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General house

We have several memorable events.

From October 2022 until today, the general house has turned into a “tourist mode” in the sense that many sisters can now plan trips either for overdue official visits (for the general council) or holidays in their country of origin for some sisters.

The following is a summary of information from the general house:

October-November – December 2022

October 14 to November 12, Sister Fe, accompanied by sr. Abgair, made the canonical visit to Europe. She returned to Canada for two days. Then, she left on November 15 for the official visit to Pueblo, USA and the Philippines. She returned to the general house on January 12.

November 15 to January 21, 2023: Sister Véronique was in Congo for the official visit. Her presence was much appreciated by the sisters, as she helped a lot in the community during the busy days of Advent and Christmas.

December 11 - Long-awaited return of Sr. Hue to the General House. Finally, Sr. Hue obtained her visa and was able to return to the General House after almost 3 years of absence. She left Canada in March 2020 for a visit to Vietnam when the pandemic hit.

January

January 20 to March 3, 2023- Sister Ha made a trip to Vietnam, for the Vietnamese New Year celebration and to visit her family and the sisters of the Province.

February

February 19 to 22, Sr. Jacqueline Saint-Yves, the animator of the next General Chapter came to continue her work with the General Council. The product of this meeting has already been sent to the whole congregation in order to involve each sister in the preparation.

Sister Abgair was in Brazil from February 27 to April 14, 2023 to participate in the chapter.

March



March 12, 2023: We celebrated Sister Lien's birthday a day early, because the next day she returned to Vietnam for good.

At the same time, we temporarily said goodbye to Sr. Thom who had to return to Vietnam due to visa issues. We hope she can come back soon.

The next day, March 13, the two left with Sr. Veronique who was appointed representative of the General Council at the Provincial Chapter in

Vietnam. She returned to Canada on April 4. She enthusiastically shared with us those beautiful days in Vietnam.

Fraternal visit



In the communion of consecrated persons and of the fraternity, we are pleased to welcome two sisters from Waterville: Sister Catherine Marie and Sister Thu Huong on March 18th. The next day, they returned to their community taking the Superior General for the visitation of the community until March 24. This return gave Sr. Thu Huong a good holiday.

March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. Tonight we have recreation with the game of climbing, crossing obstacles, which is called the snake. This game brings us joy and a smile on everyone's lips.

Each meeting must have an end, we part with nostalgia and emotion. We thank them for their visit.

Holy time of Lent

We are organizing Lent this year differently and more specifically than last year:

- ✘ Every Tuesday, we had Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. Some lay people joined us with fervor.
- ✘ Every Wednesday, we share the 6th book of Saint Pierre Julien Eymard on the theme of Lent: "Each liturgical time has its grace" Advent and Christmas-Lent and Easter.
- ✘ We keep every Friday afternoon of Lent in silence and recollection.

Sr Teresa Bach Yen who is studying at IFHIM in Montreal joined us from Palm Sunday until Easter Monday.

Holy Thursday

Maundy Thursday, we have the celebration of the Christian Seder together at noon. In the evening, each sister takes an hour to watch with Jesus. On Easter night, we also have a Christmas Eve meal.



April

On April 14, the General Council is again complete with the arrival of Sr. Abgair from Brazil.

April 29 – On April 29, Sr. Claire Duchesne, who is celebrating her 60th anniversary of religious profession this year, will join the jubilarians of the other religious congregations of Sherbrooke at the annual jubilee mass dedicated to them by the archdiocese. Archbishop Luc Cyr will lead the Eucharistic celebration.

We will have our own celebration of her jubilee on August 15 in our chapel. Let us praise and thank God for her gift of self.

Other news

In the Generalate we also have a special mission which started last October 1, 2022: to teach children to love and adore the Eucharist. Sr Thom and Sr Duyen are responsible for this mission (1st and 3rd Saturday of the month).

In silence, we are thank God for the many small and big events that we have gone through, He who kept us and protected us, He gave each one of us good health to accomplish our mission in love, joy and peace.



House of Québec

Centennial – On March 3, 2023, we marked the 100th birthday of our Sister Pauline Plamondon. She is still doing well.

Humanitarian action – Sister Hélène Couture, sschr (Sr of Sainte-Chrétienne) has set up a community knitting blanket workshop project, inviting all the Sisters who can from the three communities namely, the Sisters of St-François-d' Assisi, Sisters of Sainte-Chrétienne and the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Last November 30, 2022 these beautiful hand-knitted blankets were given to the firefighters of Quebec represented by Mr. François Deschamps, fire fighters chief and one of his assistants Mr. Alexandre Lajoie, who were visibly moved and grateful for this humanitarian gesture. And so, on February 13, 2023, each community received a certificate from the SPCIQ (Quebec Fire Protection Service) having the following content: *'We hereby inform you that your application has been submitted to the management as part of the 'Bon coups' du SPCIQ, for your contribution to the Quebec Fire Protection Service'.*

Friendly Visit – Saturday March 4, we received a visit from our Sisters from Sherbrooke, including Sr. Maria Nguyen Thi Lien and Sr. Maria Pham Thi Thom who returned to Vietnam after many years of dedicated service. They wanted to visit us before leaving Canada. We spent a pleasant and touching moment with them allowing us to express our gratitude to them through sharing of fraternal feasts. They were accompanied by Sr Maria Hue with their driver, Sr Anna Phuong Tha.

Annual Retreat – Our annual retreat will take place from May 29 to June 2, 2023. Our preacher is Father Guylain Prince, o.f.m. We will inform you of the theme as soon as we know it.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter Holidays.

Your Sisters of Quebec.

Cenacle of Christ the King - Edmundston, NB

On this feast of Holy Passover, we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes the Lord is risen and gives us the immense joy of His Presence. He is the Master of everything, of history, of the times we live in, Hallelujah!

Good morning! and may this Easter Season keep us in joy and in the permanent Presence of Jesus in our midst.

The Holy Week celebrations were high points of intense prayer. Many of our chapel regulars came. Time of passion, but also path of resurrection.

God the Father is looking for worshipers in spirit and in truth: with Jesus we bear witness by our life, our presence to the need for these high places of prayer, which, like a magnet, attracts the world to the Eucharist.

Oh! How great is our life, beautiful our vocation, and important our mission!

A few key events taking place within our walls:

Reine Boucher who lives with us, on the 2nd floor, as one of ours, left us for the Hôtel- Dieu de St-Basile.

Father Jacques Lapointe, a zealous and fervent priest, is the celebrant of Sunday celebrations and feasts. We have beautiful liturgies which are enhanced by the beauty of the songs of the choir. During the week, the celebrant is a young priest from Burundi,

Father Nestor Niyontwari, who is also well appreciated.

The faithful in the chapel collaborate in the mission, support us and surround us with their loving presence. They are for each of us like a beacon of light in the continuity of the mission, at the heart of the diocese.

We are happy, after this long winter, to see the snow melting and the radiant spring sun which also warms our hearts.

With our sisters who are preparing the next General Chapter which will take place in the Philippines, we intercede for the Holy Spirit to guide them in this time of renewal of our dear Congregation, for the glory of God and the salvation of the world.

And may the Eucharistic Life become, among the trials of our lives, a long act of thanksgiving nourished by love and faith in this God who loves us and is always faithful to us.

Testimony: A friend-member of the Aggregation writes to us:

“Dear Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, our family was inspired to express their gratitude for your presence within our diocese of Edmundston. And we were privileged to have you in our neighborhood!

We keep a precious memory of our childhood... The Holy Hours, accompanied by our parents, the retreats preached, the masses, etc... We were both amazed and impressed to see the sisters behind the fence, dressed in white with their long veils that covered their faces. We were always happy with our little

visits to the convent to bring donations, requests for masses, etc. Little Sister Cécile who welcomed us behind the little door with her beautiful smile.

For my mother, it was comforting to know that the little sisters were praying for our family and for their precious advice. And how much loved the meetings of “Charismatic Prayers” where she found a certain peace. For me (Charline), it was to find spiritual friends after my conversion and I want to thank you for having prayed for me at the request of my mother. Yes, prayer saves!

Thank you for holding on despite the passing storms and thank you for your loyalty. It is a great grace that God gives us to have adoring sisters who intercede for the world.

Be abundantly blessed! Affectionately and gratefully,
The Petitpas family.

Letter received at Easter 2023-from Charline Petitpas- Bossé.

Your sisters of Edmundston, N.B



Paris

Blessing of the altar and grotto of Lourdes - Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, February 20, 2023

« 9 days ago, very precisely, we were celebrating Our Lady of Lourdes, unfortunately we were not on the banks of the Gave that day, but today Lourdes is somehow coming to us. The grotto of our dear sisters, Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, finds a new lease of life, like the grotto area of Lourdes a few years ago, and then the Guardian of the grotto of Massabielle comes to us, to bring us a little of this beneficial Pyrenean air!

Monsignor, thank you very much and warmly for having come especially for this event, we are all the more sensitive to it since, appointed bishop of the diocese of Tarbes and Lourdes on March 30, we can imagine the burden, beautiful but demanding, that represents taking charge of a diocese



like this, vast and varied with the city, the countryside, the mountains and Lourdes. From the bottom of my heart, a huge thank you for escaping our mountains for a few hours, for us’.

Another warm thank you, a bit special, for someone who has a heart between Notre-Dame de Paris and Lourdes, I want to name Bishop Olivier Ribadeau Dumas who was, until recently, Rector of the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Dear Olivier, your presence today reflects the strong link that many faithful Parisians have with the Sanctuary.

Finally, I would like to thank Father William-Jean de Vandière, parish priest of Notre-Dame de Grace in Passy, for his friendly presence this morning. If Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament enjoys a somewhat special status, we do not forget, quite the contrary, that it is located on the territory of a parish with which we maintain strong fraternal ties, at the service of a people in a territory.

So, I come to the cave where we are this morning. The Notre-Dame du Saint- Sacrement chapel was built in 1900, but on earth things do not always go as we imagined; in fact, some major financial problems have jeopardized the project. This is how the sisters of the time then made a vow to build a grotto in Lourdes and to come every year on Rosary Sunday to sing the Magnificat there if things returned to better fortune; the wish was granted, the donations arrived, thus saving the project. The marble slab at the back of the cave dated 1910 bears witness to this...

And then time passed, the cave slowly aged until the day when a restoration project was launched and today carried out! I still hear Sr Jeanne-Myriam, who carried this house for so many years with her eternal smile and her legendary efficiency, saying recently with a smile “in fact I never said yes to this project! That’s right, dear sister, maybe no yes but no either! You know the tenacity of mountaineers, so things continued under your benevolent watch.

What has been done here? First of all, thanks to my deacon brother Benoît de Maisonneuve, a door leading to the Institut de La Tour was closed at the back of the cave, then the statue of the Virgin was repainted thanks to Monsieur Ritz. In this regard, on removing this statue which had probably not moved since 1910, we discovered a touching word from Mother Euphrasia, one of the superiors of the time, predecessor of Sr Monica, today superior of the community who brings us, with her sisters, all the youth and enthusiasm of Vietnam, a word that can now be read on this pretty wooden plaque on the wall, imploring the Lord to bless and protect this cenacle.

Then came a marble altar from the Aure valley in the Pyrenees, in the same vein as that used for Trianon and the Paris Opera, transported thanks to Guillaume Decazes, a generosity of weight...this block weighs indeed more than a ton, as for the slates of the ground, one finds the same ones, it seems, at the Escorial close to Madrid.

And then, a fragment of the rock from the cave of Massabielle, set aside after work, was placed on the side of the cave. I reassure my bishop, no one came overnight to steal anything from the grotto of Lourdes; it was Father Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière, chaplain of the Sanctuary, who entrusted it to us. So much for the work carried out, it now remains to develop the surroundings of the cave to be able to pray easily.

This project could not have seen the light of day without the friendly support of our chaplains of yesterday and today, Fathers Emmanuel Coquet, Régis Lecourt, whose fraternal presence this morning delights us, Alexandre de Mandat Grancey and Florian Pignault who prepared this ceremony. A big thank you also to Chadi Bousaba, to François d’Hotelans, to all the faithful who, in one way or another, participated in this restoration alongside our

sisters, to Jean- Christophe, Duc, Marie -Hélène, Anne, Roselyne who prepared this time of ecclesial joy, and to all of you who came to pray today. I am surely forgetting people, please forgive me.

Dear sisters, the grotto and the altar are now blessed, all that remains is to come and pray together regularly in this new prayer space, God be blessed!

Jean- François Balmary, permanent Deacon.

Other events: We are happy to have welcomed among us Sister Hien since August 2022 for the mission in Paris, Sister Christiane for a year of formation at the Center Sèvres and Sister Urtelle for a 6-month internship. It is a great experience of an international community. To be continued!!!



House of Waterville



Comings and Goings

During this Covid and Post Covid period there has been more than usual coming and going. In the summer of 2022, we enjoyed the visit of Rachel Almonte from California. Rachel was with us for three weeks. Her lively and generous spirit was a blessing for everyone.

In August 2022, Sr. Catherine Marie went to Sherbrooke for a 5 day workshop-retreat on the experience of the Cenacle. To meditate on the Cenacle is always a grace which brings us deeper into the Gospel of St. John and the life of our Founder.

Later in August Sr. Fe came from Canada to spend a few days with us, shortly before our summer vacation. During the vacation days, the sisters enjoyed lobster, cookouts, and boat rides at summer camps of our community friends. But one of these rides was interrupted by a sudden rainfall on the lake which left us all drenched.

In September 2022 we enjoyed our annual retreat with Fr Dinh Vo Tran AA. Fr. Dinh delighted us with his gift of languages at each conference. He spoke first in English and then in Vietnamese. His expertise in language manifested itself by the depth that he gave to simple words. Meditating on the Rule of

Life, he awakened us to the full meaning of our title: Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.



In late September and early October, the whole community succumbed to Covid. Sr. Kay Kay and Sr. Lucille were hospitalized. It was necessary to cancel the planned worship by Fr.J.T.Lane SSS on the Eucharist and the Beatitudes. The workshop is rescheduled for June 2023.

In October, Sr. Mary Ann Matteo came from Pueblo for a month. During that time she worked tirelessly to reorganize papers on the Eucharist, St. Peter Julian and the Congregation. Wow, now things are so easy to find.

In late September we were delighted to receive Sr. Julia Bich Dung for six months. We were so

delighted by her presence and blessed to be able to make good use of the remaining months on her USA Visa after the death of her father. It was with sadness and resignation that we saw her leave for the Provincial Chapter in Vietnam in March, sensing that God's will for her would retain her in Vietnam.

In early December we were pleased by the short visit of Le the sister of Fr. Joseph Bui and her niece Tina for a few days. They came here after the death of Fr. Pho Bui, her brother in Albuquerque N.M.

As of November 2022 we have enjoyed the presence of Mrs. Kristin Day who comes once a month to give us singing lessons.

On Saturday January 7, we held our first mass and reception for benefactors and friends since the covid. It was good to be able to celebrate with them once again.



From January 18 to late Feb. Sr. Thuy An Nguyen went to Vietnam for her home visit. We were so happy to know that she would be able to celebrate the Tet with her family.

On January 22 three sisters went to Portland to celebrate the TET with the Vietnamese community there.

On February 2 the feast of consecrated life, a few sisters participated at the diocesan celebration in Lewiston. About 25 sisters of various congregations were present to celebrate with the Bishop. St. Mary's honored us with a beautiful liturgy, some vocation stories and a meal with Bishop Deeley.

On March 10 we were sad to see Sr. Julia leave for Vietnam, but we rejoice with our sisters in Vietnam

when a week later we learned that Sr. Julia was elected provincial superior.

March 19 to 24 Sr. Fe came to be with us during the time of the Vietnamese provincial Chapter. Together we prayed for them. We gave thanks to God when we learned that the Vietnamese province has accepted responsibility for the House of Waterville. We will share more about this with you later.

At the beginning of April Sr. Herminia was failing and had difficulty breathing. The family was alerted and we feared that the end had come. However, during Holy Week she seemed to rally and since that time she has been up and able to attend Mass and participate normally in the life of the residents at the nursing home.

On Holy Thursday we were joined for the midday meal by our Bishop Robert Deeley, His Vicar General, Msgr. Marc Caron, our pastor, Fr. Dan Baillargeon and our chaplain, Fr. Jacques Dolbec. It is the second year in a row that our Bishop joins us for this occasion as he is travelling the long distance from the northern part of the state of Maine to celebrate the Lord's Supper at the cathedral in Portland. To stop at our Cenacle in central Maine was practical for him and full of meaning for all.





In Australia/New Zealand Sr Marie and I are living our life quietly, though there are moments of deep interest and significance as we go along.

One such moment was when I, Marian, attended a regular meeting of the “Small is Beautiful” group in early March. This group is made up of the small Congregations in Melbourne and Victoria. We meet 3-4 times a year, with one of the days being a retreat and the other days we have a speaker.

So on this day in early March, we had a scripture scholar, Sr Mary Coloe (a Presentation Sister) as our speaker. Sr Mary is an expert on St John’s Gospel – and has written books on it, and is internationally acclaimed for her insights – but is also a scholar on the other gospels as well. On this occasion, she had us look at Mark 12: 41-44 in the context of Jesus in Jerusalem, knowing his death is rapidly approaching. It reads: “He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins.... Jesus called his disciples and said to them: “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on”. The Greek for “all she had to live on” is actually “the whole of her life”. Sr Mary reflected with us that Jesus was aware, in watching her, that he also was very soon going to give “the whole of his life” and that this is in fact a Eucharistic moment. “Whole life given” is Eucharistic, and further, Sr Mary said that for us “every moment is Eucharistic”, every moment of our lives is Eucharistic, as we are an image of Jesus, since we have given “the whole of

our life” to God. Sr Mary then connected this with Jesus and the woman at the well, in St John’s gospel, where Jesus speaks about “worship in spirit and truth”: so that again, this is another aspect of being Eucharistic, as we worship in spirit and truth in the depths of our hearts wherever we are, all the time. This is what we say in our Rule of Life in number 2: we “make our whole life a “eucharist”.”

So this was a reminder to me, once again, that every moment of our life, whatever we are doing, is Eucharistic, given in love to God.

One other moment of note is that as Easter approaches, I am again involved in the Liturgy Team and the parish choir for the preparation of Holy Week. Again this year I shall have the overseeing of Holy Saturday, making sure that all the roles are filled, and on the night endeavouring to see that all goes smoothly (though we all know, from years past, that there are inevitably things that don’t happen, or are late, or are done not quite the way we would like them to!! And that none of that matters: we are there to celebrate the Resurrection, and we do!)

It is always a privilege to be so involved in the Holy Week celebrations, culminating, for me, on Easter Sunday, with playing the accompaniment for those choir singers that we are able to get back from the night before to lead the people in the celebratory singing for Easter day.

So with Easter on the horizon, Sr Marie and I join together to wish every Sister a blessed and joyous Easter! May we all learn a little more of what resurrection means in our daily lives.

With love to each dear Sister,

Sr Marian McClelland sss





Novaliches Community



The community of Novaliches was blessed by the presence of Sr. Fe Manalo, SSS, the Superior General, during her canonical visitation to the sisters last December 3-7, 2022. Prior to her visit, she spent three days of silence and retreat in our own retreat house in preparation for her visit to our two communities here in the Philippines. She witnessed also the blessing of the garden in commemoration of the 160 years of our Foundation, under the name of Mother Marguerite Guillot and the blessing of the statue of St. Michael, the Archangel as our protector. The garden was blessed by Fr. Roel dela Cruz, SSS, with his two SSS priests, Fr. Bryan Adona, SSS and Fr. Alde Borerros, SSS. After her visitation activities, some sisters went with her to visit also her brothers and sisters in her hometown in Batangas, for a day of swimming and a fun filled day, like serenading Christmas carols to her family and some relatives.



After the COVID lock down and enhanced protocols, the community courageously opened the chapel for liturgical services, such as, Sunday and Weekday Masses and the daily Adoration.



The Peoples' Eucharistic League and the members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament are now having their face to face regular monthly meeting, formation and adoration.

As part of the on-going formation of the Sisters, Fr. Miguel Garcia, SSS, a Canon Lawyer, comes to the convent once a month to give a session on the Code of Canon Law to the Sisters.

Since last year, in collaboration with the local government (called Barangay in the Philippines) a portion of our vacant land is being used for an Urban gardening project, not only for our own consumption, but also for charitable purposes in which some of the vegetables are shared to the poor and the needy.



Davao Community

Personnel – Since last September 30, 2022, the community has been graced with one postulant, JC May Tres Reyes from Cavite. She was formerly employed in Salic Neta, a farm owned by the La Salle Brothers, as an agriculturist. Let us pray for her perseverance!



Likewise, there are some movements of the Sisters assigned here: Sr. Leizle Panggay, SSS went back to Novaliches on February 23, 2023. And on the same date, Sr. Precy Nebres, SSS arrived. Welcome Sr. Precy!

The year 2022 gave us a lot of reasons to celebrate.

Last July 2022, we witnessed the 50th anniversary of the SSS Fathers' presence here in Davao. A grace filled celebration indeed!



Visits from our Superiors;

Sr. Edith Bula, SSS who visited us last June, 2022 and Sr. Fe Manalo, SSS our General Superior who came last December, 2022. Those visits became an opportunity for us to update ourselves and bond with them. Thank you, dear Sisters, for your presence

Community Activities

We are now in the season of Lent. Our Parish has already begun to go back to the regular schedules and activities. The sisters as well, are adjusting to the normal flow of parish life. This coming April 1 until Holy Week will be filled with activities. However, the sisters take time for cleaning, gardening and other works that sustain the organization of the community.

Last February 8, 2023. Six newly elected core group of the PEL stayed with us for a night of Prayer & Adoration as part of their on-going formation. Sr. Malou Alcaraz, SSS facilitated the said activities.

Pueblo Community

SR. GORGONIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Jubilee year in the Bible is an economic, cultural and communal reset, when the land and people rest, and all those who are in slavery are set free to return to their communities. In religious life it is the time to go back and reminisce the days the first time the religious finally said her YES, and affirmed this yes by making her commitment solid by a life of poverty, chastity and obedience in community life.

This is what Sr. Gorgonia Parcero, SSS, is thankful



to God for - the gift of vocation and God's faithfulness and constancy in His call. On February 7, 2023 at St. Mary's Help of Christian Parish in Pueblo, Colorado, USA, Sr. Gorgonia celebrated her golden jubilee in the presence of the parishioners, her family and community. Bishop Stephen Berg, DD, bishop of Pueblo, presided over the concelebrated Eucharist attended by three deacons, four diocesan priests, two religious priests of SOLT and eight Blessed Sacrament Fathers coming from Hawaii (Fr. Frankie de los Reyes, SSS and Fr. Sammy Loterte, SSS), Cleveland, Ohio (Fr. Juancho Ramos, SSS) and those assigned in the different parishes in Pueblo (Fr. Mark del Rosario, SSS, Fr. Zaldy Norba, SSS, Fr. Peter John Abogado, SSS, Fr. Joseph Matitu, and SSS, Fr. Joel Lasutaz, SSS). Bishop Berg, thanked Sr. Gorgonia for her missionary spirit shown by starting the community in Davao, Philippines and continuing the community in Pueblo when the American Sisters left the diocese of Pueblo to consolidate themselves in Waterville, Maine. He was grateful for the contemplative presence and her gift of self as an adorer of the Blessed Sacrament as exemplified by St. Peter Julian Eymard.



There were many surprises that highlighted this momentous occasion. Sr. Gorgonia was surprised by the video greeting of Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle thanking her for the great influence that she had on his faith especially the love and special devotion to our Blessed Mother. During the reception, the Sisters from the Philippines gave their congratulatory note via the video presentation. This was followed by a short program with Gingging Ocenia, Sr. Gorgonia's "little girl" from Davao, Philippines who is now married and all grown up, who rendered songs from the Sound of Music. The Filipino community in Pueblo presented a liturgical dance

wearing malong, a Muslim inspired attire. The Blessed Sacrament Fathers cannot be outdone as they rendered a vocation song in the tune of the popular song, "My Way".

Indeed, 50 years is something to be cherished about knowing how God walked with Sr. Gorgonia in the ups and downs of her life. Having this grace filled journey she wants to give more, to gift God herself every step of the way. Yes, fifty and counting!!!



Thanks be to God, this year, the Province of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament was able to organize the New Year's Day celebration and held it for the first time in the new meeting hall of the Province. For the New Year this year, the Province is happy to welcome Sr Thuy An, Sr Lien and Sr Matta Ha.

On February 7, Sr. Thu Hong returned from Congo to visit the province and her family. On March 13, Sr. Véronique Mai, Sr. Lien and Sr. Thom returned from Canada. In particular, Sr. Mai returned with the mission of attending the Provincial Chapter.



Yes, the Province of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapter took place from March 18 to 25 with the theme: *The Servant lives the Eucharist: Communion - Participation - Mission*. Father Joseph Pham Dinh Ai, SSS helped the members of the Chapter. He emphasized that the Chapter is a form of Communion: walking in the same direction, working together in suffering and getting along. This Chapter was led by Father Joseph Ngo Sy Dinh, OP. He directed the members towards a deep communion with the Lord: "to remain with us" (Lk 24, 29) as well as to live the commandment of the Lord: "to remain in my love" (Jn 15, 9). Having drawn life force from the source of love of the Lord himself, the Servant

will go out to participate in all the missions of the Congregation in the world.

At the end of the Chapter, the Province of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament gave thanks to God during the Mass presided over by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Xuan Loc, and concelebrated with Father Pierre Trinh Nhu Cung – SSS provincial council and Father Joseph Hieu, Provincial Secretary.

For this year's Easter Triduum, the community of Binh Da was also helped by the Director and the SSS Brothers community of Mong Trieu. The celebrations were fervent and very cordial between brothers and sisters in the same spirituality and charism. May God grant us to grow more in fraternal relationship the Eymardian family in order that together may the Eucharist shine.



Congo

RECOLLECTION IN TIME OF LENT WITH THE AGGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



For the recollection of the time of Lent with the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, the theme chosen was "Lent, a journey to the land of solitude" by Father John Crédo MOUSSENDO, vicar of the parish of Saint Rita.

The word Lent means forty and the time of Lent reminds us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, praying and fasting. It is a strong time that prepares us for Easter, that is to say, for the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Lent is a time of interior silence in search of the Lord. It is a time when we must tend towards holiness, our hearts turned towards the realities on high. The season of Lent is therefore similar to a battleground where Jesus is the coach and we are the gladiator. We must therefore follow the coach's instructions to achieve victory.

The desert where we are going is certainly a difficult place, but we go there with confidence, our eyes fixed on Jesus who lived there and conquered before us. Not only do we follow in Jesus' footsteps, but we go with him. Thus the words of Saint John of Damascus: *"In the desert of my solitude, Lord, I feel you and you feel me, I touch you and you touch me"*.

Our solitude in the desert is also a very great opportunity and a duty before God, of intercession for our life, that of our family, that of the Church and of the world.

Let us not forget that Lent is also synonymous with temptation. We are called to enter resolutely with this certainty of temptation into Lent and to remember this throughout this journey. Like Christ, we continually face temptation in all three forms: temptation to power, to know, and to have. For this, we need to experience, in our daily lives, the power of God which manifests itself in humility and simplicity.

Lent is a time of extended fasting, i.e. a time when we strive to do what is good, what is useful and necessary.

Finally, one word can translate our entire Lenten itinerary:

P: Prayer; A: Bible; I: Intercession; E: Eucharist; A: Repentance; E: Church.

COMMUNITY RECOLLECTION IN TIME OF LENT

It is with gratitude that we welcomed our day of spiritual retreat in time of Lent called "desert day" on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

This day was lived in an atmosphere of recollection and prayer. A very beautiful occasion which made it possible to review and project our attitude and our determination to live this Lent in conformity with the three Ps: Prayer, penance, sharing.

This time allowed us to reflect on the meaning of prayer, the different forms of prayer and their aims in this particular time. It was also a favorable time to know and understand what penance means in our daily and ordinary life, how we have organized it so far and what are the possible improvements to be made. A time to better understand the meaning and importance of sharing and an opportunity for us to review how we have lived it from the beginning of Lent until today.

It must be said, however, that in addition and above all, this day was marked and dominated by thanksgiving. It is true that the retreat to the desert is a “sequela Christi”, but it has to be recognized that we are journeying more like the Jewish people from the “desert” towards the “promised land”. This is why it was a question of asking the Lord for forgiveness for recriminations, quarrels ...

Thus, this day made us experience through our meditation, our inconstancy vis-à-vis God's plan for us, but also and above all the love and fidelity that God has for us despite everything. This is why our day ended under the sign of hope which constantly pushes us and never deceives.



Sr Jeannette, novice



The provincial chapter of Brazil had have February 12 to 14 2023, with the theme: *“Let not your hearts be troubled; You believe in God, also believe in me... I will prepare a place for you. John 14.1s.*

"Placing our trust in God alone, in abandonment to his Providence, recognizing that everything is a gift from the Lord, we welcome goods with gratitude and detachment... with joy and simplicity" RoL 21.

May our lives be a continual contemplation of your love in praise and adoration. RoL18.1

We began our 2023 Provincial Chapter on February 12, welcoming the Chapter Members who arrived from the community of Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais. We met at 7 p.m. in the chapter house to organize the work on the 13th.

Day 13 – We started this day at 6:30 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the chapel, followed by the Eucharistic celebration presided over by a Carmelite priest. After breakfast, the Chapter Sisters gathered in the Chapter Hall.

Sr. Abgair took the floor and with a song to the Holy Spirit, welcomed everyone and explained the absence of our Mother General Fe Manalo who was not able to come to Brazil. She delegated her to carry out the visit and coordinate the Assembly.

She also explained that this chapter will be different because we will not vote. She left everyone free to express what they expected from these chapter meetings, where for the first time we would not have elections for provincial mandates.

Then Sr. Udesira read Mother General's Letter explaining the process of change of status from a province to a community.

Day 14 – Second day. We begin by invoking the Holy Spirit. Then we read the letter from the Blessed Sacrament Fathers of Juiz de Fora (P. Elissandro and P. Matheus Jesus) asking permission to add more Masses. All present accepted unanimously. Thus, from the month of May 2023, the celebrations will begin at 5 p.m. in our Cenacle São João Evangelista, in Juiz de Fora Minas Gerais.

Afterwards, the sisters were given time to freely share their thoughts. Each made a brief comment about ceasing to be a province and becoming a community. Each expressed the hope to return one day, that is to grow again vocationally so that we can continue to spread our charism as a Province.

We received Fr. Marcelo Silva (Provincial Sacramentino), who gave us a word at this time of transition in our province. He pointed out that the mission of Juiz de Fora is still being set up between the two communities.....

We also received the accountants (Isaac and Christiane) who presented us with the financial report and the annual balance sheet with very well explained tables.

The final message of the XXIII Provincial Chapter was read alternately by each capitulante. This date, February 14, 2023, will forever remain in the history book of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament as the last PROVINCIAL CHAPTER of the Province of the Immaculate Conception in Brazil, which will henceforth be the Local Community of the Immaculate Conception.

There was a brief history of the whole period of the province since the arrival of the sisters in Brazil in Rio de Janeiro in 1912. With a message of overcoming the difficulties of life in every vertical and horizontal sense, it was a moment of great emotion. This is how the moment (Provincial Chapter) ended with a lot of emotion, hope and silence.

The new community: The new community is made up of the sisters of the two existing houses: Belo Horizonte and Juiz de Fora.

Here is the new leadership team of the new local community of the Immaculate Conception, Brazil:

Sister Udesira C Temoteo - Local Superior – residing in Belo Horizonte
Sister Margarida de Jesus - Local treasurer – residing in Belo Horizonte
Sister Margarida Wolkeres – House coordinator of Juiz de Fora
and Assistant local treasurer.



*** Sr Adélia who complete her 101 years old.**

