



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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Lord, by your cross

*and resurrection
you have set us free!*

Blessed Easter



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

Northfield, IL

Grayslake, IL

Epworth, IA

Antigua

New York, NY

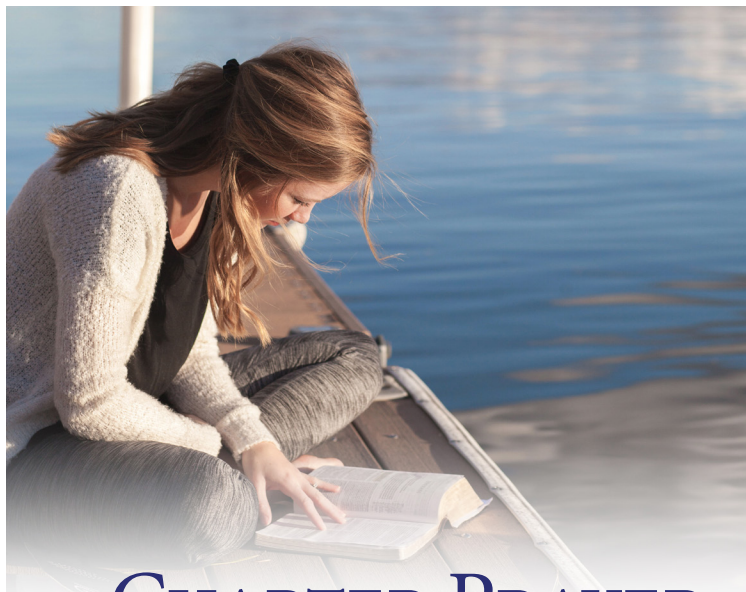
Waukegan, IL

Chicago, IL

Memphis, TN

Jamaica

St. Kitts



CHAPTER PRAYER REFLECTION

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSps

An official communication of March 13, 2020, informed all Sisters that the Congregational Leadership Team decided: "To postpone the 15th General Chapter, that was convoked in our letter of 08 March 2019 to be held from 19 April to 21 May 2020 in our Motherhouse in Steyl, to an unspecified date." As we continue our reflection on the Chapter Prayer, we keep in mind the additional arrangements that the postponement requires.

"Triune God we long to be immersed in your life of love and share in your work of transforming the world with compassion."

Let's be honest! "Do I truly understand what I am praying for? What are the consequences of this prayer? Is this at least a desire, if not a longing, that I recognize in myself at this point of my life?" If you don't, then join me in looking for a way to reignite the original zeal and the ideal that made us knock on the door of a convent and ask for admission years ago.

Since baptism, by its very name, is an immersion, not so much in the water but in the Triune God into whom one is grafted, then much more so religious consecration. Immersed in the life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through religious vows, we proclaim with St. Paul: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; (...he) who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20) To the extent, we cease to live and allow Christ to live in us, to that extent the divine life is implanted in us. Our baptism and religious consecration hold the

keys to the space of transformation into Christ. Knowing that we are loved by Christ enables us to love. Confident that Jesus redeemed us, we participate in the sacrifice of Christ; "filling up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church (Col 1:24).

Think of your Lenten practices, has any of them resulted in bringing hope and compassion to, a sister in community, a person in your ministry or your neighbor? How has the experience of social distancing deepened your understanding of intimacy and of the role of other people in your life?

Book of the Month

"WOUNDED SHEPHERD"

By: Austen Ivereigh

With very entertaining anecdotes, insider accounts and expert analysis, the author, Austen Ivereigh takes us on a journey through the key episodes that center on the tensions and successes generated by Pope Francis' attempt to reshape the church into a more welcoming church, trying to put Christ at its center.

In WOUNDED SHEPHERD, Pope Francis is presented as a master bridge builder. The Author highlights Pope Francis' particular style of leadership, a leadership that depicts Francis as a "spiritual director" not a reformer but as one who facilitates the church's cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Francis understands his role as a mediator of "the God of mercy."

Of the many books on or about Pope Francis, I would rank WOUNDED SHEPHERD at the top of the list, mainly because of the Author's personal relationship with Pope Francis and how he brings out not only what Francis does but who he is.



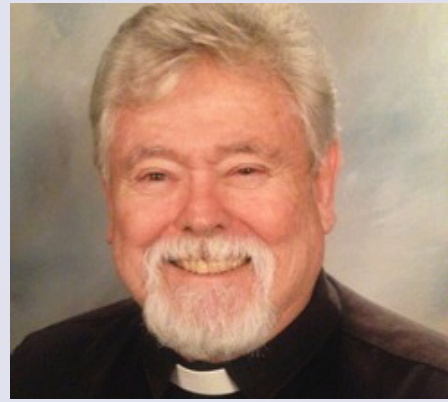
- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSps



The SVD Generalate announced new USS & USW Provincials:



Fr. Michael Somers, SVD
USS Provincial



Fr. Jon Kirby, SVD
USW Provincial



Special Congratulations

Sr. Nadiya Levchenko, SSpS

was granted Certification as a Director of Religious Education by the Institute of Pastoral Leadership in Mundelein.

We Congratulate you all and promise our prayers as you assume leadership responsibilities.

ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Sr. Carol Welp, SSpS

“Spirituality”



The following is taken from a paper by Father Tony Pernia, SVD, about some fundamental conversions needed for us to be part of God's mission today. The Lenten Season may be a good time to review them and convert where it is necessary:

From Activism to Contemplation.

Very often we are very “Pelagian” in our way of doing mission. We act as if mission depends more on our efforts than on God's grace.

From Individualism to Collaboration.

Indeed, very often, we do our work, and do it well, but it is our work and no one else's.

From Superiority to Humility.

This entails that today the missionary is called to evangelize from a position of powerlessness, lowliness and humility. He or she will not seek power – economic, cultural, technological, or even media power. The only power he or she will need is the power of the Word and of the Spirit. And that power is the power of love, which is manifested in self-giving.

From only evangelizing to also being evangelized.

Dialogue underlines the fact that the Spirit is at work in the people being evangelized as well as in the evangelizers, and that mission is a two-way exchange of gifts between missionaries and the people with whom they work. They must be prepared to change and be changed, to form and be formed, to invite to conversion and be converted.

From Burden to Privilege.

A fifth conversion is from undertaking mission as a sacrifice or a burden to experiencing it as a privilege and a gift. As St. Joseph Freinademetz, our first SVD missionary to China, wrote in one of his letters to his family: “I cannot thank the Lord enough for having made me a missionary in China” ... “When I think of the countless graces that I have received and continue to receive until now from God ... I confess that I could cry. The most beautiful vocation in the world is being a missionary”.



NEWS & APPOINTMENTS



Sr. Veronica Kim, SSps from the Province of Korea arrived on February 28, 2020, amidst the spread of coronavirus. On March 15th, she moved to Rogers Park community. She will minister in the Holy Spirit Life Learning Center. A sincere Thank you to SSps

Sisters Mary Miller, Pat Snider and Betty Tranel who walked with her during the first two weeks introducing her and helping her acclimate to the Paraclete Province.



SSps Srs. Dorota Maria Pichaczek (Provincial), Veronica Kim, and Mary Lauren Lahnman at the airport in Chicago.

Sr. Salud Osornio was able to travel to Brazil on February 28, 2020 and join the group of Tertians in Ponta Grossa for the opening ceremony on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Read more on page 5.

March 3, 2020, Sr. Alexis Tjahjani, SSps returned from Java, Indonesia. Welcome back and abundant blessings from God on your ministry in the Business Office and in Community Leadership!

March 3, 2020, Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSps returned from Steyl and Rome. Thank you for sharing with us your experiences about the seminars and for praying for us in the privileged places.

On March 19, 2020, Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSps returned from her home leave in Australia. The welcome included following the order of self-quarantine. She is currently staying in Linden home. Sr. Evelyn has been appointed to the Waukegan community. She will collaborate with the JPIC ministry and in pastoral work within the Waukegan Spanish speaking community.

Donations were approved and given to: Keep Hope Alive event – Archdiocesan Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity; on the occasion of their 10th anniversary to Illinois Women Religious against Human Trafficking; and to Children of Light retreat.

Sr. Rebecca Chaan David, SSps, wrote a nice article about her ministry during her Tertianship in Cebu, PHS. Please be sure to look for it in the May 2020 issue of the SSps Magazine.

Mission Update



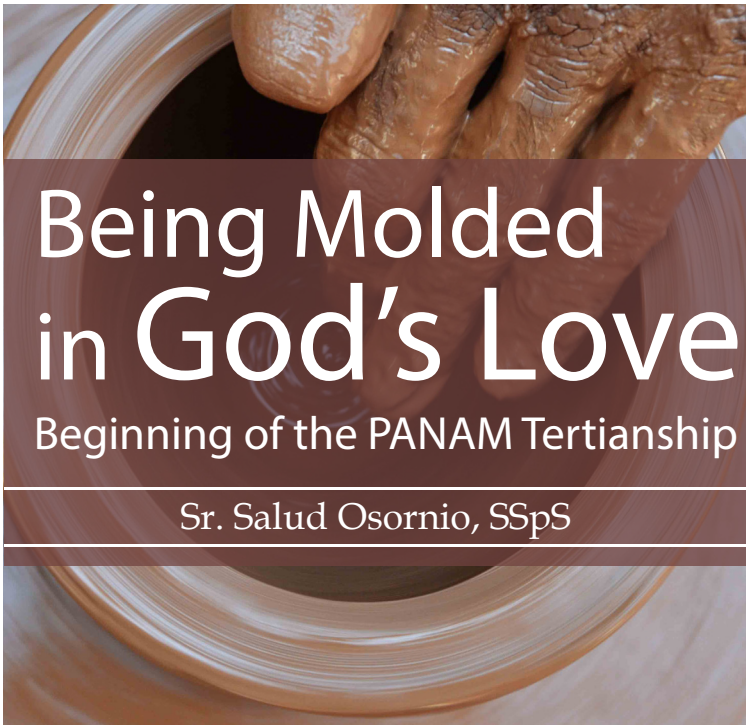
Many things have been great since I got my new big and busy assignment, that is to be the pioneer of a new social foundation in Flores East, Indonesia. We station in Pada village, a very remote area, among the ex-refugees families. After doing some pastoral

ministry for several months while observing people's lives and needs, we came to a conclusion that we need to do something more than just pastoral ministry. So, our simple observation work brought us to create some

kind of "Empowering Mission Project." We begin with children through the English Program that they already perform a couple of times in some big events here. You can notice how happy they are when singing in English while dancing. Next we created one opportunity for women and girls through sewing training, and one group for the fresh fish processing program. In the meantime, I have been responsible for the project construction, so we would have rooms for training sessions, looking for ways to get donations, develop networking and partnership with government and others to get more ideas and resources.

Indeed, it's stressful but I'm happy being in this ministry. It forces me to stretch my muscles of thinking, patience, being creative, learn how to be humble, being innovative... and much more.

- Sr. Margaretha Ada, SSps



Being Molded in God's Love

Beginning of the PANAM Tertianship

Sr. Salud Osornio, SSpS

The beginning celebration of the PANAM Tertianship took place on March 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Province of Brazil South, Ponta Grossa. We started with a warm welcoming from our formatters SSpS Sisters Nilva Moro and Rosil Ferreira and entered by carrying our flag from our native country and singing a song in our own language.

Sr. Salud Osornio,
(Mexico) - Spanish

Sr. Marcela Margarita Robles Vasquez,
(Mexico) - Spanish

Sr. Natalia de Carvalho,
(Timor Este) - Tetun

Sr. Mitilene Chihambo Chivanja,
(Angola) - Portuguese

Sr. Roselene Ventura de Oliveira,
(Brazil South) - Portuguese

We continued with the invocation to the Holy Spirit singing the Veni Creator followed by readings. As we listened and reflected about the reading of the prophet Jeremiah 18:1-6; the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me:

"Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?" says the LORD. "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

As we finished the readings we were invited again to come forward. Now we were holding a clay jar in our hands, which represent our life in the hand of the Potter. We shared with the whole community what it meant and what this reading means to us now when we hold the symbol of our life, the clay jar, in our hands. We were invited to talk about how we have experienced the presence of God in our lives during the stage as junior sisters and now in the last phase.

As the celebration went on with petitions, encouraging words from our Sisters of the PANAM Executive Team and the Provincial Sister Ilca Maria Hendges, SSpS. We closed our ceremony by receiving a small and beautiful clay jar and singing the song "The Potter". Please accompany us with your prayers so that the Divine Potter may make useful vessels of us who will carry and share God's Good News of salvation.



Sr. Salud Osornio taking a photo with all of the Sisters in the PANAM Tertianship.



Sr. Salud Osornio taking a photo with all of the Sisters in the PANAM Tertianship during their beginning celebration of the program. 3/1/2020 Province of Brazil (South), Ponta Grossa

HEALING OURSELVES FROM A PLACE OF CENTERING PRAYER/MEDITATION

Sr. Leonette Kaluzny, SSpS

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

This simple wisdom saying is an invitation given to us by God. It is a call to set aside all activity, rest in silence and solitude, and come into an intimate relationship with God. I, at Contemplative Outreach in Chicago/Northfield area, am honored to be the guide on this Spiritual Journey to explore the rich wisdom and teachings of the Contemplative Christian Tradition. It is my hope that this Spiritual Journey will transform your relationship with yourself, others, and most importantly, with God. This Spiritual Journey is an opening to the presence of God through the contemplative dimension of the Gospel. The topics for the journey include: Who is God, my Attitudes towards God, Who and Where am I, Emotional Programs for Happiness, Spiritual and Psychological experiences of Centering Prayer, and a method as a way of reducing obstacles to the development of Grace.

Centering, Contemplative Prayer is the world in which God can do anything. To move into that realm, is the greatest challenge and adventure. It is to be open to the Divine and hence to infinite possibilities. Our private self-made worlds have to come to an end. A new world will appear within us and around us and

the impossible becomes an everyday experience. Yet the world that prayer reveals is barely noticeable in the ordinary walks of life.

Our Spiritual life and growth is founded on faith in our own basic goodness, in the being that God has given us with its transcendent potential. This gift of being is our true self. Through our consent by faith, Christ is born in us and He and our true -self become one. Our awakening to the presence and action of the Spirit, is the unfolding of Christ's resurrection in us. All true prayer is based on the conviction of the presence of the Spirit in us and of His unfailing and continual inspiration.



Assuming that the Covid-19 pandemic will be contained in the near future, Sr. Rosa Da Costa Menezes has issued the following invitation: Summer is going to start very soon and so is our 2020 Summer Peace Camp which is to be conducted from July 6, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

The Holy Spirit Life Learning Center in Rogers Park and in Wheeling is looking for volunteers who would like to share their time and talents with the children. If you are interested in helping us in this mission we would be delighted to hear from you before April 1, 2020.

Your willingness and your commitment toward others is an inspiration to all members of our Province. Thank you very much dear Sisters!





UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR PLANS ARE IN YOUR HANDS O' LORD!

April 4, 2020

PLT meeting.

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday - Jubilees.

June 15-21, 2020

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

July 6-31, 2020

Summer Peace Camp.

August 2-8, 2020

Contemplative retreat with Sr. Margaret Anne Norris 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.

August 16-23, 2020

Contemplative retreat with Sr. Carol Welp in Bethany House, East Troy.

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



property while also helping keep you safe from harmful germs and viruses.

- 1.) *Check windows and screens.*
- 2.) *Reconnect outside hoses.*
- 3.) *Test Smoke Detectors.*
- 4.) *Clean & sanitize door handles and mailboxes.*

By following these four simple tasks you will be springtime ready and able to enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, and flowers as they bloom. Until next time stay safe and take care!

- Mark Kelly

Spring is finally here! Even though in some parts of the world it doesn't quite feel like the season has fully arrived doesn't mean we shouldn't get a jump on some much needed "spring cleaning" projects. In this month's article we will go over four very simple tips that can improve the overall wellbeing of your



IN MEMORIAM

On March 12, 2020, after several years of fighting cancer, Sr. Agada Brand (76) passed into eternity. She was our Congregational Leader from 1996-2008 and member of the first Arnold Janssen Spirituality Team in Steyl from 1989 to 1996.

Sr. Rosa da Costa Menezes's uncle, Manuel Pinto (73), the only brother of her mother, passed away in Timor East on Mach 4, 2020.



Living Communion

During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

When the first Sisters in Maria Hall sniffled, Corona virus was still 'abroad' but then in no time arrived and changed our lives at the Convent of the Holy Spirit as certainly changed yours. Sisters from Maria Hall upon consultation of Sr. Judy, the Director of Nursing, Barbara, and doctors, sheltered each in her room, with a warning on most doors "No visitors please". This means that fewer of us have been gathering in the chapel observing regular prayer times, Communion Celebration or televised Eucharistic celebration, while the pix can hardly contain the number of hosts needed for the Sisters isolated in their rooms. There were no more common meals in Maria Hall or daily activities. It has been hard for the Sisters to be on their own for the long days and hard for us not being able to visit and hold their hands when communication is difficult.

Each door and strategic point in the house was armed with a bottle of hand sanitizer and we rubbed it in religiously in addition to all the hand washing. A big sign NO VISITORS on the front door is visible from far away. Meetings with all Heads of Departments has happened regularly, employees more often than not appear in masks and gloves strategizing for a possible future shutdown. Sisters were assigned to learn to operate critical equipment like the industrial laundry and drier, dishwasher, stove, steamer and more. So far, the skills learned have not been put to use but we have yet a way to go. We join all fellow Illinoisans in social distancing, in isolation when necessary, but especially in prayers for the millions of people affected by the pandemic.

Thank you dear Sisters for communicating the situation in your communities and your concern about our senior Sisters especially. Thank you for the calls you have made to brighten the solitude of the quarantined Sisters. Sr. Edel Maria, SSpS notified the US Province that St.Kitts Health Care confirmed two cases of Covid-19 which will cause all schools to close immediately. Please pray for the patients, people, & Sisters in St. Kitts. Sr. Yuliana Meno, SSpS tries her best to keep her teachers and students engaged at home without the commodity of e-teaching. Our Directors of Religious Education are having an especially stressful time given that spring is the usual time for reception of sacraments by the children. The Holy Spirit Life Learning Center has not reopened after the spring break. Let us find strength in communicating with each other and supporting one another.

Most importantly, no Sister, employee, volunteer, or family member has tested positive for Covid-19, so let's "wash our hands" and raise them in prayer!

Prayer Request

Please join all local and global initiatives to end the corona virus pandemic and ease the suffering of all affected by it: the sick, the medical personnel, the authorities, the employees laid off, the vulnerable and scared.

For our SSpS Sisters Arnolda Kavanamur and Kristina Jawa Lajar in their forthcoming surgical procedures.

For the ongoing election process in the SVD Provinces and communities.



It is important to establish a common understanding of the purpose of communication side by side with media and technology. The world is changing at a very rapid pace, which calls us to adapt our missionary practices to this change. Communication had a special spark in the heart of St. Arnold Janssen. Since the time of our First Mothers—Bl. Maria Helena Stollenwerk, Bl. Josepha Stenmanns and Mother Theresia Messner—SSpS Communication has evolved in our Congregation. From letter writing to publishing newsletters and mission magazines, our Sisters maintained connections and conversations across mission fields, not only updating

one another but also exchanging tips on what worked and did not work in particular milieus. Thus, for the sake of evangelization, as stated in our Constitutions 107.3, the use of different means of communication were promoted, and there were always some Sisters who worked in radio and TV programs as well as in the publication of reflections and articles in various magazines and local newspapers.

During these times of great difficulty we as the Church of Jesus Christ have both an obligation as well as a great opportunity to creatively calm the flames of fear and unrest by sharing the Gospel of our Lord wherever we can. Social distancing has not prohibited us from our responsibility to communication, it has however given us a greater appreciation for the precious gift of communion. While we cannot meet face to face we can send our love through social media tools, telephone calls, letters, email, etc. The Holy Bible says that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses”. Our founding generation never let world problems stop the sharing of the Gospel. Let us pray for the courage & strength to continue that legacy.

AN AMAZING GRACE

GRANT APPROVAL TO SUPPORT OUR PROMOTIONAL VIDEO PROJECT

By: Ms. Arantxa Martinez



In the past two years, the US Province has received two grants from Catholic Volunteer Network (CVN) as part of their “From Service to Sisterhood Initiative.” Through this initiative, in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, CVN provided funding to congregations of women religious who want to initiate or expand volunteer programs. The idea is to give more opportunities to lay persons to work alongside sisters, share in their way of life, and discern their own calling to vocation. The previous funding has been used primarily to support the development of a new lay volunteer program, vocation promotion efforts, and volunteer recruitment efforts for the Holy Spirit Life Learning Center (HSLLC)’s Summer Peace Camp.

In late February, CVN’s Program Manager of From Service to Sisterhood (now called VOCARE Initiative) contacted Arantxa Martinez to share about a new funding opportunity. The Program Manager explained that CVN was accepting applications for Sustainability Projects to support the longevity of previously funded volunteer programs. Arantxa discussed a few ideas with Sr. Dorota M. Piechaczek, and one possibility that stood out is a Promotional Video Project. The idea is to create one or a series of short videos featuring volunteers who serve in various capacities within the Province (e.g. volunteers in the Convent, at the HSLLC). The Communications Team, Andrew Dixon, III and Sr. Rosalia Galmin, also gave their input for this project since they would be heavily involved in it. Andrew put together a budget for supplies and camera equipment that would be needed to carry out the project. Arantxa submitted the grant proposal during the first week of March, and an approval letter as well as the grant check arrived at the Convent the week of March 16. CVN approved a grant of \$6,000 to cover the cost of the Video Project and a few other things for the volunteer program.

With the Promotional Video Project, we hope to document and evaluate the impact of the volunteer opportunities offered through the Province on lay persons, especially on young women. The videos will provide qualitative data which can be integrated to help in the development of the volunteer program. We are very grateful to CVN for this grant opportunity and we look forward to sharing the outcome of the project in a few months.