

# HOME TO ENHANCE AFRICAN LIFE

## Tragic Death of Nigerian Nun Inspires Medical Clinic Plan

Sr. Calista Utazi, MOJ to be honored posthumously on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Bronzeville

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHICAGO, October 7, 2016 – On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, **Home To Enhance African Life** (HEAL) will host its **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit** at **Room 43** in Bronzeville from 6-10pm. The event will pay tribute to Rev. Sr. Calista Utazi of the Messengers of Justice Congregation (MOJ), who died at age 39 in southeastern **Nigeria** due to lack of available medical care for her heart condition.

She will be honored posthumously with the “Kenosis Award” for self-emptying service after the example of Jesus Christ (cf. Phil 2:6-11) and the plan to establish a medical clinic in her name will be announced. The **Sr. Calista Utazi Memorial Medical Clinic** will serve poor and marginalized orphans, widows, and rural villagers in southeastern Nigeria irrespective of ability to pay.

Sr. Calista joined the MOJ because of their dedication to uplifting orphans, who she could empathize with due to her own hardship as an orphan. Her skill as a seamstress greatly blessed the community and the mission as she designed and sewed the religious habits for her fellow sisters and the school uniforms and plain clothes of the poor orphans and village children they served.

One day in July, Sr. Calista complained to the founder of the MOJ, **Deacon Leo Okonkwo**, that she felt very tired whenever she walked a long distance. Deacon Leo told her to admit herself to the nearby village medical clinic. She was properly diagnosed with an enlarged heart, but the small village clinic did not have the resources to treat her and looked for alternatives.

Unfortunately, hospitals in southeastern Nigeria were on strike due to salary disputes between health providers and the government. Calista was not able to be transferred to receive proper care and died of her condition on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Join us on October 13! RSVP at <https://heal-2016.eventbrite.com>.

### About Home to Enhance African Life (HEAL):

HEAL’s mission is to form servant leaders among poor and marginalized orphans, widows and rural villagers in West Africa through education, legal advocacy, and spiritual formation in the Self-Emptying Spirit of Christ (cf. Phil 2:6-11). Visit us at [www.HEALnigeria.org](http://www.HEALnigeria.org).

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