



Art by Sr. Nancy Earle, smic

# *Pluralism and a Culture of Peace*

**MOSAIC II, 2013**

United as one, we are committed to the 2010 Chapter Declarations “**to work toward a culture of peace among ourselves and the people we serve, promoting fraternal relations through the use of non-violent methods of conflict resolution, forgiveness and reconciliation.**” Patterned in Jesus’ attitude and action, Francis and Clare of Assisi found ways to break through a system of “haves and have-nots”, of power and powerless to manifest the absolute reality that we are all one- brothers and sisters- in Jesus. We are challenged to make God visible at all times but more so “ to build up the moral fiber of society”(Pope Francis at WYD 2013, Rio).

The prayer below by Robson Ramos awakens us to taking a revolutionary stance as disciples of the Resurrected Jesus. Always responding to new opportunities so that with Francis we can say: “let us begin for until now we have done nothing. ”

**Lord, Make me an instrument of your revolution.**

Where there is **exploration**, that I be on the side of the explored;

Where there is **oppression**, that I **proclaim liberation**;

Where there is **autocracy**, that I work for democracy;

Where there is **misery**, that I make abundance possible;

Where there is **illness**, that I bring health;

Where there is **unjust accumulation**, that I participate in correcting distribution;

Where there is **inequality**, that I promote equality;

Where there is **prejudice** and **discrimination**, that I practice fraternity;

Where there is **corruption**, that I raise up the value of honesty;

Where there is **dispersion**, that I value the strength of cohesion and motivate connection;

Where there is **manipulation**, that I awaken critical conscience;

Where there is **ignorance**, that I spread truth;

Where there is **injustice**, that I voice disapproval;

Where there is **theoretic religion and practical atheism** that I show coherence

between my faith and works .

Lord grant that I try to **transform the world** instead of conforming with it.

**Act in favor of the oppressed**, instead of collaborating with the oppressors.

**Act in defense of the human person**, instead of acting in defense of the system.

For it is in **living love** that we evangelize;

It is in **practicing justice** that we do your will;

It is in **sharing everything** that all are enriched;

And in this begins, even in this world, eternal life.

## *Francis (of Rome) - "the apostle of slum dwellers"*

*By Sr. Janice Jolin, smic-Generalate*

Recently our attention was turned to a notorious *favela* of Rio called Varginha. It was there that the Church became unmistakably visible—even if only for a short time in Pope Francis' presence as he announced to this marginalized segment of Brazil's population: "The church is with you". This was a message of hope to those imprisoned by despair and at the same time a call to the generosity of youth gathered to celebrate and witness their faith at the World Youth Day events in Brazil:

"Dear young friends, you have a particular sensitivity toward injustice, but you are often disappointed by facts that speak of corruption on the part of people who put their own interests before the common good. To you and to all, I repeat: Never yield to discouragement, do not lose trust, do not allow your hope to be extinguished."

Stepping into the marginalized world of the poor and disinherited, Pope Francis prophetically stated: "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty...no one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world." This denunciation of a national conscience was followed by an appeal: "to those in possession of greater resources, to public authorities and to all people of good will who are working for social justice: never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity."

A prophet not only denounces but announces good news. Despite the suffering of the 11 million Brazilian people who live in *favelas* similar to the one visited by Pope Francis, he highlighted graced action: "The Brazilian people, particularly the humblest among you, can offer the world a valuable lesson in solidarity, a word that is too often forgotten or silenced because it is uncomfortable."

Francis also argued that in the fight against poverty, offering material assistance isn't enough. It's also critical, he suggested, **to build up the moral fiber of a society** by defending certain core values:

- "Life, which is a gift of God, a value always to be protected and promoted";
- "The family, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation";
- "Integral education, which cannot be reduced to the mere transmission of information for purposes of generating profit";
- "Health, which must seek the integral well-being of the person, including the spiritual dimension";
- "Security, in the conviction that violence can be overcome only by changing human hearts."

Whether in the Americas, Africa, Asia or Europe, we know of the "favelas" and places of despair where Jesus' compassion is calling us to be present. We who are blessed with a missionary charism of contemplative and compassionate presence to the most needy are above all the ones who must concretely respond to the urgent need of building up the moral fiber of the societies in which we are living members.

Though only 2 young SMIC Sisters were physically present in Rio, we young and not so young, are able to respond to our Holy Father's message. We can ask our self: in what prophetic activities do I engage in solidarity with the suffering world? What part of my time and energies is profitably used as presence to those in need or how do I collaborate with others to effect systemic change? Through our response, we will be creating the "Culture of Peace" to which we have committed ourselves in our 2010 Chapter Declaration.

## *Young Sisters Share Their World Youth Day Experience*

*by Sr. Joseane Carneiro da Silva, Ana Paula Amaro dos Santos*

We had the joy of participating in the World Youth Day held in Rio de Janeiro in July of 2013. It was a unique, profound and very significant experience for our Church especially for us, pilgrims who were present. What we experienced during those days was something divine, spiritual, human and magical...an energy, a light, a different atmosphere, a strength that spread to all the participants and certainly the whole world that accompanied the event.

Rio is a marvelous place, an expression of the love of God for us and from the beginning until the last day, there were emotional and expressive moments visible on the faces of people. All understood one another without knowing the other's language. Youth from all over the world, totally different cultures, but all showed through their gestures and words of joy to be catholic even with long lines, tiredness, innumerable challenges during the event, no one showed signs of being sorry for attending.



Srs . Ana Paula, Joseane



The gestures, words and attitudes of the Pope during the event profoundly touched our hearts and show us a new time in the Church. In his travel through Brazil, especially in Rio, the Pope kissed children, embraced the elderly, spoke with love to the youth touching and allowing himself to be touched to communicate the infinite love of God that comes to liberate and to save. "Faith is a flame that is ever more alive when shared, transmitted so that all can know, love and profess Jesus Christ is the Lord of life and history", said the Holy Father. His words animate mission and push us forward to a new place in our journey to serve the Reign of God.

We first want to thank God for the gift of life, the USA Province together with the Salvador Province for having given us this opportunity, or better, this grace and as young religious we are certain that that experience touched our lives, strengthened us in faith and in commitment to the gospel.

## *Karma Kagyu Monastery receives the Virgin Mary*

*By Agnes, Lee, SMIC, Asian Province*



Once again, the interaction and collaboration between different religions adds a much-told tale. Yesterday, Master Hui Tuo from Karma Kagyu Monastery, the holy place of Tantric White Sect in Tso-chen, paid a visit to the convent of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God in the north district of Tainan, Taiwan. The Karma Kagyu Monastery received from the sisters a gift, a Statue of Mother Mary to be installed at the Halfway Home in Luyeyuan. There, they plan to set up a Catholic

prayer room for the young people living in Halfway Home, so they can prayer to Mother Mary and be touched and transformed by Her spirit.

Devotion to Mother Mary is a common practice among Catholic believers. Sister Agnes Lee remarked that it is the first local Buddha PALME KHYENTSE RINPOCHE that has an open mind, ever-ready to welcome Mother Mary into a Buddhist institution where the Buddha is present. What's more, they will hold a welcoming installation ceremony, which certainly will generates a ray of hope for world peace through inter-religious collaboration..

The pure white statue of “Mary of the poor” symbolizes purity and unselfishness, especially listens to the cry of those who are suffering from both physical and psychological poverty, such as dropout from school, domestic violence against children and women, and people who are hurt by various forms of abuses and oppression.

Master Hui Tuo, a former teacher at Sheng Kung Girls High School, said “ The statue of Mother Mary will be placed at Halfway Home in Luyeyuan and the room will be a prayer room for those with non-Buddhist religions believers to pray.” When the time comes for the installation of the statue, a Taize Prayer will be held with young people, teachers, and workers at Luyeyuan Halfway Home and of course, religious from both sides Buddhist and Catholic.



## *Serving undocumented people in Newark*

*by, Sr. Lucy Zhang,smic*



Sr. Lucy (left) with detainees, Fr. Nolan, Sr. Antonelle

From February 2012, I was invited to visit the detainees in Delaney Hall of Newark, New Jersey by Felician Sisters. We now count five detainees who have been baptized, 3 Chinese, 1 Korean, and 1 Latino. The population of detainees is of young adults who were smuggled to the US from the all parts of the world looking for a better life or for reunion with their families.

Actually, I go to the Delaney Hall to meet the detainees every week.

When Fr. Nolan, Felician Sister Antonelle, myself and several volunteers were allowed inside the Center, the officer announced: “The Catholic Service is here and a Chinese Sister Lucy is also here.” Only one Chinese girl Miss Chen came to meet me and seriously said: “I am a Christian.” I asked her: “Are you baptized?” She said “No. Don’t talk about the Bible.” “How do you know that I will talk about the Bible?” She said that the visitors from the church always talk about the Bible. I asked her “What can I do for you?” Miss Chen said: “Would you please bring some the Chinese novels, newspapers, or magazines to us?” I told her that is not a problem. She smiled and started to tell me her stories. Before I left, Miss Chen called other seven Chinese girls to see me because I passed their test.

After we knew each other, the Chinese girls started to tell me about how, why, and what brought them into the US. The most of the detainees are young women who asked for asylum due to religion and birth control. They had nothing to do except to eat and to watch TV so they were worried, stressed, fearful, and unsure of what will happen as a next step. They were crying when we met. They were emotional and did not speak English. 50% of them are unmarried. They blamed themselves for wasting family’s money to fail entering the US. I listened to them, stayed with them when they were crying, and comforted them. Through group counseling and activities, they learned how to express their feeling and anger issues. They felt accepted, trusted and loved. After they knew that I am a Roman Catholic Sister, they were so curious because they only knew the protestant church. Two months later, I was surprised that they asked me to teach them how to pray the Rosary, do simple prayer, and read the New Testament which was a donated Chinese Bilingual Bible from Professor Gardineer of Felician College. Every Wednesday they are waiting for me to pray the Rosary together and to ask for a blessing from Fr. Nolan before we leave. It is a miracle that 70% of the Chinese girls won the court approval after Fr. Nolan blessed them. They were touched by the priest, sisters, and volunteers who are really concerned and care of them. They love to sing and dance the “Alleluia” after I taught them. Finally, five detainees requested baptism and became the disciples of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

## Evangelizing through Drama

Sr. Jane M. Abeln,smic



In my second year at Ironbound Catholic Academy in Newark, I first prepared Gospel-scene scripts for my K through 5 students. I prayed for inspiration for the next project. Just in time, the Lord gave it-- use the known *childhoods* of certain saints. I took scenes from books, videotapes or DVDs, and showed the latter during the weeks we practiced. Grades K through 3 presented assemblies for the school before Thanksgiving: Our Lady of Fatima's first apparition to the three children by Kindergartners (I could simplify one I'd done with the other grades the first year), Pilgrim and Indian children preparing for Thanksgiving (Grade 1), St. Padre Pio (Gr 2), and Kateri Tekakwitha (Gr. 3) who was canonized during that time.

My other classes continued practicing for theirs, and in February presented on St. Therese of Lisieux (Gr.4) and St. John Bosco (Gr.5).

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Grades K through 3 presented a special project on our Sister Dulce. The three scenes used were: Maria Rita at age 9 with her sister Dulcinha who first protested but then began helping Maria Rita (Gr. 2); Maria Rita at 13 who rediscovers her love for the poor by going to them with her Aunt Madeleninha (Gr. 3), and Pedro with his adopted brother Tar Baby finding Sr. Dulce's St. Anthony Shelter (K). All the children sang with gusto the refrain in Portuguese from the "Salve, Irma Dulce" as sung during her beatification week.



Sr. Leonilda Cypriano was a big hit when she shared first in a bit of Portuguese (many of the children come from Portuguese and Brazilian families) and then in English some key experiences of her personal relationship with Sr. Dulce beginning when Sr. Leonilda was a novice. "I broke my foot. The Sisters brought me to her hospital. Sr. Dulce helped me with the doctor, x-rays, medicines—everything. Why? Because she had a good heart, love, and she was able to help every person who needed her.

“Another experience was, one day, Sr. Dulce came to our house. She talked to the novices and postulants. She came to talk about Jesus, about love of Jesus, and her life. She talked about things like the children did today [on stage]—it brought back good memories for me.

“Sr. Dulce lived a simple good life. She loved Jesus and people because she considered everybody as her brother and sister.”

Sr. Leonilda answered the children’s questions, and posed with them for photos; her visit gave them great joy.

On first Sundays, a few students from my classes team with older students to dramatize what the priest has just read in the Gospel. I was blessed to collaborate on these with Kathryn Barrett who did the composite group rehearsals on First Fridays before confessions.



Here is 7<sup>th</sup> grade “Jesus” with 1<sup>st</sup>-grade “apostles” whom Jesus called.

**In Namibia**, the Poor Clare nuns asked our SMICs to perform for the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Clare in August 2012. I was very happy to learn about this and asked Sr. Erika about the possibility of their using my play. In the following article, Sr. Cecilia Negandjo writes about their experience in producing and performing Clare of Assisi’s story.

I was grateful to write these scripts, which is the area where my gifts lie. Though there were highlights, some of my classroom work was difficult and not so successful. I am looking forward to focusing on writing this coming year. Let us pray for each other.

### *Clare of Assisi comes to Namibia*

*Sr. Cecilia Negandjo, smic-Namibia*



We were five SMICs who took on the roles of a play on Clare of Assisi created by Sr. Jane Abeln and dramatized to our Namibian people at the Poor Clare Monastery. The cast of presenters were: Srs Imelda, Elizabeth, Emerensiana, Mechtlide and Cecilia, with Sr Imelda as St. Francis, Sr. Mechtlide as Sr. Clare, Sr. Emerensiana as the uncle, Bishop and the Father, Sr. Elizabeth as Agnes and the cousin and Sr Cecilia the Narrator and the

Poor Clare Sisters who were responsible for drumming and singing.

The celebration started with the blessing of the three statues: one of St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Anthony. All the statues were placed in the chapel of the monastery. The church was full of people and we SMIC young sisters were responsible for the whole Liturgy. I was so happy that we were well prepared and all the people who was there were delighted. The Poor Clare sisters were drumming and singing. We set up the tent which was facing the main door to the Monastery and the sisters were all sitting there. The scenery of the play was the Portiuncula and the Bishop's house. We wore Franciscan habits, except for Agnes, Clare and their Uncle who wore different garments and who only later changed to habits. Because I was a narrator, I wore the Franciscan habit similar to the one worn by Francis.

Many people were there to attend the drama. The entire Tent was full with some people needing to remain outside. All had memorized their parts in the play except for myself as narrator whose role was to inform the people of what was happening in the story. The Poor Clares and all the people were so happy with the way we acted and asked us to repeat the play again at the feast of St. Clare this year. I hope we are able to do it again.

We are very, very thankful to Sr. Jane Abeln for her creation of the drama. It was because of her instructions that we managed to give a good presentation of the drama. Sadly, we have no good photos to share with you.

Personally, the drama helped me to be in touch more with the Franciscan way of living and how Clare gave herself to God. All the Franciscan Family of this area was very happy with our work and proud of us.



### *Relationship: An Artist's Statement*

*Sr. Roseli Oliveira, smic- Salvador*

*(the following article was written by Sr. Roseli as a college requirement for her degree in education with a related art )*

Everything in life is interconnected. I see the world as this big piece of fabric in which we, all of God's Creation, contribute to its beauty and formation. Sewing makes this interconnectedness visible because each and every stitch binds together different parts of life to create something new. This work is never finished as it leaves space for alterations, different interpretations, and renewal. As in sewing, so in our lives we are always making connections with people, animals and nature.



In addition, these works suggest a contemplative and careful attention to the characters' expression and feelings that I desire to be visible to the audience. I have been passionate about sewing since my adolescence, yet this passion has increased since I started creating peoples' portraits. The portraits I sew are from people who are connected to me in many different ways and have contributed to making me a better person. I may not see some of them again in my life, yet we have created a life relationship and even far away we will always be connected somehow. Therefore, my work of art is not just about the stitches techniques I used and the process of them; it is also about the meaning behind of them that tells about relationship. By taking photos of people and stitching the lines of their facial characteristics has expanded my chance to be more creative and truly express myself and the work I love.

### *Being Evangelized at the KALUNDU STUDY CENTRE*

*Sr. Clara Oaes, SMIC, Namibia*

#### "HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

This year 2013 was a grace from God, because my Province gave me an opportunity to participate in a Formation and Leadership course in Zambia, at the Kalundu Study Centre.

Kalundu Study Centre is an international Centre that caters to the training of Women Religious from all over Africa. Ever since 1977 a course of one academic year has been offered for the Sisters engaged in Formation and Leadership in Religious Congregations in Africa.

Currently, we are 18 Sisters from 13 Congregations of Africa, living in small Communities. We are blessed, because we have daily Eucharist.

Our program is divided in three terms, as follows:

- \* first term: Prayer, Community Building, Liturgy, Modern Technology, Christology, Eucharist and Moral Theology.

- \*second term: Scripture, Canon Law, Spiritual Direction, Authority, Human Development, Enneagram, Group Dynamic, Accompaniment, Ecclesiology, Witchcraft, Healing of Memories and Sexuality.

- \* third term: Religious Life, Islam/Judaism, Formation, Mary, and our Charisma.

In between sessions, we have breaks for 2-4 weeks. Monthly there is a Recollection day, Pastoral /Charity work

The program ends with a graduation ceremony and an 8 days Retreat.

It has really been God's grace to live with different Sisters though at times, presenting great challenges, but ending with an enrichment of different ideas, joys and sufferings of life. I learned that almost all Congregations generally have the same goal, joys and sufferings. By sharing we were strengthened by one other growing in the spirit who calls us.

"All the members must be formed in His likeness, until Christ be formed in them. " God is good all the time!!



## *Evangelizing through Education & Health 50 years- Colegio Dom Bosco, and Maternidade Hospital of São José*

*Sr. Marta Helena de Carvalho, smic-Salvador*

On May 26th, two of our Province institutions were celebrating their Golden Anniversaries: the Maternity Hospital of St. José and Dom Bosco School. For 50 years, SMICs in the city of Itabaiana are leading these Institutions, which have brought forth a society qualified to be

awakened to a modern society

Months of preparations were active until the day of arrival of the big festival. The entire program took place in the City's Event Park, open to the entire Itabaina population and to the neighboring cities. The opening was organized by the Philharmonic group of Our Lady of the Conception followed by a presentation of the students of the Dom Bosco School. After the presentation, the Band "Only in God" animated the feast until the time of the Eucharistic Celebration presided at 7:30 pm by Auxiliary Bishop Henrique and the priests of the diverse parishes of the City

There was still a documentary presented with testimonials from various collaborators who have dedicated themselves to health and education in the City. The Park was filled with people!

Some Sisters from the Communities of Sergipe, Salvador and Feira de Santana also came to celebrate this joy with us.

We praise and thank the God of life for all the Sisters who founded these Institutions for their courage, love and dedication to the health and to education of this City; for all the Sisters who passed through them giving continuity to that magnificent history and for the tireless work and dedication of all who are present today planting the seeds of Peace and Good to our students, employees and patients.

## *2013-SMIC EDUCATORS' SYMPOSIUM II*

*by Sr. Marta Helena de Carvalho, smic-Salvador*

The Second Symposium of SMIC Educators was held at Dom Amando Convent between April 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. For us educators, this event was a gathering of great joy, sharing, deepening of knowledge, dynamics, and a time of prayer and much spirit.

During these days, we deepened many interesting themes. The first talk given by psychologist Telma Avelino was about “Evaluation: is our Methodology Correct?” Within this theme she spoke about the stages of evaluation and the way one evaluates.

The second talk, Professor Manoel Paiva spoke about the “Vocal health of the Teacher” focusing on the vocal quality of the teacher; the care of the voice; habits that endanger; strategies to maintain the voice; vocal hygiene and techniques of warming up and cooling down the voice.

Later, Professor Eduardo Almeida developed the theme “the Challenges of the Teacher in the 21st Century”, based on the book “Aula Nota 10”.

Finally, Professor Rogério Monteiro spoke about “Bullying: Prevention and Combating It” and “Educator: Master by Excellence”, presenting a parallel by using the examples of Jesus – the Master and his Teachings.

This Symposium was coordinated by the team of Educators/Administrators of the Vera Cruz School, who merit much praise for their dedication and work in making possible this brilliant event. Congratulations to those who work at Vera Cruz. We had an excellent participation of the educators of all of our School in the Province. Finally we thank also the participation of Sr. Gisele, of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province.

At the last part of the event, we programmed the 2014 Symposium Event.



### *Asian SMIC's Gathering for Mid-Term Reflection and Evaluation*

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, Sr. Benedicta Kuo, provincial coordinator, called the Sisters to a meeting with the purpose of listening to how the sisters, in each apostolic institution and their individual community, were engaged in the development and implementation of the SMIC Vision Statement, Declaration and General Chapter Acts, as well as to all the decisions made in the 14<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapters. There were altogether 45 sisters, 3 novices and 5 pre-novices participating..



After reflecting on all information that was given in the morning, the sisters discussed and shared their concerns, ideas and specific actions regarding the following questions:

1. What strengths do we see we have?
2. What critical signs/issues are surfacing to draw our attention for the future?
3. What specific features need to be further realized/nourished for a healthy, attractive religious community?

Sisters were asked to reflect in their daily life on the information arrived at in consensus:

1. Strengths: energetic, creative, courageous, adventurous, aware to and with quick response to the signs of time.
2. Critical issues: the needs of the aged sisters; formation of the young; young vocations.
3. Specifics: personal example (appropriate word and deed before the young); mutual support and encouragement through positive actions; the nourishment of new hobbies and interests; fidelity to prayer.

## *Experiencing the Joy of our Internationality*

*Sr. Silvia Corado do Amaral, smic-Salvador*

By accepting to be a member of the International Common Formation Team, I expected to be somehow involved in a broader SMIC environment, but not the way it came to happen. Suddenly, we were in Taiwan for our face-to-face meeting. Our time there was at the same time a joyful surprise and a learning life-giving experience provided by God through our SMIC Leadership Team.

First of all, this trip was a surprise because no one expected to go to Taiwan so quickly. It just happened. Thank God we were able to attend this meeting and work hard to plan for the whole year of formation in Namibia in 2014. The subject of our meeting was the group of the young professed sisters from different provinces in preparation for their final



Srs. Beatrix, Lucivane, Veronica, Gertrud, Silvia

vows. This was enough to give us a lot of energy and hope because the young generation brings to the Congregation new blood and new missionary perspectives. We want to join them to dream together and find new ways to live out the Gospel and spread its good news.

By the SMIC participative living and leading in everything we did, our team was able to work together in harmony and peace. Our team is formed by sisters from different countries, with different cultures and languages, but we experienced a lot of respect and mutual appreciation. By accepting our different thoughts and suggestions and being open to change, we easily built consensus. That is why the planning work was smoothly done. Now we only need to wait for the approval by the General Leadership Team (GLT) and Provincials to put it into practice.

During my time in Taiwan, I also had the opportunity to experience community life with different generations and cultures. How wonderful it was to get to know our lovely young women from Vietnam! Their energy, kindness and leadership amazed me. Congratulations to you, Asian Province, for the beautiful work you have been doing with those beautiful young Vietnamese!

To meet our sisters once more and celebrate the Holy Week together enjoying their gentle companionship was something very special for me. I feel that we are becoming closer and closer. The distance between Asia and Brazil is becoming less and less because we are building bridges through the opportunities we have been given to experience our internationality. I recognize that this is something that only God in his endless love can provide to those whom he has chosen.

The third meaningful reason that brings me life and makes me feel even more appreciative of Asian culture was the great opportunity to visit the Buddha Memorial Center and the Aboriginal Park. At Buddha Center, I experienced the beautifulness of the place and the richness of Buddhism by letting myself to dip in this millennial culture, even for one day, and learn from it. There, two things impressed me the most. First the large number of young people being initiated in the community. Secondly, the cordiality of Yijih Shin, the happy nun, that welcomed us and spent the whole day showing us the place and sharing with us the most important Buddhist values. Her style of life and commitment to her mission inspired me a great deal. Through that short, but intense experience I started to understand how Buddhism has influenced Asian Culture and printed its colors in the heart of so many who have embraced discipline, compassion and wisdom as values that can bring peace and happiness.

The visit to the Aboriginal Park was just a time to appreciate nature and the way of living of some tribes that work hard to keep their culture and share their values as people who need to be respected. The show we attended was wonderful! The place where they make costume jewelry is very interesting. The only thing I need to say is “Mali Mali!”, that means “thanks”. Thanks to God, thanks to the Congregation, thanks to our Common Formation Team, thanks to our Asian Sisters for this joyful, surprising and life-giving experience!!!

#### **2014 Congregational Common Formation Participants:**

**Asia: Srs. Laetitia, Dilecta, Clementia**

**Belem: Srs. Jacinta, Aparecida**

**Salvador: Srs. Ana Paula, Patricia**

**Namibia: Srs. Imelda, Elizabeth**

*Let us keep in prayer our younger  
Sisters who will participate in this 2014  
Congregational Common Formation Program.*





## *Revising our Constitutions*

*Sr. Luci Fontenele, smíc, Belém*

The 2010 General Chapter, held in Santarém, Brazil, determined that the “GLT should form a **Constitutions Revision Committee** to develop a process that would involve the whole membership of the Congregation to work on the necessary revisions of the Congregational Documents according to our contemporary reality.”

Let us take a look at the meaning of our **Constitutions** which is for us a **spiritual document** which aims to interpret the Rule which is the Way of Life for us as Franciscan women given to us since 1925, when our Founder, Bishop Amando Bahlmann incorporated the former “Order of the Missionary Poor Clare” to the Franciscan Order. Vatican Council II was a very important moment, a new Pentecost that required the “updating” of Religious Life in the context of the renewal of the Church at that important moment in the life of the Church of Jesus Christ.

From 1980 to 1986 the General Administration together with each Provincial worked on the new Constitutions which final draft was approved in 1986. We responded to the call of the church in presenting to the Sisters a very inspiring Document which reflects our Charism and Mission to the world.

But, periodically the Constitutions can and should be revised in order to clarify the understanding of a constitutive element of our Charism e.g. on the emerging of an important Document of the Magisterium, such as the *Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata*, or when the Congregation calls for a greater clarity of the understanding of certain elements of our Charism.

At the Generalate, in USA, the members of **Constitutions Review Committee** met from June 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The committee members are Sister Livramento Oliveira (Generalate) Sister Sandra McKeta (USA), Sister Beatrice Yang, (Asia) and Sister Luci Fontenele (Brazil). Prior to the meeting the committee communicated by e-mails and a Skype meeting led by Sister Livramento. When we came together as a committee, we were able to work in reflecting on and finalizing the whole plan to be executed in the whole Congregation from the present time until the next General Chapter, 2016. The goal of the Committee and other responsible sisters, is to conduct the process of reflection on suggested changes in the Constitutions in their own Province.

In our prayers we called upon the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary the Immaculate Conception our Patroness and Saint Francis, example for us of Evangelical Life. We asked them to guide each one of us when as we try to express in our Documents that we are Women of faith, servants of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the spirit of Francis and Clare.

*With all my heart I will rejoice in the Lord;  
My soul will exult in my Lord.*

*August 15th - Assumption of Mary 2013  
Golden Jubilee Celebration of*

**Lourdeskloster, Muenster - Germany**



1963, August 15, six sisters made their first profession in Wilkinghege. At that time three more sisters belonged to the group: Sister Theresia Sak, who deceased in 2001 during her home visit from Namibia, Sister Antonia Mersch, who celebrated her jubilee August 15, 2013 in Namibia; a further sister had chosen another way and became finally a contemplative sister.



1968, Sisters Antonia Mersch and Theresia Sak were missioned to Namibia. Our three jubilees received a training: Sr. Andrea as Gardener, Sr. Franziska as medical technician, Sr. Beatrix as kindergarten teacher, later leader of the kindergarten in Kleve-Griethausen; Sr. Franziska was missioned to Namibia where she worked as medical technician. After 5 years she was called back to Germany, where she became the provincial treasurer until today.

We celebrated the jubilee with our sisters and 70 guests: the families of our sisters, neighbors, friends and donators, our women employees as well as free co-workers who help us in all areas to do our work.



The main celebrant was Dr. Stefan Zekorn, auxiliary bishop in Muenster, who just returned from Taiwan where he visited his uncle/Dominican in Kaohsiung. He brought our greetings to our SMIC sisters in the hospital next door, where our sisters gave him a beautiful reception and tour. The bishop brought back many greetings from Taiwan.

“With body and soul“– was the motto of the bishop’s sermon at the jubilee celebration - first that Mary exemplary was received into heaven with body and soul. After this he compared the decision of our jubilee sisters 50 years ago, that the vows were a dedication to the Lord with body and soul, totally, and that the community of the sisters, as he came to know with them, this dedication is living. God is leading us ways, which we choose, but they are not the same as we had in mind. Whoever entrusts God himself, can experience what Mechthild from Magdeburg – mysticism of the middle age - formulates like this, “Father of all goodness, I thank you for your fidelity with which you have leaded me out of myself into your miracles.”

Whoever experiences the sisters in their grounded spirituality, can imagine that it isn’t easy to give oneself totally to God, but at the same time can experience which richness for the own live this dedication includes. Mother Immaculata gave the word to the sisters, “Be eager missionaries but with a contemplative

heart.” Our three sisters realized this in their lives and it continues. At the Offertory the scola was singing the hymn, Christ, our Lord, you are loved by those, whoever has the strengths to love you...” – a deep hymn to Christ, loved by many...”

After the celebration and congratulation by the festive community, all were together for coffee and cake; the weather was not as shining as normally on August 15, but all were happy and joined in the conclusion that it was a wonderful feast with many good encounters.

**Sr. Franziska Mayer**  
**Sr. Andrea Lubberdink**  
**Sr. Beatrix Schmidt**

## *Our Golden Treasure*



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## *CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE*

*Please take time to look at our newly revised website:*  
[www.missionarysistersofic.org](http://www.missionarysistersofic.org)

*Features: A message from Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM on WHO WE ARE  
Information on SMIC Congregational and Province Histories  
and SMIC Spirituality  
Province news   Current events   Photo Gallery*

*We invite you to send articles, photos, and items of interest to the Generalate  
so that the Website can become a real unifying experience for us all with  
updates news !*

*(updating of your computer with java script, you will be able to enjoy the  
sliding windows)*