



VOICES OF OUR SISTERS AND COLLABORATORS'

**CASA GENERALIZIA
Suore S. Giuseppe dell'Apparizione
Via di Villa Alberici, 8 / 10
00 165 ROMA, ITALIE**

October 2020

Contents

- I **Message from the Superior General**
- 2 **Editorial**
- 3 **Life during Lockdown**
 - i Province of Myanmar/Philippines.
 - ii Province of Europe/Ethiopia/Tunisia.
 - iii Province of India/Haiti.
 - iv Province of Latin America.
 - V Province of Australia/Thailand.
 - VI Closing of Liverpool in England.
 - VII Province of Lebanon/Syria.
 - VIII Witness of a Nurse in Cavallasca, Italy.
- 4 **Formation**
 - a) A look at our Novices in the Congregation.
 - b) Echoes from our Juniors in the Central Novitiate in Rome.
 - c) Experience of our 3 Juniors in India.
 - d) First Profession in Jordan.
 - e) Experience of attending an International Formation course in Rome.
 - f) First Professions and Jubilee Celebrations in Myanmar.
 - g) Final Profession in France.
 - h) Final Profession in Myanmar.
 - i) First and final Professions in India.
 - j) Sister Intisar speaks of her life as a SJA
- 5 **Jubilees Celebrations;** Beyrouth- Lebanon, Greece, Malta, France.
- 6 **Meet our elderly Sisters:** Australia, Myanmar.



Rome, le 21 Octobre 2020

Chère Sœurs,

Vous venez de vous connecter au Premier Bulletin de notre Congrégation qui vous arrive à travers notre Web Site.

Je vous envoie mes salutations les plus chaleureuses !

Je suis heureuse que nous commençons à utiliser ce moyen rapide et efficace pour nous partager une partie de ce que fait notre vie. Vous allez pouvoir consulter une grande nombre d'article, de photos et de vidéos. L'ordinateur nous permet de faire cela sans nuire à l'environnement. Je vous invite à vous aider les unes les autres, selon votre habitude plus ou moins grande d'utiliser le Web, pour que vraiment toutes les Sœurs puisse profiter de cette richesse.

Je remercie toutes les sœurs qui ont préparé les différentes parties, et Sr. Renée qui les a mis ensemble pour créer ce bulletin. Je remercie aussi toutes les sœurs qui ont œuvré dans les dernières années dans les équipe du Bulletin et du Web pour nous garder en lien les unes avec les autres. Merci !

Je voudrais terminer avec ces mots tirés de l'annonce pour les Journées de la Communications Sociales de 2021, que je cite des Vatican News du 29.09.2020. Pape François a choisi le thème :

« Viens et vois. Communiquer en rencontrant les personnes telles qu'elles sont, et où elles sont »

« Dans le changement d'époque que nous vivons, en un temps qui nous oblige à une distance sociale en raison de la pandémie, la communication peut rendre possible la proximité nécessaire pour reconnaître l'essentiel et comprendre véritablement le sens des choses. Nous ne connaissons la vérité que si nous la vivons, que si nous rencontrons les gens, que si nous participons à leurs joies et à leurs peines. Le vieux dicton « Dieu te rencontre là où tu es » peut servir de guide à ceux qui travaillent dans les médias ou la communication au sein de l'Église. »

Que ce Bulletin et notre Web Site nous aident nous rencontrer vraiment entre nous, et à partager nos joies et nos peines, notre vie de mission, et ainsi faire grandir l'unité de notre corps apostolique !

Bien unie à vous toutes,

Sr. Monika Duellmann, Supérieure GÉNÉR

Editorial

Welcome Sisters to our first online SJA Bulletin of our mandate which commenced in July 2019.

Our wish is for the Bulletin to be a source of inspiration and information about the life and activities of our Sisters in their respective communities and missionary undertakings. I invite you all to participate in this by reading, contributing articles, forwarding photos, viewing the videos and stimulating a conversation by providing comments.

The purpose of this Bulletin is to remain connected by sharing our lives and mission. With the diversity of situations across the Congregation it is an opportunity to strengthen and give new life, hope and joy to all. Our hope is *'To reinforce the sense of belonging, to be open and appreciate the different cultures and gifts of each Sister.'* (Final Document, Intention and Orientation 6)

To Read this Bulletin:

- Log into the Congregation website:
<http://www.stjoseph-apparition.org>
- Go to Menu, click on the Bulletin
- To View Photos and videos click on the link given below every article.
- The articles are in the original language in which I received, please click the language button and read them in languages of your choice.
- Write your comments to congsjaquadros@gmail.com

I thank all the Sisters who have contributed articles, photos and videos for this issue. I thank the Sisters who have helped me to edit, correct and to screen the contents.

Best wishes to you all.

Sr. Renee Quadros SJA

Life during Lockdown.

Myanmar

News spread just as quickly as the Corona Virus spread. Hearing of the pandemic and resulting deaths people were scared. God provided Myanmar's State Counsellor *Daw Aung San Suu Kyi* with wisdom and prudence who took no chances. The Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar issued Lockdown for cities, towns and some villages. Travelling and tourism, Churches, Houses of Prayer, Mosques, Temples and Pagodas were all closed as of the 25th March.

On hearing the world news, we felt threatened and terrorized. People followed the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, to keep safe and stay at home. Quarantine centers were set up and the Bishops' Conference came to the forefront, offering their Seminaries as "Quarantine Centers". Volunteers offered their services and others generously donated towards the project. Facilities were supplied as people came streaming in from abroad and were warmly welcomed and well-cared for in the Quarantine Centers. Locally, those with money were able to purchase the necessary supplies, whilst others were forced to live from hand to mouth, though the Government did supply some basic provisions to enable them to survive during lockdown.

Cardinal Charles Bo and the Bishops announced guidelines that there were to be no public Masses till the end of July which was later extended to 28th August 2020. Online Masses, homilies and suggestions for Adoration were broadcasted by the team at Radio Veritas Asia. Four SJA Sisters assisted with this service to the Catholic people.

The SJA communities contributed financially to these works and distributed food parcels of rice and vegetables along with face masks. The Communities of Yangon and Mandalay collaborated with KMSS and the Covid team and helped to sew over 2000 scrub-suits and 1000 masks.

The SJA Myanmar's Communication Commission attempted to reach out to people through Social Media especially on the platform of FACEBOOK. The page followers soared from 700 to over 5000 by the end of July. Different Communities shared messages of faith, trust, encouragement and hope in God through songs and talks in an attempt to nourish and inspire people to keep safe and stay at home.

The three Sisters who had recently completed their studies in the Philippines were given a "Relief flight" to return to Myanmar. As soon as they arrived at the Airport, they were escorted to the Quarantine Center for 21 days where food and lodgings were free of charge. Most of the time our communities particularly the elderly spent time in prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During this time our main source of income from our Pre-Schools diminished and, in some cases, ceased. Our Boarding girls whilst still able to attend school did so in shifts because of the demands for social distancing.

At this point we must say Myanmar has not been hit severely for there have been only 360 people infected and 6 deaths. However, we still have to take precautionary measures and hope a second wave does not come unexpectedly. We thank our

state councilor *Daw Aung San Suu Kyi* and the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar for the wise management they undertook for the people of the country.

May God bless and protect us and we hope and pray this is the end of Corona Virus.

Sr. Geraldine Willis.

For more details, see the Video

https://youtu.be/h_tGg7ixq0k

Philippines

Lock Down in the Philippines.

The Philippines used to be a country full of fun where people are known for their happy, hospitable and outgoing attitudes. Usually Malls are packed with people buying, eating and relaxing. When the lockdown began the country became quiet: all schools and offices shut down. There was no work, no transportation, no gatherings and people were only supposed to leave home to buy food and other essentials. In many areas, they were required to obtain a special pass from a local official to be able to move around. The life style of the people changed and became difficult.

One of the greatest impacts was in the area of education. The population of the Philippines is 110 million with 27.2 million students in the 2019-2020 school year. During this pandemic, the Department of Education decided to shift to distance learning for the coming school year 2020-2021. To comply with these directives, face to face classes were postponed. This rapid change in the educational system proved to be a big headache with most parents deciding to send their children to public schools, where education is free. The enrollment in private schools decreased, and as of 1 July 2020, there were 15.8 million children enrolled in public schools, with just over 700,000 enrolled in private schools.

The Philippines being the only Christian country in Asia, has many private schools and universities run by the Church which are now in crisis. These include our two schools, St. Emilie Learning Center in Manila and Infant Jesus Learning Center in Bohol. The Sisters responsible are praying and working hard to increase the enrollments. Like many other schools we have had to reduce staff numbers. Some parish schools shut down completely. Seeing many jobless people is heart breaking.

Despite these challenges, the Sisters and teachers in our schools are making an effort, to enhance their knowledge of new learning systems by attending seminars, webinars and zoom meetings. Most of our outside apostolate is limited. Fortunately, in the Provinces, Sisters still have opportunities to visit the sick, accompany senior citizens at home, and distribute communion. Some of our communities are fortunate to be able to attend Mass while others join through live streaming.

We are taking this period as a blessing as it has enabled a greater closeness among the Sisters, Novices and Postulants. In appreciating and living our life more positively and meaningfully, we can encounter challenges and recall the statement from our General Chapter "*Community life itself is a mission*". Personally, and communally, we have the opportunity to focus on our mental and physical health by doing yoga exercises, gardening, reading, improving language ability, developing new hobbies and using social media constructively. Doing little things with great love, gives us joy and at the same time we continue to trust and hope in God leading us anew. Each community has decided to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day with each community member taking a specific time. Our overall intention is to stop this pandemic so the world can return to normal life.

More details see the video

<https://youtu.be/8thXYiWIUas>



Europe/Ethiopia/Tunisia

The Challenge of Corona Virus

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, despite the suspension of all activities and the closing of the Churches, the two sisters Ana Gloria and Ramona, had permission to visit the sick, distribute Communion, shop for the elderly and take part in the Eucharist at the parsonage. The Parish Priest asked them to accompany him, every Sunday, on the streets of the village distributing Communion, whilst respecting the restrictions. The people were waiting with great faith and impatience, some on their knees, some crying, others praying for the sick and those who were taking care of them in the hospitals. Holy Week proved to be a strong experience where a small number of people, similar to the first Christians, celebrated the Eucharist with great joy diffusing some of their inherent fear. Another experience of deep communion was with nature, where the ground was prepared to receive flower and vegetable seeds. They now enjoy the beauty of the flowers and the delicious crops of vegetables, saying with Saint John: 'unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' (John 12, 24)

Cyprus

The community life of the Sisters was well organized with plenty of time for personal and communal prayer. Different programs from the Vatican and the Mass celebrated at the Grotto of Lourdes were followed. The poor, sick and lonely were encouraged

and supplied with food by many benefactors. Because of the lockdown many migrant workers, unmarried mothers and part-time students from Asia who relied on casual labor, could no longer go out and look for work. The Sisters foresaw that the lack of work meant that they needed the essential goods for living and the Sisters supplied them with food parcels containing rice, noodles, tuna, sardines, oil, vegetables, spices, and toiletries. Many of the 60-70 recipients were young men. The Sisters wrote their names and mobile numbers in order to replenish supplies when required. This avoided the danger of giving help to the same people repeatedly and avoided being taken advantage of. They were incredibly lucky as some generous people brought them supplies or gave them financial help.

England

Here in England we were greatly affected by the Corona Virus which prevented contact with other people. For a certain time, we were not permitted to have visitors and were required to wear masks in public places. Parish activities such as visiting and taking Communion to the sick and house bound were not allowed. Daily Mass was online. A Sister continued helping at our local food bank each week. The Sisters over the age of seventy received a letter from the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, advising them to take extreme care. The more fragile were required to stay indoors until the 1st of August. We could not have Sunday Mass in our Parish since the lockdown. The Mass on the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time was celebrated outside in the amphitheatre of our local Catholic Primary School.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia declared a state of emergency and closed all schools, some government offices, such as Immigration and Passport Offices and most hotels and restaurants on March 13th. However, there was no proper lockdown in the country. The measures taken were the ones taken all over the world. and Church Leaders were told to decide for the faithful. Covid 19 numbers were not numerous to begin with, but the rainy season which started in May, made matters worse. Now the number of daily infections is an average of 550 a day, the highest being 707 last Monday. The death toll is close to 400.

In Addis Ababa the Comboni Fathers continued to say Mass during the week and on Sunday we went to their small chapel keeping social distancing rules. On March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph, Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel celebrated Mass for us. On June 17th, St Emilie's feast, the Nuncio, Mgr. Antoine Camillieri was the main celebrant during which our Junior Sisters renewed their vows.

The two Junior Sisters, Srs. Biruktawit and Amate, could no longer attend the nursing course they had started in October but did access some materials through a telephone app called Telegram.

Our cook was frightened of Covid 19 and stopped coming at once. For me, Sr. Carmen, life did not change that much. I drove to school most days to prepare worksheets for the Grade 1 – 6 students via the telegram app. There was also other office work, some projects to prepare and preparations for the inspection of the school building since the school licence must be renewed. In June, I was able to go to Gublak for a few days to meet the new building contractor who was to resume the building that was left incomplete owing to the sudden death by accident of the

previous contractor.

Sr. Salomi who was suffering an attack of malaria and typhoid, came down in June for a few days and later was able to make her annual retreat with the Jesuits in Galilee Centre. While she was here, Sr. Amate willingly took the bus to Gublak, almost 600 kms away, to help Sr. Nirmala.

France

Everything suddenly stopped... the world stopped. You can imagine how difficult it was to be enclosed in an apartment. The Sisters persevered with courage and hope: Christ is Risen, He lives! In the community they gathered for the Office and meals and followed the news to keep themselves informed about the situation. Before watching the news, they went to the balcony to applaud the personnel of the hospitals and those on the front line of this crisis.

The community of Gaillac were able to take part in daily Mass and celebrated Holy Week in St. Peter's Church. From the beginning of the lockdown, the Sisters dedicated more time to personal and communal prayer and prayed especially for those risking their lives for other people. Some sisters kept studying or following their courses online, others became creative in the kitchen or garden, or by knitting and sewing. It was a time to rest, sharing and having fun in spite of everything.

Greece

On the 22nd of March, the Sisters of the two communities Piraeus and Volos, joined the community of Heracles where they remained in lockdown till May. Together we prayed before the Lord, adding reflections on the Constitutions and the Documents of the General Chapter. In Adoration and in sharing the Word of God we united ourselves to all those who were suffering. During Holy Week the Sisters followed on TV the religious services celebrated by the Holy Father from the Vatican. The Sisters were united in solidarity with the scientists, doctors, nurses and especially the thousands of sick and dying people who continued to fight Covid 19 as the daily number of infections increased.

Ireland

The Corona virus pandemic reached Ireland on 29th February 2020, and spread quickly throughout the country. The pandemic has had far reaching consequences politically, culturally and socially. We followed the guidelines issued by our Government and Health organizations and stayed at home going out only for essential services and medical requirements. It was a very tough time for all of us and the people around us. The constant refrain every single day was, stay home, wash your hands and keep two metres apart. It did not take us much time to learn this mantra. Our days were very structured, with Morning Prayer and community Mass around the television. At five o'clock we had Adoration to pray for those affected by Covid 19 and for the nursing staff and doctors who cared for them.

What was most edifying during this time was the co-operation of the many organizations in the town who arranged to visit and assist people with their many needs such as shopping and medical requirements. They would even go to the medical centre to collect the prescriptions from the pharmacy.

We were included and were visited by police, inquiring whether we were ok and if we needed anything. It was amazing to watch the co-operation and kindness of people and truly no one was forgotten. We continue to pray together, praising and thanking the Lord for his love, care, and blessings and for all the goodness He has done for us, our country and indeed our world in this time of Global Pandemic. You can't imagine our joy when the Government and head of Health Services announced in early June that we could once more return to having Mass in the Parish.

Italy

From one day to another, the Sisters in Italy found themselves in 'forced residence' as if they were cloistered. Catechism, visits to the elderly, Holy Communion to the sick, everything was suspended. Some communities had the opportunity to participate in the Eucharist in their own place, but most followed it on TV. The Easter celebrations were well prepared and streamed online. Although many activities were suspended some Associations mobilized themselves to act in new ways and sought the assistance of volunteers. The Catholic Aid worked during this period, thanks to the volunteers who gave their love and time to make themselves available to the needy. The Sisters of different communities in Italy collaborated with them, preparing bags of food for the poor. We want to underline the generosity and solidarity of the people who brought the Sisters things to support families in difficulty. The news on TV, the invitation to pray for our brothers and sisters and share in the pain being experienced by those hit by the pandemic will remain in the memory of all of us. With the help that comes from above in these days many people can once again resume their interrupted relationships.

Malta

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. For some, it causes only mild illness, others can become extremely ill, and for others it can be fatal. It shocked the whole world and brought it to a standstill. The global spread of the corona virus is having a devastating toll on people and will be an unprecedented shock for the world's economy which has been temporarily plunged into recession. In late February, the virus infected people in China and by early March it reached Malta as a pandemic.

The swift action of the Government and alertness of the medical authorities led hospitals and medical staff to prepare themselves to confront any eventualities. Instructions were given on how to prevent the virus from spreading. It was a big blow to us, especially for those over 65 years of age, who may be vulnerable or more fragile. The subsequent lockdown affected daily routine activities and exercises.

The Sisters at Dar Sagra Familia experienced difficulties in caring for their boarding children and keeping them happy and busy indoors. As a precaution, we were not allowed to have visitors, not even family members and were restricted to communicate by phone. We could not leave the house. Despite precautions and curtailment, we tried to continue to live a normal life, but with a fear of contacting the virus. We thank God for our garden where we could walk and work in. Also, we had more time for God and one another. We spent time in prayer and reflection, and took the opportunity to follow Mass and to receive Communion daily.

Finally, on 4th May the restrictions were slightly relaxed and life began slowly to limp back to normal. Shops opened and people went back to work. The wearing of masks was compulsory along with social distancing. By 15th July the airport was opened for tourism with the hope that they would not bring the virus with them. Though it was a difficult and painful time, it has helped us grow in our spiritual and community life. We realized that God's providence never abandons us.

Romania

For the Sisters of Romania, the lockdown was a time of grace, of action and of communion. They took part in the Eucharist in the Greek Catholic Parish, holding in their hearts the whole world. In the Roman Catholic Parish in the near by village, the Parish Priest asked the Sisters to help with the Holy Week celebrations. Many older people didn't have the possibility of participating, so the Priest and the Sisters went on the streets of the village with the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Cross. It was an experience of faith, to see many aged people and children on their knees, with a burning candle, waiting for the Benediction of the Lord.

Many people helped the Sisters to open their hearts to those who were suffering due to loneliness. Many desired to receive the Sacraments. They took advantage of each occasion to be in contact with others through social media. During the month of May, the Sisters lived an experience of prayer through WhatsApp saying the Rosary with the children from the catechism groups and their families. Every time is a visit of the Lord!

Tunisia

Containment in Tunisia began after the school holidays from 15th to 30th March. Children did not return to school, and cafes, restaurants, markets, non-essential shops, Mosques, Churches including our Chapel were closed. Those required to travel to work had to seek permission. Food stores and pharmacies remained open. Merchants sold their fruit, vegetables and fish on the sidewalk. Due to many chronically ill people and other emergencies, the resources at the hospital were limited and people were poorly cared for. With lack of work, many families experienced financial difficulties. We were able to distribute over a hundred food parcels to Tunisian families and African students. In this we were helped by Tunisian wholesalers and volunteers who work with Sr. Hana. It was the time of Ramadan and the feast that closes Ramadan was lived without major meetings and trips by families. We were deprived of Sunday Mass until Pentecost. We could travel to purchase food and go for walks along the sea. We continued to care for our garden. Travel permission was granted by the police for health professionals, so Sr. Hana was able to continue her work in Sousse. These restrictions were respected at the beginning but gradually we noticed the congestion on the streets, with the wearing of face masks and social distancing being neglected. However, the health situation of this disease so far was good in Tunisia.

Click the following link for the video

<https://youtu.be/nwfVceLiMbc>

The Challenge of Corona

*We were flying to the moon
We were finding life on Mars
We were dropping bombs with drones
We were getting bigger cars.*

*We were building finer homes
Flying out to warmer lands
We were busy buying clothes
We were brushing up our tans.*

*We were throwing out good food
While we watched the starving poor
We kept burning fossil fuels
And our air became less pure.*

**The full version of the poem is in the internet by Sr. Maud Murphy, SSL,
Knock, Ireland**

LIVING in ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

The background: Ethiopia declared a state of emergency and closed all schools and some government offices, such as Immigration and Passport Offices, and most hotels and restaurants on March 13th. However, there was no proper lockdown in the country.

The measures taken were the ones taken all over the world: the washing of hands, sanitization, wearing face masks and taking of temperature at banks, shopping centers, hospitals and at other offices that remained open.

Church Leaders were told to decide for the faithful. Slowly the places of worship did close for a time. Orthodox Churches and Mosques reopened in June. Some Catholic Parishes held services for a small number of faithful or none at all.

Long distance buses and city transport was allowed to run with half capacity of passengers. Each passenger pays double the usual price and sits alone in a seat. Since people still had to go to work, these measures resulted in despair for the population, long queues at bus stops, late arrivals at work, and continual complaints being registered on the evening news – not enough transport available etc. The early, long lasting and abundant rainy season did not make things better.

Air travel stopped for the general public but repatriation flights went on all along. Towards the end of June, Ethiopian airlines took up again the usual flights again with less numbers and precautions.

At first all incoming passengers were subjected to quarantine, and made to pay at least 100 USD per night in hotels that were open only for that service. They also had to pay for the food separately. These restrictions were eased from the beginning of July. Provided the passengers bring a certificate that they are free of Covid 19, and submit again to the test on arrival, they are free to go home and wait for the result of the local Covid 19 test. Once they are fully cleared they can move about normally.

Although Covid 19 numbers were not numerous to begin with, the rainy season which started in May and is ongoing to date September 20th, made matters worse. Now the number of daily infections is growing slowly. The death toll is around 1060 for a population of 120 million!

On the 30th June, a singer whose songs were very patriotic and inciting for the formation of an Oromia State – (the Oromos are the largest tribe in Ethiopia) was murdered. Another crisis emerged. Tensions ran high, buildings were destroyed, cars burnt and crowds of people ran through the streets, shouting and waving batons. The country came to a standstill; the internet, being state owned, was closed till the third week of July. Communication was difficult, and in Addis we had to spend almost a week at home without venturing out.

The immediate future: We have just celebrated the New Ethiopian Year on September 11, starting the Ethiopian year 2013. The future is still uncertain! With the growing numbers of Covid 19, will schools reopen soon as previously announced? Students will have free promotion but Grade 8 and Grade 12 students should have exams in December. What we know is that once schools reopen, the first month will be dedicated to help the students catch up. Universities, colleges and other higher institutions will follow the same rules: holding exams only for those graduating.

After long debates, the general elections which were to be held in May have been postponed. No other dates have been mentioned for the elections. The political tensions are never far away and make Covid 19 look shabby next to the anger they instill in people.

As we share our life with you, we confide ourselves to your prayers and assure you of ours!

Sr. Carmen Sammut SJA



India.

The Coronavirus, COVID-19 has fundamentally changed our lives and the way society functions. Since 25th March a nation-wide 90-day lockdown has severely restricted movement and activities. To maintain a normal apostolic life in each community has been a great challenge.

The pandemic upended apostolic ministries, forcing cancellations of Provincial meetings, sessions, regional gatherings and requiring change in practices of prayer and fellowship meals. Unrelenting in its speed, the Covid -19 pandemic has thrown the livelihood of many into a chaotic twister. Not being able to visit ailing parents or attend funeral services of our parents or relatives is a painful experience. The Chennai community experienced difficulties in getting doctors to treat sick Sisters.

The time of the Pandemic has been an opportunity to boost our Spiritual Immunity. Though the Churches were locked and the reception of Sacraments not possible, Sisters experienced the nearness of God in different ways. Each community arranged for a variety of spiritual exercises - daily Eucharistic Adoration, times for praise and worship, fasting, viewing online liturgical services and retreats and Scripture classes.

Ever mindful of the words of St. Emilie “Circumstances manifest God’s Will... all I do is to obey them”, the situation challenged us to see with our ‘inner eye’ and to reach out to the needy. Our driving force was Pope Francis call “Go to the Peripheries...” and reach out to the neediest. It was a risk taken up by the

community of Mosaboni to move out amidst curfew and severe lockdown, to help the Civil Authorities in their mission of “Spreading a Smile” by providing food and sanitation packs to 500 hundred tribal families. In collaboration with the All Church Association cooked food was provided to seven remote villages.

Realizing the missionary mandate of St. Emilie “Go! And with what you have and will receive, do all the good you can”, the community of Tundtoli sought financial support from the Mumbai community and benefactors to assist orphans, widows and those on low daily wages. Delivery of 2000 face masks, assisting with awareness and prevention programs and participating in a mid-day meal project were willingly undertaken. In Thirumanthurai financial support was given to poor families and students in the school. Pastoral care in communities like Andaman have also been restricted in their activities with self-help groups and sewing classed being suspended. In conjunction with the local Parish and in some cases the benefactors of the Sisters, the communities of Assisi, Nagar, Manali and Vikkiramangalam reached out to the poor. These included some of our candidate’s families, the jobless and others who required medical assistance.

The community of Ranchi, Sisters, Novices & Candidates, dedicated hours of prayer in adoration and had the joy of reaching out to the migrants at specific locations serving cooked food, and clean water. Clothes and face-masks were distributed to around 400 families. With the lockdown and the cyclone-Amphan, which caused damage to school buildings, along with a water crisis and power-cuts the community of Kolkata face financial constraints and struggle for the essential things of life. A rise in the virus cases in the city of Mumbai led the Sisters in the community through a period of great anxiety and uncertainty. Sisters were challenged with strict social distancing practices and health and safety measures, all restricting them in assisting others.

The pandemic resulted in the closure of Schools across the States resulting in the uptake of e-learning Though it is a different experience from traditional classroom learning, the Sisters are attempting to keep pupils in touch with their learning on a daily basis. With other members of the school faculty much effort is being placed on providing online presentations that are effective, motivating and contribute to the overall learning experience. However, there are major challenges in reaching out to the population through e-learning due to poor economic status of our school children who can’t afford technological equipment.

Financial constraints in our schools have occurred with the inability of fee-paying students to meet their payments. Communities like Kolkata, Garalodhma, Vikkiramangalam, that depend on the Ministry of Education for their income are struggling as they now receive a half salary from their respective schools.

So, we are faced with the question ‘how do we continue with our educational ministry and to pay the members of our faculties’? Yes, we are worried and anxious about the future of our mission. At this point we trust in Divine Providence.

The communities of Tundtoli, Garalodhma and Basinda which are involved in the Health Ministry are also affected. People are fearful of moving out of the house for medical help and often lack the financial resources for treatment. The Nurse-Sisters are fearful to treat patients without having enough medical equipment to protect themselves and of the possibility of contracting the virus themselves. It is saddening to see our Sisters in the village communities such as Tundtoli, Garalodhma and Basinda who find it even more difficult to meet their basic survival needs during the lockdown period.

This unique experience empowers us to say:

*In the midst of **uncertainty**, we have known **faith**.*

*In the midst of **anxiety**, we have known **serenity**.*

*In the midst of **stress**, we have known **calm**.*

*In the midst of **fear**, we have known **trust**.*

*In the midst of **bewilderment**, we have known **assurance**.*

*In the midst of **confusion**, we have known **confidence**.*

*In the midst of a **pandemic**, we have known **peace**.*

*and in whatever the **situation** we have known **Love**.*

Life & Activities -Haiti

With no organized mission we arranged our community programme in a very intense way giving time for common prayer and reflection on our life as a missionaries. Our timetable included daily adoration and extra time for self-reflection. During this difficult time of lock down we learned new songs for our liturgical celebrations. This has helped in the celebration of community prayer and to live our community life in a joyful way.

We prepared a group of ten people to educate others in the dangers of the Virus and they in turn helped families become aware of its implications for their lives. As these people do not have access to social media it took a good deal of effort by 'Hand Together Florida' who payed these educators for their work. We prepared and stitched about 8,000 face masks for which the people were grateful.

Distribution of food became a major exercise. From our Nutritional Center and with the assistance of Cross Catholic Outreach and financial support from our regular mission partners we were able to reach 3,280 families. These included the mothers who attend our Centre, the elderly, taxi drives, the ladies who sit and sell things in the market, school children and the neighborhood children. It was so joyful to see children enjoying the food which is different from their usual meal.

The community was happy to spend this time of lock down in a fruitful way.

Sr. Margaret Michael

For more details, watch click on the YouTube link:

https://youtu.be/PX_69OHbdNg



Latin America

Vivir despiertas en tiempos de COVID-19

Ilusionadas y apasionadas por Jesús y su causa iniciamos este año. Con una mirada atenta a la realidad e iluminadas por la Palabra, elaboramos nuestro proyecto, con matices de vida, sueños y esperanzas. Como Provincia, celebraríamos junto al pueblo guatemalteco nuestros 50 años de presencia en estas tierras, sin embargo, toda nuestra vida y misión ha quedado inmersa en medio de esta realidad de Pandemia que hoy vivimos.

Fortalecidas por la Gracia de Dios intentamos vivir este acontecimiento universal e histórico en la vida humana, desde una escucha atenta a los signos de los tiempos.

Al despertar José hizo lo que el Ángel le había dicho...

En marzo llega la noticia del primer caso positivo en nuestros países y a partir de ahí experimentamos grandes cambios y desafíos. Algunas nos hemos desconcertado, no sabíamos que hacer ni cómo proceder ante una realidad nueva, inesperada, inexplicable, amenazante y mortal.

En medio de un panorama confuso experimentamos que nuestra vida está puesta en las manos de Dios. La contemplación de nuestro entorno hizo resurgir en nosotras un despertar a su Voluntad y sin tener claro el horizonte, nos sumergimos a un camino de discernimiento sosteniéndonos en su Palabra “no tengan miedo”.

“Mantente en mi presencia”

Somos llamadas a ser testigas del misterio de la Encarnación, esto implica comunicar con nuestra vida lo que hemos visto, oído y palpado. Sin embargo, esto solo es posible si bebemos de la fuente. Este tiempo nos ha permitido intensificar los momentos de oración y formación. Algunas hemos sido afectadas por la falta de la Eucaristía, pero la ausencia de este “Hacer Memoria” nos ha ayudado a profundizar y valorar más este sacramento.

El incremento de pobreza, desempleo, exclusión y corrupción, la cual parece ser el virus más corrosivo de nuestro tiempo, nos ha impulsado a asumir compromisos concretos con el Dios de la vida en nuestra Historia.

“Darse hasta morir”

El covid-19 nos ha impulsado con valentía y coraje hacia los más pobres. Fortaleciendo nuestra fe en la Divina Providencia, hemos tocado puertas para socorrer a quienes han perdido lo poco que tenían. En comunión con instituciones y algunas personas generosas, creamos redes de solidaridad y juntos hemos compartido alimentos, medicinas y ayuda económica a los más necesitados.

Al interno de nuestras comunidades, también hemos asumido riesgos y compromisos. Hemos acogido en nuestras casas a personas enfermas e incluso algunas de nosotras hemos requerido intervención quirúrgica lo cual nos hace más vulnerables a esta situación.

“Dios nos invita a buscarle y a ver todas las cosas en su luz”

Algunas actividades apostólicas fueron suspendidas, esto ha provocado en nosotras un sentido de creatividad impulsándonos a fortalecer el camino de fe desde distintos medios. Animamos a las comunidades a rezar y meditar la Palabra de Dios en familia. Tal vez terminaremos este tiempo con crisis económicas, pero lo más importante, es que, este tiempo nos está ayudando a permanecer en Dios y a confiar en su fidelidad. A causa del confinamiento algunas hermanas no han podido regresar a su comunidad o no han llegado a su nueva misión, esto afecta de alguna manera a la Comunidad, pero al mismo tiempo engendra esperanza en nuestro reencuentro.

Con la mirada puesta en Dios hemos vivido acontecimientos que han marcado nuestra vida. Algunas hermanas han perdido a un ser querido y no han podido acompañar a su familia en estos momentos fuertes. No ha sido fácil, pero de alguna manera han compartido el dolor que viven muchas familias.

Ser misionera es estar en camino con Cristo y seguirle en todo su Misterio.

Sentirnos parte de esta realidad, nos lleva a sentir con el pueblo. No es fácil para nosotras ver a las personas perder sus esperanzas y a los jóvenes abandonar sus estudios, sus sueños por falta de recursos. Sentimos dolor por aquellos que han perdido un trabajo, su casa o sus pocos bienes, nos duele ver el sufrimiento de los enfermos que no pueden tener acceso a su medicina.

La experiencia de impotencia ante el sufrimiento de las personas, nos lleva a poner nuestra mirada en Jesús y reconocer que la deshumanización y la muerte no tienen la última palabra.

No sabemos hasta cuando nuestra vida podrá volver a marcarse por una pastoral de encuentro y cercanía plena, pero por el momento agradecemos a Dios por brindarnos esta oportunidad de crecimiento y apertura a los signos de los tiempos donde solo nos queda seguir expresando nuestro deseo de seguir siendo mujeres de esperanza en un mundo roto.

To view more click the YouTube link below:

<https://youtu.be/nvvR-N71c38>



Western Australia in Covid times, Samson Community

From the middle of March 2020 our Community in Samson started to prepare for lock down in order to keep our sisters as safe as possible.

Notices went up on the main door to remind people not to come into Samson if they had travelled overseas or were feeling unwell. Every one entering the Community had their temperature checked and had to sanitise their hands. Any of the sisters that were having outside assistance ie. Showering, social outings to shops was ceased. The nurses at Samson then continued to provide as many services as possible. This included showering the sisters, cutting all sisters hair, cutting finger nails and toe nails instead of going to the podiatrist. We were very fortunate that the government introduced GP consultations over the phone. The nurses did a great job and were extra vigilant. They were taking blood pressure etc. and were able to report to the doctor when needed.



Due to the sisters not being able to leave Samson unless for an emergency, various activities were introduced and still remain. They include Bingo which all the sisters love. Other games were Quits and Carpet bowls. The sisters are very competitive. Every fortnight we had a movie afternoon. If it was cold the sisters would have a chocolate during the movie. If it was hot, they enjoyed an ice-cream. To keep fit the nurses organised stretching and light exercise programs, three times a week.



The sisters were taken out on group walks. We walked past the school where some of the sisters had taught. The students often called out and waved to the sisters.

As the restrictions for Western Australia started to ease, the sisters were taken out for a drive, stopping off at McDonalds drive thru for take away coffee. For some sisters this was their first ever take away from a fast-food outlet.

We had in house celebrations for Birthdays and Feast days with special afternoon teas.

As further restriction has now eased, fortunately for WA our sisters have been able to go back to normality. We still take temperatures for every person entering the house and always make sure no one is sick or has symptoms of colds etc.





Liverpool For All That Has Been – ‘Thanks’

I once read that any living thing that does not change must have died, at least in the body. The Liverpool house was founded in the 1930's as a Care Home for the elderly and staffed by many of the present elderly Sisters, who were young, vigorous women at the start of the mission here in Liverpool. For several years one part of the site became a Juniorate for English speaking Sisters. There are many Sisters both here and in Malta who remember it, and from what I have heard there are good and not so good memories.



Sr. Janet Arrowsmith

The early years of any house, which is a bit like our own lives, full of vigor in our youth and becoming a little slower as the wisdom years come upon us. We begin to realize it is God who is asking us to follow a particular path and at times we cannot conceive that there will ever be anything else on our journey. In this house some were called to the demands of formation and others to the care of the elderly often without the care aids we have today.

This Convent in Liverpool was a place of worship to which our neighbors came. Times change and when I came here in 2009 the Community had become an elderly Community. A few Sisters visited the elderly who were housebound. At that time, we were fortunate to have, Bishop Vincent Malone as our Chaplain. He had retired and lived around the corner from us and became very much part of our family joining us for feast day lunches.



Myles Dempsey and
Bishop Vincent

In the year 2000 we closed the residential home because of lack of Sisters and financial considerations. This provided us with the opportunity to move our older Sisters into this section of the building where there were facilities for older people. As a result, the original Convent area, a second house attached to the residential home, was vacant. A charismatic lay Community led by Myles Dempsey took up residence in this house. We shared the Chapel and they joined us for Office, Mass, prayer meeting and spiritual talks. It became a flourishing mission and a satisfying and enriching experience for the next 18 years.

Throughout this time, we welcomed into the Community young Sisters from Myanmar who came to perfect their English skills and experience life in an elderly community. They were a blessing for us and we enjoyed their presence.

In 2019 our world changed totally. The leader of the charismatic group died and the new leader felt that their Community should move from Liverpool. They gave us notice that they would leave after Christmas. With several of our Sisters being called home to the Lord it became obvious that the house was too big for the few remaining Sisters. In addition, Bishop Vincent became ill and could no longer celebrate Mass for us. In the autumn of 2019, we discussed the future and came to realize that the Lord was calling us to move on. The Sisters were consulted and were naturally upset, but saw that it had to be. Plans were put in place to close the house after Easter 2020.

We knew the faithful people who attended Morning Prayer and Mass would be upset and we planned to announce it to them just before Easter. Suddenly the world changed and COVID 19 arrived and everything was brought to an abrupt halt. No Mass, or public Office, and no way to gently tell our friends. It made things much worse.

The Lord, however, never left us. Gradually we began to find suitable places for our precious fixtures and furnishings. The Chapel contents went to other Catholic projects, some going to Southern Sudan, and linen and crockery to various refugee groups. The big wooden Cross in the garden has gone to a Church in Coventry called the Parish of St. Joseph the Worker. We were saying goodbye to our younger lives and there has to be a degree of mourning in that.

The house has now been sold and we, myself and Sr. Marie Kyi, will be leaving at the end of the month. I am praying that all those who received from this house over the years, and in these last two months, will be blessed for the rest of their lives because we have witnessed to them that God is good. Indeed, He is very good. For me all I want to say to God is that for all that has been, thanks, and for all that will be, YES.

Sister Janet Arrowsmith

Click the link below for the video:

<https://youtu.be/n3D4OQ5pSs4>



Province of Lebanon/Syria

PREMIERE COMMUNION ET BAPTEME

A DEIR EL KAMAR- LIBAN

L'année 2020 n'était pas comme les autres ; on aurait dû fêter le Centenaire du Grand Liban, signé à Versailles le 1^{er} Septembre 1920 par le Patriarche Elias el Howayek et tout le monde espérait que cette année porterait bonheur pour le pays ; mais hélas c'était une année très difficile pour la population avec Le Corona et de plus avec l'explosion du port et tous les dégâts considérables qui ont suivis, la souffrance n'a fait qu'augmenter... Mais malgré tout cela, pas de découragement, la flamme de L'Espérance ne s'est pas éteinte dans le Pays des Cèdres...

A Deir el Kamar où nos Sœurs de St. Joseph de l'Apparition travaillent dans le domaine de l'Education depuis 1866, il y a une grande collaboration entre l'Ecole, les familles et la Paroisse de N. Dame de Talleh. Le curé, le Père Joseph Abi Aoun, a beaucoup hésité à célébrer la Première Communion le 11 Juillet, mais devant l'insistance des parents, il a cédé. Grâce à la préparation donnée par Sr. Lina et la catéchiste de la paroisse, Mme Liliane Odeymeh qui est aussi une de nos professeurs et grâce à Dieu tout s'est bien passé.

Une chose extraordinaire c'est passée. Parmi les parents il y a un couple dont la maman est chrétienne et le papa druze. Leurs enfants, Joe- David, 8 ans et Joya 6 ans ont suivi la catéchèse avec Sr. Lina et ont demandé de se faire baptiser ayant reçu l'accord du papa. Ils furent baptisés à la paroisse et ils rayonnaient d'une grande joie. Les parents aussi étaient très heureux. Joe-David a fait sa Première Communion cette année mais Joya le fera l'année prochaine parce qu'elle est encore jeune.

Je voudrais remercier nos sœurs à travers le monde et aussi les laïcs Associés, « Amis de Ste Emilie » qui demandent de nos nouvelles, surtout après la grande explosion du port de Beyrouth, et nous disons avec Ste Emilie : « Ce n'est qu'une épreuve ». Un jour viendra certainement où la lumière jaillira.

Sr. Mona Moukarzél

Click the link below for photos

<https://youtu.be/6QeH4x4P87Q>



Witness of Francesca, nurse, Cavallasca
Community, Italia

This dramatic moment what teaches me?

The work I do is as before, or has it changed?



I drive in a world which I don't recognize, but I prefer it to the previous one.

The silence is a new discovery, the chaos stopped, it remains the nature with her delicate sounds, how nice!

The real lively fear, for my fragile sisters who need a constant care and attention, one moment of distraction could be the beginning of the ending...

And then the face partially covered...the mask is an absolutely new thing, worn hours and hours, with the difficulty to breath, the signs left on the face, the mouth disappeared...not for a grimace, nor for a smile.

How much we are missing this note of empathy, the smile which encourages, heats the heart, tells you I love you, consoles...every gesture and look has to be transformed in a smile...

The eyes need to be more vigilant and alive than usually, no more tiredness and apathy, they have to talk, as well as the hands, there is more care and attention in everything you do, in the gestures...

In the moment in which apparently we have less...less contacts, less abundancy, less relationships, less possibilities, is exactly when we have more ...heart, more attention to the one nearby.

Thank you, Lord! In the moment of pain, sickness, difficulty I rediscover you, lifting my eyes to search for you and trying to feel you...in the silence I find you.



FORMATION

“My vocation was recognized as sure... My will, my strength, all that is in me must be used in sustaining it, increasing and defending it, as much as it is in me to extend and perfect it.

(to Sr. Pauline Gineste, 6.6.1840)

“I continued to love God with a love both tender and dominant.....”

“I gave myself to the inclination He had inspired in me to practice charity towards the neighbour, either by visiting the sick in their homes and caring of their needs, or in working for the conversion of sinners and of heretics.”

“I felt a strong attraction for the foreign Missions. “

“The Lord inclined me to a spirit of recollectedness and formed me in it, making me feel His Presence in the midst of my occupations.”

(Account of Interior Life of St. Emilie)



Know our Novices and Juniors in the Congregation

1 Know our Novices and juniors in the Congregation

Click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/ocJcXiplEeM>



My Experience of the Juniorate. 2018-2020

My two years Juniorate in Rome was like the four seasons. When I arrived, it was autumn and a time for me to let go of my own country and adapt myself to a new Intercultural Community. It took time, for like winter, the buried seed needed to grow as I came to know my new friends, surroundings and the Italian culture. I enjoyed walking in the garden and the wonderful view of the Vatican. It was my first time living in a big community with 11 Sisters coming from Guatemala, Egypt, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Iraq, India and Thailand. It gave me an opportunity to learn and accept other cultures with its richness and challenges. I in turn shared my opinions, talents and learnt to be more patient, listening with respect so as to bring out the goodness of each person. In the spring our seeds of love grew.



We shared the responsibilities of cleaning, cooking and preparing our times of prayer and liturgical celebrations. On Saturday afternoons we were free to spend time exploring the historical places and Churches of Rome. On Palm Sunday we attended Mass celebrated by Pope Francis followed by the Sunday Angelus and blessing. On the day set aside to celebrate Consecrated Life I marveled at the presence of religious Brothers and Sisters from different Congregation from all around the world.

In the first year, we learned about cultural realities, managing conflict, and were introduced to Scriptural themes and the Spirituality and Constitutions of the Congregation. Added to this was the spirituality of St Ignatius and the new theology and documents of Pope Francis. Every Wednesday we had our apostolic experience at Caritas, Mother Theresa's House, or with the handicapped in Cottolengo which helped us to be with the poor. Some days I served meals to 300-400 people, many who were refugees or homeless and looking for work.

Community experience during the summer months found two of my companions in Florence with the elderly, another in Egypt, two in Rome to assist with the General Chapter, two in Cyprus and four of us in Malta. My companions and I lived in the Zabbar community and took care of the children and helped the Sisters in the house. We had the opportunity to visit places, especially those connected with St Paul, and enjoy the beautiful blue sea. On returning to Rome we went on pilgrimage to France to follow in the footsteps of St Emilie which included Marseilles, Paris, and Gaillac. In each community we encountered and spent time with our Sisters and listened to their stories. Most of them were elderly and living in retirement houses. The pilgrimage to Lourdes was prayerful, calm and beautiful. We had an 8-day Retreat with Sr. Janet about St. Emile's spirituality and the life of Jesus. I loved the culture, food and places in France.

On returning to Rome and with Covid 19, the year required us to adapt ourselves to lock down and adaptations to our programme. We accompanied people throughout the world in daily Adoration and online Mass with Pope Francis. In our attempts to be positive, we tended the garden planting vegetables which we were later able to cook. The garden was filled with blossom, roses, apricots, grapes and plums.

Classes were online and about the Prophets in the Bible. The highlight of our program was the 30 days Retreat with a Jesuit from the Gregorian University. It was a re-living experience and journey inward with God. I found it powerful and a wonderful experience. With the coming of another autumn it was time to let go and enter the next phase of our lives. Each of us had harvested something along with a variety of experiences and memories. Everything happened for a reason and our belief is that God continues to journey with us. It was not the end but just the beginning.

On behalf of my companions, I would like to give thanks to God for this opportunity. Thanks to Sr. Dorothy, Sr. Monica and all the Counsellors, thanks to the four Formators, Srs.. Anita, Reem, Margarita and Alfonsa. Thanks to all the Sisters all around the world who supported us in prayer. May St. Emile and St. Joseph give us many blessings in our missions.

**Sr. Touch, Napatchanok Chinnawong,
Thailand**



Province of India/Haiti

The three Sisters Alma, Arti and Brigita preparing for final vows in the Institute of Mater Dei in Goa share their experience.

Though Many, Yet Unique...

Every moment of our life is a learning process

Every experience of our life brings a new learning

Every study of our life is to acquire knowledge.

With immense joy and gratitude to God and the Congregation, we, Srs. Alma, Arti and Brigita would like to share our experience of studying Theology for one year at the Inter-Congregational Institute, Mater Dei. At this Institute we were given the space to foster our intellectual growth and be equipped with skills essential for fruitful living. It was a period of learning, praying, sharing, recreation and living together as one family.

Living in an Inter-Congregational atmosphere was enriching and a marvelous experience for all of us. The Course, with regular lectures, group studies, personal work, liturgical celebrations, guided prayer and meditation, personal guidance, team work, assignments, and exposure programmes contributed to the integral growth of our lives. The Course has helped us deepen our knowledge of Scripture so as to be able to relate it to our life and mission.

Theology classes were relevant to Indian realities in the light of the Word of God and the teachings of the Church. It helped us develop critical thinking and growth in feminist leadership for the mission of the Church today. Extracurricular activities and leadership training provoked and boosted our self-esteem. The opportunity to understand the nature and scope of ethics helped foster a healthy understanding of free and conscious choices in our moral behavior.

Living with members of other Congregations as one community encouraged a sharing of life and charism fostering personal and spiritual growth. It was an exciting experience to see and live with Sisters from different Congregations having a diversity of backgrounds and cultures that were rich and dynamic contributing to our growth in faith.

All together we were 150 students belonging to 65 Congregations from different parts of India and 6 staff members. This coming together inspired in us a joy and a willingness to share the love of God with each other and to participate in the unique rituals of each Congregation. The different Charisms helped us to learn about the spirit which motivates us in the mission of Christ through diverse apostolates. It strengthened our appreciation of the formation that we had received and inspired in us a greater commitment to follow Christ. We remembered the words of St Emilie, "Never lose sight for the aim for which we are united." Deep within ourselves we grew in an understanding and appreciation of the spirit of St Emilie, a spirit we realized is alive and active within each of us.

Participation in cultural programs, competitions and games all added to our enjoyment. Opportunities to attend seminars and meetings on current issues relevant to our country such as the new form of 'The Constitutions for India' and interreligious dialogue gave us insights into different political and religious realities. We attended a rally which was held to protest against the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) and NRC (National Register of Citizens). Through these we felt one with the people who are demanding their rights and awakened in us our responsibility as citizens. Attendance at a CRI meeting enlightened us on further ways of being effective Evangelizers. Our experience at Mater Dei Institute has helped us evaluate our goals and grow into the fullness of Christ by being challenged to live with prophetic hope in the service of others.



First Profession of Sr. Hiba in Jordan

Click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/9d8XxhJGMV8>



My experience of attending a six months International Formators' course in Rome at Regina Mundi UISG by Sr. Kalpna Tirkey, in Malta.

The Call to Personal, Spiritual and Communal Growth



I am Sr. Kalpna Tirkey from India, missioned to Province of Europe, working in Malta. This year in 2020 I was privileged to follow an International Formators' Course, organized by **the International Union of Superiors General. (UISG)**. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to God, to Sr. Monica, our Superior General and to the leadership team in Rome as well as to Sr. Cecilia Schembri our provincial. Thanks to the Congregation for this special privilege accorded to me, enabling me to live this International, Intercultural and Inter-Congregational experience.

I would like to share my experience of these six months.

We were 44 Formators from 24 different Countries and 29 Congregations. I felt very much enriched by meeting, mingling, and sharing experiences with all 44 participants as well as with the different professors all of whom I got to know well, mainly through the Group Dynamics course. Unfortunately, we could have our regular, face to face classes only for a month and half, because then, COVID-19 curtailed our movements. But we continued to meet virtually! In the beginning, the online classes were quite challenging. However, when the restrictions eased, we were able to do our retreat together, go for an outing to Assisi and have a concluding ceremony.

During these six months of course on formation, we studied interesting topics, 28 units, all of which were very enriching and relevant to our formation in today's world. I felt very much enriched, enlightened, inspired, as well as challenged. These are the following points which I feel have touched me mostly and which I feel relevant to us today in our 21st century as religious.

1. Sr. Patricia Murray's her presentation on Religious life in Today's context asked a crucial question, "Who are we as women religious in today's world?"

We are presence of global sisterhood in a globalized world, building bridges with faith and hope, needing to extend the tent of our heart and bring to our world:

- A word of hope.
 - A healing glance!
 - A listening heart
 - A compassionate presence.
2. Other topics on Accompaniment in Religious formation such as Graced Companionship, Accompanying Women in Discernment spelt out the type of accompaniment that offers:
 - Support,
 - Vision,
 - Energy,
 - Courage, *as well as*
 - Challenge and invitation to growth and development
 3. Another important point is Human Formation promoting the:
 - The Use of the autobiography in Vocation Discernment and the Formative process.
 - The Proper Role of Psychological Assessments in Vocation Discernment and the Formative Process.

As I reflect on the last six months I feel I am not the same person who arrived in Rome in January. I am formed and transformed especially personally, spiritually, psychologically and in a holistic way. During the course I also had the chance to do my Psychological Assessment as well as Spiritual Direction.

I feel the above mentioned tools of the use of autobiography and psychological assessment are very helpful tools in admission of the postulants and to help the young woman discover her learning style, her gifts, talents, areas of struggle and difficulty as well to gather information about the specific areas she may need to address during formation.

As a congregation, I suggest we include the psychological assessment before the admission of the candidate seeing that other congregations have made it obligatory to do this psychological assessment before admitting the candidate.

The UISG Formation programme has enabled me to reflect deeply on my vocation as a Religious and provided me with the opportunity to grow in self-awareness, discernment, intercultural competence, accompaniment besides facing some contemporary challenges in Religious Life. I have learned how to respect our differences in dialogue, prayer, cooperation, and still have a common vision.

I felt so privileged and lucky to have our own community in Rome and would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the community, for their love, care and concern. I was overjoyed to meet Sr. Renee after thirteen years. I am also very much touched by her positivity and acceptance of her illness. She is an inspiration for me to accept the will of God even if it is unexpected and difficult.

I would like to end my experience with scripture text Mt.11:25-26

“I praise You Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from wise and learned, and revealed them little children. Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in your sight....”



First Professions and Jubilee Celebration in Myanmar.

Click the link below.

https://youtu.be/gNL7vVO_u9E



Final Professions in France

Click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/BgRvhJI2c3o>



Final Professions in Myanmar

Click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/FgEm8cFX1IA>



First and Final Professions in India

Click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/ZJzZrDCgQHg>



Sr. Intisar speaks of her Life as a SJA

Click the link below

<https://youtu.be/AnVxW46N208>



Congratulations to our Jubilarians!

Beyrouth le 9 – 9 – 2020

Prière d'action de grâce des Jubilaires de 50 ans à 60 ans

Chant : Jubilez ! Criez de joie !

Au début de notre rencontre, nous prenons un moment de prière de confiance et d'action de grâce, pour sa présence dans notre vie et parmi nous, et pour le jubilé de 60 ans de vie religieuse de nos sœurs : **EUGENIE, AFIFA** et **HODA** et jubilé de 50 ans de Sœur **RIMA**.

Demandons à l'Esprit –Saint qu'il vienne dans nos cœurs qu'il vienne bruler notre cœur de Son amour divin et que Son amour nous ouvre l'intelligence des écritures, que nous puissions vraiment découvrir cette parole et la laisser prendre vie, prendre chair en nous pour transformer, transfigurer nos vies en lui, que nous puissions vivre de cette parole.

Tout cela grâce à l'œuvre de l'Esprit-Saint en nous qui vient nous habiter, nous guider, nous bruler de Son amour. Oh Seigneur envoie ton Esprit qu'il renouvelle la face de la terre

Parole Dieu : Col 3,12-17

Silence : psaume de la création

Prière d'intercession libre

Oraison :

Seigneur nous te louons et te remercions de semer généreusement le bon grain de ton royaume, dans chacune de nos communautés chrétiennes, et dans le vaste jardin de notre monde.

Seigneur nous te louons et remercions

Tu sèmes ta parole de vie dans le jardin de nos cœurs,

Souvent en friche et encombré de broussailles,

Et tu attends avec patience les premières pousses,

Certain que la récolte sera bonne.

Apprends-nous, Seigneur, à être ouvertes et accueillantes

A tout ce qui est beau, honnête et généreux autour de nous,

Car c'est ton royaume qui gagne peu à peu les cœurs

Et les comble, maintenant et pour toujours. AMEN.



Je veux te dire Merci

Le magnificat sera chanté à la fin de la rencontre.



Marseille 1970 - Pireus 2020 (Greece)



On Sunday the 6th of September 2020, in our Parish Saint Paul in Pireus, Sister Anne Printezi and Sister Louisa Varthaliti celebrated in a simple and prayerful way their Golden Jubilées and Sister Catherine Marie Pthere celebrated 60 years of Religious Life. We thanked the Lord for their service to education in our schools, teaching

catechism to the children in our Parishes, serving the immigrants and refugees and being available in the work of Caritas.

Because of the restrictions of Coronavirus, we didn't invite families and friends in order to reserve more places for the people of the Parish.

The choir was well prepared with songs chosen by ourselves. Our Sisters who came, included Sr Adeline Condon, who came from Héraclée and represented Cyprus. We praised God for His faithful love, in accompanying us during these 50 and 60 years of Consecrated Life. We thanked the Sisters who were present and for those who sent their best wishes.



We in turn were united with our companions spread throughout the four corners of the world: Sr. Yvonne, Sr. Rima, Sr. Elisabeth and Sr. Marie-Claire. We prayed the Lord to grant us the strength and good health to be able to continue to serve Him with zeal and generosity which he kindled in the heart of Saint Emilie.

Our Parish Priest Father Jean Patsis knew how to solemnize the feast because this type of celebration is a rare event in our Parish. He insisted that the call of God and the total gift of oneself in our needy world is part of the

inauguration of God's Kingdom on earth. Before Holy Communion each of us renewed our vows.

For most of the Parish people this was an event which touched them deeply. After Mass we took photos to remember this day. As we exited the Church we received the congratulations of the Assembly and were offered a cake. For lunch, we were really happy to meet around a richly garnished table in a simple and fraternal atmosphere so as to celebrate this occasion.



Lord, be praised for so many graces we received during this journey of 50 and 60 years.
Sr. Anne-Marie Printezi

Celebration of the Jubilee in Malta



Sliema Community



All down the years, O Lord, with love unending
Guiding, protecting, thou hast been our stay:
How shall we thank thee for the grace thou sendest
Blessing us anew from day to day.
True in our hearts our song shall ever be:
Praise, love, thanksgiving, our God to thee!
Praise, love, thanksgiving, our God to thee!



On Friday 18th September we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Sr. Rosa Zammit. Due to the present situation we feasted Sr. Rosa in our community in Sliema and for this occasion we invited Fr Carlo Calleja, a young priest of the Parish, and a friend of the community, to celebrate Mass for us in our chapel. During Mass Sister renewed her vows.

After Mass we met in our dining room for supper which was especially prepared for the occasion. We were sorry that we couldn't invite the sisters or the family of Sr. Rosa because of the covid-19, but we were united with all our sisters in prayer.



Rabat community (Malta)

On September 19, 2020, in the community of Rabat Malta, all the community and the parents of the Jubilarians came together to celebrate the Jubilee of the 3 sisters,

Sr Angela Camilleri 60 years, Sr Andre Magre 70 years and Sr Gemma Farrugia 70 years

(Sr Gemma was in the bed because she arrived from the hospital just one day before).



The religious take vows of chastity, poverty and obedience and their jubilee is an occasion for celebrating God's faithfulness in helping them live these vows.

We have a big celebration but we didn't invite the others communities because of the Covid-19. During the Mass in which we celebrate the Jubilarians, all the sisters were invited to renew their vows. Truly it is an experience of communion, a feeling of oneness with one another and with God. After receiving the body and the blood of the Christ in the mass, we had time to share also the fellowship meal, and we sang special song congratulations and celebration around a delicious and beautiful cake. A very joyful moments but without embracing each other because of Covid-19. But really was a good time full of fraternity and peace and humour.



Don't forget that the important aspect of celebrating a jubilee knows that each sister's vocation has two parts: a deep relationship with God and a ministry of service to the church.





JUBILE DE DIAMANT DE SR

CÉCILIA SCHEMBRI

JUBILE D'OR DE SR YVONNE GRUPPETTA

Après 60 ans et 50 ans de Vie Religieuse, notre cœur a jubilé et jubile toujours en action de grâce pour tous les bienfaits que le Seigneur a accomplis durant toutes ces années. Oui ! Que le Seigneur soit béni pour sa présence fidèle sur le chemin de chacune, pour son appel à Le suivre au cœur de notre Famille des Sœurs de St Joseph de l'Apparition. Et cela, en pensant à toutes les Communautés au cœur des missions confiées, à toutes les personnes rencontrées...

Oui, Seigneur merci pour la joie de donner et de recevoir, pour tout ce que tu nous as donné à vivre et qui nous a aidées à avancer, à aller toujours plus loin dans cette aventure de l'amour avec Toi.

A cette occasion, une Messe d'Action de grâce a été célébrée le 5 septembre dernier à Vanves en compagnie de quelques-unes de nos Sœurs de la Région Parisienne. Que toutes nos Sœurs qui se sont jointes d'une manière ou d'une autre à notre action de grâce soient remerciées !

La Messe a été célébrée par le Père Jacques GEBEL SJ, Voici quelques paroles qu'il a voulu partager avec nous :

« Aimer et suivre le Christ Jésus, voilà notre vocation, notre boussole !

Que nous soyons avec Lui tous les jours, quelles que soient les conditions dans notre Vie Religieuse Apostolique, personnelle, communautaire, provinciale et mondiale. »

Click the following link to view the Video.:

https://youtu.be/SnB_Uv3CT8



Meet our elderly Sisters

**Some Reflections from the Sisters' Retreat
Held at 6 McKenzie Rd Samson. WA 6163
Given by Bishop Justin Biachinni
Sunday 27th September – Sunday 4th October 2020**

For me it was not so much what he said, but, the man himself who inspired me. His humility, simplicity and adaptability was obvious.

We had one talk each day, after which he gave us a list of relevant Scripture passages to reflect on.

At Mass one large host was consecrated. After the Lamb of God and before distributing Holy Communion, the Bishop asked us to wait until everyone had part of the Sacred Host and we'd all eat of the one Bread together after reciting the 'Lord I am not worthy...' together. This was very meaningful!

At the Final Mass, apart from being a Mass of Thanksgiving, was also a commemorative one for the late Sr. Rose who had died during the Covid-19. By simple words and actions, he singled out Mary, (Rose's Sister), as the chief mourner. It was these little things that made an impression on all who were present.

A worthy Bishop, but at heart, a very human and open person with a great sense of humour.

Sr. Anne-Marie Hughes

For me, I felt Bishop Justin's talks every day very inspiring and not too long. He was wonderful when you went in to talk to him. He patiently and gently listened to you and gave you encouragement. He understood us. I found him to be a very spiritual and gentle man.

We found the Retreat to be very peaceful.

Sr. Margaret Mary Gannon

Our Senior's Annual Retreat commenced on the 27th September and ended on the 4th October with the celebration of a Thanksgiving Mass by Bishop Justin. This Mass was celebrated for two reasons:

1. For Sr. Rose. She had died during the virus and we were unable to celebrate or attend her funeral. Sr. Rose's sister Mary attended. Before Mass began, the Bishop called Mary to come forward and read her homily. At the close of her Homily, he then asked if anyone else wished to say anything about Sr. Rose. As the Sisters started to share, Bishop Justin stepped forward to Mary and helped her to turn her chair so she could see who was sharing. What a thoughtful Bishop!
2. The Mass was a celebration for the closing of the Retreat.

Our first talk by the Bishop set the scene for the whole of the Retreat "Set your gaze on Him". What could be better! We had one talk each day and then given quotes from the Bible to study or to meditate on them.

Another very spiritual scene was going to Holy Communion. The Bishop went around giving all of us a small piece of the large, Sacred Host. We were asked to hold our piece until the Bishop started the "Lord I am not worthy..." then at the conclusion of this prayer we all received the host at the same time. Truly, the deep silence throughout the Chapel was because we were engrossed in receiving Jesus.

We would like to thank Bishop Justin for his talks and showing all the time charity, peace and kindness to all of us. What a wonderful Bishop! God bless him.

Unfortunately, it was the last Retreat that Bishop Justin was giving.

Sr. Kathleen Downes

Other Sisters from the Samson Community who made the Retreat, remarked on the availability of Bishop Justin, his prayerfulness, simplicity, gentleness, thoughtfulness,

gratefulness and his great sense of humour. The Sisters found the Retreat quiet and reflective with no sense of hurry or unnecessary coercion. Even our Staff who came in each day, were impressed with Bishop Justin. All found him to be very human and so likeable.

We are very grateful to have had this time with such a very special person. Thank you.

Click the link below to see our Sisters in the Community of Samson

<https://youtu.be/T7HBmdYuP0Q>

Our elderly Sisters in Myanmar in the Community of Mandalay

Click the link below.

<https://youtu.be/KZKT1rPo8xk>