**Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus
MISSION APPEAL FOR 2020**

My name is Sister Germaine Ocansey, and I belong to the Pontifical Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, which was founded by Mother Mary Charles Magdalen Walker, a Religious Sister Of Charity from England who came to Nigeria in 1923 at an invitation of Bishop Joseph Shanahan (CSSP), to the then Vicarate of Southern Nigeria. It was not until April 1937 that our Congregation was canonically erected. We are over 950 professed Sisters and still booming with vocations at a sturdy pace especially in Africa.

We are Missionary, International Religious Order serving in seven Countries in Africa namely, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Kenya and Tanzania, three Countries in Europe: Britain, Germany, and Italy; Six States in the United States: New Port Richey, Tuskegee, Houston, Galveston, Silver Spring, Washington DC, and New York; then Canada, and Grenada in West Indies.

Our Charism is “all embracing expressed in love and service” in imitation of Mary, the first Handmaid, following her footsteps in;

* Humble service to humanity
* Simplicity of Life and charity,
* Obedience to God and neighbor

We envision to transform our Communities and the world in Christian Charity through our ministries. In **Education** we impact wholistic learning to children at all levels, mainstream, partial and total blind children and adults, care of orphans and support for women with unwanted pregnancies, physically and mentally challenged, as well as empowering women to be economically stable particularly, widows and women who battle with extreme poverty. Our Sisters are ready to reach remote places where essential amenities like electricity, water, and transportation are minimal. In **Medical**, we run Clinics and Hospitals as well as Mobile Clinics especially providing Ante-Natal services in remote villages where the people have no means of reaching hospitals, except either on motor bikes or bicycles. We commit ourselves to support children and adults with prevalent rate of HIV/AIDS, the infirm, the marginalized, the poor and the under-privileged in our society. In **Pastorals** our Sisters serve as Faith Formation and Youth Directors and prepare thousands of children and adults for the Sacraments each year. We have very dedicated **Social Ministry** working Sisters who serve in Prisons, run Soup Kitchens, Hospice; feeding and clothing the mentally ill and the homeless in the streets.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am appealing to you today to solicit your financial assistance to educate the visually impaired in the River States of Nigeria, which include total blindness and partial low vision of children and young adults. We have many areas of needs but this overwhelming training of blind children has become critical, crucial and challenging. It takes 7 years to train *one visually impaired child at a cost of $2,500 to $3,000 a year,* and this is a lot of money in a country where the average worker receives less than a $100 a month. These special needs children are provided free education, feeding, clothing and housing. Assuredly, whatever you give will go a long way to help these children under our care. With your generous support we will extend our assistance to widows and battered women who are under our care*. Just as in the 2Kings 4:8-11, the woman who had no child did not think of her own childlessness and embarrassment in society, but thought first of the comfort of Elisha, and selflessly provided a comfortable place for Elisha whenever he passed to spend the night with her and her husband. Later, she was rewarded with a bouncy baby boy which she was not expecting. And so also, your thoughtfulness and generosity of these poor blind children will earn you abundant graces from God as He knows best as your need. For no amount you give will be too small to buy a cake of soap or a piece of yam for the children.* For“It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters, for we are all pencils in the Hands of God.” Mother St. Theresa of Calcutta.

May God replenish what you give and reward you with Eternal Life. Amen!