

DAUGHTERS OF *Divine Love* DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY



JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We now have a new home!

Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry is now in a new home. Our new address is:

**1601 Newcastle Avenue –or– P.O. Box 7482
Westchester, Illinois 60154**

The move was not easy, but it was exciting. I have come to love the serenity and quiet atmosphere of Compton. The smiles evoked by the deer gathered together as if holding a meeting; their hurried and confused running as we drive near them, some standing tall to dare you as if to say - *Who are you?* - and then swiftly dashing into the bush when you come close.

The wild turkeys flying and walking, gathering and dispersing. Occasionally you felt like chasing and catching one of them, but they are always faster.

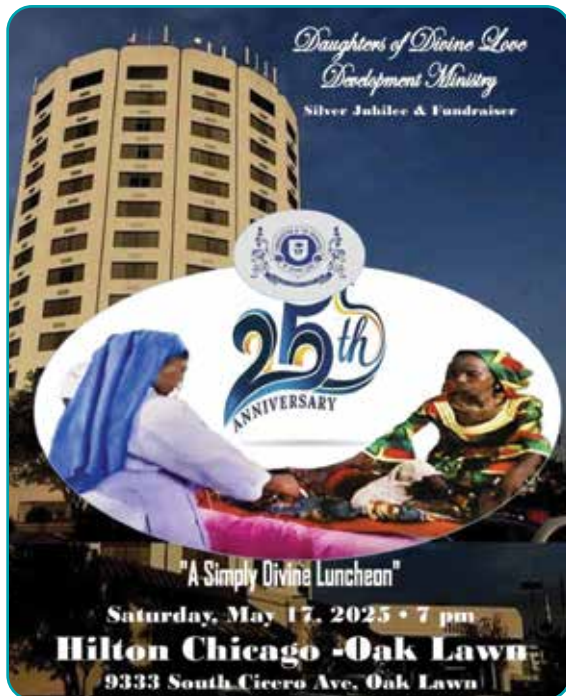
Then the certified hunter remembers the Sisters and brings them part of his prey. The Sisters prefer when it's already prepared and

ready to be cooked than when he brings the turkey for them to work on themselves. Removing the wings and butchering is no easy job. It is a great scene to sit looking out of the window and enjoy the beauty of nature with the different trees and grasses, the birds flying and whispering their melody, the snow glistening, the size of the moon and its brilliance noticed. Compton home! O Compton house, I miss you. What do I have to say about the new home? It has its own beauty which I experience and I reserve my comments for a future newsletter edition.

Thank you all, our beloved donors, benefactors, friends and families. You are a great part of why our mission of love is sustained. Kindly direct your precious gifts and mails to the new address. Remember, you are always in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in the Love of God,

Sr. MaryPaul Asoegwu, DDL
Executive Director



BENEFIT LUNCHEON

What a celebration!

This year was 25 years of our Benefit Luncheon event. Over 300 people attended. For the first time we had a Chairperson and a high table setting for the occasion. There were few speeches, dances, fashion parade, live action sale, serve yourself buffet setting, Walter's Christian quiz which gave five winners \$200 each, the DJ music, the special masters of ceremony that pulled out genuine laughter from the crowd, etc.

It was more of a celebration than a fundraising event! Thanks to all who contributed to make it a great celebration. **God bless.**

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS & SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. Mother Canonical visit to the Caribbean Islands and South America

Rev. Mother Anastasia Dike arrived at O'Hare Airport on June 9, 2025. The Daughters of Divine Love in the Chicago zone gathered both at the airport and the regional house in Northlake, Illinois to give her a hearty welcome.

Her journey since April 2025 has taken her to the world catholic women religious conference in Rome; Canonical visits to our Sisters in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, England, Wales and France.

"The Love of God impels us ..." 2nd Cor. 5:14

DDL Development Ministry | 1601 Newcastle Ave., Westchester, IL 60154 | Phone: 815-497-2192 | Website: ddldev.org

Find us on Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

SISTERS VISIT CUBA

On June 14th, Rev. Mother Anastasia Dike left the United States of America with the Regional superior of American Region, Sr. Kieran Nduagbo and the Executive Director of the Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry, Sr. MaryPaul Asoegwu.

They traveled to Cuba and were welcomed at Havana Airport by the Daughters of Divine Love Sisters that are ministering in Cuba.

We drove to the community in Limonar where the friends and representatives of the parishioners of St. Cypriano Parish Limonar were waiting for us. They briefly welcomed us at the Sister's convent with songs and snacks, and then they left for their homes.

The convent at Limonar is a work in progress. A lot of repairs and renovations are on the way. They need some funds to complete the much needed work. Mosquitoes and heat did not spare us but the Sisters joy, warm welcome and resilient spirit filled us with joy.

We received more welcome songs and appreciation talks after mass the next day at the Parish.

We also attended mass at St. Catalina Pedro Betancort Parish, where we were also welcomed with songs. We visited our convent in that Parish.

We had discussions with Bishop Juan Gabriel Diaz Ruiz, the bishop of Mantazas, and was treated with a sumptuous lunch from Fr. Augustin Zamora at the Diocesan pastoral center. We visited and sought some souvenirs in different places, including Faradero, but it was not easy.

We prayed at the scene of late Sr. Oluchi Obikwelu's accident and also visited her tomb.

On June 17th, we left very early for the airport to fly back to the USA.



Havana Airport



Havana Airport



At Limonar



At Limonar



At Faradero



We prayed at our late Sr. Oluchi's accident spot and tomb

"Do Everything in Love" 1st Cor. 16:14

DDL Development Ministry | 1601 Newcastle Ave., Westchester, IL 60154 | Phone: 815-497-2192 | Website: ddldev.org

Find us on  Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

SISTERS VISIT JAMAICA

On June 18th, straight from the airport, we went to see Bishop John Persud who is presently overseeing the dioceses of Mandeville and Montego Bay. Discussions were held, evaluations and promises were made, and appreciations were exchanged.

Then we left for Savana La Mar where the Sisters reside. Heat and mosquitoes were not friendly. But the Missionary spirit of the Sisters was unbreakable. We met with their landlord, pastors and parishioners. Each of the three Sisters is in charge of two parishes. We attended masses in two different parishes and a small welcome reception for us took place at Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Church in Negril, Jamaica. The people's appreciation of the Sisters was very moving. We thanked the Lord for His steadfast Love.

On June 20th, we drove down to our community in Kingston archdiocese. While there, like other places, we were welcomed by the friends of the Sisters and their parishioners. We met with Most Rev. Kenneth Richards, Archbishop of Kingston, pastors, and some of the people the Sisters work and minister to. St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church held a special reception and we helped in presenting awards to some very active and committed parishioners. There, Sisters were among those called upon to present awards to the students of their catechism and formation classes. Those who have been helped in different ways by our Development Ministry came and expressed their gratitude. We also visited a monument for reggae icon, Bob Marley.



Parish reception



Visit with Archbishop of Kingston

HAITI NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

In Haiti, all the catholic secondary and primary schools celebrate their existence and feast day on Ascension Day, which is celebrated by every catholic school nation-wide, said Sr. Chukwuemeka Uduji. This event was hosted by a school that is run by the Daughters of Divine Love in La Croix, Haiti. Sr. Chukwuemeka, the head and her team worked very hard for the success of the event.

Every year we prepare children and adults for Holy communion in the school and parish. This year, 11 children were prepared, and two adults who left their communion years because they did not marry in the church. Many years after their husbands died, they wanted to repent and come back to communion. We take our time to catechize them before they are admitted to receive communion again, said Sr. Chukwuemeka Uduji.



First Communion of Coeur Immaculee de Marie La Croix St. Joseph

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved..." Rom. 10:13

DDL Development Ministry | 1601 Newcastle Ave., Westchester, IL 60154 | Phone: 815-497-2192 | Website: ddldev.org

Find us on  Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

SISTERS VISIT SURINAME

We arrived at the convent in Paramaribo, Suriname at 3:51 am on June 24th. The Sisters were there with a Nigerian priest to pick us up. It was a lonely drive to their convent. The Sisters live in the same compound with the abused children they minister to. They are there to care for and love them. Some of the children have many issues to be resolved. We had lunch with Bishop Karel Choennie, the Bishop of Suriname and some of his staff.



Distributing clothing



Dancing with the residents



Lunch with the Bishop Karel Choennie

MOTHER'S WELCOME/ SEND-OFF PARTY, USA

The Sisters, especially in the Chicago zone, gathered with some of their friends, benefactors and well wishers and had a welcome/send-off gathering for Rev. Mother on July 5, 2025. In her speech, she thanked all and presented some projects that the Congregation is battling with. Mother house/generalate is still a work in progress. In the next edition, we will be bringing you news of the project.

Mother with Westchester DDL community



Cutting of the cake

IN CONCLUSION... All these core missions are poor and needy areas.

The Sisters need a lot of help to continue their presence and making positive differences in the lives of the poor and needy they minister to. Any help rendered is always very much appreciated.

No donation/gift is too small or too big. God bless you and reward your generosity.



Be a Team Member of the DDL Development Ministry

We invite you to join the Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) Congregation to be an Ambassador of God's Love:

- **By prayer** – We can always use your prayers and good wishes.
- **Send us your prayer requests** – We accept and offer prayers on behalf of anyone and any petition according to God's will for us.
- **Join the Congregation** – Young women can make the vocational choice of joining the Daughters of Divine Love Congregation; and young men can join the Sons of Divine Love Congregation.
- **Volunteer** – Serve as a Board member or join the Benefit Luncheon Committee.
- **Generous Donations** – Cash and tax-deductible donation. DDL is a 501(c)(3) designated organization, so all your charitable donations are tax-deductible. Our tax ID is 32-0458989. You can send a Zelle donation to: **815-497-2192**.
- Donors can choose specific programs or missions to apply their donations to - see a list of outstanding projects above.
- Donors can name the Daughters of Divine Love in their Wills and other Bequests.
- Suitable and unencumbered buildings to house our programs and personnel are welcome.

To reach us or donate, write to:

Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry
1601 Newcastle Ave., Westchester, IL 60154

Call: **815-497-2192** ➤ Email us: **ddldev2@aol.com**

Please visit us or donate to our Ministry at: **www.ddldev.org**

Thank you for your anticipated support. We appreciate all our friends, benefactors and donors who help us make a difference in the lives of people in the countries where our Sisters serve.

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I put my trust in you." Ps. 143:8

DDL Development Ministry | 1601 Newcastle Ave., Westchester, IL 60154 | Phone: 815-497-2192 | Website: ddldev.org

Find us on Daughters of Divine Love Development Ministry