



## DIVINE FACE ORGANIZATION (Concern for the needy)

Newsletter – May 23, 2005

Dear Friend of the Divine Face,

Honor to the Divine Face! I send you, once again, warmest greetings from the lowly but grateful hearts that you have kept alive and warm by your generosity in my homeland far away in Nigeria. Assuredly you are making the Gospel real in the lives and families of many.

### THANKSGIVING

Within the past year, I was able to see more of the benevolence of our God. Toward the end of my stay in the U.S. last year, I met one young lady, Miss Angela Stadelman, just graduated from college, who volunteered enthusiastically to go to Nigeria and help us out in our school. I could hardly believe it was true until she actually arrived in Nigeria on October 5, 2004. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Denning put in a lot to prepare her for the trip. On her arrival, however, she found that things and conditions were much different from what she thought. Consequently her stay lasted only a couple of months. But while she was there, her presence attracted some attention to our village school and environment, as she was seen with the students at public ceremonies. She attracted to us the visit of Fr. Darin May, a priest from the U. S., from Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Scott, Kansas. He very much delighted us, particularly the students as he celebrated Mass for them every day for one week. I brought he and Angela to visit with our Bishop. He was very happy to see them. Apparently, seeing them and remembering the visit last year made by Mr. Paul Denning and Miss Sandra Avila must have inspired my Bishop with a lot of confidence **in the U. S. support for Our Mother of Special Graces Institution, Ihiteafoukwu, Nigeria**. He decided to send me there as a full time missionary. According to the most recent placement of priests in the diocese that took effect on February 11, this year, I am posted to our school full time on a Special Apostolate. Dear brothers and sisters, your generous fidelity has yielded a missionary whose official responsibility is to see that your efforts are effectively channeled to yield the desired results. **Please pray for me to be a trustworthy steward of both your donations and above all of the opportunity given by God.**

I hope the past year has been good for you as well. But if there has been any sad event do accept my consolation. May our Blessed Mother, comforter of the afflicted, sooth your pain and bring you healing from her divine Son.

### PROGRESS

On the progress chart, I am very happy to record that the water well is now finished and is supplying water enough to the relief of the school children and students, the staff, as well as the villagers in the neighbourhood. In this regard, many thanks are due to an ever-generous backbone of our Organization here in the U. S. The last (third) floor of the storied building has now been roofed. About half of it has its inside plastered and already being used as dormitory for the boys. There are two adjoining rooms for two teachers who are their supervisors. We were able, with your help, to sponsor the trip of the volunteer "missionary" to and from Nigeria. We bought a piece of property for the purpose of providing a playground for the students and pupils. But it is not enough yet. We have hired five more teachers for the high school, including one who teaches computer science. I wish we could get a music teacher! The high school is on the threshold of being accredited for the Senior Secondary School Certificate exams. Some very generous and indispensable foundation pillars of the Divine Face Organization have broken the spell on the school bus! They have donated a brand new 4/4 heavy duty Chevy truck as a multi-purpose vehicle for the school. Likewise two other all-time big supporters holding up the Divine Face Organization's life and work funded the building of a trailer to go with the truck. The diocese of Fort Worth and Nolan High School also donated tons of books to us. Several others donated two electric generators. May God bless all of you as loyal stewards who persevere to meet the needs of all we serve.

### CHALLENGES

**Top on my mind among the challenges of the moment is the quality of life – spiritual, social and academic – of our institution** now that I have it entrusted to me by God through our Bishop. You have all these years supplied the much - needed divine help for what we have achieved so far. Up till now we have operated our charity with permission. Now we have a **commission from the Church to greater heights!** You now have a missionary officially put in the front line. Please continue to make the ground solid under his feet.

### Science Laboratories

We are still far from having the facilities for the science laboratories. The parents of the students taxed themselves to help fund the erection the laboratory building. The amount they have collected was only able to set the foundation and bring a few bricks up from the foundation trench to ground level. We the members of the Divine Face Organization in Nigeria tried to organize a fund raising ceremony to get the laboratories and a dormitory for the girls built before the in-coming students arrive in September this year. The total sum we got was the equivalent of \$467.00, hardly worth all that went into the preparation for it and its execution. As an emergency measure for the government inspection of our school which must be done this year in order to approve it for the final exams next year, we intend to use two classrooms to serve as laboratories. Hopefully that will be acceptable, given the fact that we can show them that we have started a laboratory building. But we still need the science equipment. Please, if you can find us some or know how we can get some soon, preferably before we ship the truck and trailer on June 11, 2005.

### Playground

You may recall from my communication last year, that our government insists that the school should have at least a field for games and sports. Though we have purchased a small piece of property near the school for this purpose, it is only about ¼ of the required soccer field size.

### Hostel and Dinning Hall Accommodation

The hope we had last year for hostel accommodation for the boys has been realized. That was really a feat made possible only because you have been so generous. **This year, our anxiety over where the girls will live has become a fever!** Not seeing any ray of hope at all, we have decided to put a partition in the examination hall being currently used also as dinning hall. Part of it we intend to use as provisional girls' hostel. The other part will continue to serve as dinning hall, even though it will not be large enough even for a third of the students. The plan is to have the students eat in shifts. And that is going to entail some loss of time and order especially with those teenagers. **SOS!**

### CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN A GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OF CORRUPTION

That the economy of Nigeria is rotten is no news. It is certainly sad to know that the cost of living for the ordinary citizen, which I said last year had tripled, has now gone off the scale. And yet rather than new jobs being available those who were employed are losing their jobs. The 'no payment of salaries

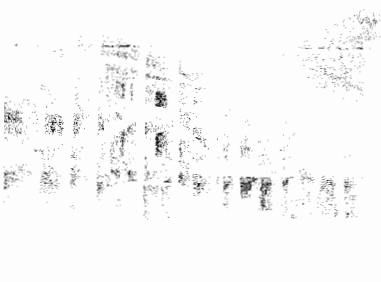
syndrome' has assumed a new malignant dimension. Many workers, especially teachers have to forfeit some part of their salary before their checks are made available to them. And what that spells is more hardship especially for the poor and the needy that are our major concern. It pains me to see some of our students drop out because their parents can no longer afford even the little we ask for as school fees. We cannot help but let them go because we are already financially disbalanced. How I have often wished they did not have to go! There is still a deeper grief in the hearts of the members of our Organization arising from the fact that most of our attention is taken by the problems of the school which more often than not are financially overwhelming. Yet the need for the basic necessities of life abounds! Oh!

As I said earlier on, we are preparing to ship the truck and the trailer. Please see if you have any access to school supplies like usable computers, a sizeable copying machine that can stand hours of work. We need this mainly for producing question papers for tests, and these can run into some thousands of pages. We need mathematical instruments (teachers' sizes), some microscopes, beakers, Bunsen burners, flasks, etc. If you also have a treadmill that you are no longer using, that can help me get some needed exercise to keep alert. You know what? I will be 60 on November 22, this year! So I need to keep these joints working, don't I, before they get me down. How about that! Please call Paul Denning at (817) 548-7688 if you have any or some of the above.

**CONCLUSION**

May God our loving and caring Father, whose image you are reflecting to those disadvantaged and deprived because they are weak, continue to bless you and your willingness to share your gifts, and make those gifts increase. I am here till August 7, 2004. As usual, please feel free to call me, if you wish, at 817-467-7440. I hope you are as happy as most people are with the glorious conclusion of the life of Pope John Paul the Great and with the gift from God to His Church of a successor to Pope John Paul in the person of Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican theologian for more than 25 years. We love him and pray for him.

And again, how I wish you could imagine what fruit of happiness that you chosen and beloved of God have produced and are producing among my people whose lives you have touched. If only you could see the warm and heart-warming smiles on those young and tender faces illumined by bright eyes looking into the future with a confident determination that you are keeping alive! For all these and more, I say, God bless you.



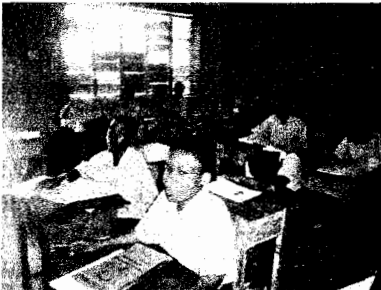
*Academic/Boy's dormitory bldg.*



*Angela Stadelman*



*Fr. Darin May*



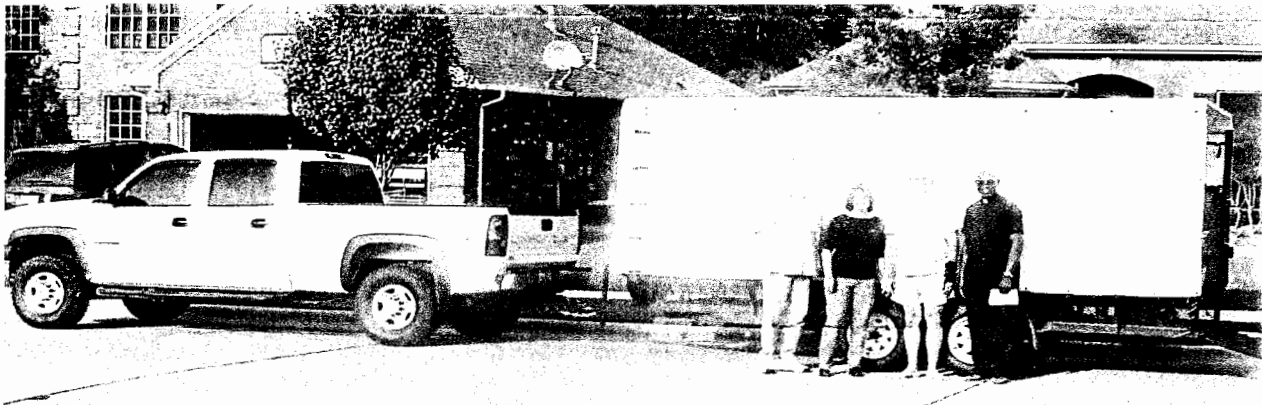
*Secondary students at work*



*Diocesan Children's Day*



*Science laboratory building underway*



Sincerely yours as always in His Image,

Rev. Fr. Akannamdi Gerard Mary Anyanwu (Chief Steward).