



## YEAR-END 2021

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## From the desk of the Congregational Leader



### *Let it Be... Let it Go... Let it Come...*

As I was reflecting on the year 2021 and searching for words or images that could more or less accurately capture the experiences and events of this year, these phrases came to my mind: **let it be...let it go...let it come...**

#### **Let it be...**

With the ongoing pandemic and the emergence of a new and highly transmissible variant – the omicron – we feel more intensely that we are living in a rapidly changing world, a world that is becoming more complex and uncertain. How and when this pandemic will end remains unpredictable.

If there is one powerful lesson we are learning from our current world situation, it is this: things do not always go according to our plans. We make plans expecting to be in control of how things should go but it seems life has its own mind and process.

With the two postponements of our General Chapter, and the changes in venue and facilitators, life is teaching me to accept what is...*let it be...*

I am learning how to be receptive to what is, to the reality before me, accepting events as they happen, accepting people as they are.

#### **Letting go...**

This year we had to *let go* of several communities, ministries and properties.

**Australia:** the Kensington site (Mother House, St Joseph Nursing Home, Provincialate) is up for alienation; negotiations are ongoing with Mercy Health Care.

**Brazil:** two communities were closed – Santa Casa in Alfenas (this merged with the school community in Alfenas), and Apicum Acú.

**England** (Province of Ireland): we sold our last house in Monkleigh Road, London; Sr Marion O'Mahony returned to Ireland and joined the community in Ballybay.

**Japan:** we closed the community in Nagoya and returned the house to the MSC. Sr Narie Borja returned to the Philippines in May 2021; Sr Cecilia Takara left for Okinawa in July to take care of her mother; Sr Akie Hayashi, who works in a nursing home, is living in Yokohama with a temporary professed Japanese sister, Sr Chizuru of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondolet (CSJ).

**Netherlands:** the Mother House in Tilburg was sold to WonenBreburch Corporation who agreed to maintain the current living arrangements of the residents (FDNSC, MSC, laity) and guaranteed the continuance of the nursing care by De Wever and the preservation of the chapel, the cemetery and garden.

#### **Deceased Members:**

As I am writing this message, 27 FDNSCs have passed away during the year.

*Letting go...* this is a difficult and painful yet courageous act. *Letting go...* is a sign of inner freedom. *Letting go...* is an act of faith...an abandonment to the loving providence of God. *Letting go...* is the wheat falling to the ground...is dying to oneself, that new life may emerge.

**Letting Come...**

**Brazil:** we opened two communities at the peripheries... a) in the Amazon – Diocese of Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira (MSC Parish); b) Eldorado – Diocese of Registro, ministering among the Quimbolas (MSC Parish).

**Burkina Faso:** we opened a new community in Pouléba, Diocese of Diébougou; Burkina Faso was established as a Region on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 with Sr Marie-Laure Lankoande as the first Regional Leader. Congratulations to our Burkinabe Sisters!

**Cameroon:** we opened a new community in Mogode (near the border of Nigeria).

**Fiji (Province of Kiribati):** we opened a new community in Lomary (MSC Parish). This new community was established while the three Chapter delegates were stranded in Nabua, Fiji for nearly a year due to the closing of international borders.

**Members:**

As of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 14 sisters made their first profession and 8 sisters made their perpetual profession.

*Letting come...* is “the drive to go forth and give, to go out from ourselves, to keep pressing forward in our sowing of the good seed (EG #21)...*Letting come...* is the ability to see a future full of hope...*Letting come...* is believing that the future is in the hands of God.

**Let it be...Let it go...Let it come...This is our life...**

“Our religious consecration, grounded in our baptism, is a call to respond radically to the demands of the Gospel and to enter in a new way into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.” (Constitutions #11.§1)



Sr Marife Mendoza, fdnsc

**2021 Highlights from around the FDNsc World**

We are again at the end of another year...another year dominated by very disturbing headlines:

- the pandemic with its new waves and variants triggering new restrictions and protocols;
- the climate catastrophe with its severe weather conditions causing death and destruction to people and creation;
- wars breaking out in different places leaving so many displaced families and children without parents;
- people on the move, migrants and refugees risking (and for many losing) their lives to find a better home.

This does not make for good reading but it is what we see on our TV sets, computers and newspapers...almost every day! These are the global headlines...



In this year-end 2021 issue of our **Generalate News Update**, our sisters, share their stories, the highlights of the year for them. Our stories do not normally make it to the headlines but we hope they make it to the hearts of our readers. These stories show a realistic recognition of the wounds and ills of our global society and so challenge us to see and hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. At the same time, these stories and news items show that there is hope because we are doing something. We thank our sisters for responding in different and creative ways to the needs they see, according to their specific possibilities. As we read, may we also see and hear the challenge to continue responding!

May the year 2022 see us listening more...praying more...responding more...hoping more... LOVING MORE!



Sr Merle,fdnsc

## From the Generalate

### General Chapter:

When the year began, the plan was to hold our 20<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (originally scheduled in March 2020) in October 2021. But, as we all know by now, covid did not allow us to implement this plan. So, in February, we sent out a survey to all the chapter delegates to get their thoughts and feelings about the situation. We received the responses in March where the majority of the delegates felt that holding the chapter in October 2021 was neither realistic nor prudent. In April, after prayer and discernment, the Congregational Leader and council decided to postpone the Chapter further, this time to September 2022. And so our 20<sup>th</sup> General Chapter will be on September 8<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. It will be a face-to-face chapter, here in Rome in Monte Cucco with Fr Chris Chaplin, MSC as facilitator.



We started having regular meetings with Fr Chris in May and he introduced us to the process of communal wisdom, the process he will use during the chapter. In our subsequent meetings, Chris continued to “form” us in this process of communal discernment as we slowly re-started our chapter preparations. At the end of May, we received the letter from CICALSAL allowing online chapters except for the elections, which should be done through mailed in ballots. After carefully considering this latest development in prayer, we have decided to keep our previous decision, that is, to hold the chapter in September 2022, face-to-face.

What is God saying to the Congregation at this time?  
(Word Cloud from responses of the delegates during the November zoom sessions)



Having found the process of communal wisdom really helpful, we then went to the next stage which was offering experiential formation of the process to all our chapter delegates. This was done through small group sessions with Fr Chris via zoom in the last days of November. Except for one delegate, all the delegates were able to participate in these zoom sessions. With the experiential formation on the communal wisdom process having been initiated, it now feels like the Chapter has begun. And so our journey continues...

### Jubilee - 150 years of FDNSC foundation in 2024

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the CL and Council officially created the FDNSC Jubilee Commission (JC) composed of



four sisters – Sr Raymonde Gasser from France, Sr Linda Strayer from the USA, Sr Cathie Mwagioidi from PNG and Sr Merle Salazar from the Generalate. Their task is to help prepare the sisters for the celebration of the congregation’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. They set out to work soon after the commission’s creation. Being located in four different countries, the commission meetings are done via zoom and work is mostly accomplished electronically. Last August, in the celebration of our 147<sup>th</sup> foundation day, our three-year congregational journey towards the jubilee began.

The theme chosen for the jubilee is “**Honouring our Past, Rejoicing in our Present, Embracing our Future.**” The logo is still in the making. The JC has its hands full with projects. In conjunction with the opening of our three-year journey, a Booklet entitled “**Our Companions on the Journey**” was released to the whole congregation on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

This booklet is the first of three that contain summaries of conferences given by Fr Chevalier and Fr Piperon to the FDNSCs in Issoudun from 1894 to 1898. Two handwritten notebooks of the summaries of the conferences were discovered in the French

archives in 2019. A discovery that came just in time for the Jubilee. We hope that sisters are finding these conferences, not only informative, but inspiring. The Booklet for Year 2, which will be in two volumes, will be released in October 2022, and the last Booklet will be released in January 2024. All these documents are made available to our sisters, electronically, in six languages – French, English, Dutch, Indonesian, Portuguese and Italian.

Here at the Generalate, we received our copies of

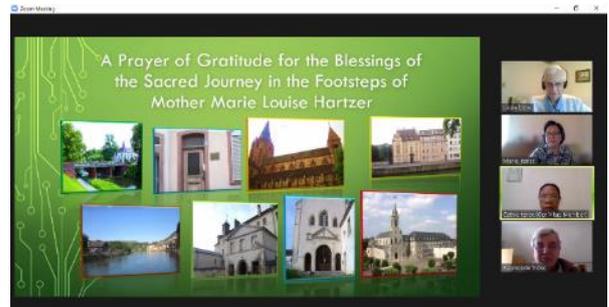


Booklet 1 on our foundation day with a special paralyurgy. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a Eucharistic Celebration in our chapel, presided by Fr Absalon, MSC Superior General. The Mass was followed by a barbecue in our garden with our Italian sisters, MSC sisters, MSC fathers and brothers, and our friends, workers and their families. Everyone had a good



time! This grand opening of our three-year journey was then followed by a monthly sharing on the booklet conferences. This monthly community reflection and sharing will continue in 2022 until we finish the booklet.

September was a busy month. A second project of the JC is a Virtual Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler. A physical pilgrimage was planned in 2020 (it was supposed to have been after the chapter) but, like many other activities, covid had it cancelled. So since a physical pilgrimage is not currently possible for our sisters and we do not know if it will ever be possible, the idea of making a virtual pilgrimage came up. The planning, writing of the script and arrangements were done from May to August. Then in September, four sisters from the Generalate, two sisters from France, and an MSC based in France, set out to do



and film the pilgrimage. We followed the footsteps of Mother Marie Louise from her birth in 1837 to her arrival in Issoudun in 1882. Watch out for it sisters...the film will be released this January 2022. The audio is English and French and it is available with subtitles in 5 languages! Now this is just part 1. Part 2 is currently in the making. It will cover the years 1882 to 1908.

But that is not all. The JC has also made an 8-day retreat in the company of Mother Marie Louise Hartzler. This will be made available to the congregation in 6 languages and may be used by sisters individually or by communities. Like the film, the retreat will also be released in January 2022. This is also just the first of a series of retreats.

So 2022 holds a lot of surprises for us as we continue our journey towards the Jubilee. We hope and pray that all these projects and resources contribute to our renewal as individual FDNCS and as a Congregation as we approach this milestone in our history.

*Sr Merle Salazar, fdnsc*

**From the FDNsc Mission Office**

**Courses on Grant Writing and Fundraising**

This year thirteen sisters have attended online courses which will help with writing and lodging applications to different funders. Each course was of 1 week’s duration and the sisters were appreciative of the opportunity. We are fortunate that covid forced these courses to go online rather than being held in person in Rome as it would not have been possible to consider bringing 13 sisters to Rome. The languages the course was offered in were English, French and Portuguese. This catered for a number of our countries.

In addition, 8 sisters attended four three-hour Zoom sessions, in English, about project writing and fundraising. This course was very practical and explained the difference between pastoral projects and development projects. Our attention was drawn to specific agencies which could be interested in helping us. These 8 sisters had a follow-up meeting to share their learnings and agreed to meet again by Zoom in January.

**Sr Mary Fyfe Memorial Education Fund**

This year several Sisters continued their academic studies in a variety of courses including nursing, teaching, midwifery, psychology, accounting, medicine, project management, information technology, theology and missiology. The fees were paid using donations received for the Sr Mary Fyfe Memorial Education Fund. We anticipate that a similar number of sisters will study in the new academic year.

**Projects and donors**

Several Provinces, Regions and Countries have had projects funded by outside agencies. Projects included provision of water tanks, construction of school facilities, renovations to an aged care facility for our sisters, pastoral work including empowering women, covid relief, relief funds for natural disasters, care of orphans and vulnerable children. Other projects have been funded through the FDNsc Mission Office, which has received generous donations from a number of our Provinces as well as from individuals.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the FDNsc Mission Office. Blessed Christmas and New Year.

*Sr Jenny Christie, fdnsc*

**From the Italian Community**

The covid pandemic has greatly limited our face-to-face contacts with our Italian sisters because they live in a Casa di Cura (a nursing home). Thanks be to God, this year, after taking swab tests and all testing negative, we, at the Generalate, were able to celebrate the Eucharist with our Italian sisters on the feast of OLSH in May in their chapel. Meals together are still not possible. Then in July, to celebrate the world day of the elderly (July 25<sup>th</sup>), we had a



celebration with food, drinks and flowers, in the clinic garden. It was a beautiful summer day!

**From Ireland**

**The Struggle that Undergirds the Grace**

What a slow way to eat,  
 The Butterfly is given by Nature sipping  
 nectar  
 One tiny blue flower at a time  
 Though, a Monarch in name, she’s made to  
 scavenge  
 Like the poorest of the poor, a morsel here, a  
 morsel there.  
 A flutter of ink spattered orange wings.  
 We don’t want to see the struggle that  
 undergirds the grace: the ballerina sweat, or  
 her ruined feet hidden by tights and toe shoes.  
 She knows that her career will be as brief as it  
 was hard to achieve.  
 Pollinated, the tiny blue flowers are sated.  
 The butterfly flits away hoping to live one  
 more day.





**Food for thought:**

This poem gets at what is really happening beneath the surface. Blooms would not happen without the work of pollinators doing their largely unseen work that provides for this incredible beauty.

It is much easier just to focus on the final results rather than plan everything that happens to get to that point, whether it is a flower pollinated by bees and butterflies; a ballet performed by a ballerina who has practiced for years; a sermon shared by a pastor following hours of work each week and years of training; or so many other things. So imagine that the area between the blooms represent everything that went into the final beauty that is seen here and give thanks for all the hard work behind the scenes of so many in our lives. And for me I always give thanks to God “who is able to abundantly accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine” and whose work is far bigger than I can ever know.

As we prepare for the General Chapter, I am conscious of the pollinators at work and busy as butterflies preparing the way. I give thanks for all the pollinators in my life who have made me what I am today. May the God of diversity hold each one close so that a beautiful world can be recreated and made whole.

We live in hope and belief of a living loving God who is regenerating and creating something new and beautiful.

***Molaidh go deo le Dia!***

Praise God always!

Sr Mairead Kelleher, fdnsc



**Greetings from Belgium!**



As you can see by the photo, in Rumst, we live in a green environment with many rivers, cycling and walking routes. Below on the left are the apartments where the sisters live, adjacent to the nursing home and the service flats. The parish church is in the middle, and many lovely people surround us. We really enjoy that.

We were happy when during summer, everything seemed to announce better times. Our sisters enjoyed the visits of family members and friends



Sr Elly



Sr Elza



Pilgrimage to Scherpenheuvel

(taking the necessary safety measures). Some Sisters went on pilgrimages, while others enjoyed a walk or a cosy seat in our garden.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a Eucharistic celebration followed by a meal for the family members of the sisters, whose burial during the Corona period had taken place without attendants. The families enjoyed it and expressed their appreciation.



On All Saints' Day, we gratefully commemorated our departed fellow sisters and family

members in a prayerful celebration.



Just in time, before the stricter regulations came into force, Sr Elly from Rome and Sr Lies from Tilburg came to visit. First, we had a nice chat



in a restaurant and after that, we went to the sisters for a cup of coffee with them.



On September 26<sup>th</sup>, there was a party at the MSC Convent in Borgerhout (Antwerp). They celebrated their 100 years of presence there. MSC, FDNSC, the Chevalier Family, and many friends were present in a beautiful, festive Eucharist presided by Father Absalon (the MSC Superior General).



At a festive meal, there was an opportunity to meet many friends again. At that time, it was possible

again...but now we are back to many limitations and fear about how this will end. But we keep hoping and are very grateful for what we can do as a community. Every day, we come together to pray and have the Eucharistic celebration. Yet, we continue to look hopefully forward to better times.

*Sr Anne Marie Hermans, fdnsc*

**From your Sisters in France**

In the Province, we had the joy of meeting in Issoudun...this had not happened for three years! For two days, with an animator, a psychologist and a consecrated person in a secular institute dedicated to the Heart of Jesus, we reflected together on our religious life and on what we have to live in our communities with the fragility that is ours and above all on how to remain vibrant and free until the end. She reminded us that "*our communities are not what they used to be, but that something still urges us to the following of Christ and that in our lives something is being sought through what we are living and which is challenging us.*"

She invited us to search in confidence for the way in which Christ continues to call us today. She encouraged us to build on and nourish our life together.

On the third day, we had the joy of celebrating the Jubilee of our Sisters, Sr Marie-Hélène (70 years) and Sr Denise (60 years). In the afternoon, after the Eucharist celebrated by Fr Karl Elsener, msc, we shared a festive meal and a time of conviviality.

*Sr Marie Christine Kunzi, fdnsc*



Celebrating with and for our Jubilarians!!!!

At the Mother House, we had a beautiful week at the end of November. Sr Raymonde came to share with us the beginning of the work of the team preparing the 150th anniversary of our Congregation. These were days of discovery and happiness for us. Getting to know Mother Marie-Louise Hartzler's

grandparents and parents was absolutely new, even learning that she had German, Dutch and French backgrounds. Then we walked with them through the places she frequented in Haguenau, among others, and we became aware of what she had experienced and of the mystery of each person's life, a life marked by what is experienced in the family environment.

On the third day, we were invited to contemplate religious paintings from her time and to share those that existed in our respective families. The fourth day

was an opportunity for us to share the words of the Lord that make us feel particularly alive?

Thank you to Raymonde for all that she shared with us and good luck to the team for the future.

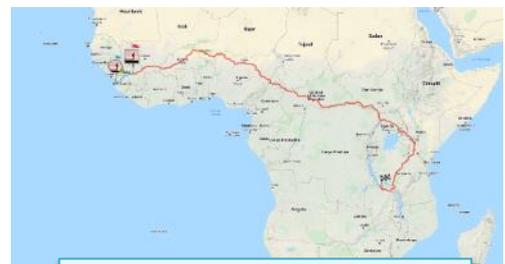
*Sr Marie-Gabrielle Gris*



**HIGHLIGHTS 2021 DUTCH PROVINCE**



February 2021: Carnaval



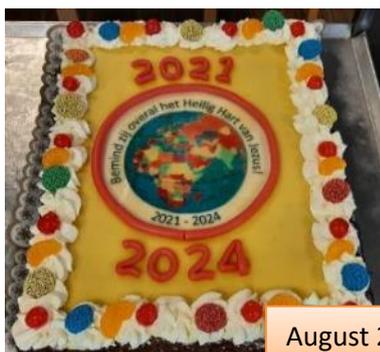
March / April 2021 Lenten Campaign: Walk to help others



April 2021  
New elevator in Mamre Community



June 2021  
Woodpecker nest in the convent garden.



August 2021: Journey towards the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Foundation

December 2021: Sale of our Motherhouse 'Notre Dame'



**From SLOVAKIA**



Be close to people... a message from Pope Francis shared by Sr Marife in the GNU during our 146<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day and what it is like to be in the midst of the Pandemic.

We are thankful for the message and also for the question put in front of us in the same GNU: So, how do we remain "close to people" in a time like ours? It applies to us at present and the question helps us to look ahead. Looking back, we realize that this question has prepared us in hope and encouraged

us to be close to people in another sense or in totally different ways which is not easy to explain. All we have to do is just simply be there for the people who have come from every walk of life, who took every chance to come to the Centre whenever they found out that it was open again. I am sure it was a challenge for them too, to be close to others, but because of their spiritual and physical thirst, which they get filled from the Sacred Heart House and Dorm Kana, through the professors, companions and our hospitality service, they chose to come. A diocesan priest shared this with us during Mass just recently: What is happening in our world these days, we cannot change but we have to accept what is happening because it is real. We do not have to run away from it but we have to continue in new ways what we are called to do in the midst of it all for the glory of God. This has given us a lot of Hope and Courage.



**Passing away of a father figure and a caring friend:** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 God called His faithful servant, Fr Joe Hegglin MSC. Looking back, we realize that our life is in SOMEONE'S LOVING HANDS. All we can do is thank God for all that He has given us

through Fr Joe and to many in Slovakia and Kiribati and others who still today are thankful for him. Others are sad that we, coming from another world, lost someone who knows us and our culture. God who for all time, firstly knows us and our culture, has received Fr Joe into His Heart, a place Fr Joe deserved, and God will continue to sustain us and give us hope and strength.

**Papal Visit - Apostolic Journey of His Holiness Francis to Slovakia: His visit brought him close to the people and people to him. There was no hand shaking etc but I believe the Pope was very happy to see the people, and vice versa.**



It was a four-day visit in September 2021, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Pope met the Slovakian people in four locations around Slovakia. He presided over the Eucharistic Celebrations in the four locations and gave beautiful homilies and speeches. We had a group of ten people in the Centre, therefore Srs Mary and Etera went to Suštín with a group from our parish, to attend the Eucharistic Celebration and to



see the Pope. Everyone had to be registered, and only those who had been given the vaccine were allowed to take part in the audience.

One message of the Pope to religious that is challenging to us was: **be always ready with your Sport Shoes on!** We did wonder why, and reflected on the meaning of this significant message for us as religious. Is it a challenge to be ready at all times? Go forward not backward? **Maybe we will be too comfortable when we have our best shoes on.....** Please God with your grace let us always be ready to **put our Sport Shoes on.** The sisters had to be tested three days after coming back from the audience, for the safety of everyone around them. Thanks be to God they tested negative.

**A Break ever appreciated:**

On Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, our community left for the first ever long break of three days away from the daily routine of the Centre and after Fr Joe's passing away. This was in response to an invitation to us by a priest friend, and a very good friend of Fr Joe. Fr Rado, replacing Fr Joe for the spiritual needs of the Centres, and Sr Katka ssp accompanied us.



At the parish's request, a short presentation on Kiribati was delivered as well as one lively Kiribati song. The presentation and especially the singing got the attention of a very cute young parishioner who happily accepted a garland from us. We came back refreshed



and happy that we have seen important places we have never seen before and we have heard the voice of the parishioners appreciating our service.

A news awaited us as soon as we got home. The new restrictions are to be strictly followed. From midnight of Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, the lockdown is in place. The Vaccine Certificate or Green Pass is needed to get into any public buildings. The parish churches are open but to a limit and of course with Green Pass as well. Thanks to the MSC community, we continue to have the Eucharistic Celebration everyday. The above restrictions have been extended to December 16<sup>th</sup>. What's next? We have learned from our past experiences to wait patiently in Hope, very much of the spirit of Advent, **WAITING IN HOPE.**

**May our Mother Our Lady of the Sacred Heart** continue to be with us as we give all for the Heart of Her Son. Thank you again sisters for all your support and sharing your inspiring news in the GNU, and greetings during the Congregational and Major Feast Days. We appreciate them all and we are proud to have our sisters who are continually praying and thinking of us.



**Merry Christmas and Happy new year. Fdnc Nitra Slovakia**

**FROM BRAZIL**

**1) About Initial Formation in the Brazilian Province:**

Karen and Thais came to join us this year. Karen is a pre-novice and Thais is an aspirant.



Kelly is a novice since December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



**2) About Mission**

Opening of a Community in the state of Amazon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.



The FDNSC Mission Office sent us an amount enough to buy a food supply. Sisters delivered food to people in need. The Province chose the families in the state of Maranhão.



Sisters worked hard visiting families on the peripheries during the worst time of the COVID-19 crisis in our country. They brought hope and support to people in need.



Sr Florinda was solemnly honoured by the city Hall in the city of Itajubá. She does a prophetic work with vulnerable children in the city. People admire her dedication and generosity to the poor.



### 3) About Ongoing Formation

The beginning of the celebration of 150 years of FDNsc foundation. We are grateful to the Jubilee team for the new booklet. We enjoyed the booklet very much.



Celebration of the Jubilees 2021

Ongoing Formation through Zoom Meetings



Sr Renisa da Fonseca, fdnsc

### **ECHOES FROM THE PROVINCE OF AFRICA**

Dear Sisters, in this time of Advent, a time full of Hope because the Saviour is coming, the Province of Africa shares with you two events, joy of our mission and Hope for our future. Despite the global distress caused by the health pandemic, God's work is moving forward and we can give glory to God for His presence in our lives.

The first is the handover from the old to the new team of the Provincial Administration and the second is the erection of the Burkina Faso community as a Region. Indeed, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, on the feast of the commemoration of the death of our dear founding father, the handover of services between Sister Madeleine DIONE and her Council (outgoing members of the Provincial Administration), and Sister Marie Solange OKO and her Council (incoming members of the Provincial Administration) took place. This handing over ceremony took place in the provincial community during a very beautiful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Father Roland ETOGA (MSC), in the presence of some members of the NDSC Fraternity. After the celebration, the bonds of fraternity and sisterhood were further consolidated around a communal meal during which the Pope's interpellation "where there are consecrated persons, there is joy" found its full realization.



Handover of service between Sister Madeleine and Sister Marie Solange

Also, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the community of the FDNsc of Burkina Faso was officially erected as a Region. This same date marked the beginning of the mandate of Sister Marie Laure LANKOANDE as the first Regional Superior of Burkina and her Council. It

was also during a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Father Patrice NYADA (Redemptorist), Head of the Union of Major Superiors in Burkina (USMB) that this was experienced.



Sister Marie Laure, Regional Superior of Burkina Faso and her Council

May OLSH, through our prayers, accompany them in their new missions. We thank God for his wonders in our province. *Sr Marie Solange OKO, fdnsc*

**From Burkina Faso**

The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Burkina Faso are happy to share with you two happy events of the year 2021:

The priestly ordination of the first MSC in Burkina Faso and the official erection of the FDNSC Communities in the Region of Burkina Faso.

The first event took place on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Ouagadougou. It was a day of joy and thanksgiving for the Sisters who surrounded Father Evariste KYELEM. As a reminder, the FNDSC of Burkina promote vocations for themselves and for the



The joy of having an MSC priest



Fr. Evariste 1st MSC of Burkina Faso

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who are no longer present in Burkina Faso.

**Second highlight of the year 2021**

The FDNSC of Burkina Faso would like to express their gratitude to all the FNDSC throughout the world and especially to the pioneers and missionaries who have worked in Burkina Faso. Thank you, thank you, for your prayers and the dedication of all the Missionary Sisters. Thank you to the General Council and the outgoing and incoming Provincial team for accompanying us during the process of Burkina becoming an official Region on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the handing over of services. We want to express our gratitude to Sr Marie Lompo and her Council who have just finished their mandate. We accompany with our prayers Sr Marie-Laure Lankoandé and her Council: Sisters Blandine Ilboudo, Bernadette Diappa and Laurentine Sawadogo.



The celebration on 08 December 2021 in the Chapel.

The celebration is planned for February 19<sup>th</sup> in the presence of the new Provincial Superior, Sister Marie Solange OKO.

*Sr Marie Laure Lankoande, fdnsc*

**From Cameroun**

**A fraternity that breaks the routine to respond to the signs of the times!**

**Closing of the diocesan year of the Sacred Heart**

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the associates of the Chevalier family have experienced several events in the Church that have marked our active presence in the Church of Cameroun, including the conclusion of two successive years dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. By choosing the Sacred Heart, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Yaoundé wanted to



direct the gaze of the faithful towards the discovery of the very person of Christ, often put in the shade in favour of various devotions. The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Our Lady were officially designated to organise and guide the closing prayer of the first year, as children of the Shrine of the Heart of Jesus, according to our Archbishop.



**First joint spiritual retreat for members of the Chevalier family in Cameroun**

Within the Chevalier family, we walk together in faith



and fidelity to our spirit in order to better consolidate our identity. Therefore, we try to multiply the occasions that allow us to celebrate the charism of Father Chevalier in synodality between MSC, FDNsc and Lay Associates. A joyful or unhappy event is always an opportunity to gather as a family around the member who has suffered. In addition to this mutual assistance, we had the first common experience of an annual spiritual retreat between the two religious branches and the lay branch of the Chevalier family in Cameroun. This retreat, which took place August 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was attended by MSCs, FNDSCs and lay members of the family.

The experience was unforgettable, especially for our lay people who do not always have the facility of spiritual retreats in the style of consecrated persons. For some, it was the first time to observe total silence for several days and to revisit themselves after a year of intense work. It was fascinating, but also very difficult for those who were not prepared for this exercise. The preacher of the occasion, Father Théodore AKONO, imbued with the spirituality of the heart, had the heavy mission of challenging the people in order to safeguard the climate of prayer

during the retreat: a good way of drinking from the source of living water which springs from the Heart of Jesus.

**Commemoration of the Founder's anniversary**

In the continuity of this journey towards spiritual and fraternal communion between the members of the Chevalier family, we experienced another strong moment which showed the Lord's will to gather us in the unity of his Heart. It was on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the anniversary of the Founder's death, celebrated as



a custom every year with the MSCs, FDNscs and lay associates as a routine commemoration. This year's celebration was enriched by two unusual events which almost broke the traditional communion: the assumption of office by Sr Sylvie as Regional Leader of Cameroon and the entry into the postulancy of two aspiring FDNsc. These two internal FDNsc events had been scheduled on the same day under the leadership of the Superior of the UAF, Rev. Father Yvon BANAKISSA.

But how was he to preside over two ceremonies on the same day in which the same members of the Chevalier family were to take part? After some discernment in the Region, the FDNsc decided to abandon their own organisation and join the family members for a single celebration at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Scholasticate in Nkolbisson. For the FDNsc, this was a way of dying to our usual ways in favor of the growth of the great Chevalier family. But this death gave all the children of Fr. Chevalier the possibility of witnessing the commitment of Sister Sylvie as Regional Leader of Cameroun and of our aspirants as postulants of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The Lord calls us to know how to read the signs of the times which are often obscured by habit and routine.



*Sr Sylvie MENGUE, fdnsc*

**From Congo**

Being alive from January to December is not something to be taken for granted but a grace received from the Lord. That is why we say thank you to the good Lord for his wonders in our lives, especially in this year of health crisis that continues to ravage the world. Through his love he continues to guard us and watch over us, may his name be glorified.

Through this letter, we come to share with you some of the happy events we have celebrated or experienced this year.

**From September 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>,** we had the grace of an annual retreat which brought together all the sisters of the region, preached by Father Prospère NDJOLI, Oblate of Mary Immaculate, whose theme was "Your faith has saved you".



After the retreat, we had a session on "ECOFIN" (Economy and Finance), again with Father Prospère, which lasted two days. At the end of the session, Father also helped us with some guidelines for the preparation of the centenary of the presence of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Congo which will take place in 2025, so that we could already start with the distant preparation. It was a moment of great joy because our last annual meeting took place three years ago.

Another happy event that we celebrated this year was the perpetual profession of our sisters Francine MUNZANZA, Huguette MBOLI, Louise BITALO and Marie Judith BOLINGO, which took place on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Mbandaka. The Mass was celebrated by Mgr Ernest NGBOKO, Archbishop of Mbandaka-Bikoro. After the Mass, there was a small family reception with refreshments in which some guests and family members of the sisters professed on that day took part.



From September 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, we had the regional meeting which brought together all the sisters of the region, where we dealt with important issues for the good functioning of our region. The student sisters, unable to take part in this meeting, received a report on it.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we received with joy the nomination of Sister Bibiane NDILU as a councillor of the



province. On Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had the Mass of her mission-sending to the community in Kinshasa, to say goodbye and to give her the mission cross. The said ceremony was presided over by Father Christian MONGAY, Superior of the MSC for the Congo District.

On Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, Sister Bibiane flew to Senegal where she joined the leadership team of the province; we wish her a fruitful mission in the land of Teranga. On the same day of her departure, we joyfully welcomed Sister Marie-Thérèse NYAKPATA who returned from her internship, after a year's absence from community. She returned to us in good health. She is currently preparing for the examination and the swearing in.



On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the day on which we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, and also the day on which our MSC confreres celebrate their foundation day, we had the joy of welcoming three postulants who made their entry into the postulancy: Esther, Bénédicte and Jessica; there is Christelle who was not able to be with the others because the means of transport did not allow her to travel in time, she will make her entry into the postulancy alone as soon as she arrives.



These are just a few of the happy events that we have celebrated during this year 2021. We wish you a happy holiday season and may the Christ child bring peace and joy to our hearts.

*Sr. Trinité EBENYA,fdnsc*

**A big hello from SENEGAL**

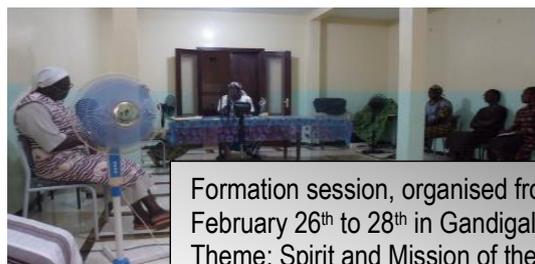


In our region, in order to better help the sisters live the spirituality and the charism of our Congregation, as our venerated Father Founder Jules CHEVALIER wanted, we had two (2) meetings, two (2) regional formation sessions and the annual retreat. Then we had two (2) formation sessions for the young professed sisters.



Formation sessions for our collaborators from February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> with

the themes: How to witness to my faith in my workplace and Marriage in the Catholic Church.



Formation session, organised from February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Gandigal Theme: Spirit and Mission of the FDNSC by an MSC



Formation session on Fratelli Tutti led by a Piarist



Blood donation

We had the joy of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the NDSC health centre in Gandigal at the same time as the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with free consultations the day before.

From June 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, we had the annual regional retreat in Ngazobil. It was led by Father Bernard, a Jesuit, on the theme, **The compassion of God.**



The second meeting of the year from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> was for planning the year 2022.





Entry to the Postulancy of Marie Louise and Marie Madeleine.



Visit of the two councillors Sr Juliette and Sr Marie Laure on December 14<sup>th</sup> during which a farewell ceremony was held in their honour.



On November 13<sup>th</sup>, our health centre Jules Chevalier of Maka received its laboratory equipment to provide better care of the patients.



Formation of bursars on project funding on October 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.



The first profession on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Novitiate

NB/ We have experienced with sadness the aggression of the community of Gandigal whose guard was seriously injured on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank God his condition is now restored.

**From South Africa**

*As we come to the end of the year we look back with gratitude - we managed to keep healthy and to continue our various ministries. Here are some of our highlights.*

**My greatest happiness in 2021 (Sr Jeanne Futwembun fdnsc)**



It makes me so happy that the children at Holy Family Care Centre are healthy after another year in lockdown. This year we continued to

home school 53 children - we were able to individually help the ones who are very weak in reading and mathematics. I am happy because all my Grade 2 children passed very well.

I am happy too as I reflect on my years as a missionary in Africa – 4 years in Southern Sudan and 10 years in South Africa. My Visa soon expires and I will return to Indonesia. My flight has been cancelled twice. I am waiting patiently and there is always plenty to do with the children here.

**A unique privilege (Sr Sally Duigan fdnsc)**

In April the canonisation cause of Blessed Benedict Tshimangadzo Daswa entered a crucial new stage. This was after the Diocese of Tzaneen sent the findings of its formal investigation into a possible miracle attributed to the martyr to the



Congregation for the Causes of Saints. I was privileged to be at this Initial Inquiry which took place in Thohoyandou, Venda. Last month we received further instructions from Rome and a Supplementary Inquiry was also held in Thohoyandou. Perhaps it won't be too long before

South Africa has its first Saint. Our Sisters have been involved in this Cause since the beginning.

**Bakhita Outreach and Water Tanks  
(Sr. Amaka Jane Ugochukwu fdnsc)**

One highlight of the year was the installation of water tanks to four families of our children in the Bakhita program.



These tanks (2500l) will relieve the families of the stresses of no water. They no longer need to walk long distances to fetch water, they can wash their hands often, the kids can have a good bath, and use the water from the tanks as their source of safe and clean drinking water. The municipality of the local area fills the tanks.

Since my first Profession I have been in South Africa. Soon I will be leaving for Senegal for a new mission. I hope and pray the flight will leave as scheduled. I am looking forward to the next stage of my journey.

**World AIDS Day in Nzhelele  
(Sr Rotee Uriam fdnsc)**

There are more than 80 children who are in our OLSH OVC Outreach Program and most of them are HIV positive. These children long for someone to love them and listen to their unique stories. Each month I join the caregivers and visit the children in their homes. We ended our activities for the year by coming together in an open space at the mission to celebrate World AIDS Day. The celebration was solemn and we lit candles to remember all who had

died because of AIDS. Being with the children and carers gives me energy, happiness and gratitude.

**An unexpected assignment  
(Sr Gabrielle Moseka fdnsc)**

To my surprise I was asked to manage the St Brendan’s Boarding School Kitchen for six months. The days were long – work began at 6.30am until 7.30pm with a few short breaks in between. It was a demanding job but I worked with passion and I was always

happy even if I was tired at times. Working side by side with the local women and



interacting with the young learners I learned about the realities of their lives. Through prayer and God’s grace I tried to address some of their concerns. I continued my English studies and had plenty of opportunities to practice with the women and learners. Now I have time to focus on preparing the School Clinic for 2022.



Srs Amaka, Sally, Jeanne, Gabrielle and Rotee – Easter 2021

**From South Sudan**

2021! A year of blessings; the blessings have come in many and varied forms; some were easily recognised while others took time to process and then be grateful for. Covid, travel complications, deaths, successes, arrivals, departures and our wonderful scope for evangelisation amongst



a people of largely Traditional Religions with small groups of First Generation Christians provides much joy and helps us remain constantly focused.

Firstly I pay tribute to two heroic Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart whose lives impacted strongly on the Mapuordit mission. Sr. Bernadette Koning died in March. Her tireless work on our behalf allowed our ministries to remain alive and expand where needed. Thanks Dear Bern. The death of Sr. Mary Batchelor took us by surprise. Mary pioneered the OLSH education ministry in Mapuordit. As school Principal in both Primary and Secondary schools, Mary set up excellent administrative procedures and was an excellent teacher. Several “Sharing Memories” occasions were celebrated in Mary’s honour as well as a tree planting. Your memory lives on dear Mary.

April witnessed an enthusiastic celebration of the long awaited arrival of the new Bishop Elect Christian Carlassare, a charismatic Comboni Missionary of many years. He arrived in Rumbek where the whole town together with all missionaries and Christian faithful welcomed him at the airport amidst much singing and dancing. Sadly two weeks later there was an assassination attempt on his life; by God’s grace he “survived” the assassination attempt but the event took its toll. His ordination to the Episcopate has been delayed indefinitely.

In 2021 the two greatest highlights for the OLSH community were the return of Sr. Bernadette and Virginia.

The Indonesian Province helped Sr. Bernadette to bravely defeat Covid travel constraints and complications connected with acquiring a Kenyan online Visa. Welcome dear Bern. Meanwhile Bernadette has resumed her work as Principal of the Parish Nursery school which shines as the brightest

“Nursery Star” in the Diocese. Sister also supervises the Nursery school at Aluakluak.

Bernadette’s other talents excel in both garden and kitchen. I believe her gardens thrive because she loves her plants. They tangibly know they’re loved and respond accordingly. This is wonderful to witness. This is also the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and the Spirit of *Laudato Si*.



Sr. Virginia was to travel with Bernadette but the very day of travel Sister tested Covid positive. The intervening months allowed Virginia to bravely



conquer Covid, regain strength and really prepare for her return to South Sudan. Currently Sister is working

with the Secondary female students and very perceptible changes are awakening amongst the girls. It is inspiring to see. Sister is well remembered in Mapuordit from her previous 6 years spent in Mapuordit. Welcome home Sr. Virginia.

Our deep gratitude to the Indonesian Province leadership team who so generously give of their best to the OLSH ministries in Mapuordit.

We share our community with Pauline Carr, a Nurse and Tutor nurse, working at the hospital. During recent months Pauline tested positive to Covid and unfortunately has remained positive. We pray that the next test will bring a negative result.

Sr. Rita tries to continue her ministry with the women; the months that Covid held churches closed and prevented gatherings, scattered the women;

now much energy, creativity, initiative and dynamism is needed to rebuild the former enthusiasm that prevailed. Other ministries take her to outlying schools of Mapuordit to provide very minimal support in the form of really basic supplies.



Developing agricultural skills with a view to ensuring food security is one of Rita’s main focus areas. Thanks to generous donors and the coordination of OLSH Overseas Aid and MSC mission office several water points have been provided for scattered communities. Most water points are now connected with a garden. Before the end of 2021 we hope for completion of 4 additional boreholes.

Sr. Wendy left us in May for her overdue holiday in Australia. Unfortunately, Covid 19, kept Wendy housebound for months. It was only very recently that restrictions were lifted in Sydney and Wendy was able to visit family members and the OLSH Sisters. Sister’s return is now delayed due to health issues.

When in Mapuordit, Wendy works closely with the poorest of destitute persons, mainly women, in Mapuordit. Wendy supervises a food distribution and support program for this group. We all pray for her recovery.

Please be assured that our mission in Mapuordit is vibrant, alive and joyful; we love our people and there is much scope for outreach and contact with and there is need for more workers in the vineyard. We pray the Lord of the Harvest to support God’s work in this part of the world.

Sr Rita Grunke, fdnsc

**From Australia**

We began the new year inspired by the words of Rainer Maria Rilke, “And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.” Throughout the year there was much to be grateful for and give thanks to God.



After 91 years in Elmore, Victoria, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart withdrew from the parish. We received a

beautiful farewell from the Parishioners and all the people of Elmore who have appreciated and loved having the presence of the Sisters.

Community Leaders gathered for a fruitful weekend workshop at Hartzler Park in early March.



Our Province Assembly Workshop in April, with its theme of **Our Hearts – Expansive and Inclusive**, led to the development of our Australian Province Strategic Plan 2020-2025, to enable communities to continue to respond to our charism and mission. It consists of four pillars (*Deepening Collective Awareness, Ageing, Mission and Ministry and Leadership and Operation*). One of the Plan’s priorities is care of the Sisters and, to



this end, work has begun on a Province Model of Care and an employment process for a Health and Wellbeing

Coordinator to ensure appropriate services and support are provided to all Sisters across the Province: clinical and assisted living support; individual advocacy; health promotion; support for community leaders; and the future role of Mercy Health, whom we are negotiating with regarding the sale and redevelopment of our Kensington property. Other strategic priorities identified include *Care for the Earth* (reducing our carbon footprint, reaching out to the lonely and isolated, supporting Indigenous Australians, commitment to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, and reflection and community discussion of the JPIC series *OLSH Hearts for Others*); *Partnership with the People of God* (fostering the development of new expressions for lay people, including our employed partners in mission, to live the charism into the future), and *Assisted Living Communities* (supports and resources for the Bentleigh and Kensington communities). Since we closed our community in Corinda, Queensland, at the Assembly, we made the decision to offer our home at Corinda as a “House of Hope,” providing accommodation for vulnerable people. While the establishment of this is ongoing, the St Vincent de Paul Society will be our partner in this venture.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse and the Royal Commission into Aged Care resulted in new compliance Standards for all Religious Congregations. We have spent time writing policies

and our Province is committed to an ongoing and proactive approach to safeguarding and professional standards.

**Jubilees and Anniversaries**

Due to COVID, Jubilee celebrations were celebrated in individual communities, which saw 50<sup>th</sup> (Srs Marlene Dewar, Jenny Kirby and Christine Martin), 60<sup>th</sup> (Srs Margaret Bird, Pauline Compton, Monica Donnan, Patricia Irvin and Cornelia Speelman) and 70<sup>th</sup> (Sr Eileen Kennedy, Sr Lorraine Ryan and Sr Anne Gardiner) jubilees held. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of our 147<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day, our three-year journey towards our 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee began. In Wadeye NT, 80

years of OLSH presence was celebrated. On April 17<sup>th</sup> the elders held a small community celebration at the old



Convent marking 80 years since the arrival of the sisters. In August OLSH College Enfield celebrated 70 years since the school began.

**Formation**

The Cor Vitae team organised a *Life Transition Seminar* from May 2021, around the three main life stages and faith development in the context of Spirituality of the Heart. In addition, we have had online formation sessions for our Sisters in the Philippines and Vietnam by a number of Sisters from the Australian Province.



It was wonderful to gather from around the Province: Australia, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam and South Africa on zoom for the celebration of Fr Chevalier’s anniversary for prayer and ‘coffee and a chat’.

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide all experienced lockdowns, with Melbourne being the most locked-down city in the world. Our Sisters were asked to contribute to an archival record of the pandemic; they sent in many articles about their experiences and the challenges they faced in responding with love and gratitude to the demands made of them. These responses were collated and printed and have been circulated to all the Sisters in the Province.

Throughout 2021 we remembered and gave thanks for the lives of five courageous Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred

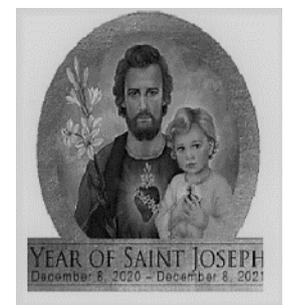


Heart who were called to God. Srs Maureen Brazel, Bernadette Koning, Teresa Chu, Mary Batchelor, Patricia Mawn. We will miss these Sisters greatly and to each one we say a heartfelt thank you for their wonderful witness of being Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, women of heart on mission.

Throughout 2021, we have been mindful of our sisters and brothers locally and globally who have been burdened by their personal and communal suffering. We continue to reach out in a spirit of inclusivity and love trusting that our all-powerful God who is all powerful love will bring peace, healing and joy to our world this Christmas Season. *Sr Philippa Murphy, fdnsc*

**From Kiribati**

As we end the year of St Joseph we thank God through the prayers of St Joseph for the graces obtained through his intercession. One of the things that we really needed was an altar bread machine. As altar bread suppliers for the Diocese, we tried nearby countries to order from them, but they only supply the already made altar bread which are quite expensive. It was a worry when COVID19 came and no more planes. St Joseph came to our aid and now no more shortage!! Not only this but our maintenance is being seen to as well.



Some of our communities went to different sectors to give talks on St Joseph. The people really enjoyed and found the talks inspiring and interesting.

**Safenet for Domestic Violence.**

Our OLSH Crisis Centre is one of the safenets that is well-known to women and girls that suffer from Domestic Violence (DV). Our Sisters are more active in issues concerning DV and we get more financial support from



the government UN Women and Counselling group. We are often invited to their meetings and workshops.

Just before Christmas, Sr Ruti Kaburoro and Sr Kateia travelled to Christmas Island, to see the place where the women and girls needed shelter. Christmas Island is the biggest atoll in the world, and we have been invited to start a Crisis Centre there. It is two hours ahead of Tarawa and the population is increasing. We used to be on Christmas Island. The MSC Kiribati sisters are now there working in the school. The island is quite far and closer to Hawaii. Our trip is part of our discernment process. Our fares and expenses are paid by the Government.



Srs Rosarin and Maritina attending one of the meetings and launching of a counselling package against Gender Based violence.

**Formation**

The council has accepted three women to enter our Pre-Novitiate and they will start on

February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6 Novices will be professed on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the moment, Kiribati is blessed with vocations and about 30 girls in different stages and education are aspiring to join us. Screening and assessment are not easy, but we welcome these girls for weekends or Come & See Programmes to help them in their faith and life journey. Kiribati is changing a lot and girls now are drinking and using some kind of drug available on the island.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 OLSH Associates made their first Commitment and Sr Maiango guided them in a reflection day.



These are some of our Associates during one of their reflection days.

**WE WISH YOU, OUR SISTERS, THE CHOICEST  
GRACE OF CHRISTMAS  
AND WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**From the Philippines**

Pondering on all the experiences of this year, our hearts are overflowing with joy for the Almighty has done great things in us, in our region, in our society, in our world. Mary, OLSH, is our constant companion throughout the journey as she helped us in our awe and amazement, in our doubts and struggles, in our joys and pains.

Firstly, this year we celebrate the quincentenary of Christianity in the Philippines. Truly a significant event in the faith lives of Filipino Catholics throughout the world. “Gifted to Give” is the theme, taken from Matthew 10:8, for the celebration. It was 500 years ago, in 1521, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, representing the Spanish Empire, arrived in the Visayan region of the Philippines

bringing with him the Catholic faith. This celebration strengthens our missionary call to bring the love of the Word Incarnate in the different ministries wherever we are.





St Alphonsus Catholic School (SACS) was awarded for its invaluable service, contribution and unwavering support to the City of Lapu Lapu and also to Nuestra Senora de Regla Parish and National Shrine. This is part of the 500 Years Of Christianity Celebration.



Ministry with our indigenous (Badjao) and linking with the diocese through social media to raise awareness on *Laudato Si'*.



The Region is happy to welcome back Sr. Narie after almost 16 years of missionary work in Japan.



Reopening of OLSHIS with new teachers after one school year of closure due to Covid 19



Cordova Community Pantry



DOLSH 40 years of Ministering in Marigondon



Surigao Community Pantry



Community Pantry for Matangtubig Community

In response to the needs of our elderly sisters, we are grateful to the Australian Province for the creation of the ramp and the 24-hour care area named after



our first Regional Leader in the Philippines, Sr. Jessie Batchelor, FDNSC.

This Columbarium was built and blessed on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and inurnment of Sr. Leonila's ashes on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We are grateful to the Japan mission for their generosity in making this possible.



The Region also welcomed Shiela Mae Llanita as an aspirant with Sr. Precy as her formator.

**From Vietnam**

**Grace in mission**

As a community, when we look back at the second half of the year, we cannot imagine how our covid project began. Before the lockdown, our plan was just to give food to some poor families around our neighbourhood, at least once a month, but the call was different. Day by day, the restrictions were tightening until we ended up having bars on both sides of our street. To receive food from the shops and to give food became complicated. Our hearts were moved when we heard and saw people suffering. We had to respond and Love through networking became our tool to make things happen.

**How? God sent angels!** Volunteers came to reach out to people in need around our area. Doctors came to reach out to covid positive families quarantined at home, most of whom did not have money for medicine. Benefactors came, local and from overseas, who gave money for us to be able to buy medicines and food for people in need. Also God sent story tellers for people to hear the cries of the poor and identify families in need. **God sent angels!**



For us to have courage to reach out to people, we have our charism and the support and prayer of the sisters. It was like the loaves multiplied and people were fed.

During the lockdown, we saw on news in the internet members of a family weeping when a group took the dead bodies of their loved ones from their house. Then suddenly, the stories we saw on the news became real to us. Every day, we heard sacred stories of people. Please allow me to share some of these stories.

Chi Duyen (our friend) shared the story of a fish seller near her house. In this family of four, 3 were infected with covid (the father, mother and son). All three were brought to the hospital leaving the daughter who was in her late 30's at home. Sadly the mother died in the hospital, the father's health condition was not stable, while the son was getting

better. Chi Duyen asked the sisters to talk to the daughter because she was practically weeping while waiting for the urn of her mother. Yen talked to her and we realised that we actually know this family, we regularly buy fish from them". This story was the turning point for our community - listen to the call and do something. Chi Duyen became our Martha number 1. Chi Duyen would inform us about the situation of families regardless of their religion in her community and then Yen would call them and assess the situation. Day after day, the number of people in need increased. We provided food,



kitchen boxes and other things, once a week, depending on the situation. Most of the people we helped live in rented houses and

are poorer compared to residents of other streets. It would usually take us 15 minutes to reach the area when we walk. In this community the church near their area counted the Catholics who died of covid during the lockdown and posted the information in the church, 54 Catholics died in the area. Most of the beneficiaries of our project were from this area.

Now let us meet Chi Doan. She knocked at our door and asked help for her neighbour. She said *"in that house 4 already died, they don't have food and people inside the house are not allowed to go out"*. She became our Martha number 2. Chi Doan helped us to deliver food around her area. Because of the need of this family, we found some doctors. A friend recommended two doctors. They offered free consultation to patients at home. Yen's gift and interest with

medicine helped us to correctly dispense the medicine from the prescriptions of the Doctors. Not everybody can follow the form to be filled out before the consultation. Yen also patiently filled out the form for them and set up a system for dispensing medicine. Anh Hung, one of the catechists, helped us buy the medicines and deliver them to people.



Parents of our students in the English tutorial class also supported us. When we received food (like sacks of rice, vegetable, etc.) ordered or from benefactors, we usually call them to help us bring the things over the fence to our house. We needed to be quick before the Police noticed us. I was really surprised at how this was done quietly and quickly. They helped us in packing and sorting the food as well as in delivering food. They also have fear but like us, their hearts were also moved with the stories they heard and the things they saw.

Also, there was a man asking for food saying *"the adults can endure hunger but my baby cannot"*. We realized that young children and old people have special needs. We included milk for families with children and old people. Thank God, every Tuesday, we have exposition for covid victims. This helped us cope, offer intentions of people and regain our courage. The regular swab testing by the local authorities helped us to monitor ourselves also.

We were also surprised with the donations we received from friends, congregations and organizations that come just at the time we needed them. The more we reached out to people, the more donations came. People trusted us with their small



Sr. Yen and Cô Loan. Yen sent her and her family medicine and food during the lockdown.

donations. A group in the church posted the name of our congregation and the cellphone number of Yen on the church facebook page. Our convent

became a source of refuge for people who need food and medicine.

The first phase of our COVID project was from July 25<sup>th</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup>. Within that period, there were **154** families who received food packs, kitchen boxes and household items. We tried to give food at least once a week to each family. The frequency of the weekly distribution depended on the situation of the family. Families with covid positive members, with old people and children, regularly received food, medicines and hygiene supplies because they had to stay at home. Among the **154** families, 54 had members that were covid positive.

The diocese asked the parish priest to re-count their parishioners. In the four parishes around us there were more than 100 people who died, but in our

parish we only have 1. People are thankful to us and the parish caritas office for the care given to them during the lockdown.

We want to thank the Province and the Generalate for the financial support they sent. The funds gave us courage to begin this project and sustained us. After the lockdown, we moved to the second phase of this project which is to give hope to people. One way to give hope was to lend money to the street vendors in Tan Binh and handicapped selling lottery



Street vendors

tickets in Gò Vấp. They have options to borrow money from 500,000 to 3,000,000 VND. (100 USD is around 2,300,000 vnd) payable for 3 to 4 months. They are very grateful for this because when they borrow money from others, for every 1,000,000 they need to pay 80,000 monthly in interest. Another way to give hope is to be present at the Mass with families. People invited us to attend the Mass for their dead in the church. I cannot forget one particular Mass where three members of a family died within two days. Some of our patients came to our house to say thank you and others gave donations. One offered to clean our house when she has free time.

Yên's reflection is that God loves the people and we became channels of that love. It is the kindness of God reaching out to his people.

We feel sad with the suffering of people around us, yet there is also a sense of gratitude and hope because we did not get paralyzed with fear and despair. In the stories we heard, we felt God's protection and providence, we have partners in mission. There is a feeling of solidarity and communion with the people that we encountered. As we helped them, we also learned from them and were nourished by their faith, courage and strength to overcome difficulties. The grace in mission became real for us.

The response to the pandemic was gift for the people and for us. Our door became wider - people came and we made friends with them. The hospitality of

the people is really amazing. Now we have new areas to visit, possible places for ministry. At the same time we are able to practice our Vietnamese with them. With our partners in mission, we continue to help some families, especially the old people who have to work in order to live.

For me, words like solidarity and communion in mission became real. The words of Fr. Chevalier that "nothing is impossible in God's mission" ring true. We are very proud to have our charism. After the lockdown, people visited us to say thank you.

Family of Cô Dung with Sr. Che. In this house there are 14 people living together. This family receives the weekly food supply.



Please continue praying for the intentions of our people here, business is really slow and it will take sometime for business to recover. Pray for people who had lost their loved ones and those who are looking for jobs. What sustains them is their faith as well as their endurance to face difficult realities and hardworking attitude.

During the advent season, a season of waiting, we can find a similarity between Mary and ourselves. The pandemic is not yet over and the whole world is still waiting. Mary was also waiting for the coming of Jesus and facing challenges yet she was able to sing the Magnificat. We can also sing like Mary because we can recognize God's grace in us and in the people we encounter. *Sr Cherry Villegas, fdnsc*

### **From Indonesia**

#### **ONLINE RETREAT EXPERIENCE 2021**

The Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet, which causes all face-to-face activities to be very rare. The annual retreat of the FDNSC Indonesian Province in 2021 is finally being held again virtually. For two years successively, the FDNSC Sisters in Java and Kalimantan have held online retreats. The Retreat Guide for 2021 was Fr. Gregory Hertanto, MSC. The theme of the retreat was "**Welcoming the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti in the Light of Spirituality of the Heart.**" This retreat was very special for us



because Father Hertanto's materials and conferences helped us to understand the message of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and to find the inspirations he gave us, and to carry them out in our vocation and mission as FDNSC. As an inspiration, the encyclical points to the ideal of a common fraternity in love and respect for human dignity. This ideal has always been the goal of the Congregation.

The method of the retreat was also very good. There were two sessions given virtually each day and we were given enough time for individual reflections. The participants' activities were carried out individually or in groups in their respective communities. Thanks to this virtual retreat that reached out broadly, there were participants from different communities: Grogol, Kramat, Kotawisata, Tegal, Pemalang, Wisma Bunda Hati Kudus Pemalang, Cilacap, Purworejo, Wonosobo, Kapencar, Parakan, Yogyakarta, Banjarmasin, Ambon/Maluku, Merauke, Medan (one of our sisters was on her vacation) and Sr. Aurelia in Manila.



The retreat process was extraordinary because it was given very systematically so that we were able to follow and understand the material well. According to the existing theme, we were prepared to enter the initial stage of understanding the Encyclical *Fratelli*

*Tutti*. Then in the next stage, we were invited to welcome the Encyclical in the spirit of Spirituality of the Heart. At the last stage of the retreat we were invited to collect the fruits of our reflections. Hopefully the points of reflections found in this retreat will enable us to carry out our congregation's missions better in the days to come.

This virtual retreat really gave us new spiritual freshness to love our vocation as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart more, ready to be sent into any situation. This retreat also helped us to prepare for our pilgrimage towards the double jubilees: the 150<sup>th</sup> year of FDNSC Foundation on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Fr Jules Chevalier on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



The year 2021 is the first year for us FDNSC to start our pilgrimage to welcome this important year. To quote again the message of the FDNSC Congregational Leader which is also in line with Pope Francis' message regarding the Pilgrimage as follows: **a journey has a destination and a map; a journey involves preparation; a journey offers surprises; a journey opens new vistas and panorama.**

May this retreat be an opportunity to always remember and be grateful for all the blessings and to renew our commitment to the mission so that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is loved everywhere and forever!

*Sr. M. Eufrasia Wea, FDNSC*

**Be a Blessing in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic**

It doesn't feel like we are almost at the end of 2021. The pandemic situation is still fresh in our memories, where we, as community, society, nation and world, are in a state of concern because of Covid-19 with all its consequences in all aspects of life.

As Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart we are called to look at our surroundings and respond to the love of the Heart of Jesus through our apostolic ministry which reaches all people, especially those who are poor and marginalized. Not infrequently, we meet those who have lost a lot of opportunities for a better life. The church often invites us to be involved in paying attention to those who suffer the direct impact of this pandemic. We are aware that there are still individuals out there who need our helping hand to support, encourage and ask for our sacrifices.

Our hearts are touched by this situation of pandemic, "What can we do to get involved in helping those who are suffering?" Then we, FDNCS Kramat Community heard the call and acted. We made rice wraps for the poor people, the scavengers, who are often near our surroundings. To start something always takes courage and needs self-sacrifice, so some sisters agreed to start making the rice wraps, starting with ten wraps then growing day by day. By



sharing our meal with those who are in need, we try to show our kindness following the example of the first Christian community who shared their belongings with one another.

Sometimes we are just like a bridge that connects one direction to another so that we can meet at a certain destination point. The aim is to show compassion in the midst of this pandemic. Here, the sisters become like a bridge for sharing the same goodness, the same concern for the needy. Then it is like the chain of goodness which is formed by our friends, who have the same compassion and concern for the poor and needy, who share their raw materials with us to provide the rice wraps. Besides raw materials, some of our friends also provide some ready-made food. Then the chain of goodness gets bigger and bigger.

The distribution is by the sisters of Kramat community themselves, who are very familiar with the area around the sisters' residence, with a different route every day. In the beginning, the

sisters made rice wraps every day, but due to the hectic community activities, the making of rice wraps has been carried out approximately three times a week. We are grateful for the generosity of friends and acquaintances whom the sisters could involve in doing something for those who are in need.

This pandemic situation teaches us many things, how we have to live with other people who are also our responsibility as fellow creatures of God. In this unhealthy society, we are called to be neighbours to others. We have a shared moral responsibility to create a society that accepts, integrates and lifts those who have fallen or suffered from the impact of Covid-19.

Love will always build bridges and we were created to love in all our situations. As Pope Francis urges us to go "outside ourselves" in order to find "a fuller existence in others", by opening ourselves up to others according to the dynamic of love that leads us to "universal fullness". That way our spiritual life will be measured by love, which always "takes the first place" and leads us to seek what is better for the lives of others.

*Sr. M. Vinsentia, FDNCS*



### **From Indonesia – West Papua**

**Sharing the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at  
Erambo Outstation,  
Sota Parish, Merauke, South Papua**

### **Members of Chevalier Family in the Archdiocese of Merauke (November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021)**

We praise and thank God for His loving faithfulness that guides and protects us, the Chevalier family members, especially during this pandemic, and that we are still allowed to share with those who need a helping hand from us. We, the Chevalier Family members, have already had a routine program ahead of Christmas celebrations, holding a social service at the Erambo outstation, Sota parish. The activities we carried out included:

### 1. Eucharistic celebration with people at the outstation



The Eucharistic celebration offered by Father Everadus Resubun MSC at the Erambo outstation, Sota Parish, became the foundation for us to get the strength and spirit of the Sacred Heart of Jesus present in it, the main source and culmination of our lives. As for us, the Eucharistic Celebration contains the meaning of divine life and the unity of God's people combined in a heavenly liturgy that is consecrated towards **eternal** life. Here we, the Chevalier family, are able to experience and live out the Eucharistic celebration in our service to the people at Erambo Outstation.

### 2. The deepening faith of children



To deepen the faith of the children, we have:  
**Vision:** That the children may have good personalities and characters marked by a strong Catholic Faith, selflessness, being tough, persevering, and intelligent based on the spirit of fraternity in the love of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

- Mission:** As the Chevalier family, we dare to:
- Accompany children to improve their spiritual, emotional, and academic intelligence in the spirit of love.
  - Create loving fraternity and Peace
  - Train the children to grow in their willingness to sacrifice
  - Foster the intelligent children in reading, writing and counting
  - Cultivate in them religious Values – fraternity, culture of love, chastity, honesty, leadership and love for the environment.
  - Live out the spirit of total and compassionate love towards the needy which marks the heart

spirituality achieved in good accompaniment of the students, participation physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally in the real practise of charity.

### 3. Health Care Services



In our health care services for people, as Chevalier family we collaborate with the doctors and nurses from the city of Merauke or the local community health centers, so that there is an integrated collaboration in medical services with government agencies. The aim of our health care services for the people or community of Stasi Erambo is by taking into account the following suggestions:

- Free medical treatment for the public for common diseases within Erambo outstation and also educating people in dental and eye health care.
- Long-term coordination of free medical treatment activities for people by taking data of the patients, with the aim of estimating how many people will be coming for treatment.
- Following up on the patients who need further treatment, especially those with chronic diseases, to make referrals to Merauke public hospital.
- Coordinating and requesting assistances from the doctors and nurses of Community Health Centers.

The health care services are very helpful for public health, especially during the pandemic. We distributed masks, sanitary ware, toothbrushes and toiletries. People at Erambo outstation generally feel grateful and thankful for the health care services that the Chevalier family provides.

### 4. Nutrient addition for children

We chose mung beans porridge for the addition of children's nutrition with the reasons that the mung beans/green beans are beneficial for:

- Digestion. One of the problems that often occurs in children is digestive disorders, whether it's diarrhoea or constipation.



- Having a good source of protein for their growth.
- brain development. In addition to protein, mung beans/green beans are rich in vitamins and minerals.
- Boosting the immune system. Green beans can also make the children's body strong in fighting disease germs.
- Children's source of energy. Generally, children need foods with high energy content.

**5. Social Services**



Out of their concern and compassion for the people at the Erambo station, the Chevalier family held a social service. This social service activity was aimed at paying attention to the underprivileged community in the form of providing basic necessities and clothing. Donations are given directly at the church which motivates them to live their lives enthusiastically. Thus, we achieve our target by the distribution of aid ahead of Christmas and New Year celebrations.

**Conclusion**

We, the Chevalier family, are also grateful that in the midst of the covid19 pandemic situation, all of us, MSC Priests and Brothers, FDNCS Sisters of Papua Region, the Sisters of Medical Mediatrix and all Chevalier Family members had the opportunity to share love with God's people in remote outstations. Even so, we were always following the health protocols, such as using masks, maintaining distance, maintaining personal hygiene and washing hands. Covid 19 is not a barrier for all of us to continue serving the people in the remote places because they also really need our services, especially before Christmas.

Here is a glimpse of the story that we can share about our services ahead of the Christmas



Celebration at the Erambo outstation, Sota Parish. Even though the outstation is quite far away, we are grateful that we can still serve the people in the midst of this covid 19 pandemic. We are also grateful that the people we serve were joyful and grateful for our services leading up to the Christmas Celebration.

*Sr. M. Ancila, FDNCS – Papua*

**Sincere and warm greetings from Papua New Guinea**

We celebrated the First Profession of Sr Martina Kukuai on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Due to Covid-19, we only had a few people for the celebration. After the Mass, we had lunch and people left for their home.



Then on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 of our sisters celebrated their golden jubilee. Sisters Marietta Mararang, Clare Meyakosi and Caritas Siyan. We were very privileged to have Sir Cardinal John Ribat as the main celebrant.

L-R backrow. Fr Pius MSC, Cardinal John Ribat MSC, Fr Patrick, CP. Sisters Caritas, Clare and Marietta St Joseph's Church - Boroko

On December 4<sup>th</sup> in Rabaul there was also a celebration for 2 golden jubilarians, Sr Marietta Mararang and Sr Catherine Chinou and one silver jubilarian, Sr Clemencia Kobi.



Sisters Clemencia Kobi, Catherine Chinou and Marietta Mararang - Cathedral in Vunapope, Rabaul





**Jan. 4 – 25 years**

Sr Mary Rabu PNG

**Jan. 6 – 70 years**

Sr Eileen Kennedy Kiribati

**Jan. 6 – 60 years**

Sr Maria Speelman Australia  
 Sr Margaret Bird Australia  
 Sr Monica Donnan Australia  
 Sr Patricia Irvin Australia  
 Sr Pauline Compton Australia

**Jan. 12 – 50 years**

Sr Christine Martin Australia  
 Sr Jennifer Kirby Australia  
 Sr Marlene Dewar Australia

**Feb. 2 – 70 years**

Sr Cecile Maes Belgium  
 Sr M Claire Louette Belgium

**Feb. 2 – 60 years**

Sr M. Edina Pereira da Silveira Brazil

**Feb. 2 – 50 years**

Sr Lezir Braga Brazil  
 Sr Sueli de Lima Brazil

**Jul. 2 – 70 years**

Sr Anne Gardiner Australia  
 Sr Lorraine Ryan Australia

**Aug. 2 – 70 years**

Sr Aleira Queiroga Couto Brazil  
 Sr Francisca Vieira de Lima Brazil  
 Sr M. Carmen Mendes de Carvalho Brazil

**Aug. 25 – 70 years**

Sr M. Hélène Vaudaux France  
 Sr M. Philomène Urlacher France  
 Sr M Pia Petruccelli Italy

**Aug. 25 – 60 years**

Sr Denise Doppler France  
 Sr Norbert Buhot France  
 Sr Kathleen McQuillan Ireland  
 Sr Gretta Murphy Ireland  
 Sr M Antonita Rantinem Indonesia  
 Sr M Agnesia Subadariyah Indonesia  
 Sr Monique Maessen Netherlands

**Aug.30 – 25 years**

Sr M Angelica Rumyaan Indonesia  
 Sr M Christiana Batmyanik Indonesia  
 Sr M Kolumba Eni Suyanti Indonesia  
 Sr M Dominique Sariyem Indonesia  
 Sr M Felisia Kandrunmas Indonesia  
 Sr M Fransisca Tai Indonesia  
 Sr M Karmelia Sumarandak Indonesia  
 Sr M Christella Kilu Hayon Indonesia  
 Sr M Jeviana de Araujo Indonesia  
 Sr M Zita Katalina Wula Indonesia

**Nov. 20 – 50 years**

Sr M Godeliva Elkel Indonesia

**Nov. 30 – 50 years**

Sr M. Caritas Siyan PNG  
 Sr M. Catherine Chinou PNG  
 Sr M Clare Meyakosi PNG  
 Sr Marietta Mararang PNG

**Thank You  
Sisters**



**For your  
fidelity!**

**2021 Appointments**

**Kiribati** – **Sr Kateia Teanako** has been reappointed Provincial Leader and her second term commenced on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Provincial Councillors:  
Sr Mary Manuera (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Sr Ruti Kaburoro (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Sr Matiri Kanono (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Sr Kirara Ioane (1<sup>st</sup> term)

**Africa** – **Sr Marie Solango Oko** has been appointed Provincial Leader. Her first term commenced on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Provincial Councillors:  
Sr Clotilde Ngom from Senegal (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Sr Bibiane Ndilu from Congo (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Sr Lucie Tapsoba from Burkina Faso (1<sup>st</sup> term)

**France** – **Sr Marie-Christine Kunzi** has been reappointed Provincial Leader and her second term commenced on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Provincial Councillors:  
Sr Monique Cougnaud  
Sr Françoise Thetiot

**THANK YOU SISTERS  
FOR YOUR COURAGE AND GENEROSITY**



**First Professions 2021**

**INDONESIA**



Sr M Cathleen Katarina Fenanlampir and  
Sr M Elisa Selestina Usboko  
March 19<sup>th</sup>



Sr M Matilda Yunita Nija  
August 30<sup>th</sup>

**KIRIBATI**

Sr Arinta Katoauea, Sr Kariaiti Kaono  
Sr Tianna Ilerua, Sr Rutika Tioteba  
April 17<sup>th</sup>



**PNG**



Sr Carolyn Pulman  
March 25<sup>th</sup>



Sr Martina Kukuai  
November 13<sup>th</sup>

**AFRICA**



Sr Adelphe Songda Bangdou Kola (Burkina Faso)  
Sr Eulalie Mariam Kabre (Burkina Faso)  
Sr Franceline Bibata Mano (Burkina Faso)  
Sr Syrianne Nkansi Ngawa (Cameroun)  
DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>

## 2021 PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

### CAMEROUN



Sr Mary Fomousoh Nodoya

Sr Tècle Ngo Mbadi

July 17<sup>th</sup> in Yaoundé

### INDONESIA



Sr M Chiara Womu and Sr M Hilda Mahuse, August 15<sup>th</sup> in Merauke

### CONGO

September 26<sup>th</sup> in Mbandaka



Sr Francine Munzanza Libela



Sr Huguette Mboli Kuta



Sr Marie-Judith Bolingo Mbula



Sr Louise Bitalo Nsasi

**Congratulations dear Sisters!!!!**



Let us enter the  
New Year 2022  
REJOICING in the  
certainty that GOD  
IS WITH US!

“For a child has been  
born for us...and he is  
named Wonderful  
Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.”  
(Is 9:6)