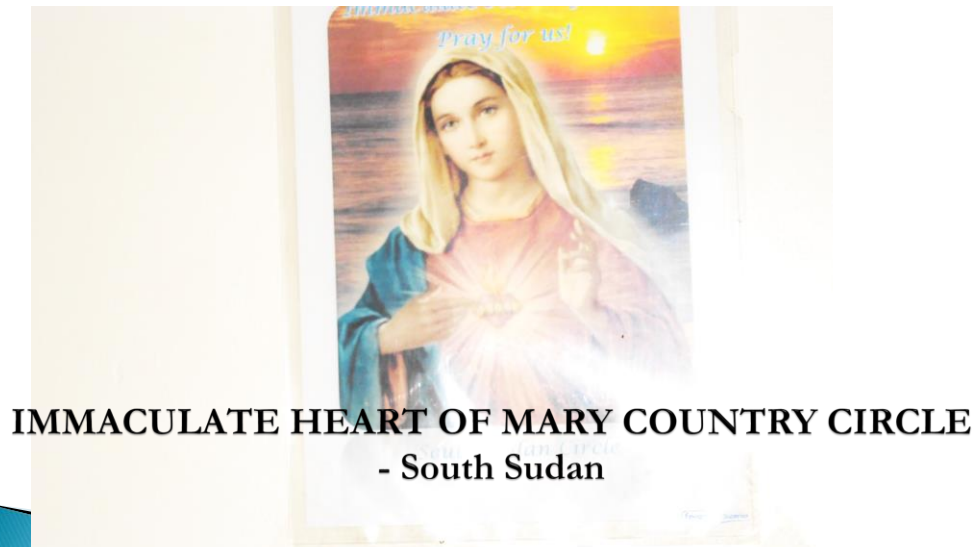




We asked Bahkita and Helen to prepare their experience of the last 5 years using the same questions as the rest of Mary of the Angels Circle.

Helen and Bahkita prepared the following:

1. MOMENTS OF BLESSINGS

What do we see as the **blessings** of our country circle these past four years?

- ❖ Living and ministering in a challenging and yet a beautiful country.
- ❖ Living in a well secured home.
- ❖ Having three members in the community.



- ❖ Being involved in **different ministries** which enabled us to transform the lives of people.



- ❖ Having other **Religious groups and clergy** in the diocese and country who show us their support.



- ❖ Having **workers, families, friends and co-workers** who support and care for our welfare.



- ❖ Having a South Sudanese sister in the community.
- ❖ Having a **young woman** who is very much interested in joining our Institute.

Emilia



Sr Bakhita Francis



We discussed formation and vocation promotion with Bakhita, Mary and Helen at Visitation and we came to understanding that as MFIC we are not able to provide formation personal and they should begin investing collaboration with other religious communities.

- ❖ Being part of the **lively liturgical celebrations.**



What do we see as the **blessings** of the Mary of the Angels Circle these past few years?

- ❖ Having sisters who understood our situation and issues when we shared with them at the **General Visitation in Braintree.**



- ❖ Having the sisters who are concerned about our wellbeing especially our health issues.
- ❖ Having a home to go to for vacations.
- ❖ Bakhita having a community in that Circle which she calls home.



2. CHALLENGES

What we understand to have been the **key challenges** facing our country circle?

- ❖ Having only **two members** in the community since late 2019.



Mary is no longer in So Sudan. And Bahkita has spent a great deal of time these last years away from the community involved in family issues.

- ❖ The ongoing violence in the country constantly forced us to move around searching for secure places to use as a temporary home.

2016 war displaces people – as well as us



- ❖ The fluctuation of hard currency which affect the economy of the country.
- ❖ The difficulty of communication.
- ❖ COVID-19. lock down affects the normality of life.
- ❖ Having no place for retreats or other spiritual exercises.
- ❖ Having no clear direction of our future mission & vocations in South Sudan.



❖ Adjusting to living within the Solidarity Compound



**Solidarity Staff House -
August 2017 to 2021**

What do we understand to have been the **key challenges** facing Mary of the Angels Circle?

- ❖ Having to sell Braintree convent and No. 4 Convent Lane.
Lurgan will now be our home for vacations.
- ❖ Number of active sisters are declining.



3. CHANGES

What **changes** have we noted in the life of our Country Circle during this same period?

- ❖ Departure of Sr. Mary Paropet returning to Papua New Guinea made us adapt to the life of having two in the community.

Lighting fire to cook



Watering plants in dry season



- ❖ In October 2021, the departure of Sr. Helen Neini returning to Papua New Guinea, will change the plans we have for our mission here in South Sudan.



- ❖ COVID-19. demands a lot of changes in community life, prayer services, our ministry programs and travel to places.

4. THE FUTURE

Looking towards the **future**, what sense do we have of what God is asking of us in our **country circle**?

- ❖ A need to still have a **MFIC presence** in South Sudan or any other African Country.
- ❖ The greatest needs are in the areas of **Pastoral Ministry** – these include Trauma Healing, Empowerment of women & youth, Peace building and Evangelization in all areas.
- ❖ Hope to establish a **Secular Franciscan Group** in South Sudan, especially in the diocese of Tombura/Yambio.

Looking towards the **future**, what sense do we have of what God is asking of **the Institute**?

- ❖ To have positive attitude to **promoting vocations** in Africa and the Middle East.



- ❖ To **encourage active sisters** in the Institute to venture out to foreign missions rather than concentrate on our own Governance Circles only or concentrate on preparing ourselves to retire or to die out.
- ❖ The General Leadership Team **requested sisters for a short-term mission** experience in South Sudan. Unfortunately, **no sister responded**.





Thank you for watching and we hope that you have learned something about the life of South Sudan through this PowerPoint Presentation.

