



VOICES OF OUR SISTERS AND COLLABORATORS

**CASA GENERALIZIA
Suore S. Giuseppe dell'Apparizione
Via Paolo III , 16
00 165 ROMA, ITALIA**

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Editorial

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Rome.

Here we are once again with different links that connect us to the life and mission of the Congregation throughout the world. It is a joy and comfort to share with all our sisters our hopes, joys, sufferings, the reality of our context wherever we are and thus feel one body, caring and supporting one another in every possible way we can. I invite more sisters from all over to come forward with their stories of life and mission in the Congregation to share with the rest of the Congregation.

*I thank Sr. Margaret Anne who wrote the formative article for the first three bulletins on **Fratelli Tutti**. It was well appreciated.*

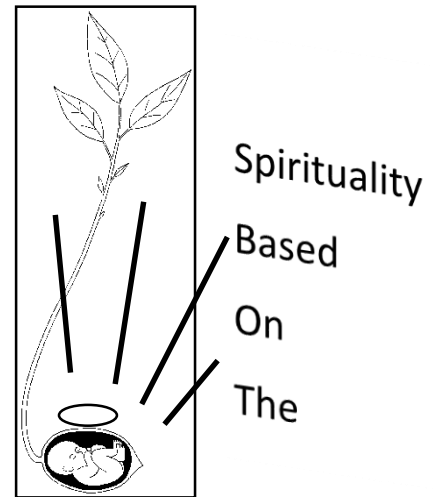
*The fourth edition begins a new series of articles that will follow on the **Life, Spirituality and the Charism of the St. Emílie de Vialar** by Sr. Janet Arrowsmith, SJA. Janet did her Doctorate on this topic and we welcome Janet to share her research and reflections through these articles with the whole Congregation.*

Wish you all grace filled time in spite of Covid and the heat. Be safe!!!!

Renee Quadros. SJA

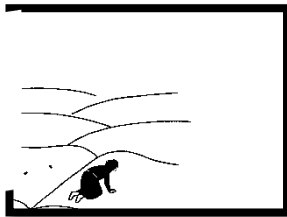
SPIRITUALITY and all that!

When Sister Renee asked me to write this article I wondered what I could say about this subject in two pages. Personally I have always been fascinated by the idea of Spirituality. Whenever I asked someone to define it for me, I got a different answer. When I was a young Sister, I found out that that every Sister, from other Congregations, I asked, claimed that their Spirituality was based on the Incarnation. So was ours, but what did that mean? No-one could take it further and explain more precisely how that affected my life. The Sisters would say such things as, "we are called to the poor," or "we are teachers, or nurses, missionaries etc.' In the noviciate, I thought that these descriptions that Sisters from other Orders gave, also applied to us. So how could we have a specific Spirituality that distinguished us from other Congregations? Perhaps we actually all have the same one and it is other things such as our history and social customs that distinguish us.



It sparked my interest and I began to read books on the topic but while I was like a cat with a saucer of cream, absorbing the spiritual contents of these books, I cannot say that they clarified my understanding of spirituality and especially what role it played in the Charism of the Congregation.

Pouring
Over



As I read, I began to collect definitions as they were offered in the various books. I got up to 72 different definitions before I stopped collecting. They did have things in common but they were all slightly different.

The type of things they had in common included:

- A way of reaching out to others.
- Something that affected the way life was lived.
- For many it was how they saw the action of God in their lives.
- Some way of expressing a sense of the esoteric or something beyond the physical experience of the body.

At this point in my life I had become involved in the establishment of our Lay Associates and I found myself with the task of explaining the Charism of the Congregation to our good friends who were attracted to us and St. Emilie, but who had little knowledge of theological issues. This task was a great gift to me as it forced me to bring my thoughts, on the Charism, into focus. I had to understand the different elements of which the Charism is comprised. We believe it is the great and unique



gift that God has given to each Congregation. I felt that the Spirituality of the Congregation is part of the Charism, but I felt that I needed to understand their relationship in order to explain the Charism, the gift it is and the demands it makes of us.

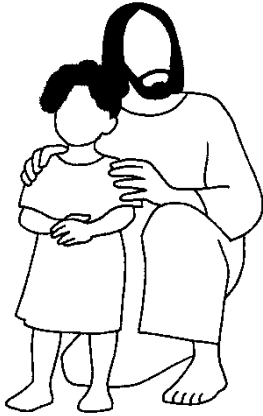


In this article I want to share with you how I now understand what is called Spirituality and its role in the Charism. Each one of us begins our journey in life in the 'mind' of God. It is He who calls us into being. Biological life begins with conception and from that moment on, God's presence and action in our lives never fails, no matter what we do. From the very beginning of our existence He also endows us with certain spiritual gifts. It is through these gifts that He attracts us to Himself. He reaches out to us using the gifts He has given us. We respond to Him because the gifts He gave us make us sensitive to His touch. These gifts also influence the manner in which we respond to Him. In this way a relationship develops as the individual grows up. This happens to everyone whether the person believes in God or not. Those who have the gift of faith realise it is God reaching out to them. It is this relationship that I would call a person's Spirituality. It is a person's habitual way of reaching out beyond themselves, stimulated by God who first reaches out to them according to the particular gifts He created them with, in order to fulfil the task for which He created them. Because these are such fundamental gifts they also affect the way a person relates to other people. There are many other influences which shape our way of making relationships as we grow up, but underpinning all these things are the original gifts of God. In a sense they are like small seeds when we are born, but they need to grow as we grow and mature.

My
Gifts
They
Look
So
small



They're
Supposed
To
Grow
With
you



For those of us who are called to be Christians, the first and greatest gift is a call to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, God and man. Before the coming of Christ God was 'out there', awesome, untouchable except perhaps by special holy people. With the Incarnation our idea of who God is in relation to us changed. We now had God with us. He 'did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, being in every way as we are.' Phil 2:6-7.

As Christian we believe that God is intimately with us every moment of our lives. We believe that we are in Christ and, if we let Him, as we grow our relationship with God is growing and being directed by the personal touch of God in Jesus through the Spirit, and revealing the Father. Thus, every Christian has a relationship with God, their personal Spirituality, which is rooted in the Incarnation.

Why is it important to realise this? Is it not really something for academics and theologians to concern themselves with! St. John Henry Newman, a Cardinal in England when St. Emilie was alive, said,

'God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.'

Scripture shows us how carefully God forms those he chooses. This formation begins with the fundamental gifts which shape our way of responding to Him. We don't have to be conscious of His touch but if we take the time to let Him reveal to us the gifts He has given us, we, with His ongoing help, will become more fully the person we were created to be. We will then more fully play our part in His plan of salvation.

At our baptism we are given another fundamental life changing gift, the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Spirit within us, is meant to enable us to live our lives in the freedom of the children of God. Relating to God and walking along the path of life He chose for us at our conception. We don't all have the same Spirituality and we are not all called to walk the same path. Yet as we walk, we will relate to God in the manner which comes from the gifts He gave us. The more we let Him develop these gifts, the more we become who we were meant to be. It is the different mixture of gifts which results in different spiritualities. Those of us who are called to be members of a Religious Family will have individual spiritualities that match, like notes in a harmonious chord.



In the next article I will explain better different Spiritualities and illustrate how this applies to St. Emilie and the Congregation.

Sister Janet Arrowsmith, SJA

Australia - The Land of the Southern Cross

Memory is the mother of all wisdom. (Aeschylus)

The wind blew and massive waves tossed “The Lady Amherst”, a merchant ship from London which narrowly escaped being wrecked. On board, according to shipping records, were ‘four Sisters belonging to a French Institute’. They had departed London on the 31 January 1855 and arrived at the struggling Swan River Colony on the 24th May 1855.



Earlier, hearing of a new missionary Institute, Bishop Serra of Perth, visited Mother Emilie in Marseilles and requested Sisters for his Diocese. Mother Emilie chose four missionary disciples who were to be trail blazers in the emerging Church of the Swan River Colony. Writing to Mr Cassan on 7 July 1854 she says:

I have nothing to fear concerning those sisters I am sending to Australia because it was not my own idea, but that of the bishop of this mission who came to ask me for sisters who would provide a variety of works there.

The Sisters chosen were:

Mother Julie Cabaganol aged 25 and leader of the group who became known for her deep spirituality, humility and patience. Bishop Serra writing to Mother Emilie Julien on the 20 August 1857 says:

It would be difficult to find a superioress more humble, more kind, or more suited to preside over a little community than this good Sister Julie



On the invitation of Father Mateu, Mother Julie moved to a new foundation at Albany in 1878 and her pastoral care of the poor and sick became legendary. On her death in May 1895, she was given a public funeral with the Mayor and Councillors acting as pall bearers. In the Albany Pioneer Cemetery, there is a polished granite cross, erected by public subscription marking her grave.

Sr. Lucy Fieuzet aged 42 had limited English and undertook the duties of cook and the teaching of French. She became known for her hospitality and care of poor children housed at the Convent. She died at the age of

85 in 1894.

Srs Zoe De Chamouin and Emilie Petit both 19 years of age were Novices. They would be professed at Easter time in 1856. Sr. Zoe spent several years in Fremantle and in 1878 went to Albany where she became highly regarded as a teacher. Following a visit of Sr. Marcelene Loubet, General Secretary, Sr. Zoe travelled with her to Burma and then to France. She returned the next year bringing with her Sr. Cecilia David who became the Novice Mistress in Fremantle and Sr. Mathilde Dauriac (left for Burma in 1909) who went with her to Albany. Sr. Zoe died in Albany aged 71 in 1906.

Sr. Emilie Petit was responsible for the school where grammar, embroidery, painting, music and religious education were the main focus. Whilst supervising children she was hit by a cricket ball and died as a result of complications. Her death in December 1878 was recorded in the local Catholic paper and states: -

This sister devoted her talents to the education of the young...She was a highly accomplished and educated lady and for many years had the principal charge of the Young Ladies' School attached to the Convent of St Joseph. She became widely known and loved by her pupils who had deep respect for her. (2 Jan 1879)

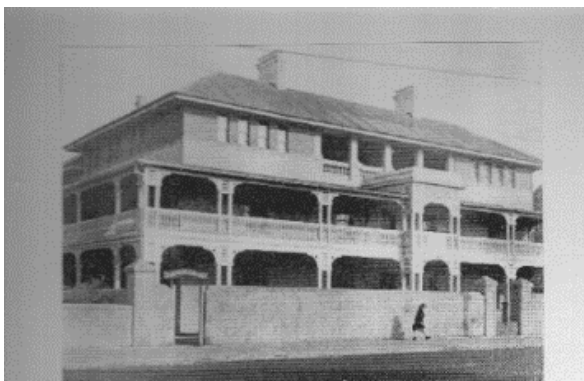
Conditions were difficult for these early Sisters. A letter from Sister Julie Cabagnol 18 Jan 1864 pleads with Mother Emilie Julien for more Sisters and says: -

If you would see dear Mother, the need we have of other sisters, you would not have the courage to leave us all alone. We cannot hold on much longer.

With the arrival of St Therese McKenzie from Burma in 1868 a Convent was built on mission land and other land was purchased adjacent. Financial concerns were an ever-present reality as described in a letter to the Mother House.

We thank the Lord even though we have only got the wall yet, for the truth is, not one of the rooms, classrooms or even the parlour have been whitewashed. We do not need any ornaments for our mantelpiece as there isn't any. There is just the place to make a fire, but that reminds us of the vow of poverty. The class room for the girls has not any ceiling.

By 1898 the community was composed of 15 Sisters, three novices and five postulants. The local population slowly increased where the need for education was paramount. The standard of education was appreciated by the local people with whom the Sisters developed strong ties. In 1915 the Congregation was recognised as a legal entity in Australia through the Act of Incorporation.



Communities were founded in Albany in 1878 and Northam in 1886 where the Sisters were responsible for a school. From 1890 onwards other schools in the Fremantle area were opened, a boys' boarding school in Kalamunda in 1921 and three smaller country schools were established in Cunderdin, Mundaring and Mt Barker. In the early 1950s the Sisters were requested to open schools in the Diocese of Melbourne - Gisborne and West Ivanhoe.

Overall at this time the Sisters were responsible for twenty different schools in the Dioceses of Perth, Bunbury and Melbourne.

With 122 Sisters in the Province, the 1950s was a time of expansion. A small nursing home for Ladies was opened in Kalamunda and to commemorate the 100 years of the Srs of St Joseph in Australia, St Joseph's Hospital Bicton was opened. Many of the communities were in country areas with three or four Sisters. The teaching of music occurred in nearly all communities and was the main source of income. Pastoral outreach in Parishes, visitation of homes, hospitals, prisons, teaching of religious Education, especially for children living in remote areas, and liturgical participation were

all engaged in. Aboriginal education was invested in with the collaboration of the Sisters of St John of God in Beagle Bay in the north of the State.

The 1960s and 1970's brought many changes. The Fremantle Convent and School were relocated to Hilton in 1968 and later in 1990 sold to the Archdiocese and today continues as a secondary school. The gradual decline in the numbers of Sisters resulted in the transferring, merging or dissolving of various works. Parish Primary Schools saw the employment of lay principals. In 1990 the Associate Programme was formed.

The closing of the nursing home in Kalamunda was followed by adaptation of the building for the care of aged Sisters. At this time a 'Ministry of Intercession' was inaugurated whereby the sisters



prayed daily for various intentions coming from past pupils, family and friends. Later inter-congregational negotiations resulted in access through Southern Cross Care to a nursing home. Two houses in Samson were demolished and rebuilt for the ongoing aged care of the Sisters.

With the movement from schools, many Sisters were offered the opportunity to retrain and take up ministries in the area of pastoral work, assisting with care and

accommodation centres, St Vincent de Paul, hospice, refugee houses, chaplaincies and the teaching of English to migrant. Others worked at Diocesan Agencies in media, teacher and adult formation at the Catholic Education Office.

It was a time for the selling of large institutional buildings and associated property. St Joseph's Hospital was sold in 1993 into the St John of God Health Care System ensuring the continuation of Catholic health care in the area. A feature of many of these changes was governed by a desire for the mission to continue within a new framework.

The earliest recorded interaction with the Asian Provinces and Delegations was in 1868 and has continued up to the present day in response to a variety of needs. Nine Australian Sisters were missioned to India, Burma, Thailand and the Philippines, often to teach English and other associated ministries. Numerous Sisters from these countries have come to Australia for formation in Sydney or Perth, and for community and educational experiences, particularly the learning of English. Thailand became a Delegation of Australia in May 2009 and a Province on the 15th May 2021 with Australia becoming a General Delegation.



The Church in Australia initially was made up of large numbers of Irish and European settlers. In more recent years Asian, African and South Americans have made their home in Australia and been significant in the local Church which over time has increasingly become more multicultural. Two small communities were established in Canning Vale and later Kardinya in view of a continuing intercultural mission. Canning Vale Parish was named St Emilie de Vialar Parish on the 15 August 2004.

The 166 years of the Australian Province has seen considerable change within a diversity of situations. Notable has been the trust in Divine Providence, simplicity of life and a concern for the poor. This spirit transmitted by our pioneer Sisters has infiltrated the communities, schools, other works and the wider Church and society. For all, we



'Give Thanks'.

By Sr. Margaret Anne Beech SJA



Australia Declared a General Delegation 14th May 2021



Gathering of all the Sisters of Australia with the members of the General Government.





Sr. Monika Duellmann, the Superior General declares Australia as a General Delegation and appoints Sr. Anita Callaghan, the Vicar General responsible for the life and mission of the delegation for a year.



For more details, see the Video YouTube click the link below:

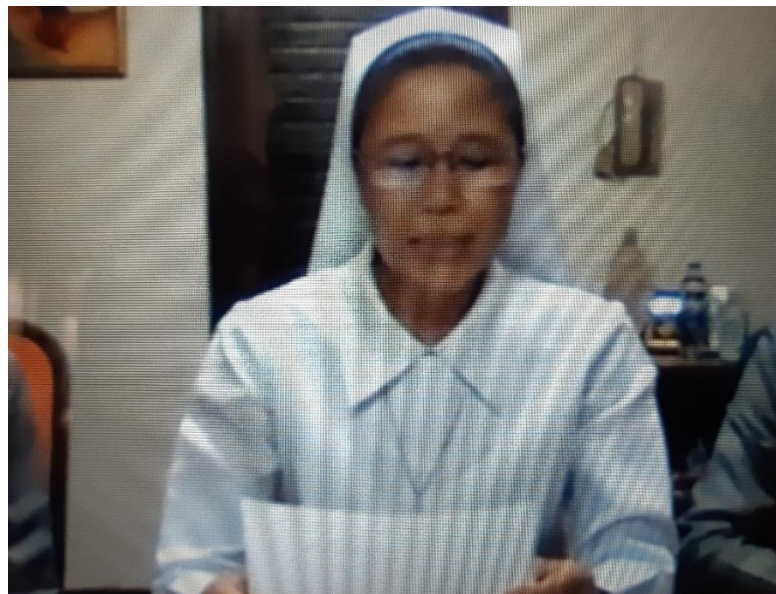
<https://youtu.be/4H4EKRmmXec>

Delegation of Thailand is elevated as a Province.

Thailand the Provincial Delegation of Australia was elevated to the Statutes of a Province on 15th May 2021.



Sr. Monika Duellmann, the Superior General declares the Delegation as a Province.



Sr. Martina NGAMWONG nominated as the 1st Provincial Superior.



CONGRATULATIONS! WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

On behalf of the Sisters from Thailand Sr. Martina writes.....

Last year we have all experienced many events such as the Covid 19 outbreak. It continues to be a serious problem because of the number of deaths which continue to increase day by day. We have had to make sudden lifestyle changes and face an uncertainty which affects everyone around the world.

God is using this event to teach and remind us to turn to Him for we are not self-reliant but are called to realize that without God we can do nothing. We attempt to appreciate our common nature, our common home and not forget our fellow human beings so as to promote a universal fraternity in today's world.

Pope Francis calls on humanity to realize that we are all brothers and sisters. It is a cry from the heart which begs us to kneel and plead with everyone to reduce and refrain from violence against each other and to engage in dialogue for peace in our world. Together we pray that the intentions of Pope Francis will be fulfilled in our country and in our world so that all will truly be one.

We would like to thank Sr. Monika Duellmann, the Superior General and the General Council who informed us of the good news that Thailand has become a Province. We believe this is a blessing from God to our Congregation in Thailand. At the same time, we express our gratitude to all the missionary Sisters who have been part of our journey. This year we commemorated 60 years as missionaries in Thailand. As part of these celebrations, we included the 25th Anniversary of Religious Life of St Ann Marie Ritoo and the Final Profession of Sr. Naphatchanok Chinnawong.

We express our gratitude to the Sisters in Australia who supported us in many ways. They have been a good example for us in the life of a missionary rooted in the spirit of St Emilie, our Foundress.

We thank you for understanding us and letting us grow. We will bloom where we are planted. We give our thanks and gratitude to Sr. Jacqueline and the Sisters who spent time as missionaries in Thailand and others who supported us through their interest, concern and prayer.

It is a big blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit who blesses our Congregation in serving the Church in Thailand. We have confidence that we will move forward and are sure that we will be supported with prayer helping us to be faithful witnesses to those around us and to those we serve.



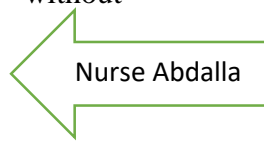
Congratulations Sisters for the 60 Years of your journey and Presence in Thailand.

In line two: Behind the White Suit Sister Mona Totah

One day, I had corona disease, I stayed in the convent for 14 days, and I couldn't get out. I lost my freedom, I felt lonely in spite of my rare movement in the convent. I spent my time praying, cleaning, cooking and communicating with friends. It was a time of grace to live with myself and set up my priorities. Until one day I visited a friend of mine in our hospital St. Joseph in Jerusalem, he was infected with corona and entered the intensive care department because of his critical condition. I decided to visit him and there was the surprise.



I took 20 minutes to wear the special clothing, and I was eager to see what was inside. I went in and saw the patients in bed... Some were on devices, others in bed without movement. I felt tight and remembered the time of grace I experienced when I was sick in the convent.



I got out of there half an hour later and was shocked by what I had lived. Two days later, I prepared a lecture for Saint Emily's friends on the Pope's Apostolic Message:

A Father's Heart to St. Joseph. It was then that I understood the meaning of: "individuals on the second line", those unknown soldiers working behind the lights for humanity. I thought about the patients and cleaners I met in the corona section and then I decided to have another experience to work with them even for a few hours in the department. I prayed and asked God for help and went from the early hours of the morning to be with them.

I saw the nurses talking with the patients through headphones and behind monitors. I watched how they got ready before going in. It took them 15 to 25 minutes of preparation in order to avoid any possible infection. So I decided to go in with the cleaning department to help and see what was going on.

Difficulty breathing, high body temperature and increasing heartbeat: that's what happened to me from the beginning. I tried to forget as soon as I started working. I was running to meet the patients' requests: a glass of water, a hot drink, bathing tools, changing bed sheets... What a prison, that's what I thought. I don't mean here my imprisonment, my clothes, my limitations, but the patients'. I started counting the minutes and felt suffocated and breathless. My head started hurting and it was only an hour. After an hour and a half, I couldn't anymore. I ran away to the exit. As soon as I got out, I took off my clothes at a lightning speed and started breathing. Oh my God.... What is this? Some questions came to my mind: How can nurses and cleaners stay in there for 5 hours inside these clothes? How can they breathe? To give hope to patients who can't see them with open eyes or touch them... How can they choose to be in this situation for a whole year?

By talking to some of them, I touched human heroism and creative courage, and I felt compassion and mercy in their hearts towards the sick. They shared their difficulties and the stress they experience inside, the speed of work, the handling of patients' psychology, and at times the small number of personnel. But the message of nursing seemed bright in their words, all of them volunteered to serve the patients in this section not for financial incentives but for the sick human being, the experience they gained by working with corona patients exceeds the experiences of all their years as the results cannot be predicted and instant communication is urgent. For the patient, the nurse is the savior, the

brother, the assistant, the mentor and everything he has. The psychological collapse of nurses is totally unacceptable despite the difficulty of dealing with some situations especially in multiple deaths at the same time.

Asef, the head nurse says: "Sometimes we can't bring a glass of water to a patient because we're busy with medical matters, but before leaving the department, we make sure to check each patient and provide what he needs. Sometimes the pressure we live in is intolerable, but we have learned that life is short and we must take advantage of every moment. When I come home with my family, I value every minute I live with them. I don't care about superficial things anymore; I don't care about myself anymore, because there is much more precious thing: human life."

Mr. Jamil, the hospital administrator adds: "We wanted to turn sections of the hospital to treat corona patients without the Ministry of Health asking us to do so, because we are here to serve every human being and we are in line with the needs of humanity. We are trying to alleviate human suffering by all means in emergencies and others. How many patients, because of economic conditions, can't pay hospital fees? But it doesn't matter because we are here for every human being and everyone has the right to receive the best services. We have also made comprehensive insurance for nurses' life in the Corona department to ensure somewhat their future lives in case of an emergency. We believe that we provide the best services to the hospital based on a strong professional nursing staff."



Nurse Asef

Sister Lyda, the superior added: As nuns, we work in this hospital and make sure that our door is open to everyone. We have recently allocated quotas for the poor, those who do not have health insurance and how numerous they are. We see Jesus suffering in them; we try to ease their pain because it is where we find our happiness."



The cleaners

At the end of my visit, I came across the psychologist Rand, she explained to me: "I am new here and I have been employed in this section in order to provide psychological support to corona patients and their parents and to communicate with them and control the various challenges. The nursing staff lives the burn out and the cleaners risk to achieve the best result, but the hospital has provided training programs and methods for psychological discharge. The difficulties certainly do not end, but the love of man and the saving of life overcome any difficulty.

Now what I can add other than words from Pope Francis' message:

"Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspapers and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all." Patris Corde

FRAGMENTS OF LIFE

FRATERNITY OF CAVALLASCA - ITALY - 2021

A different afternoon

"Everyone does what one is able to do" ... (A. Cavasino pg. 118), It is beautiful for us to communicate the atmosphere of being together in a different way.

June 2nd - the Feast of the Italian Republic - we, as a fraternity, wanted to mark it with an afternoon of celebration. For its preparation, every sister was involved with her own ideas and talents: technical (computer), musical (in the search for songs suitable for our group), culinary or historical (remembering the events of that distant June 1946).

Each of us has put a little stone down, so that we can live together a moment different from the daily routine. We started the afternoon, having an ice cream - for the occasion - and after that each of us tried to remember where she was on June 2nd, 1946. It was really a story communication and of life that has been good for all. It was also a way to keep our memory trained.

It was also a moment of mutual help to make everyone feel at ease. We have experienced these words from Psalm 133: *"How pleasant, how sweet for brothers and sisters to stay together!"*

Thank you, dear sisters!

Another beautiful and I would say unique experience was lived on April 20, 2021. Starting from the idea of the Superior, Sr. Marilena Beretta, we reflected on the second chapter of the Constitutions. Together, in the Chapel, in an atmosphere of prayer, we welcomed being a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Apparition and as a symbol, we placed a real mirror! For each sister, it was a moment of welcome and shared prayer.

BEATIFICATION OF SISTER MARIA LAURA MAINETTI

On the Sunday of June 6th 2021, the whole Church celebrated the beatification of Sister Maria Laura Mainetti- DAUGHTER OF THE CROSS, of the Diocese of Como.



In 2000, she was killed by 3 girls belonging to a satanic sect. While she was dying, she asked Jesus to forgive them. The Church recognizes in this sister, the martyr "in hatred of the faith". As a community, we participated with faith in the beatification rite through television.

Sister Maria Laura, a very simple figure, in her daily life, was a soul open to God and to the needs of people (according to the testimonies of those who knew her). She used to say: *"Young people are the poor of today"* but is not that phrase also actual today in 2021?

The beatification of Sister Maria Laura is a spiritual support for everyone who works for others, without prejudice. Sister Maria Laura is a current figure who leads us to reflect on the gift of a gratuitous love, that knows how to dare and give value to all the beauty of the feminine world.

According to some testimonies, Sister Maria Laura rendered the humblest services, despite being the superior of the house (*Sister Beniamina Mariani*).

“You were a real gift from the Lord; Witness of the Gospel, martyr of the faith; good overcomes evil ” (*Mons. Ambrogio Balatti - Archpriest of Chiavenna - at the time of martyrdom*).

The message which Sister Maria Laura gives us today is: to surrender our life into the hands of the Father and to forgive those who harm us.

Certain sentences of Saint Emilie also echo this: *"God is present everywhere and leads you by the hand, you are his daughter"*; *"The Lord supports me. "*



“ How happy I am when I see my Sisters animated by a true spirit of compassion. I do not know how to express also the suffering that I feel when it is otherwise.”

(To Sr. Celeste Peyre, 19.7.1853)



Myanmar



When you see a Cross, it is a sign that the Lord is with you to assist you. Do not fear.

Dear Sisters in Myanmar, we want to let you know that we are with you in Spirit and united with you through our prayers. We are aware of your situation.

Wish you all, Courage to live as daughters of St. Emilie and disciples of Jesus in the midst of your challenging crises all around you.

Blessings



hope

*The First Professions of 5 Novices of the Central
Novitiate
Holy Cross Parish, Philippines
17th June 2021.*



Obediences



Syria

Myanmar

Thailand

Australia

Syria





For more photos click the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/KX8tztjnJ8SE>

The Newly Professed write from the Philippines

“My life totally belongs to God.” St. Emilie

June 17, 2021 at Holy Cross Church, was a day of great joy for the four of us, Sr. Angela, Sr. Mary, Sr. Agatha and Sr. Maria Mew. We pronounced our first “Yes” to God, who initiated and had called each one of us by name to be his instruments of love and mercy.

The ceremony started at 10:00 am. Our Parish Priest Fr. Roger S. Positar was the main celebrant, and was so proud to have our Profession celebration in His Parish. There were seven other priests, our SJA Sisters, Novices and some parishioners present and prayed for and shared our joy. We made our vows into the hands of Sr. Marina New Ni Shwe, who was appointed by the Generalate to receive our vows. As we pronounced our vows, we felt the presence of God and a deep joy within. When we received the Cross, it reminded us that our life totally belongs to God and affirms us as members of SJA Congregation.

Before the final blessing we received our Obedience to go on mission, which was a most exciting moment. At the same time, we are challenged for the unseen situation in our new mission, yet we willingly accept it with great trust in God’s Divine providence. We also would like to express our gratitude to our Superior General, Sr. Monika Duellmann and all SJA Sisters for your support and prayers for each one of us.

We eventually have overcome our worries and anxieties for our program, due to many restrictions in this time of pandemic. With the help of God, the celebration went smoothly and we ended up with grateful hearts. Praise the Lord who has done marvelous things for all of us.

The newly professed Sisters

Sr. Angela Saung Wing
Sr. Agatha Tin Nilar Min
Sr. Maria Naruemon Lapho
Sr. Mary Tin Zar Naing

SR OLUCHI NWACHUKWU St. Emílie's Parish, Australia.

Sr. Oluchi who had to travel to Australia during her novitiate was unable to return to Manila due to Covid. Therefore, she continued her novitiate there following her novitiate Programme with rest of the group in Manila and had part of her classes in Australia. Sr. Oluchi's First Profession took place at St Emílie's Parish Church, Canning Vale, on June 12th. Sr. Lilian Bong welcomed the



congregation to this joyous celebration, praising and thanking God for the gift of Oluchi's 'Yes' to a fuller life in Christ through her commitment to the vocation of Religious life in the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition.



In attendance were most of the Sisters of the Delegation, Oluchi's family and friends from Sydney, members of the Aboriginal Community amongst whom Oluchi worked and a good number of parishioners.

Ten priests concelebrated Mass with the Parish Choir embellishing the ceremony with appropriate music. Fr Jean Noel gave a very inspiring homily focusing on commitment to whatever vocation we are called to.

Sr Jacqueline Jones accepted Oluchi's vows, a very solemn moment as we reflected that it was some years since we had a First Profession.

Sr. Oluchi spoke to the congregation at the end of Mass. Her main message was that of thanks to those who encouraged her in her vocation, including those in the Philippines. "To all the sisters of my Congregation, especially those who accompanied me here in Australia, for their constant support. I am grateful to our younger members for using their artistic gifts for decorating the church and hall for all of us today."

After a camera rush we adjourned to the nearby hall where a beautiful banquet of food, catering for many cultures, was in readiness and enjoyed by all who participated. It was a very joyous occasion much appreciated by the Delegation and all those present.

Sr. Bernadette Casey



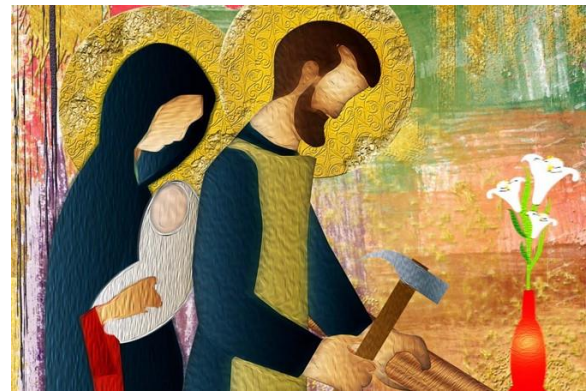


Lord, we give you thanks.



Continued....

St Joseph



Devotion to St Joseph is a comparatively late development in Christian history. In the ninth century local churches had commemorations in his honour as the husband of Mary but this did not become a feast day in Western Churches until the 12 century. He was proclaimed Patron of the Universal Church in 1870 and later his name was added to Eucharistic prayers. Recently Pope Francis has added seven new invocations to the Litany of St. Joseph.

We find St Joseph at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments. One who welcomed the will of God and accepted the events of life despite not fully understanding what lay ahead. His spiritual path is not one that explains, but rather accepts and is firmly proactive. He accepts life as it is with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments by confronting reality with open eyes.

Fr Richard Leonard SJ writes about Joseph as the patron saint of shy backroom players who say little but do a lot. He describes him as a loving, obedient and accepting father who was creative, courageous and a working father in the shadows. He encourages us to welcome others as they are and to show special concern for the weak.

St Joseph earned an honest living providing for his family and teaching us the value and dignity of work. Each of us can discover in Joseph a person who goes unnoticed, is discreet, an intercessor, a support and guide as we immerse ourselves in the history of salvation.

SEVEN NEW INVOCATIONS

1. Guardian of the Redeemer

St Joseph you are a passionate identifier of God's will. You put God's will above your own plans and projects by accepting what God asked you to do. You were a good caretaker and provider for Mary and Jesus. (Community of Chennai, India)

2. Servant of Christ

He is the Father of Jesus who welcomed, shielded, loved and guided Jesus and Mary.

(Sr. Anusha Antoinette, India)



3. Minister of Salvation

At times, amidst problems we are challenged, discouraged, feel helpless and insecure in seeing the suffering of innocent people. However, in the course of time, we have witnessed your loving protection. You have made us believe that you are always with us. Your presence in our life has given us courage and inspiration. We entrust ourselves, the mission and our country Haiti to you. Take care of us all. Please, continue to journey with us always.

(Sisters in Haiti)

4. Support in Difficulties

Whatever current season we are facing let us be assured that God has not forgotten us, and can restore the most broken of situations (Sr. Quinta D'Souza, India)

5. Patron of Exiles

Whenever he strode on the rough roads in Egypt, he never thought of his feet but rather thought of the child's little feed and his needs. (Sr. Quinta D'Souza, India)

6. Patron of the Afflicted

We wait to hear your word, your warm
and cherished word.

Bring comfort and console us in times of
fear and doubt

We thank you for the sign of your light in the
midst of darkness

Our planet awaits your blessings.

(Sr. Leena Kolge, India)



During hard times, allow us to remember that God has a plan for our lives just as he had for the Holy Family. May every loss, every gain, teach us but not break us. Through this guide us to Jesus.
(Sr. Quinita D'Souza, India)

7. Patron of the Poor.

St Joseph protects the world despite being torn apart with the pandemic. Caring for those who suffer and are living on the peripheries, those who are jobless, poor and marginalised. Joseph offers us a way of listening to the desires and plan of God and for us to be responsible in learning how to read the signs of the times. May we value silence in our life as we participate in the mission entrusted to us especially with those who suffer poverty in its many forms.

(Sr. Emilia Ekka)

**Joseph entered into the mysteries of the life of Jesus,
grant us the faith to recognize and follow the call of your Spirit in our lives.**

References.

Richard Leonard SJ. 'The Tablet' 12 March 2021
Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, Patris Corde
Contributions by Sisters



Testimony read at the funeral of Sr. Nicole KARAKOLEVA

Sr. Nicole was a fighter. Born in Bulgaria 94 years ago, she studied with the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition in Plovdiv. The desire to give her life as a religious gradually grew within her. But the communist power that took over Bulgaria in 1946 drove the foreign sisters out of the country. So Nicole and other young aspirants were brought clandestinely to France, in conditions they never forgot!

So it was that Sr. Nicole made her profession in Marseille at the age of 24. She was sent on mission to Gaillac, Vesoul, St Maur, sometimes as a cook, sometimes as a nurse's aide, fulfilling these functions with great care, never sparing her efforts when it was a question of giving pleasure.

Unfortunately, her health deteriorated. She underwent very serious kidney operations in Lyon, which allowed her to live, but with great regular physical suffering that she bore with courage and energy that forced admiration.

From Corte, where she spent several years in a small community of four sisters doing pastoral work, she decided, in agreement with her superiors, to return to Bulgaria, knowing that she would not be able to return to France, since she did not have French nationality. She returned to Bulgaria to care for her elderly mother, but above all, as she herself said, "to experience the same trials as her people" who were under the yoke of the Communists, with numerous restrictions and persecutions of Christians.

She began her life as a worker in a factory that made clothes for small dolls, which were then sold abroad. Like her disabled companions, she was paid by the piece and often finished her work by candlelight in the basement where she lived.

She never forgot her desire to make God's love known and clandestinely, at the risk of her life, she explained the Gospel to young people who have never heard of it.

She remained very close to her family, whom she comforted and who also helped her to be healed.

Finally, in 1989, the country was liberated and Sr. Nicole participated in the great joy of a country that had regained its freedom. She was able to teach catechism, to organize masses in the chapel of her neighborhood, to visit the sick and to support others. Known to all as "**Mariana**", her house was always full of visitors who came to ask for friendship, advice, material help, etc...

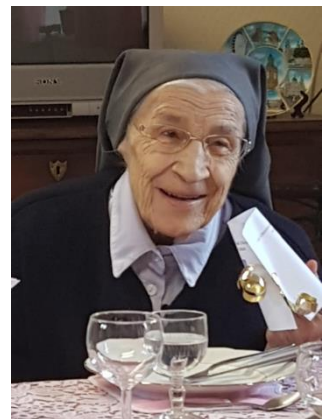


Then, like everyone else, Sr. Nicole grew older and could no longer stay alone. She thought about whether to stay in her country, be with her family, go to a convent in Bulgaria, or return to live in a community in France - the country she always loved - where she could live her last years with the Sisters of her Congregation whom she also loved very much.

Finally, she chose to return to France, and arrived in Plouguenast in 2012. There too she integrated and gave of her time, especially to MAPA as long as she could and took her place in the community taking much time to pray and assume small services to others.

In front of such a full life, we can give thanks to the Lord who gave her an unshakeable faith, a strength of life, a courage for each day to overcome the trials, but also a fidelity to fight against herself, because Sr. Nicole had a strong character which could sometimes create difficulties.

It was precisely this strength of character that she put at the service of God and others. As we say goodbye to her, we can only thank the Lord for the life of our Sister Whom He accompanied throughout her journey.



From SJA Community, Plouguenast



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR THAI SISTERS ST. EMILIE SCHOOL WINS TOP AWARD

As the Academic Year closes in Thailand, the Ministry of Education happily chose the Feast of St. Joseph to present the National Award for Excellence in Education to St Emilie School in Ubon.

Thailand, with a population of 70million and more than 3500 Private Schools, annually selects two schools for this auspicious Award. Recognition was given here, to the manner in which St Emilie's School has promoted and succeeded in reaching its Outcomes that included, yet went far beyond, the measuring of Academic success.

The Culture of the School was seen in the quality of education where:

- Relationships are built on Trust and Respect; Visitors are made to feel truly welcome; and Students choose to be involved in various extra-curricular activities or do their homework on site well after the school day has officially finished. We are proud that St Emilie's has continued its commitment to include the poor, as well as maintain a very low fee structure for the many families that make sacrifices to give their children the best education.

So, to receive this Award in a year where COVID-19 has thrown up many new challenges to all schools, speaks volumes of the professional commitment and standards set by hard-working teachers and, not least, their willingness to work as a Team.

In fact, after the Lockdown St Emilie's became 'one of the very first schools in Thailand allowed to re-open; and is still being used by the Government as a Model School. It has received numerous visits from Inspectors, TV Stations, and other School Principals asking a range of questions such as: "How have you operated the Technology for Remote Learning?"; "How do you make your school so clean?"; "How have you achieved such a jump in your Academic Standards?"

School Principal, Sr. Chalermisri, agreed that "There had been a determined effort to raise Standards across the board, with a focus on making the whole school Student-Centered." She then added that "Good Pastoral Care is founded on respecting the dignity of each and every individual."

When The Award was presented, specific attention was drawn to St. Emilie's: excellent hygiene, good discipline, spirit of co-operation, and an engaging curriculum.

Congratulations to Sr. Martina, Sr. Chalermisri and the Ubon Community for their hard work and commitment. This prestigious Award will always be a shining light in the history of the School.



Congratulations Dear Sisters! Well Done!!

Sr. Bernadette Raheb who lives in Canada speaks about her mission

Dear sisters,

Here I am, writing to you from Canada.

Some will wonder, why Canada. What are you doing there, do we have a community there, how did you reach Canada....and so on ...I wish I have an answer because I



myself have no answer to all these questions. I have never thought about coming to this country or living in it, and here I am living and working for almost 18 years now. It is a long story how I ended up here, I do believe that Saint Emilie and Saint Joseph wanted me to stay here for a reason. As in so many places in the world, there are so many needs here. We hear and know that Canada is a very rich country, that takes good care of her people, a peaceful land that everyone dreams to come and live in it.

In my experience, it's a very welcoming country, so full of refugees from all over the world, different languages and different cultures. They have a lot of differences, a lot of difficulties to adapt to the culture of Canada. One thing I do here is to work with these refugees, helping them to learn the language and the culture of Canada, at the same time helping the Canadian to understand the culture of these people by giving some talks in different Churches. Unfortunately, I am the only religious in this area. There are so many needs I wish I can do more. I also work at the French Catholic school just to be a religious presence. There are so many agricultural workers who are here for a certain period of time to work in the farms, mostly from Mexico, Guatemala, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Haiti, Germany and so many other places. Fortunately, I am working with them all in vegetable packing. I have a chance to see them every day and to share with them the Mass every Sunday. I help the priest to give them Communion and pray with them. We also have so many Indian university students who come to work in the place where I work and we share so much together.

That's little bit of what I am doing here in Canada. The needs are huge; I wish I could have some help. Greetings to all...We shall be United in prayer. Take care and be safe. GOD BLESS

Sr. Bernadette Raheb



Our Lady “Ark of the Covenant” calls her children

The Ark of the Covenant in the Bible

The Hebrew people, walking in the deserts, carried with them a large box of acacia wood, covered with gold, on the sides of which were fixed rings in which wooden bars were passed, allowing it to be transported. The casket contained the precious tablets of the Law, given by Yahweh to Moses on Mount Sinai, a golden urn containing the manna and Aaron's stick. This chest was called "the ark of the Covenant" because it



was to recall the covenant made between God and his people at Sinai, and it symbolized, for the people, the very presence of God in them. This casket got lost in a hill near Jerusalem, where our sisters are now.

Sister Josephine Rumèbe - Foundress of the Sanctuary

Born in France in 1850, her mother and sisters said the first word she spoke was Jerusalem. Around 5 years old, when she did not understand anything, she was already saying to herself: *“When I grow up, I would sell everything I own and I would have enough to go to Jerusalem where I want to live and die.”* Entering the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition order, she had quite a few difficulties during the novitiate. Despite all the opposition that arose against obedience for the Holy Land, she was designated for Jerusalem. When this news was announced to her, she was overjoyed.

In Jerusalem, with the help of Brother Louis of the White Fathers, who had great experience in purchasing land, her adventure began to honor the Virgin Mary on the hill. Sister Josephine had received from a cousin a sum of 5,000 francs in gold which she immediately put away under a slab in her room. She asked Brother Louis not to exceed this amount for the purchase of land at Kyriat Yearim. But he buys the whole hill for 20,732 francs. Sister Josephine, saw there a clear indication of Providence. And when she had counted her money, there was exactly the amount needed for the purchase. She had several such miracles during her life, especially with the

construction of the basilica. And it was on August 31, 1924, that Mgr. Barlassina, Patriarch of Jerusalem, solemnly consecrated the church.



Almost 100 years later

On July 2 of this year, we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Ark of the Covenant in Kiryat Ye'arim. This celebration was organized to raise funds to restore the roof structure of the church which is in danger, in preparation for celebrating, in 3 years, the centenary of the basilica.

In a festive atmosphere, many Palestinian Christians from the cities around Jerusalem were present alongside our sisters who came in large numbers. We went up the hill praying the Rosary. The statue of the Virgin is carried on the shoulders, songs and meditations accompanied the prayer. Prayer corners were set up along the way with an icon of the Virgin, candles and flowers. “The Latin patriarchal vicar in Jerusalem, Mgr. Marcuzzo, who presided the solemn mass, said “Today we celebrate the feast formerly of the Visitation and now the feast of Our Lady of the Ark of the Covenant because it is here that the Ark of the Covenant was stopped 20 years ...



After Mass, it was the joy of the feast and the meeting. Every community in the province had prepared good things to sell, and so began the fundraising for the restoration. Surely joy was also in heaven, and Sister Josephine, who worked hard to see this Basilica accomplished, will continue to work miracles to bless the restoration.

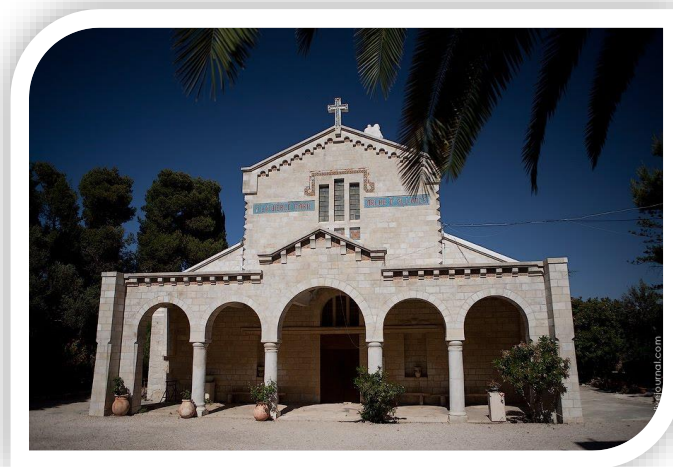
Today it is up to us to carry this Ark of the Covenant everywhere, with its Law, its Manna and its stick. We will then have this fullness of the presence of God, with which we can cross all the deserts, with which we are walking towards the Promised Land, the country where milk and honey flow, towards the country of joy and life.

Sister Vicky GIACAMAN





For more photos please click the link: <https://youtu.be/JLUfeWr-vco>



Will we ever get over the grief of the second wave of Covid?

The first wave passed affecting all of us worldwide. It has taken away family members, our friends and relatives. It has decimated some neighborhoods. Then came the variants, the double mutants. The Indian variant, they called it! When we were relatively relaxed after a year of lockdown there was the second wave more of a killer than the first.

India is a country of 1.38 billion people. It is not so easy to reach out to all the people during such an emergency. Many efforts were made by the Government, People of all faiths and especially the wealthy community, businessmen, public figures, etc. to organize, help and provide treatment to all. It was beautiful to see all people of good will, regardless of their religion working together to help out all in need. But everything went flop. For a moment it was a night mare! The Covid cases rose limitlessly and the hospitals could not accommodate all. There was a scarcity of Oxygen and an inability to bury or cremate the dead. All this left the country in utter despair, not knowing what was going to happen. Up to today the total number of **Coronavirus Deaths in India are above 419,471**. It may be much higher. Among these were 798 doctors, similar numbers of nurses and health workers. A big number of migrant workers who go to work in other States were victims too and lost their lives. How will the Country ever be okay after this horrific tragedy?

“GETTING OVER” GRIEF

There is no such thing as ‘getting over’ grief. Grief is basically the act of saying that someone mattered and we lost them. How can we ‘get over’ a person and the fact that they are no longer there? We don’t get over it. That’s too much pressure. We just try to make meaning out of the situation. It takes time and support, and eventually, we find new ways of living. None of this conveys the full depth and range of the trauma, the chaos and, above all, the indignity that people are being subjected to.

The Church in India suffered a big loss with the death of over a thousand religious men and women and priests. We salute our dedicated Priests and nuns who fearlessly served the people and remained with the suffering, the poor, the hungry and all in need. The online Masses go on in local languages throughout the country to give spiritual strength and solace to all the Catholics and keep them close to God and to the Church.

The vaccines are produced here in India and are distributed systematically in most of the States but many people refuse to take vaccine having seen people who are vaccinated getting sick. Schools which were on the verge of opening were again asked to remain closed and continue with online classes. Office workers, too continued to work from home.

We speak to those we love in tears, and with trepidation, not knowing if we will ever see each other again. We write, we work, not knowing if we will live to finish what we started. Not knowing what horror and humiliation awaits us. The indignity of it all. That is what breaks us.

We all wish to see the world, where air is purer and the blue sky is a little brighter, our neighborhood is cleaner our seniors, friends and loved ones are healthier and safer and are out of danger. This is what we can pray for, this is what I wish for all.

Sr. Quinita D'Souza S.J.A India.



Day of the Elderly Celebrated in Australia, on 25th July 2021.





For more photos watch the you tube: <https://youtu.be/20lhDQDoQgA>

