



# ALL-TO-ALL

## THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 49 Issue 1

[www.sfccinternational.org](http://www.sfccinternational.org)

November/December 2018



### CHICAGO

#### Message from the Chicago 2018 Assembly “That All May Be One”

Sisters, what a wonderful gathering we had in Chicago! There are not words sufficient to thank those sisters who worked so hard in planning and serving (listening, loving, and serving part of our vows) at this Assembly. Thank you all who attended and shared with us. Thank you who were not able to attend but prayed for us.

“A community is a place. . . where people feel called to belong to each other, where they learn to accept people as different, where they experience and express forgiveness, which is at the heart of all human growth. Because of this unity, which is manifested in and the diversity of the whole body, a community is a place of thanksgiving and celebration.”

- Jean Vanier, Letter to My Brothers and Sisters in L’Arche (1996) p, 29

*Sharon McLaughlin, General Chair  
2018 Assembly, Chicago, Illinois*

### SERVICE ROLE ANNUAL REPORTS

#### SFCC ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Chicago Assembly, July 2018

#### INCOME

Balance Forward: \$ 0.00

ATA Distribution \$ 444.17 (\$4.00 per  
ATA subscription/service fee)

Reimbursement \$ 752.83

**TOTAL \$1197.00**

#### EXPENDITURES

Mailing: \$338.25

Printing \$388.38

Supplies \$ 65.15

Archive Transfer \$145.77

**TOTAL \$943.75**

**Balance Forward: \$253.25**

#### REPORT of ACTIVITY:

**Transfer** of member files to Patti Douglass is complete.

**Transfer** of historical materials to Avila University is ongoing

**Obituaries** provided to the ATA as needed

**Memoir Forms** still being received

**Data Base** of membership 1970-Present completed and ongoing

#### Printing this past year:

ViewBook 150 copies. One updated  
VB sent to each RCC

## SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

SFCC Brochures 200 copies. One updated Brochure sent to each RCC

**Supplies:** includes padded mailing envelopes, tape, printer ink



Fran  
Campbell



Patti  
Douglass

**SFCC Crosses:**

100 reordered  
now available  
*submitted by:*

Fran  
Campbell/Patti  
Douglass

*Newsletter*



**ATA  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2017-2018**

**Revenue**

Forwarded from 2017 \$9952.54

ATA Subscriptions 3488.00

Service roles:

ICC 951.00

Archives 1329.00

Website 570.00

Donations 1240.00

**Net Deposits \$17530.54**

**Expenditures**

ATA + Directory \$3436.52

Service roles

ICC 951.00

Archives 1329.00

Website 570.00

**Total Expenses \$6286.52**

**Net Balance Forward \$11244.02**

Total ATA Subscriptions 199

Domestic Hard 106

International Hard 10

E-mail 65 (36%)

Total copies sent 181

Shared 18

Not everyone paid full subscription amt.

Some Sharers paid no Service Role fee.

**Total Directory Subscriptions 199**

Domestic Hard 122

International Hard 10

E-mail 50 (27%)

Total copies sent 182

Shared 17

	Printing	Tax	Total
ATA	\$1570.80	+129.39	= \$1700.19
Directory	\$ 166.00	+ 13.63	= 179.63

**Total Printing + tax \$1879.82**

Mailing: ATA \$1377.64

Mailing: Directory \$ 179.06

**Total Mailing**

**\$1556.70**

*submitted by the*

*ATA Team*

*Alma O'Brien*

*Deb Murphy*



**WEBSITE  
REPORT  
2017-2018**

**INCOME**

Balance Forward \$ 0.00

ATA Distribution \$ 525.00

45.00

**TOTAL \$ 570.00**

**EXPENDITURES**

Contact Box renewal \$48.96

Sudden Spring USB \$16.15

Sudden Spring scan \$25.42

Domain renewal \$68.55

SPAM Protection 9.99

Domain extension \$25.00

**TOTAL**                    **\$193.98**  
**Balance Forward**       **\$376.02**

### WEBSITE ACTIVITY REPORT

#### Finished and available -

Member Photo Directory  
 BP Inquirer and Affiliate photo directory  
 Region member and RCC Listing  
 Necrology listing  
 International Service Role photo directory  
 Current Assembly Team Directory  
 Group photo from immediate past assembly  
 Assembly Logos 1970 - 2019

#### Home Page

direct link to immediate past issue of ATA  
 direct link to current Assembly information  
 direct link to SFCCs in the news  
 menu to all sections of the website

#### Sudden Spring:

direct link in MENU on Home Page.  
 Full content available by chapter.  
 Anne Pennington's COMMENTARY available  
 thru direct link

#### SFCC View Book

The entire View Book is available in the website  
 The link is located on the Member Page

#### International Service Role Listing

The photo and contact information for the SFCC international service role volunteers (ICC, Archives, Website, Assembly) is available on the Member Page of the website

#### Assembly Information / Registration

Hotel information and Registration form for current year assembly is available in the website. Available also is the contact information for the current year Assembly

Host Team. The link to all of this information is in the menu on the homepage

#### ALL-TO-ALL

The immediate past issue of the ATA is available thru a link located in the lower right corner of the homepage of the website

#### Photo Directories

Available on the Member page  
 these directories are updated each month:  
 Affirmed SFCC members  
 Inquirers  
 Affiliates

#### Contact Box July 2017-May 2018

25 Inquiries about becoming a member\*  
 20 General inquiry about SFCC  
 2 Requests for SFCCs to work in diocese  
 15 Searching for an SFCC member  
 10 SFCC members with question/comment  
 20 Requests for contact with specific SFCC  
 92 Total messages  
 \*All inquiries about becoming a member are forwarded to the RCC living nearest to the Inquirer or to the ICCs  
 24 - number of persons since 2015 who made initial contact with SFCC through the website email contact box and recently were Affirmed and/or currently are or have been in the Becoming Process

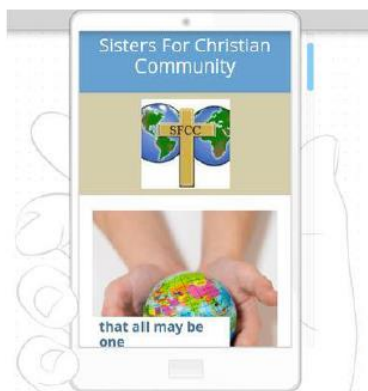
#### Affirmation of Website Co-Monitor

In 2015 Claudia Adamson was affirmed to serve as co-monitor of the SFCC website. Geographic distance, time and travel costs have proven to be a major obstacle to Claudia being trained by Fran Campbell for the website responsibilities. Claudia has agreed to step aside for **Rose Miles** to be trained as co-monitor. Rose lives less than a mile from Fran, which makes initial



and on-going hands-on training easy to accomplish. It is the hope that Rose will be affirmed as this Assembly (Chicago, 2018) as co-monitor so that training might begin asap to ensure that more than one person will have access to passwords in the website.

**Our website is available on any**  
desk top  
computer  
laptop  
computer  
tablet  
smart phone



Website Report  
submitted by  
Fran Campbell

### ICC ANNUAL REPORT: 2017-2018

During the second year of our second term as the International Communication Coordinators, we recognized the increasing importance of the SFCC website. The website is a major force or tool for those looking for something other than traditional religious community. We thank Fran Campbell for the continued development, maintenance, and updating of the website. It seems to be the principal way that SFCC is found. However, we believe that as a community we have not utilized the site to its fullest measure. Ilia Delio, Senior Fellow in Science and Religion at Georgetown University, writes in her book *The Unbearable Wholeness of Being*: “If evolution is the emergence of consciousness then the development of the World Wide Web has ushered in a new type of

consciousness unparalleled in human history...a new interior consciousness sharing itself in the way culture is organizing itself around social networks.” Delio notes: “The power of the computer to link humanity together on a new level of consciousness suggests a forward movement of spiritual energy.” We question if we are utilizing this tool as fully as we can to further our connectedness, our mission, our vision. There is a section on the member page entitled “SFCC Conversations.” As of this writing, we note that this section has not been used. It could be a powerful tool to challenge our thinking and actions.

As we move into our fiftieth year of existence, we believe that it is important to understand the importance of our structure. For forty-eight years we have been able to preserve our egalitarian structure. Whether we are the ICCs, the RCC, the ATA editors, the Archivist, or the Website Manager we must always recognize that these are service roles. We must make sure our thinking is clear and that no member perceives these roles as anything more than service to the larger group. Thinking in any other way is a violation of who we are at the core. In writing about our structure in *Sudden Spring*, Lillanna Kopp wrote: “We will avoid being a formal organization. By design, we are simply a free-form unity of persons gathering together in community-in-Christ. We are united not by rules and constitution but by mutual concern and communication.”

Yet we recognize that it is this very structure that has prevented us from responding to the critical issues of our day as a community. Some twenty-three years ago when we celebrated our 25th anniversary, our recently departed member, Anne Brotherton set forth the challenge in this regard. She noted: “our SFCC commitment to collegiality, to

decision making by consensus...should not be allowed to muzzle us in decisions which address the culture of death which characterizes so much of the world around us...Our collective silence gives collective assent to the evils around us. We should and must be able to respond as a community.” We know that we have responded in regions but at times everyone might not have an awareness of such responses. It might be possible to share such regional responses in the SFCC Conversation section of the website which might in turn result in responses from other regions.

We also remember that during our earlier assemblies we used to have a communal response to a local issue or problem by way of donations or some communal action. Somehow this fell by the wayside. Recently, a member of the community called asking us to sign as a community an action agreement on climate change which was entitled *Catholics Are Still In Climate Declaration*. Rita explained our unique structure and found a way to support the cause explaining “Because of the nature of our community, our efforts are essentially individual. As a community we make an effort to discuss actions that can help the climate. Many of our Sisters work in environmental organizations or belong to them.” While we have found ways to address the critical issues of our day, Anne’s challenge remains “how do we find a collective, public voice with which to speak our faith to the ‘culture of death.’”

You can find all the following information on our website; but the ICC job description requires us to report the following statistics. There are a total of 25 individuals in the Becoming Process. There are 12 Inquirers (6 from the Philippines, 2 from Spain, 4 from East Africa). There are 13 Affiliates (5 from the Philippines, 1 from Mexico, 1 from

India, 3 from the USA, 2 from the Netherlands, 1 from Tanzania). There were two individuals affirmed this year (1 in the Calungsod Region of the Philippines and 1 in the Manila Region of the Philippines). There were 13 deaths since our last assembly and one withdrawal, Linda Schwamberger from the Great Lakes Region. The Directory shows 353 members.

As is our custom, we continue to us the Christmas season to remember our members who are isolated or distant by sending cards with good wishes. The Eucharist is celebrated for each of our sisters who have died during the year. This year we wrote several letters for employment reasons and at the request of our members in the Philippines letters to bishops to alert them to SFCC in their dioceses.

We thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

### ICC Financial Report

#### Income

Beginning Balance	\$ 1500.37
Donation	100.00
Service Role Funds	951.00

Total Income 2551.37

#### Expenses

Postage	93.40
Laminated Pockets	20.00
Mass Stipends	130.00

Total Expenses  
243.40

**Ending Balance**  
\$2307.97

Submitted by:



**Roberta  
Kardell**

**Rita  
Yeasted**



## 2018 BUSINESS TEAM REPORT

*The business meeting was facilitated by Claudia*

*Adamson with Carmen Gillick serving as timekeeper and Mary Ellen Pitts as recorder.*

Monday afternoon began with the clarifying session of the lone proposal, submitted and clarified by Odessa Sanford:

**"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."**

There was discussion as to if this was a recommendation or a proposal. On Tuesday afternoon, during the open mic session, sisters continued the subjects of recommendation versus proposal, Viewbook entries each separately being proposals or not, and thirdly, if we still need to tell each other how to dress. On Wednesday, after prayerful deliberation, the proposal was not affirmed.

Although not a recommendation or proposal yet, the subject of stewardship coordinator was discussed. Margaret Underwood was the clarifier and facilitator of this idea. The assembly gave Margaret much to think about in furthering her hopes of submitting, at another assembly, a proposal of professional stewardship of community funds.

Reports of the ICC's, Archives, and ATA appear elsewhere in this ATA.

Team members from future assemblies gave reports and answered questions. These include the Philippines in 2019, facilitated by Virgie Azcueta; our Jubilee Assembly in 2020 in Kansas City MO, facilitated by Denise Ware and Mary Rose Accetturo; and the 2021 assembly, facilitated by Odessa Sanford, Alison McCrary, Maggie Gonsalves and our sisters in Africa.

Affirmations of service roles were made. These include Rose Miles as Website Co-Monitor, training in the role with Fran Campbell; and Alison McCrary taking over Peggy Ramsden's role as editor of the ATA.

Affirmed as ICC's and beginning a transition year are Virgie Azcueta, Carmen Gillick, and Denise Ware.

Two other topics were discussed in the course of our collegial process.

Alison McCrary questioned the practice of having the ATA posted in the public section of the SFCC website. The resulting discussion revealed a great deal of support for having the past issues in the members-only section, and this was done by day's end.

In discerning our newly affirmed ICC team, there was much discussion as to how an idea presented as a recommendation in 2012 (Calgary) came to be considered a proposal. Also questioned was that even if teams have been called forth in time to be presented in the ATA, that did not preclude teams from being called forth from the floor of an assembly. Further clarification of these issues needs to take place. Present and past ICC's reminded us that "International Communications Coordinator" was not a euphemism

for "Mother Superior" and they do not serve as arbitrators. They are not the leadership in the Community. Their only role is communicating within and for the Community, and this is done thru relationship

Our evaluator in the collegial process was Mary Rose Accetturo. She reported that, although these sisters were new to the business team, they were self-reflective and learned throughout the days of the Assembly. She also mentioned that the opening of the meeting went smoothly as there were both printed and verbal instructions as reminders of expectations; also that all needed written materials were available to the sisters.



submitted by

Claudia Adamson & Mary Ellen Pitts

### Message from ATA Editor Peggy Ramsden

*Note: The following ATA Editor's Report was sent to the Assembly by Peggy Ramsden since she was unable to attend due to terminal health problems. Peggy died unexpectedly only days after the Assembly.*

I'm sorry and sad I could not come to the Assembly this year, in spite of plans and efforts to get there.



I wish to thank all the people who helped me do the Editor's service role this year, but with apologies if I forget anyone. Alma O'Brien and Deb Murphy were a

great team with me. We each focused on our roles and worked together. Alma took the lead for some things. She was able to get a very good printer for a very reasonable cost, and got the issues distributed.

Thank you to all the Region reporters. I delighted in the news, pictures and ideas shared. Thanks to Sharon and Virgie for sending information about future Assemblies and Alma for reports from the Baltimore Assembly. Thanks to those who get their prayer requests and contact changes to one of us or to Fran for the website directory. And thanks goes to Patti Douglass and Fran Campbell, the Archives team, for writing and sending me the obituaries and for those who knew the SFCC who passed away and supplied information to help the archives.

Fran Campbell was a great mentor and a hard act to follow. She taught me tricks for desktop publishing and tried to teach me many "rules" for publishing a newsletter. One rule is that each issue had to be a multiple of four pages for printing, including the cover page and the full page forms.

Another "rule" is that Region reports should be no more than one page long, 12 point Times New Roman font, including the picture. Region reports should be concise and pertinent. And it helps to have pictures where all the faces are clear. To fit the pictures in a column, she taught me how to crop, cut, adjust, and so forth. Fran also supplied information from the historical archives.

I believe I had at least two heavenly mentors, Barbara Marshall and Kathleen Brady, past ATA editors. I always asked them for and would be amazed when each issue was finished.

Since September I developed an aggressive autoimmune lung disease. I am seeking a volunteer to take over my service role before I am no longer able to continue. If I can learn new tricks, one of you can also, if you already know word processing on Word. Yes, the Assembly would need to affirm you.



## REGION REPORTS

**NOTE:** *if your region report was submitted to the ATA after September 18, it will not appear in this issue. If you want it to appear in the next issue (January-February), please resend your report to [francampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:francampbell@yahoo.com)*



The Michigan Region met on August 30. This was our first meeting since May 18. I had been in Saginaw for the Summer, participating in an Intensive Clinical Pastoral Education Unit. Carmella had been traveling to see family in Australia. Present at our meeting were Carol Bearss, Carmella Chetcuti, a friend Betty and myself.

We began with prayer and shared our summer experiences over lunch. We then agreed unanimously that Carmella would be our new regional coordinator. Carol and I also shared about the phone conversations

that we have had with Helen Gazarek's niece.

Helen has been ill and is now in rehab. Her niece hopes that she will be home soon. Now that Carmella is back she will visit Helen as they both are in the Detroit area. We agreed to meet again in October in Boyne City where Carol lives. Carmella and Betty also shared about their recent visit to Sault Sainte Marie Michigan and Ontario, which is the historic city founded by Isaac Jogues S.J. We closed with prayer and agreed to meet again in October.



Carmella Chetcuti assumed the service role of RCC. *submitted by Mary Hughes*



The Southern California Region met on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Sister Carmen Figueroa and her sister, Luisa Figueroa. Those attending were Christine Bellefontaine, Ada Geraghty, Patrice Bennett, Margaret Castro, Carmen Figueroa, Maria Dowhaniuk, Lupe Moore, Gloria Galvan, Martha Nguyen, and Lucinda Girard. We also had a special guest, Sr. Kathy Warren, ofsf, who is the new Vicar of Religious for the San Diego Archdiocese.

During a meal prepared by Carmen and Luisa, we shared memories and stories about our beloved and sorely missed sister, Peggy Ramsden, who passed away on July 18<sup>th</sup>. We will gather together again on July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Sisters of St.

Joseph in Orange, California, for Peggy's funeral mass.



*seated from left: Patrice Bennett, Gloria Galvan, Ada Geraghty, Maria Dowhaniuk  
back from left: Margaret Castro, Christine Bellfontaine, guest Kathy Warren, osf,  
Carmen Figueroa, Martha Nguyen, Lupe Moore*

After lunch, we continued to share our memories of Peggy. Maria Dowhaniuk had prepared a large photo collage of Peggy with sisters, family, and friends. Maria had many good memories to share since she and Peggy both entered SFCC in 1973.

Our prayer service focused on unity. Every SFCC member who knew Peggy remembers how devoted and committed she was to our community.

Our guest, Sr. Kathy Warren, osf, asked if we would each share a bit about ourselves, our journeys to and with SFCC, our ministries, ... It was fascinating to hear how broad our roots are: Italy, Canada, Ireland, Ukraine, Mexico, Philippines, the USA, our ministries, too, have been quite varied, including nursing, other medical fields, education, social work, counseling, and parish work. We wrapped up our discussion with a reminder to send in our memoir forms!

*submitted by Lucinda Girard*



Seven members of the WEB Region

gathered in Charlestown September 22, 2018. Present were: Kass Collins, Janet Pfeffer, Gloria Rubio, Patti Rogucki, Nancy Meskill, Pat Wieczynski and Alma O'Brien. The opening prayer was a penitential service for our Church and nation.

There was opportunity to share about our lives. Patti Rogucki had just returned from El Salvador and related her experiences in that dangerous and gang infested region. Janet Pfeffer is going on a Caribbean cruise in December and expects to sing in the cruise choir. There were stories of family weddings, deaths of friends and remembrances of our aging members.

We did some planning around our Advent and Spring gatherings: Perhaps we will gather in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in early December and then in Richmond, Virginia in May. Details will be worked out later.

Sheetal Parma in India, who is in the Becoming Process with Maggie Gonsalves as her mentor is affiliated with the WEB Region and will be Affirmed into full SFCC membership at the Manila Assembly in January.



Alma gave an update from the Chicago Assembly. WEB will work with the DAM Region to clarify the Recommendation for Calling Forth ICCs. It was suggested that the Business Team for the Manila Assembly, if there are no other recommendations or proposals presented, to do a 'mock' collegial process so the Philippine sisters



Alma O'Brien

could experience it. Perhaps one of the issues pending the future could be discussed and then used for content for the consensus process.

Because many of the group had other commitments, we enjoyed lunch and went our separate ways.

*submitted by Alma O'Brien*



Affiliation covenant of Bernadette Mendez of Calungsod region and Ma. Luisa Asuncion of Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila region. Affiliates shared their journeys to SFCC and inquirers introduced themselves and what attract them to SFCC.

Present were 3 inquirers: Concepcion Jordan, Ma. Socorro Rivera, Elsa Malinao and friends of Ma. Luisa.

Celebration and bonding was held at Our Lady Cafeteria.

Regional meeting was facilitated by Cornelia Santos, RCC of Lorenzo de Manila Region.

Virgie Azcueta echoed the 2018 Assembly in Chicago then we proceeded with our preparations for 2019 Assembly. We agreed that our next meeting will be Oct 28 here in Fray Juan.

*submitted by Cornelia Santos*



*front from left: Jess Ayeng, Bernadette Mendez (Affiliate), Luisa Asuncion (Affiliate), Cornelia Santos 2<sup>nd</sup> row from left: Bing Bulala, Angelita de la Cruz, Lorraine Pagola, Jesusa de Real (Affiliate), Rosa Ocampo, Alma Mangao, Virgie Azcueta back row from left: new Inquirers: Concepcion Jordan, Socorro Rivera, Elsa Malinao and guests*



**Denyse Martin** (New Zealand) is doing all right now but was quite ill during August with a terrible chest cold and laryngitis. Denyse will be 88 in October and is planning a trip to Australia with her housemate, Susie Johnson to celebrate. Denyse keeps up with SFCC thru the sfcc-online Yahoo Group and the ATA. She keeps all SFCCs in her prayers every day.



September 8 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Suzanne Dunn's**

Suzanne Dunn

Jeannette Love

ordination through RCWP, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish she has pastored: Catholic Church of the Beatitudes.

Mass was concelebrated, as well as also accompanied by a stellar choir, trumpet, piano, harp and cantor. A reception followed in the church courtyard. The Church of the Beatitudes focuses on active involvement in local, national and global social justice issues while it forms a close supportive community of spiritual and theological nourishment. Suzanne retired from full time pastoring a few years ago. **Jeannette Love** is now the full pastor.



Many of you remember **Therese Martin** and **Barb Donahue**

who never missed an Assembly and every year offered their service at to video tape the entire week! They also served as the ATA Team during the late 1990s.

As age and health problems stopped their travel to assemblies, they remained active members of the Southern California Region and, during the past 7 years, the DAM Region. Therese suffers from memory problems and Barbara (now 94 years old) was full time care provider until a couple months ago when Therese relocated to a memory care residence. Barb moved into assisted living residence. Both remain in contact with the DAM Region.



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

**Sheila Adams** (Koinonea) who has been falling a lot and needs shoulder replacements



**Clariza Amaca** (Calungsod Region) who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments

**Elaine Beluschak** (Maranatha/Wisconsin) as she adjusts to health problems

**Isidra Hernandez** (South Central) who is acute pain and for whom no further medical treatments are available

**Agnes Miller** (Ruah-UK) for recovery from bowel surgery and 2 serious falls

**Sylvia Schmidt** (South Central) as she makes the transition into assisted living residence

**Mary Jane Strauch** (South Central) successful results from a stint put into her heart.

**Ameline Theriot** (Gulf South) for full recovery from knee surgery



All updates are in the website Directory

**Amaca, Clariza**  
Nazareth House  
Minglanilla, Cebu  
Philippines

**Ayeng, Jesusa**

caracarissima1225@gmail.com

**Arac, Josefa**

Bohol Island State University  
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Philippines

**Chetcuti, Carmela**

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**Reitz, Mary**

apt # 344 (was #218)

**Rogucki, Patti**

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410-547-8584  
parupton@yahoo.com

**Sweeney, Anita** anitasw101@gmail.com

**Thomas, Clare** H: 504-234-8133



### AFFIRMED into FULL MEMBERSHIP

Affirmed  
September 15

by the  
Sophia Circle  
Region



Francesca  
Eseokonkwo



Anne  
Fowler

### COVENANT OF AFFILIATION PHILIPPINES

Bernadette Mendez  
Calungsod Region

Ma. Luisa Asuncion  
Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila



### BENELUX REGION



Magdalena  
Bennesar Oliver

**Magdalena Oliver and Carmen Ajuria**, both from Spain, made their initial contact with SFCC through the SFCC website and were connected from there with Teri Takken in the BENELUX Region. She spent 6 days in the Netherlands with Teri and with SFCC Affiliates, Lien De Jong and Monique De Jong.



Carmen  
Notario Ajuria

Both ministered in the USA for several years. They share the journey here that led them to SFCC: "For several reasons we returned from the States to Spain:

We wanted to reconnect with our religious

community in Spain and we also believed it important to return to our country of origin to be closer to our older folks and also to readjust to a different mentality before it was too hard to do it.

What a huge mistake that was! We lost our residency after two years out of the country.

Not having any kind of institutional support (our small group has no means or a platform



from left: Inquirers Carmen Notaria Ajuria, Teri Takken (SFCC mentor), Magdalena Bennesar Oliver

from where to work); we depend on how the Catholic dioceses accept our charism.

Now we are having a very hard time with the bishop of Bilbao, Spain, who is very

patriarchal. The reason for being in Bilbao is that people responded well and also I (Carmen) have my elderly mother here.

In order to accomplish what we feel called to do, we are presently separating from our religious community here in Spain. We do not want to be canonical but consecrated women; the others in our community want

to remain as canonical religious. As part of this same process, we must find a group of women with whom we feel close in mentality: this is why we think that it is providential to have found the SFCC.

Our focus is to be faithful to our call and to share it with people. And that is to create a small Centre of Spirituality, Ecology and Justice where everybody can share their



Inquirers Carmen Notario Ajuria (right) and Magdalena Bennesar Oliver with Lien De Jong, SFCC Affiliate (center)

goods and talents in a circular way. We would love to do it in collaboration with others who have similar dreams. Visit our website:

[www.espiritualidadintegradoracristiana.es](http://www.espiritualidadintegradoracristiana.es)  
We are looking for a place to be able to live our ministry of integrated spirituality and peace, and at this point we would not mind to move elsewhere in Spain, even somewhere in Europe.

Magdalena speaks French, Catalan and English. Carmen speaks English, French and Spanish/Catalan.

We spoke with Roberta Kardell, ICC, about the possibility of spending some months in the US looking for a job with Hispanics and doing some courses, but the immigration laws are very strict in the USA at this point. In terms of taking care of my mother I don't need to live here in Bilbao; but I would like to be close enough to visit from time to time.

Financially speaking we have some savings that could help us at least at the beginning.

We understand that SFCC requires that we provide for ourselves in all matters financially. Magdalena will receive her pension this year. Carmen continues to pay into her pension for another 8 years.

Teri Takken will serve as the mentor for Carmen and Magdalena as they journey through the Becoming Process.



**Sisters For Christian Community**  
**THAT ALL MAY BE ONE**

## INQUIRERS

### **Vivianne Akinyi**

of Kenya recently became an Inquirer in the Becoming Process. Virgie Azcueta is serving as her Becoming Process mentor.



Akinyi is currently studying at the University of Nairobi for her Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management. She has obtained her Bachelor of

Commerce Degree from the University of Nairobi in 2015 and her Diploma and her Higher National Diploma in Human Resource Management, at The Kenya Polytechnic and obtained a credit pass. She currently ministers as a Civil Servant for the National Treasury, a ministry she has had since 2009.



**Mary Grace Kenyonga**  
(Uganda), Social worker by training

### **Nancy Moraa Onger**



Born in Nyanza, Kisii-Kenya. Nancy is 33 years old. Raised Catholic, went to school under the Asumbi Sisters then high school with the Loreto Sisters. She finished a Bachelor of Science degree in Education at Kenyatta University and worked as a teacher in Mombasa, Kenya.

Nancy felt a religious calling in 2012 so she entered the Loretto Sisters as postulant. In 2013 she became a novice. Unfortunately, she got very ill and was sent home for 2 years. After recovering, she returned and resumed her novitiate only to be sent home in 2017. This was traumatic for Nancy and her religious vocation was tested.

Then Nancy met Marta Nyaga, a SFCC Affiliate in Kenya, and she became interested in the SFCC life style, living on your own and meeting occasionally. She is presently teaching at St. Mary Viwandani in the slums of Nairobi run by the Incarnate Word Sisters.



**Christine Mathias** who left the Sisters of St. Joseph Cluny last July. She made her perpetual vows in 2016 and she is a graduate of the School of Nursing in **Tanzania**



**Concepcion Jordan, Maria Socorro Rivera, Elsa Malinao** in the Philippines



## OBITUARIES

### **Kathleen Cahill**

1930-2018  
SFCC: 1991-2018



Kathleen was born in Newark, NJ in 1930 to John and Mary Cahill. She was the oldest of six children, and loving aunt to a litany of nieces and nephews. Kathleen entered the Sparkill Dominicans in 1948 at the age of 18. She taught at the elementary and secondary school level in the Bronx, Garnerville, NY, Manhattan, and Michigan. She joined the SFCCs in 1978, devoting her life to art therapy through which she ministered to many struggling and troubled souls. Kathleen lived among us with a message that remains and comes to mind with every thought of her “trust that we are always in the place God wants us to be.” We joined Kathleen’s family in celebrating her life on October 6th at Saint Barnabas Church in the Bronx. Eileen Lennon delivered the Eulogy.

“My name is Eileen Lennon and I speak on behalf of the Sisters for Christian Community. Kathleen is our sister. She joined our community in 1978 and became dearly loved by all. Our community quadrupled in size when Kathleen joined. In the sisterhood, our families come with us. We know and love each other’s families as our own. Kathleen brought with her siblings, nieces and nephews, grand nieces

and nephews, and great nieces and nephews, one of whom – Jimmy – attended many of our meetings. We become one big family in the sisterhood, and at times like this, we gather as one big family to celebrate Kathleen’s life in gratitude for all we have received.

In celebrating Kathleen’s life today, it’s only natural to begin thinking of what it is we’ll miss most in not having her here with us. One of our sisters, Stephanie Bennett, speaks for all of us in her memory of Kathleen.

“Throughout life, most of us are blessed with friends with whom we can pick up connection as though we just left them, no matter the intervening absence. Kathleen possessed this capability to an uncommon degree. Intensely wired by wisdom, she greeted you as though you just parted ways yesterday. Her own contemplative depth and honest caring made this second nature for Kathleen...the rest of us often need cue cards.

Kathleen was a flesh-and-blood mentor to me in so many ways, as I’m sure she was to many. Her goodness and compassion, and most of all, her unwavering faith and perseverance, set her apart. She motored that failing body around with gusto, draped in colorful scarves, flashing her determination to wear out in God’s name and not rust out. Simplicity was her middle name – “Holiness is wholeness” her epitaph.”

Our sorrow over the loss of Kathleen can find comfort in these words from Saint John Chrysostom: “Those we love and lose are not where they were before; they are now wherever we are.” Kathleen is now another angel at the side of those who love her. She remains with us wherever we are, and that is

something death can't take away. Thank you, Kathleen for the divine gift you are to all of us." *submitted by Karol Jackowski of Sophia Circle Region*



### **Anne Brotherton**

1927-2018

SFCC: 1975-2018

Anne Brotherton, 90, died on June 22, 2018 in Augusta, Georgia. Anne

was the daughter of the late Charles Brotherton, Sr. and Annie Lenz Brotherton of Augusta and the sister of the late Charles Brotherton, Jr., and William Brotherton. She is survived by her brother Richard and his wife, Ann, and numerous nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Anne spent her childhood in Augusta, Georgia where she graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy and joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1950. She transferred to the Sisters For Christian Community in 1975.

Anne received a doctorate degree in Cultural Sociology from Fordham University while teaching in colleges of the City University of New York. Her long teaching career included parochial schools in Marietta and Savannah, Georgia, Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia, Fontbonne College in St. Louis, Missouri, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta where she became life-long friends with Coretta Scott King, and at both Georgia and Augusta State Universities. From 1978 to 2000, Anne was a professor of Sociology and Ministry at the Jesuit Graduate School of Theology in Berkeley, California, the school awarding her a Doctor of Divinity

Degree honoris causa in 2011.

Throughout her long career, Anne worked for nonviolence and peace, as well as for equal rights for women in church and state. She served as mentor, friend and inspiration to all those whose lives she touched. Anne was one of three PhD dissertation advisors for Fran Campbell, sfcc at the Graduate Theological Union – University of California Berkeley during the early 1980s. She pushed all of her graduate students beyond their known intellectual levels.

Anne believed firmly in the vision of SFCC and participated in the community's growth and development at both the regional and international levels. She was a leading force in the Northern California Region for over 20 years and later was a member of the Sunbelt Region after she relocated back to Augusta, Georgia upon her retirement. Anne was a speaker at the 25 Year Silver Jubilee Assembly in 1995 and her talk [sfcc: socio-theological perspective](#) may be found in the Jubilee Collection now located on the SFCC website. It is often required reading for those who journey through the SFCC Becoming Process.

*submitted by the Archives*



### **Shirley Crisler**

1926-2018

SFCC: 1985-2018

Shirley passed away at Bishop Drumm Care Center in Johnston, Iowa on August 10, 2018.

Shirley was born February 16, 1926, to Clinton and Marie (Allen) Crisler, in Aurora, Illinois. She was joined by a younger sister Betty four years later. Shirley graduated from Madonna in 1944 and then

worked as a secretary until she entered the Springfield Dominicans in September 1946. She returned home temporarily to help care for her ill father and returned later to Springfield. Shirley earned a BA with a major in English, and a Master's in Education with a major in Administration both from DePaul University in Chicago.

As a Springfield Dominican, Shirley taught elementary and secondary levels for 23 years in schools in Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. Shirley served as co-principal at Sacred Heart in Des Moines and as principal at Visitation in Des Moines, St. Joseph's in Kansas City, MO, and Seton Catholic in Ottumwa, IA. After retiring as principal, she continued to teach General Education Development (GED) classes at Des Moines College until her full retirement at age 80.

After Vatican II, Shirley worked within Shirley worked for change within the Dominican community. Realizing that change would not happen, she left the Springfield community in 1972, and moved to Des Moines along with six other Sisters from Springfield who became known as the Ichthus Dominicans under the approval of Bishop Dingman of the Des Moines Diocese. Eventually, Shirley realized she needed to associate with a larger group and it was then that she learned about SFCC. Shirley joined the Sisters for Christian Community in 1985.

Shirley became very involved in the development of the SFCC community, serving as the editor of the ALL-TO-ALL newsletter for eight years. Shirley also teamed up with Rita Yeasted to develop the SFCC Viewbook.

Jeannette Love (DAM Region) recalls "At my first Assembly a few years ago, as I walked into the room with a bit of trepidation knowing very few sisters, Shirley

came up to me and genuinely wanted to get to know me. A warm and genuine spirit of friendship and love was characteristic of Shirley from that first encounter and every other meeting since that time."

Early in her life, Shirley was influenced greatly by her grandparents and Sr. Helen Rose, her 8th grade teacher. Sr. Helen Rose was to become a life-long friend and mentor. Shirley also became good friends with Bishop Dingman and went on to co-author his autobiography with Sr. Mira Mosle, BVM. Shirley interviewed Bishop Dingman every few months for 4 years as part of the biography project.

Shirley was instrumental in getting guidance counselors into the Catholic schools and it was during this time she met Barbara Marshall, sfcc, who became her longtime friend and housemate. Barbara and Shirley worked closely with Mary Steves and Mary Sferre (ICCs) and Fran Campbell (archivist) during a critical time of growth within SFCC.

Shirley is survived by her sister, Betty Desmond and children, Nick and Judy and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents and by Barbara Marshall, sfcc.  
*submitted by the archives*

### **Theresa Kochan**

1938 – 2018

SFCC: 1983 – 2018

Theresa was born in Reading,

Pennsylvania where she grew up and went through school. Entered the Felician Franciscan Sisters (Sisters of St Felix of Cantalice Third Order Regular of St Francis) in Lodi, New Jersey



in 1957. Theresa earned a degree in Education. For the next 20 years, she taught in parish schools throughout New Jersey and served as school principal, as well. Theresa was also Directress of Postulants for the Felicians.

Theresa left the Felicians in 1977. She had earned a Master's Degree in Religious Education and, upon leaving the Felicians, accepted a position in the Diocese of Richmond as Minister of religious Education.

Theresa was familiar with SFCC through her sibling, Catherine Kochan who joined SFCC in 1978 and was herself an active member until her death in 2002.

Theresa was welcomed into SFCC in 1983 by Catherine Dever, Ursula Dowling, Consilia Karli, Maureen Miele, Rosemary Devine, Laura Kelly, Mary Sorenson, Mary Shea and Marion Hicks. Theresa was an active member of the WEB Region.

Theresa died September 4 after suffering a fall and a serious infection, which resulted in her going to a facility in hospice care. Theresa was the last of 11 siblings and was ready to "go home" to be with them.

*Submitted by the Archives*



**Maria Dolores  
Pailillo**

1924 – 2018

SFCC: 1985 - 2018

Born in Manila the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 daughters (2 died in infancy), Dolores attended Catholic schools and was strongly influenced by the faith of her parents. Her father, a medical doctor, died at the start of World War II and her mother died one year later, leaving Dolores

and her two siblings orphans. Decades later, Dolores recalled that her parents "instilled in us their solid religious beliefs and also their compassion for the less fortunate. Though we were orphaned early, their exemplary Christian way of life profoundly guided us through our formative years of growing up on our own. My two sisters and I each finished college."

After completing her degree in accounting and math, Dolores joined the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM), a Philippine religious congregation in 1952, where she also earned a degree in Education. Dolores remained with the RVM from 1952-1984. She taught primary grades as well as math and religion at the high school and college levels at RVM schools in the Philippines and Central America. She was school principal and a college director, as well as RVM region superior.

In the early 1960s the RVMs contracted with the bishop of Sacramento Diocese in California to do social work. In 1966 Dolores was sent to Stockton, California to do social work among the elderly. She would eventually be sent to Las Vegas, Nevada and Honolulu, Hawaii. For 5 years Dolores lived and worked with the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, California at two of their schools in Sacramento area. In 1981 Dolores took a 3 year leave of absence from RVM because she believed the "Holy Spirit within me was being stifled." To support herself during her Leave, Dolores took a position at Pacific Bell Telephone Company as an accountant. On her off hours and weekends, she ministered to the sick and aged in their homes and in hospitals and was also active in an area Filipino prayer group. At the end of the 3 years, Dolores discerned that the RVM community life was no longer relevant for her and so she applied and received dispensation from her vows.

Rosalina Abejo, SFCC told Dolores about SFCC. Soon after, Dolores met with two of the Northern California SFCCs: Pat Boyd and Anne Brotherton, who gave her a copy of the Profile. "After attending local SFCC meetings, I felt a community bonding relevant to the contemporary world where affirmation, challenge, growth and spiritual commitment are real possibilities where I can mature according to the call of the Holy Spirit."

After Dolores retired, she continued volunteer ministry in the local parishes of Sacramento area. For over 25 years, Dolores shared a home and community with long time friend Margie Estavillo who, herself, faithfully attended all Northern California SFCC region meetings! Margie met Dolores years earlier when Dolores helped Margie reunite with long lost family in the Philippines.



Dolores died at age 93 after a two-year struggle with complications from a stroke and blood infections. Margie and Margie's daughter cared for Dolores in their home to the end.

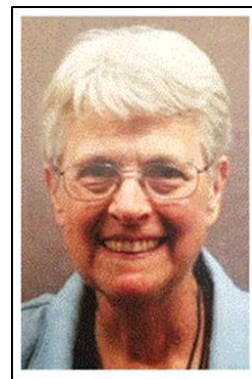
Dolores was buried in the Circle of Nuns at St Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento.  
*submitted by the Archives with help from Margie Estavillo*



## Peggy Ramsden

1948-2018

SFCC: 1972-2018



At age 70, Peggy succumbed suddenly to a virulent form of pulmonary fibrosis complicated by pneumonia at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange surrounded by her family members. Born in Oakland, California, she came with her family at age 1 to Long Beach, California where she grew up with her 3 siblings, Kathy, Carol and David. She graduated from St. Anthony's High School in 1966, and from California State Long Beach in 1971.

Since she and her siblings were Catholic kids, they played Mass together. Peggy was tops in knowing the altar boys' Latin responses. So, it is not surprising that, after graduating from California State College in Long Beach with a degree in Biology, Peggy joined a newly forming religious community called Sister for Christian Community (SFCC). She had witnessed what the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters (IHM) were experiencing. (And they were the ones who taught her grades 1-12) She decided to go with a group that took up the spirit of the mission of the IHMs but were starting from the ground up. Peggy joined SFCC in 1971.

Peggy loved learning. After her degree in Biology, she earned her teaching credential. After a few years of teaching, she earned her Masters in Religious Education from Loyola Marymount in 1986 so she could work in parish ministry.

Peggy dealt with many marriage cases as part of her parish ministry so decided to move into tribunal work. She studied Canon

Law at St Paul's University in Ottawa, Canada and eventually took tribunal positions in the dioceses of Toronto, Ontario Canada and in the USA in San Diego, California, Anchorage, Alaska, San Bernardino, California, and San Antonio, Texas.

During her time in Texas, Peggy met Marilyn Millar, sfcc and from that point forward they shared a home and community until Marilyn succumbed to cancer in 2015. Both Marilyn's untimely death and the passing of another SFCC, Paula Derselle only a few months later took a deep emotional toll on Peggy and seemed to aggravate Peggy's own life-long health problems. From childhood Peggy suffered from asthma and later from scoliosis.

Peggy never permitted her own health problems to slow her down. When she was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, she continued with her many ministries until she became too weak and it was simply too difficult to breathe.



Along with other parish ministries, she began doing Canon Law (Catholic Church law) work, particularly annulment work, with the Tribunals in San Bernardino in 1976, in Anchorage, Alaska in 1984, and in Toronto, Canada in 1990. In 1992, she received her Canon Law (J.C.L.) degree from Saint Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. Beginning in 1993 she served as a Collegial Judge in San Antonio, Texas, and then returned to Southern California in 1999 to serve as a Collegial Judge with the Diocese of Orange. After her retirement in 2016, she continued her work as a Canonical Consultant to several Tribunals. She was a member of the Canon Law Society of

America.

Peggy's care and compassion were expressed in her other relationships outside of her tribunal work. Her involvement with Cursillo, Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Beginning Experience, Magnificat and in the SFCC Community was always one of forging friendships, showing support and care for others in their times of need and being there to listen, offer wisdom and help guide people through their life issues.

During her years in the Diocese of Orange, California Peggy also gave her time several Catholic community organizations, including Beginning Experience, Cursillo, and Magnificat.

The Requiem Mass was Tuesday, July 31, at the Mother House at St. Joseph Center in Orange. Eight SFCCs from the Southern California Region and 3 from the DAM Region represented the many SFCCs who were there in spirit.

*Submitted by the Archives with help from Carol Ramsden Koppenheffer*



### **Rita Washington**

SFCC:  
1976-2018

*Rita's obituary will appear in the next ATA issue*



### **ASSEMBLY 2019**

Manila, Philippines

January 24-28

We are very happy to announce that to date

we have now 32 Sisters coming from Ireland, USA, Guatemala, Africa, India. Due to the limited rooms in the Fray Juan Clemente Holistic Center, 4 sisters will be staying in Midas Casino Hotel which is a 5 minute walk to Fray Juan.  
(www.midashotelandcasino.com)

Anyone who is still thinking of coming and would like to stay in the hotel, here is the information. It is Ph4700.00 or \$87.00 a night good for two people without breakfast. A shuttle fee of \$16.00 for pick up and return to the airport. If you email me, I can do the booking for you. I must hear from you by December 8 and also receive by that date 50% of the total cost.

All meals will be at Fray Juan from Jan 24-28. Registration fee is still \$50.00 and meals for 5 days is \$65.00

According to weather updates in the Philippines, January and February are no longer the typhoon season and the temperature is cooler. To those going to northern Philippines after the assembly, you will need jacket because the buses are equipped with very cold air-condition.

All Filipina affirmed SFCCs (28) and Affiliates (7 and 2 will be affirmed at the assembly) are excited and thrilled to hear of your coming and we promise to make your stay in the Philippines a very memorable experience that you can cherish for many years. 36 of us will be present to welcome you and looking forward to building community with you - THAT ALL MAY BE ONE.

Virgie Azcueta  
srvirgie@gmail.com  
iphone +63-917-882-8683  
Accounts in Messenger, WhatsApp, Skype, Viber

## ASSEMBLY FEES and COSTS

The present dollar exchange in the Philippines is 53.00 pesos

For those who have paid, you will be given change from your dollar payments.  
Today this is the cost and the amount you will send to:

Check payable to VIRGINIA S. AZCUETA  
Send to: 6112 Morning Calm Way  
Columbia, MD 21045

Note that my US check takes 4 weeks to clear in my dollar account in the Philippines. I would appreciate total payments given by Dec. 1, 2018 the latest.

### SUMMARY:

\$50.00 = REGISTRATION:

\$93.00 = ROOM for 6 nights Jan 23-28 at \$15.50 each for two people sharing the room..

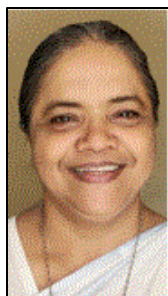
\$51.45 = MEALS starting Jan 24-28 includes morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack, supper. Breakfast is free with the room.

\$194.45 = TOTAL

For those arriving January 21 or 22: if your room mate has not arrived, then you will pay the cost per night \$31.00. Breakfast is free but lunch and supper will be on your own. You will be guided to the cafeteria.

Sisters will be meeting you at the airport and will guide you to the foreign exchange before leaving the airport. You will need some pesos for extra meals, massage and shopping for souvenirs. Credit card is acceptable in the Mall of Asia.

*Virgie Azcueta*



## Sudden Spring in Asia: Holy Shadow of God

Once my yoga teacher told this Sufi story:

A saintly Sufi with all his austerity lived in a jungle. One night the angels came from heaven to see how this man being so saintly-disseminating virtues as the star radiate the light, the flowers fragrance and they do not glory in it. He had a charming smile for everyone, reached out to the needy in charity; kindness was his religion, never expressed through words but deeds only and being patient with everything and anybody. His daily work could be summed up: God gave to be given away'

His guardian angels approached God, "to grant him special power to work miracles." And God said, "find out what his wishes are?"

The angels came down to earth and asked the saintly Sufi, "Would you like heal the people by your touch?"

*Saintly Sufi:* No, let God do that.

Angels: Would you like guilty to have conversion of souls and bring them back to the salvation?

*Saintly Sufi:* No, let the angels do that.

Angels: Would you like to become an ideal of patience to attract people and they would glorifying God?

*Saintly Sufi:* No, if people should be attracted to me, they would become alienated from God. Angels: What is it that you desire, then?

*Saintly Sufi:* That God gives me his grace; with that, I would have everything?

Angels: You must ask for a miracle, or one will be forced upon you.

*Saintly Sufi:* Well then let God give me strength to do good without ever knowing it. The mystified angels took counsel and resolved that: every time the saint's shadow falls behind him, it would have the power to cure disease, mollify pain, and ease the sorrow.

When the saint walked along, his shadow behind him, made parched paths green, caused shrunk plants to bloom, gave clear-gushing water to dried-up brooks, rejuvenating the weak and the sick, and cheering the sorrowful.

The saintly Sufi simply went about his way of life the people, valuing his humility, followed him silently, and never told him about his miracles. Soon they even forgot his name, and called him 'The Holy Shadow.'

This is the greatest revolution that can happen in the religious life today. The sudden spring in Asia is a shadow of a great soul who faithfully walked in the shadow of the Master: Jesus. We are called to become the shadow nurturing all those on whom the shadow would fall. We are called to transfer the center: from me to God and become a shadow. We cannot be powerful without the center.

We are not even religious; we do not have any center to be religious. We are simply tremendously empty vessels for the divine to flow through us unrestricted, unremitting, unscathed. If the Holy One does not pass through our center -- there is none. The center is lost.

Thus to nurture the Sudden Springs in Asia, one has to become the holy shadow of God  
*submitted by Maggie Gonsalves*

## SERVICE FEE FORM 2018-2019

and

## ATA Vol. 49 2018-2019

*Please complete one Service Fee Form for each person, including any gift subscriptions,  
and submit it with payment by December 31, 2018*

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Submit content for January- February Issue on or before December 30, 2018

