



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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Light of The Word

The darkness of war hovers over our world, causing bloodshed and filling people with fear.
May the Light of the Word shine peace.

The darkness of abuse and violence invades our neighborhoods and homes.
May the Light of the Word shine respect.

The darkness of wastefulness is destroying our planet.
May the Light of the Word shine care.

The darkness of greed prevents us from sharing with those in need.
May the Light of the Word shine generosity.

The darkness of homelessness covers masses of people fleeing war, violence, and natural disasters.
May the Light of the Word shine hospitality.

The darkness of separation from loved ones touches us with sadness.
May the Light of the Word shine joy.

The darkness of loneliness envelops many—even some in our own household.
May the Light of the Word shine community.

On February 2nd we will celebrate the 24th World Day of Consecrated Life, a reminder of the call: “You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Mt 5:14 & 16)

Sr. Judy Vallmont, 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

Good Byes...



As of December 22, 2019 the Congregational Leadership Team transferred Sr. Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS back to her home Province of Java. Thank you Sr. Silvia for your joyful and enthusiastic missionary presence among us. Because Sr. Silvia was refused a visitor's visa to the USA, she left our Province directly from St. Kitts without an opportunity to thank her and say good-bye.



Sr. Yosefrida, Fifi Wahyuni, SSpS, finished her 3-year CCME program. She left Jamaica on January 7th, spent a few days in New York where she learned English, and wrapped up her experience in Techny. We are so grateful for Sr. Yosefrida's positive presence and dedicated service! We accompany her with our prayers and love as she returns to her home Province Java and assumes new responsibilities. God bless you!

Your Presence Is A Special Gift For Me!

Sharing Mission in St. Kitts & Nevis

By: Sr. Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS

Since May 16, 2018, I was in the St. Kitts Community living in a small community with two sisters for eight months. That was my third experience living with few sisters. They were Sr. Margaret Kissani and Sr. Edel Maria. From January, 2019 I lived only with Sr. Edel. However, on September, 2019 Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur came to join us. The community house was simple and integrated with the people surrounding it. The house also is close to the Holy Family Catholic Church and a cemetery. If we were touring the country of St. Kitts & Nevis it would only take about two hours. The climate there is almost like in my country Indonesia so I felt like I was back home in a sense. Around the Church and school there are a lot of chickens. Sometimes it was fun recreationally trying to catch them on Saturday or Sunday; we enjoyed it. The encounter with many Sisters from various countries was God's intervention. We never know with whom we are meeting, we never know with whom we are living, and we never know what



Srs. Margaret Kissani, Edel Maria, & Silvia Kusumawardhani with the teachers in St. Kitts.

(Continued on Pg.3)



Sr. Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS along with the St. Vincent de Paul group.

is happening in the future. However, it is certain that God himself brought us together. I am grateful for my community and my Sisters. Your presence is a special gift for me. God chose me to meet you all.

My ministry was at the Holy Spirit Catholic Preschool. I helped in administration and I also helped the teachers in small classes. I have loved children since I was a child. Their presence also is a special gift for me. Their smile, innocence, excitement and honesty made me happy. They were so cute. I enjoyed playing with them. God would also speak to me through them. One day I felt anxious and suddenly a child sat on my lap and sang a song. This kind act changed my perception immediately. God is with us - Emmanuel. In addition, I was involved in pastoral ministry at Church of the Holy Family. I was a sacristian and that experience made me more creative. I also accompanied children to the kids clubs. It was a joy being with them, even though I struggled with them too. I tried to create a program and plan for a teaching schedule during the year, which helped me. Every encounter created a sense

of happiness and God was present there. I am grateful to Sr. Vincent Wolff who gave me many pictures to help me in teaching children. Every Thursday on the second and fourth week of the month I led communion services. That was challenging for me, I tried to prepare a short reflection for them. However, they supported me, understanding that I was still learning English. They were happy with my zeal to learn and our ministry. I also joined with the St. Vincent de Paul group in their ministry. Once a week we met for Bible sharing and meeting. We helped children with school supplies, visited elderly and sick people, and gave them anything that they needed if we had it, or we could get it for them. The Bible sharing with them refreshed me deeply.

I would like to thank the PLT for the opportunity of CCME in the US Province. I am grateful for this wonderful experience. Thank you very much to all the Sisters for your support, love, prayers and your presence. May God bless you all.

Love,
Sr. Silvia, SSpS

If you are willing to believe there is a divine purpose behind everything that happens; if you are willing to embrace the possibility that every aspect of your life can change, then you will want to read *RADICAL FORGIVENESS* by Colin Tipping. Colin offers a revolutionary method for experiencing the freedom, peace and renewed energy that comes with *Radical Forgiveness*. Tipping explores five essential stages and how they help us to make the next great leap on our spiritual journey and embrace the inherent perfection of life. In the book, the author portrays how Jesus powerfully demonstrated the real meaning of *Radical Forgiveness* and now waits patiently and lovingly for us to follow his lead and to make a significant difference in the world of today.

Book of the Month

"RADICAL FORGIVENESS"

By: Colin Tipping



- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSpS

ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS

“Journey into The Unknown”

As we read the New Year message on each greeting card, there are so many words of encouragement about hope, positive spirit and joy to move forward. On this New Year day, our spirits are occupied with the passage of time: the endings and beginnings that frame our lives. And here we are, just having passed through the 365 days of 2019 with many experiences of beautiful as well as painful moments.

On the very first day of the New Year, we celebrate Mary, the mother of God who is the main person accompanying us on the journey throughout the year. As a congregation, we also remember January as a special month for our founder St. Arnold Janssen and our first Missionary to China, St. Joseph Freinademetz. They are the significant figures of faith in our missionary life. Mary, through her great YES, makes God’s dream become true to reconcile humankind in Jesus Christ. St. Arnold Janssen was called to begin the mission in the midst of circumstances of social struggle and a world of political suppression. St. Joseph, the first missionary left his life of stability and security behind in order to enter trustingly into the unknown.

These three models who have different life-stories, heard the same call and responded with the same word of an unconditional “YES” to God’s invitation. They were greatly surprised by the unexpected appearance of an “angel” in different realities of their lives. They were led by the Spirit, who assured them “do not be afraid.” As God’s chosen ones, we might also be called to respond to surprises in various times in our lives. We might be challenged to change directions of plans and goals in order to bring about growth and transformation in the living out of our mission.



UPCOMING INFORMATION

The 2019 SSpS Manual for Communication and Technology has arrived! The manual can be downloaded from the World SSpS website and has some fascinating new information that will guide us into how we can and should utilize the various technological advancements we are blessed to receive. Over the next few months you will find a new addition to the US Province Bulletin with helpful information from the manual to help you effectively communicate our Mission and the different Ministries as well. It is our hope that the information will inspire some very positive dialogue and help us all to see communication as a ministry!



Bloom *From Seeds to*

Juniors Gathering in Antigua and Barbuda

Sr. Marie Eunide Voltaire, SSpS



From December 30, 2019 to January 3, 2020 in the Christmas Spirit, SSpS Srs. Evelyn Lobo, Eliane Fila, Yanet Hernandez, and I along with our Formator Sr AnnIta Walsh had the opportunity to gather and share about our Constitutions by spending time to reflect on different topics such as Spirituality, Mission and the vows. We were so grateful to Sr. Carol Welp who patiently took the time to give us some input every morning, spending the day in silence and contemplation ending each day with faith sharing and prayer. Our meeting started with an opening prayer and after the first sharing Sr. Carol asked us to choose an image and explain why we chose that image.

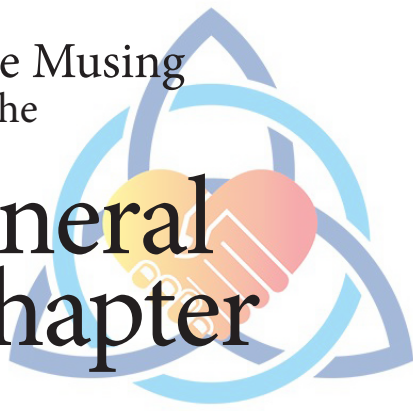
Sr. Carol reminded us that we are in a spiritual journey; our lives are a spiritual journey. Growing in that journey means that we are not perfect and our spirituality asks us to be fully human and live it in our relationship with God and others. Our spiritual journey is like a seed you put in the ground and give it time to grow by watering it. Of course, when the time of difficulty or dryness comes Jesus will be our source where we go to be refreshed. Our mission is to bring people closer to Jesus! Our session continued with a sharing about our vows. The essence of our vows and how we live them out is within our relationships and Mission. Through consecrated chastity, we are to give clear witness that the Lord is the central relationship of our life. Through obedience, we are to give clear evidence that we desire to know and accomplish the Lord's will. Through poverty, we are to give clear witness that we peacefully seek our identity in the Lord, not in wealth, honors, or possessions. Our motive as missionaries is to discover and strengthen the presence of Christ and the action of the spirit in the world. We ended our session as missionary disciples sending two by two, sharing our learning in a creative way.

On Sunday January 5, 2020, we concluded our gathering with an evening prayer where Sr. Yanet and Eliane renewed their vows in the chapel. I am so grateful for this meeting and the precious time that we spent together for reflection and recreation.



A Contemplative Musing On the Prayer for the

15th General Chapter



During these months leading to the 15th General Chapter, we wish to intensify our prayer for this intention by frequent recitation of the prayer and by reflection on its message. The Province Bulletin intends to propose a short meditation on parts of the prayer. We invite your insights and would be happy to share them on these pages as well.

“Most Holy Trinity, we praise and thank you for calling us to share in your loving unity and for entrusting us with the mission of widening the circle of Communion.”

Praise and thanksgiving are the link between the 14th and the 15th General Chapters. The core and foundation of our common Christian vocation is participation in the communion of the Divine Persons. The incomprehensible, transcendent, non-quantified, mystical goal is made tangible by the mission of ‘widening the circle’. We denounce the illusion of the individualistic, divided, separated society and counteract it by becoming welcoming, inclusive, hospitable, compassionate, and sufficiently comfortable with diversity and otherness to dare relationship and communion.

Prayer, the basic means of uniting with the Triune God, disposes us to be grasped by God, transformed and stretched so that we become more and more capable of holding within ourselves the life of Jesus and his disguised life as well. When we allow Jesus’ identity to shape our identity, the persuasive influence of the Spirit will unite us with every person and every creature. In Jesus, we are webbed into the Trinitarian dance of life and communion. (cf. LCWR contemplative reflections)

As you meditate, you might be helped by Jan Philips’ song “One” available on YouTube.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8, 2020

PLT meetings.

February 11-15, 2020

Sr. Maria Theresia will be in Techny.

February 16-20, 2020

Sr. Maria Theresia will be in New York.

March 7, 2020

PLT meeting.

April 4, 2020

PLT meeting.

April 19, 2020

Opening of the 15 General Chapter.

May 22, 2020

Closing of the 15 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

Sr. Rebecca’s Final Vows.

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



Welcome Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann! Our Congregational Leader and Vivat, Intl. President, will briefly visit Techny and New York from February 11-20. She will arrive in the evening of the 11th in Techny and leave for New York at noon on the 16th. Hearty welcome dear Sr. Maria Theresia!



NEWS & APPOINTMENTS

Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS will serve as a translator at a SVD-SSpS joint workshop on Spirituality and Interculturality in Steyl. Sister will be gone January 24 to February 16, 2020. The organizing team for this workshop is: Adriana Milmanda, SSpS, and Roger Schroeder, SVD, as co-chairs; Peter Dusicka, SVD; Leonie Pregunta, SSpS; Tim Norton, SVD; Emmie Vaz, SSpS. Thank you for your service Sister Margaret Anne and looking forward to the sharing of your experience.

On January 4, 2020 Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS moved to the community in Rogers Park and on January 13th began her studies at Loyola University, Chicago. Good luck Sr. Skolastika!

Sr. Elsa Castellano, SSpS left for Antigua on January 12, 2020. Know that our prayers accompany you, Sr. Elsa, as you begin your ministry there!

On January 15, 2020, Sr. Evelyn Lobo renewed her vows for the fourth time. The next day she traveled to Melbourne, Australia for her home leave. Enjoy your stay with your family and be safe!

Congratulations to Sr. Kristina Java Lajar who was sworn in as a US citizen at a ceremony on January 16, 2020.

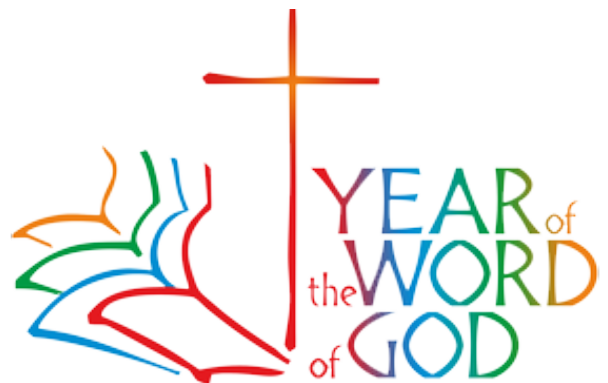
On January 19, 2020 Sr. Rosa Da Costa Menezes returned from her home leave in East Timor. Welcome back!

Celebrating Communion within the Congregation

As part of our observance of the Extraordinary Mission Month, October 2019, Sisters in the Province were invited to write a note of encouragement and “communion” to Sisters who spent time in our United States-Caribbean Province for studies or temporary mission experience and are now missioned elsewhere or back to their home province. Of the 110 Sisters in 31 different Provinces / Regions, notes to 46 different Sisters were sent by mail from the Techny Community; others were sent from the local communities in the Province, and still others were sent via e-mail or What’s App!

Responses from the receiving Sisters indicated how special this little, but significant, gesture of ‘communion’ was for them. Sr. Annemarie Reisch wrote: “It was a wonderful idea to think of the Sisters who were once in your province and it was a great surprise and joy for me that some Sisters remembered my visit so long ago.” Sr. Philomina (Shalini) Mathew wrote: “I am very grateful for this kind gesture... yes, the USA Province always finds something creative to do! God bless you all!” Other Sisters received more personal notes in return. Thank you to all who took the time to write a note or send a greeting!

Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS



Sunday, January 26, 2020 is observed as the ‘Sunday of the Word’. Please, consider spending additional time with the Scriptures and the Word Incarnate. During this Year of the Word please visit the Catholic Biblical Federation website <https://c-b-f.org/en/DeiVerbiAnnus> for information and inspiration. Available resources might be helpful in your ministry. This is a quote from the website: “We hope that a year dedicated to the Word of God will help (...) to place the Word of God at the center of the life and mission of the Church, as called for by Saint John Paul II (see Tertio Millennio Adveniente 36), by Pope Benedict XVI in the light of the 2008 Synod of Bishops (see Verbum Domini 73), and most recently by Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium (see §174).”

Let the Children Come!

Sr. Judy Vallimont, SSpS



Children and Christmas—what a wonderful combination! Jesus came as an infant and draws the children to himself.

How blessed were we at the Convent of the Holy Spirit to be surrounded by children during this joyous season. A unique action on the part of our neighbor, Christian Heritage Academy, is to have a service week in January. This year it was January 6-10. Each day a different class, kindergarten through grade five, came to delight us. One group enacted the Christmas story, another read children's tales, others sang, some gave home (school?) made gifts of intricate three dimensional snowflakes and laminated placemats. All took time to share Christmas experiences in pleasant conversation over a glass of fruit juice. We are blessed to have this opportunity to share in our mission of service.



Loving Being

Glad that the rather rough day ended, I came back from the office for Evening Praise. On the way to the chapel, I met one of the Sisters also walking for the service. Without any verbal exchange, she opened her arms for a hug. "You are so loving, Sister" - I said. "God loves us" - I heard in response, and then she looked at me and continued - "we are God's likeness and image".

Be God's likeness and image this Valentine Day
& every day!

By: Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

Prayer Request

Isabel Pfannenstiel, sister of Sr. Dolores Marie Kuhl, the last of her 8 siblings, died on January 3, 2020 in Hays, Kansas at the age of 91.

