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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My dear Sisters,

It is a joy to once again bring you sincere greetings.

First let me apologise to you for not being able to perform some of my planned Provincial duties for some months. This was due mainly to circumstances beyond my control and I wish to thank you all sincerely for your prayers, calls, cards and visits during the period of absence from duties.

To the sisters in Guyana words cannot express adequately my thanks for the loving care and support extended to me and my daughter while we were in your Diocese. Thanks to Sisters Valerie and Judith who represented me at the Provincial Synod In Trinidad & Tobago and Worldwide Provincial Council Meeting in Rwanda respectively.

As someone who loves music, I share the following thoughts with you - *"There is no music during a musical rest, but the rest is part of the making of the music. In the melody of our life, the music is separated now and then for rests. During these rests we foolishly believe that we have come to the end of the song. I believe God sends us times of forced rests by allowing illness, disappointed plans and frustrated efforts. We grieve and lament that our voices must be silent and our part in the music silent, however God does not write the music of our life without a plan. Our part therefore is to learn the tune and not be discouraged during the rests. God himself will count the rests (time) for us; so with our eyes on him, our next note will be full and clear. We just need to patiently wait on him in restful thoughts knowing he does all things well."*

Reading our Provincial WhatsApp Page, I gather that members continue to work very hard in their respective Diocese putting their faith into action in ways great and small, assisting the needy in church and community in order to transform their lives.

Heartiest Congratulations to Bishop Howard Gregory, Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands on being elected Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies. Archbishop Gregory will now be the new Patron of the Mother's Union in the Province.

To the families of our Members who have died recently, my sincere condolence and hope that God will continue to bless and strengthen you as you mourn.

As we look forward to our Executive Meeting in Antigua, I wish you all safe travel and looking forward to seeing and meeting with you shortly.

Blessings

Hermin Price –

REPORT OF THE WORLDWIDE COUNCIL MEETING 2019

At the beginning of June 2019, Mothers' Union leaders from 30 countries across the world met to reaffirm the essence of who Mothers' Union is and what we do. I had the privilege to join with these leaders from around the globe as they met together in Kigali, Rwanda for the 2019 Worldwide Council.

This was a historical and unforgettable experience as for the first time the meeting took place outside of the UK & Ireland. The experience was one of great fellowship and joy working in Plenary, Family and Zonal groups.



As part of our week we were able to visit some of Rwanda's Credit & Savings groups and local MU branches - true examples of faith in action. Most importantly the time was spent developing a bold

new direction for our movement, as outlined below:

As a collective membership, we agreed on the impact and change we wish to make across the world in the years leading up to the 150th anniversary of our movement in 2026.

To shape the way forward, the MU family collectively had listened to the voices of over 200,000 members worldwide over two years, in the new consultative process Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and Acts (MULOA). Based on the response received we in the Province had listened to over 2000 persons.

Key decisions reached:

Our identity:

Mothers' Union is a global, women led, volunteer movement. United in our diversity and living out our faith, we support individuals and families to transform their lives. Embedded in the Church and community, we have unprecedented reach that gives a voice to the stigmatized and vulnerable around the world.

The overall global changes we aspire to make are in the areas of

Gender justice

Peace and safety

Self-reliance

Restored relationships with God, each other, the environment and the stigmatized.

A shortlist of seven areas was developed – from which three key strategic priorities will be formed for programme, policy and advocacy work – after looking further at the data from MULOA and the week's discussions these are:

- Stable livelihoods
- Reconciliation and conflict resolution
- Strengthening women and girls' voices to influence change
- Literacy and education
- Positive gender roles
- Gender based violence
- The environment.

The values which determine how we work are: being **non-judgmental, loving and compassionate, persevering and bold.**

Our approach to working in all our communities is first to listen and observe, then to mobilise our own and surrounding resources. We will work to equip those around us to meet the challenges they face, and where appropriate seek to partner with others enabling us to reach more people, more effectively.

In all we do we are committed to operating in line with good financial management, governance and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Creating safe spaces for the vulnerable is a key part of what we do, so we commit to a collective policy on safeguarding, and developing and implementing contextually appropriate procedures consistent with this policy and in line with the guidelines of the Anglican Church.

Mothers' Union is an interconnected, global movement, sharing with, and supporting one another to achieve our common goals. We recognise the need for a central charity to support and coordinate this work and agree to contribute towards the associated costs.

The central charity staff team will now use the principles above to create a detailed strategic plan.

Congratulations New Officers Elected **BARBADOS**



Mrs. Joyce Sealy, Retired Senior Tax Inspector, was elected Diocesan President of the Barbados Mothers' Union on 23rd October 2018. She was installed at the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels on Sunday 17th February by the newly elected Bishop of Barbados, Rt. Rev. Michael B. St.J Maxwell.

In her early Christian Life, Miss Joyce McClure, as she was then, was active in the St. Bernard's Chapel with St. Anne's Church in St. Joseph, from the age of sixteen (16) years as Sunday School teacher.

On 8th December 1973, Joyce was married to Ulric Sealy, she eventually relocated to St. George with her husband. She was enrolled on 22nd January 1989 in the St. Augustine's Branch of the Mothers' Union by the then Rev. Leslie Lett. She held positions of Secretary and Branch Leader.

Joyce relocated to St. Philip's Parish Church in 1998 and held positions of Deputy and Branch Leader. She also held positions as Synod Representative, Chair of Fundraising Committee and 180th Anniversary Committee.

At the Diocesan level, Mrs. Sealy held positions as Chair of the Barbados Family Commission and a member of the Provincial Family Life Commission. She is knowledgeable in the working of the Barbados Mothers' Union having served as Treasurer and 2nd Vice President.

At the Executive Retreat held on 9th February, the President along with her team strategize with a focus on the following:

- Recruitment
- Having more branches establish the Cradle Roll Program
- Training of more facilitators for the Parenting Programme
- Further sensitisation of the MULOA Process

It is proposed that the foregoing be executed through visits to Branch Meetings and Corporate Communion and working with the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

Joyce and Ulric are the parents of two (2) children, Dr. Andrea Sealy now forty-three (43) and Leslie thirty six (36) years old. They are also the grandparents of two (2).

The Barbados Mothers' Union Officers to serve for the period January 2019 to December 2021 are as follows:

President – Joyce Sealy, St. Philip
 1st Vice President – Annette Browne, St. Barnabas
 2nd Vice President – Deanna Pollard, St. Matthias
 Immediate Past President – Iris Harewood – St. Cyprian
 Executive Secretary – Jillien Callender-Layne, St. Barnabas
 Recording Secretary – Marlene Russell, St. Jude
 Treasurer – Cynthia Gittens, Holy Trinity
 Assistant Treasurer- Anna Worrell-Springer, Holy Innocents
 Literature Secretary – Irma Bruce – St. Cyprian
 Asst. Literature Secretary – Ardean Gaskin, St. Augustine
 Prayer Secretary – Waple Reid, St. Mary
 Entertainment-Hospitality Officer- Serleen Harewood, St. Augustine
 Asst. Entertainment-Hospitality Officer – Thora Barker, St. Leonard
 Training Officer – Genoise Bowen, St. Lawrence
 Public Relations Officer – June Nurse, St. Christopher



DIOCESE of Guyana, Suriname and Cayenne

NEW DIOCESAN PRESIDENT COMMISSIONED



Sunday, 16th June was a joyful day of celebration as hundreds of Mothers' Union members from across Guyana assembled at St. Philip's Anglican Church in Georgetown to witness the commissioning of their newly elected President, Mrs. Eleatrice Davenport. Sadly, the organization had been without a president since early in the year due to the tragic passing of Sister Joan James who had succumbed to injuries suffered in a road accident.

Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Charles Davidson had wisely chosen to have the commissioning done during the Synod Mass which takes place annually at the opening of Synod., The congregation which filled the church included members of the clergy, Synod representatives, Lay Ministers, Altar Servers and members from other church organizations such as the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. It was, however, the large gathering of Mothers' Union members, splendidly attired in their uniforms that stood out in the beautiful neo-gothic church building. They had gathered in their numbers to support their new president

Just before the Peace, Sister Eleatrice was invited to approach the bishop at the chancel steps, accompanied by her Vice President Sister Murna Joseph and Sister Leila Austin, Past Provincial President who was given the task of pinning on the presidential badge after Sister Eleatrice had made

her promises. At the end of her commissioning her MU sisters as well as other members of the congregation welcomed her with loud cheers. Sister Eleatrice, the new Diocesan President of



Guyana, including Suriname and Cayenne, is an educator by profession having retired a few years ago as a primary school head teacher. She is now employed as Monitoring Officer, Ministry of Education/UNICEF. She spends much of her spare time serving her parish church St. James -the -Less and her beloved MU.

DIOCESE OF Trinidad and Tobago

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM- “SHINE THE LIGHT ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE – FROM RECOMMENDATION TO ACTION”

Break the Silence! Shift the Blame! Lift the Shame on Gender based Violence.

The Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago implemented an activity in observance of the United Nation Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls during the period of 16 Days of Activism. Every year from the 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until the 10 December, World Human Rights Day– the United Nations calls for 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and Girls. The campaign calls for all persons to action against one of the world's most persistent violation of human rights. The Mothers' Union acknowledges that as a Church we have to ensure that we are not perpetrators of violence ourselves and seek out those in our congregation and groups who have suffered or are suffering as a result of violence in the home or from those who are called to love them.

PANEL DISCUSSION

A Panel Discussion was held under the banner **“Orange the World# End Violence Against Women and the sub theme “Shine the Light on Gender Based Violence - From Recommendation to Action.”** on Saturday December 08, 2018 at St. Barnabas on the Hill Anglican Church, Pleasantville, San Fernando. Members and persons from the wider community were exposed to very informative conversation on the subject by two esteemed presenters – Canon Dr. Steve West – Parish Priest and Ms. Folade Mutota -Executive Director, Women's Institute for Alternative Development of Trinidad and Tobago (WINAD). Their presentations were focused on theological perspectives with biblical references and the social perspectives of the norms and values of society and its impact on the way things are done. Participants were given the opportunity to engage the presenters in a question and answer session.

The evening concluded with a Litany Against Violence to Women and Girls; the singing of the Hymn “Bind Us Together” and the lighting of the Orange Candle. All present formed a circle around the table with the lighted candle and each person made a commitment as Church and individuals towards ending Violence Against Women and Girls.



President, Mrs. Valerie West (second from left) and other members of MUTT participating in the lighting ceremony



Canon Dr Steve West and others committing prayers to the occasion

Sad Goodbye for aPassionate, Advocate of the Mothers Union

Former Vice President—Province of the West Indies – Sister Joan James



.....A Life Well Lived

Guyana lost a dynamic, woman of substance when the late President of the Mothers' Union Diocese of Guyana and the Vice President of the Province of the West Indies Mrs. Joan James died in January, 2019 as a result of a vehicular accident while doing Mothers' Union duties.

Joan James 's vision for the organization was that it should be vibrant, effective and Christ centered , involved in promoting the well -being of families country wide. She often reminded members that this vision could be achieved if they followed the five objects of the Mothers' Union and planned programmes around them.

Joan was very energetic and made herself available for most of the planned activities that would benefit members and persons in the various communities. Some of the visits to the interior regions of the country were perilous but this did not deter her

since she had a passion for her ministry.

She was good at delegating duties and did not take credit for the successes of the projects that she delegated. That was an attribute that we all admired and respected. Joan spent hours encouraging and motivating everyone that she came in contact with. She was never shy to offer any advice when she felt that you needed it.

Joan was a Lay Minister in her church and a Sunday School Coordinator. She was a great influence to the children and youths in her community. When she retired as a Head teacher she still had underprivileged youths and children go to her home to be tutored. Teenage girls, young female adults, school drop-outs, women, young boys, men and single parents were all influenced by Sister Joan James.

Joan used the Parenting Programme to equip persons with parenting skills and the ability to build loving relationships which would lead to stable families and positive development of communities. Groups, through the sessions, covered the highs and lows of parenting, the parent child relationship and sensitive subjects such as sex education.

Through the AWAKEN Programme, she educated the church and community through Bible Studies on how they could change their mind-set from being dependent on outside help as against using their own resources to execute projects to assist them and their communities. Teenage girls and young female adults, school drop-outs, women, men, children, single parents and the community at large benefitted from this knowledge. Persons in several communities are generating extra income to financially assist their families through embracing the Parenting and AWAKEN programmes

Some of the projects of the MU that she passionately embraced are:- **Days for Girls** (making of sanitary pads for young girls, making of laundry soap, sewing/craft, farming, kiddies park, 'Safe Space for Children' after school), **prison ministry, hospital visits, care of the elderly in homes and institutions, feeding, literacy and numeracy programmes, advocacy, empowerment of women, educational programmes** and projects which nurture children and youths

Joan was a Cultural Ambassador and was the Founder Member of the Hometown Emancipation Committee. She made sure that members of the community remembered their heritage every Emancipation Day in Guyana. In 2017-2018 Joan was trained as an Enabler for the MULO Program which is the new global vision for the Mothers Union in 2020. Members were educated about the programme through workshops that she organized.

Mothers Union members worldwide would always remember Sister Joan James who was an encourager, motivator, and well- respected community worker.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY

*Submitted by,
Eleatrice Davenport
Diocesan President (Guyana, Suriname and Cayenne*

Elizabeth Sealy: A Woman of Substance – Making service her priority



The Mothers' Union in Trinidad and Tobago recently lost one of the members of the Council. Her most recent appointments included Parenting Co-ordinator and Senior Trainer, Chairperson of our Anglican Church Training and Empowerment Mission (ACTEM). *The funeral was held at St Mary's Anglican Church, Tacarigua. A sterling Tribute, representative of the life and witness of this dedicated member was presented by Mrs Valerie West, President of the Mothers' Union of Trinidad and Tobago*

Messages from the international fraternity were also received from the World Wide President: Sheran Harper and the Regional Parenting Trainer, Lena Edmondson. Condolences were also sent by The Provincial Presidents of the USA, Canada, the WI and Diocesan President of the Diocese of Rochester, UK, and many others from across the Province and the wider world.

OUR TRIBUTE (an excerpt)

Elizabeth Sealy was many things to us in the MU, an organisation that she loved, and worked very hard to achieve its objectives. She was a member of the St Aidan's Branch for many years holding positions such as Branch Leader, Link and Literature Secretary and led in many of the fundraising activities ensuring that they were a success. She also assisted with the Homework centre at St Aidan's Primary school.

She was also one of our representatives on the Board of Social Responsibility of the Anglican Church and was a great asset to the Board.

Elizabeth was a very faithful and dependable member of the MU, who used and shared her knowledge and expertise for the good of all as she successfully organised her parenting programs and lectures through-out our communities. She took our ACTEM program to a higher level as she used her expertise to assist persons not only in obtaining jobs but expanded the scope of the committee to include Training in Interview Skills, Resume Writing and Preparation for the World of Work. She was always willing to assist and could be counted on to be present and assisting in any event, be it in Trinidad and Tobago or abroad. She participated in several local and international events, and travelled to Tobago on many occasions to provide support to our branches in the Sister Isle. She attended the MU USA conference as part of a group from T&T.

Elizabeth was peaceful but strong-willed, (will hold on to her point), knowledgeable but humble with a ready smile. She always had a kind word and complement for all with whom she came into contact. On my last visit to her a few days before she left us she was still giving compliments! She was a real family person and constantly spoke of her children and grands and especially her husband, Kenneth who was such a support to her.

It is our hope that her work and witness will be a guiding light to many. She was a spirit-filled and prayerful person. We thank God for her and for all she has accomplished.

Now she has finished her course on this earth and is with her Heavenly Father, may she rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

***Submitted by,
Valerie West
Diocesan President (Trinidad and Tobago)***

**Sermon delivered by Rt. Rev Bishop Leon Golding' at the
Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting : Sunday, February 24, 2019 -Epiphany VII**

Theme: "Listen, Observe, Act -In step with God."

Luke 6 27-38

Introduction:

I begin by first congratulating the Mother's Union on their 120th anniversary of existence as an organization in the Diocese. Last year we gathered at St. Michaels and All angels Church, Kew Park, Westmoreland, where it all began to celebrate that achievement. It was a joyous and fitting occasion.

The Mothers' Union theme for this year invites us to listen, to observe and to act in step with God. It is an important theme and demands something of us as Christians, disciples of Jesus. I believe, any listening for the Christian must be rooted in the Biblical tradition, in God's self-revelation to humankind throughout history. This is not simply about reading and knowing Scripture for within it is the prophetic tradition, of persons discerning the signs of the time and hearing God's voice in and through the social, political, economic situation of their time. God speaks to us in and through each other, in and through creation and in myriad other ways. The Christian should be attuned to the voice of God whether in prayer or otherwise.

The church, Christians, must also be engaged in a listening that takes contemporary society seriously, as God took on flesh and lived among us. This calls us to observe our society, communities, to know the needs and concerns of our people that our response to them may be relevant. Our intent listening and observing should move us to act in conforming with the will of God relevant to our time -as our theme implies, to act in step with God, in conformity with the mission of God.

Listening is so difficult to do in our time, and especially to listen to God with all the many voices around. I hope we listened to the Scripture readings. I invite us as we worship to listen intently to what God may be saying and this is more than hearing the words read, or to what I say.

Our gospel reading is a continuation of last week's reading, where we see Jesus the teacher. Unlike in Matthew's gospel, Jesus here descends the mountain to teach his disciples and the large crowd gathered. The action is reminiscent of the great Law giver Moses who descends the Mountain with the Ten Commandments, God's word, to the people of Israel. With Jesus however the word is not a legal framework, a law, but a call to love.

In our gospel reading Jesus said:

²⁷ 'I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. [27-31, 35-36]

Jesus calls us to a higher standard.

Our text is familiar to all of us. We have heard it often, but has it ever sunk in that Jesus here is calling us to love our enemies and not simply our neighbours? It is not a message we gladly receive. Jesus was challenging those who listened to him to a higher standard of living, to a different type of relationships. He was calling them to reach out beyond their comfort zones, their borders, to those whom they disliked, and who disliked them, those against them and who were different from them.

*I say to you that listen, **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.***

In the context of the day Jesus' teaching was new and revolutionary. He challenged them to love the enemy not the neighbour. The Commandments, the Torah, their Law, required that they love the neighbour. Yet the Israelites of the Old Testament had a bloody history of violence, of war. To the Jewish mind of the time the neighbour was those within the household of Israel, the chosen people called out of Egypt. The neighbour did not include the Gentiles or their closest relatives the Samaritans. Hence Jesus' thought-provoking parable of the Good Samaritan.

The Levitical law in the Book of Leviticus [19] made it clear that it is to the children of Israel, their relationship with each other that the Law pointed, their neighbour was a fellow Jew. This is highlighted in verses 1-2 & 17-18 of Leviticus 19.

It is addressed to the congregation of Israel only. Loving the neighbour in the original context and in later interpretation was restricted to those within the covenant. As Julia Blum points out, they were the laws of Israel. She states:

They are this nation's particular laws rather than a set of universal guidelines, in this context neighbour refers to a person within the framework of covenantal relationship.

In other words, they were not the laws of the world, they were not agreed upon by all the nations, coming out of an international court. They were a part of Israel's constitution that guided their life together as a freed and independent people. The Law had nothing to do with Israel's relationship with other nations. In studying the Old Testament, one sees this coming through repeatedly, especially in the Psalms, that those who do not worship YHWH and keep the commandments are the enemies of YHWH. Recognition is not given to the people around them, who do not acknowledge YHWH, instead they are to be destroyed and wiped out from the face of the earth. So, violence and war against these people are not seen as evil, but in keeping with the will of God. Hence some of the gruesome scenes we meet upon in the psalms and throughout Old Testament Scripture. This is not unlike the thinking of some religious people today; both in Christianity and Islam. Even some of us here today would see execution, by legal or illegal means, as in keeping with the will of God for those who do evil or for those who embrace a life style different from ours. The blood, the life, of such persons we see as unimportant to God. Jesus said otherwise we are to love them. We are to do good, bless them and pray for them. The Good news is that 'God is love'. John 3:16. "God so loved the world that God gave the Son." The heart of the Christian message is 'God is love'. For the Christian any message we hear that is not rooted in love is not of God. So let us be careful how we listen. God's word and action is always one of love.

Jesus called his listeners to love those difficult to love.

If we look around us, if we are observant, we will see a world in need of love, compassion and understanding. With all the world's advancement, material gains, improvement in education many feel isolated, lonely and unloved. The lack of love is manifested in violence, dysfunctional families, in violence against women, the abuse of our children and generally in our disregard for each other's welfare.

Sometimes when a father does not care for his children it is because he never knew the love of a father. He never saw love in action. When mothers abuse their children, it is triggered at times by a feeling of rejection from their child's father. They feel unloved, they feel nobody cares for them as they struggle single handedly to raise a child or children. Some of our children become involved in sexual intercourse at an early age at times in search of love, of someone who cares and values them. Unfortunately, often they end up in the wrong embrace. Our young men, father several children and our girls become pregnant far too early sometimes in search of love and affirmation and the cycles continue for generations. Our youth become involved with the wrong company, gangs, because somebody there has shown them love, affirmed them and cares. Absentee parents in search of a better life for themselves and their children have contributed to the breakdown of family life.

I have no scientific evidence but from observation having to deal with parents, much of the violence meted out against many of our children is born out of an insecurity that parents have rooted in their family history. Much of the violence in our society is the result of our failure to inculcate the right values and attitudes in our youth.

The word love, as used in our text is no superficial, sentimental kind of expression; rather it is a call to a sacrificial love, the agape. It is a challenge to go the extra distance, to give of oneself, to **accept Jesus new way of loving**. Jesus challenged his listeners to do **good, bless and pray** for their enemies. Jesus called them to an alternate life style. This is not something we readily accept nor is it easy. The followers of Jesus are called to live **at a higher standard** than is expected by the world. But we are often not ready or willing to follow the way of Jesus.

Those who fit into the categories I have mentioned earlier may not be our enemies, but they are usually those we do not want to associate with for one reason or the other, we prefer to keep them at arm's length, away from our congregations, our homes, communities or personal space. These people may need our material possessions but what they need most is our love, the human touch that says we care, and they are important. We are called to reach out to those we may not like in love, with God's love.

I know that the Mothers Union is trying in some areas and doing some good work. I suggest that the first place we can begin to reach out in love and be relevant is through our Sunday Schools and youth programmes. This is not to become teachers, but to discern those in need of care. We must find a way of reaching out to the children and families in our communities. Our Sunday schools and youth programs must be seen as missionary activities and not as holding areas. The Mothers' Union as an extension of the church's ministry must begin to exercise a ministry of care and concern for the children who come to our Sunday schools and Youth groups, especially to those whose parents do not attend our churches. The children can be the avenue through which we reach families, and eventually make a difference in the lives of children and families; and begin the change. I have seen it happen and it can still happen. We must encourage our congregations to use our facilities (church halls) for mission, to make a change, and not only to raise funds.

True love is sacrificial. **It is to live for others** without seeking reward, fame or power. This is difficult. To love the Jesus way is to take up the cross, this is where it begins. The world would be a different place if we were truly filled with the love of God. Let us begin to love in action, for the good and blessing of others.

. . . God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

All of us are here because of the mercy of God, not because of any righteousness of our own. We are Christians because of the God's love and mercy. I am who I am because of the mercy of God. It is the only thing that qualifies me, and any of us as Christians, as servants of God. We come to the table of the Lord because of God's mercy.

DIOCESE OF BARBADOS

Hadassah Conliffe



Psalm 37:5, "Commit thy way unto the Lord: trust also in Him: and He shall bring it to pass", this Bible Passage best exemplifies Hadassah Conliffe a committed Christian, who allows the Lord to take control of her life. Sis. Hadassah is ninety three (93) years old with a great sense of humour. She posited that, an open mind and being respectful have been the hallmark of her life.

Mrs. Conliffe was one of 12 unsung heroines honoured on International Women's Day, February 8th 2019 by the University of the West Indies Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit and the Community Development Department for committed lives to community service. She was one of the honourees, whom Head of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit Dr. Halimah Deshong, said operated with power, dedication and passion and the singular motivation to enhance their communities.

Mrs. Conliffe became a member of St. George Parish Church in 1959 and a member of the Mothers' Union by the mid-1980's. She served on the Barbados Mothers' Union Executive as Prayer Secretary from 1993 to 1998 and 1st Vice President from 1998 to 2003. Mrs. Conliffe served as Diocesan President from 2003 to 2008 which turned out to be a distinguished six-year term.

Members of the Barbados Mothers' Union agreed that Mrs. Conliffe exemplified and possesses the following:

- Committed to all the activities of the organisation
- Positive leadership skills
- Good communication skills
- Respect for all while taking time out to understand
- Always showing appreciation for the work of the members

Other awards presented to Mrs. Conliffe were from the Constituency Council of Barbados [St George North], a plaque of Appreciation for her valued support in the community and in 2012 the St. George Parish church presenting her with an appreciation for her contribution to the church.

The Five W's of Life

- **"Who** you are is what makes you special. Do not change for anyone."
- **"What** lies ahead will always be a mystery. Do not be afraid to explore."
- **"When** life pushes you over, you push back harder."
- **"Where** there are choices to make, make the ones you won't regret."
- **"Why** things happen will never be certain. Take it in stride and move forward."

DIOCESE OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS

The Honouring of **Rev'd Deacon Rosemarie Alleyne** by The Mothers' Union on Mothers' Day

Rosemarie Shermin Alleyne a strong member of the Anglican church joined the Mothers' Union in 1981. In later years she was elected as Secretary, another time treasurer then branch leader, and eventually the post of Island president which she held for two consecutive terms before going back to be Branch leader.

A hard worker she successfully staged the 60th anniversary celebration of the mothers Union in the diocese of the windward Is. So hard was the effort of putting things in place she took ill after the first event. But, with things in place the rest of the activities were completed in her absence. She was named Diocesan President and held that office up to this moment.

She has represented the Mothers Union of this diocese in many Caribbean Territories, stretching from Belize to Guyana. Some of the Islands of the Caribbean she visited several times. She was also a mem-

ber of the P. C. C. for many years and was elected as Representative to synod on many occasions. She served the church as Lay Reader for many years before acceding to the Diaconate of the church and became known as Deacon Rosemarie Alleyne on the 25th January 2012.

Rosemarie taught for all her life. She attended the Barrouallie Primary school, and attained her secondary education at the Bishops College Kingstown. On leaving school she started teaching before moving on to The St. Vincent Teachers College, where she became a qualified teacher. She remained in that job until she retired as Deputy Principal of the Kingstown Anglican School. Rosemarie holds a diploma in Theology from Codrington College and continues to work for the church she loves as a Deacon.

With all her involvement with church matters [of which she is very passionate] she is married and has four sons and five grandsons and one grand daughter. Retired or not her love is always with the mothers Union. She has been a good wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, church worker and Mothers' Union Member. We are grateful to have known a person like Rosemarie Shermin Alleyne.

CONGRATULATIONS

Newly Elected **MOTHERS' UNION** Officers of the **DIOCESE OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS**

At a Meeting of the Council of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of the Windward Islands held VIA, ZOOM on Saturday 15th June, 2019, **Mrs. Hermione St. Bernard of the Archdeaconry of Grenada was elected Diocesan President.**

She succeeds the Rev'd Mrs Rosemary Alleyne..

Other members of the Executive are as follows:

Vice President: Beverly James – St. Lucia

Secretary: Catherine Clarke – St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Treasurer: Jennifer Rodney – Grenada

Committee Members:

Andray Frederick – St. Lucia

Evelyn Stephen – St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Sermon cont'd from page 9

Form A of our Eucharistic of Prayer is a constant reminder that we are here because God has been merciful and sought us out.

Again, and again we have turned away from you, yet in every age your steadfast love has called us to return.

This is the heart of the evangelical message. As the Apostle Paul writes in one of my favourite passages, from letter to the Romans 5:6-10;

*⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly.** ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But **God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.** ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For **if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.** “*

God acts on behalf of the vulnerable, sinners and the enemy. You and I, children of God, are called to be vehicles of God's grace and mercy to others. Christ calls those who would be his disciples to act in step with God, to imitate God, by being merciful. ³⁶**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

In our incarnate Lord we see God's love and mercy at work, in the flesh. Jesus in his ministry reached out to men and women who were bound by their situation, by the burden of the law and gave them hope. He reached out to families in their grief, to women who were the victims of a society leaned greatly in favour of men. He brought healing, forgiveness to those bound by sin. The church is called, as the Body of Christ, to be the extension of Christ's presence to others. We are to be a community of love and mercy. To act in step with God is to follow the way of our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. As Paul exhorts the Christians in Ephesus to do in imitating God.

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [Ephesians 5:1-2]

To act in step with God is to become a community of mercy, in following Jesus Christ.

Jesus calls us in our passage to not judge, to not condemn, but to forgive and to give. What does all this mean for us in our context as we examine our theme considering today's readings. No child or person should be judged on the basis of the family they are born into.

We must ask ourselves, are our congregations' places of love, forgiveness, do we show mercy? Does the sinner, the unwedded mother and children of the community those who come unaccompanied by parents, find a warm and sincere welcome in our congregations? Does the unwedded mother who has been faithful all her life to one person find a welcome at the table or is she ostracized by us? Jesus welcomed the sinner, the prostitute, those ostracized by society, by the religious elite of the day. Jesus' is love, a love that is transformative.

What is the good news in our Caribbean context? What is the good news to unwedded and faithful mothers, to dysfunctional families, to those who live with violence in one form or another, to our men and to those who feel unloved?

We need to have serious conversations on these matters if we are to be agents of God's love to others. If we are to act in step with Christ and be the extension of God's love.

Conclusion:

God calls us to love, to be merciful as Christians. Who are those in our time who need to hear the good news of God's love? Let us listen to God, observe where God is at work and follow, act in step with God.

In the words of the hymn writer:

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;
O speak and make me listen, O let me see thy footsteps and in them plant my own; my hope to follow duly is
in thy strength alone; O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end; [CPWI Hymn 672]*

I charge the members of the Mother's Union as they go forward and all of us, to Listen, observe, to Act in step in God.
AMEN.

Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MOTHERS' UNION AGM DIOCESE OF JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The AGM for the year 2018-2019, was held under the theme : ***"Listen, Observe, Act – In Step With God,"*** and this was the focus of the charge given by the Rt. Rev'd Leon Golding, Bishop of Montego Bay, who was our Celebrant and Preacher at the Annual General Meeting held on February 24, 2019 at the Montego Bay Community College.



During this service, Rev. Lorraine Geddes-McDonald was commissioned as Chaplain of the Mothers Union.

The AGM was attended by over 1500 members. They were welcomed by Diocesan President, Mrs. L. Judith Spencer-Jarrett, who acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Lauren Golding, wife of the Bishop of Montego Bay, Mrs. Anne Spence-Morris, Director, Hillcrest Retreat Centre, Mrs. Barbara O'Sullivan, Past President of the MU, Dr. Lois Hector, Regional Commissioner, Girl Guides and Mr. David Brown, BSA. An apology for absence was offered from Mrs. H. Price, Provincial President, who was recuperating at home. Mrs. Spencer-Jarrett also thanked the clergy who assisted in the service.

done by the Mothers' Union across the Diocese in 2018. This was followed by the introduction of the draft constitution. The additions/amendments were highlighted and members were asked to review the document in their branches and submit their feedback by the end of May. The Treasurer's report followed and after some debate was adopted.

The Cultural presentation by the St. Mary Deanery brought smiles to faces as they sang ***"Hurry Up! Get ready to go"***.

Tongue in cheek the President noted hint taken and proceeded to announce the special awards.

Mrs. Iris Vassell, 100 years old from Westmoreland, received a gift bag plus flowers as the oldest member in attendance and she responded by thanking God for guiding her and providing for her directly and through her children.



The Jean Murray Trophy for Branch of the Year was presented to St. George's Branch, Grand Cayman. Tears of joy overflowed as they collected the award.

The Sir Clifford Campbell Banner for Most Outstanding Deanery was presented to St. James Deanery who seemed too shocked to move



“PARENTING PROGRAMME ALIVE AND KICKING”

New Facilitators across the Province

Wherever we are in the world, we are joined together by our shared belief in the promotion of marriage and family values. We believe in empowering communities from the inside and working with families worldwide.

I am over whelmed with the progress shown and the support given to the Mothers' Union Parenting Programme in the Province of the West Indies. Our Bishops, Archdeacons, Members of Clergy, Diocesan Presidents and members in the wider communities are very supportive. Dioceses in the Province and persons from other Faiths continue to embrace the Mothers' Union Parenting Programme, and from reports received from Diocesan Presidents and Parenting Trainers the programme is alive and kicking and has been making a difference in family life and society at large.

Parenting training of Facilitators was conducted in **Belize, St Vincent, St Lucia and Grenada**. A total of **47 MU Parenting Facilitators** were trained. It must be noted that Archdeacon Christian Glasgow of St Lucia encouraged 11 male participants and they fully enjoyed and participated in the training.

The Parenting Programme, mirrors the core values at the heart of the Mothers' Union. Promoting the importance of parenting and its impact on family life is a universal goal for MU members globally. Being a parent can be described as the most important job one will ever do. It can also be quite a daunting and isolated task, especially with all the things that life in the 21st century can bring. Thank God the Parenting programme helps to equip individuals to develop their parenting skills, build relationships and contribute to the stability of family life in society.

Submitted by: *Lena Edmondson* (Regional MU Parenting Trainer, Province of the W.I & Americas June, 2019)



Parenting Coordinator Dana presenting the attributes of a good Facilitator - Belize



Group work on parenting Case Study - Belize

EDITORS' NOTE

Thanks to all those who submitted articles for this issue . We do appreciate the work that you continue to do in the Dioceses as you continue to reach out to our children, families and the marginalized in our society. Well done thou Good and Faithful servants. The Harvest is plentiful but the Labourers are few,

God Bless.

Judith Spencer-Jarrett

PARENTING PROGRAMME, Reactivated in Grenada

The Grenada Parenting Programme, a part of the Worldwide Parenting Programme of the Global Mothers' Union Parenting Programme was first introduced to the Diocese of the Windward Islands in the year 2011. Four persons went up to SVG from Grenada to do the Training. The Coordinator for the Grenada leg of this programme is Sister Sheree-Ann Mark.

A refresher course of training for this Programme was held this year from April 22nd - 26th, at the St. Martin's Retreat Centre, Mt. St. Ewan, St. Andrew.

It was a residential programme. Funding to cover the cost of this training Programme was provided by the **Fellowship of St. John Trust Association in the UK**. Seven persons were trained as facilitators by Sisters Lena Edmondson; Regional Trainer for the Province of the West Indies and the Americas and Osleene Walton, Guyanese trained Trainer.



Certified Parenting Facilitators with Archdeacon Michael Marshall, Grenada; Regional Trainer, Lena Edmondson and Parenting Trainer, Osleene Walton.



Youngest male certified parenting MU Facilitator (21 years old) explaining benefits of the training



Above: Certified Parenting Facilitators with Archdeacon Christian Glasgow, St Lucia

Left: Parenting Coordinator, Lois Friday – St Vincent, working with participant

CONGRATULATIONSAn Historical Occasion

COMMISSIONING OF WWWP



In a colourful and packed Southwark Cathedral on February 25, 2019, Mrs. Sheran Harper, was commissioned to her office as Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Right Revd Justin Welby.

"Sheran, let me congratulate you for the trust the members have bestowed on you in electing you as their Worldwide President," he said. He also thanked outgoing Worldwide President Lynne Tembey for her all her years' service.

"There is only one Mothers' Union! It is the world's oldest and

largest women's movement. It is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide church," Archbishop Welby said.

In her response President Sheran said:

"I feel overjoyed and humbled by the outpouring of love and support I have received. I am so very grateful to everyone who travelled from far and wide for this special day in the history of Mothers' Union. Thank you everyone who came and those who were unable to but were lifting me up in their prayers," said Sheran.

She continued, "I especially thank Archbishop Justin for his encouraging words. We are indeed a unique and extraordinary gift from God. Mothers' Union is at a very important point in history when our Trustee Board now reflects the truly global nature of the movement. Our recent global conversations, with emerging themes are setting the tone for the future of our work which will be even stronger in meeting the needs of the communities we serve in a life-changing way."

The new global Trustee Board was also commissioned by the Archbishop. They are Nikki Sweatman (South of England), Rev Libbie Crossman (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea), Canon Catherine Hilton (North of England), Jennifer Barton (Wales), June Buter (All Ireland), Thembsie Mchunu (Central Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Southern Africa, **Kathleen Snow (Canada, South America, U.S.A, West Indies)**, Roshini Mendis (Korea, Myanmar, North India, South India, Sri Lanka), Paul Hindle (Scotland), Deaconess (Mary Kamwati (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Jerusalem and the Middle East) and Marie-Pierrette Bezara (Burundi, Congo, Indian Ocean, Rwanda, West Africa).



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**Province well represented at commissioning Service
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL , London**



