

## *Sister Elizabeth Rosser, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee!*



*Our dear sister Elizabeth (Betty) Rosser passed away on the afternoon on March 15, 2020 at Maria Health Care Center in Baltimore MD. We commend her to the loving arms of God as we mourn her passing from us.*

*The reflection below was written by Sister Betty, an autobiographical writing upon entering the congregation. Sister Betty is pictured on the right in this photo.*

### *“Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will”*

Born in the spring of 1926 to Oscar and Pauline Lockhart Rosser, I was named Elizabeth after my grandmother. We lived in a small New Jersey town with a farm and all its animals just across the road. During my growing up years, my parents divorced and a few years later my father died. The one thing that remained constant was my mother's love and companionship. We became best friends during those years.

My mother's remarriage to a Catholic and her decision to become Catholic also, was an answer to my search for stronger ties in my faith life. The next years were a time of discovery and fulfillment as I became involved in parish activities and taught religious education. I realized that God was calling me not only to the Catholic Faith, but also to religious life.

What a shock I received in my search for a religious congregation. The sisters of my parish did not invite me to become

part of their congregation and others refused me on the basis of race. My mother's words, "Where is your faith?" gave me courage and I finally applied to the Corpus Christi Carmelites and I was welcomed to their formation house in Rhode Island.

Vatican II had a devastating effect on my congregation and after an Apostolic Investigation was ordered, I knew I must leave. I had no intention of giving up my vows, which I had taken for life. It became evident that God was leading me on this journey. As I was working with a School Sister of Notre Dame in the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Religious Education office, I requested to live with the SSND community at St. Peter the Apostle parish. The Sisters were wonderful and supportive as I tried to find a new home.

## *Sister Elizabeth Rosser, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee! (Cont'd)*

My mother's comment, "Sometimes we fail to see what is right in front of us" opened my eyes to what God had in mind for me. I was able to transfer and I became a School Sister of Notre Dame on May 22, 1976.

My life's journey continued when a prediction of my father was realized. At the age of five or six, he had told me, "Someday, my little African princess, you will go to Africa." In 1995, I was missioned to Ikot Etuk Udo, Nigeria!

As I embrace the future in my home at Maria Health Care Center, I try to live each day as beautifully as I can, knowing I am not alone. God is with me. For all I can still do, I say, "Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will."