

Joy of My Vocation Personal Reflection

'The Holy Spirit will guide you'

Written by Sister M. Theodozia Fortunata Namuddu

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix

In celebration of the Year for Consecrated Life, we begin a series of articles told by religious sisters and religious order priests and brothers, who will share the joy of their vocation. Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix M. Theodozia Fortunata Namuddu, Blessed Trinity Parish, Ocala, shares her story.

I am from Uganda. Two of my aunts were sisters. A maternal aunt was a sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Redempatrix, and a paternal aunt was in another congregation. I enjoyed seeing them when they were visiting us. Pre-Vatican they were not allowed to come and visit us, but when the Second Vatican Council opened up, they started to come and visit us. I said I wanted to join them.

I went to Catholic school where the sisters taught. I was in sixth grade when I heard my first call. After high school, I joined the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Redempatrix. After I professed my first vows, I was assigned to a hospital to be an assistant in the pharmacy. I continued to study and eventually graduated as a registered nurse. I then worked as a health care coordinator and also studied midwifery.

I was busy.

I was working when the Mother Superior came to me and said they need missionaries overseas and I needed to go. I asked, "Where and for how many years?" That was the question. She said the mission was in Florida, the contract was for three years and we would see after that.

It has been 14 years. We all came in August 2000. (Editor's note: Sister Namuddu was also joined by Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix Concepta Najjemba and Juliet Nakalema in this mission.)

For me, I know in my heart, wherever my congregation puts me, God wanted me to be there. I was at a retreat and there was a priest who said, "Whenever they move you from one place and put you in another place, your time here with blessings is done. Even if you stay here, you will be dry."

That stuck in my mind. Even now, if they say to move, I will go. So I enjoy wherever they put me. I enjoy nursing, of course. I enjoy taking care of the sick. And now I am working in Ocala at Blessed Trinity Catholic School, taking care of the kids. I enjoy their stories. I also work with the elderly in the adult daycare at Blessed Trinity.

It was a challenge to come into a country where I didn't know how I would do.

What I have found is if you place everything in God's hands, the Holy Spirit will guide you.

Joy of My Vocation Details

Name: Sister M. Theodozia Fortunata Namuddu

Age: 60

Place of Birth: Kisubi, Uganda

Date of Professed Vows: January 4, 1989

Description of Religious Order: Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix (I.H.M.R.): In love we restore God's Glory in the world through prayer and work, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix, in order that people know, love and remain in Jesus the Eucharist. We respond creatively and effectively to the needs of the people in the world and the inner life of the members of the Institute.