



July 2019

From the desk of the Congregational Leader

On the 30th of August we, as a Congregation, will be celebrating the 145th year of our foundation. Five years from now, in 2024 we will be celebrating our 150th foundation day!



Two years before his death, in 1905, Fr Chevalier wrote his Spiritual Testament for the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. He begins his Testament by opening his heart and sharing his sentiments:

“The foundation of your little Society entailed for me many trials and worries. I most willingly pardon those who, in good faith, doubtless, were the occasion of them. The beginnings were painful. Satan brought every effort to bear upon wrecking the work and annihilating it. But Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who willed to have her Court of Honour took the cause in hand and, despite the rage of hell and all the accumulated obstacles, won the victory.”

In her book, *The Designs of His Heart*, Chapter VI, “Founded Upon Rock”, Sr Mary Venard narrates the events and the trials that caused so much pain and suffering to Fr Chevalier. I encourage you to reread this chapter with fresh eyes and try to enter into the heart of our founder.

What is most striking for me in this narrative is Fr Chevalier’s attitude towards those who were the cause of his trials and worries. Firstly, he gave a kind and well-meaning interpretation of their actions: done in “good faith.” Their actions caused him pain and yet he was able to look beyond them; in the light of faith he gazed into their hearts and saw their behaviour as only a part of a greater whole. He looked at people in their wholeness.

Secondly, he was willing and ready to forgive. The late Jean Vanier has a beautiful description of forgiveness: *“Forgiveness is made possible by the knowledge that human beings cannot offer us what only God can give. Once we have heard the voice calling us the Beloved, accepted the gift of full communion, and claimed the first unconditional love, we can see easily – with the eyes of a repentant heart – how we have demanded of people a love that only God can give. It is the knowledge of that first love that allows us to forgive those who have only a ‘second’ love to offer.”*

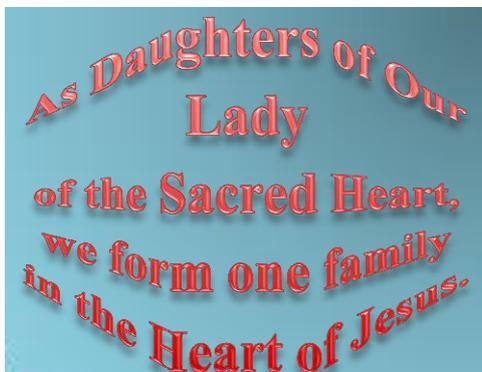
Today, as it was in the time of Fr Chevalier, we encounter many forces, internal and external, that threaten us, individually and institutionally. We see our failure to love one another. We see our

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lack of kindness and our hardness of heart. We see how we “go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces...” (Gal 5:15).

Pope Francis in his angelus address at St Peter’s square on March 3, 2019 reminded us of our tendency to “notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own.” He said, “*We all know it usually is easier or more comfortable to notice and condemn the defects and sins of others than seeing our own with that kind of clarity.*”



May the remembrance of our beginnings inspire us to “...form one family in the Heart of Jesus, support and encourage each other in our religious commitment, act towards one another with genuine affection and consideration, accept our differences...and show compassion for our human weakness in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.” (Const. 38 D§1)

Let us do this...let us live this...because we are Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart...called to communicate God’s love in a wounded and broken world.

Sr Marife, fdnsc

Chapters and Assemblies

Since it is the year leading up to our General Chapter, this year we are holding our Provincial Chapters and community Assemblies. By the time this issue of the GNU comes off the press, seven of our Provinces will have already had their Chapters or Assemblies – Kiribati in January; Netherlands and Belgium in June; and Indonesia, PNG, Africa and Brazil in July. Our Italian Community also had their Assembly in March and our Philippine Region had theirs in May. We thank you all for remembering these meetings in your prayers. We ask you to continue praying for the General Chapter and to remember Ireland who will have their Assembly in August and France and Australia who will have their Chapters in September. Some of us at the Generalate were blessed to attend some of these Assemblies and Chapters.

ITALY Our Italian community had their assembly on **26 March** preceded by a community retreat from 18 to 22 March. Both activities were facilitated by Sr Merle. Thirteen sisters participated in the retreat and fifteen in the Assembly. Since Italy is a community under the Generalate, Sr Marife attended the Assembly as Leader and Sr Laurentia attended a morning session in her capacity as General Bursar. The other members of the general council were very happy to be the support staff with Sr Madeleine as translator and Sr Elly as secretary. Doctor Lucia Cristoforo, the current director of our *Casa di Cura* was also invited to talk about the operations of the clinic. It was a full day and our Italian sisters showed a lot of energy and real openness as they discussed their current



realities as individuals and as a community. Together they looked at their possibilities for the future. We felt the Spirit animating the assembly and Our Lady accompanying us every step of the way.



PHILIPPINES In May, the Philippine Region had their Assembly from 18 to 22 with Sr Tess Ward, Provincial of the Australian Province and Sr Mary Stevens, Provincial Councillor participating. The Assembly was facilitated by an RSCJ sister, Joy Luz, a long-time friend of the sisters in the Region. All the members of the Region who were able to attend came including the Region's foreign missionaries who were given time to share their *mission ad gentes* experiences and concerns. Sr Merle from the

Generalate was privileged to attend one day of the Assembly as she was asked to give input on the "Signs of the Times." During the assembly, aside from looking at the present and future of the Region, the sisters also elected their delegates to the Australian Provincial Chapter in September. A strong sense of excitement and hope was felt in the hall during the days of the assembly, sentiments that were surely gifts from the Spirit! The Assembly was followed by the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and a 6-day Regional Retreat directed by Fr Michael Mohally, an Irish Columban missionary. Following the retreat, the sisters went back to their communities and mission refreshed and renewed. Once again they were ready to be missionaries of hope with Mary, woman of His Heart!

NETHERLANDS On June 1, Sr. Laurentia travelled from Rome and Sr. Elly from Vichy to the Netherlands to attend the Dutch Provincial Chapter from 3 until 6 June. Prior to the Chapter three discussion papers had been prepared by three groups of Chapter members. These papers were written in order to assist the Chapter to take some difficult but necessary decisions, due to the ageing of the Province. The theme of the Chapter was 'Encounter'. At the beginning of the Chapter, Sr. Lies, the provincial leader, invited the participants to go around the group in silence and lay their hands on the shoulders of each of the participants, as they are used to doing during the celebration of the anointing of the sick. This impressive and prayerful encounter encouraged the participants and during the Chapter they were able to take big decisions with confidence and hope.



BELGIUM



On June 13 Sr. Hermien Lorist took Sr. Laurentia and Sr. Elly to Rumst, where the Belgian Sisters had their Assembly from **10 until 14 June**. The theme was *‘With peace and joy towards completion’*. Sr. Anne-Marie had invited Sr. Elly to speak to the participants about Governance in the future and Sr. Dominique showed Sr. Laurentia how she had been trying to apply the new Chart of Accounts as proposed in the FDNSC Stewardship of Temporal Goods Handbook to her financial reports. We were happy to encounter our Sisters at this important moment in the histories of their Provinces and we were impressed by their faith and courage.

INDONESIA The Indonesian Province opened its 4th Provincial Chapter on July 1 with the theme *“FDNSC Indonesia being Missionaries of Hope in a Broken World.”* Sr Angelina Giasih, Provincial Leader, signalled the opening of the Chapter with the beating of a gong! The Chapter, which lasted for 12 days (**July 1 to 12**), was facilitated by Fr Johanis “Yong” Ohoitumur, M SC. The Chapter was held in the PBHK Retreat House in Parakan on the island of Java. Being our biggest province, currently with almost 250 members, Indonesia will have the biggest delegation to the General Chapter in 2020. To the delegates...see you in Rome soon!



PAPUA NEW GUINEA The Province of Papua New Guinea had their 9th Provincial Chapter from **July 6 to 13** in St Joseph’s Catholic College in Boroko, Port Moresby. United around the theme *“A New Heart Into the Future,”* 28 members of the Province gathered for this spiritual event. They sent us daily news and photos from their Chapter.



Here we see them opening the Chapter with a cultural dance and in the conference room, seriously engaged in the work of the Chapter. Congratulations sisters!

AFRICA



As this issue of the GNU is written, the delegates and observers of the Chapter of the Province of Africa are gathered in Senegal for their first ever Provincial Chapter. The longest among this year's Provincial Chapters, it opened on **July 15** and will close on **July 30**. The theme for the Chapter is *“FNDSC in Africa, renewed in the love of Christ, let us be sowers of hope in our broken world.”* This is an historical event as well as a spiritual event for our Congregation's youngest, most culturally diverse and fastest growing Province. Composed of members from five different countries of the continent plus missionaries from other continents, our sisters in Africa live and breathe interculturality. The Chapter will be followed by days of formation with Fr Hans Kwakman, MSC from the Netherlands and Sr Gerardine Doherty, FNDSC from Australia from August 5 to 18 with the theme *“Living and Transmitting the Spirituality of the Heart Today.”*



BRAZIL



Just a day after the opening of the Chapter in Senegal, our Brazilian sisters also opened their Provincial Chapter in Sao Paulo, Brazil with a theme from the prophet Isaiah: *“Missionaries of Hope: Heal the Wounded Hearts (Is 61:1).”* Their Chapter is from **July 16 to 26**. On the day of the opening of their Chapter, they posted their logo on their website telling us that they are counting on our prayers as they prepare for the future, not only the future of the Brazilian Province but the future of the whole Congregation. Their logo very beautifully gives us the image of the oil of healing flowing out. We pray that every member of the Chapter receive a share of this oil and take it with them to the rest of the Province and to the rest of the Congregation! Thank you sisters for posting some of your photos on Facebook! We accompany you with our prayers!



As we journey towards our General Chapter, may you be the inspiring voice behind our reflections, the driving force directing our Provincial Chapters, and the energizing source of all our decisions. Reveal to us new paths for mission, inflame our hearts and give us new vision.

Visits

JAPAN



From April 1 to 10, precisely during the week when cherry blossoms were in full bloom, Sr Marife and Sr Merle made their final friendly visit to the community of Japan during this mandate. We all know that the 2014 General Chapter has mandated the General Administration to look at the future of the FDNCS Japan Mission, noting that after more than 20 years, it is still a community under the Generalate. During 2014, the Generalate, with the sisters of the Japan community, started a process of discernment which culminated in the visit last April. In the last five years, this process of discernment included the following: (1) asking several Provinces if they were able and willing to take responsibility for the Japan mission; (2) making yearly visits to the community for ongoing conversations and formation; and (3) asking the Kiribati province for two sisters to join the mission. The sisters actually joined the community in 2016.

During the April visit, it became very clear again to the sisters in the mission and the Generalate that we do have a mission of love in Japan, among the Japanese people and the many migrant groups in the country. We also saw that new expressions of our mission there are in fact emerging such as for example the new mission to the Kiribati seamen. At the same time we also saw the need to review our current community structures there in order to better fulfil our mission. As a result of the days of prayer and discernment, the decisions for Sr Mangarita to return to Kiribati and to close the house in Fukui were made. We thank Sr



Mangarita for her three years of loving service in Japan, mostly in Fukui. She kept the joy in the mission in spite of the real difficulty she experienced with the language. Thank you Sr Mangarita for your courage and generosity! Sr Mangarita left Japan on June 20, 2019. We also thank the MSCs and the people of Fukui who supported our sisters throughout the many years that we lived and ministered there. The closing of the house in Fukui does not mean that we are also closing our ministry. Although now living in Nagoya, Sr Leonila goes to Fukui once a week to continue her mission in the parish and with groups of Filipino migrants. With the MSCs and our lay partners in mission in Fukui and the nearby parishes, we hope to find new and creative ways of continuing our mission in their places.

GERMANY Visit to Aid to the Church in Need, Königstein and Missio, Aachen



On Easter Monday Sr Marife and Sr Jenny travelled to Germany, hosted by Sr Nicola MSC. We stayed in the MSC Sisters' Convent in Hiltrup and we were made most welcome there. Sr Jenny was delighted to meet up with a number of MSC Sisters she had known from her Vunapope days, more than 40 years ago, and also some of the aged MSC Fathers who are in care at Hiltrup. We also visited the house of the MSC Fathers and Brothers, which is nearby, and visited the graves of the former missionaries. It was a special highlight to see the houses, MSC Sisters and MSC Fathers, from where the missionaries to PNG were sent on mission.

Sr Nicola drove us from Hilstrup to Königstein im Taunus where Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is located. Here we had meetings with the Head of Section for different areas of the world as well as the Head of Section for scholarships. Since it was quite a lengthy drive, we were pleased that we had been invited by ACN to stay overnight. Hospitality is their special care. A few days later we had meetings with Missio in Aachen, again with the different Heads of Section.

By visiting the agencies, we were able to be briefed on their current priorities, as well as to meet the people to whom applications would be submitted. We were also able to ask about different possibilities for funding for some specific projects. Sr Nicola also met Heads of



Sections which serve areas where the MSC Sisters work. We would especially like to thank Sr Mechtilde, MSC Provincial Leader, as well as Sr Nicola, MSC General Councillor, and the MSC Sisters in Hilstrup and other communities we visited while in Germany. Their most generous and kind hospitality was very much appreciated.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CANONICAL VISIT OF SR MARIFE AND SR MADELEINE OF THE CONGO REGION

On May 13, 2019, we left Rome for the Democratic Republic of Congo, located in Central Africa. It is the second largest country in Africa, after Algeria, with an area of 2,345,410 km² and a population of about 77 million people. Our flight to the capital, Kinshasa, was via Brussels. We finally arrived in Kinshasa at 6:20 pm, having left Rome very early that morning. We were warmly welcomed at the airport by Sisters Gabrielle Moseka, Regional Superior and Anne Marie Okakomi, Regional Councillor. Our immediate address was the regional house, located in the municipality of Ngaliema, about 50 minutes from the airport. In the convent, the other sisters welcomed us with songs and then we were accompanied to the chapel to thank the Lord and entrust to Him our stay among them. This visit was awaited for not only by the sisters, but also by the people with whom the sisters collaborate in their apostolates because, unfortunately, we have had to postpone the visit more than once because of political tensions in the country.



We are on our way to the Republic of Congo for our 28th and last FNDSC Canonical Visitation

Upon our arrival, we were very happy to learn that the situation was quite calm and that people could travel safely inside the country. This was good news for us, because our purpose was to visit all seven communities in the Region. That is what happened.



The community visits were organized as follows: individual meeting of the sisters of each community, community meeting,

meeting of collaborators, visit of the activities of the region (schools, clinics, Notre Dame du Sacré Coeur Centre and the lepers), meeting with all the sisters of the three communities in Mbandaka and those in the three



communities in Kinshasa. In her various meetings, Sr Marife encouraged the Sisters and all those who collaborate in our activities for the good and joy of the whole Region. We also had the opportunity to visit some MSC communities.

We have observed that our sisters are happy to accomplish their mission with love and great zeal. Despite the difficulties and difficult living conditions, they persevere with courage to spread everywhere the love of the Heart of Jesus to the little ones and vulnerable people. We congratulate them for their simplicity, courage and passion for the mission in this country.

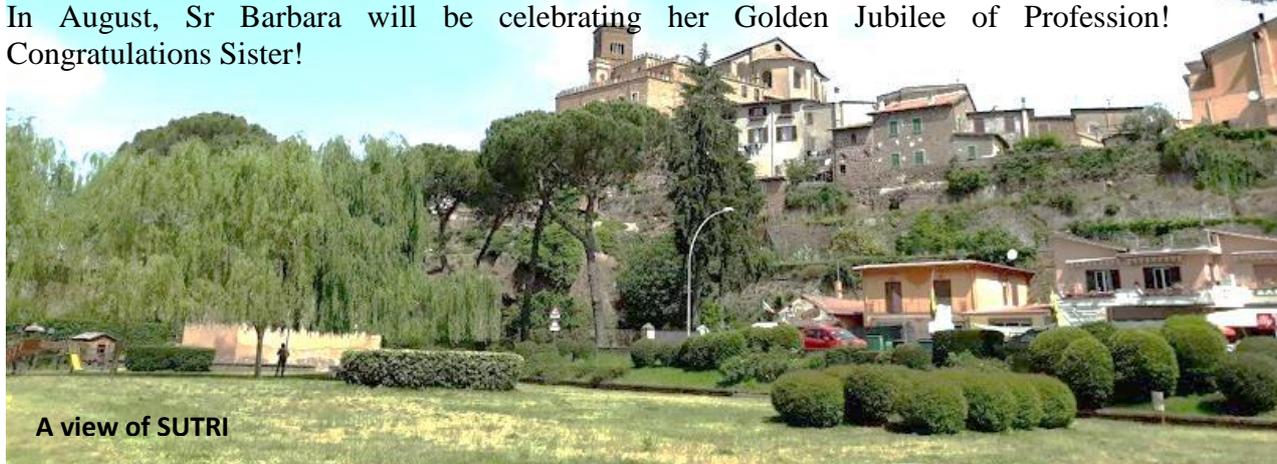


We can say that it was a great experience. We received a very warm welcome wherever we went. We are very grateful for the planning and organization. We thank Sr Gabrielle Moseka and her Council, the community leaders and all the Congolese sisters for their great hospitality.

We thank God for his protection during this 28th and last canonical visit to our provinces and regions. We also thank all the sisters of the Congregation for having accompanied us everywhere with their prayers.

Meetings and Formation Activities

TRI-GEN MEETING On April 17, the Wednesday of Holy Week, we had our springtime Tri-Generalate Meeting. This time it was held at the Generalate of the MSC Sisters in Sutri and was facilitated by Sr Barbara Winkler, MSC Sisters' Superior General. The day started with a nice surprise as the MSC men and the FDNCS found each other in the same section of the train from Rome to Sutri. Upon arrival at the Capranica-Sutri train station, we found our MSC sisters waiting with their cars, warmly welcoming us and driving us to their Generalate. In the house, we were welcomed with hot drinks and some biscuits. The formal meeting started at 10:00 am and ended at about 4:00 pm with a delicious lunch in between. This is the first of two meetings for the year 2019. As always, in the Tri-Generalate meetings, we experience in a very concrete way that we are a family united around one charism, living the same spirituality and endeavouring to fulfil our one mission of love! The next meeting will be in December and we look forward to it with excitement as the members of the International Lay Council are coming to Rome to join us. In August, Sr Barbara will be celebrating her Golden Jubilee of Profession! Congratulations Sister!



A view of SUTRI

PRE-CHAPTER MEETINGS These past months, in addition to their usual tasks and visitations, the General Council has also been busy planning and preparing for the coming General Chapter. Our journey towards the General Chapter which actually began following the 2017

General Conference, continues through these months. To date, three sisters have been appointed to the Chapter Commission – Sr Marie Solange from Cameroun, Sr Immaculae Saminem from Indonesia and Sr Philippa Murphy from Australia. They are expected to be here in Rome for about



a month from November to December this year. Their main task is the collation of responses to the Generalate reflection papers from the different Provinces, Chapters, Assemblies and Inter-continental Meetings. As the Provinces finish their Chapters or Assemblies, we are expecting documents to reach the Generalate soon. On April 29 and 30, Sr Piluca Beneventa, our Chapter Facilitator, returned to Rome for a two-day face to face meeting with us. During these days, the daily schedule of the coming Chapter has taken more flesh and the list of people who will be helping out during the Chapter is slowly being completed (e.g. Chaplain, Secretaries).

One important topic that will be taken up by the Chapter, in addition to the five vital issues identified by the 2017 General Conference, is the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. As we all know, there was a significant meeting in the Vatican last February on this topic and as a result, the Pope issued a new document “*Vos Estis Lux Mundi*” giving guidelines to different units of the Catholic Church in order to ensure a safer Church for our children and vulnerable adults.

(http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html.) We are happy that a resource person from the Child Protection Centre of the Gregorian University in Rome will come and speak to the Chapter on this topic. Also in connection with this, a survey on Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults was sent out to all our Provincial and Regional Leaders as well as the heads of all our ministries that deal with minors and vulnerable adults. The results of this survey, which will show our Congregational reality in relation to safeguarding and protection, will be presented at the General Chapter in the hope that this will ground our discussions and inform our decisions in relation to this important matter.

LANGUAGE LEARNING : A month of study at CAVILAM in Vichy



On **May 4**, I, Sr. Elly departed for Vichy in France to do an intensive course in French at CAVILAM, a well-known language school. I stayed in ‘*La maison du Missionnaire*’ where the Lazarists open their community to religious who study at CAVILAM. Their hospitality was really great, and even though I was sometimes the only woman in the community, I really felt at home. At that time, there were four other students: Father Jean Baptiste (Vietnam), Father Pierre and Father Dominique (both from South Korea), all diocesan priests and Father Ahadi (Tanzania), a Lazarist. On May 6 the course started with a test to determine at which level I could start. After the test, I was brought together with another new-comer, Michael, to a class, where we started our four-week program of listening,

speaking, writing and comprehension exercises in the French language. Michael, a doctor from London who was preparing to go on mission to Niger, and I were both much older than our classmates and therefore, we worked together a lot. I really had a very good time with an excellent teacher, my classmates and my temporary community. I learned a lot and made new friends. At the end of the month we really felt “*Partir, c’est mourir un peu*”. The students organised a little farewell party for me. While enjoying a glass of good French wine, we concluded that one month was too short! I am really very grateful for this opportunity.



COR VITAE Formation for Formators of the Chevalier Family, 15 Feb to 15 Nov 2019

The new group of Chevalier Family formators have started the Cor Vitae formation Program! This is the second time the Cor Vitae team has run this 9-month program which commenced on February 15 and will conclude on November 15. It is being held in Tagaytay City, Philippines. The program was first held in 2017 at the Augustinian Sisters' Novitiate in Tagaytay. There were 15 participants. This current group has ten participants, 5 MSC men, 3 FDNSCs and 2 MSC Sisters and they are housed in a new place, the Karis Retreat Center, also in Tagaytay. The FDNSCs are Sr Ameline Kabore from Burkina Faso, Sr Noella Dimasi from PNG and Sr Matiri

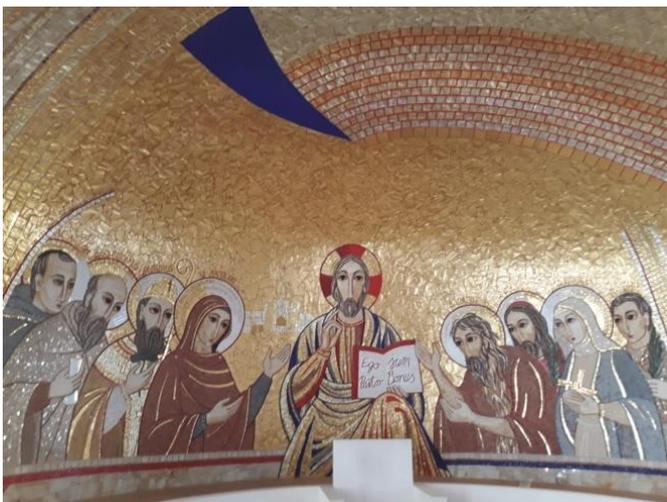
View of the Karis Retreat Center from the main building which is on top of the hill.



Kanono from Kiribati. As in the first program, various members of our three Congregations were asked to be resource persons and facilitators of different modules. From our Generalate, Sr Marife spent a week with the group in July (8 to 12) on Vocational Assessment and Sr Merle was with them for three days in May (22 to 24) to discuss Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in the days leading up to the feast. We congratulate the team, Fr Sam, Sr Sophy and Sr Cathie for a well organised and well run program. We commend the participants for their engaging and meaningful participation in the program and we assure them of

our prayers and support as the program continues and moves to its completion in November. May they truly rediscover the source of their life and vocation in the Heart of Christ as they live in this intercultural formation community of the Chevalier family!

ANGLOPHONE SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE Rome, 1st – 5th July



This year the annual conference was hosted by the Episcopal Conferences of Ireland and New Zealand and was held at the Pontifical Irish College, with lecture sessions at Notre Dame Global Gateway Centre. Sr Merle and Sr Jenny were able to attend. The title of this year's conference was **Child Safeguarding Formation**. The first day was for Registration and the opening Mass, which was celebrated in the beautiful chapel of the Pontifical Irish College. The theme for the second day was *Formation of parishes, religious communities and young people*. On the third day one of the speakers was Fr Joe Magee, MSC from

Ireland. The theme for the day was *Formation of religious, clerics and children*. The fourth day was devoted to the theme of *complainants and respondents*. On the final day there was time for reflection and a summary of the week. The Conference included lectures, time for questions as well as discussion sessions and time to meet people informally over lunch and at coffee breaks. It was a very beneficial time for us and we appreciated the opportunity it provided.

We encourage you to check their website www.anglophone.org. All the materials presented during the conference can be found on the website, just click "Presentation" and a Power Point file will

download on your computer. We believe safeguarding of minors and vulnerable adults is an integral part of our mission. Let us do our best to create a safer world for all!



FORMATION OF OUR LAY PARTNERS IN MISSION

SACS Institutional Recollection – June 14

In the months of June and July, Sr Merle was privileged to be part of the formation of two different groups of our lay partners in mission. On June 14 she was in St Alphonsus Catholic School (SACS) in Cebu, Philippines, to facilitate a one day recollection for all the employees of the school. It was a day of prayer and sharing, a day of simply resting in the unconditional love of



God. More than one hundred men and women, including sisters, school administrators, teachers and non-teaching personnel gathered for a day to reflect together and to share with each other their personal experiences of our God who is love. Sr Precy, the new principal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Integrated School (OLSHIS) with two OLSHIS employees also participated in the recollection. We thank God for the gift of our lay partners and do all we can to share with them our beautiful charism, spirituality and mission!

Australian Pilgrims in Issoudun – July 12



The Pilgrimage group with some parishioners of St Cyr

From July 7 to 14, the MSC Basilica Team in Issoudun welcomed 19 Australian Pilgrims for the annual Issoudun Pilgrimage for Australian Teachers. The annual pilgrimage is led by Ms Alison Mc Kenzie who works with the Chevalier Institute in Australia and who is the current Secretary General of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. This year she was assisted by two administrators from the MSC schools in Australia and together, the team of three led the 16 pilgrims through a week of prayer, reflection, learning and walking

in the footsteps of Fr Chevalier. Two of the pilgrims this year were Australian MSCs. One morning of the programme (July 12) was dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Sr Merle was asked to be with the group for it. The group also had a chance to make a short visit to our little museum in the FDNSC Mother House. The main resource persons of the pilgrimage were Fr Hans Kwakman, MSC and Mr Roland Douchin. Fr Yongki, Indonesian MSC who is part of the Basilica

Team, is the one in charge of programs with the Chevalier Family and so was part of organising the pilgrimage. It was a real privilege to be part of the pilgrimage and the formation of our lay partners. Sr Merle thanks Alison for the invitation! This invitation also gave Sr Merle a chance to return to our cradle, Issoudun, and revisit the places that are important to us, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - the Basilica with the beautiful Calvary, Our Lady's Chapel and the Crypt, the park, the Motherhouse and St Cyr. Sr Marie Christine, our French Provincial and our sisters in Issoudun, both from St Joseph Community and the Motherhouse were very welcoming and really loving. Thank you sisters! Issoudun is home!



The MSC Pilgrims with our sisters in the Generalate

After the Australian group, the Basilica team welcomed another group of pilgrims, this time a group of seven Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, six from the Philippines and one from Korea who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee of Profession as MSCs and following the "Going Back to the Roots" Programme. The week before they arrived in Issoudun, they were in Rome. During their time in Rome, they paid our Generalate a visit. Thank you for the visit brothers!

Liturgical Celebrations

LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER

On **March 23**, Sr. Laurentia, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Merle and Sr. Elly went to the Lenten Day of Prayer, which was led by Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave. They lead retreats all over the world and the sacred clown 'Naofa' (Irish for 'Holy'), is an integral part of their unique approach to spirituality. While the composer Monica touched us with her songs, Hilary, the Clown, drew us through her silence and reverence into a deep and sacred space and managed to highlight what was most important and significant. The theme of the day was "**Homecoming, the grace of transformation**". "To be able to transform, we have to know where we come from," said Monica. "We have to come to our senses like the prodigal son did." Together with Monica we sang:



*Speak to the heart of your people, O God.
We wander and thirst through so many desert places.
We long to see your face, to hear your voice, to find our way.
Bring us home to you, O God.
Bring us home to you, that we might live. Bring us home!*

After a full day of listening, watching, praying and singing, all of us went back to the Generalate inspired and prepared for Holy Week and Easter. Sr Madeleine also attended a Lenten recollection day for French-speaking religious men and women on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at the Ursuline sisters of the Roman Union in Via Nomentana. The theme of the recollection was "*Come back to me with all your heart*". The preacher was Brother Jacques Damestoy, OSB, a Benedictine monk.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER IN THE GENERALATE



During Holy Week and Easter, **April 15-21**, we had some guests who joined us at the very rich and inspiring celebrations that we are able to attend here in Rome. Sr. Marie Christine Kunzi from France and Sr. Ruti Kaburoro, from Kiribati, went together with Sr. Madeleine and Sr. Laurentia to the Palm Sunday Celebration at St. Peter's Square. They joined the solemn procession of cardinals, priests and lay people who made their way around the square. Following the Gospel, which was read by three deacons, Pope Francis recalled in his homily "how Jesus in his entry into

Jerusalem, showed us the way with his humility in the face of triumphalism."

On Good Friday, Sr. Augustine Mobonda from Congo and her friend Sr. Catherine (from the Congregation *Filles de Marie Servante de Buta* fms) arrived from Belgium, where they are studying. Both Sisters grabbed the opportunity and went to the celebration of the Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum. Sr. Madeleine accompanied them, while some of the other sisters at the Generalate followed the celebration on the television. It was a very impressive celebration because the meditations for the stations were written by Sr. Eugenia Bonetti, a Consolata Missionary who is the President of the association 'Slaves no more'. At the 14 stations the situations of victims of human trafficking and migrants were highlighted. As usual at Easter, everybody went to celebrate Easter in her own language and we had our lunch with our Italian Sisters. We experienced once more how rich we are as members of our international Congregation.



CONGREGATIONAL FEASTS

The Generalate community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart together with our Italian community and the MSC Fathers of the Italian Province. The celebration with our Italian



community started with vigil prayer to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart followed by a little recreation and some drinks in the afternoon of 24th May 2019. On 25th May we celebrated the Mass of Our Lady of the Sacred in the morning in the chapel of our Italian sisters. We continued our celebration with lunch together in the house of our Italian community. In the evening, at 18:30, we were invited by the MSC Fathers of the Italian Province to celebrate the feast at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Sacred in Piazza Navona. This celebration together with the MSC Fathers, seminarians and their friends, MSC sisters, lay associates and FDNSC started with Mass presided at by Fr Armando Genovese, MSC and was followed by refreshments. It was a very good celebration where we came together as

one Chevalier Family and friends animated by a family spirit. On the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart this year, there were only three of us at our Generalate (Sr Jenny, Sr Margaret and Sr Laurentia) but we also had other sisters who celebrated together with us, Sr Marie Christine and Sr Marie Therese from France who were in Rome at that time. Sr Marie Christine, Sr Marie Therese

and Sr Agnes, who is the younger sister of Sr Marie Therese, also joined us in the celebration at Piazza Navona. Sr Agnes is the General Superior of the Society of Apostolic Life *Travailleuses Missionnaires* and her Generalate house is in Rome too. We had a very beautiful celebration.

Our celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart was more simple and quiet. On the day of the feast, June 28, we had early morning Mass with our Italian sisters. The Mass was presided at by our beloved chaplain, Fr Alessandro, a diocesan priest from Ukraine. Lunch was at the Generalate. In the evening we had pizza and drinks in a restaurant named Risky Point which had been recommended by Sr Elly's friends. It was also a time for us to wish Sr Marife a safe trip to the Philippines!



SR LAURENTIA'S JUBILEE

ATTENDING THE MASS OF POPE FRANCIS IN THE CHAPEL OF DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE



“The joy and strength of Christian endurance make man more jovial and help him to accept and patiently live the tribulation and difficulties of life.”

This is a quotation from the homily of Pope Francis during the Mass which I was privileged to attend in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae (known as Casa Santa Marta) on 28th May 2019 as part of the celebration of the silver jubilee of my religious profession which I celebrate this year on 30th August.

This opportunity was a great gift to me. It happened because of the support of the Generalate community and the kindness of Don Luigi and Sr Madeleine who helped me to write a request letter to Casa Santa Marta. It was a very beautiful experience to hear a very encouraging sermon from the Holy Father and to be greeted by the Holy Father in person. In the end there is no other word that could be expressed in this experience except gratitude, thanks to God for His grace, thank you to the community and Don Luigi for their kindness and support to me. – ***Sr Laurentia***

Sr Laurentia will be in Indonesia on the 30th of August to celebrate her jubilee with our Indonesian Province and her family, relatives and friends. Sr Marife will also be there to represent our community at the celebration. Of course, we would not let such an important occasion pass without a celebration here in Rome. This will be on the 14th of September. We thank God for the gift of Sr Laurentia's vocation and for the gift of her to our Congregation! We who live and work with Sr Laurentia can testify that she lives out what our Constitutions and Directory say – *“Those responsible for the administration of temporal goods carry out their task with **magnanimity of heart...**”* (Const 162 D§1). Congratulations dear Sr Laurentia!



Professions and Appointments

Congratulations to our recently appointed Leaders:

- ♥ Provincial Leader of Brazil: **Sr Renisa Augusta da Fonseca** – second term of office for three years will commence on 8th December 2019
- ♥ Provincial Leader of Australia: **Sr Philippa Murphy** – first term of office for three years will commence on 1st January 2020
- ♥ Regional Leader of Cameroun: **Sr Marie Solange Oko** – third term of office for three years commenced on 19th May 2019
- ♥ Regional Leader of Congo: **Sr Philomene Iketa** – first term of office for three years will commence on 15th August 2019
- ♥ Regional Councillors of Cameroun: **Sr Sabine Sylvie Mengue, Sr Seraphine Solange Ngo Etoude, Sr Nicole Maipele** – their mandate for three years commenced on 19th May 2019
- ♥ Regional Leader of Moluccas: **Sr Emile Rumangun** – first term of office for three years will commence on 15th August 2019
- ♥ Regional Leader of Papua: **Sr Ancilla Sukarti** – second term of office for three years will commence on 15th August 2019

“While all in the community are called to seek what is pleasing to the Lord and to respond, some are called, temporarily, to the service of authority. The sisters entrusted with this authority exercise it in a manner that respects the dignity of each sister and reflects God’s personal love for each.” (Const 88)



Congratulations to our Sisters who recently made their Perpetual Profession of Vows

- ♥ Philippine Region – **Sr Dove Ortega**, 25 May, Manila



- ♥ Region of Congo - **Sr Esther Mangbau and Sr Félicité Kanome**, 23 June, Mbandaka

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our Sisters who will be making their Profession of Vows in August

PERPETUAL PROFESSION

♥ PROVINCE OF INDONESIA

- ♥ Sr M. Dolorosa Bari
- ♥ Sr M. Eveline Telaumbanua
- ♥ Sr M. Victoria Moiwend
- ♥ Sr M. Celestine Welerubun
- ♥ Sr M. Sinclair Feronika Hulu



Their profession will take place on 30th August 2019 in Purworejo – Indonesia

♥ REGION OF CAMEROUN

- ♥ Sr Elisabeth Tigui Akame
- ♥ Sr Quindoline Wiyahnyuy

Their profession will take place on 31st August 2019 in Messamendongo – Cameroun

FIRST PROFESSION

♥ PROVINCE OF AFRICA

Their profession will take place on 31st August 2019 in Messamendongo – Cameroun

BURKINA FASO

- ♥ Sr Marina Nacoulma
- ♥ Sr Pascaline Pinguédewinde Ouedraogo

REGION OF CAMEROUN

- ♥ Sr Emmanuela Nchanga Nshom
- ♥ Sr Alphonsine Eléonore Essama

REGION OF CONGO

- ♥ Sr Emilie Nsansi Bampembe
- ♥ Sr Josseline Itela Bokumbe
- ♥ Sr Octavie Alebo Mpeti
- ♥ Sr Renate Mobombe Molilo
- ♥ Sr Marie Liseke Nyabwanga

REGION OF SENEGAL

- ♥ Sr Emma Yandé Faye
- ♥ Sr Hélène Gnilane Faye
- ♥ Sr Thérèse Siga Sene

