

RELOCATION OF THE QUEEN OF PEACE REGION NOVITIATE

24th April 2021 marks a special event in the history of the Queen of Peace Region when the Novitiate relocated from South Africa to the Diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe. The re-opening of the Formation house again in Mutare was welcomed by the Bishop Paul Horan and all the people in the Parish and the community around who were ministered to by the sisters over the past years. This special day was marked by the admission into the Novitiate of Rutendo Chenjera and Caroline Mugarandega. The bishop graced the day by celebrating the mass and blessing of the house and all that had been planned for this day went well.

The Parish Priest of St Martins Florida, parishioners and the people in the neighbourhood were delighted with the returning of the Sisters and they welcomed them back with joy. Currently the sisters are involved in parish work, by administering Holy communion to the sick, teaching catechism and working with the Missionary Childhood.

RECEPTION INTO THE NOVITIATE

Rutendo Chenjera

What a wonderful day, being supported and strengthened by the Bishop, it's a blessing. On April 24 2021, I was received as a novice into the congregation of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. I felt blessed by the presence of Bishop Paul Horan of the Diocese of Mutare who was the main celebrant for the mass with the parish priest and a Deacon. Other people who were there were the sisters from Murambinda and St Anne's communities. Before the reception, standing at the mirror looking at myself in a navy blue dress was a great motivation. During mass at the declaration of intent in giving my whole being to the Blessed Virgin Mary in following Christ closely I felt at peace. After the homily I consecrated myself to Our Lady, a medal of Our Lady of good Counsel was presented to me and the Constitution. After mass the convent was blessed by the Bishop to be the novitiate. Then we had some group photos taken, which was followed by lunch. After that people went back to their communities. By this I thank God for giving me this special time to do his will in continuing discerning my vocation to become a religious.

Caroline Mugarandega

This special occasion was so great to me; I was jovial from the day it was announced that the reception will take place on the 24th of April 2021 I could not wait for that day. The response from Sr. Ellen gave me a fair idea and vision of what the day was going to be.

A night before the reception I dreamt about the reception day already singing the Magnificat. My dream was fulfilled on the 24th when we sang it as a recessional hymn. It was a blessed day; I was happy to be given another opportunity to discern my vocation in the Congregation of The Sisters of the Little Company of Mary in the second stage of initial formation. I was enthusiastic to consecrate myself to the Blessed Virgin Mary and that wish of mine was fulfilled. This day reminded me about the impact of the charism of the Congregation which is to pray for the sick, suffering and the dying, since I heard that in the Novitiate most of the time is spent in prayer. I felt honored by the presence of the Bishop of Mutare Diocese Rt. Rev Paul Horan O. Carm who was the main celebrant on this

special day. When I looked at myself in the mirror, I felt that I was looking fabulous in my blue dress before other people told me I saw myself as the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was given the Constitution of the congregation and a medal of Our Lady of Good Counsel was placed around my neck. I felt blessed by the gift of Christ himself in the Eucharist. I want to express my sincere gratitude to all people who made this day a success, the Sisters, the Bishop, the Parish Priest and the Deacon. May God shower abundantly blessings to them all.

