

# *Celebrating* *Joy* *Amidst* *Covid-19:*

## The Renewal of my Religious Vows



Sr. Marie Eunide Voltaire, SSpS

On Sunday May 10, 2020 at the Holy Family Cathedral, as the providence of God would have it; I renewed my religious vows during the 9:00 am Mass. The Mass was celebrated by our Bishop Robert Llanos, assisted by Fr. George Williams (Administrator), Fr. Robert Ratajczak SVD, Fr. Peter Kinuthia (Tyrells parish), and Deacon Francis St. Clair. My Sisters of the Antigua community along with Mrs. Jean Mathurin, coordinator of the Holy Family Senior Choir and Charmaine Donovan (Choir member) joined in the celebration by making it a memorable day for me through music and song.

It was a moment of thanksgiving to God for the gift of my religious vocation and to my SSpS family for allowing me to join this spiritual family. Most importantly, I am grateful for the guidance I have received, the sacrifices for, and the fervent prayers made on my behalf. I express this gratitude to my family and friends as well for their long and constant presence in my life and their presence in this Sunday celebration through the means of social media.

After the homily, Sr. AnnIta Walsh SSpS, as representative of our Congregational Leader, went forward to receive my vows. It was then in the presence of both the physical and the virtual congregations that I renewed my vows. The experience of renewing vows has certainly strengthened and deepened my commitment to our religious family and has enabled me to grow and mature as a religious missionary.

I express my gratitude to the leadership team for their support and for allowing me to wear the habit as I requested. My gratitude to our bishop, my community and all who made the celebration special for me. May we all be inspired by the Spirit in order to embrace the world sharing the Gospel for the glory of God.

