



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

called by the Spirit • embracing the world

PROVINCE BULLETIN

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The Province Days served as a springboard to plunge into the Extraordinary Mission Month (EMM) 2019 because we reflected on the phrase *You Are Mission!* For the past month, the theme of the EMM often came back to me: *“Baptized and Sent”*. Surprisingly, it does not use the imperative form as Jesus did at His Ascension. At the same time, it sounds even stronger than an imperative. It is a causal form, a logical sequence of events, an unescapable obligation, and a gift that calls to be reciprocated. For a baptized person there is then only one legitimate direction, sent in the power of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the baptized into the communion of the Trinity and enables them to recreate communion wherever they are sent. St. Arnold Janssen, expressed the truth that the Holy Spirit is the ‘Agent of Mission’ by dedicating our Congregation to the Holy Spirit. Is then God’s Spirit the only active agent in this equation while the baptized remains a passive recipient, pushed by grace into the world?

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

I was sitting in the Botanic Garden encircled by natural beauty ruminating over these ideas. In the plant world, life happens in an almost identical way, I thought, as the soft wind carried tiny seeds of flowers, weeds and grasses. These tiny seeds now have life on their own and will find soil to sprout, grow, bloom and bear fruit and seeds. This process is far from being passive. It is engaging and transforming! The seed must die in order to become alive as a new plant.

In baptism, each of us received Divine Life and the wind of the Spirit sent us. For us in the Paraclete Province, the United States and the Caribbean constitute the soil on which we were brought to grow, to bloom, and to bear rich fruit. Radical faith and selfless love will guide us through the process of death and transformation, “driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness.”... “People in love never stand still”; a stunning reality to live, an awesome opportunity to engage in!

(Reflection based on the “Message of Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2019”).



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

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|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <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> |

EL PASO



STRONG

A MISSION

OF LOVE

Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS



A scenic view of Ciudad Juarez across the border.

“El Paso ~ Strong”, that was a message printed on T-shirts as a response to the terrible killing of so many people by a single shooter at the Walmart store in El Paso, Tx. Sr. Angelica Oyarzo Chavol inquired where to get those shirts since we wanted one in order to participate in the show of resilience and the positive attitude. Apparently, the shirts were sold out! This to us was a sign of how the people of this city were reacting to the bloodshed at the local Walmart store. The store, by the way, is closed and a memorial reminds with fresh flowers every day of those who died there. The people of El Paso are friendly, welcoming and strong in their conviction that they are here for life, not death, for helping, not rejecting. Thus, they prove it by volunteering their time and services as well as donating goods of all kinds.

There are a number of centers in El Paso that receive the people “processed” and released by the

Border Control Agency. The center Casa Oscar Romero where Sr. Angelica worked for almost six weeks and Sr. Agathe Bramkamp joined her for the last 10 days, could serve about 80 to 100 people, whereas another center, a huge warehouse, can accommodate 500 and more people at one time.

Those released and sent to one of the centers, usually have the address from sponsors in the US and receive ticket(s) for plane, bus or train to travel to their destination. Therefore, the guests at the houses are there only a short time, a day or two. There are constantly new people, from different countries, with different stories of many harrowing experiences on the journey and at the border and yet they hold on to hope. Many felt and expressed the relief and gratitude for the friendly, caring, and efficient work of the

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Sr. Angelica Oyarzo Chavol & Sr. Agathe Bramkamp in El Paso.

volunteers. Sr. Angelica, of course, could communicate easily and she reports that several guests expressed their gratitude to her by saying that they, in turn, will give help and friendship to people in need.

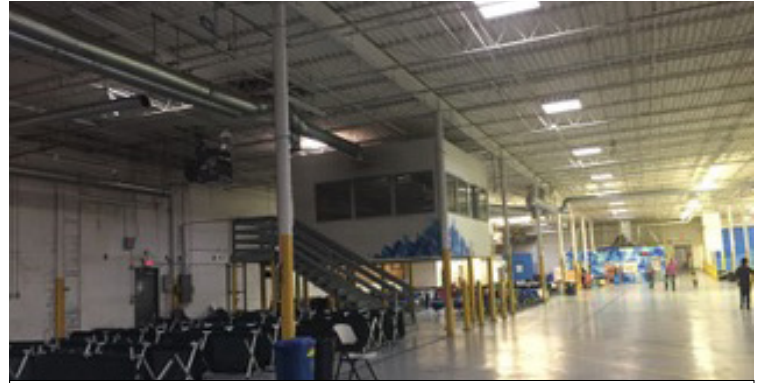


Shoes donated for those who may need them when they arrive.

Sr. Angelica really got the hang of that large, fast and complicated operation. She was shift coordinator several times where I could witness her efficiency, circumspection and heart warming care especially for those depressed, sad, anxious and sick.

There were volunteers from all over the country, a number of them young and committed for a longer period of time, others older and ready to help with anything needed and then the locals, who were called upon for many trips to bring the travelers to the airport or bus station.

“El Paso ~ Strong”, a very fitting response. Positive, hope-filled, with an attitude of healing and helping. Solidarity in action!



Casa de los Refugiados, a huge warehouse that can host 500+ people.



Marching for CLIMATE CHANGE!

Every Step Matters.

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS

For me it was marvelous to be a part of about 3000 strong young people and not so young activists marching for action against climate change in Chicago on Friday, September 20, 2019. Since I had another commitment, I was worried I would be late and not be able to find the march. In reality, the students filled the metro and I just followed them out with their hand-made, yet creative posters. The chants were easy to follow and the energy was amazing. All present were standing and marching for action to save our earth, our water and our air.

We walked - filling the streets - from Grant Park to the Federal Plaza. There were so many that we could not enter into the Federal Plaza. So many of us just remained on the street shouting slogans. There were a number of speakers but the crowd was so large we could not hear them.



Many gather in Downtown Chicago, IL in support of climate change.

The Climate Strikes of Students included about 2,500 events across 150 countries. The strikes came days before world leaders gathered at the United Nations in New York for the Climate Action Summit on September 23, 2019. There was a call to end fossil fuels, use renewable energy and act in new ways to deal with climate change.

Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish activist who sparked the international movement also delivered an emotional speech at the Climate Action Summit. During this Season of Creation and week of prayer and action, may our personal choices be ones for the earth and lessening our use of plastics.

ARNOLD JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CORNER REFLECTION

Fr. Nick Hien Nguyen, SVD

“Looking Further into The Love of Christ”

The Love of God is often told through modifiers such as “incredible”, “insane”, even “obscene” to describe something that is beyond human acceptable norms. In the Christian Testament, we often hear how Jesus uses parables to describe God’s incredible measure of love towards humanity. Who has not once considered the parable of the Prodigal Son as unbelievable? In ancient Jewish tradition when a son demanded to have his inheritance, it meant that he had not only wished his father dead, but also declared it. Jesus’ audience must have gasped at this son’s “obscenely unbelievable” attitude. On the other hand, how illogical is a person who has lost a coin, then spends every ounce of energy in search of it, then uses it to celebrate the founding of itself? Similar to the parable of the Lost Coin, who would not hesitate to judge the shepherd in the Lost Sheep parable to be “unbelievably insane”?

God’s incredible, insane, and even obscene love for humanity can be understood through many of Jesus’ parables. To borrow from the prophet Isaiah’s words: “God’s ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts” (Isa. 55:8). In Julian of Norwich’s autobiography Revelations of Divine Love, the famous saint described God’s love for humanity with the following words: “In my folly...I often wondered why,...the onset of sin was not prevented.... I mourned and sorrowed because of it... But Jesus... answered with these words and said: ‘It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.’ These words were said most tenderly, showing no manner of blame to me....”

Throughout the ages God’s love for humanity remains as lavish and excessive today as it was when God created Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:7). God’s love is indeed ‘out of this world’ and it should impel us to imitate and be generous to others as God has been to us.



SSpS Celebrating Extraordinary Mission Month



Extraordinary Missionary Month – let us live this out by consciously renewing our individual commitment and engaging in activities to make the Holy Triune God known, loved, and glorified. Please share with us your experiences. Here are some plans in place already that we know of:

- Check the Mother Leonarda Facebook, there will be a new message every day during October.
- During the weekend Oct. 20-21, Sr. Elwira will speak about missionary work at The Most Blessed

Trinity Parish in Waukegan.

- Srs. Anita Marie and Mary Miller have compiled a list of every Sister who at some point lived in the Paraclete Province with the objective to connect with them in their respective mission countries.
- Oct. 12 PLT meeting (please notice the change of date in case you wish to submit a request)
- Oct. 13-18 CLDP-7 gathering – Srs. Elwira and AnnIta

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- Oct. 15-17 LCWR Region 8 meeting – Srs. Judy and Dorota Maria
- Oct. 20 – Baby Shower to support the mission of ‘Aid for Women’.
- Oct. 21 Workshop for Community Leaders at the Convent of the Holy Spirit

- Oct. 24 and 25 – Boards and Investment meetings
- Oct. 24-27 Religious Formation Conference – Srs. Elwira and AnnIta

“People in love
never stand still”

Pope Francis
Excerpt from his message
for Mission Sunday 2019



MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

Sr. Rebecca Chaan David arrived safely in Cebu, Philippines and on September 15, 2019 together with other Sisters began preparations for her Final Vows. She wishes to share with us the following:

Greetings,

My adjustment to the humid weather and the change of time took a while. As I begin my journey of tertianship, I will try to keep you updated. Our Tertianship was opened with an introduction by our Tertian director Sr. Ewa Lidia SSpS. “Today is September 15, 2019, the Twenty- Fourth Sunday of ordinary time”. We have eight Tertians from around the world. Sr. Alma from Philippine South, Sr. Preeti, Sr. Reshma, Sr. Kamla, Sr. Veera from India, Sr. Rebecca from USA, Sr. Rita from Indonesia and Sr. Maite from Australia. The Theme was “Our Tertianship Journey Begins”. After all sang the opening song, then we tertians prayed this beautiful prayer together.

“Loving God, / you have called us/to a life of gratitude/ in the Here and Now. You have drawn us to yourself/in the depths of our hearts/and through the ordinary events/and encounters of everyday life. We thank you for bringing us together to the Trinity Province/ to deepen our Commitment to you/before we say our “YES forever”.

Help us/ to approach one another/ and all of your creation/ with reverence and humility/ and to seed of tertianship /with silent moment of gratitude / and awareness of your presence. We are grateful for your unconditional love/ and ready to set on this journey/as your beloved. May we be open/to your spirit’s presence in the Universe/through Christ Jesus. Amen.”

We received lighted candles from the Provincial, Sr. Maria Elizabeth. After that, we continued with the prayer and we took pictures. I could feel the gentle support of our Sisters, their beautiful smiles and warm sisterly love. Please pass my greeting and thank you to all our Sisters, for holding me in their prayer. I am also praying for you my Sisters. Greeting to our Nurses and all Employees.



Book of the MONTH



“Boundless Compassion”

By: Joyce Rupp

The Gospels are insistent: “Be Compassionate”.

In her powerful, moving work, **BOUNDLESS COMPASSION**, Joyce Rupp shows how compassion was the center of Jesus’ ministry and mission for His disciples and for us, and how compassion can become a way of life for each of us. **BOUNDLESS COMPASSION** goes beyond just reading a book. Joyce Rupp offers several methods for helping us to develop a compassionate consciousness and how we might be open to explore ways of reaching out with a compassionate heart to one another and to all living things. Several of these methods are: Individual study and reflection, Group study, and Circle meditation.



The chapters in **BOUNDLESS LOVE** are also available on DVDs, each one hour long.

- Sister Betty Tranel, SSpS

NEWS

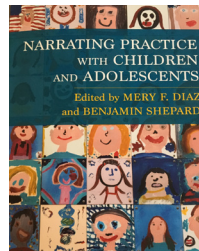


Sr. Margaret Hansen wrote:

I would also like to again express my gratitude to you and the Province for the birthday greetings, prayers, Masses and other expressions of love. I wrote on Whats-app but that may not really reach so many. I do appreciate the many expressions of care and belonging... especially as I age.

Srs. Angelica Oyarzo and Agathe Bramkamp returned from El Paso on September 18, 2019 after serving respectively five weeks and 10 days at Romero House helping the asylum seekers. On October 4, 2019 Sr. Maria Joseph will again fly to El Paso for a four week period. Thank you Sisters for your response on our behalf to this humanitarian crisis.

Sr. Angelica left for her home leave in Chile on Sep. 20th. Enjoy your second spring this year Angelica and rest well!



Sr. Gretta Fernandes contributed an article “Poor Mothers, Poor Children: The Feminization of Poverty in Rural India” to a student textbook entitled Narrating Practices with Children and Adolescent printed by Columbia Press 2019. Congratulations Sr. Gretta!

Eight Sisters, 15 SVD and two other people will take part in the SSpS & SVD Formation Conference at Techny Towers organized by the SVD and conducted by Sr. Lynn Levo. The workshop will start on Thursday evening, Sep. 26 and end on Sunday noon, Sep. 29.



The PLT approved a donation to ‘Aid for Women’ in connection to the scheduled Baby Shower.



IN MEMORIAM

08/29/19 David Yockel -
Nephew of Sr. Helen Marie Yockel

09/18/19 Hilario Engelmann -
Uncle of Sr. Lidia Kunze



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS & Sr. Helen Remedya Saldanha, SSpS at VIVAT International.

From September 3 – 6, 2019, I had the opportunity to learn about the work of VIVAT International. After spending a few days with VIVAT by attending meetings, presentations and discussions, my understanding of social justice has been broadened. As Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, social justice is something we have embodied for a long time through our faith and life experience. It has been shaped by our ministries, events and people we have encountered. Like Jesus, we seek out the lost, excluded and voiceless. I realize more and more that social justice is our lifestyle, our habit and our spirituality. It is about praying with our hands, feet and whole body. It is not only by kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament, but by being and working with others, building the Kingdom of God in this world.

In our work to promote religious missionary life, we collaborate not only with our two other Congregations: the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters and the Society of the Divine Word, but also with other Congregations and vocation service agencies. Through such collaboration, we try to promote, cultivate and introduce the spirit of social justice, bringing about the Kingdom of God through our ministry and witness as religious missionaries.

In our conversations with the young women at our retreats or any other gatherings or programs, we promote right and loving relationships with all people, especially the poor and disenfranchised. They learn how to pray and listen to God's voice in their lives. One of our aims in the vocation ministry is to help the young women to be the best they can be and to have courage to make a difference in our world. We give young women the opportunity to practice what they have learned about building the Kingdom of God. They are invited to participate in our Summer Peace Camp program where they stay, work and pray with our Rogers Park community Sisters in Chicago. In addition, they are expected to collaborate their works with the lay volunteers in the Center. There they learn not only intercultural community living, but also how to work together with others to help the children in the camp grow in values like faith, peace and harmony.

Vocation work is not just about recruiting new members to our own Congregation, but also teaching new candidates how to listen to the voice of Jesus and go to the places where they are called to serve. We encourage them to model their life journey after the Spirit of Jesus, who clearly loved all people, regardless of their culture, faith, social status, or gender. Even though they may be having their own difficulties and challenges in life, we encourage them to be aware of and share their blessings.



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS

Summer is over and Fall is coming. It is a time for us to share some news and updates. From August 30, 2019 thru September 1, 2019 we joined the National Catholic

Burmese American Conference 2019 in Camp Hill, PA. Sr. Skolastika Wea, SSpS, Br. Duy-Linh, SVD and I were present at this Conference. This was our third year in supporting the NCBAC Conference. The event has given us the opportunity to connect with the Burmese communities around USA. During our trip to the East Coast, we also had opportunities to visit two of our candidates in Harrisburg, PA, Columbus, OH and to participate in the Indonesian Catholic Community Mass in Philadelphia, PA.

On September 21, 2019, while Sr. Yustina Intan was busy representing us at the SVD Final Vows ceremony in Techny Towers, Sr. Skolastika and I went to Plano, TX to join the Mass of Indonesian Catholic Community in Dallas Forth Worth. The community invited us to share our Vocation Stories. They have



Srs. Aprilia Untarto & Skolastika Wea, SSpS with volunteers.

started a program to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life for the children, youth and young adults. We also have received two invitations from them: to share our mission experience and to give a Retreat to the community.

In Texas, Sr. Skolastika and I also had the opportunity to help the Sulaiman's family, the family who was hosting us while we were in Texas. We helped them with the food distribution to the poor in their parish, the Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church. This parish is a very diverse parish. They have eight ethnic Masses in addition to their common Masses on Sunday. We were grateful for this unexpected opportunity.

The month of October, Extraordinary Mission Month, we will be busy with some events: Vocation Fair at St. Louis University, University of Dallas Ministry Conference 2019 and also the Vocation and Volunteer Fair at the University of Dallas, TX. During Mission Sunday Celebration, we will have some young men and women from St. Paul, MN visiting the Divine Word College in Epworth, IA. In Memphis, Sr. Skolastika will join a panel to share her Vocation Journey as an SSpS at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

We have been blessed by God with many opportunities to promote our life as religious missionaries. We would like to thank you for all your prayers and support toward our works. Please continue to pray for young women who are still searching and seeking God's will, especially those who are in contact with us.



Srs. Aprilia Untarto & Skolastika Wea, SSpS with Br. Duy-Linh, SVD.

Prayer Request

Sr. Jeanne Blie suffering after the stroke and given comfort care at the Convent.

Sr. Catherine Mueller with increased cardio - respiratory difficulties.

Mother of Sr. Uloma grieving her son and other relatives who died in a car accident a few months ago.

Mother & Sister of Sr. Alexis dealing with some health issues.

Brian, brother in law of Sr. Margaret Hansen - recovering from serious unexpected surgery.

Fr. Leo Dusheck, SVD, brother of Ms. Marie Dusheck, recovering at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center near Bordentown, before transferring to Techny Residence.



THE 68TH
**UNITED NATIONS
CIVIL SOCIETY
CONFERENCE**

Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS



From August 26-28, 2019, Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, Sr. Helen Remedya Saldanha and I attended the 68th UN Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. The theme was *"Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities."* More than 5,000 people attended the conference from over 130 countries. Two important documents were introduced. First, the outline of a global vision for building inclusive and sustainable cities and communities by 2030. This document proposes steps that communities around the world should take to meet that 2030 goal.

The second is the *Youth Climate Compact*, which lays out steps to reduce the devastating effects of the climate crisis and adapt our communities in both mindset and structure.



In this Conference, besides the main plenary and topics, there were more than 350 workshops prepared by the NGOs organization under the UN. VIVAT International gave one workshop: *"Integrating Migrants into Inclusive, Sustainable and Peaceful Communities"* which was well attended.

This was my first experience attending the UN Civil Society Conference. It was an overwhelming feeling meeting people from around the world who had a lot of passion and energy to make the world a better place to live. Since I have dealt a lot with migrants in my current ministry, I chose a few other workshops relating to the immigrants. One of them was *"Integrating Refugees into Their Communities."* This workshop shared how the community in Salt Lake City has created a way to bond, bridge and link with the immigrants who try to settle down in their area. The goal of this program is to empower the immigrants to make their living better.



*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."*

- Helen Keller



Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS, Sr. Helen Remedya Saldanha, SSpS, & Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS at the 68th UN Civil Society Conference.