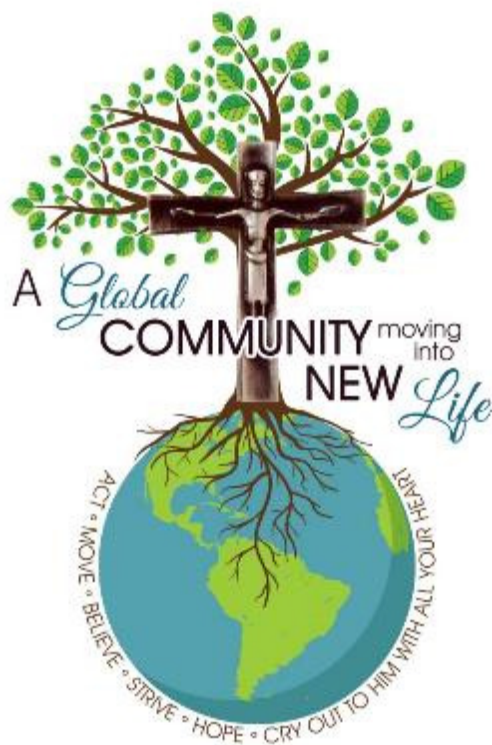


Inter – Ursuline



September - December 2020

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Generalate

NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE – ARRIVAL OF SR ELISABETH BINET

On 12 September, we welcomed Sr Elisabeth Binet to the Generalate. On 1 November she will begin her mandate as Secretary General. We invited her to tell us something about herself.

I was born in France in 1956, in Sarthe not far from Normandy. I am the oldest of 4 daughters. I moved home several times in France, I went to a state school and I finished my last years in a Catholic school in Paris.

After studying to be a nurse and practising in a hospital, I found work as a school nurse and supervisor with the Ursulines at Sainte Ursule, Paris, in 1981. My plan was just to do this for a transitional year!

I had been seeking where the Lord was calling me and I was touched by the community life of the Ursulines and by their joy, even if, working with them, I knew that it was not always a bed of roses!

I entered the novitiate at Beaugency in 1982, knowing that my mother was ill. She died 8 days before my temporary profession in March 1985, an event which marked my life of consecration.

During my juniorate in Paris, I began a degree in English that I completed in Amiens in 1992. During these years I was in charge of the 11 – 15 year old pupils and the first year I was also responsible for the girls' boarding school. I learnt much from my Ursuline sisters and tried to benefit from their help in order to help, in my turn, the adolescent boys and girls grow humanly and in their faith. I made perpetual profession in the Cathedral of Amiens!

After my perpetual profession, I left Amiens for Avallon where I taught English at the secondary and primary school. Soon I became responsible for coordinating the team of teachers for the 11 year olds - up till the time of my tertianship.



At that time, St Mary of the Incarnation became important in my spiritual life. During the tertianship (2001-2002) I really appreciated the international openness of the Institute. My immersion in the Eastern Province of the United States gave me the opportunity to discover facets of the Roman Union that I had not known before and that I discovered with gratitude. The long retreat was an important grace and a real spiritual turning point in my Ursuline life.

On my return to my Province, I joined the community of Beaugency where I taught English at the Catholic secondary school and I was principal of the primary school Notre-Dame for 6 years. It was a real happiness, even in the midst of challenges, a joy to see the children and the young people growing, as well as their parents, accompanying also the teachers and staff. Their fidelity continues to amaze me today. During these years, I became a Provincial Councillor in the Province of France-North/Belgium. 2008, return to Amiens where I coordinated the pastoral work of the secondary and the primary school. In 2009 the Province of France/Belgium/Spain was born! I became the delegate for the « tutelle » in a team with 3 lay people and I was one of the Provincial Councillors of the new Province.

In 2012, a new challenge presented itself to our Province – to run the « Centre Angèle Merici ». This centre organises programmes for the teachers and support staff of our schools. I accepted the challenge and I joined the community of Tours, where the Centre was. My mission as delegate for the « tutelle » ended in August 2017, that of responsibility for the « Centre Angèle Merici » in December 2019.

In all the missions entrusted to me, what is very important for me is the collaboration with the laity. How to transmit and enable them to appropriate the heritage of Angela, not as a treasure that we do not touch for fear of damaging it or as a well tied up gift package, but as something dy-

namic which leads each one to follow « Christ our only Treasure, » in the way of Angela.

Today, with the call from Sr Susan Flood, I am ready to take up another challenge as Secretary General. I know that it will only be possible with the help of all those who will be part of my daily life during the next 8 years.

In conclusion, I share with you the words of St Mary of the Incarnation which I received from my sisters in Tours on 4 September: « Place me where You like, You will be my Love everywhere ». (Letter 109)

NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE (2) – THE GARDEN DURING LOCKDOWN

Sr Elena Arcese shares with us some of her reactions to Covid 19 and how she inspired the sisters in the Generalate to make the earth bloom and the plants grow.

In March 2020 an event took place in the world that united all of humanity and also our four communities of the Generalate.

On Facebook, we were overwhelmed by distressing theories: conspiracies about China, America, Russia, the military landing in Europe, the number of dead, the lockdown, things that they don't tell you or they hide from you, masks, no masks, a new world order and so on, without any solution.

And then again, the focus shifted to how we felt and what we could do in order not to be overwhelmed.

If it were possible to read the news while remaining completely detached, we could also try to see the funny side of the matter. But, if we get hooked, as happens

most of the time when we read the news, then it all becomes devastating. Being informed is one thing - and it is right - getting emotionally hooked is another. All this can lead to a feeling of helplessness, the feeling of being overwhelmed by events. But we can choose not to be the victim of circumstances; we can choose to be proactive.

A new era has been born, awareness, discoveries, renewed energy. The four communities of the Generalate chose to continue life by lending their hands to God, sowing and nurturing the land and its plants.

We started taking care of the newly planted citrus trees by watering them every day. We took care of the lavender and picked the flowers.

The week before Easter, when the moon was favourable, we planted flowers and sowed vegetable seeds.



A loving team evolved. First of all, Sr. Ann Marie and Sr. Elena restored the wall of the flower bed in front of the tool shed. We then moved on to the flower bed on the opposite side where we removed weeds and stones to be able to plant vegetables: tomatoes, aubergines, peppers, zucchini and salad.



We rearranged and decorated the flower bed next to the low wall. Here it was intense and hard work, but we felt a lot of strength inside. We took out the weeds from the small flower beds by the tool shed. As soon as the weeds were removed, the passion flowers bloomed. It was nice in the evening to go and check the new plants and see the new flowers or fruits.

Sr. Benigna began to nurture a flower bed next to the wall on to Via Sant'Angela Merici. Since we could not go out to buy flowers, we picked them directly from our garden for the chapel.

Sr. Agatha Linda put in great effort to clear a small garden near the Shalom Community. Here she planted tomatoes, peppers, green beans and zucchini.



Sr. Claudine Marie cleared another part of the garden which had been full of weeds and she planted green peppers, zucchini and chili peppers.

Meanwhile the sunflower seeds were starting to sprout. As soon as they were ready, we planted them in three different flower beds. Soon more than 200 plants flowered. There were so many that we were giving them away.



With Sr. Alina's help we cleaned up the large flower bed to the right of the steps coming down from the big garden – quite an accomplishment because no one had the courage to get on with it!

“Barrow”, “wheelbarrow”, “hose”, “tubo di gomma”, “bachet”, “tomato, potato, petunia”..... these were some of the words heard in a mixture of French, Italian and English.

Finally the day came when we could start enjoying the first cut salad. In the meantime we watered the apricot tree planted by the capitulants last year. It gave a lot of apricots. Then the medlars ripened and we enjoyed those too. It's always nice to grow and eat your own fruit and vegetables.



Every evening Sr. Neusimar came to encourage us and give us advice on

how to rearrange the plants and, with Sr. Nur, she picked the fruit and vegetables. Sr. Maria José kept everything under control: the flowers and the vegetables; and Sr. Wilma cooked the vegetables. Sr Sue took care of the roses and talked to the plants.

The best moment was in the evening when we went to the vegetable garden and saw how much everything had grown – especially the sunflowers. These moments of our free time were a joy, sacred and inviolable. Nobody obliged us to dedicate so much hard work to the garden, but God was giving life, even while many people were dying from the Corona virus.

We understood that Mother Earth always welcomes us, feeds us. Even when we extract marble, minerals, oil, she still gives fruit.

Maybe we are learning to return to the earth, not to exploit and pollute it but with respect and love to overcome suffering, poverty and hunger.

During the summer almost every evening, we went to work on our own flower beds. It was always a joy to see a flower opening or a fruit ripening. The tomatoes started to grow and ripen. We had enough to give some away.

It was nice to see Sr. Agatha Linda worrying about her tomato plants and Sr. Ann Marie arranging the small plants which she was taking great care of. She sowed and grew them with love; it was a sort of prayer she was creating with God. Sr. Benigna was silently bending over her plants. Sr. Martini had sown chilies in pots along the corridor.

Sr. Sue cultivated her roses tirelessly. Sr. Armida checked her tomatoes and waited for them to ripen.

For me, this summer was an unforgettable experience, the most beautiful of my religious life – working in unity and joy.

At this time when there was so much talk about darkness and death, the sunflowers give us a sense of light and invite us to look upward with hope.



Southern Africa

NEWS FROM ST LUCIA DURING LOCKDOWN

Some extracts from Sr Elisabeth Marie Ansart's letter from St Lucia during the lockdown in South Africa.

June 2020

Nature offers a stable environment of beauty and peace in these troubled and chaotic times. The freshness of the winter evenings give us now sunsets of flamboyant colours and I try each day not to miss this rendez-vous at 5pm.

Many of you asked me news of Covid19 in South Africa. Here's my answer:

When it seemed that the storm was getting less in Europe, here, it was only beginning. As our President Cyril Ramaphosa said, « we must wait for the situation to be much worse before it gets better »....!

At the end of March, the Government put a strict lockdown in place (one of the strictest in the world) in order to prepare the medical system to receive a great number of sick people. Between 90,000 and 400,000 deaths were foreseen. This strict lockdown delayed the pandemic in the country, but did not avoid it. A risk-adjusted strategy was put in place to respond as well as possible to the crisis. 5 levels of lockdown rules our lives to decide what is authorised, or not, in terms of transport, opening of shops, going out, etc...

While the spread of the virus is growing, on June 1 we moved to level 3 (level 5 being the strictest). Indeed, it is urgent to let the economy restart otherwise the population will starve before dying from Covid-19 ... Hospitals are now "ready". 200 doctors from Cuba came to lend a hand in the most affected provinces. Testing is intensifying in "hot spots". The big cities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban with their townships and the Eastern Cape Province are the most affected. Only 26 known cases in our district at the moment (apart from the 6 French tourists infected and detained in St Lucia at the beginning of March who, fortunately, did not spread the virus).

Of course there is a lot of confusion. The Government, constrained by multiple interests, takes a decision and its opposite in the same week, often with many inconsistencies ... Churches are now authorized to welcome 50 people at a time, but families cannot meet.

Schools that should have opened gradually since mid-May are still closed. The Unions have asked the teachers not to resume teaching before the health protocol is observed. ... Not sure that this will be possible before we have to close the schools again because this will be the time of our "peak"! This only increases the inequalities: schools in privileged areas have continued teaching via the internet but in villages such as Khula all teaching has stopped with the start of lockdown. The school year which began in mid-January is greatly compromised.

Schools are vandalized. Children are idle in the streets. Those who usually have only one school meal a day are not getting enough food, and a record of teenage motherhood is expected.



All our usual activities in the villages stopped in March because it is forbidden to bring the children together: no sports activities, no tutoring possible. Great feeling of helplessness!



Sr. Siti is engaged in the making of masks. We also help certain families in great need by giving them food.

Last week I met Nkosinomusa, a 16 year old boy who lives alone without financial support, victim of a complex family situation. I try by all means to alert social services for these emergencies ... How many children are currently living, for different reasons, in a desperate situation ...

The Government, appreciated at the start of the crisis for its swift action and its involvement (each member of the Government gave up 1/3 of their salary to support the national fund to fight against coronaviruses) is now blocked by differences of opinion. Today a legal procedure has begun to decide whether some of the decisions taken were unconstitutional ...

One of the big losers is the tourism industry. Our usually bustling little tourist town of St Lucia has become a 'ghost town'. Restaurants, hotels, "bed and breakfasts", all closed, will not be able to reopen until level 1 has been reached, probably not before the end of the year. The company that offers boat trips on the lake and on the open sea has gone bankrupt, and how many more? It will undoubtedly take several years before finding a financial balance. Family visits while respecting "social distancing" in African-style!!!

The Retreat Center is the same. It is a great disappointment to have had to cancel all retreats and all group bookings ... This year 2020 promised to be full with events and meetings. Definitely we do not control the course of the world !!! Enough about this crisis that is shaking our world, which is shaking us in so many ways and which has not finished surprising us!

A couple from St Lucia founded an ANGO to support nursery schools at "our end of the world". Part of their salary is used to feed children enrolled in nurseries throughout the year. During this time of lockdown, while schools are closed, they use their financial resources to bring food packages to many poor families. It's not just stories of corruption in South Africa!

Nontu Mghabi is the first South African woman to have participated in the

"World Marathon Challenge" last February. This marathon consists of running 7 marathons on 7 different continents in 7 days! She took up this challenge brilliantly (she finished 4th) in order to raise funds to meet the educational and nutritional needs of the 657 children attending Khiphinkunzi primary school. In recent weeks she has donated enough food to feed 50 families for 1 month. A project is underway to supply the school with running water and to build new classrooms.

Khiphinkunzi Primary School is where the three "undocumented" girls I have already mentioned attend school. So I have a very special connection with this school. Nontu Mghabi is also part of the "Iodestar foundation" which, thanks to our links, has been providing breakfast every morning for several months now to all the children in the school. In this cereal porridge are found all the vitamins essential for a child's growth. Even today, while the school is still closed, 1.2 tons of this porridge was shared with all the families of the children attending school.

And finally the case that everyone is talking about in a low voice here: the village chief of Khula has just been gunned down in broad daylight at the entrance to the village, riddled with bullets. This man was driving a powerful Mercedes bought with corrupt money. Feared rather than respected, the projects in the village were primarily for his personal benefit. Recently he had appropriated the buildings of an orphanage which had been recently constructed by an NGO and which therefore never took in orphans ... Of course, such a crime cannot be condoned. This murder divides the community of Khula and leaves vacant the place of a village chief who risks re-asserting himself by force. A new episode of the series begins ...

SOME NEWS FLASHES OF LIFE IN OUR SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD!

These news come from twitter feeds. Feel free to follow them or create your own twitter feed!

Ireland, Cork, St Angela's College Student council

St. Angela's has had a Student Council in place since the early '80s. Consisting of the Head Girl, the Deputy Head Girl as well as prefects from Fifth and Sixth Years, meetings are also attended by representatives of Transition Year. A Student Council liaison teacher is appointed but each meeting is chaired by the Head Girl. The Student Council is an important vehicle of communication between staff and pupils. Each senior prefect liaises with a junior class on a weekly basis. The elected members also provide valuable assistance to the teachers by taking on a variety of responsibilities: helping with roll call, organising fundraising events, the annual Christmas concert as well as acting as hostesses at evening receptions for parents. Leadership training is provided each year by the Ursuline sisters.



USA, Delaware, Wilmington, Ursuline Academy Serviam

We celebrated with prayer and appreciation the commitment demonstrated by the Class of 2022 to our motto, Serviam, meaning "I will serve." Our juniors have logged 5,800+ hours of service. They open their hearts and minds to serve others.



21 September International Day of Peace USA, New York, New Rochelle, Ursuline school

Today we held prayer services in honor of International Day of Peace, a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples, established by the United Nations General Assembly. The Ursuline School joins those around the globe as we remember that "never has it been more clear that we are not each other's enemies, as we fight a common enemy, COVID-19, a tireless virus that threatens our health, security & very way of life.

USA, Texas, Dallas, Ursuline Academy

We prayed for the grace to “work to build peace, unity and understanding in our world.



South Africa, Johannesburg, Brescia house
Heritage Day 24 September
Brescia House School Heritage Day 2020.

‘I am because you are’. In the spirit of Ubuntu, we can embrace our diversity by using our differences to bring us closer together through the celebration of one another.

We encourage all our girls and staff this week, to Come As You Are. To know more you can watch the video on you tube, channel : « Helga Bishop »



Australia, Toowoomba, St Ursula's college

An original experience to which the students and adults of the school are invited. How to get to know and engage in a conversation after asking the question: "Are you OK? "

What is it about ? Got a feeling that someone you know or care about it isn't behaving as they normally would? Perhaps they seem out of sorts? More agitated or withdrawn? Or they're just not themselves. Trust that gut instinct and act on it. Learn more about the signs and when it's time to ask R U OK?

To know more about it, don't hesitate to visit this web site:

<https://www.ruok.org.au>



USA, Missouri, St Louis, Ursuline Academy

With some adjustments to the ceremony, we celebrated the Induction of the Ursuline Academy Class of 2024. It was a beautiful night in celebration of our newest Bears. Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2024!



USA Central

MY PERSPECTIVE

They look but do not see, they listen but do not understand. Mt 13:13

Sr Pauline Lorch contributed this reflection to Laurels, the bulletin of her Province.

When I grew up in St. Mary's, Missouri, after dark Black people were not allowed within the city (a town of less than a thousand) limits. Black Catholics, many of whom had been catechized by Mother Isadore Ripperger, OSU, worshipped in the three back, left-hand pews of Immaculate Conception Church. Despite this blatant racism, my parents acted out of a different set of values.



My earliest sense of neighbor was Miss Madora, a Black woman who lived "up the hill and across the road" from us. Aunt Madora was my friend and protector during the rough and tumble of early childhood. Dad's good friend and co-worker, Henry Cole, a Black man, died in a house fire while Dad had to be forcibly held by firemen to keep him from trying to

save Mr. Cole. In his later years, Dad threatened to resign from the Knights of Columbus when a well-respected William Coffman was about to be blackballed (how ironic) simply because of the color of his skin. I am grateful for my parents' example, but for many years I had no idea of the extent of the racism in which I and they were complicit.

Only time and graced opportunities; many friends and companions who were also struggling to understand the origins and consequences of a thoroughly racist, unjust justice system; the reality of white privilege; the myth of Black inferiority, particularly intellectual inferiority; and the magnitude of targeted housing made law by Congress, have brought me to begin to realize that I am racist and that I must re-form my attitudes, my choices, my judgments, my way of seeing, my way of listening. I need humble, focusing corrective lenses to see more clearly the power that racism has, and empathic hearing aids to hear the voices raised in pain and frustration, desperation even, trying to help Americans understand that racism not only affects Black Americans but all Americans.

There have been other times when there was hope that racism would be, could be addressed in a just and comprehensive manner. Think of the hopes of Reconstruction following the Civil War with the radical retrenchment of rights and respect which followed, the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s with its inherent compromises. But is this now the moment in history when we will truly face the power that racism has on our society? I hope, I pray that this time we will truly perceive the depth of racism in our minds, our hearts and our policies and be willing to address and change our country and ourselves. I, we, have a long way to travel. There is hope in the possibility of a new America even in the face of so much rhetoric to the contrary. In the conclusion to his

book *Christ in Crisis*, Jim Wallis includes some practices which all of us could embrace when we mourn our inability to join the marchers for social justice.

- We need to start each day with a "yes" to our faith and to our own personal and public integrity. We need to say yes to engaged citizenship, civil discourse, service to what is right and courageous resistance to what is wrong.
- We need to have the courage to say "no" when that is required and to whatever is required.
- The opposite of fear is trust, and when fear is the political energy of a nation, we need to rebuild the trust.

JUBILEES

January - March 2021

January

3	ESSEY Jeanette	Krugersdorp	SOUTHERN AFRICA	50
16	BELANGER Pauline	Waterville, Mère Marie Cty	USA CENTER	75
	CARPENTIER Elizabeth	Alton	USA CENTER	70
	CIRONE Virginia	New Orleans	USA CENTER	60
	DILLEN Anne Therese	New Rochelle, Province Center	USA EAST	60
	FANE Eileen	Hastings on Hudson	USA EAST	60
	FINNERTY Kathleen	New Rochelle, Province Center	USA EAST	60
	FROMMULLER Bernadette M.	Kirkwood, St Agnes Home	USA CENTER	60
	HOLMES Mary Anne	New Orleans	USA CENTER	60
	JACOBY Brendan	Springfield	USA CENTER	60
	KEHOE Regina	New Rochelle, Provincialate	USA EAST	70
	KELLY Agnes	New Rochelle, Provincialate	USA EAST	60
	LYNCH Marion	Wilmington	USA EAST	60
	MCMAHON Therese	Hastings on Hudson	USA EAST	60
	POMERLEAU Lorraine	Lewiston, Mère Marie Cty	USA CENTER	75
	REYNOLDS Laura	New Rochelle, St Teresa's	USA EAST	60
27	COUGLE Anne	Mount Gravatt	AUSTRALIA	50
	GUNANTO Emmanuel	Bandung, Provincialate	INDONESIA	60
	MARIANTI Francesco	Jakarta, Jalan Pos	INDONESIA	60
	WILLIAMS Imelda Mary	Sunshine Coast	AUSTRALIA	60

February

15	HERNÁNDEZ LANDINI Martha	Puebla	MEXICO	70
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March

2	GRZEGOREK Estera	Rybnik	POLAND	25
7	REPAK Lilian	Santa Rosa, Provincialate	USA WEST	50
12	ALVES Maria Madalena	Salvador – N.S. da Soledade	BRAZIL	60
	GODIN Marie-Luce	Mons	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
	HUMEAU Marie François	Angers-Nantes	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
	MIGNOT Marie Béatrice	Malet	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
16	COURSELLE Marie-Benoît	Saint Saulve, Merici	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
	GARCIN Jacqueline-Marie	Paris, Provincialate	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70
	HERVÉ Marguerite	Quimperlé	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70
	HOLLENSETT Rosmarie	Saint Saulve, Merici	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
	JARDIN Marie-Thérèse	Lyon, Ecully	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70
	RAVALLEC Clotilde-Angèle	Quimperlé	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70
19	FONTANET Jeanne-Marie de la Croix	Lyon, Ecully	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	75
25	GARDINETTI Annunziata	Desenzano	ITALY	60
	VITALI Adriana	Ngaoundéré	SAINTE ANGÈLE D'AFRIQUE	60
26	KIECKA Ligia	Poznań, Provincial Infirmary	POLAND	70
27	LEROY Anne	Thiès	SAINTE ANGÈLE D'AFRIQUE	50

PROFESSIONS

HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION:

Marlinda Niut	Indonesia	22 May 2020
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HAVE MADE TEMPORARY PROFESSION:

Irene Endah Titisari	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Birgita Junuwa Gama Putri	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Margareta Vilma Tati	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Maria Yeni Cipta Pratama	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Maria Trisantis Deru	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Maria Dwi Saputri	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Melania Kristin Panauma	Indonesia	06 June 2020
Yohana Fransiska Keli	Indonesia	06 June 2020

