

# MAMA'S VISIT WITH THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

by  
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**W**e were living in a town called Egede when this incident occurred. Egede is located near Nsukka in the northern part of Enugu State. That was where our parents made long lasting friendship with Eneja and Egbujie families. Bishop Eneja was taken as a family member before I was born. Reverend father Innocent Egbujie became a close family friend from the time he was a boy till he became a priest. He was a very charismatic priest.

On this particular day Mama died or almost died. Father Horrigan gave her the anointment for the sick. Father Horrigan was one of the parish priests. He used to come from Eke and he visited us often. He liked Papa very much and always brought books to him. I was in middle school and I read the books too. One of Mama's friends brought us some food. All of us ate it, including the priest. In the evening, Papa told us to prepare *abacha* because it was easy to make. Ogoamaka prepared it. She told Edwin and I to get *akwukwo-aghara* from the garden. She shredded them and used them to prepare the some delicacy that the made from oil bean. the vegetables in the fish or meat. We ate Horrigan also ate it



Mama was just lying and not getting better. dispenser, treated her better. Papa told his station because he perform as one of the he refused to leave. He

to leave us when Mama was in such a bad condition. I think that he was expecting Mama to die. He stayed with us and we prayed. You could not put Mama in the motorcycle and take her to the hospital. The movement would have killed her because the nearest hospital was miles and miles away in the city of Enugu. The best could have been to get the attention of the dispenser and Papa had already done that, but the dispenser could not succeed. We continued to pray.

*abacha*. Luckily, we had villagers called *akpaka* Ogoamaka put them and *abacha*. That was it. No the food, just like that. like that.

on her bed, not dying Mr. Chukwu, the but she did not get Horrigan to go back to had many duties to priests in the parish, but said that he did not want

Then something miraculous happened. Papa made a quick decision. He took out his bicycle and traveled to Eke where the local doctor lived. One teacher went with him in the same bicycle. When we heard the sound of a motorcycle, we ran outside to see who it was. Chief Okongwu stopped the motorcycle. (He later bought a kit-car, not the modern type of kit car. That one resembled a jeep, but bigger; it was just called kit-car). Okongwu arrived with his wife and Papa. He was Papa's very good friend. Papa went into Mama's room to see how she was doing. He was emotional.

"My wife is dying," Papa said.  
"God forbid!" Okongwu said.

His wife came with him. She lived with us for many years before she got married to Okongwu. Mama used to call her, "my daughter Adeline," so we took her as our sister. She came out of the car also and brought banana and *okpa* for us.

Okongwu asked Papa's permission to administer a drastic treatment that had fifty percent chance of curing Mama or killing her.

"You cannot kill her. God will not allow it. Apply the treatment," Papa said and looked at Horrigan.

"God works in mysterious ways. Let him do what he has to do. One way or the other, the woman is at peace. Look at the smile on her face," Horrigan said.

True; Mama had a smile on her face, but her eyes were closed. Her breathing was noisy.

Okongwu brought his medical kit. Then he asked for water to

wash his hands. He poured some chemical into the water and washed his hands. He took out what looked like a pair of scissors. He brought out a pan.

Kpum! Into Mama's throat. Blood and all started to gush out. Mama coughed out a lot of things but mostly blood came out. Then she began to scream that she was alive and began to tell her Virgin Mary story.