



ALL·TO·ALL

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 50 Issue 5

www.sfccinternational.org

June/July 2020



SFCC International Assembly 2020 Celebrating 50 Years!

Theme – “You shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants... For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you.” --- *The Book of Leviticus*

As we know, Jubilee was a time when everything was reset. Property was returned to the original owner, who is God, debts were forgiven, the enslaved were freed, justice was done, peace was reestablished.

I don't know if the Jubilee was ever fully instituted. I do know that our 50th Year of Celebration has been truly a time of reset... especially not having the opportunity to gather for our annual International Assembly!

Anyway, the message is clear: freedom and liberty are gifts of God that are to be enjoyed by all people. Proclaiming liberty is about something much deeper, much more profound than we are sometimes willing to consider.

Proclaiming liberty has something to say about poor nations that are in debt to rich nations and are never going to be able to repay that debt without help. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about how we mistreat the poor in our own country.

Proclaiming liberty has something to say about people being pre-judged as culpable and guilty simply because their skin contains more melanin than someone else's.

Proclaiming liberty has something to say about sentencing laws that incarcerate more and more people – and especially more people of color. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about outreach to the hungry and the homeless. Proclaiming liberty has something to say for those in need of physical, spiritual, emotional or psychological support. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about the way women are treated in our society and in our church. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about educating minds and encouraging research, discovery and innovation. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about being a voice to the voiceless. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about imparting wisdom, sharing lessons learned, demonstrating transformative leadership and contributing to make a positive difference in our world. Proclaiming liberty has something to say about responding to the many unmet needs in our world. Proclaiming liberty has something to say “that all may be one”!

Liberty, freedom, independence – whatever word means the most to you – are not just national aspirations. This is God's will and intention for all people. Liberty, freedom and independence are visible signs of

following that second commandment – to love our neighbors as ourselves.

It is up to all of us – as children of God – as Sisters For Christian Community – to continue to “proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.” It is our calling to do justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with our God. It is first our duty to live as God’s own people and to ensure the blessing of God’s way of life for all people. For now and evermore. Amen.

Invitation to All– Thank you... Thank you... Many stories have been received. Each of our lived stories, is one red brick comprising the red brick road reflecting the journey of the Sisters For Christian Community’s fifty years of giving witness to the gospel values and building Christian Community. Even though, during the Assembly, we will be sharing our lived stories now may be a good time to ponder and to write your story. “Where has the red brick road taken you?” Who encouraged you, supported you, welcomed you, companioned you and challenged you on your journey as a SFCC? What were your “red brick” radical choices of love, faith, determination, service and building community? Your story is an integral part of the SFCC foundation for today’s members and those members who are yet to come. There is no limit to your writing.

You can **mail** your lived story, witnessing to the gospel values and building Christian Community to:

Mary Rose Accetturo, SFCC, 9418 N Green Bay Rd. Apt 134, Milwaukee WI 53209
or **email**:

sfccinternationalassembly2020@gmail.com.



**BENELUX
REGION**

Amidst Covid-19 ‘lockdown’ Light, Tight and more forms, we in The Netherlands have an ‘intelligent lockdown’: staying at home, and when necessary to go out, holding a ‘social distance’.

Our core Benelux group shares in our WhatsApp group. I also have facilitated 6 other like-minded/vision app groups with increasingly more individual contacts with men and women (age range 30-70). They locate me through the internet, as well as at the balcony of my apartment (I live on the lowest floor, just above the heads of pedestrians), situated across from the main entrance of Hotel Zuiderduin (SFCC International Assembly 2001), and from a small restaurant, which recently provides ‘take-out’ orders only. The increasingly longer lines (good weather brings all to the sea!) provide for a great balcony ministry or concert!

Now more than ever before people want to be seen and heard ‘en masse’, consequent to widespread discouragement, despair, frustration, anger, fear, loss, grief.

Each of us SFCCs here in the Benelux, deals with Covid-19 restrictions the same as I:

Monique de Jong inspiring, encouraging and teaching her college students online, whilst also studying for her Masters in Religious Studies.

Ineke de Vlieger working day and night shifts nursing the most heavily mentally handicapped who are unable to comprehend why we must hold a distance and want to be held and loved.

Ria Scholtes, whose mother died just before the lockdown, has not been allowed to hold her meditation and study groups during the lock down. She employs digital means to continue her sessions.

Lien de Jong, with her empty summerhouse, usually booked with retreatants year-round, has recently been allowed to have her children and grandchildren come visit 'close-at-a-distance.'

Many more of us here in Belgium and Nederland are in this similar situation.

That which unites us all especially now during this crisis time are the charisms and the vision of SFCC, in this, indeed, 'Sudden Spring' time. My experience is that — more than ever before—the SFCC lifestyle gives meaning to apparent senselessness around us!

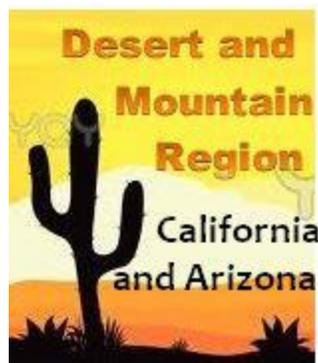
For example, the Zoom internet application, which enabled us to hold a conference with colleague Pastoral and Spiritual caregivers nationwide.

My colleagues 'hung on my lips', as we say in Dutch, lapping up the explanation of the SFCC interpretation of the 3 Vows of religious life. Among them are Humanists, Sufi, Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Jewish and Christian. The charisms of SFCC united all of us within an instant; all barriers ceased.

As a result, I am flooded with internet responses of renewed strength, encouragement and hope to continue meaningfully forward in this otherwise heavy time.



Submitted by Teri Takken



The members of the DAM Region met May 8 via Zoom. Present were as pictured from top left: Rose Miles, Pat Mitchell (center from left)

Suzanne Dunn, Jeannette Love, Pat Mullen (bottom) Fran Campbell



Our theme and focus was prophetic spirituality. Opening prayer was led by Jeannette Love; which drew from the writings of Joan Chittister OSB, poet Lynn Ungar and Christine Valters-Paintner of the Abbey of Arts.

Morning discussion of the recent book by Joan Chittister, OSB, *The Time is Now, A Call to Uncommon Courage*

We started with a 5 minute YouTube interview in which Chittister herself explains the underlying motivation of this book. Chittister draws on the wisdom of prophets, both ancient and modern, to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us. Chittister challenges us to participate in a vision for a world that calls the power hungry institutions of today to justice and moral integrity. She provides a guide for spirituality in action.

Afternoon we turned our attention to the social justice issue of voter suppression in the USA. Pat Mitchell facilitated our reflection on a collection of 6 current articles written by investigative reporters who convincingly explain how voter suppression is used by both major political parties in the USA (Democrat and Republican). More specifically, the authors clearly illustrate how the current pandemic was used as a smokescreen to work against voter turnout. ACTION: be personally active with petitions, surveys about voter suppression and also help locally with voter registration.

SFCC business: Rose Miles shared about her initial mentoring of a new Inquirer who approached SFCC through the community website. We also discussed the growing problem in the USA regarding inactive regions which can no longer take in new members.

Pat Mullen prepared our closing prayer, which immersed us in silent reflection on writings of Teilhard de Chardin and Ilija Delio, OSF both of whom direct us towards the cosmic oneness of all creation.

Submitted by Fran Campbell



MEXICO REGION

Magda and Carmen have been such good companions along the way. They pass on the sharings used with the ten inquirers in Spain. Liliana Chacon, inquirer here, is very receptive to this formation. Martha Lopez remains with the Monterrey community and says there is no movement in her being a more permanent part of the community until the corona virus restrictions have passed.

As for me, I do most everything from the house: contact the SVdeP (St. Vincent de Paul Society) members, direct the student

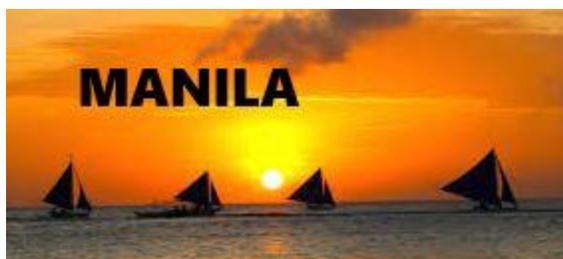


grant movement, keep repairing Casa Clemens as it sits mostly idle except for the woodpecker damage that's been very costly, and have a few adults who come for English class.

There's been more time for reflection and slowing down, for which I've been grateful. There's also been more time to call SFCC community members. As of this date the state of Zacatecas is the only state in Mexico that is not in a lock down crisis ordered by the government.

May the Pentecost Spirit be with all of us.

Submitted by Fran Smith



May 16, 2020

Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila Region Virtual Meeting

Participants: Virgie Azcueta,
Elvie Samantila, Connie Jordan,
Ma Luisa Asuncion
Erlinda dela Cruz, Fe Aguilar
Flordeliz Jabonite, Janet Nunez,
Marivic Cotiamco, Rosa Ocampo,
Marissa Gallego, Helen Mijares

Connie led us in an opening and closing prayer. We thank God that though we could not physically yet we could meet thru zoom. We prayed for the end of the pandemic.

It was our first zoom meeting. There were a few technical problems and others had no electricity due to the typhoon.

Inquirer Marissa Gallego introduced herself. She wished she could meet us all personally.

We shared experiences of ECQ extended community quarantine and GCQ general community quarantine depending on what area you are.

On our next virtual meeting June 6 we hope we can proceed with our plan to have 3 days meeting in Virgie's place in the north.

Marivic suggested since as a community we are not able to reach out with relief food to those without work that we will commit to praying together for the end of this pandemic, for healing and for the discovery of the vaccine.

(Cont'd on next page)



*(Above: Left-Right: Rosa Ocampo,
Janet Nunez, Helen Mijares)*

We agreed to meet thru our messenger group chat every day at 3:00 pm to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet.

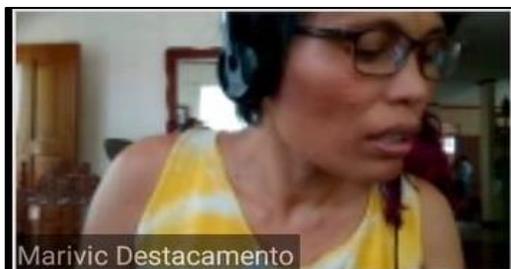
We started today for those who could join.

Submitted by Virgie Azcueta

The San Pedro Calungsod Region hosted its first Virtual Meeting on May 14, 2020 via Zoom application. There were 7 sisters who joined in the said meeting with Bernadette Mendez as the main host. The participants are: Bernadette Mendez, Marivic Destacamento, Antonia Labos(affiliate) Erlinda Lanigao, Jesusa Ayeng, Joi Arac and Alma Mangao. Virgilia Lepasana joined the meeting but her line was cut off after some time.

The meeting started with a virtual video prayer led by Marivic and the opening song with the title Jesus My Friend was sung as it was shared online, followed by the Gospel reading of the day. The closing video song Our Lady of Fatima was shared to the group and everyone joined the singing. Then we had the chance to talk and ask for the situation of each one in their respective places .All were happy to know that everyone is okay and in good hands despite the covid19 crisis. Nimsy Salvador (affiliate) and Nora Mejos declined the invitation for some important work in their diocese while Isabelita Bulala and Celia Vale were not able to sign in the zoom meeting. The next meeting was scheduled on May 16, 2020 Saturday at 1:00 pm. The meeting ended up with the closing video song Heal Our Land. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Submitted by Bernadette Mendez



*Pictured at bottom: Virgilia Lepasana
Jesusa Ayeng, Antonia Labos(affiliate)*

The San Pedro Calungsod Region hosted its 2nd Virtual Meeting on May 16, 2020 via Zoom application. The meeting started at 1: 20 pm. There were 6 sisters who joined in the said meeting with Bernadette Mendez as the main host. The participants are: Bernadette Mendez, Marivic Destacamento, Antonia Labos (affiliate) Erlinda Lanigao, Jesusa Ayeng, Joi Arac and Virgilia Lepasana joined the meeting but her line was cut off after some time.

The meeting started with the opening prayer led by Marivic. The main topic that was discussed was about the upcoming Inter Regional Assembly which was moved on September 25-27, 2020 due to COVID 19. Everyone agreed on the schedule except for some sisters who said they can't attend for some personal and valid reasons. The venue is still at Chali Beach Resort in Cagayan de Oro City as they already paid the downpayment. Sisters were asked to rebook their tickets as the schedule has already been finalized by the host region.

Nimsy Salvador (affiliate) and Nora Mejos declined the invitation to attend the virtual meeting since it's the birthday of Nora and they have a simple celebration with the bishop while Isabelita Bulala and Celia Vale were not able to sign in to the zoom meeting. It was also agreed by the body to have a common holy rosary prayer once a week every Saturday night at 8:00 in the evening, open for those who can be online on the said time.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm with the closing prayer led by Bernadette Mendez.

Submitted by Bernadette Mendez



REGIONAL MEETING--MAY 3, 2020

The regional meeting was held on Zoom. Sister Odessa acted as host and instructed those attending on how to use Zoom. In attendance were Sister Odessa, Sister Suzanne, Sister Lydia, Sister Anne Pennington, Sister Anne Tiemann, Sister Leticia, and two inquirers, Sister Mary Iweanya, from Houston and Rosalie Savarimuth from Austin. Sister Juanita and Sister Ginny were absent.

Sister Odessa opened the meeting with a prayer for Solidarity in this time anxiety over Covid-19.

Sister Patricia then introduced the two inquirers, Sister Mary Iweanya and Rosalie Savarimuth. They both presented short biographical information about themselves and why they were seeking to become members of SFCC. Odessa then muted the two of them while we discussed both candidates. A consensual decision was made to accept them as Inquirers and they were advised to read the information on the website and get familiar with the community. Sister Odessa volunteered to be available for Sister Mary and answer any questions and Sister Patricia volunteered to do the same for Rosalie. We will then evaluate their progress at the Fall Regional in October to determine the next step.

During the remainder of the meeting we reflected on an article from LCWR discussing our call, as religious women, to see the deeper invitation the pandemic is

providing and ask how we might experience a transformation, within ourselves, our community, the nation, etc.; and the article, Touch Me, from the April/May 2020 All to All. This article created a lot of discussion as it was a wonderful description of who we envision ourselves to be as SFCC as we asked ourselves how well we are doing.



The last item on the agenda was plans for the Fall Regional. It is tentatively planned for the weekend of October 16 in San Antonio or on Zoom if things have not gotten better.

*Submitted by: Sister Patricia Morris,
SC Regional Coordinator*



We were all excited to gather for the Easter Triduum retreat we both organize every year, and the plan was that when the rest of the group would leave on Easter morning

we, the SFCC community from Spain Region, would gather for a full 24 hour Regional and Easter celebration.

Like everybody we had to cancel the event but, like everybody, I guess, we have begun doing skypes or its equivalent. At first it was weekly that the group requested to be together and share life and content. After 4 weekly skypes we decided to gather every two weeks. There is excitement. The group likes each other, and to build community among us comes spontaneous, so far.

(Article continues on next page)



Spain Region--From left to right 1st row:
Kika, Lucía, Luisa, Juanjo,
2nd row: Angel, Maricruz, Magda, Cristina,
3rd row: Xavi. Lidia. Pilar and Carmen

A NOTE ABOUT OUR REGIONS:

By mutual consensus, the Europe Region recently separated into two distinct regions: **BENELUX Region and Spain Region.** Teri Takken is RCC for **BENELUX.** Magda Bennasar and Carmen Notario are co-RCCs for **Spain.** The two regions remain in regular communication and look forward to an interregional gathering as soon as travel is safe for all.

We use Theological Reflection as a method for sharing: “TR is the discipline of exploring our individual and corporate wisdom of a religious heritage.

The conversation is a genuine dialogue that seeks to hear from our own beliefs, actions, and perspectives, as well as from those of the tradition.” (Kinast, 1990, p.3) In this case the “religious heritage and tradition” takes the form of the sfcc website and the Sudden Spring writings.

With the Easter Triduum online and its contents we ended the prayerful study of Unconditional Love: celibacy. We got very powerful reflections from the group. Now we are working on Poverty as Service. The first aspect we worked on was on our “Humus” or fertile soil we all are: rich and vulnerable.

We have sent the definition and unfolding of Poverty as Service from Sudden Spring translated. We will continue a couple of months with Poverty since some of them have also very insightful concrete methods for a new model of lifestyle unfolding from our Humus and the reality of the Planet, especially after the still sounding yell of the Earth manifested, through the virus. Some of the presentations from the 25th anniversary are also being translated and shared with them along with articles on the New Story from Thomas Berry and disciples.

At this point there are 10 people doing the Inquiring process and two a pre-inquiring or observers: a woman in Egypt that belonged to a Spanish community and left recently, after living in Spanish speaking countries for several years and communicating with an “arab-spanish” very cute, and a lay Spaniard, a woman living in Leuven, Belgium.

As you can imagine we have to translate everything. The sfcc texts, dear sisters, are not easy to read. The beautiful sophisticated English used is not meant to be interpreted by English students. We hope the effort to translate will benefit more people in the future. We are already sharing everything with Fran Smith (Mexico).

Keep us in your hearts:

*Submitted by: Carmen Notario co-RCC //
Magda Bennàsar co-RCC*



Meeting in Conference Call May 23 the Sunbelt Region rejoiced to “be together”.

Present were Judith Pask, Barb Bayzik, Kathleen Terlau, Patsy Guyton Gertrude Okon Basse, Mary Ann Wachtel, Lucy Comer and friends-Carmelita Stinn and Marion Hicks.

Marion shared her May 12 “miracle” recovery from the virus, telling of her “goodbye” calls to Judith and Lucy the evening before when she thought she was dying. They prayed intercessory prayers to her mother whose birthday was May 11 while prayers were constant from many SFCC.

Carmelita happily rejoined us, having met over the years with our region. Carmelita is wheelchair-bound from a surgical blunder following the Savannah Assembly.



We reminisced, laughed at times past together, and encouraged each other to live fully in this time of limits, asking the Good shepherd to tend and direct us creatively as the Spirit leads us.

Submitted by Lucy Comer, RCC



WEB REGION

Sisters from the WEB Region were looking forward to the Spring Fling on April 18, 2020 at Marydwell, the home of Ellen Gerlach and Janet Thompson in DE when, yes, Covid-19 interfered. However, via Zoom, eleven sisters were able to gather for an hour of prayer and sharing: Kass Collins, Ellen Gerlach, Pat Guarriello, Nancy Meskill, Maureen Milnamow, Alma O'Brien, Loretta Primus, Patti Rogucki, Gloria Rubio, Janet Thompson and Pat Wieczynski.

(Article continues on next page)



L-R (Top) Kass Collins, Loretta Primus, Ellen Gerlach, Janet Thompson,
L-R (Bottom) Maureen Milnamow, Alma O'Brien, Pat Guarriello

Pat Wieczynski



Patty Rogucki
(Joining us via phone)



Gloria Rubio



Nancy Meskill



After everyone was connected, which took a bit of time since this was the region's first Zoom gathering, Janet led us in a prayerful reflection followed by individual intercessions and remembrances. Each sister then related the activities and/or ministries that were part of her life before the pandemic and how those and life have changed these past weeks. It was a warm and fun gathering, interspersed with seriousness and laughter; missing was the wonderful food and drink that is always part of this annual community day. Many thanks to Janet and Ellen for extending the invitation to be there and to Kass Collins, whose familiarity with Zoom, enabled it to happen. This was, perhaps, the first of many virtual connections for the region.

Submitted by Alma O'Brien, RCC

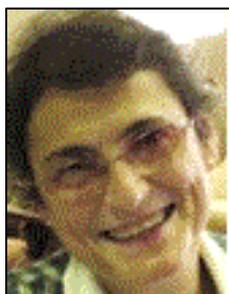


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marie –Paul Jaston

Amid all the sufferings and tumults we are battling worldwide with hope and courage, Marie-Paul Jaston has moved from Newton to the Little Sisters of The Poor, in Somerville, Massachusetts. The story behind it is that, the properties were sold to The Nurses Association Affiliates and the Little Sisters were looking for someone who would carry the task of keeping the chapel and the religious activities. Marie-Paul agreed to do that.

In return, Marie-Paul is provided with a small apartment with the same low income rate she had in Newton.



Marie has settled in her new surroundings and ministry since March 24th.



Martinez de Luco, Ana

anamadeluco@yahoo.es

Cell phone: 929-353-9133

Pat Guarriello

Email: pguarriello75@gmail.com

Beth Grismer

Miller Farm Place

8130 Miller Farm Lane, Room 138

Dayton OH 45458

Phone: 937 371 3154.

Marion Hicks, sfcc

St. Martha Manor

470 Manor Road Rm. 509

Downingtown, Pa 19335

484-340-8236 Cell

Marie-Paul Jaston, SFCC

190 Highland Ave # 205

Somerville, MA. 02143

Sr. Shital Parmar,

49 Purushottamnagar Society,

Vadtal [Bakrol Road,](#)

[Bakrol Anand, 388315](#)

[Gujarat, India](#)

Email: shitalparmarsfcc@gmail.com

Phone: 91-735-943- 2532

Judy Resta

91-1471 Miula Street--Apartment 4211

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Gloria Rubio

Email: srgloriarubio@verizon.net



Joi Arac in Calungsod region was diagnosed with cyst in the spinal cord and has difficulty walking. She needs surgery since March but due to lockdown she cannot travel to a hospital in Cebu.



Submitted by Virgie Azcueta



AFFILIATE

Mary McCullough
Ruah/UK Region

From the northeast of England, Mary has been in the Becoming Process as an Inquirer with the

Ruah/UK Region for 1 year. She signed her Covenant of Affiliation form May 31, 2020.

Widowed for 6 years, Mary has 3 adult children and 3 step children, three grandchildren and three step grandchildren.

Mary's working life was in adult education, community development, mental health advocacy and welfare benefits advising. She now works part time as a parish secretary. She studied maths and education with the Open University, psychotherapy in the TA modality and is now studying Catholic Social Teaching and Spiritual Accompaniment. Presently, with a local SFCC sister, Mary is co-leading a Richard Rohr study group.

Mary believes that SFCC is a community that will help her spiritual journey.

In her own words: "SFCC is about developing unity and building community. I am attracted by this. I would like to help build community wherever there is the opportunity.

I'm enthused by SFCC as a worldwide religious ecumenical community of self-directing members. It is a group that models equality and consensus decision making and seeks to spread awareness of this way of being in the Church and in the world. I would like to be part of this community, experiencing and hopefully contributing to this prophetic way of living."

Submitted by Agnes Miller



**INQUIRER**

Manisha Shingare
India

Born in 1989,
Manisha has 2
sisters and 1 brother

and enjoys a close relationship with each of them, as well as with her widowed mother.

Manisha was a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), pronouncing her first vows April 8, 2007. She was assigned to teaching for 3 years and, later, to social work in South Sudan, Africa. Later, she was transferred to Zambia.

Manisha was with the DMI for 10 years. She left DMI when her father died (2016) and the congregation did not permit her to travel to India to attend her father's funeral service. Also, the DMI did not permit members to study beyond 12th grade level. Her elder sister helped fund her education towards a BA and GNM (nursing) degrees. Presently, Manisha is unemployed because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

Submitted by the Archives



INQUIRER
Mariline Sad
India

Meriline is from India and was a perpetual vowed Visitation Sister of Don Bosco. During her exclaustation in

2017-2019, she left her community while she was in South Sudan and joined the Volunteers with Solidarity Sisters in 2017. She is 40 years old now and works in Wan,

South Sudan as a Nursing Clinical Instructor.

She came to know about SFCC through Margaret Nduta, SFCC Affiliate in Kenya who went to South Sudan at the invitation of the Archbishop to help them in their Catholic University.

I have been in communication with Mariline since November 2019. She went home to India for vacation in December and met with Margaret Gonsalves, SFCC where she spent a night. She is interested in the vision, mission and life style of SFCC and recently she has introduced SFCC to another sister in her former community who is now another inquirer.

Due to the pandemic, all non-citizens of South Sudan are asked to go home so Meriline is in a process of returning to India. She plans to live with her mother while looking for a job in her place and taking care of 4 of her nephew and nieces from an elder sister who recently passed away and whose husband is unfortunately with mental illness.

Submitted by Virgie Azcueta



INQUIRER
Teresa San Bonaventure
Manila Region

Born in Santa Lutgarda, Cabusao, Camarines Sur, Philippines in the year 1974, Teresa entered the Sister Servants of the

Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration in 2006. She left the community October 9, 2018.

Teresa has completed 2 years of college with certification in Computer Secretarial and Business Management

She is interested in SFCC to continue her

calling to service of the Church, as well as to the evangelical vows.

Teresa is ready for the responsibilities of ministry. Teresa is very simple with no high education but will offer what God gave her for His glory.

Teresa learned about SFCC from Flordeliz Jabonite, an Affiliate in the SFCC Becoming Process. Flordeliz and Teresa work in the same call center. Rosa Ocampo, sfcc will serve as mentor to Teresa.

Submitted by the Archives



INQUIRER
Maricruz Garcia
Spain Region
Permanent
Affiliation

I am Maricruz García from Córdoba, Spain. I

am 63 years old, married with three children.

I come from a very religious family and I was educated in a Catholic School run by sisters; I also studied my Teaching career at a School that belonged to the Church. In spite of this, from my adolescence on I distanced myself from the Church. I simply stopped following on my parents' footsteps.

I got married in the church in order not to upset my parents, to follow one more tradition, but not out of conviction. When I was 34, I was led by the Spirit to make a retreat.

And there I experienced the best thing that has ever happened to me: a very strong encounter with the Lord. And my life changed radically.

From then on, I got fully involved in parish movements and prayer groups...and I was very happy.

However, as time went by, I felt the need to do something else, without knowing how to define what I was looking for. I discovered the "virtual groups of Jesus", conducted by Pagola (a priest in Spain who wrote the controversial: "Jesus: A Historical Approach").

The process lasted 4 years and was very enriching, opening up much broader horizons and helping me to leave behind, rites, dogmas, and liturgical celebrations full of luxury and splendor and empty of meaning.

Later on I read an article by Magda Bennásar, sfcc "I Dream of consecrated life in the XXI century" in a very interesting blog. Instinctively, I said, "this is how I want to live from now on."



INQUIRER
Luisa Montero
Spain Region
Permanent
Affiliation

My name is Luisa Montero, I am 55 years old, married to a Congolese and we have two children. I was born in Burgos, (Spain), where I have deep roots, but life and my profession brought me to Madrid 20 years ago. I am a teacher in a public school; I enjoy and I love my work and it is one of the places where I pour my gifts and my energy.

Since I was a child, I participated in parish groups; later I became a catechist and I belonged to youth groups linked to the Teresian Institution; the last 25 years I am

part of an association called The Christian Cultural Action

This group process has been enriched by very good analysis in all fields: from religious and social to economics issues, and has also allowed me to learn about other ways of thinking and that another world is possible.

But, for me, too much theory, knowledge... and not enough emphasis on questioning ourselves: where are the bases from which all these activities come from? and very little interior life.

And being in the midst of a desert, disenchantment, looking for something where to quench my thirst, I found Espiritualidad Integradora Cristiana [Christian Integrated Spirituality]. SFCCs Magda and Carmen's writings help me to breathe anew; I vibrate with them, and my soul awakens: inclusive language, care for Mother Earth, being all One, deep listening, personal encounter

It motivates me to continue on this new path, the fact that I am discovering a community (sfcc) with another language which respects and cares for the process of each person with infinite freedom and tenderness.

Submitted by the Archives



OBITUARIES



Barbara Donahue
1929-2020
SFCC: 1971-2020

Barbara Donahue was born September 14, 1929 and passed into eternal life May 18, 2020 after a battle against lung cancer.

Barbara was the youngest of nine children: 5 boys and 4 girls. The family grew up in Detroit, Michigan where her father worked in the Plymouth auto factory; and her mother played the organ at church and the piano and organ for silent movies. When her oldest brother was 7, he accompanied their mother as a tenor. Soon it was evident that all of the Donahue children possessed musical talent. Eventually, the mother was approached to start a vaudeville act involving all the children. The act quickly became known as the Nine Dancing Donahues. Barbara was only 3 years old when she first performed with the family in 1932.

The Nine Dancing Donahues was a popular act throughout Michigan until World War II when three of her brothers volunteered for the army. During 1945, Barbara joined the Sisters of St Joseph (SSJ) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She was with the SSJs until 1971, when she became one of the early pioneers of SFCC.

With the SSJs, Barbara taught in the classroom at all levels and was also a school principal. She was assigned to schools throughout Michigan, Indiana, Missouri and Arizona. As an SFCC, Barbara settled in Tucson, Arizona with fellow SSJ, Therese Martin. For many years, Barbara and Therese taught children of the Tohono O'Odham (formerly known as The Papago Nation) on the San Solano Mission, southwest of Tuscon. They also taught in parish schools of the Tucson Diocese.

Eventually, Barbara left the classroom behind and involved herself in other parish and community ministries. She was

especially interested in bereavement ministry.

Last year, the Tucson diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Outlook*, marked Barbara's 90th birthday with a personal interview. The ensuing article focused primarily on the family vaudeville act; but Barbara emphasized that it was always about being a family together.

And that is Barbara's legacy: she created a sense of family wherever she lived or worked. Barbara and Therese ran a happy hour pub in their garage where all the neighbors gathered each evening. Barbara was at the heart of social events at the local parish. She was present to people in any group or organization to which she belonged. In SFCC she never missed an assembly until age and health prohibited travel. At assembly Barbara and Therese's room was a social hub.

For Barbara life was, indeed, about being family.

Submitted by the Archives

Note from ICC'S



Greetings...and know that you have been and are in our thought and prayer through this very strange, divided and difficult time for so many. We have continued our bi/tri weekly Messenger Meetings to stay current on what is happening in Africa, Philippines, Europe, Mexico, Central America, Canada, India and USA.

Even though we will unfortunately not be able to have our Assembly/Jubilee

Celebration this year, we will be writing up an ICC report that will be published in the Oct/Nov ATA. One thing that we would like to include in that report is the ways in which regions are staying connected...some by meeting face to face and by many other creative means. We would love to hear how every region is going about this and even to know if it has not been possible to stay connected. **Please help us by sending us info on behalf of your region.**
iccsfcc@yahoo.com

At the Assembly in 2021 we will be affirming the next ICC's so it is not too early to begin to pray about who could be good for this role, invite others, and/or offer your own services. Per the guidelines to be affirmed at the assembly there will no people nominated at the 2021 Assembly itself. So, it is time to begin seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and publishing names in ATA. The three of us after seeking the guidance of the Spirit are willing to continue to offer our services to the community.

We have another request. If you as a region or as an individual have an inquirer feel free to send us her name and contact info so we will send a note of welcome to her as she inquirers about the community. In fact, we would like to do this. We think it could be good for the inquirer to know the interest of the larger community and also would keep us in touch with what is happening in the community.

We are very grateful for all that is happening in the community and the ways in which Sisters are revealing and sharing God's presence. Know that you are in prayer and thought as we strive to be connected with one another and be guided by the Spirit so that "All may be one"

Virgie Azcueta, SFCC, Denise Ware, SFCC, Carmen Gillick, SFCC



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE ARCHIVES?

Lillanna was a firm believer that the community archives be kept in one place. She was unyielding about it for 3 reasons: (1) confidentiality, (2) continuity, and (3) quick access for information when needed. #3 has proven critically important numerous times when RCCs need next-of-kin contact for an ailing or hospitalized member, and recently, when the ICCs were dealing with a serious legal issue.

Since 1995 the archivist has always supported Lillanna's original three fold format: all historical documents and member files be kept in one location. One archivist as the single point of contact for information. Speedy replies to RCC and ICC requests.

The growth in membership over the decades and accumulation of documents required a few changes: 2013 we contracted with Avila University to house our historical documents. 2016 we affirmed a second archivist, creating a 2-person team.

Now we are at another crossroad. Despite her good insights, Lillanna never envisioned the current exponential growth of our membership on continents other than North America. Our new member growth is no longer in North America (USA, Canada, Mexico, Central America). We currently have 42 persons in the Becoming Process. 39 of them reside outside North America. Responding to these significant changes, we affirmed the current ICC team, which reflects SFCC's strong international profile.

In the same response to the Spirit, the community archives will revise its structure to accommodate the international membership and also remain true to Lillanna's 3 required components.

The reorganization includes:

1. Affirming 3 archivists: 1 each in North America, Philippines and Africa
2. North America will include Mexico, Central America, Canada and Western Europe. Philippines will include Australia, New Zealand and India
3. Each archivist will maintain electronic member files for the SFCC of the designated geographic area.
4. Each archivist will provide information to the ATA, RCCs and ICCs as needed.
5. The archivist for North America will be the contact person with Avila University.
6. The three archivists will decide who, among them would be responsible for updating the community data base.

When will all this happen? The process will be steady but slow – taking a minimum of 2 years. One year to select and affirm the new archive team and one year of training. By 2022 or 2023 the archive team will be in full service to the community.

Submitted by the Archivist and ICCs



**Becoming Process
Bio sketches
&
INQ Intros**

Why, why, WHY do we ask those about to be affirmed into full vowed membership to write a brief overview of their life?

From the beginning membership was so scattered most had not met until the first Assembly in 1971. However, we were all

creative in helping forward the getting-to-know-you process. Loretta Girzaitis was a catalyst in urging we all write a short biographical sketch for sharing in the ATA.

These are currently asked to be attached to the Affirmation Form. Parts are used in the ATA when a member is introduced to the community. Members were repeatedly urged by the archivist (then Lillanna Kopp) to write longer versions for posterity and to update old versions.

1993 affirmed that a biographical sketch be an integral part of the process to precede membership.

The bio sketch was connected to the Becoming Process (BP) as early as 1971 when Lillanna Kopp received a letter of inquiry from Peggy Ramsden. Peggy was in her early 20s and, because of health issues, could not join a traditional sisterhood. What about SFCC? Lillanna and the early members had not envisioned such an inquiry so soon. They had no plans for a novitiate or formation program. This was a clear challenge to the fledgling community's collective courage and creativity. The traditional novitiate period was renamed the Becoming Process and became a focus for assemblies 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978 and 1980. During those years, specific guidelines were affirmed that were incorporated into the BP. The first evening of assemblies included an in-depth orientation to SFCC beginnings, structure and process facilitated by Lillanna Kopp. By 1978 it was affirmed that the Inquirer's name and brief introduction be included in that ALL TO ALL.

During the 1980s Peggy Ramsden and others kept the need for a clearly defined BP in the forefront of community business. In 1993 Lillanna Kopp and the Pacific Northwest Region submitted a Proposal for

a clearly defined 3 step BP. It was affirmed from a 3 year period; but continued until 2009.

A committee was formed in 2009 to expand the steps and requirements of the BP to ensure Inquirers and Affiliates fully understood SFCC before being affirmed into membership. The following years involved much discussion and discernment at both the region and international assembly levels. The BP we know and implement today was affirmed at Tucson Assembly 2011.

Why the ATA Intro? Because SFCC does not have a central motherhouse where everyone gathers during the summer months, the ATA intro is a means for all SFCCs to "meet" a potential new member. The intro also is intended to serve as a safeguard against "known problems endured in the past when an individual was affirmed into membership and known by other SFCC too late" (L Kopp)

BIO? SFCC has no collective voice – no motherhouse records of an individual's experiences prior to SFCC, her education, her ministries before and after joining SFCC. SFCC does not keep a record of member ministries. Without the individual bios, SFCC will necessarily remain mute when the story of post Vatican II women religious is told. The bios and the intros provide SFCC with a public voice.

Submitted by the Archives



Please limit all reports to 1 page. This is to include the Region Logo and any Photos.

Reports are to be submitted in Times New Roman 12 with 1 inch margins.

Next issue Deadline: SEPTEMBER 30



NON CELIBATE MEMBERS

At the Assembly in Rhode Island (1973) a member, who was getting married but wished to continue her membership in SFCC, asked if it would be possible to expand SFCC membership to include non-celibate members. Her question generated a lot of discussion! In the A-T-A issue following the assembly, Lillanna Kopp wrote:

Those of you not at the Rhode Island Assembly can well appreciate the ambivalence many of us felt at the session. We were torn between our warm understanding, empathy and love for the speakers who wished to remain members after marriage and our ideal of pioneering a new model of religious community that embodies the value of celibacy and united women specifically characterized by this charism.

In the next issue of the newsletter, Lillanna reported that the issue of non-celibate members was “laid to rest since SFCC as a group of celibates was in 99 percent consensus.” (June-July 1974).

By the end of the 1970s SFCC consisted of 4 sub-units: SFCC, BFCC (Brothers for Christian Community), PFCC (Priests for Christian Community) and CFCC (Couples for Christian Community). BFCC and PFCC eventually broke off into independent communities with their own Becoming Process and Profile, ICCs and archives. CFCC continued to be connected to SFCC and was eventually referred to as Friends of SFCC.

The issue of non-celibate members was discussed at the Calgary Assembly (1981) with no definitive outcome. In 1985 a Proposal was placed on the Assembly agenda in New Jersey: “That there be two non-negotiables: gospel living and celibacy.” The Proposal was not affirmed because it was seen to be unnecessary because both values are stated in the Profile. A committee chaired by Peggy Ramsden was formed to study and report back on possible ways of including non-celibates in SFCC who wished to identify with the Profile.

The issue of creating a branch for non-celibate members was discussed again at assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico (1998), Netherland (2001) and The Netherlands (2001) where the Proposal was affirmed to add a branch to SFCC that was open to non-celibates.

The new branch was to be known as Companions of SFCC (CFCC) and, by 2017 (Baltimore) simply became Permanent Affiliates (SFCCPA). Non-celibate inquirers identifying with the Profile would be required to journey through the Becoming Process, starting as Inquirers and eventually advancing to the Affiliate stage, at which time they would sign the Covenant of Affiliation. The Permanent Affiliate would participate in region meetings, be paired with a SFCC mentor and be welcomed at International Assemblies.

Presently 4 persons are on their path towards Permanent Affiliation: Francisca Bonet, Cristina Elcauz, Angel Santamaria and Juan Silvestre (all in the Spain Region).

Those who have been Permanent Affiliates for several years are: Lien de Jong, Ria Scholtes and Ineke de Vlioger (all in the Benelux Region).

Submitted by the Archives



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE
21 Merlini Dr., Columbia, PA 17512

Send all content for Volume 51 Issue 1 to atasfcc@yahoo.com on or before **September 30, 2020**