

“By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church CC 540



Esche’s Story: “I lost hope to live.”

Esche’s life of fifteen years with her soldier husband and four children was not perfect, but she had shelter in a rented home and food for her children. That meager lifestyle ended five years ago when Esche was 35 years old and her husband died of AIDS. She was left with nothing. With no income and no skills, Esche and her four children lived a very miserable and exploited existence on the streets. She did what she had to and barely lived from day to day.

Esche talks about her life on the streets, “I did not dream to improve my life ... We consumed what we got. Generally, I lost hope to live.”

Eventually her own health severely deteriorated and Esche appealed to the government program for Women and Children Affairs and was referred to the Daughters of Charity St. Mary’s Laboratory and Clinic in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Along with other women, Esche received support and training about proper hygiene and sanitation, health and dignified living. She describes attending a five-day Business Skills Training course that changed her way of thinking and essentially her life. Armed with new skills, Esche received seed funding to purchase materials and began her own business. She joined a local savings and lending community. Eventually she was able to purchase her own sewing machine and now creates cultural clothing which she sells in the large open “Merkato” market.

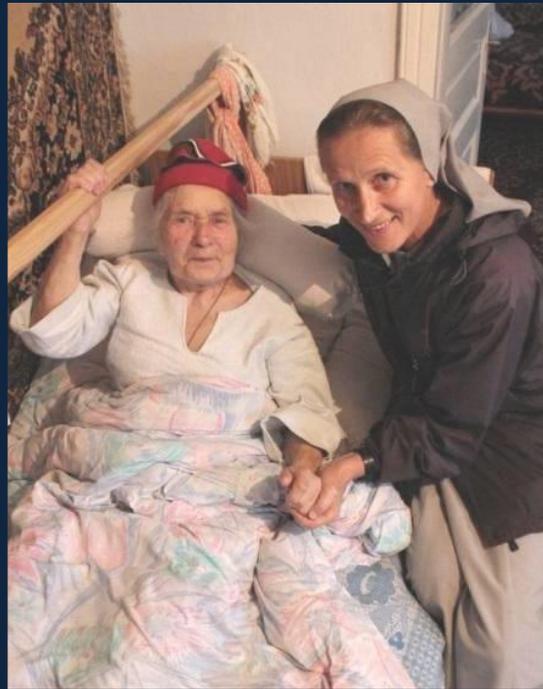
Now age 40, Esche and her children live a healthy life in their own home, and she is proud that she can pay the educational costs for her children. Her youngest is in kindergarten, two are in primary school, and her eldest daughter is attending Addis Ababa University.

“Now I have a dream and I have hope ... thanks be to God!” exclaims Esche.

**You can invest in the future of those struggling in the developing world.
Help the Sisters in their ministries + DONATE TODAY: www.daughtersips.org**

Daughters of Charity International Project Services
18000 West Nine Mile Road, Suite 550, Southfield MI 48075 P: 248-331-4681

Lent is an investment toward Easter Giving & Receiving



hope by the spoonful

a hand for support

new entrepreneur

March 2019

Dear Friend,

Lent is a time of preparation for action! It unites us with Jesus who, during His 40 days in the desert, prepared for His ministry of helping people learn about the love of God through His care of the suffering and the lost. As we travel through our own little deserts this Lent, you can prepare yourself to join with others to help the world's most vulnerable of people—those who are among some of the poorest in developing countries.

You can bring hope to hearts who do not dare to dream of a better future. You can do this through the Daughters of Charity around the world who are vowed to help the most impoverished. These dedicated women cannot do this alone. They need help from many people. You can make a donation that will go directly to one of their grassroots programs and many people in need.

Make Lent count this year. Be a part of a team that reaches around the world!

God bless you,

Sister Mary Louise Stubbs
Daughter of Charity



P.S. Gifts from people like YOU helped Esche's live-changing dream become her reality!