

# Inter – Ursuline



January - April 2021

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*Bulletin of the Ursulines  
of the Roman Union*

*Via Nomentana, 236*

*00162 Roma*

*TEL 06-86-22-181*

*EMAIL [sgorosu@ursulines-ur.org](mailto:sgorosu@ursulines-ur.org)*



## Generalate

### NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

#### WELCOME TO SR MERY MALISAN

*After her arrival at the Generalate, as a safety measure, Sr Mery Malisan was in quarantine. Once it was finished, we were, of course, overjoyed to welcome her. Now we can let her speak a little about herself.*

**I** was born in 1978 in South Sulawesi Island in Indonesia.



**I** have 2 brothers and 4 sisters. My first profession was in 2004 and my first mission in Flores. I have spent many years as treasurer in community, in school, in the orphanage, and in studying economy and management.

**I**n 2018, I had a time of immersion and took an English course in Australia. I lived with our sisters in Brisbane. That time gave me a beautiful experience of the spirit of Saint Angela as lived by our sisters in Australia. With two other sisters from Indonesia, I also visited the sisters in the Netherlands. I was amazed at their love for the province of Indonesia – we in Indonesia know that God loves all the missionaries from the Netherlands. After tertianship, I returned to Indonesia and continued as treasurer for the school and the community at St. Ursula's in Jakarta. At the end of October 2020, I came to Rome for the transition period to my new mission as general treasurer. May our unity with each other produce abundant good fruits so that God will be glorified. Soli Deo Gloria.

## THANKS TO SR ARMIDA

### ON THE DAY OF 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROMAN UNION

*On Saturday, 28 November 2020, we had a special double celebration at the Generalate and we will probably remember the atmosphere of that day for a long time.*



**First**, the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Roman Union in 1900. Pope Leo XIII expressed the wish to see all Ursulines united under the authority of one Superior General

living in Rome. After this, 62 of the monasteries decided to join the Union and they received the verbal approval of the Holy Father on November 28. Since the beginning of the Roman Union in 1900, other communities have joined and new provinces been established. Our internationality requires us to develop our thoughts on our unity in diversity so as to be a sign of unity in an often divided world.

**Second, thanks** to our dear Sr Armida Veglio, who is finishing her role as Secretary General and her time at the Generalate.

**D**ue to the pandemic the number of guests who could be invited was limited. However, Sr Jane Livesey CJ, our collaborators Antonella and Emanuela, Sr. Angela Poggi OSU, the two sisters from Nomentana 34 and three of the MSC priests were present. We celebrated a solemn Mass at 11.00 a.m. which included chants accompanied by our novices and the intercessory prayer in different languages.

**D**uring the homily Fr Chris Chaplin MSC, referring to the Gospel, said that the beauty of living a perfect balance or harmony between Unity and Diversity is that it gives the most sublime witness to the true nature of God and that this is the task/calling of our Roman Union - balance and harmony.



**F**r Chris said thank you to Sr Armida, too, for her capacity to step in and be the voice of balance and harmony.

**A**fter the Mass we continued with pre-lunch drinks and then a festive lunch. There was then a surprise for Sr Armida in the form of a performance.



It was a short story about her stay in Rome, rich in various experiences and numerous meetings with sisters.



The performance showed us how much we experienced Sr Armida's goodness and contribution to our lives and how much we owe to her experience and ability to share.

There was also an opportunity to recall briefly the history of the Roman Union. We experienced much joy and beauty of being together.



Many sisters sent photos and wishes for Sr Armida, which were collected and presented in a book which she was very happy to receive.

Dear Sister Armida, we thank God for your gifts and for sharing your knowledge and skills with the whole Roman Union in a beautiful way.



## In Australia

### VIETNAMESE SISTERS RENEW VOWS

*It is some time since we have had a vows ceremony in our province. It's been a great privilege for us to bear witness to the renewal of vows of our two sisters from Vietnam—Minh Trang and Lang. Renewal of vows is a smaller, local ceremony and it took place with the sisters from Mailey Street. Below are reflections from our two sisters on the occasion.*

*This article was written for the September 2020 issue from « Bearings » bulletin from The province of Australia.*

#### Minh Trang

**3<sup>rd</sup>** September was a very happy day. We renewed our vows in the presence of our Australian community and friends. It was a simple and friendly celebration, but at the same time formal. The celebration strengthened my commitment to keep going with Jesus. "Here I am, for you called me" - is Samuel's answer to God when he heard God's voice.

**T**oday, I make Samuel's answer my own and say to God, "Here I am, for you called me." He called my real name and invited me to walk and live with Him through the spirituality of St. Angela. That is His greatest invitation to me. The focus of today's love I just want to say is thank you for all. Thanks for calling and choosing me.



Sr Maria Lang – Sr Minh Trang – Sr Mel

**T**hank you for giving birth to me and to the family that made sacrifices for me to have all my time living for God. Thank you, Sr Brigitte, Sr Ruth and all the Sisters of the province for always supporting and praying for me.

**T**hank you to the Sisters of the Sunshine Coast for coming together and organizing this for us. Thank you, Sr Imelda Mary Williams, for always accompanying and leading the lessons, especially in the spiritual life. Thank you, Sr Lang, who shared her community life here."



*"The grace of God is like the rain which comes down into my life continually and supports me with hands lovely hands.*

*The presence of God helps my life flow peacefully.  
It conducts my life in peace and joy.  
Your love which accompany me, is perfect!"*

(Refain of " Boo la Tình Chúa")

## Maria Lang

*" But I, through the abundance of your  
steadfast love,  
Will enter your house,  
I will bow down toward your holy temple  
in awe of you." (Ps 5:8)*

My dear Sisters,

It is blessing for me because I have lived in a house of God, lived with my Australian Sisters. For me, at one time I didn't recognize that, but when I received some pictures from Sr. Helen, I recognized that I am truly blessed.

*"The grace of God filled my life like the rain, the rain, the rain....*

*How can I requite the Grace of my God?"*

All things are the Grace of God!

I thank my Sisters who were present and celebrated my renewal of vows at the Sisters' houses.

Thanks for Kari's organization, Mel's accompaniment, for Helen's music and photography, for Lee's beautiful cake, and especially for my sisters: Maree, Gay, Anne, Zita who prayed for us on that day.

And I know all my Australian Sisters prayed for us on Thursday, September 3, 2020, especially Sister Ruth. I received a beautiful gift of Angela.

I can only say one word with all my heart: 'thanks'.



Greece

## IN MEMORY OF SR THÉRESSIA FONSOU

On Sunday 20 September 2020, Sr **Théressia Fonsou** celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession in St Nicolas' Church on the island of Tinos. The same evening she died suddenly and went to the Father's embrace.

Here are some extracts from what she shared with everyone during the Mass of thanksgiving that morning.

“To all of you who have expressed your love and your closeness to me on the occasion of my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious life, I address a very warm and friendly THANK YOU. It is so wonderful and so good to feel united in prayer and love despite distances. It is so good to thank God with others and to have only one heart to recognise the greatness of the love of God in our life and to be able to sing with the Church “I have come to meet you.”

...  
Yes, the Lord, my spouse, loved me unto the Cross and he called me to follow him and to be in communion with his Paschal Mystery, at the cost of little difficulties, little crosses, so that others might feel that, in return, one can offer love in suffering, consolation in trials, closeness in solitude.

I thank .... the sisters of my religious family who by their presence and the witness of their lives have helped me to go forward each day and still today, on the path of the religious life... the children and the young people who by their enthusiasm and their spontaneity in the summer camps and catechism classes led me and lead me still in the gift of myself renewed in joy...

I thank you all, ... you have loved me as an Ursuline religious and you have often said it, particularly during the lectio divina, when, for example, at the beginning of my illness, I was kept in Athens, you left the telephone open so that I could hear and participate in the prayers. Is this not the Church?

I thank you, priests with whom I have collaborated in the same vineyard ... this Church in which, with you, I feel I carry a responsibility.

No, not more than any other kind of life, the religious life is not easy, but it's worth it! Now, the more the years pass, and the more I deepen the Lord's call, his Love and the gift of this unique Love to which no other love can be compared, but we must witness to it in the right way. And, as St Angela told us, “provided they believe, and do not lose heart and hope, may they put their hope and their love in God alone... Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything. » (Counsels), even my « infirmity », I consider it as a gift : He gives, He takes away, may his Name be blessed!

To all, I wish that in your life you have this personal encounter with Christ, that we have the courage to leave our boat and to seek ... another sea, with Him, relying only on his strength, on his look of love, on his call and so we will hear him say to us « Maria Théressia », go and tell my brothers and sisters, the young people, the children that you have met me then « come, follow me » just as you are!...”



## France-Belgium-Spain

### CENTENARY OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY OF LARGENTE IN BAYONNE

*1990-2020 : a birthday marking the arrival of the Ursulines in Bayonne in France. It began under the gaze of Saint Angela and continued in 2021, due to the pandemic.*

**O**n Monday 27 January 2020, the feast of Saint Angela, the school community of Largenté launched its centenary celebration. It was a wonderful day with our 1500 students from the nursery school right up to the post-secondary.

**T**he students, divided into intergenerational groups, took part in a celebration presided over by Mgr Aillet, Bishop of Bayonne, in the presence of Sr Brigitte Brunet, Provincial of France-Belgium-Spain



Everyone shared a picnic before enjoying the concerts and games.



A photo of the whole group was taken by drone.



**Clip of 27 January 2020 with the hymn composed for the occasion : “Silver world” or “monde (L)argenté”:** [Mondeargenté](#)

**L**et us go back to the first hours of the Ursulines at Largenté through what was written by Fr. Aguer, chaplain of the Ursuline community:

**“It was Monday 3 January 1920,** It was snowing on... Bayonne. 3 nuns got off the Irun Paris train, with some unusual equipment: a trunk, a pickaxe, a rake, a broom, half a dozen apples... In the evening, we will see them visiting an estate on the heights of Marracq. A strange estate which was accessed by large alleys of 4 rows of plane trees. (...) A pickaxe for Sister Saint-Ignace, a rake for Sister Marie-Julienne, a broom for Sister Claire... A few apples that they shared in a friendly way: thus began the story of the boarding school Largenté.

**T**he next day, in a small weeded square, the first seed was sown of an educational work that would quickly prosper. A very insignificant seed, a pea, a simple little pea ...

(...) Peas... a symbol, an image? It doesn't matter... It was the first seed of this work, humbly created, somewhere over there near Marracq ”. 10 months later, on 12 October 1920, the first pupils arrived.

Thus the community of Ursulines, originally from Saint Sever in the Landes, continued its educational work with an exile of some years in Zarautz in the Spanish Basque country.

Very quickly Largenté became a boarding school for young girls which brought in pupils from both the Landes and the Basque Country. A vibrant Ursuline community was growing there. It had up to sixty religious in the 1950s, when the current chapel was also built.

The beginning of the 1970s corresponded to major changes for the establishment: the arrival of co-education, tertiary baccalaureates, the growing presence of lay teachers who followed the path traced by the Ursuline sisters. The principal of the time Sister Saint Jacques invited people who would actively participate in the development of the establishment and in the vitality of the Merician network at the national level: Michel Saint Genez and Dominique Hiribarren.

Today Largenté is a flagship of Catholic education in the diocese of Bayonne, welcoming, in 2020, 1,500 students from kindergarten to higher education. The Ursuline community will close in a few months, but the Merician roots will always be present thanks to

the laity still engaged today in this mission with young people of various backgrounds.

M. Philippe MAYTE (principal of the school)



Principals during 65 years in Largenté : Sr St Jacques (1955-1989), M. Dominique Hiribarren (1989-2013) (on the left) M. Philippe Mayté (since 2013) (on the right)

For more information:

[www.largente.eu](http://www.largente.eu)

<https://www.facebook.com/LargenteBayonne>

## Readings

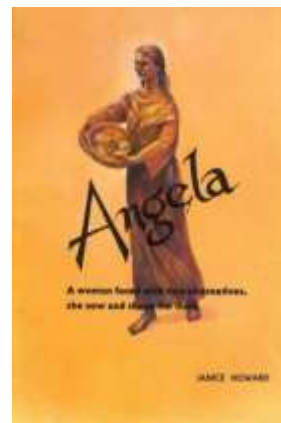
*A section to invite you to read...*

1. *Testimony about the book "Angela" by Janice Howard (from the September 2020 issue of "Bearings" the bulletin of the Province of Australia.)*

At that time (1989), a great deal of correspondence came from Ursuline sisters or from newspapers in response to the book 'Angela', by Janice Howard (Australia).

A more recent one came from Iliana in Greece:

“... I finished reading [it] last week.



I am still thinking about it...although I had some knowledge about St Angela's life I think that this book made her personality alive...

I liked the "subtitle\*" very much, facing two alternatives and seeing a third... I am thinking that this must have been incredible for the 16th century. She was a "feminist" but in a different way that we mean the word today. I think that she wished for other women to be able to live a religious life like she did. A life similar to her own and she brought them together. This way of life is much easier to do today, for a woman, to decide how she wants to live, at least in some parts of the world.

2. *"Un consultant chez les religieuses" (A Consultant to religious) by Mr. Matthieu DAUM, Salvator 2020 Editions. Thanks to Sr Armida Veglio for this article.*

*"A kind of autobiographic essay on my work with religious congregations, telling the stories of both the organisational transformation that I ended up facilitating, and my own transformation, or spiritual conversion, in doing this work. All names of course have been changed, to preserve confidentiality - except mine and those of my colleagues!"*

At the end of my reading this book, I can only describe it as a spiritual autobiography.

Matthieu describes clearly and openly his journey of faith from childhood to the present, the moments of struggle, the moments of desolation, as well as the moments of joy and consolation.

I was struck by his openness and honesty in writing about his family as well as his reactions to specific aspects of the Church. He describes his finding God's presence through the different phases of his life, his professional life as



I was a pupil at the Ursuline High School and I must admit that I am not really a person of faith. Angela Merici's writings, the words that she left for the Ursulines, are a wonderful text and I cannot put into words why I feel that. There is a presence, a warmth, a big embrace in this text.

I am thinking that perhaps today is not so much different than her time but in another way. The restrictions are of a completely different nature now...

Iliana

\*Subtitle: "A woman faced with two alternatives, she saw and chose the third"

psychiatric nurse, as management consultant and as facilitator for religious congregations.

An important theme is "kenosis" – the ability to let go of what is no longer life-giving, in our personal lives, as family or community, as congregation, as Church. Letting go in order to find fuller life.

The religious congregations with whom Matthieu has worked have had their names changed in the book. It is clear how much each of them have given to Matthieu and how much he has given to them, on an organizational and practical level, but much more importantly on a spiritual level.

Those of us who participated in the General Chapter of 2019 experienced Matthieu's manner of facilitation and several provinces have also benefitted from his guidance. We recommend this book to all our sisters. For the moment it is in French, but we encourage Matthieu to have some translations for the benefit of a wider audience.



## ***JUBILEES***

### ***January - April 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
	FRONMULLER 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

#### **April**

3	LANDRIEUX Marie-Colette	Beaugency	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	50
15	BRZOBOHATÁ Marie	Jiřetín	CZECHO-MORAVIA	70
	JURÍCKOVÁ Consolata	Jiřetín	CZECHO-MORAVIA	70
	POLÁKOVÁ Marisstella	Jiřetín	CZECHO-MORAVIA	70
22	YOUNG Felicity	Forest Gate	ENGLAND	60
24	PULACCINI Grazia	Milano	ITALY	75
30	CONZATTI Maria Mercedes	Capriolo	ITALY	70
	RUEANKHAM Nongnut	Bangkok, Vasudevi	THAILAND	25

## ***PROFESSIONS***

### ***HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION:***

Nikolina Klarić	Croatia	28/09/2020
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### ***HAS MADE TEMPORARY PROFESSION:***

Noela Nasimiyu Waliaula	Ireland / Wales / <u>Kenya</u>	31/10/2020
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