**Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ**

Hi Everyone!

I am happy to speak to you today about our mission and to invite you to become our mission partners by contributing in any way to us during the 2020 Mission Appeal.

I am Sr. Mary Kenechukwu Ozioko of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ. I am here today to share with you the various ways we participate in the Mission of Jesus Christ through the Church in our particular Religious Institute.

We are the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ, founded in 1937 by Archbishop Charles Heerey, an Irish missionary to Nigeria. We were founded at a time when the education of women was considered unimportant, and the needs of children were grossly neglected; and at a time when the needs in the rural areas were overwhelming. In keeping with the spirit of our foundation and the charism of our Institute, we are committed to special care of children, education of the youth, care of the sick, the vulnerable and the underprivileged, spiritual formation, as well as marriage/family counselling. Broadly speaking, our mission work covers six areas:

* Community Health Development/Care of the sick in hospitals and clinics
* Education
* Environmental Sustainability
* Formation
* Care of Vulnerable Persons, and
* Pastoral Care

With more than 900 professed Sisters, our work in the world spans three continents – Africa, Europe, and North America. Here in the United States of America, we have a center in Freeport, IL (Rockford Diocese) called Madonna Renewal Center. This center admits women with unplanned pregnancy, accommodates, feeds, and trains them for free. I invite you to kindly read more about this in our website.

We also have our presence in the:

* Archdiocese of Chicago, IL
* Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis, MN
* Archdiocese of Syracuse, NY
* Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM
* Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI
* Diocese of de Moines, IA
* Diocese of Tulsa, OK

As life becomes increasing difficult, our hearts go out to people who have little or nothing to eat. Our Sisters undertake to feed the hungry in some of the countries where we serve.

Your contributions and donations will enable us to continue to uphold the dignity of the human person by bringing the Compassion of Christ to our brothers and sisters in their need, and thus fulfill our mission in the Church.

We do also appreciate your prayers for the success of our mission.

Thank you.