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#### CHICAGO SFCC INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2018 July 15-19, 2017

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

"There are three elements of community. The first is prayer or communion, the second presence and service, and the third is consciousness of being bonded in a single body." - Jean Vanier, *Community and Growth*, page 141.

Wasn't it enlightening and uplifting to learn of our sisters' ministries on the foreign mission fields? Did you read on sfcc online about Alice Johnson in Canada? Our sisters are doing amazing ministries around the world! The planning team for 2018 thinks it would be great to learn and share thoughts and memories about all of our sisters, especially those who no longer are able to attend our annual Assembly.

This is where you come in. Sisters, please visit and interview on your iPads or tablets sisters in your regions / areas, especially those who are elderly and those who are not able to attend assemblies. Ask them to share

their ministries, their passions, etc. We want to share the stories next summer.

#### The team members are:

Registration -- Monica Sesko and Nancy Gannon

Program -- Lucy Comer
Liturgy -- Andrea Zbiegien
Treasurer -- Denise Lonergan
Collegial process -- Claudia Adamson,
Loretta Primus, and Carmen Gillick
Hotel facilitator -- Sharon McLaughlin

Assembly 2018 will be held July 15 – 19, in Chicago, Illinois, at the Holiday Inn – Midway. This hotel was chosen because Midway Airport serves Southwest Airlines, and many of the sisters use that airline. There is no parking fee at this hotel, and we expect that many sisters will be driving. There are several churches within walking distance, and public transportation is available to visit the many tourist attractions in Chicago.

The registration form is on the last page of this issue. We look forward to seeing you and sharing with you our stories of the past and present and our vision of the future -- THAT ALL MAY BE ONE.

Assembly 2018 Team Members and contact information are listed on the Member Page of the SFCC Website: www.sfccinternational.org

#### ASSEMBLY FINANCIAL REPORT Baltimore 2017

#### Revenues

Net Deposit	\$26,778.62
Registrations	17,800.00
Forward Assembly 2015	\$ 8,978.62

#### **Expenditures**

Lapendituies	
Maritime Conference Center	\$13,939.38
Postage	41.33
Stationery	21.78
Printing	216.77
Room Décor	122.46
Hospitality	60.64
Jubilee/Corsages/Gifts	89.99
Music – DJ	300.00
Extra Pictures/Travel	42.00
Scholarship	300.00
Registration Refund	
(Sr. paid \$350)	50.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$15,184.35

<b>Balance Forward</b>	\$11,594.27	
Assembly 2019	\$ 3,250.00	
Assembly 2021	\$ 8,344.27	

The above distribution has been done in consultation with the Philippine Assembly Team. The funds for Assembly 2021 have been invested in a 24 month CD, redeemable September 2019 at which time it will be forwarded to the 2021 Assembly Team.

#### **FUTURE ASSEMBLIES beyond 2018**

#### **International Assembly 2019**

Manila, Philippines January 24-28, 2019

### International Assembly 2020 50th Jubilee

Kansas City, MO or KS, USA Dates: to be announced





Members Present: Isabelita Bulala, Erlinda Lanigao, Celia Vale, Virgilia Lepasana, Jesusa Ayeng, Clariza Amaca, Marivic Destacamento, Virgie Azcueta Members Absent: Alma Mangao, Nora Mejos, Ejazmin Lucasan, Nieves Robillos

Affiliate present: Josefa Arac Inquirer present: Antonia Labos

Sisters came by air, land and water. The Pedro Calungsod Region is composed of members from different islands so traveling to meeting can be a challenge and expensive. The venue was central, practical, low cost; rooms were self-contained and air conditioned with restroom and shower. It was a walking distance to the Basilica Shrine of Santo Niño, a famous Christian landmark of the Philippines where Magellan, who discovered the Philippines, landed on Mactan Island. The Cathedral is also in the next block. We all went to venerate the well-known statue of Santo Niño de Cebu and attended Mass at the Cathedral.



Top l-r: Josefa Arac (Affiliate), Virgie Azcueta, Middle: Jesusa Ayeng, Erlinda Lanigao, Bottom: Virgilia Lepasana, Marivic Destacamento, Cecile Vale

The meeting started with an opening prayer led by Isabelita and there was a sharing of reflection on the gospel of

the day. Time for updates and bonding was highlighted with a celebration of the 60th birthday of Celia at a dinner in a restaurant. Business meeting was focused on the preparation of the Inter-regional Assembly on April 19-23, 2018 that the Calungsod region is hosting.

Antonia
"Didit"
Labos, an
Inquirer who
attended our
inter-regional
assembly last
April in
Davao,
decided to
start her
Becoming
process with



Top: Antonia Labos (Affiliate) Middle: Clariza Amaca Bottom l-r: Helen Fernandez, Isabelita Bulala

Marivic Destacamento as her mentor. The Affiliation Covenant prayer service was very touching as Didit shared first about her life journey that led to SFCC. Her biodata is

together with her photo as a way of introducing her to the global community.

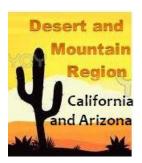




Note: Pedro Calungsod is the second canonized saint of the Philippines, from the island of Cebu. Both he and our first saint Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila were martyrs.

Submitted by Virgie Azcueta with Isabelita Bulala

The Desert and Mountain Region met on October 27 thru 29 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. Present were: Fran Campbell, Lorraine



Castelein, Barbara Crummitt, Suzanne Dunn, Jeannette Love, Rose Miles, Pat Mitchell, Pat Mullen. Absent were: Barbara Donahue and Therese Martin.

As is our custom, Friday evening was storytelling time when we bring one another up to date relative to significant happenings in our lives since we last met.

On Saturday, following our opening prayer led by Jeannette, and focused on Teilhard de Chardin's Mass of the World, we viewed a You-tube video: The Journey Towards Oneness, in an effort to gain insights into our own SFCC common GOAL: "that all may be one-the Christ prayer for unity and collegiality." (sfcc web site) Discussion followed, facilitated by Pat Mullen.

Much of Saturday afternoon was devoted to Social Justice, and the topic for which we were previously sent several informative articles, was Access to Health Care in the U.S. We will continue to study and discuss this topic during our 2018 gatherings, focusing on the opioid epidemic next. Fran Campbell facilitated the discussion.



standing from left: Rose Miles, Suzanne Dunn, Jeannette Love, Pat Mitchell, Pat Mullen seated from left: Fran Campbell, Lorraine Castelein, Barbara Crummitt

The second half of the afternoon consisted of a Baltimore Assembly report, during which time those of us who attended the assembly had the opportunity to applaud the entire event, especially the program itself, with reports from members ministering in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Uganda, Philippines, and India. Awesome!

Saturday evening we relaxed and watched a thoughtful, lovely film: *Collateral Beauty* with Will Smith, Edward Norton, Kate Winslet and Helen Mirren. Memorable.

On Sunday morning we were led in our closing meditative prayer by Pat Mitchell after which we bade everyone a safe journey home to Tucson, Sun City, Phoenix, AZ; San Jose, Palm Desert and Carpentaria, CA.



Submitted by Patricia Mullen

The East Central Region continues to find ways to



maintain a sense of community as we acknowledge the changes that come with age. It is an opportunity to re-create ourselves as a Region in SFCC. In the

spring, those who could, gathered to share stories over lunch and visit with Liguori Rossner at the St.
Joseph



Center, Divine Providence, where we shared thoughts about the upcoming Assembly.



In October, Rita Yeasted organized a trip to Wheeling and St. Clairsville

to share time with Mary Bowman and then Rose Michel. We first visited with Mary sharing prayer, personal stories, and information from the Assembly. Afterwards we journeyed to St. Clairsville to spend time

with Rose
Michel at
the Beacon
House
Assisted
Living
Center. We
took Rose
out to a
favorite



restaurant sharing stories and remembrances from the Assembly.

Laurinda Mayer visited Pittsburgh after the Assembly and spent several days visiting

with Ligouri. Laurinda stays in touch with



the Region through phone calls and emails.

As a region we have come



to understand the critical nature of networking in the development of

community and fulfilling our mission to birth a new understanding of the reign of God.

Submitted by Roberta Kardell



The Florida Regional was held at the Aku Tiki Best Western in

Daytona Beach, Florida on November 18, 2017. Anne Kathleen Duffy, Ita Hickey, Barbara Kennedy, Loretta Morgan, Avy Morse, Mary Sferre, Mary Steves, Marie Tougas, and Andrea Zbiegen gathered. Ita and Loretta co-lead the meeting...

We had a marvelous "revisit" to Assembly 2017 from Loretta and Andrea. We marveled at the quality of the preparations and the presentations of the committee and presenters (they should know of our gratitude). We saw pictures, we perused handouts and community prayers, booklets and handouts from the business meeting.



from left: Loretta Morgan, Mary Steves, Mary Sferre



We reviewed about Memoir pages and Updated Affirmation sheets. Our Gathering prayer and closing blessing were from the Assembly. The spirit of our sisters who had shared their story was indeed with us.





from left: Barbara Kennedy, Marie Tougas, Andrea Zbiegien, Ita Hickey

Beneath our Wings.

Mary and Mary led us in a service of thanksgiving for the lives of our sisters who have gone before us. We remembered especially our sisters from Florida...our sisters who have served the community as ICCs, ALL to ALL teams, Archivists, etc. and who have gone before us. We remembered those who have walked closely with us and those who have walked their own path. We tried our best through song...for they indeed were the Wind

Over lunch we remembered even more stories of our beloved sisters and friends who have gone before us.

Loretta will serve two more years as RCC and Barbara as Treasurer while others will try to be faithful to their part of the service role as discussed last year. We will continue to be creative since sisters increasingly find travel difficult or impossible.

We dealt with a need for a logo to support our sisters' visibility in one of our diocese. It lead to a discussion about various logo types we are using for various community needs...as much as we enjoyed the variety we thought of the need for one of them to be used more throughout community and may pursue a proposal/recommendation to have that clarity by our Jubilee year...2020.

We reviewed that the next Assembly is in Chicago and the theme is "That All May Be One" and will be highlighting our own sisters. We will be thinking of the need to be calling forth new ICCs.

Loretta introduced the idea of a book study which many were interested in and we will pursue as part of Regionals or as a small group of those interested. We will meet again in the spring (April 21). We ended our meeting blessing one another!!

Grateful Thanksgiving Blessings and Meaningful Christmas Peace! The Florida Region

Submitted by Mary Sferres

On October 7, 2017 the Great Lakes Region met



at the home of Sister Josephine Sincak and Sister Mary Potthast in Wheaton, Illinois. Seven others were able to come: Suzanne Doolan, Ann Marie Cunningham, Virgie Luchsinger, Nancy Gannon, Joyce Hajdukovic, Monica Sesko and our Brother Ken Keefner. We remembered Hilda



Top l-r: Virgie Luchsinger, Joyce Hadjukovic, Bottom l-r: Br. Ken Keefner, Anne Marie Cunningham

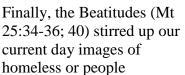
Marquez, who was sick, and Ann Miller, our wonderful long-time sister and missionary in the good care of the Holy Spirit Sisters in Northfield, Illinois.

Ann Marie Cunningham was our presenter on "Bringing Awareness of Social Issues in Today's World." She combined Scriptural passages, pertinent questions for our life experience and an appropriate song which gave us a comprehensive reflection and prayer service.

The scripture greeting Mary in the Annunciation (Lk 1:20-21), underlined the fear she felt at this immense undertaking asked of her, as well as (Mt. 1:19-29) of Joseph and later to the angels (Lk 2:19-10) who confronted fear in this unusual message. We reflected on events in our own life and ministry which took us out of our comfort zone.

Moving on to the next episode of scripture in (Lk 19:45-47) where Jesus went into the Temple to correct the leaders who were making it a den of thieves instead of presenting authentic teaching. We recalled how abuse of power can creep into messages from leaders and even into our own work for self-centered reasons. And Jesus' confrontation with the woman of Canaan (Mt 15:22-28) brought down the wall of pride when she replied "even little dogs eat crumbs falling from the master's table." We centered our reflection on how Truth in new places causes us to leave our comfort zone.







Monica Sesko

begging. These call us to support individual and structural changes. As Sisters for

Christian Community we profess the new commandment to love one another with the same love that God loves us. That all may be one.

Much discussion followed on events in our community where clergy as a higher power threatened to take away what has been given to us. It became important for us to realize that abuse of power becomes a strong arm that we should neither yield over others nor allow in our own ministry.

We enjoyed a wonderful meal ordered for us while we exchanged more conversation about the happenings at the International Assembly in Baltimore. Three of our members were present there.



Virgie Luchsinger

We are looking forward to having the 2018 Assembly held in Midtown Chicago, near Midway Airport.

Our next Regional Meeting will on April 21, in Wheaton, Illinois.

Submitted by Virgie Luchsinger

Our Gulf South met on October 20-21 at the Microtel in Breaux Bridge, La.



Present were Nancy Brossett, Ginny Branniff, Christella Emano, Mary Anne Gaudin, Laurine Murtagh, Rosanne Plagens, Peggy Ramsden, Ameline Theriot, and a friend Sister Michaeline Green, OP.

Ameline opened our evening prayer service on Friday evening with a prayer prepared by Alison McCrary who was not able to be present. We then shared and caught up on

each other's news including a message from Mary Jane Strauch who is still not able to attend regionals because of health reasons.

Saturday morning Nancy led a prayer service on peace and healing which was prepared by Sharon Rambin, who found out a day before the meeting that Medicare people were coming for visit at the hospital where she works and she had to be present. Peggy then led a presentation and discussion of the proceedings of the assembly in Baltimore.

After a short introduction about October being the month of the Holy Rosary, Christella said the Hail Mary in Tagalog, next Sharon - in Italian via telephone, Rosanne - in Czech, and Ameline, Nancy and Mary Anne - in French. We then all said the Hail Mary together in English.

We were able to get in touch with Carmelita Stinn and we all greeted her via phone.

Saturday afternoon we traveled to St. Martin De Tours Church, a 255 year old church in St. Martinville. St. Martin is the patron of all of Acadian area. As a general in the military, St. Martin came upon a beggar. Feeling compassion for the man, St. Martin took his sword and cut his cloak in half and covered the beggar with half of his cloak. That night Jesus came to him wearing the cloak. He was at that point converted to Catholicism.

Sunday morning Nancy led us in a prayer service then we each returned to our corners of the US. Our next regional will be April 27 2018 in Shreveport, La.

Submitted by Ameline Theriot

Ameline Theriot

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Five from the Koinonea Region met October

20-21 at the Franciscans Motherhouse in Oldenberg, Indiana. Kathleen Terlau was with her sister who has major health issues.

Facilitator: Rachel Richards

As usual our first item was catching up:

Marie Seaman, now retired, has been working hard on a project of Master



Gardeners to support scholarships for occupations connected horticulture and agriculture. She still keeps active in Social Action projects she started at St. Joseph Parish.

Elizabeth O'Neil moved to a continuing care center October 8 and is enjoying eating meals with others, and no more shopping or cooking. She keeps active at her art studio.

Carmen Gillick keeps very busy with 20-25 spiritual directees, with upgrading her mother's home, auditing classes at Notre Dame, and leading liturgical services at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Rachel Richards - In addition to being "grandmother" at a local school, she loved doing the flower arrangements and decorations for her African god-daughter's wedding.

Beth Grismer - Teaching RCIA has been a real source of grace for her. She is glad to be finished with the now published book she edited on her great-grandfather's chair factory in Dayton. Meeting at Oldenberg provided the opportunity to see the chairs and table he donated because all his six daughters attended boarding school there.

After Elizabeth's opening prayer, Carmen reviewed the main happenings at the Baltimore Assembly. We then discussed Regional membership and how to approach members who do not make efforts to maintain contact. Rachel will draw up a letter that will be both kind and firm in reminding them of their responsibilities as regional members.

Rachel prepared a couple of silly games to provide a few laughs before retiring for the day.

On Saturday, after Marie's opening Spirit Prayer, we brainstormed some names as possible ICC'S and will take this up at the next meeting. Since Fran Smith [in Mexico] is an at-distance member of our region, we decided that each of us would contribute \$5.00 a month in order to sponsor a student from her village.

After hearing the sister missionaries in Baltimore left a number of us wondering how we could help them, Beth and Alma O'Brien drew up a resource list to answer that question. We reviewed the Resource List and decided to make it available at the Chicago Assembly to anyone who wants a copy. Contact Beth if you have questions.

Carmen prepared a beautiful blessing service to celebrate Beth's 65th Anniversary and Rachel gave gifts of song, a bouquet of flowers and a corsage to make it really special.



We will meet again at Oldenberg. April 20-22. We moved to an earlier date in order that our report can make it into the June issue of ATA.

Submitted by Beth Grismer

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Manila Regional Recollection and Meeting *Members Present:* Marivic Cotiamco, Fe Aguilar, Cornelia Santos, Rosa Ocampo, Angelita de la Cruz, Virgie Azcueta *Absent member:* Fidelmarie Avanzado *Inquirers:* Jesusa de Real, Ma. Luisa Asuncion, Natividad Berdin, Flordeliza Tanudtanud



Top from left: Fe Aguilar, Marivic Cotiamco, Far left: Cornelia Santos, Front from left: (Inquirers) Jesusa de Real, Natividad Berdin

#### Recollection:

Marivic prepared and led us to a morning of prayer and reflection with "Christ the King" as the theme since it was the solemnity of Christ King. We used the small chapel of Fray Juan. After reflection time, each one shared what touched them to reflect from the 3 scenarios on the second coming, meeting Christ, and the new heaven and new earth.

Rosa Ocampo who made a one year commitment, then renewed her vows permanently using the new Affirmation Form. All the affirmed members present also signed the new Affirmation Form.

Inquirers introduced themselves briefly to the group. Virgie Azcueta was the chosen mentor during their Becoming Process.

#### Celebration:

In celebration of the completion of Marivic Cotiamco M.S. in Medical Technology and renewal of vows of Rosa, we proceeded to Our Lady's Cafeteria at the hospital for lunch and feasted on a cake.



Top row: Rosa Ocampo, Middle from left: Flordeliza Tanudtanud and Ma. Luisa Asuncion (Inquirers), Virgie Azcueta, Front: Ma. Angelita de la Cruz

Business Meeting for affirmed members only:

Discernment was given much time for Affiliates requesting for Affirmation. Since both were not present (Lorraine Pagola and Estela Marie Alviar), the discernment will need to be continued whenever the affiliate will be present at the meeting.

Next meeting which will be on Jan. 7, 2018, same venue. In remembrance of Three Kings, we shall have exchange Christmas gifts and potluck lunch.

The group agreed to change the name of our region to: LORENZO RUIZ DE MANILA REGION.

He is the first Filipino saint from Manila.

Submitted by Virgie Azcueta



The Maranatha Region met on October 21st at the Peach Tree Restaurant.

Present were Elaine Beluschak, Betty Bradley, Darlene Kanera, Deb Murphy, Rosella Reinwand and her friend Julie Krueger. Roberta Zelhofer was unable to attend. After our meal, we all stopped at her house to visit and assure her that she would be with us in spirit.

The meeting was held at Betty and Elaine's home and opened with a beautiful prayer service lead by Betty. The theme was "To Live Life More Fully". Prayer and beautifully chosen music set the tone for the topic of the meeting which centered on our individual journeys into SFCC.

Our years of entrance spanned from 1972 to 2012. The amount of information each one received before entrance and the amount of formation/training we received before entrance was amazing. The gift we gave each other in this sharing was a deeper insight into each individual's acceptance of the path her life was taking, leading her to SFCC. We all came away knowing each other and loving each other more than ever.

Betty and
Elaine
provided a
colorful
Halloween
lunch after the
meeting and



sent us home with caramel apples and a bag

full of trick or treat goodies.

Submitted by Deb Murphy, Darlene Kanera

The first report from Mexico was accidentally omitted in the last issue – apologies! - Editor

Sept. 23, 2017



MEXICO REGION

A year

Sept. 21 Norma Muñoz died, and today a memorial celebration was held in her honor in San Luis Potosí. The children's home has moved to a house four blocks away and the work goes on, thanks to Nieve who worked closely with Norma.

Fran and Martha are meeting with Yolanda who has expressed interest in SFCC. She spent last year with her Dad in Villa Garcia and asked for another year outside the Carmelite cloister this year.

We appreciate the prayers for those affected by the hurricanes and the earthquakes here in Mexico. Meanwhile, we continue to pray for those affected in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the islands. We also remember those being persecuted and fleeting Myanmar, the people of North Korea, and on and on. We live in challenging times.

On Sept. 8 we said goodbye to our pastor and to our associate pastor and welcomed an administrator and an assistant. They are pictured with Martha in Casa Clemens after sharing a meal with us and giving us time to talk things over. We're hoping the administrator, Fr. Josue, is appointed pastor,



Martha Delia Lopez-Luevano with new parish administrator, Fr. Josue, and assistant priest

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as he is trying to revive a pretty dead parish. He is especially interested at this time in visiting the sick, most of whom have been sorely neglected by our priests.

We are happy to be a part of the SFCC family. Submitted by Fran Smith

November 26, 2017

After a month and a half in the U.S., Caridad Inda is scheduled to be back in Guadalajara at the end of November. Nieve, who's been in charge of Norma Muñoz home for children, has doubts about this house continuing. They have had to change residences and the children are getting older and more difficult to handle without extra help. Yolanda Esquivel, an inquirer for the past year, has asked to begin the affiliation process of becoming.

Martha Lopez has been very busy in Casa Clemens. At this time Casa Clemens is hosting several engineers and professors. There is an adolescent retreat scheduled for December. We are planning a Christmas party with a very isolated community Tanque de Pino. With food packages from the parish offerings we were able to help the 16 families who live in the mountain community of Horcones. Another rural area asked for used clothes, and with donations that have come in we plan to go to Rancho Nuevo soon. We continue to play the



"loteria" with the folks at the asilo in Villa Juarez. Weavers of Hope grant program has been able to help more students, keeping Fran Smith and the Parents' Committee very busy. The Koinonea Region is sponsoring a student' we are very grateful. We welcomed five visitors from WOH Austin, TX who came at the end of October. We ask for prayers as we continue our ministries here, and we want you to know we are remembering you, our Sisters, in prayer also. Submitted by Fran Smith



The community gathering opened with the song, "Lift Up Your Hearts" so as to calm our minds and our spirits in order to raise our hearts to the Divine.

#### REGION

The members of the Mid-West Region met for their

semi-annual meeting on October28, 2017. The gathering was, once again, held at Sts. Francis and Clare Ecumenical Church; the members in attendance were: Joann Mazzocchio (facilitator), Elizabeth Miller, Cecelia Ann Loomer, Colleen Calhoun (prayer service), Pearl Johnson, Mary Ann Wachtel, and Joann Kuchler. Carol Baltosiewich, Dorothy Lauberth, and Linda Cox were not able to attend due to some health issues; Darlene Boyd had another commitment, at this time.



from left: Mary Blodgett (Inquirer), Joann Mazzocchio, Mary Ann Wachtel

Mary Blogett, our new inquirer, was also present, in order to meet, greet, and share her life and experiences with the community, as an initial step into the Affiliation Stage.

The personal sharing of each person is always full of surprises, combined with heartfelt admiration, joy, empathy, and compassion. Individuals are involved in wood-working projects, quilting, searching for another apartment, involvement in Church and parish ministries and activities, cleaning flooded basements, visiting and taking Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, writing and sending thoughts and greeting cards to the weary, the lonely, and the sick, feeding and caring for the hungry and the poor, educating our brothers and sisters, praying with and uplifting God's people, etc., etc. The list of serving and meeting the needs of God's people, our brothers and sisters, is endless.

After a light lunch, we continued with the prayer service, lifting all to the Lord of heaven and earth, once again, renewing our vows that we sincerely LOVE, LISTEN, and SERVE. Special attention was directed to John 17: 18-23, where Jesus proclaims that "those who believe in Him through their word may ALL BE ONE." As the song, "All One People," states, we can gladly and joyfully shout out, "We are all one people of one same earth and we all share the wealth of the one same earth. We are one great song from the Heart of God. We are all the beloved of the one great Love."

Mary Blogett, our Inquirer, filled us in on the many experiences in her life and, at this time, after much prayer and discernment, requested entrance into the Affiliate Stage. After some timely discussion among the members of the community, a vote was taken, and Mary received a unanimous decision to be admitted into the next phase of her spiritual formation. We, the members of this region, welcome Mary to the Mid-West Region.

Mary Ann and Cecelia Ann delivered a brief, but interesting report of the happenings which occurred at the assembly this past summer. The October/November issue of the ATA totally summarizes all the reports, so, for those Sisters who were not able to attend the assembly, I would strongly suggest a thorough reading of this issue to become acquainted with the material covered at the assembly.

Our next regional meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2018. We will meet at Sts. Francis and Clare Church. The facilitator will be Joann Mazzocchio; the prayer service will be prepared by Mary Ann Wachtel. It was mentioned that if anyone wants or needs to change the date of the scheduled meeting, that individual would contact all regional members; the person preparing the agenda will not be responsible for requesting the change.



from left: Pearl Johnson, Elizabeth Miller, Cecelia Ann Loomer, Joann Kuchler

Many gifts and blessings to each of you; may your Advent be holy and your Christmas filled, to abundance, with the graces of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Joann Kuchler



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Members of the Namaste Region continue to

meet every other month. At our gathering we shared a meal together. There was an exchange of helpful information and we gave updates on our life's experiences and ministries.

We were welcomed to one of St. Robert of Newminster Parish Meeting Rooms. Present for the October 14, 2017 meeting were: Mary Rose Accetturo, MacCanon Brown, Rosemary Kaczynski, Mary Jo Meadow, Judith Smith, and Margaret Underwood.

We had read the book, The Reckless Way of Love by Dorothy Day and about her philosophy and spirituality founded in the Bible and spirit of Christ. This was incorporated into the opening prayers and presentation by MacCanon. The opening prayer was "A Litany of Women for the Church" by Joan Chittister. Music included "The Wedding Banquet" and "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life." The theme was "Advancing the Kingdom of God." Readings included: a passage from Jesus Before Christianity by Albert Nolan, Ephesians 3:20 (read by Margaret), 1 Peter 3:15 (read by Rosemary), and Essential Writings by Joan Chittister and Romans 10:8 (read by Mary Rose).

A lengthy contribution of reflective thoughts followed. There was a reference to our "preference for the poor" as in the Profile" "Our Spirituality, Our Ministry." Each sister shared how she is present to people in her ministry in both serving and receiving.

Margaret prayerfully read a Eucharistic prayer from Dorothy Day's book (page 88). With peaceful and joyful hearts we shared in this Eucharistic union.



Top l-r: Mary Rose Accetturo, Judith Smith, MacCanon Brown, Lower l-r: Rosemary Kaczynski, Margaret Underwood, Mary Jo Meadow

Afterward, Judith presented a brief overview of the affirmed Profiles: 1970, 1978, 1979, and 2009.

We expressed in full consensus to have six meetings in 2018 and when it would be helpful to have the meetings together.

Discussion ensued about the details, facts and plans for attending the 2018 Assembly in Chicago, Illinois and we are looking forward to the Assembly.

Submitted by Judith Smith



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION October 27~29, 2017

Present were

Juanita Martinez and Odessa Stanford from Houston, Patricia Morris from Georgetown, Sylvia Schmidt from San Antonio, and Alison McCrary visiting from New Orleans. Suzanne Friedman, Lydia Plastas, Isidra Hernandez and Letitia Gomez were absent, and Ann Pennington from Austin joined us Saturday morning.

Inspired by the words of the ICC's at the Assembly, "What are some things we can do as a community," quoting Evelyn Mattern, "to be more conscious of addressing

collectively and individually the anguish of the world?" and "We have been called to think corporately to give birth to and sustain SFCC in Africa?" we decided to go back to the words of our founder Lillanna and see how she described her vision of SFCC using

the Commentary of Sudden Spring, by Ann Pennington, Chapters IV, V, VI, and VII, and ask ourselves how we are living out this vision as members.



Our Friday night reflection on Autumn, prepared by Alison, led to sharing personal experiences during the year that helped us let go like the leaves of autumn "so the life waiting for us in the wings can come to life...and change our focus, empty and free ourselves" in "the continuous process of letting go and moving on..." This led to much positive discussion and reflection "our mission to be Sisters FOR Christian Community endeavoring to reach those on the margins."

Saturday opened with a beautiful meditation on Mary and the affirmations she made during her life, led by Sister Odessa.

The agenda for this day started with a discussion of Ch. IV, in which Lillanna lays out her vision of creating the "Church Radiant" (Sudden Spring, pp. 55-61), characterized by "community, simplicity and love," and asked how we are doing this as a community today. Our discussion and the thoughts of Lilliana expressed in this document reminded us that Vatican II is "calling us to be a transforming Church of penetration, community and responsibility that would revolutionize the Church's selfidentity" and that Sister Lillanna saw SFCC as a group of women who "were willing to live consistently on the cutting edge of the Church" (Sudden Spring, pp. 55-56). We

then discussed our definitions of the cutting edge of the Church and asked, "How are our members doing this today as our 50th anniversary is approaching and are there things we need to change or update?"

Moving on to Ch V where Lillanna discusses her goal to move religious obedience from "authority that demands unquestioning obedience....setting them free to realize their freedom as children of God. to follow the direction of their own reasoning....and to help eliminate those structures that have kept Christians from attaining maximum levels of personal and moral maturity," we began a discussion of Lillanna description of a Becoming Process where she "recognizes, affirms, and intensifies the potential sister's need for a life-long orientation toward "witnessing community in Christ" (SS, p. 64).



From left: Odessa Stanford, Juanita Martinez, Alison McCrary, Sylvia Schmidt, Patricia Morris

She lays out three things a prospective member should do before becoming a member of SFCC: 1. Internalize the groups values, goals and norms. 2. Learn a specific set of culture patterns. 3. Embrace those patterns so deeply that they become part of one's own personality."

This led to a discussion of SFCC Values and Culture.

1 As a group we saw our values as SFCC as love, justice, forgiveness, nonviolence, equality, diversity, integrity, care for creation, all of which are expressed in the Profile. We asked: Are these values, expressed by L and in the profile, of universal women or just American and

European woman? Do the missionary sisters and the women joining us from other countries have some values they would like to add?

2 We saw our culture as SFCC as acceptance of diversity, liberation from damaging authority, collegiality, freedom to be who God called us to be, standing in solidarity with those who have gone before us, all expressed in the Profile. We asked: is there anything that could be added to the description of our culture as a community that might need adjusting to make it broader for women coming from other countries?

Submitted by Patricia Morris

To be continued in the next ATA issue.



Nine members of the WEB Region met at Charlestown Retirement Community on

Saturday, September 9 at 10:00AM: Kass Collins, Pat Wieczynski, Pat Conrad, Vincentia Joseph, Gloria Rubio, Patti Rogucki, Alma O'Brien, Nancy Meskill and Janette Silva. After opening with the theme from Assembly 2017, "Lord, You have come..." we shared updates from the other sisters in the region, their needs and those of their families.

There are currently two Affiliates and one Inquirer in Mumbai, India who are journeying with Margaret Gonsalves as mentor and Alma O'Brien in WEB via SKYPE.

There was discussion about our March weekend in Ocean City. Since it always occurs during the Lenten Season, it becomes difficult for sisters who have parish commitments. We are considering the first weekend in April, which next year is the weekend after Easter. Hotel rates do not yet increase to summer levels.

The finance report from Assembly was reviewed. Having consulted with Virgie Azcueta, it was decided to send a portion of the balance, \$3250 to the Philippine team for use in the 2019 Assembly. The remaining balance of \$8344 will be invested in a 24 month CD redeemable in September 2019 to be forwarded then to the Assembly team for 2021.

After enjoying lunch together in the Terrace Room, Kass shared the results of the Assembly evaluations. Overall, the comments were very positive.

Gloria Rubio shared her experience visiting Sr. Justine Naturinda at the Coady Institute in Nova Scotia. Justine's course ends on December 2 but she will remain until the

end of December, hoping to get a visa to visit the U.S.

Our gathering dispersed at 2:00 PM, grateful to Kass for her hospitality and to Mother Nature for the sunny, cool day.



Submitted by Alma O'Brien



Virgie **Azcueta** (Manila) traveled in October to Tanzania to

visit friends, to meet five days with Columba Thadey, an Inquirer (now affiliate), and to have a retreat. She continued to Uganda, meeting our new SFCCs Priscilla Kyarisiima and Vastina Tusingwire, seeing their ministries in action and recognizing needs.



#### MacCanon Brown (Namaste), on Nov. 16, 2017, was chosen as one of two runners-up for the Social Innovation Prize in Wisconsin, which honors social innovators over age 50 who "defy expectations by using

their creativity and talent to address critical social problems at the local, regional or national level" to encourage change for the better – as the program explains. Interfaith Older Adult Programs hosted the event. MacCanon was selected based on the model for a self-governing community of homeless persons with leadership development which emerged under her leadership over 25 years. The transformational model was recognized by the National Coalition for the Homeless. At the new permanent site which is being built in Milwaukee, on-site urban agriculture is being planned for self-sufficiency to supply their full-scale meal program.

Madonna Buder (At Large) was a speaker in late October at the WORLD 50 Summit in New York City where Colin Powell was also a speaker. Within a week, Madonna went to Abu Dhabi for a similar engagement where she was part of a



publicized panel on Empowering Women, Nov. 6-7, 2017.



Marivic Cotiamco (Manila) completed her Master of Science in Medical Technology.

## **Barbara Donahue** and **Therese Martin** (DAM) send their greetings, prayers and love from their assisted living home in Tucson.

**Veronica Koperski** (Michigan) reported: I returned to Michigan over a year ago from



Florida when I retired from the department of Theology and Philosophy. I haven't been keeping in touch very much with SFCC because I broke my clavicle and am also dealing with dental surgery issues which are

turning out to be more complicated than expected. I manage to walk a mile every day (indoors or out). I am also the resident local advisor on the Detroit Tigers. I belong to a local parish staffed by a community of Polish monks. One of the local SFCC here in Michigan called me today. We are planning on getting together soon. Best wishes to all SFCC.

#### Justine Naturinda of Uganda (Africa

Region), on December 2, 2017, after a 20 week course, received her Diploma in Development Leadership at the Coady Institute of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, Canada.







#### Calling Forth a New ICC Team

At a previous International Assembly it was recommended for the community to call forth new International Communications Coordinators through the use of the ATA. The rationale was that using this process would allow more members to participate in the process. Rita Yeasted and Roberta Kardell are in the second year of their second term. It is time for the community to consider calling forth a new team to serve in this capacity. Rita and Roberta will serve for one more year and help the new team to transition in this service role. It is the responsibility of each member of the community to discern with their region possible individuals who will be willingly to serve the community in this capacity. All recommendations should be submitted to the ATA in the next two issues in order to give the community at large time to evaluate the recommendations.

#### Two Willing to Serve as ICCs

We, Carmen Gillick and Virgie Azcueta, have each spent time praying, discerning, and consulting both within the community and with others and are open to offering to serve as the next ICC Team. This would be





Virgie Azcueta

the first time that a member of the team would be from outside the USA though Virgie holds dual citizenship in USA and Philippines.

Carmen became a SFCC in 1983. Virgie became an SFCC in 1985. Both of us have been at most of the International Assemblies. Virgie guides the Becoming Process in the Philippines and has also spent time in Uganda with our SFCCs there. Using Skype, email and texting, Virgie is presently mentoring our new Affiliate, in Tanzania. Carmen has served in many capacities at Assemblies including on business teams and developing prayer experiences. Carmen's broad experience in university campus ministry has provided opportunity to interact with individuals from many different countries and backgrounds.

As you can see, our experiences complement one another and, in other areas, overlap. If we are affirmed as the next ICC International Team, we will focus on empowering the living of our mission and vision statement that all might be one.

Our vision and hope for the community is that all may be one both within and beyond the community through living our Profile ever more deeply while welcoming new members via our Becoming Process. We will also try to help the entire membership of SFCC move towards a fuller reality of being an international community of committed religious women.

We now rely on your prayerful discernment and welcome comments and/or questions.

Carmen Gillick gillickc3@hotmail.com

Virgie Azcueta srvirgie@gmail.com

**SFCC E-mail Group**: Contact Fran Campbell if you want to join: francampbell@yahoo.com



Carol
Baltosiewich
(Midwest) who is battling lung disease
(November 2017).

Christine Bellefontaine (SoCal), for her brother Joe who had a bad fall and was in a confused state as a consequence (Nov. 2017). Patrice Bennett is assisting in finding solutions for him.

**Ginny Braniff** (Gulf South), who continues to struggle with severe chronic pain, and for her back surgery December 6 and recovery afterwards.

**MacCanon Brown** (Namaste) requests prayers for complete recovery for her sister, Rebecca Farnbach, who was diagnosed with uterine cancer and had surgery on November 15, 2017.

**Lucy Comer** (Sunbelt) and her sister, Judith who were in a serious car accident. Both suffered minor injuries but ask for healing prayers (Nov. 24, 2017).

**Virginia Conant** (Florida) who recently moved into a memory care facility. Virginia's family asks for prayers as she continues her life's journey.

Mary Connors (WEB) who has been diagnosed with mesothelioma, and for Catherine Dever who is caring for her.

Suzanne Friedmann (South Central) had cardiac bypass surgery following a heart attack and this was followed by pneumonia, a blood infection and an incision site infection requiring additional surgeries and procedures (September/October/November

2017). **Lydia Plastas**, a 'retired' LPN, is her caregiver and home sharer.

**Beth Grismer** (Koinonia), for her cousin Carol Hanson who has a brain tumor.

**Jo Grady** (SoCal) for full recovery from blood clots in lungs and other health issues.

**Marion Hicks** was close to her sister, June Preston, who died on October 12, 2017.

**Denise Lonergan** requests prayers for her granddaughter Peyton, age 11, with gratitude that Peyton fully recovered from a severe brain injury suffered on October 22, 2017 (as of Dec. 2) but must live carefully for a while so she does not fall again.

**Carol Marquis** (Eagle) for successful immunology-therapy for bladder cancer.

Laurinda Mayer (East Central; in Honduras) for her safety and safety of the clinic people and town during worsening chaos in violence in a land already suffering from poverty and violence.

**Barbara Rice** (Northern Lights) who continues to struggle with debilitating health problems.

Virginia Simmons (Rocky Mountain) for continued recovery from a stroke. She wrote to us: "I appreciate so much being part of our Sisterhood. Living and working alone as I do in secular society, the association with SFCC and my daily prayer life help me remember to be mindful of appropriateness and responsibilities entailed in what I say and how I say it when I write my weekly newspaper columns, magazine articles, and book reviews. Virginia Simmons (Rocky Mountain)

**Rita Yeasted**, whose beloved brother-in law Jack Momberger passed away suddenly on Thanksgiving Day, and for his family.

**SFCCs** in Florida state and in Houston, Texas who sustained the destructive effects of recent hurricanes.

**SFCCs** who are isolated from the SFCC community by geographic distance and/or illness.



SFCCs: Please check all your information in the Member Page of the community website sfccinternational.org

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#### Ezeokonkwo, Francesca (Affiliate,

Sophia Circle)

(The correct spelling of her surname)

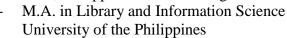


#### **BECOMING PROCESS**

**Antonia Malelang Labos** (Calungsod Region)

DOB: June 27, 1965 Place of Birth: Tanza. Boac, Marinduque, **Philippines** Education:

- **BSBA** Management 1987, National College of Business and Arts
- Library and **Information Science** 2000, Philippine Normal College



No former religious community affiliation. Affiliation Covenant: Nov. 12, 2017 Submitted by Virgie Azcueta



Antonia Labos

#### **Columba Thadey**

(Tanzania, Africa Region)

(Discerning Region: Manila, Philippines)

Mentor: Virgie Azcueta

Affiliation Covenant: October 31, 2017

I am a teacher by profession with a candidate class and prepare students for National Examination. I coordinate a Jesuit Endowment Fund, that offers scholarships to academically advanced students from poor families and coordinate the Global School Partnership Program between Loyola High School in Dar-es-SaIaam, Tanzania and Boston College High School in Massachusetts, USA.

I am age 47 from a family of three and the

first born. I have two younger sisters both of them are married with families, however one is separated. My mother passed away in January 2005. My father is alive, he is 73 years old. He is living in Kondoa-Dodoma with one young sister.



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I am asking to join Sisters for Christian Community in the mission of Christ. I am touched by your way of life which I read on the website, "Members live according to the Evangelical vows and manifest their commitments to God within a new form of consecrated life they believe to be both prophetic and Ecclesiastical... SFCC are mostly found in ministries that favor the poor and marginalized of the world". I like the mission statement that is, to work towards a global community of equality, justice and integrity. I would love to participate in that mission as a member of your congregation. I am passionate about dedicating my life for the service of the church as SFCC Sister. I pray that the Lord blesses my desire according to His Holy will.

"Prayer makes your heart bigger until it is capable of containing the gift of God himself". - M. Teresa of Calcutta.

I have been a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa with 5 years of formation and 9 years of temporary vows. I left the congregation when I was preparing for final vows in January 2011. After living the congregation I worked at Loyola and stayed with my youngest sister who is married here in Dar for one year. After that I moved from my young sister's family and stayed on my own with three children of my young sisters. I continue living my religious values and vows and dedicating my life at the service of the needy of the society especially the poor through teaching, counselling, giving retreats and recollection days. In addition, I offer counseling to orphans in an orphanage in Dar es Salaam run by Passionist Sisters.

I have a spiritual directress who has been accompanying me since I left the congregation. She is a Sister of Mary

Company Our Lady who is working in the same school.

Email: columbat895@gmail.com



#### **PROPOSAL**

With modifications from the Assembly floor, it is proposed that the following statement be added to the SFCC View Book within the Affiliate stage of the Becoming Process:

Within the global SFCC membership there is an option to wear the attire needed for ministry and serving as an SFCC in a specific place.

When attending regional meetings or an annual International Assembly ministerial attire particularly the veil or habit is not acceptable.

#### **RATIONALE:**

Past International Assemblies discerned and affirmed that the wearing of a habit and/or veil is not encouraged but is, at the same time, permitted when and where it is absolutely necessary to maintain employment. A clear statement of this affirmed Proposal should be added to the Becoming Process in the *SFCC Viewbook* to ensure that new SFCC members understand the expectations regarding attire worn for ministry, as well as at local and international SFCC gatherings.

Submitted by Odessa Stanford, Clarifier

## **Sisters For Christian Community SERVICE FEE FORM 2017-2018**

and

#### ATA Vol. 48

Please complete one Service Fee Form for each person, including any gift subscriptions, and submit it with payment by November 30, 2017 (if late, send as soon as possible)

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# Chicago 2018

## SFCC International Assembly

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[Special needs	nail		Attention please: Make all room reservations directly with Holiday Inn Midway + (1) 708-325-7089
Assembly fee: \$250.00  Includes Breakfast & Dinner; daily snack (morning/afternoon); Meeting room, prayer room/team meeting room; extras (mics, etc.)  1) A \$50.00 deposit is requested before May 31 (balance due by June 30, 2018)  2) Make checks payable to Sisters For Christian Community  3) Send registration form accompanied by your check to: Monica Sesko, SFCC / 5214 Brindlewood Dr. / Plainfield, IL 60586			SFCC block of rooms [single or double] Special rate \$125.00 per night [2 days before or after Assembly included at this rate] -Hotel shuttles run from Midway Airport
Also, Please indicate you  Airplane  Amtrak  Bus  Car	r mode of transportation:  {arrival: Day, Time}}  {arrival: Day, Time}}  {arrival: Day, Time}}  {arrival: Day, Time}	1	from O'Hare Airport  Taxis run From Amtrak station of Greyhound Bus station OR take the Loop (Orange Line)



Send Information for next issue to atasfcc@yahoo.com on or before January 30, 2018.