



KATERI NEWSLETTER

Published by Kateri Medical Services, Inc.

11 Church Street, Tariffville, CT 06081

Greetings from the Ven. Thomas Furrer

Summer 2015

Dear Friends and supporters of Kateri Medical Services,

As I write this, I am preparing for our annual medical mission trip to Nigeria. This will be my 13th mission trip to Nigeria. Every year, I find the trip to be totally exhausting – and totally fulfilling. Both at the same time. Last year, we helped 6,571 people in two weeks. I am hoping that we can help that many, or perhaps more, this year.

We are now in the process of reconstructing our web site www.katericlinic.org. We will be posting daily reports of our mission trip on our website. So please go to the website to read the stories of the many thousands of people we will be serving this year.

As you may know, Nigeria is a turbulent country. Over the past five years especially, the trend toward violence has increased under the Boko Haram reign of terror. This reality has made it more difficult for us to do our work. In response, we have been forced to relocate our intensive medical mission away from Kateri Clinic because of security concerns. We have also had to increase our security measures. In the early years, we had no security whatsoever. Now we have the Nigerian Secret Service, the Nigerian Army Special Forces and the Nigerian Peace Corps helping to protect us and our patients when we conduct our missions. Despite the risks, we are determined to continue this work because the people we serve are in such desperate need.

On a more positive note, a new president has been elected in Nigeria with a mandate to stop the terrorist violence and to clean up corruption. President Buhari is a retired Army General with a reputation for toughness, honesty and a true patriotism that seeks the common good. From everything I have heard and read since the election, there is good reason to think that things are improving in Nigeria. Please keep the nation and our medical mission in your prayers.

And please keep supporting our work. We have helped more than 130,000 people over the past 13 years. Every year our numbers increase. Please help us continue with your prayers and generous contributions. Every dollar that you donate to Kateri Medical Services, Inc. goes directly to pay clinic staff and medicine. We have

no overhead costs of any kind. We all volunteer our time and even the postage to mail this newsletter is donated by Trinity Church in Tariffville. Every dollar you give goes directly to providing medical care to very poor people. That is our promise to you.

Sincerely yours,

Ven. Thomas Furrer

President of Kateri Medical Services, Inc.

Summer Trip with FaithCare Set

The annual trip to Nigeria with the FaithCare team is set with the team leaving on July 24 and returning on August 9. Four members from Trinity Church will join other members from southern Connecticut and New York.

As in previous years, the team will set up on the diocesan property of Jacaranda. The amenities on site make it an ideal location. The large conference hall serves as a triage area, lab, dental clinic, and pharmacy. One dormitory serves as an operating theater while another dorm is used as an eye clinic. Team members lodge on the premises and are able to eat at the restaurant that is located near the dormitories. The compound is walled, making it easy to control the crowds and provide adequate security.



Summer Trip with FaithCare Set, cont'd.

The disadvantage of using this property is that it is located on the outer boundary of a major city, Kaduna. It is a trek from rural villages where the poorest of the poor usually reside. However, many are willing to make the trip and arrive mid-way through the first week.

Last year, just over 6,500 people received medical care, a new record for the trip. This year, with more medical people from the U.S. participating, the team is hopeful that the record can at least be matched if not broken!

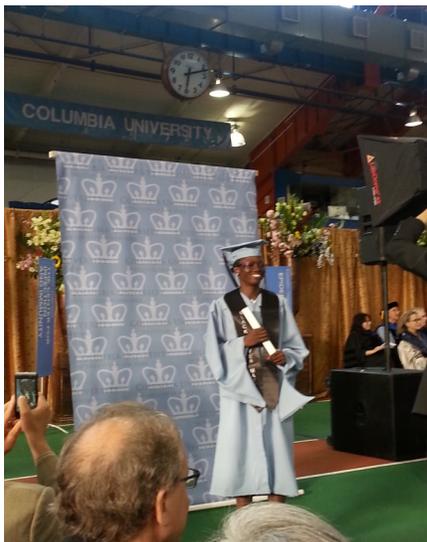
The following team members ask for your prayers:

Dr John Nwangwu, team leader; Ven. Tom Furrer, Paul and Peter Williams, Dr. Randy Owen, nurses Erica Lusier and Kathryn Bartus, Dr. Tioluwa Olokunde, and Elaine Chagnon.

Dr. Tioluwa Olokunde Receives Advanced Degree

Dr. Tioluwa Olokunde, long-time participant in the FaithCare mission in Nigeria, was awarded her Master's degree in Public Health from Columbia University on May 19. In attendance were well-wishers and friends from Trinity Church, Tariffville, as well as friends and relatives from New York and Maryland.

It was two years ago when Dr. Tioluwa stepped off the plane in Newark with all of her belongings in tow, her first trip out of Nigeria. Church members collected her and got her set up in her dormitory room, just in time for classes to start several days later. In an amazing transformation, the shy young woman from Nigeria has become a presence that speaks volumes...and people listen! She was voted by her peers to give the commencement speech, which she did with grace and wisdom. Her personal testimony, along with her advice to "dream big" were inspiring to her peers and the attendees. We are excited as she begins a new chapter...with congratulations.



Trinity Church Receives Cross of Nails

On Sunday, May 31, the Very Rev. John Witcombe, Dean Of Coventry Cathedral, England, visited Trinity Church, Tariffville for a special worship service. Dean Witcombe represents the International Community of the Cross of Nails. He presented the Ven. Tom Furrer with the cross on behalf of the reconciliation work done through the Kateri Medical Clinic.



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The cross has a history dating back to World War II, when a previous dean of Coventry felt called by God to work for reconciliation with Christians in Germany. Although the cathedral had been destroyed by German bombs, the dean dug through the rubble, retrieving old nails that were used to construct the first cross. Since that time, the cross has been a symbol of communities dedicated to reconciliation. There are currently 180 partners who have been recognized for their work with reconciliation. The Community of the Cross of Nails also includes our friend Josiah Fearon, previously Bishop of Kaduna, Nigeria and currently Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and ministry partner of Trinity Church, Tariffville.

The cross is proudly displayed in the chapel at Trinity Church.

Tapestry Singers Raise Funds for Kateri Clinic

The Tapestry Singers performed their annual concert at Trinity Church on June 6 and 7 to record audiences. This annual event has grown in popularity. The group works tirelessly to preserve the memory of founder Jana Pivacek-Cole, who passed away in 2012.

Under the leadership of Trinity Church's Director on Music Ministry Paula Kern, the performance touched those in the audience. Treated to a wonderful variety of music and voices, attendees were inspired to take to heart the ministry of Kateri and responded generously, far surpassing expectations. By the end of the following week, just over \$11,000 was collected! It will be used to purchase medicines for this summer's trip.



Satellite Clinic In Uburu Progressing!

Kateri Services, Inc. Board of Directors have just received updated photographs showing the progress of the satellite clinic in Uburu. If you recall in the last edition of this newsletter, only the foundation was completed. Now, judging by the photographs below, the structure is nearing completion and will hopefully be ready to receive patients soon.

At this point, it's use this summer is doubtful, but hopefully by 2016, a small contingent of FaithCare workers will be able to provide services for the rural poor during the two-week mission trip.



The Board of Kateri Medical Services, Inc. and all of those involved with the clinic express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for this outpouring of love and support for the dedication and love expressed by the Tapestry Singers and their continued help for the multitudes.



Kateri Medical Services, Inc.
11 Church St.
Tariffville, CT 06081
Kateri Newsletter
Summer 2014

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*Won't you please consider putting the Kateri
Medical Clinic in your will ?*

"Write the vision...if it seems slow, wait for it...the righteous shall live by faith."

Kateri Medical Services, Inc.— Response Form

Please return this form with your contribution

Please mail to: **Kateri Medical Services, Inc.** 11 Church Street Tariffville, CT 06081

Yes, I would like to help in one of the following ways:

- _____ "Sustaining Partner" - a pledge of \$1,000 per year (\$20 per week) for _____ year(s)
- _____ "Wall Builder" - a pledge of \$500 per year for _____ year(s)
- _____ Regular contributor - I will pledge _____ per month/year
- _____ One - time gift of _____

*Please make checks payable to "Kateri Medical Services, Inc." All donations are tax deductible in the U.S.; 100% of your gift goes directly to the clinic. **Kateri Medical Services, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.***

Name _____ Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

If you have any questions, comments, or change of address, please call: (860) 651-0201 or email

tfurrer@trinitytariffville.org or visit our website at <http://www.katericlinic.org>