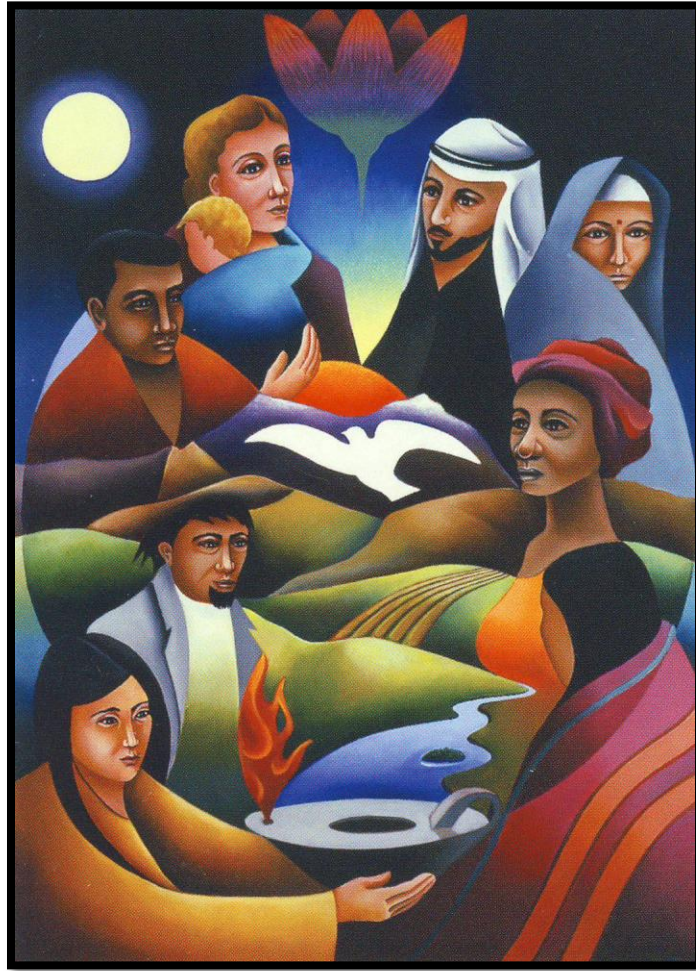


Pluralism and a Culture of Peace



Art by Sr. Nancy Earle, smic

*“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just”
Pope Francis*

MOSAIC I, 2014

In this MOSAIC issue, we continue to consider how creating a Culture of Peace in our pluralistic world is inherent in our Franciscan, missionary spirituality. Beginning with the sharp, concise admonition by our Holy Father Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words" and paralleled with the message of Pope Francis, we are urged to give life to the Gospel: *"We have observed that, in society and the world in which we live, selfishness has increased more than love for others, and that men of good will must work, each with his own strengths and expertise, to ensure that love for others increases until it is equal and possibly exceeds love for oneself."*

A few stories are told to give us practical experiences of pluralism by our Sisters in Tacloban, Angola and by Sr. Claudia of the Belem Province which attest to a quality of living with God and with others of different cultural origins including our own "in-house" experience of multicultural living of the Congregational Common Formation Program in Namibia.

As we enter our midterm of leadership service we are using this issue of MOSAIC to also update you on some of the various Congregational Programs underway .

Let us journey through the Easter season with the certainty that Christ's resurrection is strongly present in our commitment to be **"women of hope and as witness to the power of the Gospel"**

Vision Statement 2010-2016



Tacloban Community fosters interreligious pastoral activity.

In the midst of the busy life of rebuilding our Tacloban School and the frenzy involved in ending its academic year, the Sisters took time to facilitate the works of mercy in a very pluralistic ecumenical spirit of assisting needy families.

Recently a Taoist group from Taiwan came to distribute relief funds to about 1500 families amounting to 6,000 Pesos each, totaling a distribution of 7 million Pesos. In order that this work be done in an organized and just manner, the Sisters were involved in a great deal of preparatory work, including working with a bank and hotel, and coordinating transportation and security measures making name lists from different districts of the area, to signing bank checks, and other tasks even including securing armed police (with machine guns) as a preventive and security measure.

This busy action is once more a way in which pluralism and a culture of peace was enacted for the sake of the poor. We thank you our Tacloban missionaries for your "going the extra mile" to bring together persons of diverse religious groups in a work of pastoral care because you promoted fraternal relationships through interreligious collaboration.

Pluralism , Awakening to Culture



In accepting Angola as a congregational mission, it was clear to us that in doing so our missionaries would be super challenged in attending the people in the variety of corporal works of mercy so evidently needed. No one would argue that we were in Angola to provide services of basic education, health care and continued formation to the catechist. But, little did we know that the most challenging mission would be in attending to the spiritual formation of the people.

Angola has been considered a Catholic country since the 1500's when it was colonized by the Portugal. By Catholic we do mean that the majority of Angolans are baptized Catholics and therefore participating in the sacramental legacy as part of the Church's work of salvation. Interestingly, our experience has taught us that the needed focus of evangelization lies in another direction. The obvious but needed dimension of proclaiming God's mercy and forgiveness, is a "chant" needing to be sung on a daily basis.

Many Angolans are still strongly tied into a tradition of voodooism, and actively believe that personal misfortune is the result of someone else's evil designs and wishes. Oftentimes we have come to understand that the slow death (by poison) of a child or adult was the result of vengeance by a jealous neighbor, family member or co-worker. Though faithful churchgoer or trained catechists, these beliefs are stronger than the religious instruction imparted during a homily or at catechetical trainings. Evil which must be rid of in order to free one's body and spirit of illness or insecurities or judgment is therefore allocated to an unsuspecting person. To the person believing in voodoo practices, there is no concept of reconciliation, there is no opportunity for forgiveness nor admission that natural events or even self may be the cause of failure.

With centuries of beliefs imbedded in the very DNA of the African spirit, the living gospel accounts of Jesus are the ways to freedom and to a personal transformation which are still a long way off from being realized. To this reality, we as missionaries are confronted and challenged to proclaim Jesus as the Way while remaining patient to the day of their awakening which may still be generations away.

Our Presence among the Munduruku People

Sr. Cláudia Morais

After having celebrated 100 years among the indigenous Munduruku people we can see a difference in the challenges of each period. The first decades were marked with the very challenge of a first contact with the people: insecurity of not knowing their culture, language, the distances, difficult access, etc. The following decades had prime challenges of epidemic illnesses which killed many Indians leaving behind orphaned children who were welcomed and cared for by our Sisters and by the Franciscan friars. After, came the struggle of the demarcation and regularization of their lands demanding much courage of the

missionaries to struggle together with the indigenous to win this battle. There also was the struggle to better the public health and education policies in the decade of the 90's. In all of these struggles and conquests our Sisters and the friars have been present and have given their lives day after day for the cause of the Munduruku people.



Actually, or better still, in the first decades of this new century, we have the great challenge to take on, together with this people, the guarantee of all the rights already won. But, we are in front of a great challenge that concerns us very much and threatens the future of the Munduruku people which are the large works projected by our federal Brazilian government to be constructed within or near their lands. We feel impotent before this situation, as a the government goes above the rights of the indigenous and continues executing their projects of death, principally as it affects the poor.

Since 2009, we SMIC and the Friars began a work of awareness alerting the Munduruku people to the risks of accepting any agreement with the government. As a way of greater commitment with this cause I took on, last year, a project which dealt with promoting the mobilization of the Munduruku to confront this struggle. I participated in various activities such as assemblies and leadership meeting with the government and with various social movements and NGO groups.

Actually I continue to support the Munduruku in their struggle but I am no longer linked to the project because as a Franciscan I could not identify with their methodology of mobilization which worked also with violent means. But I want to say that I did not leave the struggle of the Munduruku, only that of the project.

At this time we are three in the Cururu: a friar--Frei Ulysses Calvo and two Sisters – Sr. Conceição Rocha and myself. We try to be a presence of peace as our Father Francis. We are attentive to accompany the events which involve the Munduruku and always try to counsel them to be people of peace and that even before conflict, struggles and confrontations to defend their land, their culture they should use non-violent means.

This is the reason why I no longer am part of the project referred to above. The Munduruku people were being motivated to act with violence. This made me ask to leave. But I continue to support the Munduruku always as is possible.

We are also trying to form indigenous missionaries. They are very enthusiastic with the idea of being missionaries. This gives us much happiness as they are helping in the work of evangelizations. To be a missionary among the Munduruku is more than a challenge, it is a privilege !

Something to think about:

Patricia Murray, IBVM on intercultural leadership in UISG Bulletin #153, 2013

- The process of acquiring an intercultural identity, by moving away from a specific culture, and learning to identify with more than one culture and ultimately with humanity itself is a process of transformation.
- The Asian theologian Fr. Peter Phan says that the development of an intercultural identity is grounded in the state of marginality.
- Jesus is the Marginal Person. Our growth as intercultural persons can be sustained by the example of Christ who was truly the marginal person par excellence.
- The more recent realization that the Church is a communion of cultures means that religious congregations are well-placed to witness to this communion and mutuality.
- Our multicultural religious communities and ministry contexts and our desire to become intercultural persons offer a prophetic witness in a world divided by differences of race, ethnicity and culture



The 2014 Congregational Common Formation Program



From a Namibian's (Sr. Imelda) perspective: It was for me an exciting moment when I heard about the Common Formation Program. It is quite an experience that we have to go through learning from each other that it is good to be international.

I was very excited and happy to meet the sisters. Being a Namibian, we welcomed our Sisters with songs and the beating of drums and played different instruments. The first group arrived by bus with Sr. Lucivane and the second one came with Sr. Beatrix by Venture/car. They

accepted our welcome with smiling faces. We are very happy and grateful to have them here in Namibia.

The opening ceremony was on the 13th of January starting with the Holy Mass presided by Bishop Philip Pollitzer. It was a very lively liturgy with singing in our different languages. During his homily the Bishop encouraged us to experience this year very deeply and not superficially because when it is superficial it will not hold meaning.

He put a question to us: Am I not important to you then ten children. It was a question out of the reading. May God bless and help each one of us during this year of preparation, to give us strength and perseverance, to accept each other as fellow sisters.

From a Brazilian's (Sr. Aparecida) point of view: I had such good experience when I left Brazil to Namibia. I was shocked when I got on the plane that was so enormous, it seemed to have no end. Soon, I could hear people talking only in English. Then, I thought to myself "Good God, where am I?" For a short time I could not find myself among the passengers.

Arriving in Namibia we had a warm welcome by Srs. Beatrix and Lucivane at the airport. I was feeling myself like a "fish out of water"; on the other hand, I was also feeling open to appreciate this new culture. In Tses I was so happy to see our Namibian Sisters welcoming everyone. They are a happy people that like to dance and sing. I could feel my heart more peaceful arriving home. We are eight in this formation program coming from Asia, Namibia and Brazil with two sisters overseeing the program. Each one of us is bringing a different culture, customs to share with one another. For sure, it will be rich for me.

At the opening Liturgy Bishop Phillip reminded us that if we are united in Jesus' love and have our eyes fixed in Him, we can overcome any kind of challenge because He will be with us in our journey.

From a Chinese (Sr. Dilecta) outlook :

After the tiring travel, it was really good to be warmly welcomed at the airport by Sr. Beatrix, Sr. Lucivane and the four Sisters from Brazil. Language became less important because we have the strongest "language" on our faces which comes from the big smiles of the heart. From Windhoek going to Tses was another experience. Sr. Antonia said that we were going to the desert. Yeah, why not. Didn't Jesus go to the desert to pray? I thought: for this entire year before our final profession, I hope to find in Tses the peace and joy of God among us, and to whom we surrender.



Beginning the Journey- Cultural Day

Srs. Elisha, Jacinta, Laetitia, Dilecta

As the SMIC family, we are privileged to be International Congregation rich in our multi-cultural reality. Coming from different countries our Congregational Common Formation group of Chinese, Brazilian, and Namibians decided to have a culture day to learn about ourselves and one another's countries. Each cultural group was assigned one day to cook their own special food, and fabricate decorations to spread around the corridor of the house and together to prepare a power-point presentations about our countries to better understanding one another.



From this planned cultural exchange experience we remember the following:

Namibia:

- morning prayer including background music with sounds of "voices" of animals, nature such as wind, water, giving us interior harmony;
- breakfast with several types of oatmeal (porridge) according to the tribal traditions of the Sisters: Nama, Tswana and Owambo.
- lunch with typical tribal dishes of oatmeal and shredded meat sauce with potatoes, soup and spinach.

China: decorated the hallway and dining room with some letters in Chinese, balloons, drawings / masks

- blessing of the meals with Chinese songs.
- breakfast of delicious breads, fruits and salads.
- lunch of beef stew, homemade spaghetti, salads and bread.

Brazil: (north and northeast): placed symbols of football (balls, shirt), carnival (masks), the June celebration of Saint John's feast (bonfire) on the walls, wore clothing typical of the Baiana, Para carimbo skirt, and shirts with stamped images of Our Lady of Nazareth also characterizing themselves as "Maria Chiquinha" tying Brazilian flags on their heads.

-breakfast: typical of Brazil's love for noise, the sounds of a cuscuz preparation along with tapioquinhas, corn cake, coffee singing in Portuguese, "God be praised in bread shared ...".

-lunch enlivened with the music of axes, carimbos, and Junina songs to serve their regional dishes of Feijoada, fish, creamed chicken, rice and salad.

At noon we began the carnival with masks for the whole group, painting our faces and all dancing to the Brazilian rhythms. In carnival readiness, we used maizena (cornstarch) on our face and going up to the formation house dancing carnival songs. To include all, we threw maizena on our sisters with no one escaping the white powdery coating.

During the day, the sisters in the area came to our house to see our decorations, eat our food and dance to the music typical of carnival. In the evening still dressed in our costumes, we showed a power-point presentation including all our cultures, The Sisters and those information from the Novitiate House were present with us. At the end of the presentations, we enjoyed a delicious munguzá followed by dances ...These were some early steps in getting to know one another.

Mission Service in the Village

Srs. Imelda and Ana Paula



When we heard that we were going to do mission service, visiting the people at their homes / houses it was something exciting for us. It is with great pleasure to share with you what we are doing here in Namibia. Our mission work is to visit the people at their house. We went with Sr. Monika and her Holy Childhood group to visit one grandmother at her house. She prepared blankets in front of the house for the children to sit on. Sr. Monika explained that we came to pray for our old people and for those who are sick. The nearby neighbors also came to join us in prayer. The people are always happy to see sisters, and experiencing our presence among themselves. One of us led the prayer session because of the language, so we did it in

Afrikaans and English to accommodate our fellow sisters too. After prayer we sang peace's songs to share our love and peace to each other. We close our prayer session with a song of Mary.

We felt so happy going around, praying for our own people. Something that was touching is to see in which condition they are staying. It is so hard and sad to see how people are living. On the other hand we thank God that we can visit and pray with them.

Let us pray for each other that God may strengthen our unity and readiness for our mission work.



Pastoral service with the Children in the Hostel

Srs. Aparecida and Patrícia

As Missionary Sisters we are having in the afternoons' games, dancing and craftworks with the children who live in the hostel. In the moment we are in two groups working with them. The kids are amazing, They are always happy and welcoming. They enjoy being with us and we with them. We are experiencing awesome time with them. And we are also learning songs in English and Afrikaans from them, a lot of movements

is involved in their dancing. They like so much singing and dancing because it is common in their culture. Actually, they sing very well and it seems that the music is in their blood even the small ones they have nice voice to sing.

In addition, we realize that each child has a history of culture and simplicity. And then we feel the presence of God's love which flows out of us and goes to the encounter with the other.

With only a few months underway, we know that during the next months many surprises, challenges and joys will continue to fill the formation house in Tses—one of these joys is the arrival of Sr. Clementia from the Philippines. After much trouble to obtain her visa, Sr. Clementia is expected to arrive this first week of April.

Stay alert for other news to come.....catch-up in Website.....

Meeting of the Two Brazilian Province Leadership Teams Rebuilding relationships- Creating a new way



Sr. Rosivonete

It is the Lord who directs us in ways never imagined, some tortuous, others straight and serene. At this time, this is the journey experienced by the two Brazilian provinces.

For many years, because of human limitations, we remained separated, divided and this in a certain way, left us weakened. But now the Lord is bringing us into a way that is interwoven,



narrow, a way in which we need to make together with our strengths and energies and talents to overcome the challenges that we now face at the level of the congregation and present context. Little by little we are rebuilding relationships that were broken. All of this is the fruit of maturation, since we only grow with the help of the other and when we seek only one goal, we do concrete steps to obtain what we desire to reach.

One of these steps which forms our new way took place in a joint two meeting session held at the Santa Isabel School in Fortaleza, Ceara from March 18th to 21st.

On the 18th and 19th the two Formation Teams met to analyze and create a working plan of Common Formation elaborated by these teams in May of 2013. In great freedom, with consensus and respect for the various opinions, we completed our work. All were united in a spirit of participation and responsibility in what we were doing. With the collaboration of all, the Common Formation Plan of the two Brazilian Provinces was born. Praised be to God!!!

On the 21st and 22nd, the two leaderships met to design common actions which would favor our fine journey. First we reviewed the 2013 Plan which focused on concreted points that we would enforce to concretize the next years. The two teams were interested in suggesting ways to continue to our journey together.

We concluded our meetings with each Province Team meeting separately to discuss matters specific to each province. We would meet at the Eucharist and meal times sharing in a good fraternal climate, not to mention in the welcoming presence of our Sisters from the Community of Santa Isabel who received us caringly providing for all that we needed.

During the time that we stayed in Ceara, we had the pleasure of knowing tourist spots such as some beaches, the Central Market, shops along the ocean front and other popular attractions. We also visited our Sisters in the Health Retirement Center. These were important experiences for us.

Thank you Lord for the new way you are showing us. Thank you for your presence that gave us direction, that continues to direct us as only you know what is better for us and only you know where we need to go following the way that you are showing us

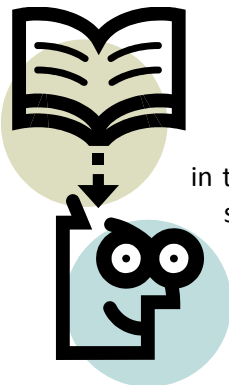
Congregational Programs UPDATES

ESL Reading and Comprehension Program

Sr. Janice Jolin

It has been the long time desire of the GLT to include a reading study program in the ESL studies of our Sisters at the intermediate level. It seems that now we have something to offer.

For some time we have had the innovative experience of helping our Brazilian Sisters desiring to learn English to link up with some American Sisters via SKYPE. This medium of communication has been rather successful considering the limitations of SKYPING especially in areas where cable access is less efficient and



where weather storms interfere with satellite transmission. Slowly technological access has been marked with improvements making interruptions somewhat less frequent.

A great concern of the Generalate has been to discover ways to help those Sisters who have some basic grammar skills through their studies at local ESL schools to advance to higher level studies and doing this on a level introducing consistent gradated difficulty. The Program would include reading, understanding and conversation. We have found what we believe to be worthy of a trial reading gradated program. Let us hope that these simple efforts serve to increase congregational participation and bring us ever closer to meaningful international activities.

| Process Steps | Who | To whom | Date |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| General Program Communication | Srs. Patricia=Salvador Graca Graim= Belem Judine = USA | Salvador Sister Students Belem Sister Students US Sister Mentors | Before Easter |
| Placement test | All students US mentors | Results to Province Coordinators And then to Generalate (Janice) | April 7 -18 |
| Reading Program Begins | Mentors to participants | All students and mentors receive first book chapters All coordinators receive worksheet & answer sheets | April 30 |
| Evaluation of program | Mentors with students | Mentors report results to Province coordinator who Reports to Generalate/ Janice | 1 st = August 1, 2014 2 nd =November 1, 2014 3 rd = March 1 st , 2015 4 th = June 1 st 2015 |

The Program will include 2 books on 4 separate reading levels. This program will officially begin after Easter with 8 Brazilian Sisters. It will follow this process:

Report on the Constitutions Revision Committee - (crc)

Sister Luci Fontenele, SMIC CRC Coordinator

June, 7-11,2013 At the CRC Meeting in New Jersey, the following participated: Sr. Livramento de Oliveira, (Generalate), Sr. Sandra McKeta (USA), Sr. Beatrice Yang (Taiwan) and Sr. Luci Fontenele (Belém). The objective was to develop a Reflection Process on our Constitutions, in order to update its content and language according to the decision of the 2010 General Chapter. The process of reflection was developed and Sr.Luci was appointed Coordinator of the CRC.

November. 14, 2013 – Sr. Livramento sent a letter to all members of the Congregation communicating the decisions of the **CRC** meeting and giving directions for the work, which is to involve all the Sisters of the Congregation during the next two years. For every Province/Region a Sister was appointed as liaison. The official date for starting the process was initially December 8th,2013, then postponed to January 6th 2014.

December, 8-12 – Most of the Sisters of the Belém Province were present at the Chapter of Mats. I took the opportunity to explain about the Constitutions Review Process which was about to start, inviting the Sisters to prepare themselves through an *a prior reflection* on our Charism, Franciscan Spirituality, Mission and Internationality.

January 6th, 2014 – I sent a letter to the Liaison Sisters and the Questions for Reflection: Personal and Communal, and also the Format for the answers, including the timeline for the work.

January, 6th 2014- I sent a cover letter to all the Sisters of the Belém Province and the Reflection papers: Questions for Reflection: Personal and Communal, the Format for Answers and Texts to be reflected on prior to the Constitutions study.

Feb. 4th 2014, - I sent a letter to the Liaison Sisters, desiring to hear about the development of their work, so that we might *weave a web of communication, helpful to everyone*; I reported about some of my initiatives to give support to the Sisters in their task.

Feb. 14th I sent to Srs. Theresa Zhang and Monika Hainduwa short texts for reflection on our Franciscan Spirituality

March 20th I sent to the English speaking Sisters the article published by UISG, “Evangelizing and Evangelical Communities,” a very profound article giving insights into our commitment to God and the Kingdom.

For the time being the Sisters in each Community are doing their personal reflection and sharing, each according to her possibilities. Not everyone feels able to actively participate

Congregational of the Ministério of Education- SMIC

Sr. Gizele Marinho-Smíc



Considering that in the 6 provinces of the Congregation, 4 formally work in basic school education, the General Chapter of 2010 affirmed the existence of the recently formed Committee so that it could continue to integrate and collaborate in the ministry of Education. BELIEVING that this COLLABORATION could make us become closer and more alive as a SMIC family.

In April 2013, already with the Committee formed, we held a SKYPE meeting wjem Sr. Petronila Soares was a member of the Generalate team and in that meeting we chose as coordinator of the Committee, a difficult mission for me, a Brazilian assumed the function with limitations of English. Having recently come from a marvelous experience of living with the American Sisters in the USA, there was no way that I could say no to the request to coordinate this service. After the meeting in April of 2013, Sr. Livramento took on the accompaniment of this Committee but in reality we only began to work at the end of 2013.

The team is composed of Sisters: Marina da Hora and Marta Helena de Carvalho -Salvador, Gizele Marinho - Belém, Klara Oaes - Namíbia, Veronica Lee- Asia and Livramento -Generalato.

During 2014 we began with much fervor and are well motivated to work. A plan of action was made for the coming year and we are meeting more frequently through Skype. For this reason we are sharing our Triennial Plan 2014-2016

Triennial CCME Plan 2014-2016

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Form a group of collaborators from in the Teaching Institutions | To study, share, and spread the congregational Mission and charism |
| 2. Intensify the sharing between the two Brazilian provinces | Articulation about education |
| 3. Promote a formative international event In Brasil for SMIC educators | To study, deepen and share the Mission and Congregational charism within the Schools |
| 4. Face-to-face meeting of the Committee | During the international event |
| 5. Promote Short term exchange to share experiences; | teachers / students of the schools of the provinces |
| 6. Promote the mutual sharing of professional resources | Share educational materials |
| 7. Do a study of the Pedagogical work done in the Congregation | To be shared at the 2016 Chapter. |
| 8. Do a study of the number of students in the Congregation's schools | To be shared at the 2016 Chapter. |

Among ourselves in the Brazilian provinces this team has given us much energy and spirit. We are CONFIDENT and BELIEVE that teams such as this one can help us greatly in the near future to know one another better, to accept one another better and to live more peacefully with the different cultures after having discovered the great richness of who we are.

In the name of the CCME, I thank the generosity and openness of all the Sisters who accepted to begin this work which now is even pleasurable for us. Our work team is filled with fun and solidarity, principally with the translations. Let our GRATITUDE be known for the opportunity which God has given us through the Chapter 2010 mandate to form this work team which has helped us know our Sisters. May God be praised!



Sr. Rosiane on right

“Here I am Lord. Do with me according to your Word” (LC1,38).

Sr. Rosiane Lúcia Lucas de Araújo

On February 2nd of 2014 in the chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes of Santa Clara School in Santarem, the celebration of my perpetual vows took place, a beautiful celebration of thanksgiving presided over by Bishop Johannes Bahlmann.

My family and friends and friends of the Sisters were present for the celebration that was prepared with

much affection and dedication and therefore was beautiful. In the presence of all I gave my definitive yes to God to try to shape myself in the person of Jesus, my Spouse and to become a full member of the SMIC family. It was a time of joy where I felt myself loved by the God who chose and called me to follow Him.

On this important day for me, my parents' presence was a time of celebration because during all the years of my formation they were unable to be present and participate in my life as a Religious and this ceremony helped them to understand the greatness of my life option.

Thank you to all the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province and to the Congregation for accepting me and welcoming me as a member of this family which I love and am happy to be a part.

**February 11th - 2014 Golden Jubilee Celebration
of our Sisters Magdalena Heeke,
Martina Thunich and Gabriele Winnemöller
in Muenster - Germany**

Community Lourdeskloster, Muenster - Germany



Our three sisters made their first profession February 11, 1963 in Wilkinghege. They belonged to a group of five. Sr. Angela Plassmann, became a missionary in Namibia - she celebrated at the same day in Gobabis-Namibia. Sr. Petra transferred before the 1st profession to the Poor Clares, but stayed in contact with us until today. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee one week before at the Poor Clares Convent in Kevelaer where our three Jubilee Sisters participated.

This time we had to look for another possibility to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, as we had winter time and could not use our garden; besides this we needed more space, as the three sisters are from big families. We found a good option: the parish church of our Lady welcomed us and for the reception and meals we could use the Marianum Hall of the Catholic Student Center – both in our neighborhood of Frauenstrasse.



The main celebrant was Dr. Michael Menke-Peitzmeier, who lived during his study time four years as chaplain in our Lourdeskloster and stayed connected with us. The co-celebrants were the pastors of Sr. Magdalena's and Sr. Gabriele's home parish and Fr. Erich Purk Cup.OFM.

The petitions included thanks to God for his fidelity, but also thanks to the jubilarians for their service in our congregation, as well as for the families and friends for their love and support of our sisters.



Srs. Magdalena, Gabriele, Martina

Renewal of vows

After the Eucharistic celebration, the first reception was in front of the church. From here we went to Marianum hall where the catering offered the meal. More than 100 relatives, friends, sisters, employees etc. filled the hall.

A music group conducted by the parish pastor of Sr. Magdalena's home town cared for the background music.



Later the music group continued with special songs of the home area of each "Golden Sister". The group brought much life and it seems in the parish also.

In the afternoon, a great variety of delicious cakes were offered, baked by one of our employees and Sister Dietmara. The visitors showed how much they enjoyed them.

The day closed in the late afternoon and the overall echo was: "It was a wonderful feast".

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH TO HONOR A NEW JERSEY MISSIONARY SISTER AND RETREAT DIRECTOR WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD *Leadership work in social justice*



WEST HARTFORD, CONN.– The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in West Hartford, Conn. will honor Sister Eleanor Goekler of Paterson, NJ with a Distinguished Alumni Award for her exceptional religious and leadership work in social justice. Goekler will be recognized with the Mary Rosa McDonough Award for being a "strong leader who helps others discover their true potential" and providing outstanding service to communities, at an Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Hartford, Conn. on April 25.

"To be honored with the Mary Rosa McDonough Distinguished Alumni Award for simply doing what needed to be done with and for those to whom I was sent by my religious congregation is truly a humbling experience," said Goekler. "The value of noticing the needs of others and,

when possible, working to help them to meet those needs was certainly something learned at home and strengthened by my time at the University of Saint Joseph.”

Congratulations, Eleanor in making visible our SMIC charism. We, your SMIC sisters are joyful to have you honored with this Award!!!

Congratulations

Sr. Grace Zhang, smic



*Doctoris Philosophiae in Sinologiae (Ph.D) in
Chinese Philosophy
from the University of Bonn, Germany*

*We, your Sisters, are grateful for your perseverance and efforts
that will benefit those we serve*

*We are a people of the
resurrected Jesus !*

*Let us celebrate
LIFE*

*Suzannento Janice
Beatrice Gertrud*



Praying the Prayer of St. Francis with Pope Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Pope Francis: "Let the cry for peace ring out in all the world." (tweeted 9/4/13)

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Pope Francis: "Where we find hate and darkness, may we bring in order to give human face to Society." (tweeted 9/30/13)

Where there is injury, pardon;

Pope Francis: "Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves. Teach us to go into the street to manifest love." (tweeted 8/23/13)

Where there is doubt, faith;

Pope Francis: "God's forgiveness is stronger than any sin." (tweeted 9/25/13)

Where there is despair, hope;

Pope Francis: "We ought to never lose hope. God overwhelms us with grace if we keep asking." (tweeted 9/9/13)

Where there is darkness, light;

Pope Francis: "We cannot sleep peacefully while babies are dying of hunger and the elderly are medical assistance." (tweeted 8/17/13)

And where there is sadness, joy.

Pope Francis: "If we wish to follow Christ closely, we cannot choose an easy, quiet life. It will be a demanding life but full of joy." (tweeted 7/10/13)

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

Pope Francis: "Let us allow Jesus into our lives and leave behind our selfishness, indifference and attitudes to others." (tweeted 8/27/13)

To be understood as to understand;

Pope Francis: "Let us ask the Lord to give us the gentleness to look upon the poor with understanding and love, devoid of human calculation and fear." (tweeted 9/24/13)

To be loved as to love.

Pope Francis: "There are many people in need in today's world. Am I self-absorbed in my own or am I aware of those who need help?" (tweeted 9/17/13)

For it is in giving that we receive:

Pope Francis: "True charity requires courage. Let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need." (tweeted 9/21/13)

It is pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life

Pope Francis: "We are all sinners but we experience the joy of God's forgiveness and we walk forward truly in his mercy." (tweeted 9/19/13) AMEN!