

**REV. SR. EMILIA ULOMA UMEZURUIKE**

**DAUGHTER OF THE CHARITY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD (DCPB)**

**WHO ARE THE DCPB SISTERS IN NIGERIA?**

They are those sisters who are enlivened by an unshakable faith, see the Will of God in all events of life and trust in Him who provides all for the good of His Church. They build their spiritual life on the rock of charism and offer through their deeds, a testimony of self - dedication and love. They are those sisters who are more advantaged both by their talents freely received from God and by cultural experiences. We color our interventions, requests and proposals with humility, kindness and graciousness of Charity as it is wanted by our Father Founder: Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco. They are those sisters who are open to the Spirit; become yeast of Peace and Charity; bearing within themselves the difficulties of life in order to redeem humanity with their own lives as women of Peace and of Prayer, and we bury in our hearts whatever may be harmful to the growth of others and our world today. We witness to Christ in the poor everyday, and we live and think with the Church.

**HOPE HOUSE ORPHANAGE:**

This orphanage run by the DCPB was inaugurated on the 13th of December 2001. Since its foundation, many children, motherless, abandoned and less privileged have had a better chance in their early infancy. Most of these children have returned to their natural homes after the stormy periods in the lives of their families as a result of the demise of their mothers etc. The most-needy ones are followed up even at their homes to make sure that what they had already received did not get lost. This home therefore, is an 'Oasis' that accommodates those children who would have risked to die at the death of their mothers.

The orphanage is dedicated to the founder of the DCPB: Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, who was also an orphan and as a priest, took to heart the interest of orphans and vulnerable children. This can explain why we: 'His spiritual daughters here in Nigeria, have the joy which give us the strength to assist the children that are brought to us in the best possible way. Even orphans and children from poor families are helped to receive the best education like other children from rich homes. They are served lunch in the orphanage everyday before going home every school day to make sure that they feed well at least once a day, knowing that children are the future leaders of our country and the world at large. We do all we can to help them grow into adults with positive minds.

This orphanage '**Hope House**' is almost run on charity basis, that is: without charges and we have numerous candidates, looking unto us for help. 'Hope House' is an oasis of hope for so many children and needs the help of men of goodwill and the government to remain with flying flag for the greater glory of God; the lover of life, who makes life bearable notwithstanding odds - for everyone of His children.

**OUR PRESENCE IN THE WORLD**

The Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood is presently in Italy - the Homeland of Our Father founder (Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, in the United States of America. Brazil, India, Philippines, Indonesia and Nigeria. Our presence is also felt in Cameroon:

Our Father Founder: Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, drawing his logical inferences said:

“We must commit ourselves to derive and reflect the Most vivid image of that Divine Charity with which Christ’ Blood was shed, and of which that same Divine Blood was, and is a Sign, an Expression, a Measure and a Pledge. We perceive in the Blood of Jesus, not only the proof of His greatest love, but also the supreme and indisputable manifestation of the love that the Father has for humanity. It is this Divine Charity of the Blood that specifies and defines our identity as: “Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood”.

We consider this point of reference with a particular characterization: Jesus gave and continues to give His Blood for the ‘Triumph of His Mercy as a manifestation of His infinite love for us’. As it was for Our Founder, the Blood of Jesus ought to continue to be for all of us, the central point of reference which is certain and constant ‘the object of our love and adoration’. It may interest you to know some of our charisms: We have ‘three-in-one’ charism: caring for orphans and vulnerable children, working in hospitals and domestic centers, running a school.

Charity of the Most Precious Blood as a Sign: In general terms, signs means a mark which represents something else. For Blessed Thomas Maria Fusco, love and Charity represent the Blood of Christ in an extraordinary way, because Jesus shed His Blood for the salvation of humanity, prompted by love. The shedding of Jesus’ Blood becomes the sign of His great love. Thomas mediated and adored the Blood of Christ which constituted the most of his life. Hence, as Christ manifested Himself as the Father’s unlimited and selfless love for mankind, the followers of Christ, who bear the title: ‘Daughter of the Most Precious Blood’ should try to emulate this sign by her life of prayer and practice of Charity.

Charity of the Precious Blood as an Expression: Love and Charity towards one’s neighbor should be expressed in concrete ways as did God the father who sent His Only begotten Son to the world and Christ who shed His Blood for us by the price of His own blood which was a sign of the real love and mercy of God. Thus, the Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood should express their love for others through loving actions in their apostolate.

Charity of the Precious Blood as a Measure: This means that, the Most Precious Blood is Divine. God has no measure: man cannot measure God, but his death on the cross is the measure of this love for us.

Charity of the Precious Blood as a Pledge: Pledge is used to denote something giving as a sign of love. The Blood of Christ stands as a Pledge for the love of God for the world. Thus, God the Father promised His Son as a pledge of His love for mankind; and the Son promised the Holy Spirit as a pledge of His

perennial presence in the world. The founder of this order used this word to show the Divine charity of the Blood of Christ as a symbol of the presence of God in man.

Thus, the DCPB Sisters are called upon to manifest the love of the Father which reaches its climax, combined with apostolic sacrifice and self-denial, following the example of their founder, they are called to witness to the Most Precious Blood of Christ which is a sum total of the love of God for humanity and to witness it in different parts of the world by various activities.

The Crucifix is an object of Contemplation. Reflection and Meditation. For us: "He who studies the Crucifix well, knows everything" (Words of Our Father Founder: Blessed T.M.F.).

### **APOSTOLATE OF THE INSTITUTE**

Mindful of the Signs of the times, the needs of the world around us and always for the glory of God, who loves and redeems us with his Precious Blood. The Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood are called upon to manifest the divine Charity of the Blood of Christ in cooperation for the salvation of the world, in union with Our Lord Jesus Christ in participation with the entire Church in the ministry which brings salvation to her fellow men. Through a life of prayer and Charity with apostolic sacrifice and self-denial, by following the example of Our Father Founder, we witness to the Most Precious Blood of Christ, the sum total of God's love to humanity and to witness it in our world through various activities:

#### **Education of Children and of Youths:**

The task of teaching in schools is the most extensive field of the apostolate entrusted to us by Our Lord for the salvation of souls redeemed by the Divine Blood of Jesus. To this purpose, the sisters of the Congregation, under the guidance of obedience, must dedicate their zeal and diligence.

#### **Assistance of the Sick and to the Aged (Hospital Apostolate):**

The Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood must remember that when she is at the bed-side of a patient, she represents Christ who heals and does good for all. She is also called to help them realize that the Father loves them as He loves His only Son; reassuring them of the Divine assistance of the Most Precious Blood.

By the constant giving of themselves, sisters assigned to this mission shall help the elderly to build up the necessary confidence they need in order not to feel neglected, unloved, but to live in serenity.

#### **Social Assistance and home Visitations:**

In this area of our apostolate, we render service in order to foster the weak, the defenseless, the poor, and the orphans. In this way giving hope to the hopeless. This apostolate urges us to provide Orphanage homes for the abandoned and motherless children. We also care for vulnerable children.

Mindful of the words: 'I was ill and you visited me'.... (Mt. 25 36ff). The sisters assigned to this work of mercy shall prefer and assist with special kindness the poorest and the most in need. They shall see in those who are ill, a living image of Jesus Christ.

## **ABOUT OUR FOUNDER**

The Founder: Thomas Maria Fusco was born at Pagani on 1st December 1831 in the family of Dr. Anthony Fusco and Stella Giordano. In his tender age, he showed a certain disdain in the things of the world and when his mother sowed a new suit for him, he turned it down for he did not wish to wear the suit of the world - as he called it, rather he wanted the heavenly one and preferred the ones of the Altar Boys. He lost his parents at a tender age and this became the beginning of his suffering. But Thomas had faith in God, he comfort and spiritual joy as he prayed before the Sorrowful Mother to whom he entrusted himself and his vocation. Later, he joined the Jesuit. After a brief experience in the Jesuit Novitiate in Naples, he left for family reasons. He then entered the Diocesan Seminary of Nocera; and he passionately committed himself to his theological studies, which permitted him to better know Jesus and to love Him deeply. Thomas great faith was an example to all in the seminary. His companion loved him respect and revere him for his humility, reserved prudence and affection. The foundation of his interior life were: prayer, devotion to the Sorrowful Mother and love for the Holy Eucharist. After his studies, his ordination was delayed and finally on December 22 1855, he was ordained a priest.

Fr. Thomas was very much influenced by the devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Christ which became an object of teaching after his priestly ordination. From 1861 to 1873, Fr. Thomas was the chaplain of the Sanctuary Church of the Madonna del Cammine in Pagani. To make Our Lady known, he instituted the Solidarity of the children of Mary, to give

Opportunity for young ladies to gather and ponder over the state of life they wish to choose. Together with Solidarity of the children of Mary, he introduced the Association of the: "Daughters of the Most Precious Blood".

The sight of abandoned children attracted his attention in a very particular way, and in prayer he found the will of God. On January 6. 1873 (Epiphany of the Lord), he asked the bishop of 'Nocera del Pagani Italy, Most Reverend Raffaele Ammirante to bless the first Orphanage. Thus, the Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood (DCPB) began their mission in Pagani with Seven Orphans on January 6. 1873 (Epiphany of the Lord); under the direction of three sisters, namely: Sister Crocifissa. Sister Maria and Sister Perseverante. Thus, the Congregation of the Daughters of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood (DCPB) was born. The number "Three and Seven" reminded him of the three hours of agony at Golgotha

and seven effusions of the Blood of Jesus as well as our Lady's seven Sorrows. Initially, the Congregation of Thomas Maria Fusco was called: "Handmaids of the Charity of the Most Precious Blood".

In 1912, under the Papal jurisdiction of Pope Pius X, the Congregation got a Papal approval hence, subject to the jurisdiction of the Holy See. Fr. Thomas is now known as "Blessed Thomas Fusco". From 1873 to this present year 2013, the Congregation had been ministering in the world for One Hundred and Forty Years. The ministration still goes on through the prayer of our founder and the divine Power of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

