



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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WORK IN PROGRESS



In many parts of the United States, the roadways are a bit congested. In Illinois, we are experiencing this more often as construction is on the way in many areas across Chicagoland to rebuild roads and expressways. Even our Paraclete Province is undergoing some reconstruction (for more on this see pg.5). While I contemplated all this change, I was moved by God to see this all in a completely new way, a more personal experience. All of us who have been drawn into relationship with Christ by the Holy Spirit are a continual work in progress ourselves. Although the work of salvation was completed by our Lord's sacrifice and resurrection, the growth and spiritual maturity within each believer is very different and always ongoing.

The Holy Bible says in Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ". Therefore much like the roadway construction, God will break up the old roads of our hearts and rebuild them to reflect his own heart. While the project may be ongoing and is not always convenient, as it often leads us in detours into areas that are unfamiliar, we can put our trust in the one who organized this new path to get us where we need to go. Often during these times we experience traffic jams and delays, this can also be true in our personal faith journey as well as everyday life. In these moments, perhaps God is calling us to be more patient in our reliance upon him for our daily needs. Could it be that he uses these momentary setbacks to nudge us towards quieting ourselves and taking time to enjoy his creation?

You may be saying, "This sounds easier than it looks" and I would agree. However, Hebrews 12:11 says, "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." During this changing of the seasons, may we be enlightened by the Spirit to see the construction God is doing in our lives and the lives of those around us. That we who have been changed by the love of Jesus would live in such a way that our journey would encourage those who do not know Christ to walk with us as we follow him. For we are all truly a work in progress.

Andrew Dixon III
Communications Coordinator, US Province



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



BAPTISED & SENT

A Personal Reflection on an Extraordinary Month

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

Since October 1st, I have been very much on the road taking advantage of the web, traveling around the globe, expressing gratitude, support, and encouragement to SSpS Missionaries and assuring them of my prayers. Then, one day, at the intersection of Willow and Warner, a colorful sign from the Northfield Community church jumped at me: "Love your neighbor: who does not Think like you, who does not speak like you, who does not pray like you, who does not play like you, who does not..."

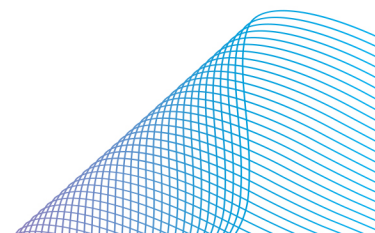
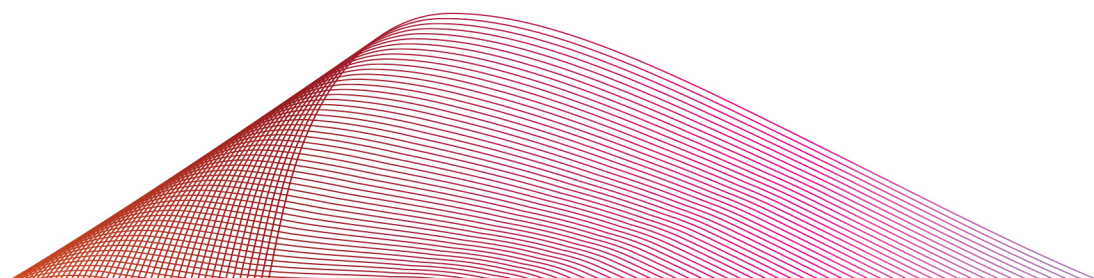
Although this realization did not stop my internet travels, I paid more attention to what was going on locally. I recalled the old proverb saying that it is much easier to love humanity than a person. It's a reality that my heart is moved when I read about suffering people. Yet, at the same time, I don't pay much attention to a homeless person who approaches my car at an intersection. Once I know deep within me that mission is right here and right now; that I am a mission, such an attitude is unacceptable. My neighbor is the one who worships differently than I, and the one whose outlook on life is incomprehensible to me.

With the daily prayers for our fellow Missionaries and the people they serve in the different countries, the Extraordinary Mission Month has taken us all over the world. I felt that



Srs. Arnolda Kavanamur & Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS in St. Kitts celebrating the Extraordinary Mission Month.

our hearts and minds were truly engaged as we thought and prayed for "our Sisters and the people among whom we minister". Much good energy has spread around the globe for these 31 (plus) days as we contributed to creating communion with our fellow Sisters and the people in most distant countries. When we started the practice of praying, I got the idea to connect with some of the Sisters I prayed for that day. I made part of my night prayer the practice to send a short e-mail to the Sisters from our Province serving in other countries as well as to the missionaries from my home Province, Poland, and a few other Sisters I remembered. It felt good to



write a greeting and a few encouraging words to the seasoned missionaries I got to know. I reached out to those I hardly met because they had left Poland before I joined, or those who entered while I have been serving abroad. It makes me proud to belong to the home Province that has the highest percentage of Sisters missioned abroad. Altogether, I greeted some 100 Sisters! Numerous Sisters replied, surprised by the communication and appreciative of our interest and prayers for them. They wrote how much it meant for them to be remembered and supported from afar.

We read in Pope Francis' message for the Extraordinary Mission Month that missionary charity was one of the activities we are invited to practice. Therefore, we, the Provincial Leadership Team, would like to invite each individual Sister to consider donating to a missionary project from her monthly allowance. The collection can take place between now and December 8th. At that point, each community can match, from community monies, the aggregated amount donated by the individual Sisters. This amount would again be matched with Province monies. For example, if the individual Sisters in a community donated \$150 between now and December 8th, the Community would add another \$150. And the Province will add \$300. to make a total donation of \$600. The PLT proposes to donate the collected funds to the organization "Food for the Poor."



Sr. Xaveriana Ngene, SSps celebrating the Extraordinary Mission Month at Our Lady of the Angelus Convent, New York.

Each Sister could either choose a particular item from the list enclosed to sponsor or give without specifying the gift. However, if the Community (as a whole) wishes to donate their collection for some other charity or to our own mission, this is also an option. Let us leave a mark that we have truly grasped the spirit of the Extraordinary Mission Month in one or all aspects.

Dear Sisters, please claim greetings from all directions of the world and feel thanked and appreciated for your diligent prayers during this Extraordinary Mission Month. I have learned so much during this Extraordinary Mission Month; I hope you have as well.

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta shared the situations which she has been encountering in her JPIC ministry. A staff member from "Aid for Women" was very impressive in her sharing about their many outreaches and needs. Also, one of the mothers talked about the help which she had received during her pregnancy.

There was a beautiful turnout of supporters from many different areas, which brought forth many, many gifts plus financial help. We received help from coast to coast, especially from our Associates.



Sr. Pat Snider, SSps

Since this October was dedicated by Pope Francis as an Extraordinary Mission Month, our annual Baby Shower, sponsored by the Sisters, Associates and convent employees, placed special emphasis on the role of all baptized Christians as missionaries. As part of our program, Sr. Agathe Bramkamp shared her experience of ministry at the Border in El Paso, TX.



ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

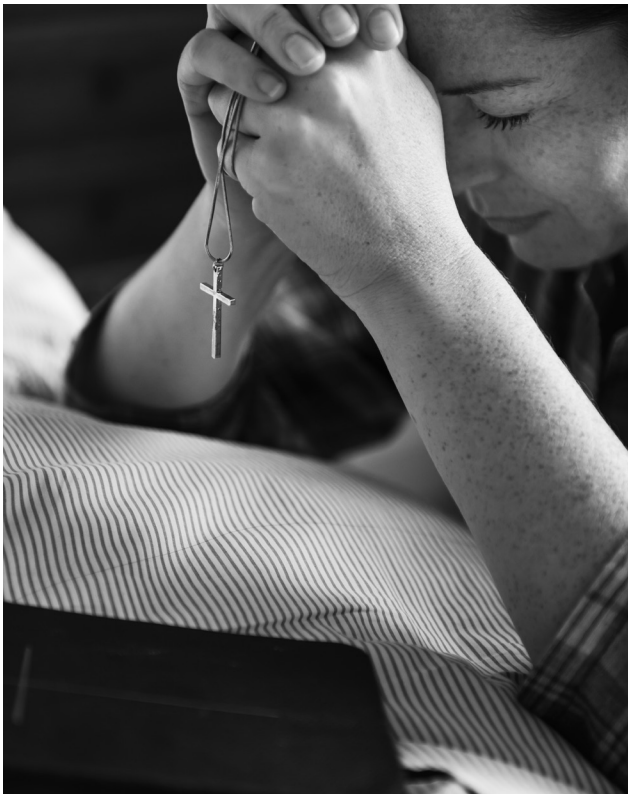
Sr. Margaret Anne Norris, SSpS

"The Joy of the Missionary Calling"

As we awake each morning and go through our day with the desire that "the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people", we can rejoice in the calling we each have received to the Arnoldus family, joined with brothers and sisters around the globe in a committed response to mission. I reflected on this year when we accompanied the four SVD's who made their perpetual profession in Holy Spirit chapel in Techny. Since 1875, how many men and women have vowed in that chapel and in SVD and SSpS chapels around the world to spread the Word of God in deed and in word wherever they find themselves!

Pope Francis on mission and particularly in relationship to the Mission Celebrations this October said, "I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's

own eyes and heart." "To proclaim the Gospel is first and foremost the communication of an experience of Christ himself." "To communicate the Gospel is to offer people the opportunity to experience an event in the form of a personal encounter with the living God."



In St. Arnold's time, the central focus of 'mission ad gentes' was on continents outside of Europe. Today it is all around us. In an address to the Canadian Bishops' in September 2019, Conference Archbishop Giampietro Dal Toso, President of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS), noted "Reality itself is imposing the need for the *missio ad gentes*. This is clear if we consider the statistics: in England, 53% of the population affirms not having any religious affiliation; in Germany, a survey predicts that in the year 2060, Christians will be reduced to half the current number, mainly because young people between the ages of 25 and 40 no longer baptize their children. Therefore, even in the West, [including the U.S. and Canada] the reality of the facts compels us to the *missio ad gentes*, that is, to the proclamation of the faith to those who do not believe. Missionary awareness is not something separated from pastoral care, but it is in some way its culmination. The Missionary Month is an extraordinary opportunity for this: to help the ordinary pastoral activity of the Church find new strength in this missionary dimension that makes it go beyond itself."

Pope Francis describes mission as: "A treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed" to walk together with the people of our time, to listen to what they carry in their hearts, to offer them, with our lives, the most credible response, that is, the one that comes from God, through Jesus Christ. First with witness; then they will ask you, 'But why are you like this?', and then it will be the moment to speak."

During this month of October, may our commitment to the call we have received deepen our own joy and draw all we meet to a deeper experience of the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Two references that give daily updates on mission and ministry around the world, calling us to prayer that the "Holy Triune God live in all hearts" are:

www.fides.org and www.CatholicCulture.org

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Major repairs are underway on the grounds of the Convent of the Holy Spirit, (Northfield, IL). After many months of discussing alternatives, it was decided to reconfigure the circle (roundabout) in front of the main entrance. The reasons behind this change are, to make it easier for delivery trucks to circulate and to facilitate snow removal from the front. In the spring, we will look for ways to bring more beauty to the main entrance.



For some years, there was a canopy leading to the back door. Last winter, with heavy icy snow falling from the roof onto the canopy the aluminum structure was destroyed. We are working on a permanent solution of cement pillars, along with a tile roof over the sidewalk leading to the back door.

Another noted concern was the crumbling manholes. This issue is also being addressed while the construction crew and equipment is around.



CREATING COMMUNITY OF WELCOME: WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS



On Saturday September 21, 2019 at the Catholic Theological Union, SSpS Srs. Rosalia Galmin, Rose Therese Nolta, Agathe Bramkamp, Maria Theresia Nguyen, Monica Zhang and Pre-Novice Yolette Dorce attended the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI) Event on Creating Community of Welcome: What would You have us do? The first panel included U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, Theologian Carmen M. Nanka-Pernandex, and Attorney Irakere Picon from the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition (IBIC) and dealt with political, theological and business topics. The second panel was composed of two young people who traveled there and spoke of their efforts and that of others who helped them.

Sr. Monica wrote, "I am very grateful to have attended this event. I learned that the immigrants experienced multiple traumas crossing Central America, but there were many good people who helped them in different ways. I feel that I need to support the immigrants by prayers and actions to let them feel they are welcomed in this country." Sr. Maria Theresia commented: "Immigrants are taking a beating on television, at political rallies, even on Capitol Hill. The challenges we face today are not new. My experiences as an immigrant child growing up in the US helped me gain an appreciation for the gift of life. This is because my immigrant story is tied so much to them. The two testimony stories of migrants losing their loved one, being kidnapped, raped, killed or robbed on their journey was too much and overwhelming. Every year it becomes more dangerous for migrants to travel on foot, car and/or train. I think migration is such a cold inhumane process. It's tearing families apart when it should be uniting them. Turning our backs on immigrant and refugee populations would mean we are no longer willing to nurture others like myself who have a chance to grow and contribute to what makes America already so great. Where is liberty? Where is the love? And where is freedom?"

We as SSpS are challenged but we also do what we can for migrants, our brothers and sisters. Let us continue to welcome others.

Book of the Month



"Can Francis Change the Church?"

By: Rev. Thomas Sweetser, S.J.

In this book, author Father Thomas Sweetser S.J. has interviewed a broad range of Catholics, both practicing and non-practicing about their relationship with the church today and how they experience the effect Pope Francis is having on it.

The true value of this book lies within the direct conversations Father Sweetser has with people from very different walks of life between 20 and 80 years old. The answers from these people are enlightening and a helpful resource for everyone concerned about church. Reading *Can Francis Change the Church* will help you determine whether Pope Francis is a hero or a gambler. - Sr. Betty Tranel, SSps



IN MEMORIAM

09/28/2019 Sr. Catherine Mueller

09/29/2019 Helena Bozych

(sister of Sr. Leonette Kaluzny)

10/21/2019 Sr. Arnolda Chang

Let us also remember Sisters who have passed away earlier this year:

Sr. Therese Mary Martinez & Sr. Martha Fass

Our closest relatives:

Jackie Walsh (brother of Sr. AnnIta Walsh), Marjorie Vallimont (sister of Sr. Judy Vallimont), Dolores Nystorn and Bernard Kunkel (sister and brother of Sr. Francetta Kunkel), Anthony Risi (brother of Sr. Marie Angela Risi), Anthony Akpa (brother of Sr. Uloma Akpa).



2nd Annual Taste of Viator House

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSps

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSps attended the 2nd Annual Taste of Viator House on October 5, 2019 at St. Viator High School (Arlington Heights, IL). The evening, which brought together a crowd of nearly 300 people, including Viator House staff, donors, volunteers and participants showed us the world as God would have it - men and women, young and older, from several religious traditions and several nations all united as one community and committed to God's mission of building a world where all people feel welcomed.

Viator House hosts young immigrant men who are provided shelter, food, transportation and case management. The funds raised will serve the young participants of the house.



ADVOCACY TALK FOR THE IMMIGRATION PARISH COORDINATORS

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSps

On Thursday night, October 17, 2019, Sr. Rose Therese Nolta gave an Advocacy Talk - "Being a Voice for the Voiceless" to the Immigration Parish Coordinators at Meyer Center (Chicago). Immigration Parish Coordinators (IPC) serves a vital role towards fulfilling the mission to "welcome the stranger." IPCs are committed to work on behalf of immigrants and immigration issues in the context of Catholic social teaching. An IPC is a volunteer lay person who coordinates efforts in education/ conversion, advocacy/ solidarity, and empowerment/ accompaniment with the native-born congregations of their parish. IPCs serve as a liaison between their parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago's Immigration Ministry.

The IPCs help build a Culture of Acceptance, Welcome and Solidarity in their parishes. It is a work so necessary today and they bring a lot of energy and courage to their ministry.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2019

MEMPHIS, TN

Sr. Monica P. Darrichon, SSpS

Our community in a special way lived the Celebration of World Mission Sunday at St. Joseph Parish in Memphis, TN. A team of which I was a part organized the details. A Vigil was held this year to raise awareness among young people about the missions and the importance of praying for the needs of all our brothers and sisters around the world.

During the Vigil, held at St. Joseph outside the church, there was time to listen to testimonies of young people who shared their experience of having participated in World Youth Days in Poland and Panama, and how world events changed their perspectives on the topic of faith. Sister Skolastika Wea, SSpS and seminarian Sam Lollar Lee, SVD, a native of Arkansas, shared their vocational history with those present. Likewise, Fr. Joaquin Yongxin Li, SVD, a Chinese priest with missionary experience in Paraguay, and now studying English in Epworth, Iowa, shared his vocation, and mission in the South American country, and how he prepares for his new mission in Hong Kong. An important part of the event was Mr. Jaime Torres, Mexican-American, who shared his conversion experience. How he went from being a gang member to preaching the love of God. He told his story and then expressed himself through singing/rap, how he lives his faith, convinced that God loves him and loves everyone.



Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS at the Vocation Promotion Table.

The golden clasp of the Vigil was when candles were lit on the stage and the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was made to be worshiped. It was a Taize-directed prayer in which everyone prayed for the needs of the entire world.

During World Mission Sunday we celebrated a bilingual mass also outside the church. After a short homily of Fr. Juan Antonio Romo, SVD, Fr. Joaquín recounted part of his vocational history, and the situation of the Church in China, which impacted many. After the Eucharistic Celebration, the prayer of the Holy Rosary was recited and led by the PRE and then launched balloons of the colors of the five continents to the sky.

We concluded with a Picnic of hamburgers, hot dogs, flavored waters, salads and desserts for everyone. Both days Sister Skolastika exhibited a table with missionary and vocational material at which people could stop and take something if they wished to do so.



NEWS



Sr. Maria Joseph Nguyen, SSpS returned from El Paso on Oct. 17 after serving two weeks at El Paso immigration Center.

Thank you to all Community Leaders who gathered for the one-day workshop on October 21st at the Convent of the Holy Spirit.

We are proud of our Sisters and Employee who reflected on and shared their insight about the significance of Extraordinary Missionary Month for their ministry. Interviews were set up by our Communication Department. We are grateful to SSpS Srs. Pat Snider, Rose Therese Nolta, Rosalia Galmin, Rosa Da Costa Menezes and (Maria) Theresa Thanh Thao Nguyen but especially to Mr. Andrew Dixon III, both for his insightful sharing and for piloting the project. The interview is posted on YouTube Channel: *Holy Spirit Sisters USA* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdGkd3Sy1hc&t=55s>.



Sr. (Maria) Theresa Thanh Thao Nguyen, SSpS will travel to Denver, CO during the weekend of November 1-3, 2019. She was asked to give a retreat to a Eucharistic Youth Group. Two weeks later on November 16-17, 2019 she will travel to Charlotte, NC for vocation promotion during Masses in a large Vietnamese parish as well as meet with the youth group.

Sister (Maria) Theresa requested to be called by her legal name Theresa Thanh Thao Nguyen.



Sr. Silvia Kusumawardhani, SSpS will leave St. Kitts for Indonesia on Nov. 4, 2019. We wish her a wonderful time with her family, especially Merry Christmas and good luck for the visa interview, so we can welcome her back in early January 2020.

On Sunday 10/27 a global Mission Sunday celebration was held at St. Ferdinand Parish in Chicago, IL. Card. Blase Cupich presided at the Mass. In his homily, the Cardinal invited each missionary to recognize his or her own sinful drives and attitudes, the need of God's forgiveness and redemption, just like the tax collector in the Gospel. This is a condition

for anyone who wishes to witness God's love and share with others the gift of redemption. After the Mass, refreshment, conversation and entertainment took place. The majority of those present either seemed to have been lay people, volunteers, or connected to some organization or parish that has missionary outreach. The joy and enthusiasm to be part of God's own mission for humanity was evident.

The Cardinal concluded by imparting special blessing upon all missionaries.



SSpS Srs. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, Mary Miller, Theresa Thanh Thao Nguyen w/ Card. Blase Cupich.



We would like to express special acknowledgement and gratitude to the Grayslake Community who daily provided us with an inspirational message from our Congregational Missionary Models. The Facebook project was headed by Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS of the Communications Department.

Mission Sunday celebration at St. Elizabeth - St. Anselm Parish was a colorful joyful noise to the Lord and sweet delicious taste to the palate



Sr. Barbara Miensopust, SSpS requested and was granted a compassionate leave. She will leave for Poland in the beginning of November for 3 weeks to visit her ailing Father and give support to her Mather. Let us accompany Barbara and her Family at this difficult time.

The PLT wishes to thank each individual Sister, Community Leaders and Department Heads, and most of all Sr. Priscilla Burke, and Ms. Lisa Tsuji for preparing, compiling and presenting the consolidated 2020 Province Budget. After some tweaking, we will submit the budget to the Congregational Leadership Team for approval. We would like the Sisters to know, that the Spirituality and Ongoing Formation Teams members are working on two retreat possibilities that we could avail ourselves of. The details and dates will be available soon.





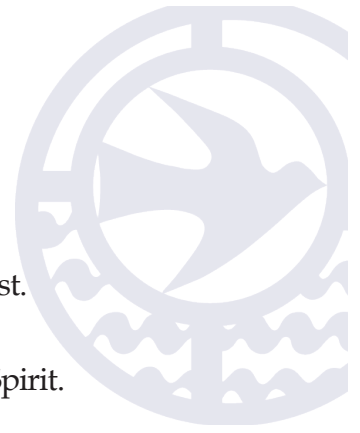
UPCOMING EVENTS

November 28, 2019

Thanksgiving and Bl. Maria Helena Stollenwerk feast.

November 30, 2019

Forgiveness Workshop at the Convent of the Holy Spirit.



OCTOBER'S EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH MESSAGE

Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS

On October 13-14, 2019, Sr. Monica Zhang, Sr. Rosalia Galmin and I presented our message in 5 masses at St. Gilbert, (Grayslake, IL). Here are excerpts from the message we presented to the parishioners:

Traditionally the third Sunday in October is Mission Sunday. On that occasion we hear in sermons about the mission activities of the church, at home and in many places around the world and often we are encouraged to give our support in various ways. However, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, declared the whole month of October 2019 as a time for reviving our missionary awareness and commitment. In his letter entitled Baptized and Sent: The church of Christ on mission in the World he expresses the hope that celebrating this month will help the Church, to "rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ".

We, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit celebrate our specific call to mission, which involves our whole life: our awareness of being sent, our prayer and work for the proclamation of the Good News, and our hope to include and involve the whole world in the response to God's love for all peoples. In our liturgies and/or celebrations we often use the globe as a symbol for the global church, and our faith in the God of all creation, who loves all peoples, of all countries, in all their differences and otherness with all their expressions of faith in a creator God.

As a dedicated congregation of missionary sisters serving in 50 countries around the world and have professed members from as many countries. Together we want to mark the Mission of the Church as the Holy Father encourages us to do and as we were asked by our congregational central team in Rome. Here we



want to respond in some way to the Pope's letter. The mission of the church is not a mere option, one among many – but the very reason for which the Church exists. Jesus says: "As the father has sent me so I am sending you." And to accomplish this mission, the Church constantly receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit. With this, we, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, want to echo the Holy Fathers fervent plea for a renewed Pentecost that opens wide the doors of the church.

Prayer Request

Charles, brother of Sr. Gertrude Ahegbebu recovering from surgery.

Brian, brother in law of Sr. Margaret Hansen as he continues recovering.

For a peaceful solution to the political protests and social unrest in Chile and Haiti.



Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSps

On Sunday, September 1, 2019, the catholic community of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, together with the Greek Orthodox community of Chicagoland joined an ecumenical service in giving thanks to God for all the beauty of creation and to recognize and encourage all the conservation efforts of God's disciples.

7 sisters (Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, and Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek from our Northfield community, Sr. Elwira Dziuk from the Waukegan community and Srs. Agathe Bramkamp, Monica Zhang, Rosalia Galmin, and Pre-Novice Yolette Dorce from the Grayslake community joined the OLPH parishoners and the members of the Greek Ortodox community in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview IL to pray and reflect together in thanksgiving to God for all of creation and calling us to become more aware of the beauty and also the vulnerability of creation as well as our duty to protect, preserve, actively restore and bring healing where destruction and negligence has desecrated God's gift to us.

This was the fifth anniversary of collaboration on an ecumenical prayer service. It was presided over by Bishop Mark Bartosic who presented a special reflection on ecological awareness. This was followed by a lecture from the Greek Orthodox Scholar Rev. Dr. Deacon Perry T. Hamalis. He caught our attention with the surprise in the title of his lecture: "Love God, Love Thy Neighbor, Love the Trees". Below I tried to summarize the important points he made from the Orthodox perspective on the relationship of Theology, Ecology and Human dignity. We all are united in our common concern for the suffering of nature and slowly come to understand how deeply it is connected to the suffering of human dignity. The story of the liberation, of the marginalized and excluded people which begins with the exodus is continuing and calls us to work together in order to protect the right to human dignity.

Modern slavery is directly linked to the enslavement of creation. The entire world is the body of Christ just as human beings are the very body of Christ. The way we respect creation is a reflection of the way we respect our fellow human beings. The social problems that tear at the fabric of our humanity, such as modern slavery, child exploitation, ruthless confiscation of land, hunger amidst abundance are parallel to the destruction of the ecology in its many forms and places around the world. The abuse of the environment is the abuse of human dignity. All ecological problems along with its massive pollution is directly connected to social problems and poverty.



Pope Francis says in "Laudato Si" that "today we have to realize that the true ecological approach is always social and has to become a social approach. The cry of the earth is the cry of the poor. The reality of division of environment is happening according racist attitudes. In the city of Chicago we can draw a map that divides areas of blue, orange, and red. Blue being the wealthy Chicagoans; with easy access to good facilities, connections to politicians, etc. Orange signifies the middle class. Red connotes the Chicago of the economically poor; who have little access to good education, good facilities, work, fresh food etc.

Modern human slavery is happening in almost every country especially in some countries in Asia. The Recruitment of underage workers and low payment for their work is happening in some companies. The most affected by this unjust treatment are the poor. This afternoon of reflection made us acutely aware again of this connection between environment, the Love of God, and love of neighbor. "Love the Trees" meaning the environment, is seen in the way we love God and love our neighbor. Through the action of planting and caring for trees, we express the love and care for our fellow human beings.