

KATE CREEDON by Sr Josephine Beebwa

I remember Kate Creedon (RIP) with love, wonder and some questions.

I first got to know her when she came to Uganda and her mission was mainly in Karamoja, located in the North East of Uganda, in East Africa. She was a young jubilant and energetic young DMJ. She was a woman who had gone strongly into liberation and promotion for women so her heart immediately took to promoting and standing up for the Karimonjong women. However it did not last long as she began to be harassed by some of the men and even some went as far as reporting her to the high authorities. Many of us began to fear for her life. She then left Karamoja. Kate also worked for a short time in Cameroon, but was much longer in Ghana. Both



countries are in West Africa. With these short experiences in different African countries, I think it would not be too farfetched to say that Kate had a love for Africa. Are we surprised then that her last trip was to Africa and that is where she breathed her last breath on this planet! May God, indeed, rest her in eternal peace. I began to live with Kate when we were both elected on to the “General Team” in Rome. At that time the Chapter

had asked and voted that 6 members be on the General Team but three live in the Generalate in Rome while the other three stayed in their countries and travelled to Rome or whichever Country the team would have chosen for their meetings. Linda Webb, SG, Kate Creedon, 1st Assistant and Dona Nyirarwanga, resided in Rome. Sheila Moloney, Laetitia Geeraerts and myself lived in our own countries. During those 5 years I learnt that Kate was a woman who



could see far ahead with very good intuition into different areas of life. She had lots of

new ideas on how we should prepare and plan our Congregation for the near and far future, given who we are and where we seem to be heading for as a diminishing old Congregation. At first it sounded a frightening and uncalled for exercise, but now when I look back, I really have great admiration for her insight. Kate carried on along the same lines when she was elected Superior General. During her second term, of course, the Team also changed. Instead of 6 people now it was 4 and all lived together in Rome. Annette Lawrence and Annemarie Mukamwezi were the two new members.

Kate made sure we each took up our roles seriously in the running of the house as well as the Congregation. Whatever we did, would be fine but she always felt and commented that it could still be better. A couple of times she would say that we all must know and prepare well for the future of the Congregation. A time could come when she would not be there and we would be left to run the Congregation! Of-course we just laughed and I for one said if anything I would be the one to go since I was the oldest! Was this a premonition or what kind of feeling did she have...?

Kate loved poetry and music. I can say she was close to mystics if she were not one. At one time, Annette led us into a week of prayer and writing icons. Later on, Kate began writing one of Mary Magdalene holding something like an egg. I found this quite interesting and meaningful, given the situation we were facing at that time. Unfortunately Kate died before she had completed it, but Annette gave it the last touches. I would have loved to hear Kate herself talk about that icon and what it meant for her.

Kate, you left us untimely, we miss you, but rest in peace. Thank you for the mission you accomplished. Join the other DMJs and our Founder to intercede for the Congregation you loved so much.

Josie Kashemeire Beebwa DMJ.

