



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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“As we prepare for our 15th General Chapter, send us your Holy Spirit to guide us in this discernment process, grant that we might be united as we listen with compassion to the longings of our Congregation and the cry of our broken world. Help us to be attentive to your promptings and inspirations; empower us to joyfully renew our commitment.”

Is it not breathtaking when you think that all 3000 of us make an around the clock plea the Holy Spirit to send wisdom and light into our ordinary lives as well as into the important decision-making procedures. During the past year, the entire Congregation was invited to reflect on the Seven Statements. We worked on convergence as we expressed our longings and dreams for the future of our Congregation, starting from personal discernment and moving to the Province level. Together, we raised concerns and needs of the world and widened our mission in response to the needs. We listened to Pope Francis, our local Church, LCWR, and many others who share aspects of our vocation and mission. We received inspiration from classic spiritual writers and contemporary ones, political analysts, sociologists, Saints and our neighbor who ‘pays it forward’. We listened to God in contemplative silence and in the whirlwind of the digital world.


Make an effort to put your heart and your mind to the words spoken by your lips as you sing the Veni Creator Spiritus and pray the Sequence.

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS



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

<i>Northfield, IL</i>	<i>Grayslake, IL</i>	<i>Epworth, IA</i>	<i>Antigua</i>	<i>New York, NY</i>
<i>Waukegan, IL</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	<i>Memphis, TN</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>St. Kitts</i>



WHAT DOES BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEAN TO ME?

BY: ANDREW M. DIXON III

When it comes to black history month I often feel a need to observe this time of the year with a sense of gratitude, respect, and obligation. Gratitude not just for those before me who either risked or laid down their lives so that I could have the opportunity at freedom within a country that enslaved so many of those before me. Black history month is not a time to forget what happened in this country but solemnly mourn those lost in that horrific tragedy in America called slavery which affected so many lives and left a community of people wondering, "Where do we go from here?"

That is where respect as it pertains to this month I feel should lead us. February in the United States and other parts of the world shouldn't be a month filled with timidity by those outside the African-American community. Instead, it can be used as a time to reflect

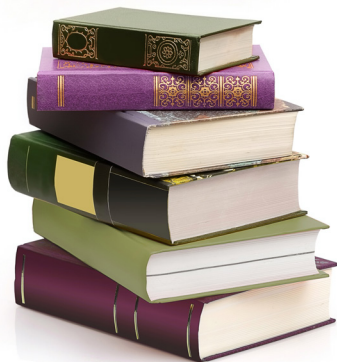
on where this country once was socially, morally and economically, in order to see how far we've come as a nation while also recognizing how things have yet to change as well. The work of the earlier generation of black people in the US still continues as we work to establish the same equal treatment as our neighbors under the law. To truly understand where people are coming from you must first be willing to learn about where they've been and how they got to where they are now. For example, in the Catholic faith Lent has already begun. This very special time in the universal church has a rich heritage. In order to articulate and educate those in the secular world about the significance of Lent they have to be willing to learn about its origin and how it still relates to ordinary times. The same can be said about the black experience because February isn't just for African-Americans but for all people to celebrate, considering how many wonderful things we enjoy today because of the talents of black people.

This leads me to my third point which is obligation. We are obliged as a society, no matter our race, sex, or religion, to stop and pay homage to those affected by tragedy, and put legislation in place to ensure the protections of all people moving forward. Black history month for me is more than 29 days of remembrance. It's a celebration of not just influential people like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but also the unsung heroes of my life, my mom, my dad, my grandparents, great grandparents, and the African-American Catholic Nuns & Priests who still encourage me on my life journey. Thank you!

Book of the Month

“WHO DOES HE SAY YOU ARE?”

By: Colleen C. Mitchell



In “*WHO DOES HE SAY YOU ARE?*” by Catholic missionary and author, Colleen C. Mitchell tells the stories of thirteen women from the Gospels and how their stories answer the question, “*Who does He say you are?*” The author weaves her own search for union with Christ as a Catholic missionary woman together with the women of Scripture and shows how they were transformed through their encounter with Christ. It was through their encounter with Christ that they came to a deeper awareness and complete acceptance of their own dignity, worth and identity, and how we too can encounter God and come to experience our own dignity and worth as God sees us.

This book is an excellent resource for both individuals and small group discussions in search of understanding and how God sees us.

- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSpS



Srs. Rose Therese Nolta &
Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

“Homelessness: Hope from the Margins” was the theme of a Vivat International side event on Feb. 18, 2020 which marked the 20th anniversary of its founding. Sr Helen Saldanha, SSpS, along with the help of members of congregations associated with Vivat, organized a panel discussion on the topic. The presenters illustrated both systemic and first hand responses to homelessness. Ms. Hava, from the permanent mission to UN of Madagascar focused on the continental, African countries, and state level - Madagascar as well as on the successful process of bringing the issue of homelessness to the attention of the member states. Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS,

President of Vivat International, stresses the need for a deeper awareness of all Vivat members to connect our ministerial responses with the work of the organization and the executive directors. Vivat cannot function and play the statutory role unless each of us supports it and our hearing and seeing disturbing realities will take place though a lense of global justice. Sr. Jean Queen and Susan Chappell brought examples of congregational responses in collaboration with local governments- Ireland and New York City respectively. The event ended with an animated dialog in small groups or in pairs of the almost 100 participants while enjoying a delicious sandwich and a glorious view of the UN. Vivat is truly alive and through it many receive a chance in life!



(Left) SSpS Srs. Helen Saldanha, Maria Theresia Hörnemann, Rose Therese Nolta, & Dorota Maria Piechaczek at the UN event. (Right) Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS speaking at the UN.

ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Fr. Nick Hien Nguyen, SVD

“The Love of Christ Impels Us. (2 Corinthians 5: 14)”

As I continue to reflect upon 2 Cor. 5: 14, which the 18th SVD General Chapter (GC) has chosen as its theme and direction for its members for the next six years, somehow the verb ‘impel’ keeps staring back at me with two lingering questions. Can the created (human beings) love the Creator (God) to the extent the verb ‘impel’ seems to have implied? Does loving neighbor have the same connotation as loving the Creator?

Mystics and saintly people such as Bernard of Clairvaux and Therese of Lisieux, to name but only two, had referred to Gal. 2:20 (“I live, not I, but Christ lives in me”) to indicate that to live and love like Jesus is possible, although not through human endeavor, but only through God’s grace. But since we are still very much mortals and probably have not reached the level of Bernard or Therese, we still have much striving to do.

2 Cor. 5:14 explicitly reminds or ‘impels’ us to ‘live as Christ’ is to avoid wandering far away from the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who is the Divine Word. To live as Christ, therefore, the 18th GC document charges us to speak “about the love of the Father for the people (Jn. 15:9), who proclaimed good news to the poor and oppressed (Lk. 4:18- 19), showed compassion to the sick, suffering and marginalized (Mt 8:1-4, Lk 7:11-17, Lk 8:43-48)”. This same document calls us “to stand up for truth and justice; to be close to the people (inter gentes) and put the least, who are so important to the Lord, at the center of our love and action.”

Looking at the world around us, especially here in the US, do we see events that are happening in the Church or in the civil society and government as overwhelming challenges or as opportunities to rise and be witnesses of Christ’s love and inclusivity, and to be transformed to become another Bernard or Therese?

Can we love others as God loves us? Everyone, wherever you might be, can personally answer that for yourself. As followers of Christ, however, we are called to place Christ as the center and focus of our lives and our ministry. When we have Christ living in us, nothing is impossible. Which also means that the two greatest commandments were never a suggestion, but truly are commandments.

*“Can we love
others as God
loves us?
Everyone,
wherever you
might be...”*



LINGUISTIC SERVANTHOOD

My Experience Translating
at the Workshop On
Spirituality and
Interculturality

Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS



It was a special time here at St. Michael's Mission House in Steyl, Holland. Twelve SVD, eleven SSpS, and three lay associates of 20 nationalities working in 24 countries, in a variety of ministries, which included pastoral work, psychology, formation, and social work, gathered here for a workshop on Spirituality and Interculturality. The three-week program began on January 24, 2020 and finished on February 15, 2020. All the participants have had a number of years in ministry, often in more than one country. Fr. Roger Schroeder, SVD and Sr. Adriana Milmanda, SSpS in presenting the workshop noted that the goals were "to integrate and contextualize spirituality and interculturality. To enable the participants to become competent resource persons and to produce materials for spirituality and interculturality (for retreats, etc.). To strengthen collaboration between SVD, SSpS and Lay Partners while contributing in developing a vision for the future of spiritual animation in our congregations."

To achieve this the workshop was divided into three "phases": Laying Foundations (head), Retreat (heart) and Developing Materials (head, heart, hands).

In addition to the seven member coordinating team, four of us were asked to come as translators – two from English to Spanish and two from Spanish to English, since, although most of the participants speak several languages, there are some who are more comfortable with English or with Spanish. An SVD brother was the technician for the translation equipment.

Having the workshop here, praying, working and studying at the place of the foundation of the SVD, SSpS and SSpSAP congregations, has given a special context to the task of a deepened spirituality and mission enculturation. The participants will return to their missions with much to share with their communities and with others with whom they work.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as a translator.



Superior Generals Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD & Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS



Sr. Margaret Anne Norris visiting historical sites.



NEWS & APPOINTMENTS

Sr. Julita Bele Bau, SSpS, with the approval of the PLT, decided not to leave the country in order to attend the 15th General Chapter as the Province delegate due to her visa status. Sr. Elwira Dziuk, the substitute delegate, will attend the Chapter.

At the end of January 2020, Sr. Gertrude Ahegbebu, SSpS has begun to volunteer at the Connection Homeless Shelter in Evanston (the same that we provide sandwiches for twice a month). We wish you a deep satisfaction and new insights into the needs of our neighborhood.

Sr. Alexis Tjahjani, SSpS was granted an R-1 visa and will return to Techny on March 3. Welcome back!

Sr. Veronica Kim, SSpS from the Province of Korea was granted an R-1 visa and is expected to join our Province on February 28, 2020 for a 3 year CCME. We are happy to welcome you, Sister, to the USA!

March 1-6, 2020, Srs. Elwira Dziuk and AnnIta Walsh, SSpS will attend the second gathering of Collaborative Leadership Development Program in St. Louis, MO.

Sr. Yanet Lopez Hernandez, SSpS will soon finish her CCME in USA/Antigua. Sister will make a short stop in Techny on June 2, 2020 before returning to Mexico on June 3, 2020.

Sr. Salud Osornio, SSpS was granted admission to Perpetual Vows. She is to join the Tertianship program which begins on March 1, 2020 in Ponta Grossa, Brazil South. Sr. Salud received her renewed passport and will travel to either Argentina Misiones or directly to Brazil.

Sr. Leonette Kaluzny, SSpS in collaboration with Fr. Michael Solazzo will offer five Lenten reflections on Mystery of Christ and Infusion of Divine Love at the Convent on Wednesday evenings during Lent. The program is advertised in five neighboring parishes.

Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS, was asked by the CLT to extend her stay in Europe and help with translations at the weeklong seminar with our lay collaborators in Rome Feb. 23- March 1, 2020. She will return to the USA on March 3, 2020. Thank you Sr. Margaret Anne for traveling and serving there where you are most needed!

On April 5, 2020, Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS will leave for a few days of vacation in Poland before traveling to the General Chapter on April 16, 2020. After the Chapter, she will return to Poland and will be back in Chicago on July 13, 2020.

On February 12, 2020, Sr. Yuliana Meno, SSpS was sworn in and became a US citizen. Congratulations! Sr. Yuliana is processing her US Passport before returning to Jamaica on March 6, 2020.





LIFE IN COMMUNION

MY EXPERIENCE IN JAMAICA, CARIBBEAN, & USA

Sr. Yosefrida Fifi Wahyuni, SSps

I ministered at the Our Lady of Assumption School in St. Thomas, Jamaica for 2 years. I mostly worked in the office and sometimes assisted the Pre - Kindergarten teachers. Every Tuesday evening, I conducted pastoral duties with the children at Browns 'gully focusing on Bible stories. I had a good experience both in ministry and within the community. In the beginning, the language was a challenge. Although the people speak English, with the very distinct accent at times, words from local dialect, made it difficult for me to understand them. Another challenge was to be

patient because everything is done slowly. In hindsight, I am grateful because it was good for me to learn to be patient. I found the Jamaican people to be friendly and kind, so it was easy to collaborate and get cooperation from teachers, students and other people. I also learned some traits of their culture and their way of life.

In the summer of 2019, as a helper I gained experience serving at the Summer Peace Camp organized by the Holy Spirit Life Learning Center in Rogers Park. I had good experiences with all my Sisters and I was encouraged by your support, prayer, love, kindness and hospitality since I arrived in the Province of the United States. I will never forget this experience in my life. Every person gave me different support and different things to help me grow in my spiritual life. My gratitude to you all my Sisters in the US Province. I am so glad that I was with you and that I learned a lot through your lives. I will cherish the encounters with my Sisters for the rest of my life. I give thanks to God for the CCME experience in the USA and in Jamaica. I love you and miss you all my dear Sisters and again thank you very much.

One love, One heart, One mission and One prayer.



Sr. Yosefrida Fifi Wahyuni, SSps departing from the US Province.

GOOD BYES

Thank you dear Sr. Maria Theresia, for your visit with us, your interest in the Sisters, and the ministries of the Province. We are grateful for your leadership and appreciate your presence at the 20th anniversary event of Vivat International. (Please read more in the JPIC section)

We wish to thank all the Sisters for welcoming Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSps, expressing their appreciation and attending the presentation on the state of our Congregation either in Techny or in New York.





UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7, 2020

PLT meeting with HSLLC Board.

April 4, 2020

PLT meeting.

April 19, 2020

Opening of the 15th General Chapter.

May 22, 2020

Closing of the 15th General Chapter.

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday - Jubilees.

June 15-21, 2020

Preached retreat by Fr. Dennis Callan, SVD at the Convent of the Holy Spirit.

August 8-14, 2020

Echoing General Chapter / Province Days.

August 15, 2020

SSpS Sr. Rebecca Chann David's Final Vows.

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

As our foreheads are marked with the sign of repentance, let us recall the seminar on forgiveness many of us attended on November 30 and radically Let go! On my return flight from New York, I read the Jan/Feb 2020 issue of The Bible Today. Let me share one phrase from an article by Professor M.P. Barber on forgiveness in the Gospel of Matthew: "the context of repentance and forgiveness is community". Grace-filled Lent to each one of us!



- L** - Look with loving compassion on the event that caused tension and hurt.
- E** - Empathize with the person that in your mind caused the disagreement, pray for her/him and for acceptance of God's plan in this situation.
- T** - Tell yourself what happened from the standpoint of various people present at that encounter.
- G** - Give forgiveness freely as a gift of your free will and not subject to passing emotions.
- O** - One day at a time, forgiveness happens only in the now, recall your gift of generous forgiveness when emotions of anger, hurt, humiliation might tempt you to revenge.

For more information on this topic, please read Pope Francis' Lenten message at your leisure.



IN MEMORIAM

01/29/2020 - Sr. Mary Agnes Fahrland, 93, only two weeks short of her 94th birthday and in her 71st year of religious life departed from this life to be united with our Heavenly Father. She spent 28 years at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Hyattsville, MD where she made many lasting connections with the SVDs and with the employees. All of us benefitted from her close relationship with the Abbey Family. God be with you, dear Sister, until we meet again.



First Impressions



Sr. Angelica Chavol Oyarzo, SSPS

Working at Catholic Charities is truly a blessing for me. I cherish the opportunity to work with such wonderful organization that in many ways carry out a vision and mission similar to our own. I work there as a bi-lingual therapist and in this position, I get to work with people who are struggling with many different mental issues that range from depression, anxiety, addictions, domestic violence, couple conflicts, HIV, LGBTQ, suicidal ideas, and much more. The service implies a lot of paper work. However, because I completed my internship at the same place, it provided me with a lot of other advantages like knowing the people who work there, the tools and procedures they have in place, the warm welcoming of the staff, volunteers, and many other details that made me feel so much at home in my workplace.



Hello Sisters,

As the seasons change, there are several housekeeping duties that will need to be addressed. With that said there will be a brief addition to the US Province bulletin entitled "Mark's Monthly Building Tips" that will help inform you of some simple things you can do to help the building continue to run smoothly.



My Dear Sisters,

Peace has prevailed in South Sudan, let's praise the Lord together. What a joy! Thanks be to God most high for his love and mercy endures forever. President Salva Kiir Mayardit declared "The official end of the war and we can now proclaim a new dawn". Peace as the President has stated "will never be shaken again". President Kiir also said that he has forgiven Former Vice President of South Sudan Riek Machar and is asking for Machar's forgiveness, to applause. He called on their respective Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups to do the same. - Sr. Rebecca Chann David, SSPS

Once a month,

1.) Flush and clean your garbage disposal.

Step 1. Pour half a cup of baking soda into the disposal.

Step 2. Pour a cup of vinegar in on top of baking soda and let it bubble up for a couple of minutes.

Step 3. Flush out with a pot of boiling water.

Step 4. Rinse out with cold tap water.

2.) Clean kitchen hood filter and remove any excess grease from the hood surface.

3.) Check under kitchen sink for any leaks or dripping water.

More tips to come next month and as always thank you all for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Mark Kelly,
Project Manager



Beneficial Excerpts from the SSps Communication Manual

Hello Sisters,

The word “communication” comes from the Latin term “communicare” which means to share, to participate in something, to make common. The primary purpose of communication is to create communion. It is much more than the process of transmitting and receiving information between people or groups that, through signs, gestures, sounds, and images, make interaction, understanding, and collaboration possible between people. It is also about promoting the common good and fostering dialogue.

As it pertains to our use of social media whether corporate or individually, it is of the utmost importance to respect others’ boundaries. Our motivation for being a part of the online community is to give others the benefit of our experience as Missionary Sisters and to widen the circle of communion with others.

The three main principles of social media ethics and etiquette are:

- Authenticity – people will positively respond if we are sincere
- Transparency – having hidden agendas will only count against us
- Communication – getting to know people as people and letting them get to know the Congregation and us

In all our efforts, we need to remember that the social media community is a virtual community. However, we live in real communities, and it is also part of social media etiquette to respect the members of the community with whom we live and share life. Therefore, the following are to be observed:

- The private matters of the community are to be treated as private and need to be kept within the boundaries of the community.
- If any breach of confidentiality is found, it has to be dealt with seriously.
- Even spreading rumors and gossip—the new form of hate speech in religious circles—has to be dealt with seriously.
- Cultivate and nurture respect towards every member while engaging in social media.
- Our use of social media should not affect the well being of any of the members or disrupt the dynamic functioning of the religious missionary community and its ministries.

The effective sharing of the life of a missionary is so vital in both the spreading of the good news from the perspective of a life changed by God but could also possibly assist in the powerful mission of the Holy Spirit as it pertains to vocation ministry as well.

Prayer Request

From March 2, 2020 to April 2, 2020 Sr. Rebecca Chann David and the Tertians will be on 30 day retreat in Cebu, Philippines. Please remember them in your prayers as they make their definite election to give their lives to the Lord.

For South Sudan that the latest peace agreement may be, a lasting and mutual forgiveness offered unconditionally.

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek's aunt, Marta Piechaczek, died on February 24, 2020 in Poland. Please remember Sr. Dorota Maria and her family in your prayers.

Dorotea Halan, the mother of SVD Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden, died on February 27, 2020. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they mourn her passing.