



FDNSC GENERALATE – NEWS UPDATE

October 2016

From the desk of the Congregational Leader

I begin this short message with the words of Mother Marie Louise which you know so well:

“May none of us ever forget all that our beloved and venerated Father has done for us, and with what tender care he watched over our cradle. He it was who brought us forth to religious life; he it was who laboured and suffered for our growth and extension. Let us be everlastingly mindful of this and hand down his memory to those of our Sisters who will not have had the happiness of knowing him. Let us teach them to love and venerate him as we ourselves have done. In return he will most certainly help us to advance in perfection and to become true children of the Heart of Jesus and of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.”

(Letter to the Congregation announcing the death of Fr. Chevalier, October 1907)

The anniversary of the death of Fr. Jules Chevalier is a day of thanksgiving for what God has accomplished through him (Const. 10§2). It is also a day of being more mindful of what he has done for us; it is a day to spend time relishing his love and tender care for our Congregation; it is a day to spend time in contemplation, to take a long, loving look on his life and mission and imagine how he looks at us now,



what he wants to say to us now, where he wants us to go, and what he wants us to do.

This day is also a time to be mindful of our responsibility to “hand down his memory” to our younger members and to the “lay women and men who wish to share our spirit and mission as Associate members.” (Const. 9D.§1) When Sr. Joan Chittister was asked what she thinks religious life might look like in the near future, she said “I am convinced that religious life will be small. We are starting over... Find out who your foundresses/founders were. Know who your first women were and their ages. Memorize them and say them, because that’s who you are now. We’re starting over.” (Conversations with LCWR, 2015) Yes, we are getting smaller.

In 1908 there were 128 FDNSCs. From then on our membership gradually increased until it reached its highest number in the year 1969: 1,908 FDNSCs. This was followed by a gradual decline every year, except in the early 1990’s when membership started to increase again. However, in 1996 it started to go downhill again and this has been the pattern since then. As of December 31, 2015 our total number was 1,034. And in the span of nearly a year we have already lost several sisters.

Articles in this issue..

May 2016 – Visit of Sr Merle to Japan (page 2) and Visit of Srs Madeleine and Jenny to Senegal (page 3)

June 2016 – Canonical Visitation to the Netherlands and Belgium of Sr Marife and Sr Elly (page 3)

July 2016 - Archives seminar in the USA of Sr Linda (page 4) and Africa-Brazil Meeting in Cameroun (page 5)

August 2016 – African Leaders’ Meeting in Cameroun, Sr. Madeleine (page 6); Misean Cara Meeting in Ireland, Sr Jenny (page 6); and Canonical Visitation of Ireland and England, Sr Marife and Sr Merle (page 7); Foundation Day and Jubilee Celebrations in Rome (page 7)

September 2016 - Generalate Planning and Evaluation Meeting (page 8)

... and many more....

We are not alone. Most Congregations are facing the same realities – ageing members and declining membership. This is no time for despair. Rather, it is the time to listen deeply and with a compassionate heart, to see what is, and to see what is emerging. May the words of our beloved Founder give us hope and courage:

“The Word, coming from the Heart of the Father, made the world emerge from nothing; and from the Heart of the Incarnate Word, pierced on Calvary, I see a new world emerging, the world of those he has chosen. And this creation, so fertile, full of grandeur and inspired by love and mercy, is the Church, the mystical body of Christ, which makes this new creation present on earth until the end of time.”

(Jules Chevalier MSC, 1900 – Sacré-Cœur, 145f)

Together, let us dream of a new FDNSC emerging – “inspired by love and mercy.” **Sr Marife**



Making a Vision for the Community...

From May 17 to 31, 2016, Sr Merle was with the Japan communities in Nagoya and Fukui for the Generalate’s yearly contact visit, Japan being a community directly under the Generalate. Upon the request of the sisters in Japan, the community made their Community Vision-Mission in a workshop led by Sr Merle from May 23 to 26. On the morning of the 26th, the sisters renewed their vows together as a community and in the evening, at the end of the workshop, in a time of prayer, the sisters received beautifully prepared and decorated copies of their Community Vision-Mission. They also received copies of Sr Gerardine’s book, *In the Company of Marie Louise Hartzler*, for their personal formation for this year 2016. During the contact visit, Sr Merle also celebrated with the community the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on May 29.



Vision-Mission Workshop

... and Welcoming New Members!

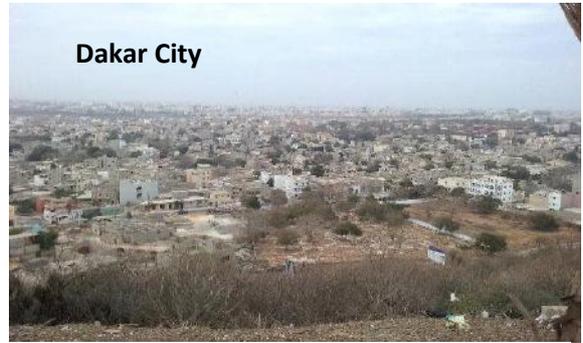
Just two months after the above workshop, the Japan community welcomed two new members from the Kiribati Province. On 21 July 2016, Sr Margarita and Sr Moia arrived in Nagoya to begin their lives as Kiribati missionaries in Japan. They were welcomed with much gratitude and joy. At the moment, the two sisters are in Fukui and busy with the initial stages of learning the Japanese language. Let us remember our community in Japan and our two new missionaries in our prayers.

Welcoming the Kiribati sisters in Nagoya, then in Fukui.



Visit to Senegal

In May, Sr Madeleine Ngoy and Sr Jenny Christie visited Senegal for two weeks. The plane journey took us from Rome to Brussels and then on to Dakar, the capital of Senegal, where the Africa Provincial Administration is located. We received a warm welcome from Sr Madeleine Dione, Sr Philomène and Sr Juliette. During our time in Dakar we were shown around the city and learned something of the history of Senegal. Very touching and sad was our visit to the Island of Goree, now a UNESCO Heritage site. From the 15th to 19th century it was the largest slave trading centre on the African Coast (UNESCO website). Here is a link to the website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/26>



Srs Jenny, Philomène, Madeleine Dione, Juliette



Srs Madeleine Ngoy and Clotilde

While in Dakar we had several meetings with the sisters, in order to gain an insight into the lives and ministries of the sisters in the Province. These meetings were very helpful to us. We were also very grateful to Sr Clotilde, the Regional Leader of Senegal, who took us to all the places where the sisters live and minister in Senegal. These ministries include schools and clinics. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed warmly and felt at home.

We express our sincere thanks to Sr Madeleine and all the sisters for their kindness to us.

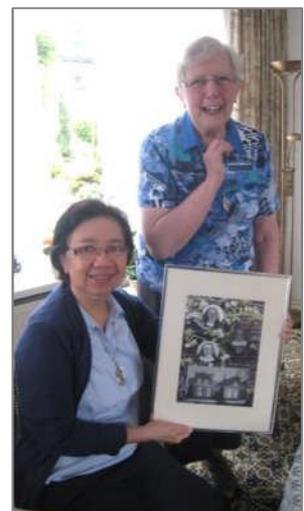
Srs Jenny and Madeleine



Visitation to the Netherlands and Belgium



From June 1 until June 26, Sr. Marife and Sr. Elly visited the Netherlands and from June 27 until July 12, Belgium. For Sr. Elly it was more or less a “home match,” but for Sr. Marife it was quite a new experience to visit our ageing Provinces. Sr. Elly was very happy to show Sr. Marife the Low Countries, which are so much related by their history in general and within our Congregation. Because of the need for translation, both sisters were mostly seen together. Many sisters commented on that and said that they were working together like real “twins”.



Both sisters were full of admiration, not only for the great things that both Provinces have accomplished in the history of our Congregation, but also because the Spirituality of the Heart is still very much alive among our sisters. Sr. Marife and Sr. Elly were grateful for the quality time that they shared with our sisters. They have taken lots of good memories and photos back with them to Rome and are looking forward to new opportunities to meet one another again. We hope that the visitation reports, full of stories and the photos on our website (www.olshgen.com under [news](#)) will enable you to taste something of the joyful and grateful atmosphere.



Introductory Archives Workshop for Religious Communities

Sr Linda Strayer

From July 24–29 of this year, I had the opportunity to travel from Rome to Levenworth, Kansas in the USA, to attend an Introductory Archives Workshop for Religious Communities at the Marillac Center. Some of us may remember *The Wizard of Oz*, the first film in colour. In the film, the tornado picked up Dorothy from her home in Kansas and dropped her in the middle of a field where she met the tin man, the scarecrow and the lion, her travelling companions to the Land of Oz where the munchkins and the Great Wizard lived. At times, during the workshop, I too felt as if I had been picked up by a tornado and dropped into a land of munchkins and a whole new vocabulary with words like “provenance”, “original order”, “*respect des fonds*”, “accessioning”, “appraisal”, “weeding”, “de-acidification” and many more. It was a very intensive week that gave us a wide, but very good introduction to all things archival. Archives are that small portion of all the information, communication, ideas and opinions of our members, which are recorded and kept. Archives can be written and/or digital documents, graphics, photos, audio recordings, artifacts, etc. which tell our story. One very important point I learned about photos is to never put them in magnetic albums, because the plastic sticks to the photos after a number of years and destroys them. Just as important to remember is that unidentified photos are useless as an archive. Always write, in pencil or photo marker on the back of the photo, the full names of the people present in the photo, the date, place and occasion when it was taken. For digital photos, keep a legend on a Word Document with the set of photos.



Can you spot Sr Linda?

MLS and Colleen McFarland Rademaker, MA, MLIS, both working in archives for religious communities in the States. One of our participants was a Jesuit who had been born deaf and is now the archivist for the deaf communities in the United States. He had a sign language interpreter for the duration of our workshop and was as an inspiration to us all.

Attending the workshop with me were 35 other participants. Most were beginner religious archivists like myself, but we also had some fully qualified lay archivists who already had Masters in Library Science and Archives. These lay women and men came to the workshop, because working in archives for religious congregations has its own special focus. This Claretian-sponsored workshop, in fact, was led by two fully qualified lay archivists, Malachy R. McCarthy, PhD,

"Warm congratulations from all of us at the Generalate to Sr. Gerardine Doherty for her new book: *In the Company of Marie Louise Hartzer*, available now from the Generalate in English. We hope translations will be available soon."

The Joy of Being a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

From 20th July to 4th August 2016, the third Africa-Brazil meeting took place at Messamendongo, Yaoundé in Cameroon. The theme of the meeting was **“THE JOY of BEING A DOLSH.”** We recall that the first meeting took place in South Africa in 2008 and the second in Brazil in



2013. The 35 participants from the African Provincial Team, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Senegal and South Africa spent days in prayer, presentations, conferences, meetings and discussions as together they looked at what it means and what it takes to be “Women of Heart and



August 6, after the Profession Ceremonies

Apostles of Joy” in our world today. Each of the provinces and regions presented their current realities. There were conferences on our identity as FDNCS, our charism and spirituality in relation to Mercy, and many days were spent discussing formation and its challenges. They also had days of encounter with the lay associates from Cameroon. Sr Madeleine Ngoy, representative of the Generalate, came towards the end of the meeting to give a conference on Leadership and to join the celebrations of

Profession on 6th August. At the end of the meeting, the participants went home satisfied, having experienced for themselves, in the days they were together, the joy of being Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Congratulations to our dear Sisters who made First and Perpetual Professions in the month of August 2016

Province of Africa – 6 Aug 2016
in Messamendongo, Cameroon

First Profession

Sr Jane Ugochukwu Amaka (S Africa)
Sr Evon Somirla Yenyuy (Cameroon)
Sr Marie Christiane Ouedraogo (B. Faso)

Perpetual Profession

Sr Martine Meyo Zoa
from Cameroon

Province of Indonesia
in Purworejo, Java

First Profession – 30 Aug 2016

Sr M Esther Welerubun
Sr M Hironima Batmyanik
Sr M Thadea Renel

Perpetual Profession – 15 Aug 2016

Sr M Benedicta Ratih Puspa
Sr M Clarista Pipit Wulandari
Sr M Daniella Ohoilulin



Meeting of the Province of Africa, 8 to 18 August 2016



After the Africa-Brazil Meeting, the leaders from the African Regions and the members of the African Provincial Team remained for the African Leaders' Meeting which followed immediately. Sr Madeleine Ngoy represented the Generalate at this meeting. There were 24 participants. The meeting was a time for communal discernment as the Province looked at its present and future.

The first five days were focused on Formation as the Province sought to harmonize its formation programs across Regions and levels. The next four days were spent reviewing the Provincial Statutes and Prayer Book. On the last day, they looked at the relationship between the Province and the Regions. We congratulate the participants for their hard work and look forward to seeing the fruits of this meeting in the coming months and years.



Visit to Misesan Cara, Dublin

In May, along with Sr Mairead, Irish Provincial Leader, Sr Jenny Christie attended the Annual General Meeting of Misesan Cara, in Dublin. Misesan Cara is an Irish-based charity working to bring about transformation through supporting missionary organisations and their partners. Misesan Cara describes itself as “working with our members who are improving some of the world’s most vulnerable and marginalized communities through education, providing access to healthcare and defending human rights.” While in Senegal, Sr Madeleine and Sr Jenny saw a clinic which had been built with funds given by Misesan Cara.

You may like to look at the Misesan Cara website, or to subscribe to their monthly newsletter, which gives very interesting information about the work of the organization. The Misesan Cara website address is www.miseancara.ie.

Warm thanks to Sr Mairead and the sisters in Dublin for their kind and gracious hospitality during my time with them. *Sr Jenny*



misesan cara
Mission Support from Ireland

Greetings from the Generalate Community!!!

With the return of Sr Bernadette to Rome in July, the Generalate community is now complete! Because of the many travels members of the community have, it is not often that we are all in Rome at the same time. Finally we had a chance to stop for a community photo and here we are. So, Sisters, to all of you, wherever you are in the world, we send our love!

L to R: Srs Laurentia, Marife, Madeleine, Jenny, Bernadette, Elly, Merle and Linda



VISITATION TO IRELAND AND ENGLAND

Towards the end of August, on the 20th, Sr Marife and Sr Merle left Rome for Dublin to begin the two week canonical visitation of our communities in Ireland and England. What followed were 11 beautiful days with our 4 sisters in Dublin and 14 sisters in Ballybay. On the 30th, we celebrated our 142nd foundation day and the jubilee of three of our sisters - Diamond Jubilee for Sr Elizabeth O'Brien and Golden Jubilee for Sr Mary Mallin and Sr Mairead Kelleher.



On the 31st, we left Ireland and proceeded to London with Sr Mairead, Provincial of the Irish Province. There we spent 4 great days with our two sisters in London. We then returned to Rome on 4th September after a grace-filled visit.

We thank Sr Mairead and the sisters in Ireland and England for their love, generosity and hospitality. Read more about the visitation in the Visitation Report and enjoy the photos posted on our website.



FOUNDATION DAY IN ROME

On 30th August we celebrated our 142nd Foundation Day. The letter that Sr Marife sent for this day helped us to look back and be once again filled with awe and gratitude at how God brought us into being. The creative wishes that were exchanged among the different Provinces made us feel even more united on this special day.



As community in the Generalate, we celebrated this day together with our Italian sisters. For all of us, this day was a double feast, because we also celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Eugenia. During the Eucharist we sang in Italian, French and English to express the

international character of our Congregation and we ended with a song, chosen by our Jubilarian: "Woman of the Sacred Heart", composed by James Maher MSC. We also had a nice lunch together, during which we enjoyed one another's company. In spite of language differences, cultural differences and differences in age, we really feel united as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.



How lucky can you be!

In 2013, the Italian Province became a community directly under the Generalate. This meant greater collaboration between the two communities here in Rome. Sr Madeleine is the Generalate's "link person" to the Italian Community. We have celebrations together and one of our Italian sisters now works in the Generalate. On 1st April, Sr. Elena started with her new job. The Generalate community is really very happy with her and her presence makes the community speak Italian more. Hopefully the sisters will gain in Italian fluency and not too much in weight.



On the calendar of the community was written: August 18, Sr. Elena's *Onomastico*. No, *Onomastico*

is not her surname, as some of us in the Generalate at first thought. August 18 is her "Name Day". So we took the opportunity to celebrate with her and to let her know how lucky we are to have her helping out in our community. Grazie, Suor Elena!



YEAR-END EVALUATION & PLANNING

Here in Rome, the "year" begins in September and ends in July. August is usually a month for holidays when most of Rome is closed. Although our Generalate is never closed and we continue to work even in August, we follow the Roman working year (more or less). And so in September we have our



annual year-end evaluation and planning. This year we had it from 12th to 16th September at Enrico d'Osso Retreat Center. This center would be familiar to some as it is the same place where we had the European Provincials' Meeting last April. The first two days were days of reflection and sharing. Then we had a day to listen to reports from our General Bursar, General Archivist and International Development Officer. The last three days were intensive days of Council meeting and planning

for the next year (2017). We have now entered our third year as a congregational leadership team. As we look back at the year that has ended, we thank God for having been with us every moment of the journey. God has been the very ground on which we fulfilled the mission entrusted to us. We thank you too, Sisters, for your love, support and prayers. The year ahead will be another busy year, especially as we prepare for the General Conference from 27th September to 10th October 2017. We are committed to God who called and sends us, to you our Sisters and to our common mission of making the Heart of Jesus loved everywhere. We depend on your support, trust and prayers.



Thank You, Sr Dain

On 15th September, here in Rome, we said THANK YOU and GOODBYE to Sr Dain Inglis as she left Rome for good and returned to Australia. Sr Dain has served outside of Australia for a total of 45 years – 17 years in Rome, 16 years in PNG and 12 years in Africa. Her last five years here in Rome were as Congregational Vicar and as Leader in our Italian community. Nothing was ever too difficult for Sr Dain. She has left us a great example of a missionary Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. For this, we honour and thank her. We also wish her blessings for her new mission in Australia.



APPOINTMENTS

Province of Australia

Term of Office: 01/01/2017 – 31/12/2019

Provincial Leader: Sr Teresa Ward

Provincial Councillors:

Sr Lorraine McCleary

Sr Mary Stevens

Sr Moya Hanlen

Sr Philippa Murphy

Province of Ireland

Term of Office: 08/09/2016 – 07/09/2019

Provincial Leader: Sr Mairead Kelleher

Provincial Councillors:

Sr Evelyn McCarthy

Sr Kathleen McQuillan

Sr Annunciata Deasy

Province of Brazil

Term of Office: 08/12/2016 – 07/12/2019

Provincial Leader: Ir Renisa Da Fonseca

Provincial Councillors:

Ir Marta Maria Pinto

Ir Inês Mendes de Jesus

Ir Luci Jane Pereira

Ir Glacialva Iolanda dos Santos

Province of Indonesia

Term of Office: 30/08/2016 – 29/08/2019

Moluccas

Papua

Regional Leaders:

Sr Inna Marie Lermatin

Sr M Ancilla Sukarti

Regional Councillors:

Sr M Sara Heatubun

Sr M Madeleine Yuliwarti

Sr M Lusiana Takerubun

Sr M Sebastiana Nowan

Sr M Fransiska Tai

Sr M Zita Katalina

Coming Visitation and Activities:

October 2016: Visitation to the Philippines & Vietnam – Sr Marife & Sr Madeleine

November 2016: APA Conference in Kiribati – Sr Elly & Sr Merle

December 2016: Formation of Temporary Professed Sisters in Congo – Sr Madeleine



CALLING ALL JUNIORS!!!

We need help in designing the cover of our revised **Formation Handbook**. Exercise your artistic talents and **send us a cover design on or before the end of this year**. Email your creations to Sr Linda at lindafdnc@aol.com or to Sr Merle at leyfdnc.68@gmail.com. Looking forward to receiving your emails!!! Sr Linda and Sr Merle

21 October 2016, 109th Anniversary of Death of Servant of God Fr Jules Chevalier MSC