



The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix at Blessed Trinity

Blessed Trinity Parish is incredibly blessed to have Sister Concepta, Sister Juliet and Sister Theo. Their ministry has enriched countless lives, and their example is an inspiration to all. But to hear the nuns tell it, *they* are the ones who have received the most blessings.

“We are so blessed by the people in the parish,” Sister Concepta said. They have felt at home since Day 1.

That day was in August 2000. That is when Sister M. Concepta Najjemba, Sister M. Theodozia Namuddu and Sister M. Juliet Nakalema Ateenyi were officially welcomed here and had the convent blessed by Fr. Pat and Fr. Kamanzi, a visiting priest from

Tanzania. The Florida Catholic newspaper published a story about the event the next month.

The nuns belong to the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix of Ggogonya, Uganda. In 1998, Sister Concepta visited Blessed Trinity to speak on behalf of her order, according to the Florida Catholic article. Fr. Pat said he would welcome the order establishing a presence at Blessed Trinity.

They took him up on the offer. And so the three sisters left their homeland behind to come here and serve.

Much has changed for the sisters since then. They have become proud American citizens. They have learned to drive. They have learned their way around Ocala.

What hasn't changed is their devotion to ministry.

Sister Concepta taught GIFT classes and started leading the Brother's Keeper Soup Kitchen. With help from parishioners, she found stores willing to donate food. The volunteer corps grew, including not just BT parishioners but people from other parishes and even The Villages.

The Soup Kitchen now serves 200-300 lunches per day. Sometimes there is so much food that they can bring leftovers to other charities.

Sister Concepta once felt uneasy around the homeless. But “now they are my best friends.” Sister had never cooked before. Now she is an expert in front of the stove, and tells the volunteers: “We are preparing a meal fit for a king.” This one-time teacher has found something special at the Soup Kitchen.



It is a place where God's love is alive, and where people are inspired "to serve others without expecting anything."

Sister Theo, a trained nurse, has cared for a generation of Blessed Trinity School children. She also works part of the day at Elder Care. When asked what she has received in return for all her service, she said simply: "Blessings. I'm blessed."

Sister Juliet started as a teacher at Blessed Trinity School and now heads up Pastoral Care for the parish. She and 80 or so ministers visit 600 people per week at nursing homes and hospitals, bringing comfort and care and God's love.

"This place has helped me to grow," Sister Juliet said. She feels connected spiritually. Ocala is the place where she has lived the longest part of her religious life. "Religious life is different," she said. "Where you are assigned is your home."

The nuns thank Fr. Pat for making them feel so at home and providing for all their

needs. They are grateful for a convent located so close to church, school and shopping. Though busy with their own ministries, they also find time to participate in other parts of parish life. That is a big part of their blessing to BT: They are visible to the parish, and especially the children, showing the blessings that come with vocation.

The sisters are overwhelmed by the support BT has shown for our sister parish in Uganda. When the Mother House needs a new roof, for example, they just have to say the word. "We never expected this," Sister Theo said. "We just present our needs" in Uganda and they are met.

"I think Ocala was meant for us," Sister Concepta said.

That is very true, and very much a blessing for all.

