in recent years.

We thank God for the successful completion of the long-awaited drilling project for the community and the school. Work began on November 17, 2022. We hope to have a permanent water supply very soon.

We thank God for the beginning of this new school year. We are still feeling the dynamic effect of the very good results at the CFEE 2022 (Certificate of Completion of Elementary Studies) of our first generation.



We have school projects for the future. One of our concerns is the precarious situation of many families, the effects of which affect the running of schools. Commitments to meet tuition fees are often pending. For our mainly agricultural area despite a fairly satisfactory rainfall, the harvests were not good. The rains did not fall at the right time. Income is not up to expectations. Thank you to everyone who supports us in one way or another.

Thiaroye

Dear Sisters, dear friends,

It is a great joy for us to be able to come to you in this period before Christmas to give you news of our community in Thiaroye!

During the past year, Sr Elisabeth prepared hard for her exams and obtained her BAC: with her, we thank the Lord! She is currently in Burkina Faso for a year of formation at the Mater Christi Institute. It will certainly be an enriching year for her and for the mission that the Lord will entrust to her in the future.

Germaine, who was doing her postulancy with us last year, has completed her internship at the primary school of the Piarist Fathers, our neighbours. During the year, she was inspected and received compliments from the inspector: Bravo, Germaine! She has now entered the novitiate: may the Lord fill her with his grace so that she responds more and more to the call to Ursuline life!

Sr Ksawera and Sr Paola have returned from their stay in their countries of origin (Poland and Italy).

Emmanuel, who was a deacon in our parish last year, became a priest and we rejoiced with him for the gift of the Priesthood: may the Lord make him grow in the gift of self in the image of the Good Shepherd!

This year we had the joy of having with us Sr Laetitia, a French Ursuline who is on interprovincial service for a year: let us thank the Lord for this gift! The community is also composed of a postulant from Cameroon, Pauline, and a pre-postulant from Senegal, Louise. What intercultural riches: 5 sisters, 5 different countries!



Sr Bernadette, the superior of the Group, is also with us.

We were able to have some meetings with the sisters of our filial community of Lehar: these are always enriching moments!

We entrust this year which has just begun to Mary: our diocese of Dakar has proclaimed a Marian year for this 2022-23. May Mary come to visit us and make us, in her image, women of the Visitation for each person we meet!

Dear Sisters, dear friends, may our best wishes for Christmas reach each of you! May the Child Jesus come to dwell in our hearts and fill them with his Peace, the Peace of which he is the Prince! And may He also grant it to every family, people and nation! May this peace be the gift for each day of the new year that is beginning!

With our affection in the Lord

The Sisters of the community of Thiaroye



Thiès

«O Lord, our only life and our only hope»

- After many years spent in Senegal, more particularly in the community of Thiès, we had the joy of saying goodbye to Sr. Anne, who is now leaving Senegalese soil for another mission, close to her family. It was a very moving day «our Mame Anne» was surrounded by all the sisters of the group present in Senegal and the young people in formation. A blessing ritual was organised where Sister Anne was covered with a traditional loincloth and each sister pronounced a blessing by pouring a mixture of peanuts, millet and rice on her head; a sign of fecundity.

-We also have the joy of celebrating the 25 years of religious life of sister Leocadie on 10/09/22 with a solemn mass in the cathedral of St Anne of Thiès in the presence of the sisters, her relatives and friends. It was an opportunity for her to renew her vows. After the mass a festive meal was shared and a cultural evening where we danced and shared her joy.

-There is no greater joy than on the feast of St. Ursule we celebrated in a synodal spirit and of course the opening mass of the two colleges of St. Ursule and St. Gabriel presided over by the two chaplains and the mass was sung by the middle seminarians and the novices and postulants. Is this not living what our mother Angela asks of us: INSIEME, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

- We also had the joy of welcoming Louise from Sandiara as a Pre-Postulant. She entered the pre-postulancy on the feast of St. Ursula on October 21 during the prayer of vespers.

To the Lord be the glory forever!

Postulat et Noviciat

On October 1st 2022 we had the joy of celebrating with many sisters of the Groupement the entry into the postulancy of Julienne and Delphine, Cameroonian, and the novitiate of Germaine, Senegalese. It was a great joy!

On 04 October 2022, the inter-novitiate in Dakar was opened with a Eucharistic celebration, led by the novices of St Gabriel, the novices of St Charles Borromeo in Nancy and ourselves.

The inter-postulancy opened its doors on 10 October 2022 in the parish of Médina (Dakar). We meet there almost every fortnight for courses.

In addition, we prayed and communed with our companions of salvation from the CEB (ecclesial base communities) of St Paul and St Benedict, and the CVAV (Cœur Vaillant, Ame Vaillante).

Soap making, gardening, renting mattresses, cleaning and helping in the kitchen are part of our daily joys. And we had the joy of receiving one hundred (100) new mattresses. A big thank you to the Group for this. We are grateful.

Thank you for carrying in your prayers the second year novices, Clarisse, Eveline and Jeannette, who, during the month of January 2023 will be living their Great Retreat!



Merry Christmas and best wishes for the year 2023!

