

Sister to Sister

AAC:SS – A network of six sub-Saharan countries that supports educational and training programs for women religious who are caregivers to those experiencing extreme poverty.

All-Africa Conference: Sister to Sister Vision and Mission

Our Vision

We are women religious and partners who collaborate globally to enhance our capacity as leaders in church and society and to improve the lives of others.

Our Mission

Guided by our Vision and commitment to the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, AAC:SS supports the initiatives of women religious in sub-Saharan Africa that respond to emerging needs and educates and inspires all people to share responsibility for a world in need of healing and love.

We will realize our Vision and Mission by responding to needs identified by the Sisters in Africa and work together to create strategic initiatives that foster transformative leadership for the common good.

AAC:SS is active in Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Board of Trustees celebrates AAC:SS at spring meeting

Spring was in full bloom on the grounds of the St. Raphaela Center in Haverford PA, where the Board of All Africa Conference: Sister to Sister met May 4 and 5. The surrounding beauty was reflective of the spirit within.

"It was a wonderful gathering," said Board chair Jan Attridge. "We had lively conversation and exchange of ideas, thoughtful input about our current efforts and future plans, and affirming fellowship through the sharing of worship, meals, conversation and laughter. It was truly a blessing to be together."

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AAC:SS Board and volunteer staff members at the Spring 2023 meeting. Seated, left to right: S. Darlene Jacobs, MM, S. Ann McGovern, RSM, S. Eneless Chimballi, SBVM, S. Mildred Rossiter, RSM (volunteer), Marjorie Hale (volunteer). Standing, left to right: Jane Oates, Fr. Jim Gardiner, SA, S. Joanne Whitaker, RSM (volunteer), S. Rosemary Jeffries, RSM, S. Betty Scanlon, RSM, S. Margaret Farley, RSM, Jan Attridge, S. Kathy Curnyn, RSM (volunteer). Zooming from Uganda: S. Lydia Bwor, LSMIG. See page 4 for a current list of AAC:SS Board members.

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Spring meeting *(continued from page 1)*

A highlight of the gathering was a Zoom meeting with the AAC:SS coordinating team in Africa. Despite some technology challenges in their home countries, the chairs were able to provide a first-hand account of recent, current, and planned activities – all designed to bring AAC:SS programs to other sisters.

AAC:SS co-founder Margaret Farley, RSM becomes first Trustee Emeritus

Sister Margaret Farley, RSM, PhD, has been named the AAC:SS Board's first Trustee Emeritus.

The seeds for AAC:SS were planted in 2000, when Sister Margaret, a renowned author and professor of Theology at Yale University, was asked to participate in a White House Summit on World AIDS Day. From there she assembled a group to explore what could be done to help sisters in Africa navigate the fears, stigma, health care implications, and educational needs related to HIV/AIDS. The answer was the birth of AAC:SS with co-founder Sister Eileen Hogan, RSM.

More than 20 years later, the AAC:SS model Sister Margaret and Sister Eileen created in response to HIV/AIDS has been replicated to address a broad range of issues sisters encounter in their ministries and professions. Nearly 7,000 women religious in Africa have attended workshops, conferences, seminars, and degreed programs designed to equip them for unique challenges in the communities where they live and serve.

Sister Margaret served as co-director of AAC:SS from 2002 until 2016 and continued as a consultant. She was a founding member of the Board when AAC:SS became an incorporated nonprofit in 2017. The recent gathering gave Board members a chance to celebrate Sister Margaret's legacy.

Chair Jan Attridge delivered a Board resolution honoring Sister Margaret for her inspiration and support of AAC:SS, commitment to the Global Church, service to the Board of Trustees, and ongoing consultation.

The resolution concluded, "This Board hereby honors Margaret Farley, RSM, PhD, and her Religious Community, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, for their support of Sister to Sister and for their inspiring commitment to the World Church."



Trustee Emeritus S. Margaret Farley, RSM (left) with S. Betty Scanlon, RSM, newest member of the AAC:SS board.

Two new members join AAC:SS Board

Sister Elizabeth Scanlon, RSM and Sister Mary Lydia Apili Bwor, Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Gulu (LSMIG), have joined the AAC:SS Board of Trustees.

Sister Betty has held numerous leadership positions in health care, education, and community development settings – both locally (Philadelphia, PA) and globally. *(continued on page 3)*

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New Board members *(continued from page 2)*

In her current role as Regional Ministry Director for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sister Betty provides resources and a wealth of experience to leaders of several Mercy-sponsored ministries to further the mission of mercy in the world.

An educator by profession, Sister Lydia (pictured on page 1) currently serves as Secretary-General for the Association of the Religious in Uganda (ARU). She has been a leader in helping to establish the Counseling Hub in Uganda – a partnership between AAC:SS and ARU.

“Lydia brings leadership and additional perspective on the day-to-day needs of the sisters in Africa—input that is critical to our efforts. Betty will be reorganizing and chairing our development committee, which will help us continue to grow our resources and deliver meaningful programs. I am so grateful for their willingness to serve. They are dynamic additions to our Board,” said AAC:SS Executive Director Rosemary Jeffries, RSM.

University of Notre Dame honors AAC:SS Senior Program Officer Eneless Chimbali

Eneless Chimbali, SMBV, Senior Program Officer for AAC:SS, has been awarded The Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Founder’s Award by the Mendoza School of Business at The University of Notre Dame. Sister Eneless recently graduated from Notre Dame with a master’s degree in Non-profit Administration (MNA).

In her award letter from the University, Sister Eneless was commended as “the MNA student best personifying the core characteristics amongst his/her classmates” and recognized for her “commitment to Servant Heart and Business Mind.”

Sister Eneless was nominated by program faculty. Her award letter also said, “Many of your professors spoke highly of your focus on making sure that all of your classmates were benefitting and succeeding, as well as your intellect and the respect and collegiality you have shown inside and outside the classroom. The selection committee highlighted your clear commitment to bringing your passion and expertise to the community you serve.”

With the same intellect, respect, and collegiality noted by Notre Dame, Sister Eneless works tirelessly to support sisters in Africa and make sure they are benefitting and succeeding. The AAC:SS team could not be more proud of her accomplishments and award.



Board chair Jan Attridge congratulates Sister Eneless for her distinguished accomplishments at the University of Notre Dame.

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For details on giving and underwriting
opportunities, please contact me or go to
www.allafrica-sistertosister.org.

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