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MOSAIC II, 2016



In our world of ethnic, cultural, religious --and all kinds of diversity, we, SMIC Sisters, position ourselves as Women Religious, belonging to a one and same human family whose divine origin is in God and seeking to live and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What a gift and what a challenge in this world of constant change.

Recently our neighbors living across the street from us on Garden Ave relocated to Florida. New ones arrived. Though both families are from Hispanic traditions, the former was from Puerto Rico and the new one is from El Salvador, Central America. On city streets we see Indian women in their colorful saris as well as Muslim

women with burkas –head coverings. Spanish, Arabic, English, Hindi are some of the more than 100 languages spoken by children attending same schools. Religious beliefs are just as varied ranging from faithful who follow a strict interpretation to those who admit to no special religious practice. Can diversity be any greater?

SMIC is already diverse in culture, language and in the style of our religious ethnic practices. Our link is profession in our Christian heritage and our striving to give it witness to our world.

At the recent annual conference of Religious Women of the USA (LCWR), Sr. Pat Farrell, OSF said "the reign of God, the reign of Love, is absolutely central to the message of Jesus. Jesus invited metanoia, in other words a transformation of consciousness, a new order based on justice, mercy, inclusivity and love." When Sr. Pat said that "contemplation can hollow out the same receptivity in us", she was reminding us that as Sisters to one another and to the world, our very call is to be transformed interiorly so as to live as Jesus exteriorly.

When I went through formation some 50 years ago, though I am sure our formator spoke of this concept, I, like perhaps many others, thought that the effort of changing the world was in a "doing", action supported by the being. I heard from the conference speakers this time that being transformed is the first key to any witness we make; the actions, though needed, are a subsequent compassionate response to our Call of solidarity with others.

This issue of MOSAIC speaks to us of solidarity in celebration as SMIC Jubilarians and in the excitement of our young professed forming their WE-SMIC identity. The richness of solidarity is further seen when Santa Clara students extended their time and talents to Alenquer's people, and then in the Philippines when Sisters together with lay professionals join their hearts to create a new service for wellness. Diversity of gifts and experiences brings a celebration where each impacts the culture of the world through a spirit blessed and active in love.

Approaching the time of our General Chapter, these identified events remind us to place ourselves in the process of conscious transformation in solidarity for the common good.

Congregational Jubilee Pilgrimage to Germany and Lourdes, France

The following are narratives of the Sisters who participated in the SMIC Pilgrimage experience.

Sr. Gertrud and the German Province Sisters in Lourdeskloster welcomed us pilgrims warmly. We were 18 Pilgrims from three Provinces: the big group of 13 from Salvador, plus Sr. Livramento coming as able translator and her mother; Srs. Gertrud and Magdalena of the German Province; and myself from the US.



We from Salvador and the US were all “first-timers” in Germany, treasuring our days in the places marked by our founders’ lives. A few of many special memories :

- The Church of St. Mary’s in Ahlen where Elisabeth Tombrock brought flowers and prayed to Our Lady.
- Mr. Hacker in Mulheim who enthusiastically showed his posters of Elisabeth as teacher, even one with her students the year after her cure.
- Singing Tota Pulchra in Neviges before the column containing the image on our medal.
- The huge former Chapel in Wilkinghege where now the elderly residents share their weekly Mass and other special events.
- The stone cross and crypt in Bethen where Bishop Bahlmann and his priest brother once held services for the families of soldiers in World War I (and continuing to WW II and today) to pray for those serving , and those who died in wars and those grieving for them. (Sr. Jane Abeln)

Special Moments:

- At the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes:
 - - The chapel of the Blessed Sacrament where I spent hours in silent prayer;
 - - the shoulders of Mary extending its great blue mantle covering the grotto, river and castle of the city. - In those arms Mary holds heaven and earth: Bernadette, D. Amandus, Mother Immaculata, the Conceptionist and all of us. I felt small before the size of the greatness.
- The foundation of the pilgrimage was the Sanctuary of Lourdes where the people go in search of a cure for body and soul. It is the cathedral of faith. Sr. Thereza Ferraz Rodrigues

It was a marvelous moment to contemplate first hand all of her history that I read. I visited the cemeteries where our Sisters are buried and their written names inscribed on the tombstones.

Being at the place of the medal I felt a great emotion of joy, saw Mother Immaculate present in the congregation and felt that I belonged to the same (Sr. Terezinha dos Santos)

The world meets at the Sanctuary of Lourdes through the variety of cultures, languages, origins and ethnicities. Faith is the “precious stone” which brings all to Lourdes to meet the God of Life and of Hope, having Our Lady of Lourdes as mediator of all graces. (Sr. Maria de Lourdes Rodrigues)

I consider this pilgrimage one of those events most important of those I have participated in within our Congregation. That is, by the fact of knowing our origins and the steps of our founders from first hand experience. (Sr. Nelisia Rodrigues de Jesus)

Munster, beautiful city
In its fields, parks, flowers,
Silent and tranquil
Vibrant with many colors

There we felt happy,
In that serene morning,
Lovingly welcomed,
Through the gesture of each sister,
Visible marks of time
In the expressions of joy
Soft and gentle
In the task of every day.



Harmonious voices
That neither time extinguished
Silence that is only broken
In praises of the Lord

In Neviges, sacred place,
A great cross exists,
Covered with foliage,
That protects the statue
Of the Virgin with her Jesus.

In the trunk of the wood
We emotionally saw
The image of the medal
Of the Immaculate Conception.



And all who would touch it
With respect and devotion
Remember that our Mother
Was there inspired.

Afterwards we went to Lourdes,
Another grand place
Its nature prayerful
Its river, mighty.

A blessing for the infirmed
Ritual of every day,
Remembering the cure of Mother
At the touch of the Eucharist.

The procession of lights,
Other event of ecstasy
Renewed Pentecost
In the number of Ave Marias.

All of this is pure grace
That one should never forget
Strong moments from God
In the life of being poor

Munster, Essen, Ahlen,
Lourdes,
Where all began
Places holy, blessed
That makes one touch the
infinite
Thanking the Lord.
You who so well helped
To seek rich treasures
Meet what is lasting
Much more than gold or silver:
The love of God was kept.



Sr. Marli Fontes Oliveira

St. Anthony Hospital Receives a visit of solidarity from Santa Clara School



On the final day of May-2016, students, alumni, teachers and the administration of Santa Clara School from Santarem were in Alenquer to know up-close the reality of the health of the city, especially that of St. Anthony Hospital. A group of 29 persons, partners and “multipliers” of the “Solidarity Heart Project, be a permanent donor” of the Hospital embrace the cause of solidarity and mercy.

The group provided a time of Spirituality for the collaborators highlighting the Parable of the Sower and of the Good Samaritan as well as a talk on the mercy of God and the needy, They visited the sites of the Hospital that are led by the collaborators; held a blitz of the City streets to show the Project, the benefits that the Project gives to the community and bringing them to know in a general way the Alenquer people. As well, there was also a time of fun at the Betania House. Before the trip there was Mass at the mother church for which the Hospital was responsible to prepare.

The Hospital Family thanked the presence of the missionaries who brought much enthusiasm and energy to this challenging mission which is “to care for a world of peace and good.” May St. Anthony intercede to God for all . Amém.

St. Antônio Hospital in Solidarity with the Bulandeira Community – Alenquer



On the 14th of May the St. Anthony Hospital, together with collaborators went to the Bulandeira Community to present a Solidarity Action commemorating the day of the Health Worker and week for Nurses where community health outreach is offered: Doctors, Nurses, Nutritionists Odontologists, Laboratory, Physical Therapists and Social Service. Dr. Ronaldo Rabelo e Dr. Osvaldo Figueiredo, were the medical team

responsible for medical consultations and lab exams.

Nursing: this service provided the PAP exam for uterine cancer early detection and prevention, followed by orientations on breast self-exam and other health educational information



Nutrition: evaluated weight, height index of body mass, oriented in nutrition with some pathologies such as gastritis, hypertension, diabetes and obesity. According to the nutritionist this service is important as poor people do not have access to individualized nutritional services .

Odontology: dental hygiene were taught by a technician Fluoride treatment was given to 30 patients and dental extractions of baby teeth on 8 patients with eruption of permanent teeth on 22 patients for a total of 60 patients receiving care. (**Odontologist Dr. Fagner**)



Laboratory: 42 persons were attended for lab work including complete hemograms, fasting sugars, urinalysis and

parasite exams. On a second day the results were returned to the patients. And HIV, Syphilis and HCV –a total of 120 exams were performed.

Physical Therapy: This service was proved by a team: Dr. Lucivane Rocha, Dr. Michele Panfilio e Dr. Paula Araújo. It included the following: Initial therapeutic evaluation, group stretching, manual therapies and massages, orientations about body posture, positioning and health cares. This service was provided to 50 people.



The “Heart Solidarity” project was also shared by the Sisters and collaborators of St. Anthony Hospital. Because of the bad public administration of health in Alenquer - which is not different in other cities in Brazil we can't wait for the politicians who care for their own interests, we cannot wait to begin programs. For this reason we are invited to be and to make a difference “Care for a world of peace and good”. For this reason, we the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and collaborators of St. Anthony Hospital want to be a presence among the most in need.

 **Coração Solidário**

Se preferir, utilize as agências bancárias:

Banco do Brasil	Banco da Amazônia	Caixa Econômica Federal
Agência: 0555-x Conta Corrente: 2501-1	Agência: 103 Conta Corrente: 070057-2	Agência: 026 Conta Corrente: 3314-2 Operação: 003

Vamos encher uma vida de alegria!



 **Coração Solidário**



Common Formation Program II – SALVADOR. Brazil

Peace and all Good! First, it is so good to start the communication with all of you. Hopefully we can share with you our journey from our departure till now.

We are so happy that the second Common Formation Program is already taking place in Brazil. The group is formed by six sisters: Sister Scholastica Ling from Asian Province, Sister Felicitas Wang, Sister Veritas Yang, Sister Anita Hu, Sister Maria Goretti Wang from Region Our Lady of Lourdes and Sister Emeresiana Hawanga from Namibia Province. The two live-in- formators now are Sr.Beatrix Mokwena from Namibia Province and Sr. Silvia Corado do Amaral from Salvador Province.



June 26, 2016

The Asian sisters met each other in Tokyo, Japan.

The five of us took almost 3 days on the way to Salvador, Brazil. Our flights were from Manila/ Kaohsiung-Tokyo-New York-São Paulo-Salvador. The flight from New York to São Paulo was almost 21 hours delayed due to some problems with the airplane and the crew of that flight. It was a very special experience for all of us staying all the time in the airport. To go through all the struggles of waiting without a clear schedule. Many sisters in Asia, Brazil and USA were involved in prayer and different ways to help. We needed to re-book the domestic flight from São Paulo to Salvador because the airline is not a member of the “one world”. We met some people who were very kind to us and tried to help us to solve the problem. Thank God we arrived safely in Salvador on the 28th at 1:30pm.

From Terminal 1 to Terminal 8 by airtrain in New York, USA.

21 hours delayed in New York we got free snacks.

Arrival in São Paulo airport

Sr.Silvia and Sr. Patricia were already waiting for us in the airport with flowers to welcome us. We were so happy to see each other. All the tiredness was left behind. We went to Dom Amandus convent. After lunch, Sr.Silvia went with us around to show us the house and surrounding. We were very curious to see everything.

Sr.Emeresiana and Sr.Beatrix arrived midnight the 28th they did not have any problem with their



journey, thank God. We were able to meet all the sisters that belong to that community except Sr. Vania the Provincial Coordinator who was not around. All the sisters were very friendly and kind to us. We did experienced the unity of one congregation. We all wear the same medals though most sisters do not wear habits anymore. We can feel how much we love each other as SMIC family.



We left for the FRATERNIDADE SÃO FRANCISCO FORMATION HOUSE in Feira de Santana the next morning. It took us almost two hours by van. We were all very happy to see our new house. Sr. Creuza and Sr. Marta were there to help Sr. Silvia to prepare all the things we needed. Sr. Marcia and Patricia went with us to participate in the opening mass and celebration. All this made our adaptation much more easier

Our rooms were very well prepared and welcoming.

We felt at home !



After being settled, we were welcomed by lay people and SMIC associate group with a very typical Brazilian party (St. Peter celebration). Do we look beautiful with make up? This was Sr. Marcia idea. How funny it is! She loves dancing very much. We did enjoy dancing very much. It was almost 11:00pm when the party was over. This was a very happy hospitality experience for us.

On July 1st 2016 we had an Official Opening Mass in one of the communities where the SMIC serve, St. Francis Xavier church, few minutes walking distance from the house where we live.



In the morning, we all were busy in cleaning and preparing for the evening event, as well as a brief rehearsal for the liturgy. We were also waiting to welcome some of our sisters from different communities in this Province. Many of our sisters came to join us in these beautiful meaningful opening celebration, they came from Itabaiana, Aracaju and Salvador. The sisters who would like to come but could not attend the celebration sent us messages of greetings.



The Church was full packed by the parishioners and some sisters from 8 different congregations. The Namibian sisters led the bible procession and accompanied by all the participants of the common formation program.

Fr. Bernardo was the main celebrant. He is from Indonesia and speaks both Portuguese and English. During his homily, he first gave his own example of the negative image that he had about Brazil before he was commissioned and the positive image that he experienced when he arrived. He challenged us with the scripture when God said to Moses that he must take off his sandals because the ground where he was standing is a holy ground. So we must do the same- remove our sandals out, work hand in hand with the people of Brazil, only when we do this without fear, we will receive many graces from God.



During offertory we were asked to bring anything that has a meaning in our lives, and this we did. The Chinese sisters were privileged to sing a Chinese song after communion - “我愿意” - “I do”. It was very beautiful song and the people liked it. At the end each of us was

given a fruit tree by our two formators as a symbols of caring our spiritual life. The motivation words given were great and brought tears in some of us.



At last, but not least, we would like to extend our vote of thanks to God who brought us safely to Brazil and a special thanks to Sr. Silvia for playing the guitar during the Mass. She's so sweet and talented. A million of thanks to Sr. Vania Maria Marques Branco, our dear Provincial Coordinator, for giving us the permission to have our common formation in Salvador Province.

God Bless all.

A new ministry begins in the Philippines



The chinese medical school in the Philippines is a dream of Sr. Regina. After finishing her doctorate degree in chinese medicine in California, USA, she started to work on her dream... This dream will become true soon. The **SMIC Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine** will start classes on September 2nd with an opening mass.

To begin a new ministry in a foreign land is not an easy thing, thank God for sending angels to help us in different ways, thank sisters for the unceasing prayers and supports.

We ask for your prayer for this new ministry, so that we can fulfill our mission to provide an excellent, integrated education in traditional chinese medicine, to prepare competent and compassionate practitioners, educators and researchers, to upgrade traditional chinese medicine in the Philippines, and to produce compassionately committed health care providers to offer affordable holistic health care among the needy.

Dr. Eddie Concepcion, who studied and practices both Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine, and now president of SMIC: “The Institute aims to uplift the practice of Chinese medicine as it continues to gain popularity in the country and abroad.”

Sr. Shengrong (Regina) Liu, TCM practitioner assigned by her congregation to its Philippine mission, explains beginnings and branches of Traditional Chinese Medicine: “TCM is not a religion. It’s life science.”

Sr. Michelle Liu, SMIC faculty member, presents samples of medicinal herbs.



MIC faculty members with media guests.





Sister Genevieve Eaton

witnesses to 100 years of joy

as a daily sign of a well-lived life.

Celebrating her 100 years of life with her SMIC family, relatives and friends was just one more reason for Sr. Genevieve to express her always ready smile and friendly words to those around.

On July 16th at the Mercy Center Nursing Home of Watchung, NJ., all area SMICs gathered to congratulate and celebrate the life of Sister Genevieve. Added to the SMIC presence were a dozen family and friends of Sr. Genevieve who have known her over the years for her joyful, joking episodes and stories. Though Sr. Genevieve no longer speeds along in a car transporting her SMIC passengers or delivering mail, etc, that is, attending to her long held ministry in the US province, Sister Genevieve

competently drives her powered wheelchair along the halls of the home giving nursing staff and residents a sense of "a woman at her game" that is, someone who knows what she is doing and does it well! She really is ready for the Formula 1 racing event.

Sister Genevieve may your long life be filled with never-ending joy!



US Province elects new Leadership 2016-18

Sister Joanne Riggs (center) was elected at the May Province Chapter to lead the US Province.

Sister Joanne is assisted by Sister Kate Conti (left) and Sister Sandra McKeta (right). All three are members of the new Denville, NJ. community of Our Lady of Sorrows Convent.



Feastday greetings to all who celebrate anniversaries during this time of the year !

visit our website: www.missionarysistersofic.org

and, friend us on facebook (for SMIC members only)

