



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

Vol. 39 No. 11 – USA–NOVEMBER 2019



*"Dear Father,
give me the grace ever to
walk in the presence of God
so that I may say the
Quarter Hour Prayer
conscientiously and devoutly,
that I may not give way
to sadness when neglected or
humiliated, but rather thank
God for all with a
sincere love of sacrifice."*

Bl. Maria Helena Stollenwerk



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



WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

Navigating Life's Tough Moments Together

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

November, with the Feast of All Saints and visits to cemeteries observed in many cultures, was a natural extension of our recent experiences of death and funerals. Even though we are used to having a few funerals of our Sisters every year, each passing away is an emotional load. After the recent deaths of Srs. Catherine Mueller and Arnolda Chang within a short time of each other, I tried to reach out to our elderly Sisters who had lost their life companions: classmates, room neighbors, activity partners, or table companions. If we younger people feel the loss, how much more these deaths must affect them, I thought. I definitely could not foresee one of the reactions I received and honestly, I was not ready for it.

While I was trying to approach the theme from a broader and softer perspective, I noticed that the

Sister just kept looking at me, almost staring. I thought, 'She isn't getting it! It's not her best day!' so I quickly ended the topic. Then, I heard her question, "What's the matter with you? Where is your faith? Don't you believe in the promise that we will be living with God?" Wow! She paused, softened and explained that a firm hope in being united with God, after going through death, lessens and brightens her experience of losing a dear person. It is not the separation and "Good-bye" that she carries in her heart but the sharing in the joy that the departed person attained. So, with that I have to admit that I am a person of little faith and thus need to pray for its increase and mingle with people like my dear Sisters.

Book of the Month

"We Carry Kevan"

By: Kevan Chandler

*Six Friends, Three Countries,
No Wheelchair.*



WE CARRY KEVAN is a true story which displays the power of incredible friendships and profound faith. Kevan Chandler was born with spinal muscular atrophy and confined to a wheelchair. His compassionate heart and benevolent personality drew throngs of people to him in such a way that his physical condition did not limit the way he lived. In this book, *WE CARRY KEVAN*, the author, Kevan, shares how he carries out his dreams of traveling the world to places such as Paris, England, Ireland, etc. with six friends, a backpack and no wheelchair.

- Sr. Betty Tranel, SSpS

REMEMBER THE LEAST OF THESE...

November 17, 2019 was the 3rd World Day of the Poor. I found the Message of Pope Francis for the occasion an excellent reflection material in preparation for our 15th General Chapter. Please visit this website for more information <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/>. Here is a short excerpt that grabbed my attention: *"Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to seek, in every poor person whom you encounter, his or her true needs, not to stop at their most obvious material needs, but to discover their inner goodness, paying heed to their background and their way of expressing themselves, and in this way to initiate a true fraternal dialogue. Let us set aside the divisions born of ideological and political positions, and instead fix our gaze on what is essential, on what does not call for a flood of words, but a gaze of love and an outstretched hand."* (#8)

-Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek



HALLOWEEN FUN 2019 MARIA HALL & DIVINE WORD RESIDENCE

Joint efforts between the Activity and Nursing Staff led to a scary gathering of ghosts, witches, pumpkins, and some good people, in the Maria Hall dining room on October 31, 2019.


However, The annual Halloween Party at the SVD Residence is a high point of the day. Thank you Brothers for your invitation and warm hospitality! All the Sisters returned with expressions of being wonderfully treated and richer after collecting Bingo prizes. Many wholeheartedly contributed to the UNICEF Trick or Treat collection. Thank you to all who contributed!



*"You don't stop having fun when you get old.
You get old when you stop having fun."*

- Anonymous

happy
Thanksgiving

 Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

*"Let them give thanks to the LORD
for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds
for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and
fills the hungry with good things."
Psalm 107:8-9*

ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN
SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Fr. Tom Umbras, SVD

“The Missionary Experience”

Passing over, that’s what we do as missionaries. It is the essence of who we are, our spiritual home, not always comfortable but always life-giving. We give ourselves to a special personal transcendence that doesn’t put ourselves or our particular culture as an absolute in our lives. When we pass over to other cultures we take the risk that we will meet the Lord in a very different place with diverse circumstances that we can’t even begin to anticipate.

During this month of November we align ourselves with all the saints who ever marched to a different beat and caught glimpses of God’s passing over to us. During this month we remember the souls of people beloved by us and those on the periphery of our gaze who have passed over to their spiritual heart’s desire. At the month’s closing we seek to give thanks for all these “passing over” desires, experiences, and wonders that have awakened in us a longing for our true home not made by human hands. Gratitude is the foundational center of the spiritual life, especially for those of us who travel the passing over road, an alleluia life of hope, freedom from the tethers of conformity and a giving of our one and only life. Let’s give thanks for so many blessings we have received and pass them on!



NEWS

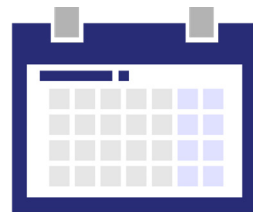


Sr. Alexis Tjahjani, SSpS graduated from the Collaborative Leadership Development Program – and also left for home leave to Java, Indonesia on November 25, 2019. Congratulations Sister on your accomplishment and we hope you are refreshed during your time with family!

Sr. Rosa Da Costa Menezes, SSpS left for home leave to Timor, Indonesia and East Timor on November 11, 2019. May you enjoy your time away Sister!



Sr. Barbara Miensopust, SSpS will return to Jamaica on November 28, 2019.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

November 30, 2019

Forgiveness Workshop at the Convent of the Holy Spirit.

June 15-21, 2020

Retreat at the Convent of the Holy Spirit
Fr. Dennis Callan, SVD.

August 8 - 15, 2020

Echoing General Chapter / Province Days/ Sr. Rebecca Chaan David’s Final Vows.

Summer 2020

Contemplative retreat with SSpS Constitutions
Srs. Carol Welp & Margaret Anne, SSpS. More information regarding this event to follow.

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

FROM SOUTH KOREA WITH LOVE



Dear Sisters and All,

Warm greetings from South Korea. “Sarangheyo~” (*I love you in Korean*). Thank you for the wonderful time which I spent with you all, and I hope you dance with the joy and peace of God in this Christmas season.

After finishing the tertiary program in the U.S. province, Sr. Maria Goretti, SSpS and I were sent to the Korea Province. The first nine months passed so quickly while studying a new language. Since we did not know much about Korea, I felt grateful for the ones who were in the same situation. As I am getting used to Korean culture, I have begun volunteering at the Franciscan soup kitchen once a week since October.

Usually, volunteers start to gather around 9:00 am. We have Mass before the meal and open the doors at 12:00pm until 2:30pm. From our delicious kitchen, I can see the long line of waiting people before opening. The daily menu includes 5 selections (soup, rice, main menu, side menu, and kimchi) which are consciously prepared for health and balance.

After service, we clean the kitchen, and lastly have a volunteer meeting, in which we share our experience and what we learned that day. While returning home,



though my body has a little pain and I am tired, my heart rejoices and delights in what we have done together.

The thing which I love most here is simply “The word of God is alive.” Each time before we serve, we celebrate Mass and hear the word of God together. So during the service, the word of God inspires and guides us a lot. Instructing us on how to treat others, how to wait, or how the kingdom of God looks like etc. Though I face some challenges or uncertainties, I am happy because “God is among us.” God bless you and Merry Christmas to ALL!

Sincerely,
Sr. Clara Harumi Machimura, SSpS



Fellowship with God & Community

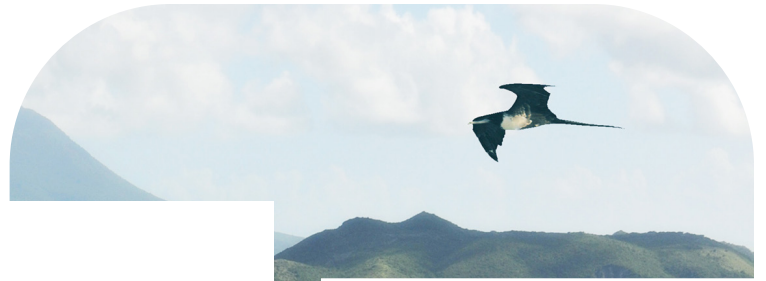
Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

Coming to the Caribbean from the unusually early winter in Illinois, the bright sunshine, lavish greenery, friendly laid back people, horizon extending with turquoise color, and ceaseless calypso music in the background could be sufficient to be truly grateful for the gift of life. For me however, this was only the beginning of the gratitude banquet. Accompanying the Sisters to their ministries and taking part in their daily lives filled me with admiration, pride, and gratefulness for them. Immersed in and ever learning, the much-localized culture of each island where they serve, they make an intentional effort to affect the lives of the people they encounter daily. The learning curve appears to be very steep, beginning with their names and family relationships (unusual for the Western culture) to their fluid affiliation with any particular church, to the historical social differences and the growing phenomenon of massive migratory movement.

Our Sisters are there for people, opening the Cathedral door before 6:00 am, waiting with open arms at the gate of the Holy Spirit Preschool shortly after 7:00 am, joining choir practice at night, and offering sacramental preparation and visiting families after the day's work is finished. They spend regular hours in the classrooms of the Catholic schools populated by a great majority of non-Catholic children transmitting religious knowledge but more importantly witnessing to Christian values and discipleship of Jesus. They take time to go to the byways to look for those who have strayed away from Church, who are caught up by other concerns. They visit the prisoners, the lonely elderly and the sick bringing them the comfort of human relationship and the prayer of the Church.

The Sisters ability to be radically dedicated to the mission and to be present to the people is possible because they spend time with God and with each other. Both relationships renew their dynamic energy, give purpose to the daily efforts, cleanse their motivations and intentions, give support and provide that wide turquoise horizon over which the Spirit of God continues to hover to make of us one people in God's Kingdom. The islands are small, and the nations are smaller than an average city in the USA, yet the circle is wide, ever ready to open and embrace more.

This Thanksgiving, I offer my praise to the Holy Triune God for the Sisters who live their missionary vocation to the fullest with great human warmth and in the spirited rhythms of calypso.



Sr. Arnolda Kavanamur, SSpS teaching students.
St. Kitts, November 2019

BLESSED, BROKEN & GIVEN

Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSps

National Catholic Youth Conference 2019 was held on November 21-23 at the Indiana Convention Center with its theme: "Blessed, Broken, Given."

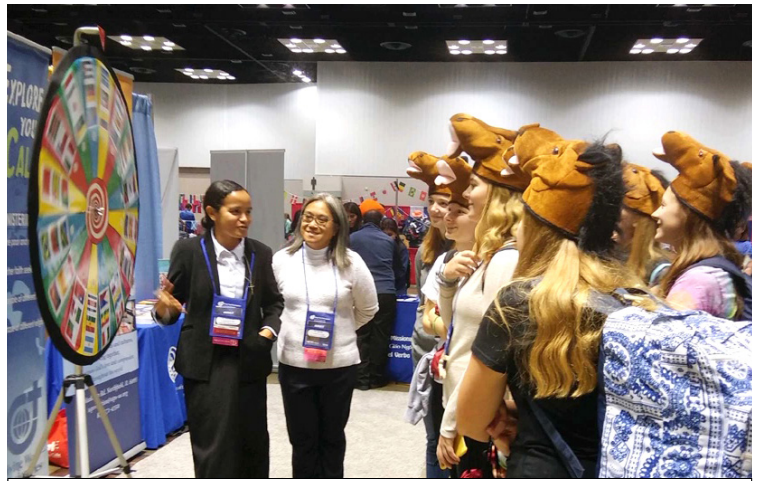
For three days, about 22,000 Catholic youth from across the United States attended this year's conference. They formed a joyful, energetic, and unifying representation of how much their Catholic faith means to them. The event started on Thursday evening with the Opening Ceremony in the Lucas Oil Stadium. There were various talks and activities, such as games, karaoke, bands and art projects that kept the youth busy and active. They learned about Catholic faith, played and enjoyed time together. There were many exhibitions of Religious Congregations, volunteer opportunity programs, Catholics' music and gift stores.



Srs. Skolastika Wea & Aprilia Untarto, SSps along with Fr. Francis Xavier, SVD.

This was my first experience attending the national youth events in the USA. I was moved by the enthusiasm of various youths who came to this event, especially those who visited our booth. Every break time many came to visit us. It was a blessing for me to talk to them and answer their questions. They also liked to play the "Spin the Wheel" game which was prepared by the SVD Vocation Office. In this game they have to spin the wheel and guess the countries according to their flags. This wheel has 48 countries listed which represents the mission countries of SVD and SSps. I also met many parents and catechists from different places who brought and accompanied many young people to this event.

A variety of vocation directors from multiple religious congregations were present at this event also.



Srs. Skolastika Wea & Aprilia Untarto, SSps explain the "Spin the Wheel" game to young women at the Vocation Promotion Table.

It was a moment of sharing, learning and enjoying unity together as Catholics no matter their background, age, and occupations. At the end of the day, we joined the Mass with the youth. I was really touched by the message from Bishop Nelson Jesus Perez of Cleveland, Ohio during the Mass on Friday. Bishop Nelson said that we have to "open our heart to God and listen to God's calling in our life." He added "that in this life as a young person, we have to move forward, don't just stay in one place watching TV or playing video games". The more we involve ourselves in different positive activities, the more we learn and we will find meaning and joy in our lives. We had the closing Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium to celebrate the Feast Day of Christ the King. The Mass was presided over by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He resounded again the last message from Pope Francis for the youth that "God loves us and the Church needs us, Jesus saved us and Christ is alive in and around us."

Along with Jesus we are "Blessed, Broken and Given" to our world!

Prayer Request

For a peaceful solution to political and social unrest in Chile, Bolivia and Haiti.

November 10, 2019

Merlyn, nephew of Sr. Engratia Gales passed on.

MANY RAYS ONE RISING

CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER NETWORK'S 42nd ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAITH-BASED SERVICE

Arantxa Martinez



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS
with Arantxa Martinez

From November 5 - 8, 2019, Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS and I had the opportunity to attend Catholic Volunteer Network's (CVN) 42nd Annual National Conference on Faith-Based Service, held in Cleveland, Ohio. Our attendance at this Conference was possible thanks to a generous grant from CVN through its "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 young adults to work alongside sisters, share in their way of life, and discern their own calling to vocation. In the SSpS US Province, for example, this past summer the Vocation Promotion Ministry and the Sisters working in the Holy Spirit Life Learning Center (Rogers Park and Wheeling) invited several lay women as volunteers to help in the Summer Peace Camp. Four young women had the opportunity to live, work, and pray with the Sisters in the Rogers Park community. Some of the funds from the "From Service to Sisterhood" grant were used to support the summer project.

During the Conference, we encountered lay and religious staff from various faith-based volunteer programs, vocation promotion ministries, youth ministries, college campus personnel, and non-profit organizations involved in social justice work. The Conference featured a series of workshops, keynotes and other sessions, which provided valuable information that, can help us strengthen the effectiveness of our work; in my case, within my role as development coordinator. Some of the topics that stood out to me the most were: the question WHY, visibility and marketing, and the importance of data. From the first evening of the conference, we were

invited to reflect on the WHY: why are we here, why are we involved in the work that we do. Not part of that reflection, but throughout the conference, I thought that when it comes to raising funds for a project, it is also a good idea to always start with the WHY.

Do we have a strong WHY behind our project? If the answer is yes, then we need to be able to articulate, with facts, to potential donors why we are creating the project, or why we need to continue developing a particular project. Organizations have rich histories and stories to share, and being more visible, better known, can help improve fundraising, volunteer recruitment, vocation promotion, and relationships with partners. Speakers talked about employing better strategies for reaching out to those unaware of our organization, especially Millennials (persons born between 1981-1996) and Generation Z (born 1996 - current). We were given some ideas for improving social media strategy, expanding advertisement efforts, and website development. In one of the workshops I attended, a representative from the Salesians of Don Bosco shared about their experience of developing a framework for collecting and analyzing data as a strategy for long-term growth. Although it was specifically about their volunteer program, I could definitely see its relevance in other areas. When it comes to fundraising, especially grant writing, it's very important to include qualitative data and quantitative data in applications and reports. Funders like to know how people's lives are impacted by attending our program, how we track and measure success, how exactly are their funds being used for helping people, etc. Although it may be time consuming, collecting and analyzing data provides many benefits to our own organization.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to have attended this Conference. I hope to be able to support the sisters in their ministry using some of my learnings from the Conference.



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, & Arantxa Martinez with Kerry Alys Robinson,
member of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities