



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

Vol. 39 No. 8 – USA – AUGUST 2019

Have you ever experienced the power of the words “Thank you” in appreciation for something you have done? During the past few weeks, three such instances profoundly touched me.

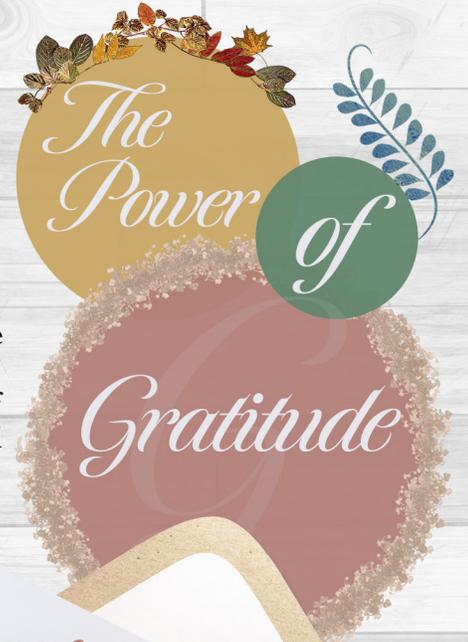
A student from Antigua, who was a recipient of a scholarship, wrote a few words of gratitude attaching his glorious reports for the school year. The fact that he felt a need to send a report already says a lot. Satisfaction of money well spent, creating a brighter future for Messiah and hopefully beyond him! Then, a letter of appreciation came from Moya, one of the first six graduates from Our Lady of the Assumption School in Jamaica. The Sisters had given her a discount in tuition because her younger siblings also attend the school. The letter sounded almost professional, a person who is competent and self-confident. Moya shared that she will attend Convent of Mercy Academy, having applied for a scholarship there as well. Her grades, clear goals and eloquence will be a big help in convincing the scholarship allocation board that she is a deserving student. Little money spent over the years of her studies at OLA, opened a door for a future unimaginable to her mother and grandmother.

Lastly, a long letter came from Sister Mary Linda Krems, working in Papua New Guinea. Sister Krems studied and served in the USA in the early 1960’s. Here is an excerpt from her letter: “When memories of the years spent in the USA came back to my mind, deep-felt gratitude filled my heart towards the Sisters of the then “Techny Community”. Way back, they prepared me well for my overseas mission field through their companionship and prayerful support during my studies, followed by “tough” teaching assignments in Vicksburg, Greenville, and Little Rock... When I made my final vows in July 1967 (together with Sr. Rose Martin) and received my mission appointment for Papua New Guinea, I felt so richly blessed and endowed with a confidence, strength and enthusiasm I didn’t know before.

I would like you to know this, dear Sisters, and I will be forever grateful for all I received, which enabled me to build a strong foundation that carried me through my last 52 years of mission life on this tropical island...”

Certainly, there is more joy in giving than in receiving! Doesn’t the gratitude of others push you to multiply the giving?

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters: in the United States and in the Caribbean

Northfield, IL

Grayslake, IL

Epworth, IA

Antigua

New York, NY

Waukegan, IL

Chicago, IL

Memphis, TN

Jamaica

St. Kitts

42nd ANNUAL MARIAN DAYS



Sr. Yustina Intan, SSpS
 Sr. Maria Theresa Nguyen, SSpS



Many gather to celebrate the 42nd Annual Marian Days 2019.

event in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary has taken place the first weekend in August since 1978 on the 28-acre (110,000 m²) campus of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix (CRM) in Carthage, Missouri. Tens of thousands of attendees come from throughout the United States, while non-Vietnamese locals and some visitors from Canada, Vietnam, and Australia also attend. This year is the 42nd annual Marian Days event in Carthage! This annual celebration is a great example of how communities come together to learn and to share unique insights and experiences. Marian Days is a truly one-of-a-kind and unforgettable experience – you have to see and experience it to believe, as words fall short to describe it. It’s an opportunity to immerse yourself in a deeply meaningful spiritual and cultural experience. **(Continued on Pg.3)**

“ Life is a celebration of passionate colors. Some days are red (when you are high), some are green (when you are productive and fruitful), some are pink (when you are young at heart), while others are blue (when you are down). Some days are orange (peaceful and make you satisfied) and some are yellow (bright and gay)..! ”
 ~Leialoha Cator

I totally agreed with Cator! Hundreds of tents and RVs fill the grounds of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix (CRM). The Marian Days ~Vietnamese: Đại Hội Thánh Mẫu, is the main festival and pilgrimage for Vietnamese American Roman Catholics. The annual



Workshops focused on such topics as family life enrichment, young adults in Catholicism and the Blessed Virgin Mary. There were also times of benediction and workshops for young families, the youth, the Virgin Mary, Vocation, and much more. Vendors sold rosaries, statues, communion dresses, candles and more. Each day of Marian Days is highlighted by a large, outdoor Mass on the CRM ground. The Marian Days offer opportunities for Reconciliation and prayer. Mass is celebrated by many bishops, priests, and other religious brothers and sisters. And nobody went hungry during the festival. Large food booths, each manned by more than 100 volunteers, served

a variety of regional Vietnamese dishes from throughout the U.S., including Pho, Bánh cuốn, Bánh mì, Goi cuốn, Ca Kho To, and Goi. Above all there were many religious booths and many congregations throughout the states were present there. They were truly a sign of living faith and the presence of God among His people!

Life is like the color that each one wants ... Why live as one single color crayon when you can be the full box of crayons coloring the city of Carthage Missouri. Faith brings me back every year and I wish you could join me next year!

“Color is a power which directly influences the soul.”

~Wassily Kandinsky~



INDONESIAN GATHERING

*“Called to Witness
and to Serve Faithfully”*

Written By:
Sr. Xaveriana Ngene & Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS

This theme echoed constantly through our SSpS and SVD Indonesian Missionaries working and studying in the United States and Caribbean gathering in East Troy on August 12-15, 2019. There were 17 SVD priests, 9 SSpS sisters, and 2 former SVDs and the family of one of them. The participants were invited to reflect deeply on this theme, “Called to Witness and to Serve Faithfully”. This theme reminds us as missionaries that we need to go deeper in witnessing and serving the Lord and His people faithfully wherever we are sent. The purpose of this gathering was to support and strengthen each other in our vocation and ministry as missionaries through the sharing of our experiences.

(Continued on Pg.10)

ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Carlos Paniagua-Monroy, SVD

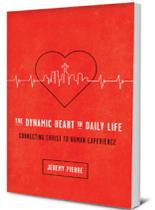
“Integrating Prayer with Daily Life”

One of the most prevalent needs of the spiritual life in today’s world is to develop the capacity to connect our earthly life with our prayer life. We have been more than exposed to the idea that in order to grow we need to “detach,” to “go away from earthly distractions.” While there is a degree of truth in such thinking, truth is also found when incorporating our human-day-to-day experiences into our journey with God.

Here we present a few titles to help with such a practice of connecting reality with spirituality:

The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life: Connecting Christ to Human Experience, By Jeremy Pierre

With a holistic view, the author helps the readers see the value and influence of beliefs, desires, and commitments in our relationships with life issues and ultimately with Christ.



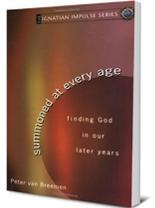
Weaving Faith and Experience: A Woman’s Perspective, By Patricia C. Hathaway

The main point of the book is a simple way to find understanding between faith and human experience as women go through life. In the end, Hathaway shows how Christ is the way to live more fully.



Summoned at Every Age: Finding God in Our Later Years, By Peter G. Van Breemen S. J.

How to see beauty and grace amidst the reality of aging? How to connect the events of our life and be grateful? How to find stillness in our very own inner and outer reality? That is what this book is all about.



On August 15, 2019, Sr. Salud Osornio renewed vows in Argentina Misiones in the presence of the parish and school community in Campo Grande. Few days later, she went for home leave in Mexico. She sends greetings and is grateful for the support she has been getting from both provinces. Many blessings to you Sr. Salud and please know that we celebrate this wonderful time with you in spirit.

Learn Today Lead Tomorrow!

Celebrating Success,
Regardless of Circumstance.



Sr. Yuliana Meno, SSpS

Our Lady of the Assumption Preparatory School (popularly known as OLA Prep School) began in September 2012 in the town of Morant Bay, parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica, WI bearing this motto: *“Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow”*.

The institution is governed by the School Board of Management, operated by Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church (under the Archdiocese of Kingston), supported by the Divine Word Missionaries, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, local and overseas donors.

The Lord has been great to us in that he sent seven students to be the pioneers of OLA Prep School along with Sr. Theresa Tawiah, SSpS, (principal), Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS and Mrs. Bogle (teachers) and Mr. Lionel Miller as volunteer. OLA Prep School is the first and the only Catholic school in the parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica. The institution has been enrolling students ages 3 to 12, years, Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6.



OLA Student procession.

In 2015, the school hosted the first “Crossing Over” of the seven pioneer students who had finished their Kindergarten level and ready to step into Primary Education. The Lord’s blessing upon this ministry is slow but steady. The society began to show their interest to OLA Prep by enrolling their daughters and sons at the institution as time went on.

In the school year of 2018-2019, there were 112 boys and girls ages three to twelve years old enrolled at this noble institution. The school has been enrolling students from different religions, not limited to Catholic faith only. We, implement a principle established by MOEYI (Ministry of Education Youth and Information) in Jamaica, stated: *“Each Child Can Learn. Each Child Must Learn”*, in each student, as well to encourage their parents and guardians, to understand the value and the benefit of



Students prepared for the next level.

education. As a Catholic institution, we have been striving to establish a learning environment and programs for a balanced holistic formation and development of every child; thus integrating Christian values into all aspects of knowledge, self-growth and culture. It is not only about the academic achievements, but rather about embracing all the various opportunities for social growth - in sport, music, devotion, Eucharist (school mass), scout, JCDC, 4H - that the school has offered this year.

With a hope and belief that these young people are able to learn now and live what they’ve learned and thus become the future leaders of themselves, their families, communities, churches, nation and the world.

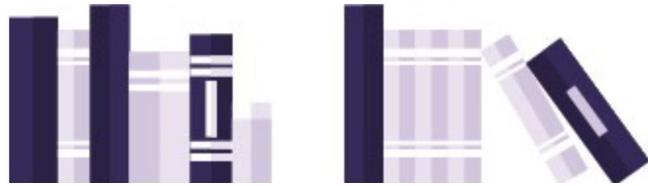
The institution is so blessed regardless of daily challenges. In 2019, we hosted two memorable events, the Fifth Crossing Over and First Graduation with a theme: *“I Believe I Can Make it Regardless of My Circumstances”*. There were twenty K 2 students and five Grade six students. The K 2 students are on their march and are “READY” to leave Kindergarten and enter the Primary Level. The Grade 6 students have placed a mark in the history book of OLA Prep as being the first set of Grade 6 students to be graduating from OLA Prep School to High School. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their immense support and willingness to support their child’s education in our school. To the OLA Prep School staff, academic and ancillary past and present, for their tireless dedication.

We value and acknowledge the support of the School Board, Divine Word Missionaries, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, our overseas and local donors. Your generosity meant a lot to OLA Prep.



OLA Prep students celebrate the schools first graduation ceremony.

Book of the MONTH

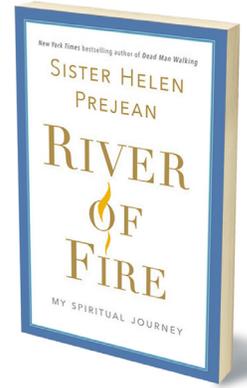


“River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey”

By: Sister Helen Prejean

Sister Helen Prejean is probably best known for her bestselling book, “*Dead Man Walking*” where she campaigns to educate Americans about the inhumanity of the death penalty. However, in her latest book, “*River of Fire*”, Sister Helen shares her own faith journey. Beginning with her early days as a sheltered religious woman, leading up to her fiery, faithful freedom days as a fighter for the poor and the marginalized with her heart aflame full of passion for justice.

“*River of Fire*” is a book for anyone interested in journeys of faith, spirituality, doubt, and belief. How to live a spiritual life open to the sufferings and creative opportunities of our world today and how to immerse oneself in the struggles of the poor. It is truly a story of what faith in action means. “*River of Fire*” is thought provoking, informative, inspiring and humorous. It is a book to read and treasure. Sister Helen’s life is a life to celebrate and honor.



- Sister Betty Tranel

NEWS



We wish good luck to our Sisters who began or are about to begin activities of new school years: students as well as principal, supervisor, DREs, Executive and Program Directors, teachers and volunteers.



On Aug. 22, 2019, the New York community welcomed the niece of Sr. Litty George **Anju Treesa Jose**, studying for her Ph.D. in Chemistry at the Graduate Center, City University of NY. She will stay with the Sisters until she is able to find a room closer to the university.

Srs. Elwira Dziuk and AnnIta Walsh - accepted to take part in the 7th Collaborative Leadership Development Program Oct. 2019 - Nov. 2020. Thank you dear Sisters for your willingness to attend this worthwhile program.

Aug. 13 - 16, 2019, Srs. Elwira Dziuk and Judy Vallimont represented the PLT at the LCWR Conference in Scottsdale, AR with the theme “Imagining Leadership in a Global Community”. We will hear more from their experience later.



On the weekend Aug 17-18, 2019, Mission Appeals took Sr. Mary Miller and Sr. Dorota Piechaczek to St. Louis, MO. We stayed with our Pink Sisters and on Sunday night, had an opportunity to chat with the whole community as part of their recreation. Their interest and joy are very contagious and testify to the depth of their relationship with the Living God. All of us were thrilled to pray together on Third Monday in the morning. Feeling embraced by their love and prayer.

Sr. Nadiya has accepted a full time position at St. Catherine Laboure. After Labor Day she will move to Rogers Park community and when her schedule allows help out at the HSLLC.

(Continued on Pg.7)



On August 15, 2019, our Sisters in Antigua moved to their new residence. A huge “Thank You” to Mark Kelly for supervising the construction work from a distance and on site, for your concern for the Sisters and for

helping them to move in and introducing them to the ‘house’. May God’s blessing rest on the community!

Prayer Request

Kristianus Kadja - uncle of Sr. Xaveriana, deceased in Indonesia on Aug. 12,2019.

Sr. Marie Sheehy recovering home after a stay in Glenbrook Hospital.

Mother of Sr. Skolastika hospitalized in Flores, Indonesia.

Emilia - aunt of Sr. Viera deceased in Slovakia.

Sr. Adelmara is experiencing difficulty breathing.

THANK YOU FROM ROGERS PARK HSLLC

Soledad Andrade, Case Manager (Rogers Park)

Summer is almost coming to a close but before it does we want to celebrate another successful Summer Peace Camp at the Rogers Park Site! The kids enjoyed their performances in forms of dance and song, and acting out dramas. Parents were more than happy to see their kids perform and share food with each other afterwards. We cannot forget that this is never possible without the help of our volunteers and staff. We receive financial help and prayers from a lot of sources. And without them, the Summer Peace Camp would not be possible.

The Summer Peace Camp is focused on helping small children up to teenagers to have a safe place to learn and play. They come together with other children their age; both friends and new faces. Together they learn in Bible Sharing, Arts and Crafts, going to Mass, getting to travel and go on Field Trips, they’re able to go on mini service trips and get to learn from active members of their communities. Parents are moved by the new skills their children learn and bring home. And as volunteers, we could not be happier in hoping this is something that will remain with the children as they continue to grow.

Humbly, we thank everyone that has kept us in their thoughts and prayers. Especially those who donated supplies and snacks. In the words of Maximilian Kolbe: *“But grace, for ourselves and for others, is obtained by humble prayer, by mortification, and by fidelity in the accomplishment of our own ordinary duties, including the simplest ones.”* For it is true that by the smallest deeds; we hope to reach Heaven. And what better than being a place of love and peace for our campers. Please pray for us, as we pray for you, in hopes for another fruitful Summer Peace Camp next year!



Sr. Monica Mabel

*Leaving
for
Rome*

On Saturday, August 24, 2019, we bid goodbye to Sr. Monica Mabel Balbuena who left for a 3-year assignment in Rome as Assistant Treasurer General. We are proud that you were chosen to contribute directly to the mission of the entire Congregation. Know that you can count on our love & prayers while we begin to count the days of your return.



Moreover, each of us was given a meaningful opportunity to reflect on who we really are as missionaries especially in this country. We were challenged to refocus our mind and our heart to that core and of our calling; missionaries who were called to witness and serve God and God’s people. No matter where that may be, it is our call to go there and bring Jesus into the hearts of all. We are called to go beyond our comfort zone, to the people who need to be transformed by the love of Jesus. Now, we are here in the USA, the country with its light and shadow. We must question ourselves, as Indonesians missioned in this country, what of our own personal, cultural up-bringing, lights and shadow contribute to the spreading of God’s Good News within our missionary presence.

This convocation started in 2002, initiated by the Indonesian SVDs in the Western Province. Distance and work situations were raised as conflicting to get together more regularly and periodically as planned. So, it was in August 2008 that the missionaries “re-started” this gathering. However, it didn’t last long. From 2008 to 2018 nothing happened until finally we came to agree with each other to make this happen again this year. We feel that there is an urgent need to come together as St. Arnold’s family in foreign land to support and strengthen each other to stay strong in order to face our challenges and remain faithful in carrying out God’s mission. We decided to have a three day convocation, August 12-15, 2019.

We gathered together during those days, being filled with joy and gratitude. We began each day with Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist. Moreover, we were nourished by reflections and information from different presenters.

We are grateful to the SVD and SSPs of the US Provinces for their trust, support, encouragement and generosity to continue to serve God’s mission in the US and the Caribbean.

We hope and pray that the positive energy we have received during the convocation be a source of *JOY, HOPE and LOVE* to be shared with our brothers and sisters wherever we are sent to serve.

To learn more about this event and read the full article written by Sr. Xaveriana Ngene and Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSPs, please visit www.sspS-usa.org under our “news” section.



Indonesian SVD, SSPs, and family gathering together in Troy, Wisconsin August 2019.