



VOICES OF OUR SISTERS AND COLLABORATORS

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

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Editorial

30th Jan 2021

Dear Sisters,

We are glad to present to you the 2nd issue of the Congregation Bulletin, with life of the Congregation in different Provinces and Delegations.

I thank all the Sisters who sent me comments about the first bulletin and its presentation. Unfortunately, some of the Sisters were not able to view the videos. This time we have put more photos and a few videos. Some Provinces downloaded the bulletin and made a print out for their communities in the Provinces. I thank all of you dear Sisters for reading and informing ourselves about the life of our Congregation and helping others to do so.

We thank wholeheartedly Sr. Margaret Anne Beech from Australia who has contributed a formative article on the latest encyclical of the Holy Father “**Fratelli Tutti**”. This would certainly help us to study it reflectively in our communities. Those of you who do not have access to hard copies of it, please find it in the internet with this link.

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

We will be very pleased to receive from the communities the responses and your comments. In the next issue of the bulletin you will have the 2nd part of the presentation.

I thank all the Sisters who have contributed articles for the bulletin. For the future I request all those who write and send articles, to send the text and photos separately. It will help us with editing. Since we upload the bulletin to our website it is advisable not to insert photos of children for safety.

“I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

Brené Brown

Let us be connected and live and grow in our SJA relationship as Sisters.

With best wishes to all,
Sr. Renee Quadros, SJA

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Together we Explore 'Fratelli Tutti'

At our General Chapter of 2019, participants spent numerous days being challenged in our perception and experience of the realities of today's world. The Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' calls us to broaden our perspective of these realities and develop the idea of universal fraternity by dialogue with the Gospel message.

The Encyclical presents stories and encounters from across the globe enabling a rereading of the Gospel. It proposes a way of life which promotes universal aspirations of fraternity and social friendships. Social friendship is seen as the privilege of respect for persons and for the common good over individual intentions in social, economic and institutional relationships. Barriers of geography and distance are to be transcended by an appreciation of the dignity of each person and the centrality of the virtue of love.

The following is a suggested way in which to read and pray with this document individually or communally.

Begin with the Introduction. (Nos 1-8) giving special attention to No 8.

Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure.... How important it is to dream together. By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, ...Dreams, on the other hand, are built together.



Chapter One. Dark Clouds cover a closed world.

(Nos 9-55)

Here the image of a dark cloud covering the world characterised by lack of fraternity and a closed world view. Pope Francis outlines the signs of regression in the world, such as ancient conflicts, a drive for relentless consumption, individualism, new forms of cultural colonisation, racism and the domination of ideologies. There is also a warning to avoid measuring poverty with past criteria which does not correspond to present day realities. Migration and living in a digital age are explored. Despite these dark clouds which we observe around us there is the call to continue along the way with a hope as we endeavour to achieve new things. (No 55)

Chapter Two. A Stranger on the Road. (Nos 56-86)

This chapter draws us into the scriptural heart of the document proposing an interpretation of the Parable of the Good Samaritan where one can discover a 'ray of light'. Pause at No 64 and ask the questions:

- a) Which person in this Parable do I identify with?
- b) What are the situations which I tend to ignore?
- c) Who are the people that I encounter stranded on the roadside?

A missionary is one who is prepared to cross boundaries challenging one to be prepared to shift our gaze in relation to cross-cultural realities. Culture is viewed as a source of enrichment.

Chapter Three. Envisaging and Engendering an Open World, (Nos 87-127)

Here we have outlined a Vision of an Open World where we are exhorted to move outside of ourselves and allow love to impel us towards universal communion. The right to live with dignity and to develop integrally cannot be denied to anyone. The duty of hospitality (No 90) and social friendships are called for especially in relation to those with a disability, the elderly or those suffering from racism. There is a warning about a radical individualism that is extremely difficult to eliminate for it is clever. Solidarity is to think and act in terms of community/family and that created goods are for common use. The building up of international relations and networks help to avoid exploitation. Above all it is an interior summons characterised by the spiritual stature of a person's life and measured by love

Chapter 4. A Heart Open to the Whole World. (Nos 128-153)

It calls for a heart open to the whole world where we see things in a new light and are able to respond in creative ways. Large sections of this chapter speak of the humanitarian migrant crises and the call to open our hearts and broaden our horizons to those who are different. The common good asks us to sink our roots deeper into the fertile soil and history of our native place for it is a gift of God. (145) Our joy is strengthened and enriched by our own cultural identity and through dialogue with those unlike ourselves. (No 148)



- a) Which of these themes do you find in our Final Chapter Document?
- b) Name a specific action you or your community could follow up on.

The influence of Francis of Assisi hangs over this document as he was a contemplative, radical in his poverty and a strong association with the poor. This publication is a distillation of the Pope's social thinking, so is worth reading and exploring in some detail. It presents a challenge to rethink some of our attitudes and world views.

Find time to read and reflect on these first four chapters and in the next edition we will take up the challenge presented in Chapters 5-8.

Margaret Anne Beech SJA

A Covid Christmas in Bethlehem

Every Christmas, the quiet town of Bethlehem becomes a bustling hub for pilgrims and tourists. Not this year. The Church of the Nativity was closed, and most souvenir shops shuttered. Hotels that are usually sold out months in advance were deserted.

A strict lockdown remains in place across the occupied West Bank due to rising rates of Covid-19 limiting travel between cities. People must remain indoors from 19:00 to 06:00 every night, and throughout the entire day on Fridays and Saturdays, the Palestinian weekend, which limits festive family gatherings. The Palestinian Authority imposed tough antiviral restrictions on Bethlehem on Dec. 10, setting up checkpoints around its perimeter, ordering the closing of restaurants, cafes, schools and gyms, and forbidding nearly all large gatherings.

Earlier in the month, only a few people attended the tree-lighting ceremony in Manger Square, an event that usually heralds the metamorphosis of the quiet town of Bethlehem into one of the main seasonal attractions of Christmas. The coronavirus pandemic has put a damper on Christmas at the place where it has all begun.

Until the pandemic, the tourism industry in the West Bank, which relies heavily on the Christmas-time business in Bethlehem, was anticipating its best year in two decades. The West Bank had more than three million visitors last year.

This year, only ten marching bands of local scout groups (out of 30) were allowed for the processions that welcomed the Latin Patriarch as he arrived from nearby Jerusalem on 24 December. The procession of cars had departed from Jerusalem earlier in the day, as the entrance into the city where Jesus was born marks the beginning of the Christmas celebrations. Few people were there to greet them. "Our society is strong despite all the difficulties," said His Beatitude Mgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The Patriarch was received by civil and religious authorities, but without the traditional crowd of visitors and pilgrims from different parts of the world, due to the restrictions imposed this year by the pandemic.

It is a time when we are unable to celebrate Christmas worthily anywhere in the world. This certainly creates a lot of sadness, but we must not give up. We celebrate the birth of Christ, the victory of Christ over all forms of fear. We have had a terrible year, but this Christmas is the beginning of a new world, it is a new beginning that we sorely need.

Midnight Mass at the Church of the Nativity is usually one of the social events of the year. The Christmas Eve mass is traditionally the highlight of a holiday season that sees hundreds of thousands of visitor's flock to the Palestinian city. This year, the ceremony was limited to church officials, a handful of European diplomats and Bethlehem's mayor. The mass was closed to the public this year and broadcast online, with only clergy and select individuals allowed inside the basilica. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas did not attend. Other government authorities were present.

The solemn mass is presided by His Beatitude Mgr. Pizzaballa. In his homily, entitled: "The people who walked in darkness saw a great light...", the Patriarch reflected on the difficulties of the moment, but also intended to bring hope, citing the promises of God present in the readings of this night.

Mgr. Pizzaballa said: "Under the heavy burden of this pandemic that is blocking our lives, paralyzing the relationships, putting a strain on politics, economy, culture and society, we all feel obscured, tired, exhausted,

oppressed for too long. However, in my first Christmas Mass as Patriarch, I do not want to tune my voice to those who can well describe the night. I must, I want to give voice to the prophecy, make me echo of the Gospel, communicate you the grace of this hour".

At the end of the Homily the Patriarch recites a moving prayer:

"To him, mighty God, we ask to defeat sickness, evil and death and give us back happy and serene days. To him, our Savior and Lord, we promise to give all that we are and have, so that still and always "his way may be known on earth and his salvation among all peoples". Amen".

Eventually everyone goes in procession to the Grotto of the Nativity to venerate the birthplace of Jesus.

In the Grotto, the first celebration, at midnight, was presided over by Brother Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land.

It was really a different Christmas, but full of meaning in the essence of Christmas. Let us take courage in the words of our Pope Francis:

At a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis, struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon... as Christians, we should always look to Our Lady, Star of the Sea and Mother of Hope. May we work together to advance towards a new horizon of love and peace, of fraternity and solidarity, of mutual support and acceptance. May we never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way; instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, "to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another".

Click this Video link  <https://youtu.be/qKKjIMbguBc>

By Sr. Vicky Giacaman SJA





OUR AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS 2020

Some of the Sisters were involved in parish and nursing home celebrations over Christmas, but on Christmas Day we all finally gathered at our Kardinya convent. The house was beautifully prepared by our host Sisters, with a cleverly made crib, and many other intricate handmade decorations creating a joyful atmosphere.

Fr Hugh Galloway, our Chaplain, was present to celebrate Mass and added to the spirit of the day with his thought provoking words. At the conclusion of Mass, a lively and convivial lunch was enjoyed by everyone. Despite the heat which competed with the air conditioning, the meal was followed by lively dancing performances by three of our youngest members. Fortunately, they didn't expect us to get up and join them!

Our festivities were again shared with an elderly gentleman neighbour. His wife had died on Christmas Eve in 2019, leaving him alone, so the Sisters have since kindly invited him to join us for lunch, and assist him across the road from his nearby house.

We are very fortunate to be in Western Australia and able to celebrate in this way, when the COVID virus has changed society in such enormous ways worldwide. We thank God for our good fortune, but always remain very conscious of those who are suffering so much, and keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.





Thailand

The Hostel-Children's Home, St Emilie's Centre is in the northern Thailand Province of Chiang Mai in Mae Cheam. This new house was established in 2015.

What missions here look like?

For the best outcome in this mission field, our Sisters are doing hard work. We divided our work into two main parts.



We are concerned for the safety of tribal children and have worked to help young people who are poor or at risk of being uneducated in the Mae Cheam area. Our goal is to provide a place where children can feel at home. We look after them by giving holistic, supportive and quality care through services such as housing, meals, education, recreation and health. It is very convenient for children to go to school as it is near our house and located in Mae Cheam City. In this area there are hills and mountains where many tribal people live. Our house called St Emilie's Centre, is open to all tribal people. The eligibility criteria are the young people from Grade 1 to 12. (Prathom sukka 1 – Matthayom sukka 6) Recently we have had a total of 70 children, boys and girls.



At present we are undertaking a Sufficiency Economy Project, which is one way of obtaining an income to support our daily living. We teach the children to work in the garden after school or when they have spare time. Children learn new skills, have fun, play and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden tending plants, growing their own food and watching plants grow. We get some vegetables from our garden and meat from pigs that we look after. Rice cultivation is well suited in this area, so all of us, including the parents, come to help in the planting, growing and harvesting of rice.



The mission in the community of Mae Chea is mainly supporting children to have a better life through different activities uniting the Sisters, children and parents. It is not only giving an education but it is also helping children to value their origins and teaching them to be able to live with what they have. Their parents are proud of them when they go back home for they know how to be helpful without telling them to do so. They are able to read, write and communicate well and this can help them a lot to get a better job when they grow up.



The mission here is quite effective and our Sisters are willing to devote themselves to do everything with the children and learn together with them. We would like to thank the Australia/Thailand Province for the support and specially to get this new big house for the safety of our children. We give thanks to the Lord for his unconditional love, grace and mercy and for allowing us to be an instrument in his mission. We ask God to continue to bless and always accompany us.



“We shall continue devoting to the relief of the unfortunate, to the care of the sick and the poor, to education of children, to all works of charity, our strength, our fortunes, our future even our lives, if necessary. This vow of our heart, the only one permitted us to make to-day, we shall always keep.”

(To Bishop Dupuch, 30.1.1840)

Myanmar Migrants and Refugees Mission in Singapore- Malaysia

Myanmar Province.

I live in Singapore and serve the Myanmar Migrants in the countries of Singapore and Malaysia. We have been serving in this mission for more than 10 years and live in Singapore as it is difficult to get a long stay visa for Malaysia. I work Monday to Friday at Marymount Centre and live with the Good Shepherd Sisters. I hold a work permit and carry out this mission on weekends and after or before working hours if necessary.

Most of the Myanmar people become Migrants and Refugees in Singapore and Malaysia because of the difficulty in finding jobs in Myanmar to be able to support their families. Though some can speak English well, have a good education and earn good salary, most of them have low education and limited English to communicate with their employers. They earn very low salaries with long working hours especially domestic workers. They are not allowed to go out every Sunday. They can go out only once a month or twice a month. During their outing day, they want to talk and share their difficulties

95% of the Migrants and the Refugees in Malaysia are illegal workers. They gave up their passports and left the companies due to long working hours and unjust wages and thus they become refugees. They go out always with fear of the police in case they are caught. If they are caught, they inform their friends who in turn inform me. I contact the local migrant ministry in the Diocese who go to the Detention Centre to claim them back. There is a real need to have someone who stands for justice, morality, faith and give social and political support.

Due to their daily problems and difficulties which they encounter, they feel a need for God in everything. They experience that God is their refuge and strength. That is why they come to Church to pray and participate in different activities. They seek consolation and counseling to heal their wounds.

We stay in Singapore and travel to Malaysia to help the Migrants and Refugees on weekends under Bishop Bernard, of Johor-Melaka Diocese. Some of the Migrants from Melaka and Batu Pahat returned home which resulted in the cancellation of the Migrants Mass in Melaka (Church of St. Peter) and in Batu Pahat (Church of St. Henry) Parish. The remainder now gather in the Church of Immaculate Conception in Johor Baruh. Since there is no Myanmar Priest for the Eucharistic celebration, the local parish priest says Mass in English with the responses in Burmese. I translate the homily for the Priest for the Migrants.

This mission focuses on pastoral care such as teaching Catechism, organizing retreats, recollection days and bible sharing. We also visit the homes and distribute Holy Communion. Counselling is provided along with assistance with translation of documents and assisting with negotiations with social services, especially between employers and domestic workers. Contacts often come to us through the Good Shepherd Sisters and the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

By Sr. Maria Goretti Dau Nyoi, SJA

Click here for the video link:  <https://youtu.be/tAkDXZ8SQ9w>

GOD WALKS WITH HIS PEOPLE

THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR SISTERS FROM THE CHICAMAN COMMUNITY- GUATEMALA

The crisis caused by the “COVID-19” pandemic had destabilized our entire lives and at the end of October, we began to hear the arrival of hurricanes and storms of great intensity, coming from the Caribbean. Due to the geographical location we occupy, this reality was not so new, however hurricanes ETA and IOTA have marked the life and faith of our people.



At the beginning of November, as a parish, we were undergoing a process of discernment at the pastoral level regarding the reopening of the various activities of our being Church. In the midst of this climate, the rains reach our lands and due to their intensity, they cause landslides, floods that limit access to neighbouring communities and towns due to the fall of some bridges.

In these days, the evacuation of the first families was carried out in the Jumuc Village belonging to our Parish. While the shelter for these families was being organized, on November 5th, we learned through the news about a landslide in the Quejá village belonging to San Cristóbal, a neighbouring municipality of Chicamán.

Rescuers tried to reach the place via two alternate routes, but landslides and heavy rains limited access. In the midst of difficulties, a group managed to enter after several hours of walking. On the 6th ambulances were dedicated to transferring the victims all day, several of them were taken to the nearest hospital and others were transferred to the shelter located in the Chicamán School.



Meanwhile, the rescue work continued in the Quejá village, since according to survivors the community consisted of about 800 people. Many families were completely buried. The landslides continued on the 7th November and for the safety of rescuers and reporters, the area was evacuated.

On Sunday, November 8th, we saw numerous rescuers arrive at the centre of Chicamán, full of mud, hungry and exhausted from the effort to rescue as many victims as possible. However, they only managed to remove seven deceased victims who were buried in the cemetery of the nearest village (Santa Elena). A few other people were rescued alive, of which two women were transferred to Roosevelt Hospital (located in the capital city), due to the seriousness of their situation.

After days of intense searching for survivors, on November 9th that place was declared as “ a Cemetery”. In the following days, the rain stopped and the passage to the isolated places were possible. From that moment on, we began visiting the various shelters.

Through these visits, we saw and felt the reality of pain, sadness and fear. However, the good God also allowed us to contemplate the innocence of the children, who in the midst of that reality ran and played without understanding what was happening. Meanwhile the women had a lost and tearful look. We were unable to establish dialogues with them since most of them only speak Poqomchi (one of the dialects spoken in that area). It was the men who shared the event in more detail and expressed their pain when they saw that many families were buried and some others were divided into the different shelters.



Solidarity was present and it was possible to provide them with the most necessary and urgent. Among the victims were sick children, the elderly, pregnant women and many babies. We tried to accompany the pain and suffering of each one of them and in the midst of our possibilities, we sought to welcome that moment with faith and look towards the future to forge it together. Through the Eucharist, we tried to animate faith and testify to the presence and closeness of God in the midst of his people.

On November 16th, Hurricane Iota arrived and was felt through the rains and winds, causing new landslides and the collapse of bridges. Once again, we were cut off, causing a lack of food. In some shelters, rumbles were heard, causing fear and uncertainty in people. Due to the need, some families decided to return to their communities despite the risks and at the same time, they sought to live with hope.

We recognized that our people are used, to rise from the ashes and with faith in the presence of God, who accompanies them, seek alternative routes, open paths through rubble, improvise bridges, hold out their hand, cling and do not give up. In all this, they knew that Jesus walked by their side and listens to their laments as He did with the disciples of Emmaus. (Luke 24, 13-35).



We finish this experience by sharing an anecdote of faith. One day one of our sisters went to visit a shelter and upon her arrival, a group of women came to meet her calling her "nun, nun" but due to the dialect, the sister could not enter into dialogue with them and asked for the help of a translator to find out what the women want. The surprise was that these women asked for their children to be baptized. With great joy, they went to the catechist's house to organize it and celebrate the faith of these

women. For us, this gesture expresses the faith and trust of these families in the God of life, in this God who, even in the midst of difficulties, has submerged himself in this rawness of life to accompany them and truly be God with us.

By Sr. Ingrid Hortencia Vargas Quinilla SJA



St Joseph's Centre, Haiti

St Joseph's center is comprised of a School where we have 784 students, a nutritional Centre with about 72 babies and 70 mothers. There is also a therapy Centre for around 300 handicapped babies who come during the week for treatment as well as a tailoring Centre.

I would like to talk about the tailoring Centre where we have 18 girls who are learning to become tailors. They have a syllabus which the teacher follows and Sr Asha is responsible for this tailoring Centre. Besides tailoring, they learn other skills and they hope, as there is a tee shirt factory in our campus, they can use for their learning and earn to a living. These students have the possibility of a better future. It has already been confirmed that all the 2nd year students have a job in the factory and so are able to earn a livelihood.

The T shirt factory is a vision of a devout catholic couple. While on a mission trip to Haiti, Jim Weber and his wife Jenifer Weber realized Haitians needed this opportunity more than anything else. It was a call



to stand by the most miserable and respond to their needs. They sacrificed a sizeable portion of their life

savings for this factory, with the exclusive objective of creating sustainable jobs in Haiti. Jim and Jen take no profits out of the factory. Because of this, they have received numerous benefits which makes "Pravi Polo Shirts" an unbeatable value. They are able to match the quality of some of the finest polo shirts in the world and sell them well below department store prices which will help them to pay the workers well.



GRATEFUL INC. The objective of "GRATEFUL INC." is to first change the way of thinking of the population in the Praville Community and to offer them a better path of life through Christ. In an area where unemployment is over 90%, full-time employment means that each employee can provide food, stability, housing, clothing and clean water for their family. The selected employees are in a training process. Even though they are being trained by experts they still need to learn more to perfect their work. The workers need more practice so the shirts can be sold on the international market. The factory has become a hope for many people of the area. We are happy for this great initiative of Jim and Jenifer Weber, who have sacrificed their personal wealth. They take



great risks to visit Gonaives time and again in spite of the insecure situation in the country in order to assist the people of Praville. We continue to pray that God may protect them from any untoward incidents. They feel what has happened in this factory was God's plan and that their

faith will protect them. Their strong conviction is that through this factory they will proclaim Christ in a better and more realistic way.

The small piece of land was given by us for this factory. The factory is in our property and a well-built wall divides our mission campus and the factory. The factory is equipped with solar energy and our community and mission benefits from the factory. It provides electricity for the use of our mission. It is equipped with modern technological machines so the factory can have maximum production of Polo T shirts.



The factory functions independently. As the people are poor, they try to grab anything they can get in their hands. As a result, we have to be vigilant, and have security men with arms to protect the factory from intruders. We need to spend sizable time to see that the things are not disappearing. Though it's a great help for the people we do fear that as soon as the factory refuses to give a job to someone, there could be a negative reaction which could affect our mission activities. We do pray that the Lord will protect us since the purpose of the factory is to serve the poor.

Pray for the people of Haiti that many more people will invest to give hope to the poor of Gonaives.

By Sr. Margaret Michael SJA



« God and His greater glory, the service of the neighbor and the ardent desire to be useful to Him: these aims should be so dear to our hearts that we cannot be shaken by any difficulty.»

(To Sr. Eugenie Lairez, 11 .10.1852)

Throw the seeds in the land of Belene

Bulgaria

Before starting to talk about my mission among the young people, I would like to briefly introduce myself and the context in which I live. My name is Ramona Cordos, I am from Romania and 15 years ago I started my path of consecration to the Lord in our Congregation in Italy. After my Perpetual Profession in August 2016, I left for my mission in Bulgaria, in the small town of Belene, located on the banks of the Danube near the northern border with Romania.



Belene: In the past this small town of eight thousand inhabitants had suffered deep wounds: the construction of a concentration camp for political dissidents under the communist regime in 1949 and a nuclear power plant in 1987, an unfinished project that has misled many people with promises of prosperity. It is also the birthplace of Blessed Eugene Bosilkov, Catholic bishop, martyr of the Communist regime.

Here is the map of a country in demographic decline marked by the emigration of young people and entire families to the big cities of Bulgaria or to the countries of Western Europe in search of a better future (studies, work). Most of those who remain are mainly the fragile people in society: the elderly and sick, families broken up due to lack of work, alcohol, violence..., inmates of the active prison, people with disabilities, etc. In this context of depopulation, our young people tend to go to other horizons as soon as they can. Our mission is to sow the seeds of God's love on their land with the hope that someone else will rejoice in their germination.

The Seeds of the Itinerant Ecumenical Prayer of Taizé

Two years ago I was to accompany a small group of young people from our parish to live an unusual experience: "*The Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth*" which the young people organized each year with the Brothers of the Ecumenical Monastic Community of Taizé in a European city. To prepare for this meeting, we began to organize moments of prayer in the ecumenical style of Taizé through psalms, and the reading of biblical books, repetitive songs, in different languages, silence, prayers of intercession or of praise....





On my return from the pilgrimage, I suggested to the priests of neighbouring parishes to live an itinerant prayer each month in a different parish and to involve young people in the preparation and animation. The response was very positive (because union gives strength, also to pray), so we thought of opening this prayer experience to other religious confessions, while knowing the difficulty of relations between hierarchies of Christian Churches in Bulgaria.

Despite everything, we managed to meet, to dialogue and to pray together, either with the Orthodox Priest or with the Pastors and young people of the various Protestant Churches. Last year we had two very special visits, which filled us with joy: that of Fr Richard from the Taizé community who gave his testimony. A few months later, two young foreign women, volunteers in Taizé, encouraged our young people to experience their Faith and volunteering with other young Christians in another context. Unfortunately, this year, because of the pandemic, we could not realize this plan to send some young people as volunteers, but we trust in God for the future.

The Educational Seeds of the Scout Experience

As for the adolescents, as soon as they receive the sacraments they disappear from the life of the parish and some of them escape the miserable situations of their families and risk entering the circles of drugs and promiscuity. Unfortunately, during the last years, pastoral care has not offered anything to teenagers and young people. In order to continue the educational and Christian formation of adolescents and stimulate their commitment in social life, the Sisters together with our parish priest, a Passionist Italian Missionary, commenced a new experience, that of scouting: *“... an educational movement for young people, based on voluntary service, ... of a non-political nature, open to all without distinction of origin, race, or creed...”* I had discovered the existence of the Association of Catholic Scouts in Bulgaria, I asked those in charge to start a scout group in our parish with a view to ongoing formation for teenagers, not only Catholics. At present we have three non-Christian brothers who are very serious and enthusiastic.



It's been two years since we started this experience and I don't know how to describe the enthusiasm of our teenagers for the new adventure. It involves discovering nature, going for long hikes in the beautiful high mountains of Bulgaria, learning to set up a camp site, pitching a tent, building a log fire, cooking, developing creativity through outdoor play, getting to know other Scouts and becoming good friends and finally learning to pray in nature.



This missionary adventure has little by little created strong links with the young scouts responsible at the national level. They asked us to collaborate in the organization with various initiatives or for the preparation and the spiritual animation of scout camps. I personally relive the Scout experience of my teenage years with a lot of emotion, so I am even more enthusiastic.

I end with a farewell note, left by Robert Baden-Powell (the founder of scouting) to all scouts around the world: *“I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step*



towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man. Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. ... The real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people... God help you to do it.!”

Sr. Ramona Cordos SJA

3 December 2020,
Belene- Bulgaria



“Beloved young people, have you encountered this gaze of Jesus who asks you: “What do you seek”? Have you heard his voice which tells you: “Come and see”? Have you felt that impulse to set out on a journey? Take time to be with Jesus, to be filled with his Spirit and to be ready for the fascinating adventure of life. Go to encounter him; stay with him in prayer; entrust yourselves to him who is the expert on the human heart.”

Pope Francis TO YOUNG PEOPLE GATHERED IN MEDJUGORJE 29th June 2020

Vocation Story of Sr. Bed Province of Europe

God's Grace is Enough

I am Bed Noel of Haitian origin and currently in a community in Champigny, France since 2018.

How can I talk about my vocation? I remember that at one time in her life, Saint Emilie, in prayer had the certainty of knowing her vocation. For me, it was not that clear. How did it get started?

I grew up with a single mother and my maternal grandparents. If I missed the love of a father that of my mother and grandparents was still present and evident. In the village where I grew up there was a chapel and two primary schools, one public and the other a private Protestant School. My mother chose to send me to the private Protestant school because the education was better there. My grandparents and all our neighbours were Catholic and attended Mass regularly. The school forced us to go to the Protestant worship on Sunday at the risk of sanctions for the refractory. I finally found a solution. Mass and Protestant worship alternately. So, I was immersed in both religious circles. However, without being able to explain it, deep down I knew I was a Catholic even though I was not catechized. In high school I was able to go to a Catholic school where I had the chance to prepare for the sacraments of Christian initiation



All the love I have received throughout my journey from my mother, parents, teachers and many others were to me a manifestation of God's love. I did not yet know what this committed me to. In the first year of senior high school, I met a Congolese nun of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny on a mission in Haiti. At her invitation I joined a group of 'young people in search' without really thinking about religious life. But along the way, real existential questions arose and the awareness of God's love in my life grew more vivid. I felt the obligation to love in return and to make known this love of God. I was also marked by the Congolese sister who had left her country, her people, to be of service to my people. Why can't I be a missionary too?

During this same period, I met the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and it was love at first sight. I was drawn to their simplicity and the work they do for the locals. All with simplicity and total gift of self. After a difficult period of discernment my vocation became more and more evident: to consecrate myself to God in response to His love and to make Him known by being at the service of humanity. After learning about the spirituality and charism of the Congregation I joined the community in Haiti in 2013.

This is how my adventure with Christ in Consecrated Life began.

Four years later, on 17th June 2017, I made my first religious profession in the Philippines where I made my novitiate. Today the adventure continues with God's grace and I can say with Saint Paul '*that his grace is enough for me.*' (2 Cor 12.9)

Sr. Bed Noel SJA

"My life belongs totally to God." (To Fr. Montera, 28.7.1843)

My Life Experience as a Sister of St Joseph of the Apparition, India/Haiti

Today I give thanks and express my immense gratitude to God for the 48 years of my life in the Congregation as one of the first Indian Sisters. I thank the Almighty for His love, blessings, and mercy for planting me in His vineyard to be rooted, grow and bloom.



I fondly remember the beginning of my Vocation. As a child I had the desire to become a nun and as time passed, I was inspired by the Sisters with whom I studied in the Hostel, by their prayer life, faith formation, apostolate and commitment. I was overwhelmed for the first time when I met Sisters Antonia John and Brenden Soosay, who came to meet young girls in the Teacher's training college at Lohardga where I was a student. They shared about their plight and dreadful experience of coming from Myanmar to India in 1966 when Burma was nationalized and the foreigners were sent out of the country. Immediately, I felt that I was drawn and happily entered the Congregation on 14th June 1972 at Mosaboni, trusting in the Providence of God and desire to serve the Lord.

I began my formation with three companions, Srs. Vimala, Jeyaseeli and Philomina from South India. Sr. Antonia took good care to guide and form us. Though we had language problems nothing could disturb us or stop us working happily for the Lord. We joined the school at Mosaboni and taught for a year till 1973 as the four of us were trained teachers. At that time the formation house in Ranchi was under construction. We shifted to Ranchi on 13th of June 1973 while the building construction was still in progress. We had a hard beginning as there was no water, electricity, or proper place to stay. We carried water from the neighboring Community of another Congregation. We even helped in the work of the building by carrying water etc. It was hard work yet we were full of joy.

I thank Sr. Patricia Coogan, my Novice Mistress, from whom we received a good formation to be a missionary in the present world. We were trained to live and share in the community as well as collaborate with others in the mission.

It has been a very rich, positive experience as an SJA. I gratefully acknowledge my Formators and those who accompanied me at every juncture, giving me encouragement and prayerful support. Thank you Srs. Patricia Coogan, Antonia, Celina and Carmen who had respectively been my Formators at different levels. I owe them my sincere respect and gratitude.

I had the experience of working in our first Mission at Kapu. The people's simplicity and hardships in the Mission taught me to be what I am today. In Kapu I experienced God's graces and blessings in serving the downtrodden. I learnt about spiritual, emotional, and psychological aspects of life through the Missionary priests at Mohuadar namely, Bishop Swapan, Fr. Crotty

SJ, Fr. Tom Kio, Fr. Peter Joans, Fr. Macnaomara, and Fr. Slatory, and the Holy Cross Sisters. We worked collaboratively with the Jesuits and the Holy Cross Sisters.

Along the journey, I lived in the communities of Mosaboni, Guhiajori, Assisi Nagar, Manali, Kolkatta, Gadalodhma, and Ranchi and treasure the rich memories of being a SJA Sister. I have the joy of giving myself to the mission, with the words of St. Emilie, *“Remain in my presence, if you stray from me, I will recall you.”*

The tool God gave me to bear hardships is faith, an unshaken faith, for I always knew that I needed to trust Him and place myself completely under His protection. This has been my experience of God and with St Emilie, St. Joseph and Mary by my side to intercede I was able to overcome the struggles of life. Words that have constantly inspired me are:

“Take up your cross and follow me and do not be afraid. I am with you.”

“Trust in Divine Providence.”

I thank all the Sisters with whom I have shared community life, who have loved and cared for me during times of illness. Community life has been my great support and I love and bless all the Sisters of my Province who encouraged and strengthened me to live my vocation as an SJA.

“Go, with what you have and will receive, do all the good you can.” These words of St. Emilie always motivate me and urge me to share my life and what I have received with others.

Sr. Mary Stella Ekka SJA

“Missionaries, they will endeavor, according to the spirit of their vocation, to reproduce in themselves the life of our Savior. Zeal, devotedness and self-abnegation will become the soul of their apostolate. Daughters of St. Joseph, they must strive to imitate the humble, hidden virtues, especially those of simplicity and obedience which characterized their Father and Protector.



(Directory, Chap I)

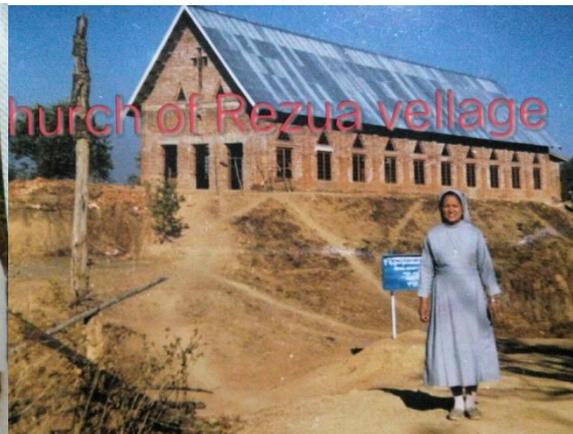


Sr. Mary Khan, Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Sr. Mary Khan was born in Zine Zan and is the eldest of six children. As her father was not in very good health, she would often be away from school helping her father at work. In 1956 the Convent of St. Joseph of the Apparition opened in her village of Saizang. Each evening many would gather to say the rosary at the Grotto and then the Sisters would help her with her studies.

The parish priest Fr. Ruellen (MEP) who was French, encouraged her to become a boarding girl in the Convent. In 1958 she continued boarding with the Sisters at Amarapura with two other girls. She recalls her mother standing near the departing bus crying and realized she needed to place her parents in the hands of God. Whilst in Amarapura she attended the Government School and Fr. Ruellen provided for her needs and also assisted her parents. She remained very grateful for this kindness.

In 1965 she returned to her home village and continued to visit the Convent and help the Sisters. She never forgot Mother Ameer who was very brave and cared for the sick providing medicine and a kindly word. She particularly recalls a man whom she helped and when he recovered from his illness provided the Sisters with firewood for a year. For Mary, Mother Ameer was a model of



devotedness. These early years as a boarder with the Sisters provided her with the opportunity to experience and learn about the journey of a religious vocation. It was a journey of growth and achievement where she came to understand herself and perceive her vocation better. Sister Mary made her first Profession in Maymyo in May 1969 and received her obedience to the community in Zine Zan.

Over fifty years later a gathering at the Mandalay Cathedral joined with her to celebrate her Golden Jubilee. The Celebration of the Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Niocolas together with Priests, Sr. Yvonne, General Councillor, relatives, and friends of the Sisters. In his homily the Bishop congratulated her for her tireless service to the people of God. He went on to say: *Yes, there are many stops along the way and each stop is a resting place, an oasis, a safe harbour giving us what we need and preparing us for the next part of the journey. This journey we travel together is interwoven with love for the mission entrusted to us. Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the Spirit and move on according to the signs of the times. Let there be newness of life. Praise the Lord!*

Sister's Community at Zinezan had a special message for her, they wrote:

On this anniversary you call to mind all that the Lord has done for you enabling all the good that you have achieved. There are many experiences which emerge in your heart as you remember all those people who have touched your life - family, sisters, priests and children. Over the years you have welcomed the villagers into the clinic where you have provided humble yet important service. At this time, we give thanks to God for all his goodness. With the Church we pray "Praise the Lord for he is good, his mercy is everlasting." (Ps 88)

In congratulating her, Sr. Magdalen Lim presented Sr. Mary with a certificate acknowledging her years of devotedness and service. She concluded by saying:

The seed of faith which was planted in the soil of Saizang village fifty years ago took root, sprouted and grew with its branches spreading out far and wide. With joy we invite each one here present to continue the journey with courage and commitment remembering that the Lord is calling us and others to be workers in his vineyard.

By Sr. Mary Win SJA



Hand Over Celebration Delegation of Philippines 3rd November, 2020

A memorable and exciting moment took place during the lockdown period, here in the Philippines Delegations, the “Hand Over Celebration”. Since it is an important event, we started with a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to be with and guide us throughout our Zoom meeting.



In this gathering the Provincial from Myanmar Sr. Magdalene Lim, Sr. Enza from Italy and all the Sisters from the Delegation, including Students Sisters participated. Altogether we were 24 Sisters on zoom and expressed our gratitude to Sr. Estela G. Alagao as she finished her mandate as

Delegate Superior for 7 years, as well as the two Councilors Sr. Marina Nwe Ni and Sr. Beatrice R. Buenavista (Betty) for their support. After that Sr. Estela presented the accomplishments which she had fulfilled during her mandate and Sr. Patricia Sue, the bursar, presented the financial statement of the Delegation. Sr.



Magdalene Lim announced and presented Sr. Esperanza as the new Delegation Superior. The Sisters joyfully welcomed her. Sr. Estela handed over the Congregation Seal to Sr. Esperanza which was witnessed by all the Sisters on Zoom. Sr. Esperanza accepted for the second time the role of Delegation Superior with a humble spirit. Sr. Enza expressed her joy to see the Sisters who are working in mission and she encouraged

us to move on with the new Delegate. The Sisters expressed their appreciation by clapping hands, showing thumbs up signal and cheering with a big smile. Sr. Espie invited all the Sisters to support and work with her hand in hand for the development of the Philippines mission, and she gave some information regarding future plans. The zoom meeting ended joyfully and successfully with informal greetings and chatting among the Sisters which made them feel one in mind and spirit.



By Sr. May Rose SJA

“My chief concern will be the glory of God and the establishment of a work to spread it.”

(To Fr. Bourgade, 21.2. 1850)



Change Over of the Leadership in the Province of India/Haiti

"I will be Yahweh, who walks with You...."

As the sun gave rise to life from slumber deep,

the birds sang of new beginnings,

The gentle breeze greeted the new dawn with passionate glee,

we embraced the new day with the rhythm of our grateful hearts.

Together we invoked the Spirit's blessings

upon our India/ Haiti Province

and celebrated the handing over of Leadership

of the Province of India/ Haiti

from Sr. Francisca Soren and her council to

Sr. Thaddeus and her council on 15th December 2020.



On behalf of the Superior General Sr. Monika Duellmann, Sr. Francisca Soren greeted the assembly with her letter and gave the obedience's to Sr. Thaddeus - Provincial Superior, Sr. Jyothi Samad - First Councillor and to Sr. Bernadette Bersheba, Sr. Anna Hembrom & Sr. Vinnarasi Fernando as Councillors of India/Haiti Province. Sister Francisca handed over the "Burning Candles" to Sr. Thaddeus and her team as a symbol of handing over the responsibility of Leadership of India/Haiti Province. In response, Sr. Thaddeus and her team offered the "Burning Candles" and placed them at the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizing their surrender, surrendering the Province and the Leadership role to His Loving Care.

We invoked God's blessings upon Sr. Thaddeus and her team in the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Edwin Dang S.J who during the Mass spoke and enlightened us to live as "Servant Leaders". The apt hymns sung by the Novices and candidates under the guidance of Srs. Satya Ekka, Amita Kujur & Kiran Xalxo added to the liturgy and the overall celebration. We then headed to the Dining Room where we congratulated Sr. Thaddeus and her team. We were grateful to God for making it possible for us to be present as a group which included all the Superiors, the community of Ranchi, Novices and candidates. Sr. Vinnarasi thanked the outgoing team and all the Sisters present for the preparation of the liturgy and participation in this celebration.





On the evening 14th December, the new Provincial team, on behalf of all the Communities of the Province, prepared a prayer service followed by Eucharistic celebration to thank the outgoing team for their services to the Province in the last 6 years. The altar was beautifully decorated symbolizing every community of the Province. Sr. Thaddeus thanked the outgoing Provincial Sr. Francisca Soren and her team for their selfless efforts and hard work during these past 6 years. A festive meal marked this celebration.





**“We continue to consecrate to the relief of the
unfortunate, the care of the sick and the poor, the
education of children, and all the works of charity,
our strength, our wealth, our future, even our
very life if need be.”**

(To Bishop Dupuch, 30.1. 1840)



By Sr. Quinita D'Souza SJA

Austral/ Asian Provinces Meeting via ZOOM **(on 11th and 12th November 2020)**

The theme for this meeting is '*Towards a Unified Vision for an Austral-Asian Mission*'. This Inter-Provinces meeting between Australia and our Asian counterpart was first held in the Philippines from 20th to 27th January 2018 and was facilitated by Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC who is a Psych sociologist. The outcome of this 2018 meeting is on the 'Missionary Call in our Time' within an interactive context between Australia and our Asian Provinces.

Since the first meeting, the Australian/Thailand Province had taken up the proposal and recommendations of Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu by inviting sisters from India, Myanmar and Thailand to Australia for Mission. This mission entails the 'Ministry of Presence' among the different migrants of the country of origins as well as mission to the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in Western Australia. Sister Josephine and Sister Geetha from India are very much immersed in the local parishes of St. John and Paul and St. Emilie's parish. They were also part of the Personal Advocacy ministry in their respective mission. Sister Noelene Thin Zar Win, from Myanmar while continuing her Professional Formation on Counselling at Notre Dame University is also very much involved in the various parish ministry of the local church of St. Thomas More parish. Sister Assumpta Lawrence from Myanmar, while taking up the role as a Community Superior of Kardinya and spiritually accompanying the Junior Sisters on their ongoing spiritual journey is also involved with the outreach to the Catholic Burmese Community in Perth by attending a weekly Prayer meet, administering Holy Communion to the sick at the nursing home and be a presence among the dying. Sister Sureeporn, from Thailand, while also doing her Professional Formation in Community Services has discovered her passion working with those with disabilities. She had since been involved not only in the local parish of St. Thomas More Bateman in the different ministries such as flower arrangement for the church, as a sacristan and the youth but also worked as a Volunteer with 'Cahoot' which is a charitable organisation reaching out to those with disability.

With COVID-19, the current Austral Asian meeting was held over ZOOM, on 11th and 12th November 2020 hosted by the Australia Province. All Asian Provinces/delegate of India, Myanmar/Philippines, Thailand were represented at the meeting. The Generalate team were also present at the ZOOM meeting of which we all felt a sense of unity in spirit even though the meeting was held online.

The purpose of this meeting was to move forward following the initial meeting in the Philippines in 2018. To aid us in this objective, Dr/Fr. Paul Galea a Psychologist and lecturer helps us with the session on 'Deepening our Understanding on Mission'. Following the session, two main questions for reflection were put together, the *first* being: What needs to happen for this meeting to be a success for you? And *second* question is: In your opinion, why is Mission so central to religious life? Each Province/delegate were broken into various "Break-out groups" to reflect and have a conversation with each one on the questions given.

On the second day, following the session on Safeguarding by Fr. Paul Galea, questions for reflections were (i) How would you define 'Boundaries'? (ii) Why are Boundaries so important in Society? In

Ministry? (iii) Lastly in your opinion, can professional boundaries and the expression of ‘human empathy’ be compatible?

Following this initial meeting on ZOOM and consolidation of the answers from the questions discussed, a Committee of sisters were formed for this Austral Asia group. They met again on ZOOM on 15th December 2020 with Sr. Geraldine Kearney who suggested that they explore the SOAR process to work towards a Roadmap for the face-to-face meeting of the Austral-Asia Group meeting in October 2021.



By Sister Lilian Bong SJA

**"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot:
together we can do great things."
Mother Teresa**

Leadership Course Province of Europe

After “listening to the voice of the Lord and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit “the Province of Europe has been in existence since 2nd November 2018. It is the result of a concrete action taken by the Congregation to be aligned with the needs of today. Death and ageing are not optional and have resulted in the lessening of numbers and ministries. Alongside this is the surge in different effects of an advancing society. History is reversed – Sisters from other continents or Provinces of the congregation are sent to reinforce the life of the mission in Europe. Because of these facts, the Province thought it wise to organise a Leadership Course given by Mr. Matthew Daum

This course helped us discover ourselves and improve our dealings with others by practising Generative speaking and Generative listening. It offered us the opportunity to know ourselves, and explore our type of leadership according to four archetypes. This is supposed to help us in forming the community to be a better place to live in. In my opinion, the purpose of the course leads me to have an empathetic heart for others and to understand and realize the real situations and persons with their particular backgrounds, customs and mentalities. The course was very comprehensive and aimed in helping us create a harmonious society. It highlighted our personal role and contributions according to our ministries whilst keeping the role of local superior and that of a member within the framework.

In Generative listening we are to practise using all our senses in order to ask the appropriate questions at the appropriate time. This enables our communication to be much more suitable especially asking for clarifications before reaching a conclusion. We can profit in noticing ourselves – you need to be clear first (not in imagination) - as interpretations can be different with different nationalities as the same words can be used so it is important to check the meaning of what the person is saying.

In summary, I see this course as an opportunity for growth in awareness of my own being and helping one to respect each other who comes with their own identities. It alerts us to reform our ways of thinking and talking and to clearly know our roles in our particular undertakings. It was about learning a professional way of relating to one another especially in resolving conflicts and to be able to live harmoniously taking into account one’s own perspectives.

The modern approach of the Course should be appealing to the mentality of our times.

Sr. Perpetua Loo SJA



REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED SISTERS Australia



In the past few years the various Religious Congregations in Perth gather to remember their deceased Sisters, the deaths of whom has happened in the current year.

This year we gathered at Corpus Christi Parish Church on the 14th November, fittingly the month of the Holy Souls, as Mother Church reminds us. The resident Parish Priest welcomed us to the church.

This was followed by a welcome to all gathered from Sr Lucy, a member of the Presentation Order. Then the ceremony started, a Para liturgy which included a PowerPoint.

We followed with a prayer and hymn. As the name of each Sister was announced her photo appeared on the power point and a Sister from her religious order was given a candle, which she lit and placed on a little shrine set up for the occasion. A prayer was then offered for the Sister named. This continued for about an hour as we had a goodly number of religious deceased in 2020. It was a meaningful and reflective prayer session. We SJAs had three deceased, Sr. Canisius, Sr. Rose and Sr. Camille.

When our time in church concluded we adjourned to the community hall for afternoon tea. This was an important occasion too, as with Covid-19 large gatherings were not allowed. However, all were conscious of the rules. It was a good experience meeting up with other religious orders again.

By Sr. Bernadette Casey SJA



**Perpetual Vows of Sister Mekdes Alemu
at Holy Savior Church
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
5th December 2020**

On behalf of the Congregation Srs. Salomi Soren and Biruktawit Belay welcomed the family of Sister Mekdes, her Mother Alemitu Teshonme, sister, nieces and nephew and others who were present to witness her Perpetual Vows and commitment to the Congregation.

Mass began with the introduction to His Eminence, Cardinal Berhaneyesus, and Monsignor Antoine Camilleri, fathers, sisters, friends and family. There were approximately 90 people present.

It was a great joy to have her in our family, as she committed herself by perpetual vows. It was a great privilege to make known to people who the Sisters of St. Joseph are. Those attending the ceremony were introduced to the life of our Foundress St. Emilie De Vialar and about our presence in Ethiopia, namely in Addis Ababa and the Benishangul region of Gumuz.

The homily given by the Cardinal was beautiful and showed appreciation for our mission on the peripheries. He spoke highly of the mission at Gublak where it is not easy at this time but the Sisters are happy to work among the poorest of the poor. The celebration ended full of joy and love.

Sr. Mekdes then gave a brief account of her life: I am Sr. Mekdes Alemu, daughter of Mrs. Alemitu Teshome and late Alemu Gabre. I was born in 1991, 23rd April. I have one brother and two sisters. I joined the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition on June 17th 2010. As a candidate, the spirit of St. Emilie inspired me to follow in her footsteps in an international Congregation. I decided to follow her because I realized that we are one body and called by God. I did my two years of Postulancy in Addis Ababa and commenced my Novitiate in the Philippines, Manila 2013 for two years. My First Profession was on June 17th 2015 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Soon after my Profession I was sent on my first mission to Gublak for three years. During these years the Mission presented me with many challenges and difficulties. However, this experience gave me life in full to be strong in my vocation and faith. I served this mission with love and interest learning many things from others. As a pastoral Sister I was in contact with parishioners, the women, youth and children. I enjoyed this mission as I gave myself fully to the Lord.

Following this mission I went to Rome for my two years Juniorate -2018 to 2020. After finishing my course I did a one month Ignatian Spiritual Retreat and then returned to my country to make my Final Profession on the 5th December 2020. I am grateful to God today for calling me and choosing me to be His instrument to the faithful.

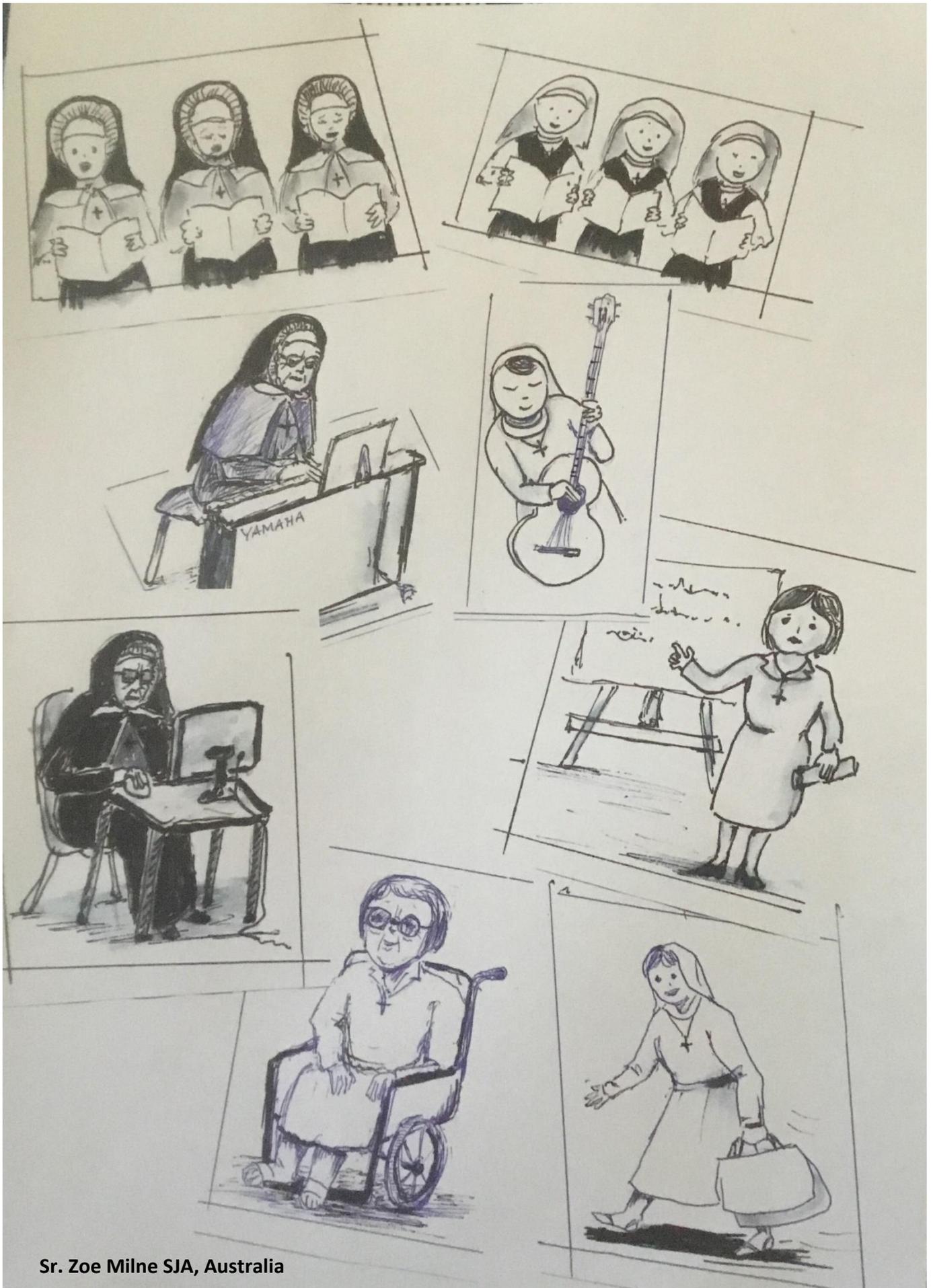
Communities of Addis Ababa and Gublak

Video click here: <https://youtu.be/pMWA2qw9A6E>

“We must remember always that God has not separated us from the world to enjoy the comforts which one can have here below, but to work and suffer much after the example of the Divine Master, whose spouses we are.”

(To Sr. Pauline Gineste 17.1. 1841)

Religious Life Yesterday and Today!!!!!!



Sr. Zoe Milne SJA, Australia

**New Psalm 138 "In his nets"
(Pa'i Alberto Luna, Santiago, 11.12.2017) 123**

Lord, you scan me and you know me,
you know if I am connected or away,
from afar you sense what I am thinking.
Whether I am chatting, walking,
or sleeping, you access all my messages.

Even if I have not posted a single word,
you, Lord, already know the whole sentence.
You are there with me anywhere,
and scroll a finger over me.
Your knowledge from the cloud overcomes me,
the resolution is too high for me.

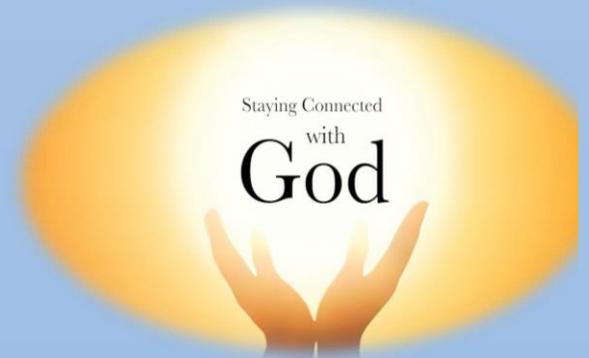
How can I escape you?
How can I escape your web?
If I find somewhere with no signal
or go to the edge with no Wi-Fi,
even there you are connected.

If I were to grow wings, like an
airplane, and fly without battery
to the far side of the ocean,
even without GPS you would find
me with no satellite.

If I say: I will delete my browsing
history, I will delete all my profiles.
For you, nothing will be hidden
and my passwords are all revealed.
Because since the beginning my
files have been saved in your database.

I thank you for many wonders,
They are your works and my soul knows this well
You had me recorded in your list
before I realized it.
You know all of my contacts.
You included my profile in your
friend list and added me to your group.

My favorite pages are before you,
and your portal makes a record of all
my accesses.
You log my every visit.
The data in your system are infinite,
they exceed the size of my memory.
How can I save them?
Even were I to spend my life
updating them I would never arrive
at your final version.



Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



Pray with Saint Joseph

From the Province Lebanon/Syria

1 Saint Joseph had the courage to assume the legal paternity of Jesus to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel (Mt1, 21).
... To give a name to a person meant to belong to it...
(Patris corde.)

Q: And I, what am I going to give to Jesus?

2 Saint Joseph reminds us that all those who seemingly are hidden or on the “second line” play an unparalleled role in the history of salvation.
(Patris corde.)
That is to say each of us!

Q: Do I realize how important I am in the history of salvation?

3 **A Tender and Loving Father.**

Jesus saw in Joseph the tenderness of God ... (Ps 103,13)
It is important to encounter the Mercy of God, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by experiencing truth and tenderness.
(Patris corde.)

Q: Am I going to confess? How do I live the sacrament of reconciliation?

4 **An Obedient Father.**

In every circumstance of his life, Joseph knew how to pronounce his “fiat”, just like Mary at the Annunciation, and like Jesus in Gethsemane.
In the hidden life of Nazareth, Jesus learned to do the Father's will in Joseph's school. (Patris corde.)

Q: And me, where is my Fiat?

5: **An Accepting Father.**

Joseph welcomes Mary without setting any preconditions. He trusts the Angel's words.
He welcomes it, takes responsibility for it and comes to terms with its own history. Faith gives meaning to any event, happy or sad.
(Patris corde.)

Q: What about me, where is my faith in the events that are happening in my life? Do I accept them peacefully?

6 A Creatively Courageous Father.

Heaven intervenes by trusting Joseph's creative courage. If sometimes God does not seem to help us, it does not mean that he has abandoned us, but that he trusts us,
that he trusts in what we can plan, invent, find.
(Patris corde.)

Q: Do I have the creative courage to face problems?

7 A Working Father

Jesus learned from Joseph the value, dignity, and joy of eating the bread, the fruit of his labour. Work becomes participation in the very work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the advent of the Kingdom...
The person who works, whatever his task, collaborates with God himself and becomes a little creative of the world around us.
(Patris corde.)

Q: Am I spreading the Kingdom of God in my work?

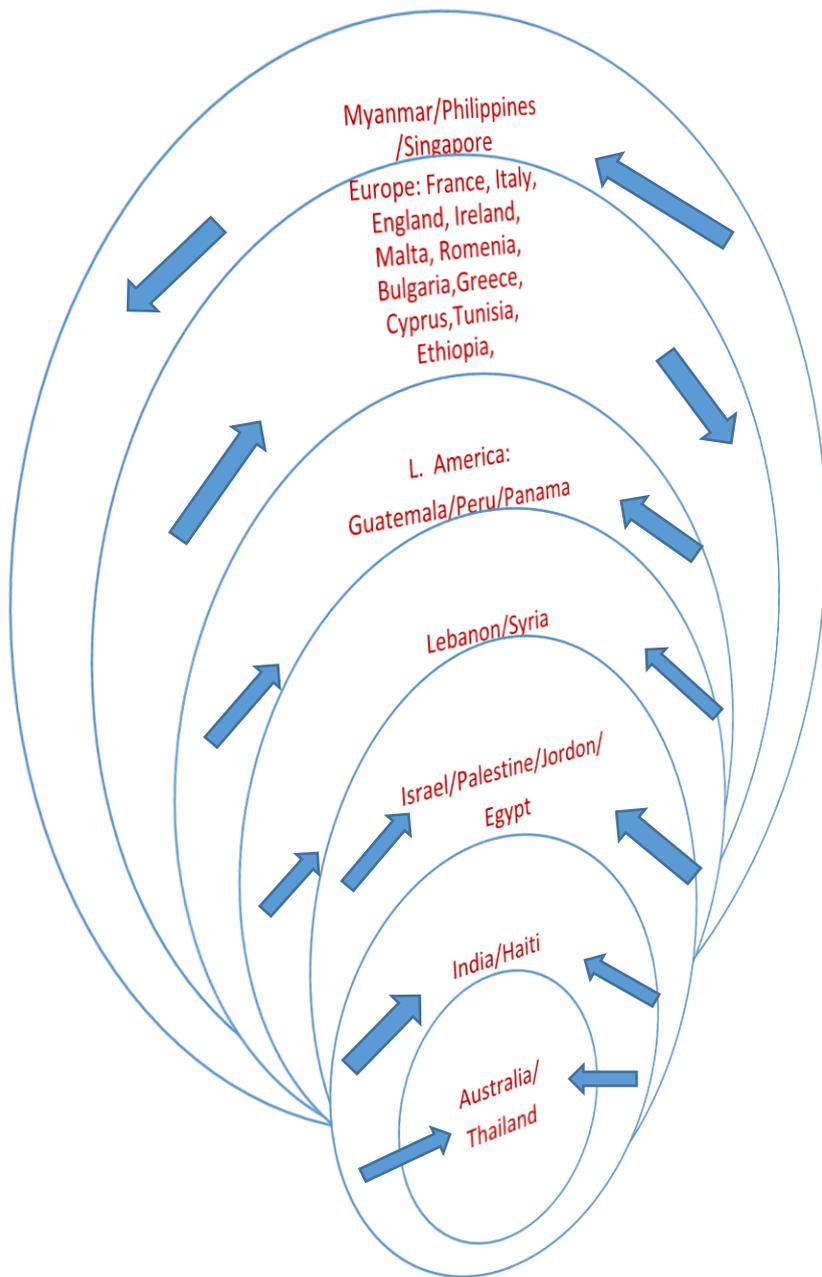
8: Father in the shadows.

Joseph is for Jesus the shadow on the earth of the Heavenly Father. We are not born a father, we become one. And you don't just become one because you give birth to a child, but because you care for it responsibly.
(Patris corde.)

Q: What about me? Do I reflect the shadow of the Heavenly Father on the earth?

9 Gn 41,55: All the land of Egypt was starved and the people cried out for bread from Pharaoh with a loud cry. To all the Egyptians he replied:
"Go find Joseph, do as he tells you."
Ite ad Joseph!
Allez à Joseph!
Go to Joseph! Andate a Giuseppe!

Sr. Martha Bou Rjaili SJA



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