



SSpS MISSION

Called by the Spirit • Embracing the World

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters | USA & Caribbean | MAY 2021

Pentecost

*A Time for
Patient Waiting
“Come Holy Spirit”*

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Focus on Mission...

During these coming months of summer, we continue to honor the year of St. Joseph. May 1st is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker! In her reflection on St. Joseph, Sr. Mary Laureen Lahnan, a missionary of almost 50 years in Ghana, Africa, reflects on Joseph the Worker, not so much as the carpenter, but as the “go to” person who intercedes for us in many of our daily needs. Through Joseph’s intercession let us ask his help as our international world continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. May Joseph companion healthcare workers, first responders, as they minister to the sick and suffering. May Joseph companion those dying from disease, violence, poverty and malnutrition. May Joseph companion you as you encounter the needs and challenges of your life!

In mission, we also look forward to the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost (May 23rd). The feast honors the Holy Spirit’s action in our lives and in the life of the Church. A few of our lay associates share their stories of the Spirit’s action in their lives and how ‘mission’ has been lived in their life. May the Spirit guide you in your service of mission in the ordinary events of your daily life... in the simple acts of love and care extended to your family members, in the gestures of love and care given to others through YOUR helping hands, listening ears, loving smile. The Spirit is alive in us and through us in such simple, unassuming ways. I invite you to discover the ‘power’ of the Spirit’s presence in your life through the use of the simple invocation “Come, Holy Spirit!” This was a favorite prayer of our co-Foundress, Blessed Josepha, Hendrina Stenmanns (Feastday May 20th). Whisper “Come, Holy Spirit!” as a “Good morning” greeting to God. Whisper “Come, Holy Spirit!” when faced with a challenging situation or decision. Whisper “Come, Holy Spirit!” frequently throughout your day!

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters throughout the world pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit from May 14-22. We offer this novena, asking the Spirit’s presence and blessing on the work of mission as well as for all our missionary associates, collaborators, and benefactors. May the Holy Spirit accompany each of you in your daily journey of life!

- Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS

The Year of St. Joseph MY FRIEND & HELPER

Joseph is the can-do saint.
Without fanfare he gets the job done.
St. Teresa of Avila said of St. Joseph,
“I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any
time for anything which he has not granted.”
(Fr. Daniel Durken – Magnificat, March 19, 2021, p.216)

How can I write about my friend and helper?
How can I retell all the gifts and blessings he has shared
and given to me? He is a humble and quiet man who
prefers to work quietly. This is the dear person of St.
Joseph. He has always been my friend and has faithfully
supported me in time of need.

As a missionary in Ghana, West Africa for 47 years,
I really relied on St. Joseph during my last five years there.
I started a new elementary school in a rural area, beginning
with two, three and four year old children. It was our plan
to add a new class each year and watch the school develop.
The people in the three villages that surrounded us were
very welcoming and eager for their children to have the
opportunity to go to a school that was affordable for their meager “pockets.” Most of the villagers were small
farmers or market women, living from day to day. The first five classrooms and our convent were built through
the generosity of a donor from the USA. It was up to me to continue. Because nutrition for the children was
essential, we planned to serve them a meal for breakfast and lunch. But where would they eat?

Months before school was to begin on January 7, 2014, I applied for a grant to build an open air dining
hall which would also include the kitchen. We began the school year with the cooks cooking under some
roofing sheets that were left over from the old construction site. The food was prepared in large pots, using
firewood. The children ate in their classrooms but that was not ideal. I waited and waited for news about my
grant... nothing came. I did not lose hope. On the evening of March 18th, I told my fellow sisters with who
I lived that I would put my little six inch statue of St. Joseph on the altar in our chapel, because the next day
was his Feast Day. As I placed him there, I told St. Joseph: “I am a bit anxious about hearing something
positive concerning my grant. Please take care of it. We really need a place for the children to eat.”

I went to my room, turned on my computer and there was an email from the funding agency, granting
me the sum of twelve thousand dollars. I could not believe my eyes. I went back to the little statue of St.
Joseph and thanked him for working so fast! He continues to surprise me, especially around the time of
his Feast Day. I gave him the honor to be the Patron of our School by putting a large picture of him in my
Office. The children would come in, see the picture and ask if that was Jesus. Then I would tell them about St.
Joseph, who he is and how he has helped us in so many numerous ways. The school now has to build seven
classrooms for the Junior High School Division. St. Joseph really has a huge task ahead of him now. Who
would like to be a helping partner with St. Joseph?

Kind and gentle Father, St. Joseph, Protector of Mary and Jesus, pray for us!



Written By:
Sr. Mary Laureen Lahnan, SSpS

LIVING OUR NEW NORMAL THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATION

Holy Spirit Catholic Preschool, Molineux – St. Kitts

"God has a plan in everything under this earth, even if it seems tough and rough. The struggle we face today will equip us to develop the strength that we need for tomorrow..."

We had a great start on January 6, 2020 with lots of plans and dreams for the academic year of 2020. We began our school year with 24 children. Teachers were very enthusiastic in preparing and sharing their lesson plans for the new term of the school year. Everyone was in good spirits! Little did we know that we would be facing the effects of a global pandemic of unprecedented magnitude. On March 26th, a week before the end of first term, we closed our doors and children were sent home. I was faced with uncertainties and terrified as I learned about the first positive case to be in our Molineux area.

As a result, in-person classes shifted to online throughout term two and term three, following the introduction of the lockdown measures to control the spread of the novel coronavirus. In order to keep connecting with the children and parents from our school, we discovered a new way of learning. Every week teachers would send learning materials and activities with instructions to parents via "WhatsApp" and "Messenger". Parents suddenly played an important role in the education process of their children. They became teachers of their own children. It was not an easy task for parents, especially those who have more than 2 children. Despite all our struggles, we experienced effective collaboration between parents and teachers during the period of distance learning. The school year officially would have ended on July 5th with the graduation ceremony in the church during Sunday Mass. Because of the COVID -19 protocols, we decided not to have a graduation ceremony. Instead, we invited 10 graduating children with their parents to pick up each child's certificate and evaluation. We tried our best to make sure that the students and parents felt acknowledged.

Due to the low number of COVID-19 cases in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, in mid-July, the Education Ministry Department announced that all schools would re-open for the first term on September 7, 2020. Prior to the reopening of schools, protocols were instituted to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff. The well-being was a "top priority." These include screening to prevent symptomatic individuals from entering schools, practicing proper hand hygiene, promoting social distancing, wearing face masks for the teachers and staff; and environmental cleaning and disinfection efforts.

In order to reopen the Holy Spirit Catholic Preschool, we had to adopt new COVID-19 safety and health protocols and apply for approval through the Early Childhood Development Unit. During this time of preparation, I spent many long hours at school together with teachers to prepare and



take the necessary steps to implement the requirements set up by the authorities and to secure the approval for the reopening. We had to rearrange the classrooms to ensure there was enough space for physical distancing. In addition, five paper towel dispensers and liquid soap dispensers were installed in the washroom areas. Posters of COVID-19 signs were posted in and outside of the classrooms, kitchen and school building. All toys, books and other materials that could not be washed or sanitized were taken out. Since we work with children aged 3-5, all teachers and staff had to be trained in order to be qualified as helpers and guardians based on the COVID-19 protocols. Moreover, our daily schedule had to be change from 8:30AM - 4:30PM to 7:30AM to 3:30PM in order to give sufficient time for the cleaner and teachers to clean up all materials used during the day's activities such as toys, tables, chairs. The additional sanitizing and mopping the floors a minimum three times a day: before classes begin, after the recess, and at the end of the day necessitated employing a full time cleaner. I spent more than a month in preparation for the reopening of our school first procuring the required equipment, signage, storing away material that could not be used, even getting certified the newly purchased digital thermometers by the Health Department.

By God's grace and our efforts to maintain the protocols to protect children and staff from the spread of the coronavirus, on the 3rd of December, the Holy Spirit Catholic Preschool successfully completed the first term. It was a joyful day for me to safely send the children home to their parents and guardians. We could not have our annual Christmas celebration.

Instead we prepared a Christmas gift for each child as parents picked up their children before the Christmas holidays. The next day, teachers and staff had a recollection. It was a day to look back at how the past months had been for each one and how they had been coping and adapting to the 'new normal'. Also, it was a time to thank God for blessing us and keeping us safe from the corona virus during the first term. While



many schools around the world are doing online classes with many difficulties associated with it, we were able to do in-person classes despite the many challenges. The theme for the recollection was "Look back to look forward with gratitude and hope for new possibilities". The recollection was given by Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur, SSpS. At the conclusion of the recollection, teachers and staff had a wonderful Christmas dinner to finish off the term.

Our school opened for the second term on January 4, 2021, with 21 returning students and two new students. In the first term, two classes were being held in the big classroom. However, observing the COVID-19 protocols of social distancing guidelines, the second class is now using the Parish Hall. Currently we have three classrooms with enough space for social distancing and three teachers. September 5, 2021 will mark 10 years of educational service in Molineux and St. Kitts as a whole. We are planning a series of activities to mark the day including inviting our former students who are in the primary and high school to celebrate with us. Nevertheless, in order to include the 10 students who will be graduating in July, we decided to move the celebration up to July. The exact date will be announced later. We pray that 2021 will bring us new hope and healing so we can celebrate our 10 years' anniversary with joy and gratitude.

Regardless of the hard work and challenges, I give God thanks for His unconditional protection over us that we lived through the first term in a safe environment. When all the children, teachers and staff left the school on Thursday December 3rd, Sr. Arnolda and I closed the doors and went home joyfully praising God. It means that for the next few weeks, before school begins again in early January 2021, we would rest from mopping the floor and sanitizing door knobs, surface areas, and so forth which was an everyday task for Sr. Arnolda and me early in the morning. Ensuring a safe environment for our children and keeping them safe from COVID-19 is a major concern for us. We can only do what we can and leave the rest to God. I know every STEP of the JOURNEY ahead of us is in GOD's plan. We bringing HIM the sacrifice of thanksgiving, taking nothing for granted, not even the rising sun in the morning.



Written By:
Sr. Edel Maria Deong, SSpS

The Spirit's Guidance
GOD'S HAND
Stories of Life and Mission
From Our Lay Associates



“GOD’S CALL”

MARY ELLEN JACKSON RIVERO

Formation Years: I was in second grade I proudly shared my vocation with my teacher Sister Claretta, OSF with these words, “I am going to go to Africa and wash pagan babies”. This vivid memory still surprises me and convinces me that it was God who called me. My vocation sprung from my baptism and hit me at the age of reason! I did not choose it. His calling was expressed in the very child-like words of a 7 year old who helped buy a pagan baby for \$5.

My mother was devoted to the Church and helping others. She knew of my desire and supported me. In 1959, we applied to Techny, Illinois and I entered Holy Ghost Academy. There I studied as an aspirant, postulant and novice and became a Holy Spirit Missionary Sister (SSpS) until age 23. In 1971, it was decided that I would be happier as a lay person. I was disappointed. I returned home and finished my senior year at Mundelein College, graduating with a BS in Foods and Nutrition. I considered joining the Peace Corps when I met my husband, Steve—a returned missionary after years in India. He pointed out that we had our faith and mission vocations in common. He promised if we married, we would go to the missions together. So we did.

Shortly after our son was born, we moved to California, a better climate for Steve’s health.. As we left Chicago and traveled West I remember feeling sad because we were moving further away from Africa.

About a month after our arrival, we visited an old missionary priest Steve knew from India. After some catching up, the priest asked us “So what are you two going to do now.” Steve replied, “We want to go to the missions.” The priest said, “Are you aware that this diocese sends lay people to the missions?” If I were a dog, my ears would have shot straight up and I would be wagging my tail vigorously. I could not wait until morning to call the Lay Mission Helpers Association (LMHA)!

The Placement: Monday morning rolled around, I made the call and talked with Monsignor O’Leary at the Office of the Propagation of the Faith. I was informed that a new training class would begin that Thursday. Just show up! I am convinced that our move at that time was designed for us to become Lay Missionaries. From September to May 1974, we attended classes on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. We formed a community with our fellow intake mates. Towards the end of the year, we each wrote a resume’ which was sent to the bishops requesting lay missionaries. Steve and I were invited by both a bishop in Africa (!) and Bishop Noser, SVD in Papua New Guinea (PNG). LMHA sent us to PNG because the living arrangements there were more conducive to a family with a small child. We would work at Malala Catholic High School—founded by Fr Kolnick, SVD (from my hometown) and run by the SSpS. Steve was ecstatic with the choice because PNG had been his dream mission since childhood. I would have to wait until post-retirement to actualize mine. But we were both willing and eager to serve—Steve as builder and Manual Arts Teacher and myself as Home Arts Teacher.

Immersion: My first year in mission was one of learning and adapting. I was teaching the Australian Home Arts curriculum to girls from remote villages. English was a second language to the girls and I didn’t know the Australian words (eg: biscuit=cookie) nor their way of MAKING their own paper patterns for sewing class. I didn’t know the names of local foods and used to ask the girls “What is the dark green vegetable?” “Aibika!” “Alright: Aibika has folic acid which is very good for your blood”. The girls were also living in a strange environment: They came from villages of 100 people to a boarding school of 600 age-mates. They didn’t know about flush toilets or running water, and electricity was a new concept. They cooked over fire in the village and had no clocks. When we put the “biscuits” (cookies) in the oven, I asked one of the 7th graders to go outside to read the clock. She returned and reported “The big hand is on 4 and the little hand is on 10.” I knew then that I had to adjust drastically what I taught and how I taught it!

I benefited so much from living in a traditional



Health Nutritionist. The mothers taught me gentle parenting skills—enjoying the little ones without rushing them or cutting off their play. Montessori employs similar methods practiced by indigenous families.

While I questioned my effectiveness as a teacher, Sr. Jane Frances, SSpS assured me with this comment: “Mary Ellen, you and Steve are a model of a Christian family—equal and respectful of one another. You are having an impact on them we can’t give.” There were times when it was hard to trust God. My sense of failure plagued me-- I gave so little but received so much!

Reverse Culture Shock: Over the course of our three years (1974-7) in Malala, Papua New Guinea, I experienced a paradigm shift. I had left my culture and immersed myself in a traditional society. My world view broadened. I valued different things (conversation, hot water, electricity). I simplified my life and our marriage and family flourished. We returned to the USA with no jobs, no home, no car, no credit rating and two children. We gratefully stayed with my mom. Finding work was not a problem. Very slowly, we made our reentry. On the one hand I was resentful that God wasn’t rewarding our service more abundantly, but on the other hand I did not want to re-enter the materialistic culture. We did not have a like-minded and supportive community. It was a very lonely, difficult transition to make. That is when I realized I was going through reverse culture shock—something I hadn’t prepared for. I embraced and welcomed the immersion experience in PNG without realizing that I could never “go back” to the person I was.

The Time Between: Our decision to return to the United States was to provide our children with a sense of belonging. Our mission vocation was not to be forced on them. They were raised as Americans. We entered the role as providers and parents and added another child to complete our family.

During that time of striving in careers and

society. Most notably, I learned what breastfeeding looked like and how easy it could be when accepted as the norm. When our second child was born, I successfully breastfed her for 18 months. My new skills motivated me to learn how to support breastfeeding in the United States as a Public

nurturing our family, we sought to live out the Gospel. Steve founded a hot food program; we became foster parents; took in a refugee family and homeless person. I worked in the Women, Infants, Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) as a Public Health Nutritionist. It is a most rewarding and effective program. In 2007, Steve died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Losing my soulmate, I had to question my future. I was now alone with adult children far away.

Fulfilling a Dream: What will I do at age 60, alone and nearing the age of retirement? Go back to the missions! Working for 23 years in WIC provided me with a solid skill set not only in Food and Nutrition but in maternal/child health and cultural sensitivity. My friend Phyllis Betzen told me that Peace Corps accepted older adults. A year after Steve’s death, I interviewed with a recruiter who asked where I wanted to be placed. I responded “Africa”! In 2009, I retired from WIC and the Peace Corps sent me to Lusaka, Zambia, for 10 weeks of intensive language and technical skills training. I was placed in the village of Mpepo as a health volunteer for two years. My role was to train local health volunteers to conduct village health inspections. They were trained in Malaria prevention, TB, Maternal health, Child nutrition, and HIV prevention and treatment. In my 2nd year, I was asked to institute a program which rehabilitates malnourished children in a village setting. It included writing training manuals and then training Peace Corps and local health volunteers from around the country. Not ready to return to the US until I qualified for Medicare, I applied for a one year extension and worked at the National Food and Nutrition Commission in Lusaka. Although I missed the village, the task assigned to me was great—to write the first Zambian National Nutrition Guidelines. It was an honor to be asked and one I was well prepared for by living in the village for two years. How else would I know to include caterpillars, flying termites, rats, and hippopotamus in the nutrition analysis table?

Reflection on a Journey: God planted a missionary vocation in me at baptism. Answering the call was a winding path—first as a religious sister, then as a married lay missionary, later as a Public Health Nutritionist and finally as a Peace Corps Volunteer. It took years of reflection and hindsight to see God’s Hand and the Spirit’s Guidance. I struggled with making the right decisions, the delays, and the rejection. At times I fought them. I laugh at the serendipitous placements and other ways of God getting me to the right place at the right time. How good it is to be granted the opportunity to look back at age 73 to see His Hand!

“MY CHILDHOOD DREAM” ANN LEVANHAGEN VIERNES

My childhood aspirations were to become an artist and a scientist. At 14 years old, I answered the Holy Spirit’s call, received via the My Sunday Visitor newspaper from the Green Bay Archdiocese that was used as a desk protector during lunch. A small ad from the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters had caught my eye. After grade school, I applied to enter the Convent of the Holy Spirit in Techny, Illinois. Starting as a sophomore at Holy Ghost Academy in 1962, my curriculum was skewed toward fulfilling the essential requirements for graduation. I thrived on the science courses but missed the art classes with Sr. Arnolda. When the time came to enter college, I decided I could best serve humanity as a missionary in the field of the sciences (specifically healthcare) and relegated art to my hobbies. After a time, I felt another call, this one to a career in healthcare as a lay woman.

During my years as a Medical Laboratory Scientist and professor at Rush University, Chicago, I was also active in my parish of St. Richard and in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I served on the School Board, the Parish Council, and the Archdiocesan Parish Council, serving on the Human Concerns subcommittee in both councils. My husband Ron died in 2012. In 2013 I retired from a career in healthcare.

What some people call serendipity or synchronicity, I call “Holy Spirit”. She has acted in me, leading and guiding me. Now, I answer the call to share my vision to channel creativity and beauty by opening an art gallery, boutique, and creative learning space in Oak Park, Illinois, called “Purple Sun Arts”. Soon I will offer classes in art journaling using a method that combines journaling with intentional creativity. Everyone has an inner artist just waiting to be released. I am so blessed to be at this stage of my journey, one which brings the beauty of creation to the eyes and hearts of my community.



“LED BY THE SPIRIT AKA FOLLOWING INTUITION” ANITA WENDER

A life of seeking, a life of various modes of service, to begin where we started and know the place for the first time... Prayer, meditation, and following intuition go hand in hand.

My working career was with Federal agencies that had a social or environmental mission. We helped house those otherwise unable to have roofs; we monitored workplace safety and fair wages; we ensured clean water, air, and land; we ran wildlife refuges and preserved flora and fauna for all to enjoy.

I move through volunteer ventures as the spirit and opportunity lead me. Again, most of these are to improve people’s social or living situations or improve and preserve our natural environment: Red Cross disaster, hospice, sheltering and teaching job skills to the homeless, big sister, adopt-a-grandparent, water department community events and education, tutoring, planting trees, political activism to enable the greater good. One of my concentrations of energy now is to be available to friends, especially as we age, for caregiving of various types such as transportation, errands, and socialization. I thank the Spirit often for the health and abundance I have to be able to be this in the world.

“WHO’S IN CHARGE?” JUNE BERRY WESSA

Sometimes we get confused and think we are in charge of our lives! For example, when I was growing up, I wanted to be a missionary sister. When I was in high school, I began to realize that dream. Later, a decision was made to leave religious community life. As painful as that decision was, the years of religious formation has been foundational to who I am. I was a vowed Sister, Servant of the Holy Spirit. I am still a ‘servant of the Holy Spirit’, but I am also married, a mother, and a grandmother!



I met my husband at a local Catholic hospital here in Milwaukee, where I was volunteering in the chaplain’s office as a musician for daily Mass. He had come to the hospital to visit a friend and decided to stay for Mass. Afterwards, he complimented me on my singing. We got to talking and had lunch together in the hospital cafeteria. I found out that he had been a seminarian with the Divine Word Missionaries! See what I’m saying about God being in charge? We have been married for over forty years. I have been pregnant five times, losing three of the babies at different stages in the pregnancy, but gave birth to two beautiful daughters who have gifted us with five “perfect” grandchildren! Our formation as members of two religious communities founded by St. Arnold Janssen, has added to our identity as ‘Catholic’ and nurtured our sense of mission and service.



Most of my professional adult life has been in service to the Church. I have served as the Director of Religious Education at our parish as well as a Pastoral Associate at another parish. Also, my husband and I serve our parish in volunteer positions. He has always called himself a “handy man” and does a great deal to save the parish time and money in repairing what breaks, and so forth.

There is a program in Milwaukee called “Buy in your neighborhood” which counters the problem of “absentee landlords” who purchase inner city property, charge exorbitant rent for housing that they allow to deteriorate, and generally contribute to the blight often found in inner city neighborhoods. Because of that program, we were able to purchase a couple of rental properties in our neighborhood. Mike uses his “handyman” skills to keep these properties in good repair. We are also understanding and supportive when a tenant may be challenged in paying their bills. As a result, we don’t really have “tenants,” we have “neighbors” and we all look out for one another.

That reminds me of a memory I have from doing student teaching with the S.Sp.S. in Mississippi. It was after Hurricane Camille, in 1969, when the three Catholic grade schools along the Gulf coast were seriously damaged by the storm (Our Lady of the Gulf and St. Rose of Lima, in Bay St. Louis, MS and St. Clare’s, in Waveland, the neighboring town). St. Clare’s was totally destroyed by the storm, Our Lady of the Gulf sustained serious damage and St. Rose of Lima was the least damaged of

the three. Sr. James Parady, S.Sp.S. the principal at St. Rose, suggested that we might explore the idea of developing a school “system” where students from all three schools would learn together. The first “assumption” was that our school (student population all Black) would obviously not be as equipped as the two other schools, and the level of education would “obviously” not be as high. Imagine the shock and surprise when it was discovered that while none of the white Catholic schools in the State at the time were accredited to the standards of the State, all of the black Catholic schools were! I have always been proud of the S.Sp.S. for that “little detail!” Furthermore, Sr. James was a “deal maker”. She made an arrangement with the person in charge of the public school warehouse (where learning materials were stored and not being used by the public schools). We had a learning lab at St. Rose of Lima that was stocked with multiple supplies that otherwise would have been sitting idle in the warehouse!

It is that mindset of recognizing that all people are created in God’s image and worthy of dignity and respect that has been the foundation of how the SVD’s and the S.Sp.S. serve. It is also how I and my family try to live!

“THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE” PATRICIA BRODERICK

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, is a special awareness that I try to share. Veni Espirito Santo! Come Holy Spirit! The gift I received, the SSpS charism, is a gift that keeps on giving. Living in the presence of God day by day is a concrete way I tune into the movement of the Spirit on Jesus. Over the years there have been multiple opportunities to share the Holy Spirit charism with catechists, members of base communities, and participants in RCIA. I love to use the Pentecost sequence as an opening prayer for classes to remind us of the Holy Spirit’s “job description”. Also, the Quarter Hour Prayer highlights faith, hope, and love. Praying it is a great reminder that the Holy Spirit is the great Connector. “Send us the Spirit of Your Son. That we may glorify Your Name. Amen.”

Quarter Hour Prayer: St. Arnold Janssen, SVD

God, eternal truth,
We believe in you.

God, our strength
and our salvation,
We hope in you.

God, infinite goodness,
We love you with
our whole heart.

You have sent the Word as
Savior of the world,
Let us all be one in Him.

Send us the Spirit of your Son,
That we may glorify your
name. Amen.



THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CALLING US!

All of us, as God's missionaries, are being called to speak God's love to our much divided world. If I can believe what Henry Nouwen said, it leaves me no doubt that I have to speak. "He once said that by touching the center of our being, we sense that we have been touched by loving hands. Deep inside each of us, like a brand, there is a place that God has touched ...long before we can remember being touched by anything...is the memory of being touched by loving hands." (Prayer, Fr. Ron Rolheiser)

When we allow ourselves the time to really experience this, we realize what our role is in the world today. If our loving Father has truly touched each of us and made us a member of God's family, then we are all brothers and sisters in one big global family. This family is made up of many languages, colors, cultural differences and religions but with one big heart- big enough to love all of God's people, each having been favored by God's loving touch. WE ARE ALL ONE GLOBAL FAMILY!

I would like to share this prayer with you from the Black Sisters Conference.

Good and gracious God who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe and wonder before you, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life. Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of your light. May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our brothers and sisters. We place our hope for racial harmony in our committed action and in your presence in our neighbor. May all peoples live in peace. Amen.

Sr. Pat Gnider, SSpS

Holy Spirit Missionary Association, Directress

Congratulations!
Sr. Marie Louise Jilk, SSpS

Happy 100th Birthday



On March 31st, we honored Sr. Marie Louise Jilk's 100 years of life with a joyous celebration of gratitude to God for the many blessings she has received throughout these many years. We also celebrated with gratitude the many gifts and blessings SHE has been to others and to our Community / Congregation. During her 73 years as Missionary Sister Servant of the Holy Spirit, she served as the chief dietician at St. Therese Hospital, Waukegan, IL as well as the hospital's assistant chaplain. Beginning in 1981 through 2012, Sr. Marie Louise continued her pastoral care ministry among the sick at a hospital in Gary, IN; Cook County Hospital, Chicago, and our Community Retirement Center - Maria Hall here in Techny. Throughout the years she was a strong advocate for peace and justice issues through Project Irene and Right to Life advocacy. Her energy and loving interest and concern brought peace, joy, and love to all those she served! May God continue to bless her with peace, joy and happiness!

Dear Mission Friends and Supporters, we wish to assure you and your loved ones of our daily prayers of support during this time of the coronavirus pandemic. May our loving God be with all who are suffering and protect medical personnel, health-care providers, and first responders as they carry out their daily responsibilities. We invite those of you who can to join us in mission through your generous financial support for the Mission Ministries of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters.

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Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters are an international—intercultural community of 3,000 Catholic, religious women, serving in 48 countries. Missionary activities include pastoral work and catechesis, education, nursing and health care, social work, adult education, and many other services to promote human dignity.



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Called by the Spirit - Embracing the World