

## **The Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary**

### **The Foundation**

The Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary (ESM) was founded in 1975 in Moroto Diocese, Uganda by two Comboni Missionaries: Bishop Sisto Mazzoldi+ and Rev. Fr. John Marengoni+. In addition to other three institutes, they founded the first two African Missionary Congregation: the Apostles of Jesus (AJ) and the ESM.

### **The Charism: Mission and Spirituality**

The Evangelizing Sisters of Mary were founded for the development of the missionary dimension of the Church in Africa and in the world. They are founded to announce the Gospel message to non-Christians, to plant the Church among people and groups which do not yet believe in Christ and to bring the Church to a full development where it is already implanted.

The ESM missionary activities include but not limited to pastoral, teaching, healing and social ministries. These activities are embraced in the spirit of imitation of Christ the Good Shepherd who loved and gave his life for his sheep. There are about 300 sisters serving in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan and South Africa. They are also in Tennessee, Ohio, Cuba and Italy.

### **The ESM Mission in Knoxville Diocese**

The ESM came to Knoxville Diocese, TN, in 2010. They were invited by Bishop Richard Stika having known them through the Apostles of Jesus who were already serving in the diocese. These were Sr. Maureen Ouma who taught at Sacred Heart Cathedral School and Sr. Dorothy Cassian serving at Catholic Charities and lived at a convent near SHC.

Sr. Angela Nikwobazeirwe who teaches at SJNCS joined the community in 2011 while Sr. Elizabeth Wanyoike, the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator came in 2012. Eventually, in the summer of 2014, the four sisters settled at SJN Parish, St. Patrick Convent and were joined by Sr. Restituta Nyinoweitu, the Pastoral Associate.

Our sincere appreciation to Msgr. Patrick Garrity, V.E., who organized for the presence and the ministry of the ESM at St. John Neumann Parish. We feel blessed to be part of the ministry of the Church in this diocese of Knoxville.