



OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Already Here

Unbelievable! Advent and Christmas are already at the corner. How time flies. On Sunday, November 9, 2025, Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, we had the first snow in our new home in Westchester, IL. Few trees are around and some have changed colors but their awesomeness as God's gift of beauty are less imposing and not as breathtaking as in our old home in Compton, IL. The difference between the farm area and the city is very clear on this. What I most enjoy here is that I can work across the road and I am in the Divine Infant Church where the priests say masses five times a week.



Beloved donors, friends, benefactors and family, I want to let you know that Divine Infant Church and the Divine Providence Church, both making up Mary, Mother of Divine Grace Parish are where the staff of the Development Ministry lift you up in prayer every day

in masses and meditations. May our good and loving Lord continue to keep you alive, healthy and peaceful. May He protect you and bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in the Love of God,

Sr. MaryPaul Asoegwu, DDL
Executive Director

WATER WELL

The water well project in Obukpa has just been completed. This water well will serve nursery/primary schools, the convent and the villagers around. See their joy as the water rushed out.



FULFILLING THE MANDATE

Let's go together again to different countries and help feed the poor and needy.

Every Christmas the Sisters do their best to bring special joy to the poor and needy in the areas they minister. This year, we targeted 100 people in each of these countries - Gabon, Kenya, Jamaica, Haiti, Chad, and Nigeria. Each house will get \$25 for clothing, a two kilo bag of rice, one pound of meat, and ingredients for cooking.

Our experience is that this project gives great joy to these deserved children of God. They look forward to it. The Sisters who minister in these poor areas are always overwhelmed with joy in seeing the joys in the faces of those they serve. They also get a sense of fulfillment that they are able to do something for these people during the Christmas and New Year season. As I see the photos of the smiles on their faces during the distributions of these items, and hear their songs, and prayers, my heart is lifted up and I thank God for His blessings.

I want to let you realize that it is your donation that causes this ripple effect of joy and Thanksgiving. Whether you have been donating or this will be your first time, it is God's Grace moving you to join the bandwagon of going to the whole world to share the Good News of the birth of Christ.

Please know that no amount is too small or too big. Any amount you are inspired to donate is very welcome and highly appreciated.

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

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PRIVILEGE AND GOD'S FAVORS TOOK US TO PILGRIMAGE

Marilyn, in honor of late Fr. John, was gracious to pay for Srs. Victoria Oleka and myself, Sr. MaryPaul Asoegwu, to go on pilgrimage to Italy. Luckily, the Good Shepherd Travel Agency who planned the pilgrimage set it from October 6 to 16, 2025. Unknowingly to them, it fell during the period of the Jubilee for the Religious. We attended masses said by Pope Leo the XIV twice. One of the pilgrims from our group held up a poster saying: "Pope Leo XIV favorite childhood candy" and had a box of wrapped marshmallows. Funny enough, that drew the Pope's attention and he smiled as he passed by in his Pope mobile. The lady threw the box and one of the men following the Pope picked it up and they continued without stopping. We laughed and laughed but were a bit disappointed because he did not stop for he was really close.

The pilgrimage took us to all the four basilicas and more in Rome. The Feast of the Dedication of John Lateran Basilica brought good memories, knowing I was in this Basilica last month. We went to the Abbeys of Saints Benedict and Scholastic in Monte Casino; Padre Pio in San Giovanni, Rotondo; St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare; Lanciano (the place of the First Eucharistic Miracle), and Orvieto (the place of the Second Eucharistic Miracle).

*Here we are at St Peter's Square (see two photos below - right). **First photo** - The Daughters of Divine Love after the vigil service. These are students/Sisters ministering from all over the world. **Second photo** - The Sisters while waiting for Pope Leo XIV for mass. We were honored to have our Superior General, Rev. Mother Anastasia Dike with us. She is the President of the National Conference of Women Religious in Nigeria and was there in that capacity to represent them. In the first photo, she is in the middle with the white habit; and in the second, she's seated third in the first row.*



**First Eucharist
Miracle,
Lanciano, Italy**

In almost all the locations, people were jam-packed with long stretches of lines to see the sacred places. It was moving and faith up-lifting. We spent the trip trekking, running to meet the group, attending Masses, praying rosaries, changing beds, tasting Italian pasta dishes and wine, and receiving many blessings; it was hectic, but joyous. It was clear that we were there as pilgrims and not as tourists.

You were surely in my prayers in most

of these places. Sr. Vick did the same. In some places, we deliberately prayed together for our donors.



Saint Carlo Acutis



The Good Shepherd Travel Pilgrimage



St. Peter's Square



Pope Leo XIV Mass

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

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BENEFIT LUNCHEON 2026

Our annual event this year moves to Atlantis Banquets in Arlington Heights, IL. Come and experience this unique place.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 11 am to 4pm. Please mark your calendar. Those of you who were with us at Hilton Hotel this year are still talking of their experience. Don't miss out next year or wait to be told. Better come and experience the event yourself. Surely you will get more than your \$75 ticket. Many who believe and know our mission do not hesitate to sponsor this event.



Scan to purchase luncheon tickets.

NO JOKE, IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS

Who Will Bell the Cat?

The Development Ministry and the DDL American Region are having a joint fundraising. A place to call home, especially for our aged and sick Sisters, is long overdue. But there is great hope.

Our joint effort is expected to raise \$400k towards the completion of this project. With your help, we will soon be there.



Refectory as of October 2025

Other regions/institutions of the congregation have been assigned their own goals. Together, the congregation is bent by the power of the Almighty God via generous donors like you to bring this Motherhouse project, especially the sections of the elderly, sick and administration, to a very successful conclusion by the end of 2026.

Please do not hesitate to donate what you can. Every dollar helps. We count on you our donors.

Thanks and God bless.

Chapel as of October 2025



DISTRIBUTION OF WATER FILTERS

On October 6, 2025, Sr. Bernardine Ozuah led a group of Sisters who distributed 160 water filters to the women from around Ikem area, where clean water is a problem. Our Development Ministry through Water for Women made this life-saving project possible.

We thank God for His blessings.

HURRICANE MELISSA STRUCK OUR SISTERS IN JAMAICA

As we thank God for the many lives spared during Hurricane Melissa, we also hold in prayer all those who were affected in any way.

Our Sisters in the Diocese of Montego Bay suffered damage to the back of their house. Thanks be to God our generous donors have helped repair the damage. Part of the funds also helped feed the poor and needy. *May God bless them abundantly.*



Scan to donate to our Sisters in Jamaica.

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

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ANNIVERSARIES

Perpetual vows - Nkechi Ezugha from American Region was one of the 16 who made their final vows on September 6, 2025.

Twenty-five members of the Daughters of Divine Love celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their First Religious Profession September 20, 2025.

Only Sr. Chizoba Eke is alive in her set to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their First Religious Profession. Late Srs. Udochukwu Odoemena and Immaculata Nwagbara were members of this set who served in this American Region. May they Rest In Peace. Amen.

DEATHS

Srs. Jane Frances Chioke (72 years) and Ann Nwosu (52 years) were buried on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025. Among the many accomplishments of Sr. Jane Frances was the foundation of our Germany Region. These two Sisters were rare gems. May they rest in perfect peace with their beloved spouses.



May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in perfect peace.

YEAR-END GIVING

Blessings! Thank you again for your kindness toward our community. As we approach the end of the year and you are deciding on year-end charitable gifts, I ask that you keep our community in mind. Your support helps us continue our mission of serving the Church and the people entrusted to us.

There's no pressure at all. I'm simply inviting you to consider whether our work fits into your giving plans this year. And if you have any questions about what your support makes possible, I'd be happy to share more.

To make a gift, simply scan the QR code.



WE'RE UPDATING OUR RECORDS

To improve efficiency and reduce mailing costs, we are transitioning many of our communications to email. Every dollar we save on printing and postage is a dollar we can put directly into our mission. Moving to email also helps us reduce paper waste and keep our communication eco-friendly. Please provide your email address and mailing address by scanning the QR code, so we can continue to keep you informed.



Scan to provide us with contact information.

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

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