



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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One Saturday evening, a student Sister invited me to watch the movie "Set It Up" with her. She had to watch it as an assignment for her school work. I had my plans for the evening and initially declined. However, as I helped her with setting up the computer and TV, the Sunday reading (from 1Cor 13:4-13) flashed through my mind "love is kind, ... it does not seek its own interest" and so I stayed with her. When the movie finished, we jointly commented 'dumb'. After a quick look at the assignment, I was glad I could forget the movie altogether.

The next morning, for no reason, the movie came back to me and prompted my reflection. The two main characters, an acclaimed journalist and a successful businessman, were totally taken up by their careers. In the words of their assistants: "wearing the brand" and "sleeping with the laptop" was the synopsis of the quality of their lives. Although their executive offices had glorious views of New York, their lives were extremely narrow: work, success, and the power that comes with it. The most tragic effect was that they deprived themselves of human relationships. Gifts and money have substituted for their presence with people.

I asked myself, am I not risking the same peril? Are completing reports on time, developing projects, meeting deadlines, implementing strategies, being effective and efficient the measures of my life? What happens to my religious - missionary life when it becomes a race for results? What is the value of my ministry when numbers and programs start defining my mission? Am I "wearing congregational goals" and "praying agendas"? If this is so, I need someone to 'set me up' for a renewed relationship with my God and my sisters and brothers.

We need relationships to move us beyond individualistic and egocentric tendencies towards a presence that has a potency of transformation; a presence that begins with listening and understanding and moves to respecting and loving.

I guess I am 'set up' for Lent this year; what about you?



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

MIGRATION WEEK PRAYER SERVICE

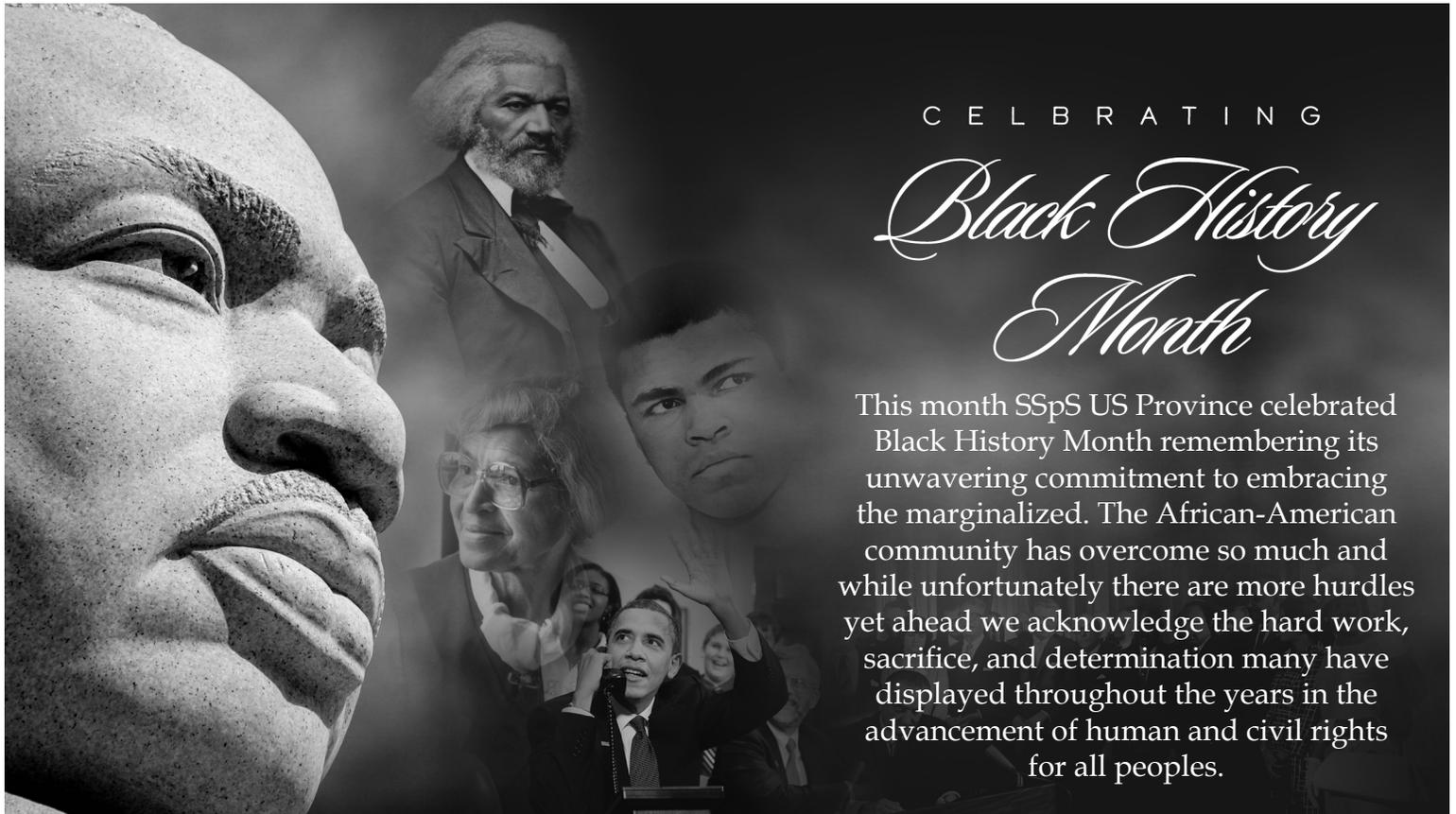
Sr. Monica Zhang, SSps

As we concluded migration week, the Waukegan community, was very grateful to attend a prayer service at St. Viator Church, Chicago on January 13, 2019. The theme of the prayer service was "Building Communities of Welcome." The Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants organized this meaningful event. The prayer, though very diverse, involved sharing our journey with prayer, singing, and reflections by members of numerous faiths and populations.

Six different faith community members shared their traditions as their reflection within the prayer service. Native Americans lead a prayer for the four directions. An African American woman who attended discussed how to build communities of welcoming. Jewish, Sikh,

Islamic, Christian speakers also shared their traditions with Scriptures. Everyone exemplified their respect, empathy, and solidarity for all the immigrants in the US. Indeed, we also were promoting human rights and dignity. We are creating a welcoming home for all people.

We pray for government leaders, the people who are vulnerable, excluded, and marginalized, especially all the migrants and immigrants. We also pray for ourselves that we may bring peace and love to our sisters and brothers who are experiencing difficulties in life.



C E L B R A T I N G

Black History Month

This month SSps US Province celebrated Black History Month remembering its unwavering commitment to embracing the marginalized. The African-American community has overcome so much and while unfortunately there are more hurdles yet ahead we acknowledge the hard work, sacrifice, and determination many have displayed throughout the years in the advancement of human and civil rights for all peoples.

Prayer for Human Rights

God of peace, breath on this fractured world and heal the divisions that grow daily wider. Breathe on leaders, that they might respect the right of all human beings to live in peace. Breathe on those who hate, opening the hand clenched in a fist, that it might embrace. Breathe on the influential, that their power might be used for the common good of all. Breathe on the individual, and bring freedom from conflict, and a life that's free from fear.

God of peace, breath on this fractured world. (www.faithandworship.com/Prayers)

SPIRITUALITY CORNER: REFLECTION ON TRUST FOR A MISSIONARY

Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS

Our response to the mysterious call we have received to mission, to embody and to share the good news of Jesus is a response of trust in the One who calls us each day to follow. Many things change in our lives, but one of the constants is God's love for us given through the Holy Spirit. That love never ceases.

Because Arnold Janssen believed that utterly, he could say in one of his poems: Trust the Lord in every situation, whether it is day or dark night. Whether storm clouds fly overhead or the sun smiles down gently. Leave everything in His hands. When the time comes, he will calm the storms. You are safe in His care.

When we read the life of St. Arnold, we see that trust in action: when he founded the mission magazine in 1874, began the Mission House in 1875, sent those first missionaries to China in 1879, founded the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in 1889 and the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters in 1896, founded Mission Houses in some 12 countries between 1888 and 1909, and responded to the needs of the missionaries in prayer and by letter as well as in other very practical ways.

Reflect on some of your own experiences of answered prayer:

What are some concerns for you at this time that call you to a trusting relationship with God?

Here are a few of the many Scripture references calling us to trust:

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Isaiah 43:1

Jeremiah 29:11

John 14:1

Proverbs 3:5-6

Psalm 20:7

Psalm 56:3

Book of the MONTH

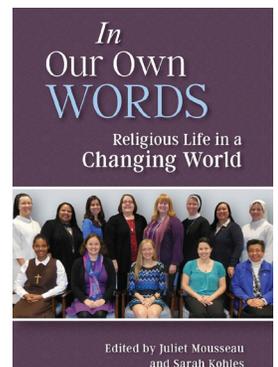


"IN OUR OWN WORDS"

Religious Life in a Changing World

Edited by: Juliet Mousseau and Sarah Kohler

This book is written by thirteen different sisters, spanning three decades from those in their late 20s to late 40s; all from different Congregations. Six of the thirteen sisters are women of color. Their "voices" in this book pulse with new energy that both inspires & challenges as they look into the future of religious life focusing on biblical, theological & experiential elements of living community and the evangelical counsels in a constantly changing world. It also encircles questions of interaction among diverse nationalities and cultures.



UPCOMING ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS

As we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday we are reminded "Repent and believe the Gospel." As Arnoldus Family members our whole life and mission is to continue Jesus' mission of inviting all peoples into a communion of life where all live in God's family justly, humbly and lovingly with one another. Our Founding Generation would call this "living the Gospel" or "doing God's will". In the Spiritual Exercises Ignatius invites us to think about three types of people who want to do this:

- 1) Those who merely wish to, but do nothing: The rich young man in Luke 18: 18-25
- 2) Those who are compromisers, but stay in charge. It is their mission. (Matt. 6:24)
- 3) Those who truly live up to their Christian and Arnoldus Family calling: Fiat. (Luke 1:38)

We are invited to reflect on our lives and see what type of person

we are and where we are meant to repent and truly live the Gospel. The following story told by Fr. Walt Bracken, SVD, might make clearer what we are asked to do as co-workers in God's Mission.

The Hitch-hiker (one who is on the road begging for a ride)

The first type of person: You are driving down the road and Jesus is hitch-hiking. You stop and ask where he is going. Jesus tells you he is going ten miles down the road. You tell him you are going only five miles but you will give him a ride that far and he can walk the rest of the way.

The second type of person: You are driving down the road and Jesus is hitch-hiking. You stop and ask where he is going. Jesus tells you he is going ten miles down the road. You tell him you are going only five miles but you invite him to get in and you will take him the whole ten miles. And you take him the whole distance.



The third type of person: You are driving down the road and Jesus is hitch-hiking. You stop and ask where he is going. Jesus tells you he is going ten miles down the road. You move over to the passenger side. You let Jesus drive. And you are just along for the ride.

Like Mary, may we continually surrender ourselves to a Mission, a Kingdom, much bigger than ourselves. In this way we go about giving our best but always listening to the One in charge.

CHRISTMAS PLAY AT ST. CATHERINE LABOURE PARISH, GLENVIEW

Sr. Nadiya Levchenko, SSpS

It is interesting, how the time flies and leaves us without much possibility to practice and be prepared for Christmas, especially for our Christmas Play. In St. Catherine Laboure Parish it is a role of 3rd graders to introduce the Nativity story to all 900 parishioners during Christmas Eve Children's Mass.

Before, 3rd graders (SCL School and Sunday Religious Education) acted during the reading of Evangelium, showing what happened 2000 years ago. This year we started Mass with the real play, modern language, and simple action.

The play was called "Wow!" because to any of the greetings of an Angel, the responsive person answered: "Wow, what does it mean?" An Angel patiently answered: "Well, in your case it means...."

Angel with Narrator, supported by 3 other teenagers in their process of preparation for the 1st Communion, told the story of Nativity with Mary and Joseph, with Bethlehem Inn and no vacancy there, with the interpretation of the means of transportation (as donkey) because of the lack of seats in subway, the birth in the barn because of the medical insurance problem, and wrapped it up with the words, "that was just the beginning and we need to keep telling the story." So the Angel appeared in Glenview, at St. Catherine Laboure Parish, to the local pastor... Christ is born!

MY SECOND YEAR APOSTOLIC MISSION EXPERIENCE

Novice Theresa Kim

My mission experience in New York helped me better understand people, to see their open hearts and great compassion. I was a teacher's aide for the second year of preparation for First Communion at Our Lady of the Angelus Parish.

During the week I volunteered at St. Michael's Catholic Academy in Flushing, where I was an assistant to the teacher. I began my ministry experience at 9:00a.m and finished at 3:00pm. That also included a lunch break of one hour during which I had lunch and recess duty. I worked with 1st grade and Kindergarten children. My job was checking their homework, and helping with numbers. I also helped kindergarteners with their Chinese writing characters which helped me learn some Chinese words and experience their culture. I learned that teaching kids is much harder than it looks.



What I have learned most from this experience is this is something that I would like to continue in my future ministry. The most enjoyable part of the ministry was getting to know the teachers and the students. They were all so kind and welcoming, which really made the school a better place to work.

I love working with children and I enjoyed my apostolic experience. My encounter with them helped me to go deeper into myself and appreciate what I have learned from them, and to share my wisdom and knowledge with others. While I was in ministry I felt the need to feed my spiritual life. It encouraged me to spend more time in prayer and keep these children, who don't have any chance to study on their own, in my prayers.

I feel so blessed and grateful to God for this experience. I extend my gratitude to the Sisters of the New York Community for welcoming me, the principal, teachers, and parishioners at Our Lady of the Angelus Parish for helping me in my mission and giving me a great opportunity to share my life with them.

MISSION EXPERIENCE IN MEMPHIS

Novice Marie Eunide Voltaire

On August 25, 2018 I arrived in Memphis , TN for my mission experience as part of the novitiate program. We were three in the community Sr. Monica D., Sr. Rebecca, and myself as a novice working in different places and parishes. After orientation and adaptation I was asking God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide me, as I serve the people that He will entrust to me . My main ministry was at Ave Maria Nursing Home where I was volunteering four days at week. Ave Maria is a Catholic long term care community which assists the aged and sick by providing different services. I was doing more pastoral care along with Deacons Jack and Norman. My tasks were to bring Communion for those who are Catholics and assist them to the chapel for Mass. I also lead faith sharing every Thursday and sometimes lead the Communion service when The deacons were not available. After that, I helped serve food, entertain the seniors, and assisted them within the facility.

I had the opportunity to also visit the children at St Jude hospital, helping at St. Joseph parish as a catechist for the young people in second year Confirmation, participating in the senior choir, and helping the children's choir.

It was a wonderful experience for me which helped me be patient and a good listener, especially with the residents at Ave Maria who may have trouble remembering things or had a story to share from their past. My presence among them was a time to express my love and care for all without any preference. I brought all of them in my heart with prayers.



MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

Dear Sisters,

Thank you again for all the suggestions submitted and for the readiness to assume some of the responsibilities necessary in the life of the Province. The potential we have within our Province has been shown, which makes us grateful for the many talents, skills, and the depth of experience found in our Sisters. We were moved by the maturity of the Sisters who after expressing their desire, wrote: "I am willing to do whatever is asked." How fortunate we are to have these 'Pearls' among us! Faithfulness to the journey will bring each of us to that point one day.

The Provincial Leadership Team during the meeting on January 26th, 2019, made the following appointments for the triennium 2019-2022. We are grateful to each Sister for accepting the position with the unique challenges of the ministry.

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta – Justice & Peace Coordinator
Sr. Mary Miller – Mission Secretary
Sr. Priscilla Burke – Provincial Treasurer
Sr. Judith Vallimont – Directress of Students
Sr. Angelica Oyarzo Chavol – Juniors Co-Directress
Sr. Annlta Walsh – Juniors Co-Directress
Sr. Rosalia Galmin – Pre-novitiate Directress
Sr. Aprilia Untarto – Vocation Directress
Sr. Yustina Intan – Vocation Promotion Team

Sr. Skolastika Wea – Vocation Promotion Team
Sr. Mary Laureen Lahnann – Assistant Mission Secretary
Sr. Carol Welp – Ongoing Formation Team
Sr. Agathe Bramkamp – Ongoing Formation Team
Sr. Edel Deong – Ongoing formation Team
Sr. Anita Marie Gutierrez – Province Archivist
Sr. Pat Snider – Directress of Holy Spirit Missionary Assoc.
Ms. Lisa Tsuji – Director of Finance

During the triennium, we foresee a gradual shift of responsibilities in Vocation Promotion from Sr. Aprilia to Sr. Skolastika. At the same time, Sr. Aprilia will get involved in the JPIC ministry along with Sr. Rose Therese.

Ms. Lisa Tsuji, was promoted to the position of Director of Finance, will assume most of the legal and financial duties for the civil corporation. We are on the lookout for another person, preferably a Sister, who could work in the Business Office.

The Bake Sale on November 19, 2018, organized by Barbara Paz and the Nursing Staff, was a great success! Thank you everyone who participated and helped make this such a wonderful experience.

NEWS



Congratulations to Sr. Xaveriana Ngene on receiving US citizenship January 29, 2019.

Srs. Barbara Miensopust and Skolastika Wea will participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW(63) in New York, March 11-23, 2019.

Thank you to Sisters Selvi Selvaraj, Skolastika Wea and Maria Theresa Nguyen for their service to our sisters and brothers in El Paso. You can read their moving story in the latest SSpS Mission Magazine.

Prayer Request

Marjorie (Marge) Vallimont, (77), sister of Sr. Judy, who passed away on 02/15/19 in Erie, PA.

Yolette Dorce, Pre-novice, who is in Haiti at this time of anti-government protests and unrest.

Sr. Monica Zhang whos father Qian Zhang was in an automobile accident and may require surgery.

Sr. Salud Osornio is taking her final exams and completing studies in Argentina Misiones.



JPIC Corner – November 2018 Justice for Immigrants and Refugees

JOINT IMMIGRATION VENTURE – 10th Anniversary

TOWARD COMMUNION
WIDENING THE CIRCLE



This last year of focusing on our 14th SSps General Chapter Congregational Directions, we the **Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters**, have committed ourselves to **Widening the Circle through Communion**. In this JPIC Corner, we want to share one example – the **Joint Immigration Venture** as it is going into the 10th year. During 2009 some SVDs and SSps sat together to discern what issue was the most pressing and how they could become engaged and involved with the issue. The SSpsAp would also participate and be engaged through their prayer. In the process “immigration” was the issue that was taken by all present. How would we concentrate on immigration and immigrants? A four pillar system was worked out: **Prayer, Education of Ourselves and Others, Advocacy and Action**. Through all of our activities these four pillars have been our guide. Sr. Maria Burke helped us to determine our process.

What we needed to accomplish first was to take a survey of the SVD and SSps and find resources in the area of immigration. Next we visited various organizations to become aware of their activities that support immigrants. Each of us were filled with energy of the Holy Spirit to help our brother and sister immigrants. The first years were busy and filled with plans and activities. Below are some of the activities that have occurred over the years.

A Prayer Day for Immigrants – Christians at the Border with Thanh Van Nguyen, SVD was held both at SSps and SVD. Fr. Van Nguyen, SVD shared both “Immigration in the Old Testament” and “Jesus as Sojourner: The Implication for Today”. There was also a panel at both places -- two SVDs and SSps. During these days, we included prayer, education, advocacy and action.



Another wonderful experience was a visit to the **SVD communities and parishes in New Jersey** – Bordertown, Trenton, Lakewood and Neptune. We saw the services that were being offered to brother and sister immigrants like ESL, citizenship, pastoral care, etc. and we shared about JIV.

“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

John 17:23 (NASB)



St. Norbert Parish had several events with JIV: an evening where we discussed sharing with parishes and another was an educational event about the immigration issues.

One of the joyful days was spending time with our **Adoration Sisters** as well as St. Nicholas. A group of the JIV team lobbied for temporary visitors' drivers licenses in Springfield, Illinois. The JIV group at Divine Word College participated by having a recollection day at Epworth for the students with the theme "From Walls to Bridges".



2019 JIV TEAM

Now we commemorate the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Joint Immigration Venture and here are the events in March, 2019.

Saturday, March 9: JIV team meeting at SSpS Convent.

Sunday, March 10: 9:30am liturgy at St. Elizabeth's followed by 30-45 minute presentation.

Monday, March 11: 11am Informal talk at SVD Residence.

Tuesday, March 12: 10:30am presentation at SSpS Convent.

Thursday, March 14: LLC Wheeling at 4pm and presentation at St. Joseph the Worker 7:30pm

God of all peoples, nations and cultures, we desire to be like you in welcoming others. Help us to make all peoples our brothers and sisters. May we accept immigrants' gifts and work with them especially during the 10th Anniversary of the Joint Immigration Venture. Help us make our churches and communities open to your Spirit, through Christ, our Word and Eucharistic Lord. Amen.

By Sr. Rose Therese, SSpS & Lori Brayer



Joint Immigration Venture

SSpS SSpSAp SVD