



Jerry Cebulski
African Disability Foundation Inc.
"Disability does not mean inability"



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JMJ

"Year of St. Joseph"

Spring 2021

Dearly Beloved Co-Missionaries,

I write today to bring you up to date on what is going on in our part of the world. I need not tell you that our world is becoming more and more chaotic and that God is requesting more and more prayers and kindnesses from each of us.



First of all, let me remind you that Mother's Day falls on May 9th this year. Without a doubt, I know that Angie Cebulski would deeply appreciate your continued generous gifts of cards and notes as she and Sister Sponsa have been mothers to thousands throughout the world. Cards may be sent to Angie, in care of her daughter Joann, at: [Angie Cebulski, c/o Joann Cebulski, 3378 E. Main Street, College Park, GA 30337](#). Every card, note and prayer that you extend for her recovery is read to her and she deeply appreciates each one of you. Angie is now in a wheelchair and every day her speech continues to improve. Her goal is to soon be able to sit out in the fresh air of Georgia and look at the beautiful flowers and watch the birds coming and going from their nests. Angie is definitely NOT giving up or declining. A Blessed Mother's Day to every single one of you from the JCADF staff and all of Sister Sponsa's children.

Little Charles, who we introduced you to in the last newsletter, has completed Phase One of his chemotherapy in an effort to reduce a tumor located behind his left eye which has destroyed his vision. The permanently damaged eye will be removed and hopefully, his remaining vision will be preserved. He was given six weeks off to recover and Phase Two was supposed to begin after. Unfortunately, his recent blood test results have not been good, so Phase Two has been paused until his blood tests show an improvement. We have requested that the oncologist in charge of Charles' case do an immediate consultation with St. Jude's Research Center in Memphis, TN. Charles' doctors have said they will contact the hospital in the next two days, but we have our doubts. So, please keep praying. We need a miracle!

The saddest part is that just after the last newsletter was mailed to you, Charles' mother walked out of the hospital and abandoned him. Fortunately, on the admissions record, his grandmother was listed. She was contacted and when she was questioned about her daughter's whereabouts, she replied, "Well, she deserves a life



too.” So now, Granny stays at the hospital with Charles but she too, is tired of spending so much time with this chatty little child. The doctors and nurses have made an extra effort to make a fuss over Charles and he has loved every minute of it! Lovetta and Henry go every day to check on him and if they don’t show up for a day, Lovetta says that he really hollers at her. The other day she found out why he is getting so much attention from the hospital staff. One of the nurses told her that he is the first child to live through Phase One of the chemotherapy. Lovetta was horrified and I cannot even begin to explain how we are feeling. Charles belongs to God and to every one of us. He needs the love, care and attention, especially now when he is so sick. Grandma is being watched like a hawk and we pray that she does not leave him. He has just been put in isolation in a private room because his immunity is so low. We need that miracle!



The other day while Lovetta was getting ready to go to classes, someone knocked at her door. When she opened it, there stood a young woman and a very young man holding three extremely tiny babies. Another set of triplets – this time, two boys and one girl. Of course, they were asking for help. After having a C-section, the babies’ mother desperately needed blood but the father had no money to pay the hospital and so the young woman rapidly bled to death. The young 17-year old woman holding one of the babies was the only living relative of the mother - the mother’s younger sister, Jartu. Because the babies looked so tiny, I asked Lovetta to ask Jartu and the father if we could have them Baptized. She set things up for the next morning with the local church that Sister Sponsa used to attend and every one of Sister’s children began collecting bottles, formula, infant clothes and blankets all while the mother’s body remained in the hospital. It was a coordinated effort by Sister’s children. The next morning, the babies, their father and Jartu arrived at the church. Lovetta named the babies with the father’s permission, Benedict, Bridget and Benjamin. Felicia and Lamin became the Godparents of the two boys while Lovetta quickly claimed little Bridget as her Goddaughter with Lamin as the Godfather. Others took pictures as Father Yao welcomed the three little angels into the Church. After the ceremony, everyone escorted the infants, who were only nine days old, to the clinic where they were told that they needed a special formula if they were to survive. We purchased the formula and a crib for the three of them to stay in together. I was very concerned as I believe the three babies belonged in a NICU, but no such thing exists in Liberian hospitals.

As I looked at the photos of Jartu, I said to Lovetta, “She looks pregnant.” Lovetta assured me that she was not but the look on the girl’s face seemed so angry in the photo and I sensed that something terrible was wrong. I told Lovetta to take her to St. Joseph’s Hospital the next morning while the three babies, cribs and formula were all brought to our Fatima House where we have a caretaker named Martha, who cares for a six year old mentally challenged child. As soon as Lovetta got Jartu’s test results from the hospital, she was already in surgery. They found she was seven months pregnant and when her sister’s triplets were born and lost their mother, she went to an herbalist to purchase herbs and consumed them in an effort to abort her first child. They did not work as she expected and she spent nine days in terrible pain while hemorrhaging, still carrying her dead baby within her.



This morning, the hospital was getting ready to discharge the aunt when we received a call from the hospital. They told Christopher, one of Sister's adult disabled, that when they went to check on Jartu, they found that she had died in her sleep. Chris was horrified but he immediately notified us and it was difficult to believe that the new triplets' mother and aunt are now both deceased. In the meantime, at 2am, the babies' caretaker told us that the new triplets (Benjamin, Benedict and Bridget) were burning up with fever. Lovetta got a car immediately and rushed them to the hospital, but there were no beds available, so she ended up taking them to a local clinic. All three were having difficulty breathing and all three umbilical cords were terribly infected. Benjamin was having difficulty passing urine and we fear he might have some kidney damage. Agnes and Lovetta took turns caring for the three little ones and now they have started responding to treatment. Their father has completely disappeared and so we have three newborns, who when discharged from the clinic, we have to find homes for. The three babies remain in the clinic because we were told that they have some kind of lung infection, which was contracted before birth from their mother.

With all this going on, Sister's children planned two very quick burials for the mom and the aunt. We purchased inexpensive and simple caskets, hired grave diggers, selected grave sites, transported the bodies from two different hospitals, said prayers over the grave sites and concluded the burial ceremony. Because of the high temperatures in Liberia, people have to be buried immediately and many times, as with the aunt, we do not know the exact cause of death. We were low on funds, but Sister's children did the best they could in the situation and we are so proud of them for taking charge in such a professional manner in a time of great tragedy.

If it were not for all of you caring and sharing, the triplets would not have survived and we would not have had the funds for all of the medical care that each of you provided through your acts of mercy. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. In the last three weeks, we have had seven funerals and so many people admitted to the hospital due to childbirth, horrific accidents, pneumonia, snakebites and malnutrition. We have finally reached the point that we just cannot take on any more cases, as sad as that might be.

In the midst of all of this, we have had a tremendous outbreak of chicken pox. Liberia, in Sister's day, had a polio vaccine and a few other vaccines, but today, because of all the corruption and lack of refrigeration, they have no treatment to offer. We have parents calling from way out in the bush in distant villages, describing their entire household as having chicken pox. If there is a nearby medical clinic, we tell them to go there. Covid-19 continues to be a problem but the rates are not as high as in the United States. We have been very grateful to have no cases of it yet within our program. But every day, more and more people contact us needing medical care for so many other problems.

This past weekend was a happy one for the JCADF family. On Friday, Chris (one of Sister's disabled children) and his fiancée, Princess were Baptized and Confirmed in a short ceremony. Also welcomed into the



Church this day was their son, Chris Jr. The next day, Chris and Princess were married and received First Holy Communion in a beautiful Mass. A truly wonderful time and we know Sister Sponsa was definitely present on this special day! Both celebrations were presided over by Father Patrick Sawie, who many years ago was the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church which our disabled currently attend. Father Patrick ministered to Sister Sponsa and her disabled for many years during the early part of his priesthood.



We would like to introduce you to Faith, who is eight years old and is deaf. Her mother died in childbirth and she was left to live with her father. When she was a few years old, criminals broke into their house and her father was killed. Her grandmother then stepped in. Two years ago, her grandmother also died. An aunt kindly took her in and cared for her for over a year. The other day, Faith found her aunt unconscious in a diabetic coma. She was in the hospital for two days and we were notified that she had also died. We had to place Faith in the care of a local neighbor who is doing us a big favor since she considers this child witched.

At the right is Marthaline who is twelve years old. She lives in the Johnsonville area with her mother and younger brother, John. Her father passed away when she was eight

years old. Her legs have been paralyzed as you can see since her birth, presumably due to the effects of polio. Matthew, one of our team, came across the mother and invited her and Marthaline to come to our Sponsa House to receive a food bag. Steven, another of Sister's sons, also presented her with on behalf of JCADF and you, our wonderful donors. Thank you for helping us to help her!



Marthaline, after evaluation, really needs a wheelchair but sadly, we are completely out of the wheelchairs we had sent on a sea container a few years ago as they have all been distributed to the disabled. Levi, at left, also uses a wheelchair that JCADF gave him several years ago, but as you can see, after many years the large wheels have finally fallen off, leaving it unusable.



At the time, Handicap International is in Liberia distributing wheelchairs. However, because we need so many, they seem to have decided to not give us any. Please pray that we can resolve this problem because we have so many young and old trying to navigate in old dilapidated wheelchairs. A few years ago, the Knights of Columbus had a wheelchair distribution campaign through some of their partner organizations where the chairs were distributed in impoverished countries. Unfortunately, we have not been able to make contact with anyone involved in the program. If anyone can help us work with the Knights of Columbus or other organizations to obtain a large donation of wheelchairs (all sizes) and ship them to Liberia, we would greatly appreciate it.

In the last letter, we told you about the blind Dennis twins and their sister who passed away while caring for them while their mother and father had gone on a trip into the interior. The parents have still not returned. We buried the sister and a distant neighbor took the twins in as a temporary gesture, but we have no idea how far away the parents are or if they will ever return. There has been one tragedy after another. It is very difficult to check on these children and so many others when we are dealing with chicken pox and do not want to spread it.



There are so many elderly who come seeking food and clean water and it breaks our hearts to have to turn anyone away. I wish this could be a happier letter but as with the whole world, there is very little joy and happiness to report. One thing I am very sure of is that each of you has saved the lives of hundreds of others. We could not continue this work without your help. Please keep praying that we are able to find homes for all of these who are in need.



We have recently discovered a new devotion that has existed since 1961. It was presented to Elizabeth Kindelmann, a widow who was trying to raise her six children in communist Hungary. Jesus and Mary both appeared to her and Mary told her that she was chosen to spread the Flame of Love devotion throughout the world. She was specifically chosen because she readily accepted God's offer to save souls. Because she suffered so much, Mary told her that because of her suffering, she would understand how the Blessed Mother felt appearing all over the world and seeing so many suffering, sinning and destroying the land that her Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit had created and no one responding to her appeals. The messages that Elizabeth received were profound and once her children were raised, Elizabeth did her best to keep a daily diary that was smuggled out of communist Hungary and today is presented in many languages.

If anyone has already heard of the Flame of Love or belongs to one of the Cenacle prayer groups, you know that there is a very easy to read book available called *"The Flame of Love: The Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann."* The flame that Mary talks about is the light of her Son that she keeps in her heart. As she said to Elizabeth, "The renewal of the earth will take place through the power and the imploring force of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The Unity Prayer

My adorable Jesus,

May our feet journey together.

May our hands gather in unity.

May our hearts be in unison.

May our souls be in harmony.

May our thoughts be as one.

May our ears listen to the silence together.

May our glances profoundly penetrate each other.

And may our lips pray together to gain mercy from the Eternal Father. Amen.



"O Blessed Lady, spread the effect of Grace of the Flame of Love over all of humanity."

As Mary says throughout the diary, "Take this Flame of Love of my Heart. Light your own heart and pass it on."

If anyone would like brown scapulars, Holy Face medals, St. Benedict Bracelets (Royal, Red, Black) or prayer cards with the Consecration to Divine Mercy and Divine Mercy Chaplet/Novena pamphlets, please send me a message as to how many you want and I will send them out already blessed. These are turbulent times we are living in and we need all the help from Sacramentals that we can get. We also have St. Rafael oil and St. Joseph Holy oil.

We are constantly attempting to expand our database as several of our donors have gone Home to God. We encourage you to please pass our newsletters around to family members, friends and anyone else who might be willing to help us and become a member of our extended JCADF family. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us. Please see our contact information located at the bottom of this newsletter.

We thank you a million times over for your generosity and your fervent love and support.

In His Merciful Name,



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