



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

Vol. 40 No. 6—USA—JUNE 2020

The Gift of Receiving

During the past month, I often went back to the time of the Pentecost novena. Through these special prayers and the heightened atmosphere of waiting for newness, I tried to open myself deeper to the action of the Holy Spirit in my life. This working is enabled by the gifts of the Holy Spirit that inform my life and transform my attitudes. I might eagerly pray 'Come Holy Spirit' and yet be reluctant to allow God's Spirit to stir up my well organized life and personal plans for the future. Therefore, not only did I pray that I would be free from such attitudes but I was given an inspiring example to follow.

The beginning of the Novena coincided with Srs. Arnolda and Kristina coming home after the transplant surgery. Daily, I tried to imagine what it took for Kristina in order to psychologically and emotionally accept the gift of Arnolda's kidney, before her body could actually house the kidney and then the various organs befriend it? A gift becomes a messenger of the donor's thoughtfulness, generosity, love, kindness only when it is gratefully accepted.

Jesus promised the Advocate and each time we ask for the light of the Spirit, he fulfills the promise, yet he will not impose the Gift. We who call on God and desire the Divine Spirit are expected to make space for the gifts of the Spirit, to weed out what is toxic and welcome the gifts, allow them to take roots, to influence our being. This, at times, is a painful process. The pangs of birth will be known to me and you if we authentically accept the gift of God's Spirit. Participation in the life of the Holy Spirit creates right relationships and so builds the life of a community. Relationally between us, members of a community, shall thus be a manifestation of the Trinitarian relationship, the mystery that binds us and sends us! Missioned in the joy and power of the Holy Spirit we become resilient, wise and compassionate when facing demanding realities. We are able to learn from the sheltered life as well as from the calls for radical justice and equality, we care for the earth and for others as our brothers and sisters, and in all this we strive that the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.



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

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|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <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> |

Book of the Month

“JAMES MARTIN: In the Company of Jesus”

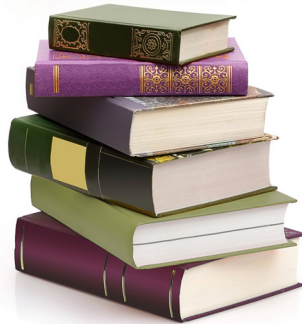
By: Jon M. Sweeney

The author, Jon Sweeney has composed a detailed fascinating portrait of one of our great spiritual leaders, James Martin, S.J.

This book probes Martin’s early life, his experiences as a corporate executive, his call to the Jesuit way of life, a role as editor-at-large for America magazine and now as Consultant to the Vatican Secretariat for Communications. Throughout the book, Martin reveals his all-embracing love for Christ and the Church. His articulate and winsome personality has endeared him to millions of people inside and outside the Church.

Having read this book, readers will be left with a better understanding of one of today’s most interesting and influential Catholics and will be inspired to read some of his most outstanding books, such as:

JESUS: A PILGRIMAGE, MY LIFE WITH THE SAINTS and more recently, *BUILDING A BRIDGE*.



- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSps

GOOD BYES & THANK YOU

On June 5, 2020 Sr. Yanet Hernandez Lopez, SSps left for Mexico after completing CCME. Thank you dear Yanet for your great contribution to our mission in Antigua. We will accompany you with prayer as you journey toward your definite commitment to God in our Congregation.



SHARING WITH OTHERS

The Spring 2020 Garage Sale at the Divine Word College was planned to support SSps missionary work among the South Sudanese refugees in Bidibidi Settlement in Uganda. Sr. Benedicta sent a project proposal with a budget for \$10,000. The goal of the project was to teach skills to single young mothers and help them toward a life that is more autonomous. Needless to say, the garage sale could not take place. However, Fr. Thang Hoang, SVD and Fr. Tom Ascherman, SVD together with the DWC community did not give up on the plan to help. Between some donations received and the SVD generous grant, the project was financed by 70%. Moved by their commitment, we decided to supplement the funds, so that the entire project could be financed and 20 single mothers might look into a brighter future with a sense of self-worth and confidence.



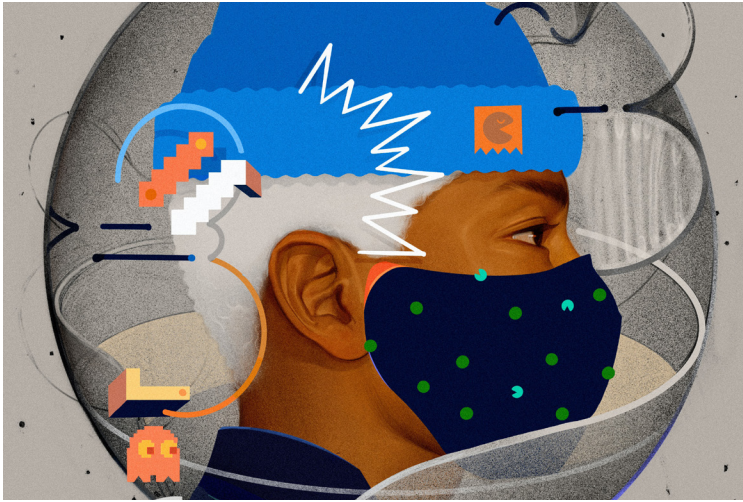
Over the past three months as most of us availed ourselves with live streamed Masses, we came to appreciate this opportunity and the work of media people. Each time I saw the caption ‘support your parish’; I wished an usher would come around with a basket. Then, I heard from some of the Sisters willing to give something and suggesting that we give a donation to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Last week, we sent a thank you letter with a check as a token of our appreciation to Card. Blase Cupich. Please consider telling your favorite ‘virtual parish’ how much you appreciate their ministry outreach.



ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS

“ANOTHER LOOK AT THE NEW NORMAL”



During these last few weeks and months, we are facing another unusual and new time in our lives. I said it is a “new time”, because it causes a big change in our daily routines, work schedules, tasks, activities, and even our mission priorities. For our Congregation, the 15th General Chapter is one of the most awaited moments by members of the Congregation worldwide. I believe that we certainly never thought there would be a story in the history of our Congregation, that the “15th General Chapter” was postponed and possibly even beyond 2020.

I remember in the early months of hearing the news about the virus that attacked the people in China, I thought that this was just another virus that would be gone in a short time. I was concerned, but not really worried about what it could cause to bring about. But when the news of so many deaths reported here and in other countries became a daily topic of conversations, I came to understand, that this was no longer an ordinary seasonal sickness. It became frighteningly clear that we were heading for a real catastrophe. Unpredictably and stealthily it brought sickness and death to country after country.

When we were asked to stay at home and work from home, we were also sharing more of our time with each other in the community. I slowly accepted this new reality that still is full of surprises and often causes a sense of uneasiness. We accept this as a challenge and try to find grace in this situation as it

gives us more opportunity to live closer with others who might feel the same and can give support.

This unusual situation invites us also to pay more attention to ourselves, and how we navigate the changes from the way of seeing the “unusual”, to speak of and accept “a new normal”. We can take it as a meeting place between peace, closeness and freedom. I begin to realize, that we actually all have different ways of responding to this reality. It teaches me to see and learn to understand things from different angles or points of view and find creative ways to bring up more interesting topics to share. We invest energy to conquer fear and foster positive changes in attitude which is beneficial to all of us. The desire to find simple ways to cheer each other and even the desire to open the garage door and greet the next door neighbors becomes the most beautiful moment every day. I come to understand that “time is expensive” and I can never know when it will be taken from me.

Building a critical attitude in receiving and delivering messages and information about pandemics, quarantine, and other situations related to COVID-19 carefully and constructively becomes a community commitment in order to avoid some gossip, rumors, and cheap commentary. This gives us a chance to keep the harmony in community life and to be a sign of hope for others during this period when the dangerous virus covid-19 tries to hold us captive.





NEWS & APPOINTMENTS



Sr. Theresa Tawiah, SSpS will attend virtual graduation on July 1, 2020. She is graduating with a Master in Art in Counseling Psychology from the Chicago School of Psychology. Congratulations Sr. Theresa!

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Sr. Lidia Kunze, SSpS was not able to return to Argentina in early June as planned. Shortly, she will join Sr. Monica Darrichon in Memphis for the summer months.

Sr. Marie Eunide Voltaire, SSpS was admitted to the University of the West Indies. She will take online courses towards Bachelor in Education Leadership while continuing teaching at Christ the King School in St. John's, Antigua. Wishing you success Sr. Marie!

Greetings of solidarity and communion from our fellow Missionaries from around the world. On Saturday June 20, 2020, the PANAM leaders held a zoom meeting and on June 25, 2020, the CLT called a meeting with all PL/ RL to share. My hope is that if we are able to bridge the oceans and time zones, we certainly are able to bridge other differences.

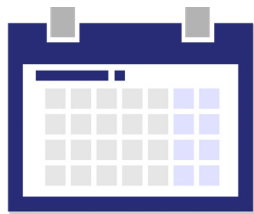


This summer will be unusual for Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS who did most of the mission appeals in the past and was on the road (or on the plane) the whole summer. A few parishes approved for mission appeals this year do not wish in person presence but a video presentation or a written statement instead. Thank you Communication Team for your help!

Sr. Gertrude Ahegbebu, SSpS was accepted at Lake Forest College (IL). She will take courses towards her Bachelors Degree in Psychology. Sr. Gertrude will soon move to the community in Rogers Park. Good luck Sr. Gertrude! May the Spirit of Life and Wisdom guide you.

The Tertians group in the Philippines have opted to make their Final Vows together since no flights are available going out from Cebu. The celebration is scheduled for July 26, 2020. Sr. Rebecca Chaan David will also be participating along with the Tertians group.

The PLT in consultation with the HSLLC Board has decided to temporarily suspend programs at the Wheeling site due to licensing and personnel issues.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR PLANS ARE IN YOUR HANDS O' LORD!

August 8-14, 2020

Retreat-Journeying with our Constitutions/
Province Days.

September/October 2020

Preached Retreat, Fr. Dennis Callan



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.

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

CELEBRATING 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI

(MAY 16 – 24, 2020)

In response to Pope Francis' invitation to act against climate and ecological injustices, to protect all God's creation, the poor and future generations; our communities reflected (encyclical, climate refugees, plastic), prayed (common prayer, prayer service) and acted (twitter, email, letters to Congress, personal and communal actions). Below are responses from two communities:

We celebrated the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si on May 19 with Evening Prayer Service. During prayer we watched a short TEDTalk about plastic "What Happens to the Plastic You Throw Away" and had a brief sharing about "How are we called to care for God's creation?" Through this sharing we realized that we are all connected with the universe. We need to be more conscious with environmental issues, such as recycling. We ended with the Common Prayer for the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si.

(Epworth Community: Srs Aprilia Untarto, Carol Welp, Margaret Kissani, Yustina Intan)

On May 26, we had a half day reflection on the Encyclical, followed by Holy Hour. After the reflection, we discussed the action plan for our community. We continue to recycle used wax and compost food waste for the vegetable garden. Personally, we decided to be conscious of using water and energy. As a community, we plan to

- Introduce and increase awareness of Laudato Si in our parishes, parents & catechists; inculcate some of the prayers into the Religious Education program.
- Reduce printing to minimize the use of paper, move towards paperless.
- Be empathetic to elderly, living alone and share in their struggles.
- Telephone the elderly and checking in with them if help is needed.
- Every 3rd Sunday, dedicate the prayer to reflect and pray for the current JPIC issues.
- Helping the parish food pantry with distribution of the food (weekly/ monthly).

(New York Community: Srs. Ancy Jacob, Helen Saldanha, Xaveriana Ngene)





Sr. Anita Marie Gutierrez, SSps

It was Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020 when Sister Maria Elisabeth Klodt, Sister Judith Vallimont, Sister Priscilla Burke, Sister Anita Marie Gutierrez and Sister Xaveriana Ngene renewed the following religious-missionary vows before God, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in Techny/Northfield and the rest of the SSps that were tuned in on Zoom:



“By the power of the Holy Spirit, I again vow consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and apostolic obedience in the Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit.”

Sister Maria Elisabeth renewed her missionary vows on her 70th year! Sister Judith and Sister Priscilla renewed their commitment to their missionary vows on their 60th year! On her 50th year Sister Anita Marie renewed her missionary vows. And Sister Xaveriana, after 25 years of missionary vowed life, renewed her dedication as a Holy Spirit Missionary Sister. This adds up to a total of 265 years of missionary life in the Holy Spirit, a 265-year visit of the Holy Spirit!

Through a Zoom evening prayer service, during which religious-missionary vows were renewed, praise and gratitude were offered for all the work the Blessed Trinity had accomplished through the five celebrating Sisters. Acknowledged during this prayer were Father Arnold Janssen (Founder), M. Maria, M. Joseph, M.

Leonarda (Foundresses of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters), the five Sisters’ families and all who had been part of their missionary journey. Grateful for the marvelous visit and work of the Holy Spirit in their missionary lives, their renewal of apostolic vows acknowledged their call and the challenge to go out to visit the world to bring others to the awareness of God’s love. In short, gratitude to the Blessed Trinity was in order for having been chosen to model Trinitarian care for others in their lives; that is, for having been called to appreciate peoples of all cultures as a gift from the Triune God.

Through Power Point presentations running throughout the day on the chapel monitor, the SSps community visited the past and the present work of the Holy Spirit of each of the celebrating Sisters, making Trinity Sunday one of Thanksgiving. Truly, through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, the five Sisters in their wisdom, strength and courage in their challenges and joys have been enabled to reflect Jesus. In boldness they have loved in answer to the Trinity’s call to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. They have been visiting ambassadors of the Trinity in the Holy Spirit, and their life has become a sign and sacrament of the Trinity’s all-embracing love for all peoples.

At the close of the day on Trinity Sunday, there was a lingering memory of our Sisters from Rogers Park visiting the celebrating Sisters at the time of the noon meal! Outside the dining room windows, our Sisters stood with congratulatory posters, keeping social distance due to the pandemic virus! At the evening community recreation, peaceful gratitude could be sensed! Joyfully and content, the celebrating Sisters departed to their rooms with a bag full of jubilee cards containing prayerful wishes. Surely 265 years of work of the Holy Spirit in and through the five Sisters had been joyfully visited and celebrated!



Serving God's Community

AN ACTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Written By:

Sr. Rebecca Chaan David, SSpS

It was after our 30-day retreat together with my fellow Tertians, when the choking news of the Covid 19 pandemic spread out quickly. The virus killed so many people including healthcare workers, doctors and nurses! I got frightened that I might get infected, so I carefully focused on my own protection. I kept social distance, and I stayed in quarantine within our home in compliance with the government's advice. Yet even in the middle of the virus pandemic, there were over 20 people at our gate, crying, asking for food and water. I was challenged and struggled deciding whether to respond to the cry of those who are hungry and thirsty.

However, I got courage and I decided to help them carefully, so I offered them rice and water at the gate. The Holy Spirit was in charge of my exposure experience. He motivated me through the generous people who donated to us a lot of rice, many other goods and even money to be given to the poor and needy. This time my eyes were opened to this inspiration and my heart began to tell me, "the people of goodwill have contributed, so help the people!"

Although the fear of the virus was still preventing me from reaching out to help, I felt God's Spirit was guiding me. One day, I got up in the morning and before I sat down to pray, deep within me, the Lord reminded me of his protection and said: "If they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on the sick people, who will get well" (Mark16:18). Immediately, these words alerted me, strengthened my faith in God, and my fear of the virus was driven away. I felt God's assurance; his absolute protection from any harm, deep hope and trust in God. I felt nothing could harm me unless God allows it.

God's Spirit continued to convey inspiration in my exposure experience, through my fellow Tertians who went to serve the people on the streets before me. I got excited and with an open heart and hands, I joined my companions. I took the food and other goods to my brothers and sisters who are on the streets of Cebu city. And as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic lock down, I witnessed change in the area; no vehicles were allowed to move in the city, the markets were closed. The poor people who usually hid themselves at the back of the market kiosks had a chance to sleep in front of them, where they could enjoy fresh air, God blessed them! It was also much easier for me to walk freely and to distribute food and water to them in the open areas.



As a Community we have a lot of activities together and we were tremendously blessed with flexibility,

(Continued on Pg.8)

and with strong team work. The presence of the Lord enfolds us, the unity within the Community, openness and joy of each sister in the service is truly the life stream from the Holy Spirit to the community that we share with our friends who live on the streets.

My exposure experience on the streets is a call to acknowledge God's presence in the lives of the poor. It is like the woman at the well with Jesus in the gospel, John 4: 29-42. After her long conversation with Jesus, she runs to her village and tells the people, "Come and see. Could this man be the Messiah?" "The people came to meet Jesus, and they said to the woman, "We believe not because of what you said, because we have heard him, we know he is the Saviour of the world".

I really feel God's invitation to come out of my comfort zone, fear, and to be with God in the service of others. Every time I take food to our people on the streets, there is a real connection, God's presence in his people. I have seen their smiling faces, the joy of those who receive with gratitude as a blessing of meeting Jesus in the people.

My companions and I enjoy collecting firewood in our garden for cooking. This reminds me of my life in the refugee camps many year ago, when I used to collect firewood for cooking and for selling. It also reminds me of my life in the Camps, so similar to the lives of the peoples whom I am serving now. I was taken care of and given food collected by generous people from around the world. I am grateful to the Lord for connecting me to my past reality. Cooking for our brothers and sisters who are poor connects me to the generosity of our Sisters in Uganda who extended their care to my mother in the Camp. I am also connected to the woman who cooks for my mother every day. It is so true, when offering help for the benefit of others, the favor and blessings return to me as well.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to reach out to serve and feel the presence of the Lord in our brothers and sisters who are shunned by the societies. It makes me feel very happy because I believe the service made a difference in their lives. It is the action of the Holy Spirit to do the right thing at the right time through our community and other people who give a helping hand to the poor. It is my joy to see the people receiving the gifts with appreciation, smile and a sign of hope. There is sacredness in serving our brothers and sisters who need help. Making eye connection with the person I serve touches me and makes me wonder "what else I can do to make a difference in their lives?". The call to service is truly a blessing from God.



Prayer Request

SSpS Sr. Barbara Miensopust's uncle, Rizard Lasak, is suffering from Covid-19 and is hospitalized in serious condition. The whole family of six tested positive but with mild symptoms.

Sr. Vincent Wolff's brother Charles, it appears after long suffering he doesn't have long to live.

Relatives of our employees dealing with health concerns of various kinds.

Sr. Aprilia Untarto's father, Suhendro (87), hospitalized because of a fall and injury to his head. He also suffers from tumors under his chin.



On Tuesday June 16, 2020 early in the morning, Mark Kelly dropped off the second part of supplies that Sr. Dorota and I got from the Costco on Monday. Srs. Lidia, Veronica, and I started to pack on the same day for 61 families. The original list was only 58 families but three unexpected families showed up in the Center so we just gave it to them. Thank God that the supplies were more than enough. Yesterday Lidia and I dropped off 25 bags of food for the Wheeling site. When we reached there some people were there already with Srs. Theresa and Monica ready to receive theirs.

People were very happy and several times saying "Gracias" to us. Just looking at their appearances we could feel how they appreciated the small donation that we gave them. Sr. Theresa told me this morning that it turned out very well, every family got theirs. Rogers Park site still expected 9 families to get theirs by Thursday June 25, 2020.

Again, thank you for all the good work that we did together for our people. May God continue to bless us and the donors who are very generous to help us in this time of need. With love and prayers,

Sr. Rosa Da Costa Menezes, SSpS



A project of supporting families of our usual "campers" with food supplies. Arantxa Martinez, received permission to use part of a grant for this purpose.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert Mallonee, SVD 6/11/2020

Leo Dusheck, SVD 6/15/2020 – The last sibling of Ms. Marie Dusheck.

Jerzy Gawlik, SVD 5/29/2020

Sr. Marie Sheehy, SSpS 6/28/2020

Deceased relatives of our employees: Lisa Tsuji's father and Sahley Solomon's father in the Philippines.

