Civil, religious and social dignitaries joined the Brothers of Saint John of God, and the Saint John of God Catholic Health Services staff to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arriving to Sierra Leone, in 1967, of a small group of Brothers who set the foundation of what the Hospital is nowadays.

With this celebration, the Hospital initiated the events that will take place along the whole year in the Golden Jubilee.

Among the numerous guests were Dr. Abubakar Fofanah, Sierra Leone Minister of Health and Sanitation, Mrs. Hossinatu M. Koroma, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Mans, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Mrs. Madina Rahman, Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation II, Mrs. Yansaanhe, Wife of ruling party Secretary general, Hon Usman Karankay, Memeb of Parliament for the area. Among the religious leaders present were Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles, Bishop Natalio, and several priests and religious Brothers and Sisters from other congregations. From the Order, guest present were the Prior General, Br. Jesus Etayo, Provincial Superior, Br. Bartholomew Kamara, and several other Brothers from the Province, and many other representatives of administrative, religious and corporate bodies, as well as members of the Lunsar community.

Pioneer Brothers

The story of the existence of the St. John of God Catholic Hospital can not be completed without reference to our pioneer Brothers who sacrificed their lives to come and sow the seed that has grown to a huge tree today. These Brothers were missionaries from the Aragon Province in Spain. They arrived in Lunsar on 6/1/1967.
Today, the already established missionary Institutions are managed by African indigenes missionaries. The community of Brothers in Sierra Leone is composed of energetic young and dynamic Brothers who are so motivated by the passion of their predecessors. The Brothers continue to do the charity work started with passion and commitment and love for the poor and needy.

The Services offered today have increased to three centres in Sierra Leone which include the hospital, the nursing training school and the health centre in Lungi.

Brothers working together with the Parish

The Brothers community of Lunsar joined the other religious congregations for the celebration of Easter Day at the St. Peter Claver Parish where the Parish Priest Fr. Emmanuel Sesay lead the fraternal discussions on the various pastoral activities within the Parish.

This event was very nourishing and friendly. There was a good networking and friendship building.

The Brothers community in Lunsar and Lungi have been very close to the local clergy as far the Diocesan work plan is concern.

Brothers having consultations with Traditional Leaders

The Chief Executive Officer of the St. John of God Catholic Health Services in Sierra Leone has always put value in Traditional leaders wherever he works in mission. Having recognized the enormous importance of the role of the traditional leaders, there has been frequent engagements with these leaders on ways to make medical services affordable and accessible to their people in Marampa Chiefdom where the hospital is situated.

We have been engaged in fruitful discussions on Pregnant women Insurance scheme, Batter exchange system to replace payment of medical Bills for Adults, strategies to change health behaviour, etc.
STATE REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAMME IN LUNSAR

The St. John of God Catholic Health Services of Sierra Leone has been able to meet the criteria of gaining accreditation from the Sierra Leone Nurses and Midwives Board of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to commence the training for State Registered Nursing Programme (SRN) whose duration is three (3) years. This level of training will meet the International accreditation standard that will enable our graduants to work in any part of the world as SRN. The Brothers in Sierra Leone are currently working hard to get the Nursing School affiliated with a University and accredited to award a Diploma by the Tertiary Education Commission. Meanwhile, the Dosent Campus, of the College of Nursing of the University of Barcelona is supervising the Academic activities of this training and providing material support. We are grateful to Africa Viva foundation and La Caixa Bank in Spain, the Twinning Programme of Barcelona Children’s Hospital and the Hospitaller Brothers Fund raising office in Holland for their Support. The Inspection took place on 18th October, 2016.

PARTNERS ABROAD PAYING A COURTESY CALL ON THE SIERRA LEONE NURSES AND MIDWIVES BOARD

The Team from Barcelona especially from the College of Nursing paid a courtesy call on the Sierra Leone Nurses and Midwives Board to hold preliminary Discussions on the prospective plan to commence the SRN training. The team expressed the interest to complement the efforts of the government to strengthen the Health System in the area of Human Resource for Health. This visit took place in June 2016.

STATE REGISTERED NURSING NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK

In view of providing quality nursing education to our students, space availability is a requisite for learning to take place. The current classroom block is under construction which is a two room block and hopefully will be completed by October, 2017 for use by the SRN set 1 and set 2. This venture is from the Internal revenue generated. Funding has been sought to increase the number of classrooms. The classrooms are well ventilated this time.
The St. John of God Catholic Health Services have been building a very strong networking worldwide. This include partnerships, volunteerism, and fundraising to generous organisations and personalities.

Recently, a university in Holland has opened another relationship with our mission by sending two young students who stayed with us for 2 months from May 5 to July 5, 2017. They are Betsie and Lucas. These two students have done a good job by improving their research skills in the field and also finding out various health determinants of pregnant women not using health facilities to enhance their safe delivery. Their findings have been so educative and sight opener to enable our services improve our offer to ensure that these vulnerable people have access to safe delivery.

I want to thank their University Authorities and the students themselves for their time and interest to stay with the Brothers happily.