



Seat of Wisdom Library & Academy



2021 Newsletter

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Meet Our Staff



Seat of Wisdom Library



Seat of Wisdom Academy

14 Years of God's Grace



Father Sylvester A. Nnaso, M.A., D. Min., Founder

I was inspired to write this article by the gospel value of the mustard seed. One of my professors, Bishop Bob Barron once said something that has always stayed with me. He said, "When things start small, they can fly under the radar while they gain strength, heft and seriousness. Also, those involved can be tested and tried ... so be patient and embrace the small invitations." I believe that he was speaking from his personal experience during the foundation of his multiple projects; especially "Word on Fire" Catholic evangelization ministry.



Nevertheless, his prophetic statement is true for many founders of different institutions around the world. Actually, I felt like he was directly speaking to me. When I began my SOW library project in 2007; I was fully tested and tried in every way possible but the good Lord stamped his grace and presence with me. He encouraged me to stay focused and have my eyes fixed on him. This reality is a mystery that I can't fully explain but was revealed by God himself; for his compassion rewards and embraces all who willingly bear his gentle yoke!

St. John teaches that in our baptism we receive a divine filiation, which is the sanctifying grace to make us supernatural; that is to say, special if you will. He said, "But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). This divine union transforms a Christian's life making it possible for God's life to develop within our souls as something belonging to God. Hence, we see ourselves desiring heavenly things and are attracted to holy people. We are inspired by the spirit of God to do good things for others. For this reason, St. Paul exclaimed, "So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Eph 2:19).

The gospel value of the mustard seed reveals that God makes use of little things to transform our souls and our actions, which will eventually catapult us into heaven. Our daily tasks are like grains of mustard seeds sown in the middle of the world challenging us to trust in the Lord and in his divine grace so that he might continue to reveal for all ages the immeasurable riches of his grace and glory. St. Therese of the Child Jesus "little one" captured this divine mystery and decided to make it a model for her life.

My heart is filled with gratitude and prayers for you, my benefactors for helping to make my library dream come true. Since 1776, America has been a nation of people who dream and work very hard to make the dreams come true! Your sacrificial giving has been transformed into a blessing cup and a healing remedy for many. There is a common saying that "Each angel is special and unique like the human they were given to watch over." You're a special angel to me and to our beneficiaries! Please know that I lift you up daily on the altar of praise for a divine blessing through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Thank you Lord for sending many angels into my life and for sending us into the world to be your new heralds to proclaim your love and kindness to the nations. Mary, Seat of Wisdom; pray for us who have a recourse to you!



The Most Used Library In The Country

Nnaemeka Peter Okolugo, SOW Library Manager

We may not have imagined, but the reality is here before us all. A dream once conceived in the young mind of a selfless priest, Fr. Nnaso; now, right here in front of us serving various needs to several persons at various times!

The Abatete Library (Seat of Wisdom), ever since it's been opened to the public on the 31st day of December 2015, has been more than a library of books, but a community center as well. Yearly, we study the community, introduce new and fresh ideas to keep our users engaged to our library. From the Journalists that visit from far and near to get an idea for one documentary or another to the college students of Library science or Architectures that have been here to digest the library's beauty to further enhance their knowledge, all speak of its magnificence!

Efficiency and cleanliness come to mind whenever the library is being mentioned, that's why the users and our customers can not have enough of us. We have always welcomed not less than 5 persons coming to read daily from the series of book collections available here, for which we are ever grateful to our donors.

The computer section has witnessed a tremendous boom and it's still growing! Averages of 15 trainees are satisfactorily trained daily to improve their literacy on computer applications to optimize its uses. It gives us joy to see how happy these trainees are; knowing that we contributed to their happiness.

Our initiative has brought the bank closer to the people through our POS services have been a no-brainer; alongside our mini business center where services are rendered to the community; services like typing, printing, photocopying, laminating, scanning, you name it! Not less than 9 persons use our POS services daily whereas our business center has about the same number daily on average.

Our potable water supply system which has the recommendation of the ministry of water resources have been the best in the vicinity as water needs of about 12 homes are met daily using this channel. We also offer bus rental services which have conveyed 24 different families and friends to their various special ceremonies and events within the state.

Overall, we tend to the needs of about 50 individuals daily. This keeps us at 1,300 users monthly and 15,600 users per annum. Wow!

Since the November of 2020, we've added a well-equipped school that's been the envy of all far and near, the Seat of Wisdom Academy. This is evident by the number of enrollments we've had within the space of 12 months. It will be lies to say that there hadn't been challenges but we still stand very tall.

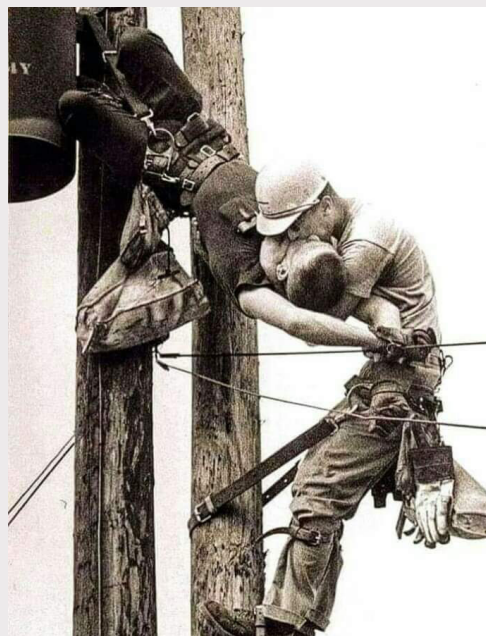
Finally, this institution, both the library and the school, has a labor force of 20 staff at her disposal, thereby creating employment opportunities and more are still to come in as the school keeps growing. Three interns have been trained already this year in furtherance of their various college studies. What a blessing this institution has been, and we are eternally grateful to our founder, the directors, our sponsors, donors and friends of our library and school. Daalu nu (thank you all)!

The Kiss of Life

A True Story to Inspire You

This award-winning 1967 photo, taken by Rocco Morabito, was titled "The Kiss of Life."

It shows two electrical operators, Champion Randall and JD Thompson, on top of an electricity pole. They had been performing routine maintenance when Champion brushed one of the low voltage lines at the top of the power pole. More than 4,000 volts entered Champion's body and his heart was instantly stopped (an electric chair uses about 2,000 volts).



His safety harness prevented a fall, and Thompson, who had been ascending below him, quickly reached him and took a mouth-to-mouth breath. He was not able to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, given the circumstances, but continued mouth-to-mouth breathing, keeping Champion's lungs active until he felt a slight pulse, then unfastened the harness and descended with it on his shoulder.

Thompson and other workers performed CPR on the floor at Champion, whose breathing and heart rate were gradually restored. Then the paramedics arrived and Champion's recovery was complete. His partner had saved his life with what the picture looks like a kiss.

Champion survived and lived until 2002, when he died of heart failure at the age of 64. Thompson is still living. The photograph was published in newspapers around the world and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1968. There are friends who are not real friends, and there are friends who are more than brothers...

Where do you belong?

Veronica “VV” Cottrell Angel Fund

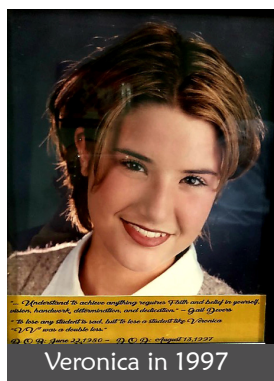
Jennifer Cottrell

Veronica was born on June 22, 1980 and passed away on August 13, 1997 at 17 years old. As a young girl, it was evident Veronica had a kind heart and a bubbly personality, and she was surrounded by a large circle of friends. Her love of children was undeniable- she was frequently asked to babysit family members and within her neighborhood.



Veronica at First Communion

An empath by nature, Veronica was part of the Snowball club in school, which is a peer counseling group of older students helping their younger peers navigate through personal or academic challenges. Veronica’s high school principal said of her, “Veronica was a real sweet young girl who was very dedicated to her schoolwork and her activities. Her death will impact us throughout the year because she was such an integral part of her class.”



Veronica in 1997

Veronica loved to read and was often found sitting in a chair quietly flipping through a new book. She had an inquisitive mind and loved to learn; she was an excellent student and earned top grades. By high school she was consistently listed on the honor roll, and was also inducted into the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and was ranked in the top 10% of her high school class. Months before her passing, Veronica was searching for the college that would be the best fit for her dream of becoming a nurse or possibly a teacher. Had she lived, we are certain

Veronica would’ve found success in whichever community service field she chose. She was a dedicated servant at heart.

The Veronica “VV” Angel Fund was established to assist indigent students realize their full potential. The fund provides tuition assistance and school supplies, such as shoes and book bags. Occasionally, the funds are used to celebrate a students’ birthday, as many of them have not had the opportunity to celebrate due to poverty.

The Cottrell family hopes the fund will be a lasting memorial of Veronica’s legacy: one of kindness and compassion, the desire to learn, and using your gifts to love and serve your community.



Ifechukwu “Ify” Nwajugo is the first beneficiary of the Veronica “VV” Cottrell Angel Fund.



Graduation Ceremony at the Academy



Prayer Time with Sr. MaryPaul



Fun Outdoor Play Time for Students



Muldowney Computer Room



Community Leaders on SOWL Grounds



Seat of Wisdom Service Project Awards in 2021



Elementary School Spelling Bee



Secondary School Spelling Bee



Library Tours for Spelling Bee Students



Dumoulin Children Room



Playtime with Sr. MaryPaul



Back to School Party, Receiving Supplies



New Library and School Van



SOWA Kids in Traditional African Costumes



New Kids Section

Comments on Our Service to the Community



Fr. Nnaso, Ichie Nnadiesube,
we appreciate you. Deme;
ka odelugaba.

-Chief Lawrence Okoye

Fr. Nnaso, Nnadiesube, dalu ooo!
God bless you bless you. -Gina

Nwadinani, I am proud of you.
Abatete is proud of you. God
bless you. -Christopher Ibemesi



Fr. Nnaso, thanks a million times for your support to the growth
of Abatete. Our Lord will continue to guide and protect you now
and always. -Philip - Martins Achebe

Rev. Dr. Nnaso, thanks for your good deeds. God bless you with
good health and long life. -Greg Ify Okafor

Ichie Nnadiesube, Fr. Nnaso, may God continue to supply you
the spiritual power to work his vineyard. -Augustin Amanie

Fr. Nnaso, we appreciate your services to humanity. -Imachi
Okoye

Chief Dr. Nnaso, thank you very much. -Jude Anakwe

We praise God from whom all blessings flow! -Chido

Many thanks, padre! -Eze Josiah

Thank you very much Ichie Nnadiesube for always having
Abatete in your heart. More blessing, Padre! -Emeka Efi

Great son! God will continue to bless you, Ichie Nnadiesube.
-Chief Nnamdi Oguanyia



The Healing Gift of Reconciliation

Arianna Halt

Going to Confession is perhaps one of the more intimidating spiritual practices of Catholics. Yet it is in this holy sacrament that we find a liberating freedom that no other practice on earth can offer us. What a gift the Lord has given us!



In Genesis, it is written that all God created is “very good”; though since Adam and Eve’s fall, our temporary home on earth is imperfect. Sin is a mark of the absence of love, is a prevalence of selfishness, and it causes hatred, division, and pain in the world. Our Lord’s pure, holy love is in direct contrast to the darkness of sin. Though our Lord desires for all His people to freely choose a holy life devoted to Him, He loves us so much that He allows us to choose our own direction to take in life. Because we face countless temptations and distractions in this world, we can easily choose a dark path to wander.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a punishment for falling into darkness, but a gift from our good Lord to free us from the burden of sin! God’s goodness is written on the hearts of all people, and through our conscience and the Spirit within us, He helps lead us back to the pure joy and peace of a relationship with Him. Jesus identifies with the wounded, and welcomes us back with joy and healing after we have strayed away.

Through most of my life, Confession was daunting: standing in a line of sinners, waiting in uncomfortable anticipation to list everything that I had done wrong to a priest. The beautiful image I now see when standing in that line is that I am in the company of saints! These are all people who want to turn their lives back to the Lord and emerge from the confessional with pure, clean souls. The humility it takes to examine one’s life, admit all fault to Jesus, and commit to turning away from sin builds virtue like nothing else.

After being terrified of this Sacrament for so long, in the past couple years, I have made Reconciliation a monthly spiritual practice, and I can confirm that it is profoundly joyful! Not only does Confession become less intimidating the more frequently one attends, but it is also easier to sense the Holy Spirit warning you against your own destructive behaviors, helping determine the cause of the sins you predominately struggle with, and filling your heart with the Lord’s humbling grace. The tranquility that fills both body and soul after being absolved is unparalleled! A heightened awareness of the soul grows the more often one reconciles with God. We become the most holy, joyful, loving version of ourselves when we create a spiritual habit of removing all the trash that builds up in our hearts.

As we move into a new year, may we all enjoy this most beautiful sacrament which frees us from any burdens of wrongdoing, fills us with the grace of the Holy Spirit, and gives us the strength we need to continue our faithful journey of love and service to one another. Have a blessed year of peace, my friends.

2021 Founder's Progress Report



Father Sylvester A. Nnaso, D. Min., Founder

During the inauguration of this library in December of 2015, I mentioned in my speech that I will continue to work on this project until it becomes the pride of Abatete. I strongly believe that I have kept my promise. I sincerely cherish the support of my family, parishioners, and friends of Seat of Wisdom library worldwide, especially my school children in the United States, and my hardworking library staff. Seat of Wisdom library has truly made a difference in Abatete community not only by its magnificent structures, peaceful and exceptional clean environment for learning, but also by the many lives it is changing, day by day, especially with the new elementary school addition. Here are some improvements and achievements we have made since the inauguration:

We Purchased...

Two power generators and constructed a new building for them.

A library bus and a van for our transportation needs.

A diesel tank to house our daily supply.

Additional computers and other equipment to meet our daily needs, with the help of donations.

Hundreds of new books and educational toys to meet the demands of our young readers, with the help of donations.

Expansions

Every room has an air-condition system.

Regular supplies of newspapers and magazines have been added to the library.

Our efficient and high-quality regular maintenance skill remain the best in the area.

Coming Soon

We are still expanding the library to include an additional 6,500 square feet building with two floors to be used for Seat of Wisdom Academy (the lower level has been completed, and the new school was opened on November 6, 2020). We are now working on the upper level.

Human Developmental Additions

We have a total of 20 staff.

216 students were sponsored in our 2021 computer literacy training sponsorship program.

We sponsor 2 students in a higher institution of learning and 3 in our new elementary school.

We helped about 143 individuals with various kinds of needs through our charitable giving foundation.

We continued our annual Spelling Bee competition with 21 schools in attendance.

Our summer reading club and Back-to-School Party continue to be fun events for the children.

Our annual service project this year was an essay competition by the high school kids.

SOW Library continues to host group tours.

We established Veronica Cottrell Angel Fund to assist students with various needs in our new school.



Tom Muldowney

SOWL Patron



The Seat of Wisdom Library Project



In 2007, a young Catholic priest named Rev. Fr. Dr. S. A. Nnaso from Enugwu Nsukwu, Abatete began to pursue his passion for education and community building; and working together with some of his friends from McHenry, Illinois, USA; refined the traditional meaning of education in Abatete by establishing the first and only digital library in the history of Abatete named Seat of Wisdom.

Since the inception of the library in December of 2015, it has sponsored more than 600 students in computer training, 100 schools in Spelling Bee annual competition, and 400 students in the Library Reading Club!

Fr. Nnaso was honored by the Abatete community in December of 2017 as Ichie Nnadiesube of Abatete.



Our Motto

To promote the love of learning
and access to higher education.