



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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A sepia-toned portrait of St. Arnold Janssen, an elderly man with a receding hairline, wearing a dark clerical garment with a white collar. The portrait is set against a textured, parchment-like background.

Remembering St. Arnold Janssen

During the Evening Praise on the feast of St. Arnold we recalled his last words: “They are yours” (Jn. 17:9). What a meaningful and emotionally charged closing of our first official day in office as the new Provincial Leadership Team. As we take up the office we are fully aware and wish to honor the fact that each of us, Missionary Sisters in the Paraclete Province, are God’s Chosen One and Beloved; each person we minister with is God’s Child; each one belongs to God and is God’s own possession. Let us live in this awareness with the entire Congregation as we embark on the year of Communion within the Congregation.



As usual, on Thursdays, I had breakfast with our Sisters in Maria Hall. When we were getting up from the table, our Sunshine, Sr. Maria Elizabeth, called me closer to herself and with a spark of mischief in her eyes whispered:

“Congratulations”



Congratulations to Sr. Selvi Selvaraj on her election as Councilor of the Region of Mexico! Sr. Selvi will travel to Mexico for the induction ceremony and RLТ meeting on Feb. 14 and return on Feb. 25th. Sr. Angelica Oyarzo and Sr. Maria Theresia graciously accommodated Sr. Selvi’s need, substituting for her at the HSLLC.

“Are you our Provincial now?” Upon hearing my affirming answer, she started to giggle and laugh aloud I quickly joined her. The other Sisters got curious and asked to be allowed to join in the fun. Soon the dining room was vibrant with giggle and laughter. This is proof that the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters live out the fruits of the Holy Spirit, joy being the first of them.

In this spirit of joy and ability to laugh at oneself and spread joy to others, we share with you the happenings in our Province and the plans for the future.

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek

New Appointments

The Congregational Leadership Team confirmed for the triennium of 2019 - 2022:

Sr. Elwira Dziuk as Assistant Provincial, also appointed the Novices Directress.

Sr. AnnIta Walsh as Admonitor.

Traveling to Rome

On January 30th Sisters Monica Mabel and Rosalia will travel to Rome. Sr. Monica will take part in a Finance Committee meeting. After returning she will go for the well-deserved home leave to Argentina. We wish you a restful time with your mother and siblings around yerba mate.

Sr. Rosalia will take part in a 5-month formation program organized by the Union of Major Superiors in Rome. May this be a graced time of experiential learning and enrichment in the heart of the Church and of the Congregation.

Both Sisters will literally broaden our experience of Communion within our Congregation through their living in the Generalate Community and following closely the issues of the entire Congregation. We will be eager to hear from you.

More Province News

The CLT gave Sr. Ancy Mary Jacob a permanent appointment to the Paraclete Province; and extended the stay of Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur for three more years. We are happy to have you Sisters with us!



Our Pre-novice, Yolette Dorce, went to Haiti for vacation. Yolette also needs to complete her studies. She will need 3 months to write her thesis and defend it.

We hope to have her back by the end of April.

On Saturday, February 14, we will have a workshop on team building followed by PLT meetings on the 15th and 16th. Our ordinary monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month.

Thank You!

We wish to sincerely thank you for the insightful responses and inspired suggestions to our request regarding appointments to the various offices and ministries. As soon as we conclude speaking with the Sisters of interest, we will share all with you.



Sr. Selvi and Sr. Viera have only a few months left in our Province. Both of them requested to move to the Convent of the Holy Spirit for the remaining time.

Given that three members of the Grayslake community will be absent, we plan to leave the house vacant temporarily. Sisters Agathe and Maria Theresa will join the community at the Convent of the Holy Spirit for the next few months.



Save the Date

Joint SSps - SVD Province Retreat in 2019 will take place:

May 20-24 in Bordentown, NY

July 28 - August 2 at the Convent of the Holy Spirit

preached by Sr. Maureen Casy with the theme "The Beatitudes"

Information about registration will be coming later.



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



JPIC Corner – December 2018

Universal Human Rights

“The firm commitment for human rights springs from an awareness of the unique and supreme value of each person.”

Pope Francis

70 years – that’s a long time ago and a generation ago. Did you know that ***Human Rights Day*** is observed every December 10 and that 2018 marks the ***70th anniversary*** of the ***Universal Declaration of Human Rights?*** The creation of this document happened after the Second World War, because the United Nations wanted to prevent those atrocities from reoccurring. They created the document as a way to properly define what human rights would be protected universally. It outlines the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, creed, color, religion, nationality, social status, gender, or any other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages.

Among those responsible for drafting this document, two prominent female figures were instrumental in its success including ***former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt***, who had a leading role as chairperson of the committee and ***Hansa Mehta of India***. Hansa is credited with editing the phrase “All men are born free and equal” to “All human beings are born free and equal.” Numerous other women also participated in the development and influenced the social, political and cultural aspects of the document, among them protections for minorities and children, equal rights in marriage, and non-discrimination. These women represented a range of countries - India, Pakistan, Soviet Socialist Republic, France, Denmark, Dominican Republic, and the United States. This document still stands today.

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt

All these issues discussed and included in the Human Rights declaration continue to be important themes and issues today. Just recently, Dr. Madeleine K. Albright, first female secretary of state for the U.S. 1997 – 2001, was asked to address ***the Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration in Marrakech, Morocco***. Her address was delivered on the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The timing of the meeting for ***the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration*** was perfect as the Declaration of Human Rights had so much to do with the subject at hand. Her comments to the group were given as a private citizen who had herself experienced the trauma of migration. She and her family emigrated to England as refugees from the Nazi invasion of their native Czechoslovakia. They were able to return home after the war only to be confronted by a Communist coup that forced them into exile again, this time to the United States.





She shared an important opinion at the meeting, "I know, from personal experience, that the movement of people from their homes does not occur without good cause. Most of us would prefer to remain in places where our families live, our names are known, our customs accepted, and our languages spoken."

She acknowledged that we are now well into the twenty-first century and there are more migrants of one type or another than at any time in the past seventy years. She cited that some of the more prominent causes include poor governance, climate change, and basic economic and demographic realities.

She suggested we heed the words of Article One of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that ***"all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."***

She shared several conclusions that flow from this principle and are worth highlighting:

- The opportunity for legal emigration should be available.
- The right to refugee status of people with a legitimate fear of persecution should be honored.
- Traffickers who raise the hopes of other migrants by lying to them and cheating them out of what little they have should be prosecuted.
- Women and children must be shielded from abuse.
- A person who flees his or her home, for whatever reason, does not shed the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Families should not have to deal with border turbulence.
- Countries should cease putting barbwire atop walls and packing children and families into camps.

Dr. Albright also said, "We are also watching as extreme nationalists pit one group against another, poisoning the communal bloodstream with hate towards people who are different – whether in nationality, appearance, or creed. There are no magic solutions to these challenges, but that does not mean that nothing can be done."

Her role now as a private citizen is to help unravel this issue as best she knows how. She announced at the meeting that she is convening a group of former foreign ministers through the Aspen Institute. Their purpose is engage in their own dialogue about these issues, and "working with the United Nations and other organizations to help build political support for the objectives laid out in this Compact."

***"The real question is: who has the responsibility to uphold human rights? The answer to that is: everyone."
— Madeleine K. Albright***



CALL TO PRAYER

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of life, bless us with the courage to defend all life from conception to natural death. Bless us with the strength to respect all peoples from east to west, from north to south, so that we may truly follow the call of Jesus to be neighbor. We ask this in the name of Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (USCCB)

By Sr. Rose Therese, SSps and Lori Brayer, JPIC

Our Junior Meeting – “The Power of Yes!”

On December 29, 2018, we had an opportunity to meet with our junior formation leader, Sr. Rose Therese SSpS, in the lower level of the Convent. At this meeting there were only three juniors: Sr. Eliane Fila, Sr. Yanet H. Lopez, and Sr. Rebecca Chaan David. Sr. Rose Therese gave us a very warm welcome, which was followed by the prayer with the title “The Power of Yes!”.

We learned that God continues His mission with our ‘yes’ in the vows. Our ‘yes’ is precious in many ways, and we recognize that there are challenges that come on the road in following Christ’s invitation. However, the Holy Spirit gives us hope, nourishes our faithful commitment to God’s will, and alerts our ‘yes’ to God’s mission in our services.

We are grateful that we had conversations with one another. Christmas gifts and other goodies were shared with love. We remembered our fellow juniors who were not with us this time -- Srs. Evelyn and Salud. Our hope is that they are doing well in their ministries.

We also shared our ministry experiences in God’s mission. Many times we recognized Christ’s light shining through the people that we serve and we hope that they also see Christ in us. Our commitment in prayer and services for others help us enjoy the graces and peace of Christ who is the center of all our existence.

We are grateful to God’s Holy Spirit for guiding and nourishing our ‘yes’ for the service of God’s mission. We are thankful to Sr. Rose Therese for her sisterly love, for journeying with each junior and for her generosity.

Sr. Yanet H. Lopez, Sr. Rebecca Chaan David, and Sr. Eliane Fila

