

News of *Sainte Angèle d'Afrique's* Group *June 2024*

The year is drawing to a close, and every day is full of events and experiences in our lives, our communities and our places of apostolate. "Sainte Angèle d'Afrique" Group shares with you some facts about its daily life and its mission in Cameroon and Senegal. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary of the Incarnation, may her courage in daring the mission motivate our zeal to bring Christ to our brothers and sisters in humanity.

Sr Bernadette Diouf – Superior of Groupement the Group

Léhar



Our small Ursuline community of Lehar is happy to give you some news. We are two Sisters, both of whom arrived from Thiès (community and novitiate) this year: Sister Julie Germaine Gomis and Sister Jeannette Goyaha.

As our main apostolate, we serve at Dispensary of Sainte Thérèse in Dougnane. For a long time, it was Sister Ksawera, a nurse in Thiaroye, who was responsible for the two dispensaries in Thiaroye and Dougnane. We announce to you with great joy that a Senegalese Sister, Sister Julie Germaine, is now indeed a state-certified nurse! Since November 2023, a Sister has been present daily at the dispensary in Dougnane.

Major renovation work was carried out at the dispensary. We opened a large room for monitoring sickly children. An increase in malnourished children in the village was unfortunately noted and we therefore sought to remedy this problem. We take advantage of this news to thank you for your many supports and many prayers.



Another news that delights us concerns the women of Lehar. In our Center, they had the opportunity to follow training in sewing and fruit and vegetable transformation. Each of them obtained a diploma. They even received what they needed to start an activity related to their training: equipment for the transformation of fruits and vegetables or a sewing machine. Once again, we say a big thank you!

Finally, our community is continuing the henhouse project. It's a source of income that helps us a lot.

We thank you for your support.

Ngaoundéré

Since the 2022/2023 school year on October 15, 2022, the Saint Angele School has set up the "SERVIAM" club, its goal is to introduce young students to charity, sharing and compassion. With the motto: "God loves those who give with joy"!



Since then, the students have organized themselves by class under the leadership of convinced and committed teachers to make an effort of charity, sharing and compassion. This effort consists of being attentive to one's classmates, those around them and one's living environment.

Since its creation, the “Serviam” club has opened its eyes to the miseries of students, the elderly, the sick and the abandoned. The students generously visited these people, helping to bring cleanliness and order to their homes, fetching them water and wood, and offering them food for survival.



For the 2024 Lent effort, it was focused on elderly people and we called this intergenerational charity. 20 old people were targeted. A sum of 100,000 FCFA was collected with the support of a benefactress and purchases were made. The packages were made with love. On the big day, it was beautiful to see the two generations walking hand in hand. For the elderly, it was a great opportunity to go out and meet and, for the youngest, it was a very good opportunity to

meet with wisdom and share.

Sandiara

As Each year, we share with you some of the highlights of our community's events, experienced in recent months. The week of December 2th to 10th, 2023, our parish community prayed a novena in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, its patron. It's a very dense and spiritually rich week. Every day, we participate in a Eucharist for the intentions of an entity in the parish. We prayed for the parish priest and the Catholic men, for the Catholic women of the parish, for the young people, for the Catholic youth



movements, for the pastoral workers, etc. At each Mass, the entity in the spotlight was in charge of the animation. It was a very fraternal moment. We closed this novena with the solemn Mass of the patronal feast. It was an opportunity to pay special tribute to four people who

worked a lot for the parish: a couple who were very loyal to the parish, Mr. Étienne FAYE and his lady Mrs. Thérèse Diattou Diouf Faye, Mr. Nicolas DIOUF, member of the parish pastoral council and finally our Sister Angélique-Odette MBAYE who were at the beginning of the parish of Sandiara and who is working there until now. This event highlighted the consideration and gratitude that this parish has for these people who have given themselves body and soul to the establishment of a solid parish worthy of its name.



This event, called "sargal" in Wolof, coincided with the Mass of thanksgiving of our Sister Catherine BOP who was a member of the community. The community was therefore divided into two groups to accompany our two Sisters in these important events of their lives. Some went directly to Djilor with Sr.

Catherine and others stayed in Sandiara with Sr. Angélique Odette and her family in the morning, and joined Djilor in the afternoon.

On December 22, 2023, we celebrated the Children's Christmas at our Saint Angela and Saint Charbel Makhoulf schools in Sandiara. This festival, with its activities, is always an important moment for children. For many of them, it's the best time of the year: they dance, sing, let off steam and top it all off, the kids in the preschool receive gifts. It was a great joy for them. Parents accompanied their children in this atmosphere of joy and celebration. The joy of Christmas that is passed on.

On Tuesday, January 30, 2024, we celebrated the feast of St. Angela with the CEB (Basic Ecclesial Community) St. Angela Merici of Sandiara. Together, we prayed the Vespers of St. Angela and then had a very fruitful sharing. We felt, during this sharing on Saint Angela, how attached this CEB was to her patron saint Angela and how eager they are to know her better. Many questions and testimonies arose. We then shared the meal together and finished on a high note. The CEB was very touched by the presence of the Sisters.

On February 13, 2024, we also celebrated "Mardi Gras" with our two schools. Again, it was an incredible time for the children. We then saw new faces and talents in the children. We got a glimpse of their desires or dreams when they came dressed as a policeman, a Superman, a doctor, a flight attendant, a pilot, an artist, etc. So many surprises! Who knows if their dreams won't come true?

It was a moment, as always, that made us forget the tiredness. We were struck by the innocence and creativity of the children. So we entered Lent with a light heart and full of desires for changes in our lives.



In our Lent this year, we decided to pray for peace in Senegal (pre-election period). It is for this purpose that we have decided to say the Marian Rosary and the Prayer for Peace of St. Francis of Assisi every Tuesday. We continue the rosary the rest of the year to unite with all our Sisters of the institute.

Thiaroye

Our community has three sisters and two postulants and we are fortunate to share the house with the "siege" of the Groupment, in other words with Sr. Bernadette with whom we share community life. It's always a joy to read her circulars in front of her!

Our daily life is enriched by living together, like other communities, and by the two main pastoral areas where we are active every day: the dispensary and the parish which are both close to our house.



We call ourselves a "community of love", not only because most of our keychains are heart-shaped but because of the tenderness and kindness we have for each other. Common and personal prayer consolidates our unity and fraternity. They manifest around the table through sharing, often full of humor, or advice through which we support each other. Beyond this family atmosphere, we often welcome our sisters from other communities who, for various reasons, need accommodation. It's always a great



joy for us! We share what we have with the poor: our food and above all our time and our smiles.

We form a great pastoral team with the priests, both in the deanery and in the parish. We have monthly meetings to guide and organize this pastoral care and for better collaboration. In the parish, we are involved in various activities: Movements, chaplaincy of CEB (Basic Ecclesial Communities), decoration and sacristy, catechesis, liturgy, pastoral council among others!

We sometimes visit families and share the CEB prayer on Thursdays. In this collaboration with the Piarist Fathers, we actively participated in the jubilee of 25 years of religious life of the parish priest, Father Bertrand, and his vicar, Father Nazaire. It was a very nice party!

The Notre Dame d'Espérance dispensary welcomed, during the year 2023, 21,507 children, including 4,272 malnourished children who were monitored regularly throughout the year. As usual we celebrated Christmas with all our children and those around us to share our Joy.

Since 2020, on the way to the 50 years of existence of the dispensary (2025), we have been praying and gathering grace for the different teams: the founders, the staff members, the sick who are already with the Lord, the retirees and our collaborators.

Thiès

The Thiès community comprises six sisters: LEOCADIE CISSOKHO, superior of the community; KRYSTYNA MLYNARZ, mistress of novices; LAETITIA PENNEC, mathematics teacher at the Saint Ursule college; ELISABETH SIGA MBAYE, mistress of postulantes, one in first year and two in second year; ANASTASIE NDEYE THENA, second year management science student; and CATHERINE BOP, first year financial accounting student.



On January 13, 2024, the community received a pre-postulante named JOSEPHINE TINE. She comes from LEHAR. And on May 15, 2024 sister MARIE GABRIELLE LESSOUA joined us as a member of the community.

We experienced some highlights:

- **January 26, 27, 28, 2024:** two sisters, postulantes and pre-postulantes participated in World Youth Day which took place in Saint Louis (North of Senegal). For them it was a discovery and a joy to experience these strong moments. There was a huge crowd coming from all corners of Senegal and the Sub-region.
- **April, 7, 2024,** the sisters went to Diouroup, a parish in the region of Fatick (west of Senegal) for a vocation caravan. During mass, they introduced our congregation by talking a little about St Angela and the charism. After mass they met the young girls talk about about Ursuline life and vocation.
- **The community is also active** in supporting women and young people in Catholic action movements (Catholic women, legion of Mary and catechism of high school students).

As for our **Saint Ursule College**, it counts sixteen classes with 892 students. On **Saturday January 27th**, we had the joy celebrating the feast of St Angela in the college courtyard. This was attended by the students, teachers, staff, parents and formers pupils. It is a grace to celebrate together and thus become church.



March 8 each year is an opportunity for women to be celebrated, magnified and heard. It was celebrated more soberly than usual because it fell on a Friday during Lent. However, the third-year students, who had a lesson with sister LAETITIA, watched the film « Shadow Figures » which recounts the extraordinary accomplishment of three

African-american scientists in the early sixties. Three women whose work has led to major advances for NASA. As the full film lasted a little over two hours, those interested could watch the end of the film the following Tuesday after school hours. Excited about the film, the two classes gathered in the room which was crowded.

The first semester has now come to an end. Generally, the results are good. The written exams were held in February. **The last semester** has started and will continue until mid-June for the students in levels: 6, 5 and 4. As for the students of 3, they will continue classes until July. The latter have a national exam to sit in July. This year it is set for July 18.

Novitiate

At the Novitiate, we are 4 young girls: 3 novices; Germaine in 2nd year, Marie Noël and Elisabeth in 1st year we do have Louise SÈNE as a postulant under the guidance of 2 Mistresses: Sr Krystyna and Sr Elisabeth.

Every Tuesday, the novices accompanied by their mistress Sr Krystyna go to the inter-novitiate in Ponguine. Every Thursday, the postulant and her mistress Sr Elisabeth go to the inter-postulancy in Rufisque. During the week, we have various activities: making soap with the help of Sr Anastasie, helping in the kitchen, watering the garden, supervising the studies at Ste Ursula's school. We rent mattresses, buy vegetables and fruits, and we do the housework in the community on Wednesdays.

With Sister Christine Faye, we also have sessions at home studying the life of Saint Angela, the history of the Ursulines and Mary of the Incarnation. On Wednesday mornings, Fr Theodore talks to us on Human and Spiritual Formation. And we have an English course with Sr Zorica once a month.

Louise gives catechism classes on Saturdays at the Daniel Brottier School. She is also involved in the CVAV (Valiant Hearts and Valiant Souls) movement and takes catechism classes on Tuesdays at the UCAO (Western African Catholic University).

We often go to CEB (Living Church Community) on Wednesdays.

We pray every Thursday evening and Friday morning at the Novitiate and the other days in community.

