



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

Vol. 40 No. 5 – USA – MAY 2020

Blessed Pentecost

Holy Trinne God "May my life, lived in the joy of the Holy Spirit, be a sign of your all-embracing love for all people."

- From the SSpS Vows Formula

Cover Art Provided By: Sr. Arnolda Chang, 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>



Poem

Dear God, I want to take a minute not to ask anything from you...

But simply to say "Thank You" for all that I have:

"Thank You" For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.

"Thank You" for the families, friends and loved ones whom you gave me;

"Thank You" for the spiritual, physical and financial blessings;

"Thank You" for the trials that made me more dependent and closer to You;

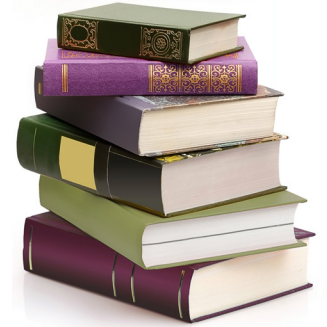
"Thank You" for always being there when my world seems to fall apart and I feel so alone... Amen!

-Theresa ThanhThao Nguyen

Book of the Month

"BORN A CRIME"

By: Trevor Noah



Relying on humor and sarcasm, the author, Trevor Noah does an admirable job of conveying his lived experience, as well as that of his family, living under the apartheid system of South Africa. Throughout the book Noah shows the influence his mother had on his life. He presents his mother as a woman who gives and gives and who is really the true hero of this book. Strong, independent, intellectual and deeply religious. It was his mother who gave Trevor the gifts of hope and humor and who influenced him every step along his journey.

BORN A CRIME, is as educational as it is entertaining. It is considered one of the most engaging true stories of today. Presently, Trevor Noah is an international comedian and host of THE DAILY SHOW. Need a good laugh? Then, *BORN A CRIME* is for you.

- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSpS



Celebrating our Jubilarians



70 Years

60 Years

60 Years

50 Years

25 Years



Sr. Maria Elisabeth Klodt



Sr. Priscilla Burke



Sr. Judith Marie Vallimont



Sr. Anita Marie Gutierrez



Sr. Xaveriana Ngene

"May the Holy Trine God Live in our Hearts and in the Hearts of All People." - St. Arnold Janssen

Celebrating *Joy* *Amidst* *Covid-19:*

The Renewal of my Religious Vows



Sr. Marie Eunide Voltaire, SSpS

On Sunday May 10, 2020 at the Holy Family Cathedral, as the providence of God would have it; I renewed my religious vows during the 9:00 am Mass. The Mass was celebrated by our Bishop Robert Llanos, assisted by Fr. George Williams (Administrator), Fr. Robert Ratajczak SVD, Fr. Peter Kinuthia (Tyrells parish), and Deacon Francis St. Clair. My Sisters of the Antigua community along with Mrs. Jean Mathurin, coordinator of the Holy Family Senior Choir and Charmaine Donovan (Choir member) joined in the celebration by making it a memorable day for me through music and song.

It was a moment of thanksgiving to God for the gift of my religious vocation and to my SSpS family for allowing me to join this spiritual family. Most importantly, I am grateful for the guidance I have received, the sacrifices for, and the fervent prayers made on my behalf. I express this gratitude to my family and friends as well for their long and constant presence in my life and their presence in this Sunday celebration through the means of social media.

After the homily, Sr. AnnIta Walsh SSpS, as representative of our Congregational Leader, went forward to receive my vows. It was then in the presence of both the physical and the virtual congregations that I renewed my vows. The experience of renewing vows has certainly strengthened and deepened my commitment to our religious family and has enabled me to grow and mature as a religious missionary.

I express my gratitude to the leadership team for their support and for allowing me to wear the habit as I requested. My gratitude to our bishop, my community and all who made the celebration special for me. May we all be inspired by the Spirit in order to embrace the world sharing the Gospel for the glory of God.





NEWS & APPOINTMENTS

Sr. Salud Osornio, SSpS, received Mission Appointment for the Region of Mexico.

SSpS Srs. Yanet Hernandez Lopez and Theresa ThanhThao Nguyen received admission to Perpetual Vows. The time and location of tertianship is to be determined at a later date.

Sr. Yanet Hernandez Lopez, SSpS, is scheduled to return from Antigua on June 5, 2020 and leave for Mexico later in June 2020 concluding her almost 3 year CCME in our Province.

From June 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, Sr. Salud Osornio, SSpS, and her Tertianship companions will be on a 30 day retreat.

Summer Bible School in Mississippi and Arkansas as well as Summer Peace Camp 2020 at the HSLLC have been cancelled.

Sr. Nadiya Levchenko, SSpS received an offer of a part time job as a coordinator of Parish Teaching Program at Mundelein Seminary. She will begin the new job on July 1st. while continuing as DRE at St. Catherine Laboure.



Srs. Arnolda Kavanamur, SSpS and Sr. Kristina Java Lajar, SSpS were at the University of Chicago Medicine Center in Chicago on May 19th at 6:00 a.m. ready for the kidney transplant surgeries. We are very happy to report that both Sisters are recovering well at the Convent of the

Holy Spirit (Northfield, IL) Best wishes and prayers accompany you both in your recovery.



Congratulations



We congratulate Fr. Quang Duc Dinh who was reappointed Provincial Superior for the USC Province for the triennium 2020-2023. Fr. Carlos Macatangga is the vice Provincial. The new term will begin on June 1, 2020. Our prayers accompany this congratulations!



On May 19, 2020, Sr. Xaveriana Ngene, SSpS attended a virtual graduation achieving a Master's of Art in Theology Degree from St. John's University New York. Congratulations Sr. Xaveriana!



On May 21, 2020, Sr. Lidia Kunze, SSpS virtually graduated with achieving a Master's Degree in Biblical Ministry from Catholic Theological Union.



We welcome, Mr. Ed Else who as of May 18, 2020 began working here at the Convent of the Holy Spirit with Mr. Mike Bogard.

ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS

“Missionary – Here and Now”

“Wherever we live and work, we keep in mind that we are missionaries.” (SSpS Const. 104)

“Wherever we work, we always keep in mind that we are missionaries.” (SVD Const. 102.2)

And this is true as we live amid the uncertainties of the Virus pandemic. We live aware of those who are suffering –physically, economically, psychologically-, of those who are dying and those who grieve.

To be missionary is to share the Gospel and to live it.

Some supports at this time:

“Psychological Care Guidelines During the Quarantine Period for the Religious and Priestly Life” sent out from the (UNINPSI) of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas.

Reflection on hymns, such as many of Dan Schutte’s.

Richard Hauser, S.J.’s little book “Finding God in Troubled Times.”

Facebook prayer with SVD and SSpS around the world.

Prayer support of SSpS and SVD ministries shown on their websites.

Prayer individually and as communities for all related to the Virus, including church and civil leadership.

Living consciously our unity in the Arnoldus Family.

**GOOD BYES &
THANK YOU**

On May 1, 2020, Victoria Cabos Barazza retired after almost 41 years of working at the Convent of the Holy Spirit in housekeeping and dietary departments.

On May 8, 2020, Ewa Jurczak retired after 29

years almost to the date as the P.M. nurse in charge.

On May 15, 2020, Francisco Sanchez retired after 28 years in housekeeping.

Since it was impossible to publicly express our gratitude and send our long-time Employees off for retirement this will take place later.



Through the incarnation of the Son in Jesus Christ, God communicated God’s utmost commitment to humanity. To communicate to the person, speak the same language and be understood, God becomes one of us, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14). Jesus, the Divine Word, through the incarnation, becomes the Communicator of the Father-Mother. (Communion Manual pg. 20) It is in this same spirit that we announce our new Instagram Vocation page @ssps_vocations_us! Please pray for both the Vocation & Communications ministries. With this new initiative we hope to engage the next generation of SSpS Sisters.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR PLANS ARE IN YOUR HANDS O' LORD!

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday – Jubilees

June 2020

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

August 8-14, 2020

Retreat/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.

Training in Love

TERTIANSHIP ON THE STREETS OF CEBU



I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters who are homeless, living on the streets of Cebu in the Philippines and suffer the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic more than others. Generous people donated food and other necessities for daily life to the center run by Fr. Heinz in collaboration with Sr. Ewa Lidia, SSpS.



We begin our day packing rice and other food available in plastic bags and take them by car to the homeless on the street. This provision is for those who are able to cook for themselves using open fire on the streets for food preparation. We also cook a lot of food in our house and carry it to the homeless who cannot help

themselves by packing bags and then riding bicycles to carry the food to those in need. We are all inspired and committed to serve the poor. We run around to different corners of Cebu city with this car to reach out to the marginalized who are starving. As we serve on the street, we integrate the fruits of our prayer,



contemplation, reading of the Bible, studies of our Constitution and of the Church Social Teaching. The streets of Cebu are our training camp and the homeless our teachers and inspiration to love and to serve. Please keep us in

your prayers as we learn to see people in need as our brothers and sisters and to love them.

Sr. Rebecca Chaan David, SSpS





Our Stories

Experiences at a Glance During the Covid-19 Pandemic

SSpS US Province

FINDING GRATEFULNESS

Written By: Ms. Arantxa Martinez

When I first heard about the novel coronavirus, I saw it as something happening very far away from here unlikely to reach us. I began to realize how serious the situation was getting near home in early March when grade schools started to close, universities switched to online classes, and restaurants were instructed to only accept take out or delivery orders. I think the restaurants' partial closings are what impacted me the most. My father and my younger brother were furloughed from their restaurant jobs in Michigan.

I began to worry even more when the Governor of Illinois issued a stay at home order on March 21, which has been extended a few times and it is supposed to expire at the end of May. With Sr. Dorota's approval, those of us at Hickory Grove were able to work from home full time for a few weeks, and for this I am very grateful. Towards the end of April, we agreed to return to work at the office with some modifications. This includes alternating our time at the office every week; while two of us are at the office, the other two stay home.

At the beginning, working from home was definitely a challenge because my husband and I were living in a very small, one-bedroom apartment. We shared the living room as an office space and he had long virtual meetings every day, which meant I had to be very quiet. We were also in the process of



moving to another apartment, and packing/cleaning everything became very stressful. Since moving into our new place, working from home has become more comfortable. We now have extra rooms to set up our offices, as well as more windows for better views. Besides me going to the office every other week now, our only activities outside of the home are going grocery shopping every two weeks or so, and occasional walks at the nearby park.

My biggest concerns at this time are my family's physical and mental health, as well as the finances. I am especially worried about my sister and my sister-in-law who work in hospitals as nurses. My sister is pregnant with her first child, and while she was able to obtain permission for a short medical leave, she went back to work in late April. My parents are somehow managing for now because my father is doing independent yard work at private properties. My father and my brother do not know when they will go back to the restaurants. My 16-year-old sister has been enrolled in online classes since mid-March, but she is really missing the social aspect of going to school.

Unfortunately, a few previously scheduled family gatherings have been cancelled, such as my sister's sweet 16 celebration, our family's road trip to North Carolina to attend my brother's graduate school commencement, and my sister's baby shower. We are also uncertain about my brother's wedding reception which is scheduled to take place in the fall. However, what is most important right now is to do everything we can to help slow down the spread of COVID-19.

During these challenging times, I feel very grateful for my good health, for my job, for having a warm home, for having access to food, and for my husband's companionship. I am also hopeful and trusting God to bring healing to all the people infected with COVID-19. I know that controlling the global pandemic will take some time, and I pray and trust God to give us strength and patience to follow the authorities' guidelines and to support one another in any way we can.

SEEING GOD IN THE SUNRISE

Written By: Ms. Abbey Coon

Late at night and my phone starts buzzing. My sister, a missionary and doctor in the Philippines, sends an S.O.S to the family clan asking for help in sourcing PPEs for various hospitals, funding for medicine and food for the poor. Everyone mobilizes -- cousins, aunts, uncles, my parents, and siblings. Oceans away from home, I network with friends to see how we can all pitch in to help people from back home and around here in the US. During wee hours of the morning, I sometimes get news of friends passing away, of relatives passing away and the ache of being far away from home mounts heavily.

Since March 23, the Illinois State government issued a shelter in place order and I started working from home. While it is for our safety, the order (and fear of venturing out) comes with some minor inconveniences for my family such as being at the mercy of grocery delivery services with what supplies they can provide us, how much and when they can deliver. I never imagined toilet paper would be such a valuable and scarce commodity. We check our temperatures every night and I get mini heart attacks whenever my baby coughs to clear his throat. Before going to bed, I pray with my little one wishing for the pandemic to end -- hoping that people who have the capacity to make a change be inspired to be instruments of healing. There are nights when it feels like a desperate plea.

But when sunrise comes, I wake to my 8-month-old son's hands patting my cheeks. I greet him "Magandang umaga, mahal" (Good morning, love). He breaks into his two-tooth smile and giggles. In this time of fear I "shelter in" my son's boundless joy. As my workday begins, my husband keeps our little one pre-occupied so I may accomplish my work goals for the day. My relationship with my husband deepens as together we work in keeping our family safe and "sane" by balancing each other out. In this time of uncertainty, I "shelter in" my husband's care. Every day I see God's faithfulness through my family. Though the night sometimes seems long, every morning, when my son wakes me, I see God's beautiful face greeting me back "Magandang umaga, mahal."



HOLDING ONTO HOPE IN QUARANTINE

Written By: Mr. Andrew Dixon, III

Where do I begin? The global pandemic that has destroyed hundreds of thousands of lives and threatened many others is yet still an ongoing fight. I hear people say "I can't wait for things to get back to normal." I however, look forward to the healing of our global land from this terrible pestilence. This plight is so very hard. With every sniffle, cough, or inkling of concern it's like your mind can quickly go into a spiraling of fear and panic. I must admit, I have had days where I have been downright scared. I have a wife and son whom I love so very much. I know my methods for cleaning and handling things may seem a bit excessive recently but it's because I want to do all that I can to be as safe and precautionary for all of us here. While I am doing all that I can do I have been brought to the truth "God is the only one keeping us safe."

My efforts are that, efforts! The only way we all will make it out of this crisis is the Providence of God Almighty. Proverbs 3:5-6 says "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." My

(Continued on Pg.9)

daily hope is that God would be with us all no matter who you are. Working from home is a major blessing and grace from God. I get to stay home the majority of the week. My part-time weekend job has taken a lot of measures for social distancing to the point where I am the only one allowed in my office. This doesn't provide me with a sense of invisibility. I still pray and take precaution, trusting in God to protect me rather than "efforts" to the best of my ability.

My family and I are thankful to spend time with each other and caring for one another's emotional needs. I have a wonderful faith community that has weekly Sunday online service and I'm grateful that those around me and myself are protected by God. I am so thankful, I cannot say that enough. I am so grateful. I have so much to be thankful for during these trying days. I enjoy my work so much in these days especially. As many people know I began my career in various corporate sectors before God blessed me to work for SSpS. I love serving the Sisters communications and design needs. With a world in turmoil it is an added grace to have your role involve spreading the Gospel and love of God to many people. I am grateful, so grateful for what God is doing even in the midst of this pandemic. There is so much suffering, may God bring an end to it quickly and healing to all people. I want things to be better after this because normal isn't enough when we have such an extraordinary God to worship. Lord help us all please! No more Lord, please no more.

LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF COVID-19

Written By: Sr. Margaret Kissani, SSpS
(Epworth, IA Community)

So far in Epworth we have been mercifully spared from the ravages of Covoid 19. In the whole of Dubuque County we have had only one death from the virus, of course that is one too many. However, friends and relatives of the members of our school community have been sick or died with the virus, even our President's father, Robert Ascheman. The mother, of Sr. Therese Marie Tran, SCC, who has been staying with us since the lock down, is in a nursing home in California where some of the residents are already sick with the virus.



There are no teachers in the classroom here at Divine Word College. All classes on are on line. This is especially hard for the ESL students who have to learn English with a computer instead of face to face talking and listening. Sr. Margaret and Sr. Yustina have all their classes on line also and that means more study and homework for them. Their poor eyes! Sr. Aprilia is grounded here in Epworth with us—a very new experience for her and the SVD vocations promotor. She is doing a lot of work on line, and with the SVD, live-streaming. She also offers big services to the community by cooking, cleaning, shopping and mask making. Sr. Carol continues her ministries of spiritual direction and formation as well as helping some of the ESL students. We are happy to have Sr. Therese Marie with us, who because of the lockdown cannot travel back and forth from Dubuque to the school. She has many projects in the school besides her spiritual direction, formation and teaching duties.

So blessed are we because our Convent is considered on campus and therefore we are part of the College Community. We have daily Mass and participated in all the Holy Week Service. At the school we have either two services going on simultaneously in the Chapel and the Crypt or one service with live streaming. So we keep our social distancing. Our Graduation Ceremonies will go on as planned on May 16th, but only those who been on campus during the lockdown can participate. Farewell parties of course are all cancelled.

Each day we have adoration in the school for those suffering from the virus or those who have died. This tragedy is stupendous! There are no words to describe all the grief in our nation and world at this time. We thank God for our heroic health workers who are giving their all to care for the patients and to find a cure for this pandemic. Also all those who keep essential services going at this time are our heroes. May God's mercy shine on us all and help us to do the good we can at this time.

Sr. Evelyn Lobo, SSpS

On April 22, 2020, the US province joined the global community in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with Climate Change as the theme.

The sisters from various communities participated through awareness, education, advocacy, prayer and action. They learned about food production, global warming and purchasing. As part of advocacy, postcards in support of a Green New deal were sent to senators; letters requesting no bailout for fracking companies and protection of clean water to senators and representatives and enforcement of environmental laws to EPA administrator. Mother earth and all she holds were lifted up in morning praise, faith sharing, petitions, readings, and Pope Francis' prayer on creation.



The communities also reflected on topics and questions to energize us into action. The actions included planting trees, composting, growing vegetable garden, creating prayer cards with photos from nature, and making paper pots for seedlings. The provincial garden received a makeover which included erosion control, river rocks and replanting chara for the pond, reseeding grass at the edges and transplanting flowers from the wild areas. For all we receive with open hands, we lift our hands in thanksgiving to the Triune God.

Prayer Request

We continue to join the prayers of "people of good will" for the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, for those who suffer and for those who alleviate the suffering.

SSpS Sr. Agathe Bramkamp's older sister, Maria, hospitalized with infection in Germany.

Fr. Jerzy Gawlik, SVD, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker in Wheeling, battling COVID-19. He was placed on a respirator and remains in intensive care at Glenbrook Hospital.

Fr. Leo Dushek, SVD recovering from surgery at Evanston Hospital.



IN MEMORIAM

On May 21, 2020, While resting peacefully, Sr. Engratia Gales (103) passed into eternity. She served as an SSpS Sister for 85 years. Sr. Engratia was a talented musician, poet/writer, mystic, and assisted in the proofreading of our SSpS US Province Bulletin.

Dear Sr. Engratia, we will all miss you and think fondly of you in our thoughts. May God grant you everlasting peace, forever by his side.

