



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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Welcoming the Light

On the early morning of the second Sunday of Advent, I was overwhelmed by sheer joy while lighting the two candles on the Advent wreath. Was this joy caused by an unintended trip to childhood experiences of participating in Mass? When children's lanterns kept the church in a dim mystic atmosphere? Perhaps it was from the stirring caused by the previous night's reflection on the SVD motto prayer: "May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the Spirit of grace and may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people." Whatever it was, I deeply felt both: the need of light in my life and its power over me.

In fact, preparing for the birth of Jesus is welcoming the Creed: "Light from Light, true God from true God" and allowing oneself to be illuminated, permeated, and ignited by this light, and so affirm the dignity of children of God who have seen his glory, the glory of the only begotten Son. In Jesus, we find life that gives light to humanity, darkness and night vanish before the Logos. (cf. John 1:9-14)

A great star appeared over the manger indicating the place where Light was born. The simple and the wise found the One who will say: "I am the Light of the World" (Jn.8:12). Many, although God's own, did not receive the Light, and thus mission was born.

During the Christmas Season, thousands of lights glitter in our homes and in our courtyards. Great displays hypnotize us with Christmas magic, attracting us to live in the light, to become bearers of light, and dwelling places of God! God became flesh and the inns of hearts continue to be overbooked. Will you become God's dwelling?

... and may Jesus live in your heart and in the hearts of all people!

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

Being Mission to ALL



A Poem about
recollection with SVDs

Lead By:

General Superior,
Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden
(Sr. Vincent Wolf, SSpS)

“Being Mission” first and foremost
must be an example to be seen.

By the WORD are we
Transformed and renewed in community.

Mission, to be committed and witness
Acknowledges each person ... to God be led.

Prophetic Hope is guided by Love.
It connects, leads and opens us to our future above.

We are called to CELEBRATE LIFE in God

LIFE is our mission

Build up community life

Life is a dialog and we are responsible for each other

We are to be signs of JESUS, LIFE, and HOPE

“BEING” mission spreads HOPE

And with community life we must cope.

Prophetic Hope is guided by Love.

It connects, leads and opens us to our future above.

Shared Hope builds a healthy community

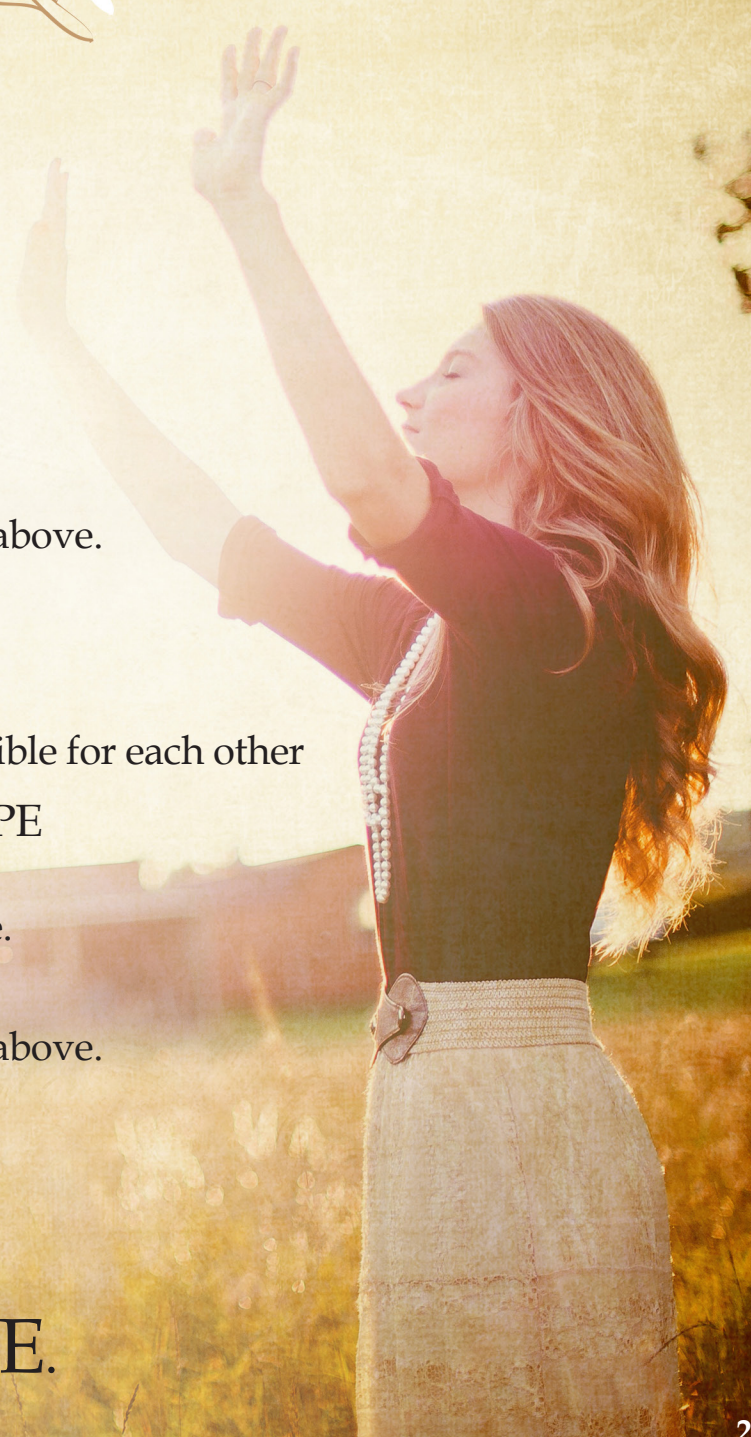
Nourishes us and our burdens free.

Eucharistic Hope is readily spread.

It encourages, and lightens our minds

To be freely led.

Let us be Missionaries of HOPE.



Book of the Month

“THE 13TH GIFT: A TRUE STORY OF A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE”

By: Joanne Huist Smith



THE 13TH GIFT, is a true heartwarming Christmas story about how a random act of kindness transformed one of the bleakest moments in a family’s history into a time of strength and love.

After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children, especially with the Christmas holiday season approaching. Twelve days before Christmas, presents began appearing on her doorsteps with notes from their “True Friends.” As the Smith family came together to solve the mystery of who were the true “givers” of the gifts, they began to thaw out from their grief and come together as a family. This true story shows how the power of kindness will change hearts and is a beautiful reminder of the “miracles” of Christmas.

- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSps

2019 Bake Sale

We would like to thank the Nursing Staff who under the direction of Barbara Paz organized the annual “Bake Sale” fundraiser. The pastries were heavenly, the presentation was excellent, the prices were better than the Black Friday deals, and the queue was short. Thank you all for your active participation in the efforts to raise funds for our mission work. A total of \$1,300 will go toward putting shades on the terrace in Holy Spirit Preschool in St. Kitts. The terrace serves as a dining space for the children and gathering area for parents and teachers’ meetings.



ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS

“Incarnation Happens Today!”

St. Arnold Janssen was enthusiastically animated with the Mystery of the Incarnation and its example of Kenosis. St. Paul sets forth the principle of kenosis in his beautiful hymn in Philippians 2:9-16, prefacing his comments by saying, “Let what was seen in Christ Jesus be seen also in you.”

“Though his state was that of God, yet he did not claim equality with God something he should cling to. Rather he emptied himself and assuming the state of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He being known, as one of us, humbled himself, obedient unto death, even death on a cross. For this God raised him on high and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name. So that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, in heaven, on earth and under the earth, and so every tongue should proclaim: Jesus Christ is Lord! To God the Father’s Glory.”

Christianity is basically a Transformative Religion. God’s Son became a human person so that human persons may become God’s sons and daughters. The Incarnation is an ongoing Mystery taking place right in each of our lives and in the life of our human community. Incarnation happens in our lives as it did in Jesus’ life when we empty ourselves and allow our God to fill us with Godself. Our whole life is a pilgrimage of loving transformation when we put on the mind and heart of Christ, and live our vocation with passion and joy.

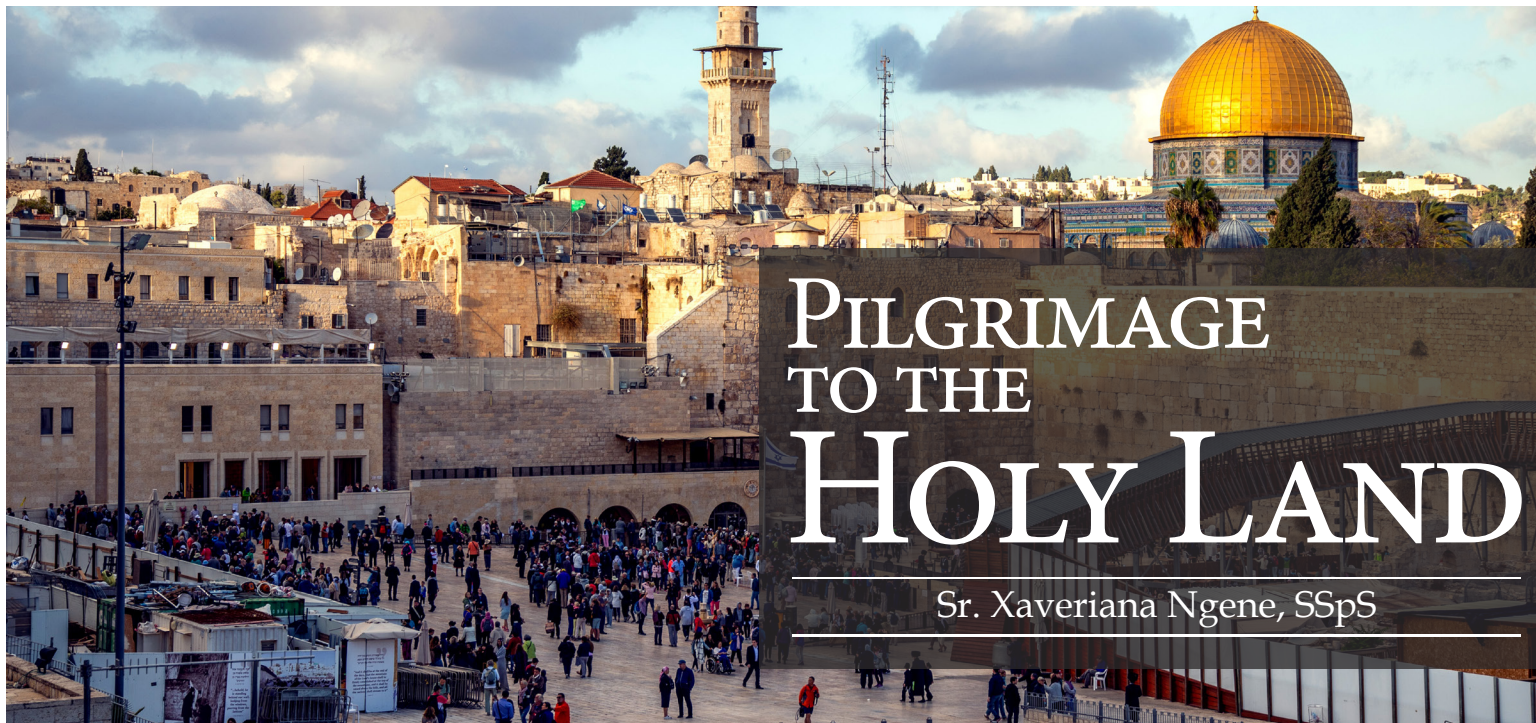
The heart of the spiritual journey and the heart of kenosis and transformation is to give ourselves away in love as God always does. Karl Rahner called our God, “the prodigal who squanders himself”. He says that this is how God originally created the world, through a radical out pouring of Godself. And this is certainly how Jesus redeemed it, by storing up nothing, clinging to nothing but rather giving Himself in pure self-donation in loving surrender to the Wellspring of Life. Kenosis and transformation is to empty ourselves as Jesus did so that we are not attached to ourselves or to comfort, or personal achievement, or wealth, but that we root and center our lives in loving surrender to God.



A Big Thank You...

Sisters, thank you for your generosity in favor of the project marking the “Extraordinary Mission Month.” We sent a check in the amount of \$3,500 to Food for the Poor and we acknowledge that a few communities decided to donate locally. With such a generous donation they can purchase a house, 5 cows, 40 goats, or 23 donkeys.





PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Sr. Xaveriana Ngene, SSpS

I know some of you have already visited the Holy Land. It was a faith experience for me. First, I would like to thank the pastor of Our Lady of the Angelus Parish and the parishioners, for their kindness and generosity to accommodate this trip.

I would also like to thank the Province Leadership Team that gave me the permission and opportunity for this pilgrimage. My pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a most fruitful experience. To walk in the land of the patriarch's and matriarchs, of the prophets and sages, of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the disciples, is truly a grace.



Allow me, a first-timer to share a few of the highlights, at least the ones that moved me most. It took more than one hour from Tel Aviv airport to the hotel in Bethlehem. Our group of 31 was comprised mostly of people from our Lady of the Angelus parish. The bus ride from our hotel in Palestine to Cana, took more than an hour or so, we had all the time to pray the rosary followed by singing hymns. Three couples with Fr. John's inspirational talk and blessing, renewed their wedding vows in Cana.

In Capernaum, the little town where Jesus lived, I could picture him living in one of those stone houses and walking the dusty roads. There I was walking the very same roads he trod. The rock was there upon which Jesus proclaimed Peter as the head of the church.

I had my fill of gazing out over the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee both of which are actually lakes that empty into the Atlantic. Some of us took a dip in the Dead Sea and all said it was just wonderful to float around in. Big waves augmented by strong winds made it dangerous for sailing the sea of Galilee. Therefore, our boat ride was canceled but our hearty lunch of grilled St. Peter fish made up for the cancellation. It is believed that this fish is the kind that was in the multiplication of fish and bread loaves.

The paved road to Mount Tabor where the Transfiguration happened was steep with many zigzags.

(Continued on Pg.6)

We went by van in three groups. It was there that Jesus proclaimed his Divinity to Peter, John, and James. It was there I realized that of all the religious leaders of other faiths, Jesus was the only one who predicted his death and the only one who claimed and revealed that he was the son of God.

The Via Dolorosa was really a test of endurance. What with all those ups, down, and sometimes slippery steps that seemed to go on forever. I can't believe I was upon the actual tomb of Jesus. There I was, just bent over transfixed, unable to recall a single prayer and was just so awed until I was nudged to move on. Absolutely no photos were allowed here. The Western wall was a place like no other. Where can you see all people of different faiths in one place praying in their own way. You can see and hear the Jews celebrating a Bar Mitzvah, Christians fervently touching and praying before the wall, and Muslims praying as well.

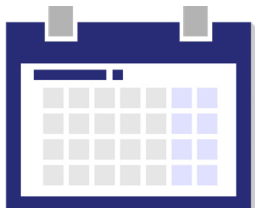
I dismissed any thought of possible danger as there were still places that we wanted to visit in such a short time. The hotel and the food was excellent.

The experience was over all too soon. Every single day of the trip will soon be a memory. For me it was an affirmation of faith and a renewal of spiritual strength and I can't thank the Lord enough for this opportunity. Our tour guide was just excellent and unbelievably knowledgeable in biblical history. He was more fluent in Spanish having grown up in South America but his English was perfectly understandable. Our Group was excellent, everyone felt like a family on the journey.

Thank you! I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Sr. Xaveriana Ngene, SSpS along with the group who accompanied her on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8- 15, 2020
Echoing General Chapter / Province Days.

August 15, 2020

Sr. Rebecca Chaan David's Final Vows.

June 15-21, 2020

Retreat at the Convent of the Holy Spirit
Fr. Dennis Callan, SVD.

As we approach these events and many more on our calendar, please keep everyone attending in your thoughts and prayers.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Employees Christmas Party took place at the Convent of the Holy Spirit on December 8, 2019. Attractive ambience, delicious food, live music and jovial camaraderie made the day a great start to the holiday season. Our appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the event.

This year we recognized in a special way and thanked for many years of loving service:



Victoria Cobos Barraza
40 years of service



Graciela Bahena
30 years of service



Elisa Arragon
30 years of service



Maurilio Olmos
15 years of service



Levar Goins
15 years of service



Silvia delVillar
15 years of service



Mark Kelly
10 years of service



Krystyna Przygodzka
10 years of service



Mary McCarthy
10 years of service



Special recognition went to Dr. August Durso, our dentist, who has given voluntary services in the Convent for 35 years. In the recent years Olive, his black Labrador, is a welcome sight and consoling touch to many Sisters.

Blessed Christmas &
a Happy New Year!





Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS



Juliana Wuur from Columbus, OH

Blessings in this Advent Season! The year 2019 comes to an end, as we are preparing to renew our faith in Christ being among us. In this festive month we still have some works in promoting our Congregation and its mission. The last big event we attended was the

National Catholic Youth Conference 2019 in Indianapolis, IN. Moving along from NCYC, we welcomed Ms. Juliana Wuur from Columbus, OH for Come and See from November 24 until December 3, 2019.

Two weeks later, Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS and I visited Irmina Kiki Paul and her family in Milwaukee, WI. In this visit, Irmina brought us to meet Fr. Chakrit Micaphitak, a Redemptorist priest from Thailand who is assigned to accompany the Hmong people and the refugees from Myanmar, Thailand and Laos in Milwaukee, WI. We are glad that the visit extended our relationship with the community there. We look forward to work with them, especially the youth for some events next year.

From December 20-22, 2019, Br. Duy-Linh, SVD, Sr. Skolastika and I will visit the Karen community in St. Paul, MN. At the weekend, we will join the youth for Christmas caroling. On Sunday, the 22nd, the community has A Day of Appreciation for religious leaders, teachers, volunteers and benefactors of the community. We will be part of this too. On the Christmas Day, if weather permits, Sr. Yustina Intan, SSpS and Sr. Elsa Castellano, SSpS will take turns to visit the community for their Christmas Celebration. Our last trip will be on December 28,

where Sr. Skolastika and I will join the Burmese Community from Bowling Green, KY, and Nashville, TN for their Christmas celebration in the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Bowling Green, KY.

Not only trips and visits, this year we had new bookmarks and promotional items, like pens and rosary bracelets. Please contact us if you need some of them!! We are still working on our new brochure and web page. We also started a video project with our SVD Brothers and our Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. We hope that this project will be finished by May 2020. Millions of thanks to Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS and Andrew Dixon from the Communications Ministry for their work of supporting our office. Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS has offered to write a short reflection to our candidates every month.

Looking back at what we have done this year, we are amazed that we had more than 80 activities. These include conferences, vocation events, retreats, Come & See, mission experiences, visits (candidates and their families, parishes, schools, colleges and universities) and meetings. We are grateful for the support we have received from the PLT and all the Sisters in this province. All are God's blessings!

Looking forward to the coming year, we do not know how our ministry will unfold. We try to focus on the present moment and be ready for any surprises from day to day. We are grateful for the past and are full of expectation for the future. In the mean time we try not to lose sight of the joy in the present moment.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2020.



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS & Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS with Elizabeth, Fr. Chakrit and Irmina at St. Michael Catholic Church, Milwaukee, WI.

NEWS

Sr. Gertrude Sitsofe Ahegbebu, SSpS successfully completed her classes toward Associate in Arts degree at Oakton Community College. Congratulations Sr. Gertrude!

Sr. Elsa Castellano, SSpS successfully completed English language studies at DWC. In mid-January she will travel to Antigua and begin her mission mainly in Spanish ministry.

Sr. Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS was denied student visa to attend classes at Divine Word College Epworth. We are in consultation with the CLT regarding her future mission assignment.

After the renewal of her vows on January 15, 2020, Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSpS will go for her home leave. We are in conversation regarding her future appointment.

Sr. Eliane Fila, SSpS will continue her CCME in Antigua volunteering in Christ the King Preschool and assisting in other ministries of the community.

As Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS goes back to school, she will not be able to help as much in Vocation Promotion. Therefore, Sr. Aprilia will not assist Sr. Rose Therese in the JPIC ministry at this time, as we had planned.

Prayer Request

Please accompany our Junior Sisters during their gathering in Antigua Dec. 29, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020. Sr. Carol Welp will guide their reflection on vows. On January 5th, Srs. Yanet and Eliane will renew their vows in Antigua. On January 15th, Sr. Evelyn will renew her vows in Techny.

We have been awaiting approval of R-1 visa for Sr. Veronica Kim from Korea and Sr. Alexis Tjahjani for a long time. Please remember the Sisters, so that this 'advent' might also finish.

Fr. Leo Dusheck, brother of Marie Dusheck, has been in and out of the hospital. Pray for both of them.

Many Sisters post information on the prayer board asking prayers for their relatives and friends. Please remember all the intentions recommended to us.

November 27, 2019 David Diehl, Sr. Mary Laureen Lahnan's brother-in-law passed away.

December 12, 2019 David Yockel, Sr. Helen Marie Yockel's brother passed away.

Two of our former chaplains died recently: Fr. Joseph Guidry November 24, 2019 and Fr. John Fincutter November 27, 2019 We remember them with gratitude.



*Just a
Reminder!*

Kindly respond to the inquiry about Contemplative retreat with SSpS Constitutions. Questions? Please see Srs. Carol Welp & Margaret Anne. Thank you!