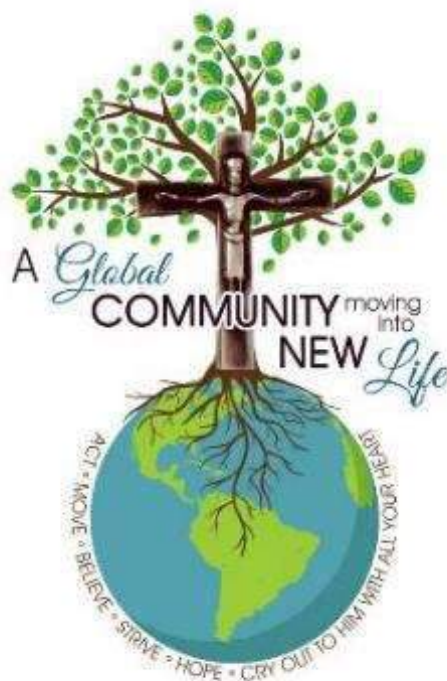


# Inter – Ursuline



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## MISSION WITH THE STUDENTS AT "INSTITUT SERVIAM" (PARIS) AND AT "FOYER MERICI" (ANGERS)

This article is the continuation of the one in the Inter-Ursuline Bulletin May 2021 !

*"Any programme of youth ministry should clearly incorporate various means and resources that can help young people grow in fraternity, to live as brothers and sisters, to help one another, to build community, to be of service to others, to be close to the poor." (Christus vivit 215)*

After having seen, in the previous issue, how community life and openness are lived in the foyers, here are some articles to present the dynamics of service and formation for taking responsibility.

### The dynamic of service

"The Synod recognized that "albeit in a different way from earlier generations, social commitment is a specific feature of today's young people. Alongside some who are indifferent, there are many others who are ready to commit themselves to initiatives of volunteer work, active citizenship and social solidarity. They need to be accompanied and encouraged to use their talents and skills creatively, and to be encouraged to take up their responsibilities. Social engagement and direct contact with the poor remain fundamental ways of finding or deepening one's faith and the discernment of one's vocation." (*Christus vivit* 170)

*The Spirit of Service is experienced through commitment to a workshop within the foyer. Each one commits herself to an activity (1 to 4 hours a month).*

### Prowling the streets

"By joining the Saint Vincent de Paul conference, the 35 students registered for this workshop go in rotation to meet people in the street, once a month. We bring sandwiches, hot drinks, but not only that. Above all, it is a listening ear that is



important. The gift is mutual because the "prowling" workshop is also a way for us who do engrossing and time-consuming studies to extricate ourselves from our daily work bubble and to open our eyes to our littleness in the face of this vertigo that insecurity represents. 'When I come back from the streets, my emotions are divided between the joy of the times when we laugh and the deep sadness that comes over me when I have to leave these people alone again in the dark, the cold ...' We are only passing through in their precarious situation of insecurity. We cannot get them out of the abyss in which they are. The visits, however, in my opinion, are a little spark that brightens their day and are an opportunity to prove to them that all of humanity is not turning its back on them."

*Zoé (Serviam)*

## Educational support



The workshop takes place in the hall at Serviam once a week. The day and time are chosen by the student volunteer depending on her busy schedule. It is a hour given in the service of a young person whose parents are almost always immigrants or very busy with their work. For an hour we help a pupil with academic difficulties and whose mother tongue is not French. We help them with their work for the week or to fill the gaps. Parents appreciate the help and support given by us who dream one day to be teachers.

For me, this workshop embodies Serviam's motto, "I will serve", because each student puts herself at the service of her pupil.

The course is a real place of exchange and this contact is a way of putting aside our personal work and focusing on the progress of our pupil. This workshop enables a real sharing and encounter to take place!

Thanks to this proposal from the workshop at Serviam we have the opportunity of an excellent experience in a pleasant and encouraging situation."

*Jeanne (Serviam)*

## Serviam Green Life

"The Serviam Green Life group meets every week. We are a group of motivated girls, seeking to reconcile our everyday life and our ecological goals within the foyer Serviam.

In a place like Serviam, which is a "High Environmental Quality" building, we feel that our everyday life is consistent with our aspirations. We chose our studies and our accommodation with this in mind.

Our main mission is to educate the students who live with us. Always on the lookout, we offer 'green' projects. Every opportunity is taken to enable the young people of the foyer to become aware of the importance of protecting 'the earth, our common home'. We invite everyone not to waste electricity, water ... Fortunately, in Serviam, everything is done to make everyone feel concerned.



We also participate in the catering commission and we conduct surveys to avoid waste. Organic products (with direct distribution) are promoted. We also organize, between us, an empty room where we put clothes that we no longer use, but that can be reused. We collect all the used pens and there are a number of them... rough paper, bottle tops that will be used to make materials for the disabled. Our most recent activity was to manufacture shampoo based on clay and essential oils.'

*Hilan (Serviam)*



## Visits to the elderly

Sant'Egidio's Youth for Peace and the Young People of 'Institut Serviam'. FRIENDSHIP VISITS Students propose others of the district to give time to make this period more peaceful. Our goal: to fight against isolation and to give life to our district.

“In partnership with the Sant'Egidio Community and Youth for Peace, we visit elderly people in the Latin Quarter once a week.

We go to their homes to bring them some company. The pandemic has made them even more isolated. Always, this is a good time of sharing. Each person who is visited tells us about their experiences. Everyone is committed to sharing what they experience and always with joy. It is also for us, young students who experience demanding studies, a moment of conviviality that breaks the frantic pace of our weeks.” *Louise (Serviam)*



## Responsibility

“There is also a special need to accompany young men and women showing leadership potential, so that they can receive training and the necessary qualifications. The young people who met before the Synod called for programmes for the formation and continued development of young leaders.” (*Christus vivit 245*)

## Our youth leadership programme at Serviam

“The Seraphim are three older students responsible for looking after the Serviam-ettes. On call at night in the event of a problem for a student, they ensure a good atmosphere in the foyer and are close to the students, trying to fulfill the role of ‘big sister’.



The spiritual dimension is an important component of their mission at Serviam: they get involved in Acti'Spi activities, sometimes offering evenings with a spiritual theme and leading prayers. They can also provide some tutoring.

Their presence in the foyer is in keeping with the desire for mutual growth where younger and older girls support each other and exchange with each other, in order to grow in maturity, in a balance in life and in faith. The Spirit of Service is also experienced through the tutoring provided by the Seraphim.” *Faustine (Serviam)*

## Mission leaders: serving together

“After a first year, recognized by the accompanying adults for their skills and as having a talent for leadership, students are called upon, if they wish, to lead a workshop themselves and become ‘mission managers’. These students then



feel useful and know each other better from what they bring to the group. They are proud to be of service to the foyer. Together, young people and adults share this educational project, the common aim of which is "SERVICE": The students at Serviam are linked with the accompanying adults, together they have collective and individual responsibility for the application of the charter which requires a SERVIAM commitment. " (Extract from the charter of Institut Serviam)

“Last year, in May 2019, I wrote an application letter to spend another year at Serviam. I had had a great year despite its unexpected end. It had been punctuated in particular by Thursday evenings with the orchestra, each evening exploding with joy and sharing from one week to the next. At the start of the university year, the composition of the orchestra would change and I wanted once again to fully experience the Serviam Spirit, where each one finds her place and is irreplaceable for the rest of the orchestra.

This year I experienced a new way of living the Serviam Spirit, a new way of giving and serving. As a project manager with Marianne, I organized rehearsals not for six but for about fifteen musicians. We also had to arrange all the scores because our orchestra is composed of instruments that do not go together very often (I have rarely seen a harp with an electric guitar, 2 classical guitars, 8 flutes, 2 pianos, a melodica, a violin and a cello!). From then on, I had the responsibility to face the obstacles that we encountered during rewriting of scores, during rehearsals... I discovered this new aspect of the Serviam Spirit of giving oneself beyond the hours of rehearsal, of giving time and never faltering when we had doubts or questions.

I will end with this excerpt from ‘First on the Rope’ by Roger Frison-Roche which reminds me of this past year as a project manager which the Lord has given me to experience in the fullness of self-giving. ‘Pierre Servettaz had just experienced the most complete satisfaction that a mountaineer can have, that of going first. He had ceased to follow blindly, calmly, peacefully; he had become the leader, the one who commands, who fights, who takes his responsibilities and on whom depend the lives entrusted to him. He felt cut out for this role, and the prospect of future struggles he would have to sustain filled him with joy.’

*Justine (Serviam)*

*In order to perpetuate these two educational structures and allow young people to continue living the Serviam Spirit, the management of our two foyers will be entrusted to lay people at the start of the next academic year. There will no longer be an Ursuline community on site; the presence of the sisters will be different. Currently, we are working to set up a new organization to promote teamwork in a network, between sisters and lay people, so that Merician pedagogy remains at the heart of our foyers..*



## Sainte Angèle d'Afrique/Senegal

### NEWS FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL AND THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AT SANDIARA

Dear friends,  
Good morning !

We greet you and give you some news from our schools:

The Covid 19 pandemic has also affected our country. Together we have been through a time of trial which is still going on. We have experienced some difficult moments. Teaching was interrupted for 7 months last year. The teachers gave sets of exercises every week, for a few months, to help the students keep up with their work. In the villages there is no possibility of following courses over the internet ... many do not yet have electricity. You can imagine that the return to school was very tough. Most of the children had forgotten everything, or almost.



*Teachers playing the tom-tom*

At present we are observing the restrictions as best we can. In our Schools in Sandiara: the Preschool "Sainte Angèle Merici" and the Primary school "Saint Charbel Makhlouf", we have acquired for each class a hand basin, a bucket-fountain with a tap where each child can fill their drinking bottle and thermos. Pupils and staff wear masks. In this way we participate in the fight against the Pandemic.

The new school year began a month late compared to previous years: 5 November for the teachers and 12 November 2020 for the pupils. During the first two months, the teachers brought the students up to speed by going over part of the programme from the previous year. It was not until January 2021 that they started the new programme.

The school year continues with less vacation time. The end of the school year will be one month later than usual;



*Parents with Sister Christine*

according to the school calendar: mid-August for teachers and in July 2021 for our pupils.



*Mardi gras 2021*

The consequences of Covid 19 are affecting many families around us, especially those of our pupils. Some have not yet been able to pay what they owe in school fees, supplies or for meals. For many it is a difficult time. Some have lost their jobs. The weekly Sandiara market,

which is an important economic factor, has been closed for many months. Can you imagine the lack of income of those who sell their vegetables, eggs, goats ... or who offer transport them by cart or other means?

For the farmers, it is the dry season: grass is becoming scarce, and the



reserves of last October's harvest are dwindling. They are starting to prepare the fields for the new sowing, with hope of rain beginning in July.

Despite all this, we do not want to send the children away. On the other hand, the school continues to regularly pay the salaries of teachers and all the staff, as well as other charges.

The cart transporting the children from surrounding villages continues and enables many children to attend our school. We help pay for part of this transport. Without this help, parents would not be able to be sure to get their children to school..



*Ndiouck cart 04 2021*

The canteen is very popular with all the children in the villages around Sandiara. They are generally the poorest. This year, about 60 children are receiving four meals a week. Study time is organized at the start of the afternoon after a short break. This time is important for their academic success. Most of them don't have light in their houses.

The numbers in our schools have gone up this year: at Saint Charbel Makhoul Primary School we have a total of 242 students divided into 5 classes. At the Preschool Sainte Angèle Merici, we have a total of 109 students in 3 sections. 54% of all are girls. We opened the CM1 class this year. This is the first generation of Primary School. They are 42 pupils. We had the joy of welcoming a young sister, member of the community of the Ursuline Sisters in Sandiara, as a new teacher: Sister Catherine Bop takes the CI class (Initiation Class; first Primary class in our system).

Dear friends, we thank you very much for all you do for our schools! Many children benefit from it. Otherwise, we could not continue to welcome them. Your help and donations are divided into these various headings: schooling, canteen, school supplies and transport. The families are very grateful to you! We are sending you their gratitude.



*Celebration of the Feast of St Angela, 26 January 2021*



The whole school community including the pupils say: "THANK YOU very much! Jërëjëuf bu baax (wolof), Njokojal a paax (seerer) !"

Our greetings to you and your collaborators everywhere.

The Principal, *Sr Christine FAYE, osu*

## Ireland/Wales and Kenya

### JOURNEY TO GROUP IN TRANSITION.

*Sr Teresia Muhuhu and Sr Anne-Harte Barry*

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1957 the arrival of four Irish Ursuline missionaries ushered in a new dawn of God's presence in Kitui Diocese in Kenya.

From small and simple beginnings, the mission in Kenya reached out to the needs of the people. The Irish sisters quickly got involved in teaching, healing, and pastoral ministries. They began schools under diocesan management: Mutito Boys, St Angela Girls, and Mutune Girls Primary School, Mutune Social Centre, Kitui and Kitale Teacher Training Colleges. Down



the decades this ripple of Ursuline education has swelled into a wealth of empowered individuals who are productive citizens of Kenya. The Irish sisters working in the dispensary in Mutune touched the lives of the people with respect and compassion. Other sisters fed, clothed and taught catechism. When a teacher, a lawyer, a medic etc. humbly confesses to wearing their first shoe courtesy of an Ursuline sister, it is a living testimony of the experience of

God's unconditional love and care. We recently witnessed this affirmed as the Christians buried our young Sr. Philomena as an icon of who the Ursuline sisters have been to them for 64 years.



In the 1970s the Irish sisters responded to the call of the desert and began working among the Turkana people who faced semi-arid challenges. Turkana Girls School, still led by an Ursuline, stands out today as an excellent education institution. People who benefited from Ursuline presence are grateful to the sisters for being a beacon of hope in their lives.



The 1980's ushered in a new dawn as some young Kenyan girls, impressed by the lives of the Irish sisters in the desert, insisted that they be allowed join them. For almost forty years the Kenyan sisters have followed in the footsteps of their Irish sisters, ministering in the same fields with a cre

ative newness. Serving in poor public schools, poor government hospitals, among the orphans, in informal settlements etc. they tangibly bring God's love and desire for fullness of life for all.

The Spirit of St. Angela is alive. As the new millennium dawned the Kenyan sisters gradually took on roles of responsibility until all leadership was in the hands of Kenyans and the maturity of the Region was plain to see.

Meanwhile the General Chapter of Ursulines of the Irish Union 2011 mandated the exploration of broader links with the global Ursuline family. A discernment process followed which resulted in a decision to join the Roman Union as the **Ireland Wales Kenya Province** on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2018.



The Provincial Leadership Team and the Regional Leadership Team worked closely together and enjoyed Enlarged Leadership Team experiences. As we looked at integrating province structures more closely it became obvious that the Irish status and

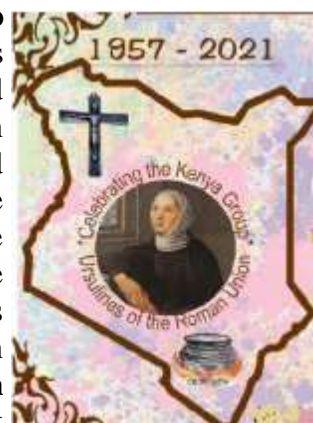


the Kenya status in the Ireland, Wales, Kenya Province of the Roman Union called for a further discernment with its distinct nature of being in two continents, Europe and Africa. There was danger of cramping the Kenyan style by burdening them with challenges of diminishment while they are spreading their wings with youthful energy and mission. It was obvious that governance structures needed to adjust. Deep down we all suspected that the Kenyan future lay somewhere else, but we expected to have more time to grow as Province than was given us.



As we grappled with these questions in 2020 the General Council listened, studied the situation and offered a possibility of Kenya becoming a **Group in Transition to Province**. All the sisters in Ireland, Wales and Kenya discerned and prayed and shared the fruits with each other. In Ireland, proud of our Kenyan sisters, and wanting growth and freedom for the

Kenyans, we found that we believed that they were ready for the journey to province. In Kenya our sisters claimed their maturity while realistic about the challenges ahead. A consultation process culminated in the ceremony on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 when Sr Susan Flood, Prioress General, established the **Kenya Group in Transition to Province**. There is pain of loss, of fear for the unknown future but deeper is the joy as was experienced and witnessed in the wonderful live streamed ritual



<https://youtu.be/3B9BfoWsyPA>

The future is bright. Ireland, Wales and Kenya have become members of the global community in a new way still bound by bonds of love. The ongoing connections will be strengthened. Sr Clare, working in St. Columba's Technical College, now has Interprovincial Service status. We are enjoying zoom book club sharing together and look forward to visits and lots more besides.

Kenyan rootedness in the Roman Union is deepening and the mentorship of Sr Neusimar, our link person, is an experience of global community. We look forward to Tertianships, immersion opportunities and much more to deepen our connectedness.

A journey of over sixty years begun with four Irish sisters setting out to face a world far from home to a different climate and culture is completed with 40 Kenyan sisters standing strong and tall, deeply Angeline, educated, dedicated, strong in faith and charisma, ready to take their place as equals on the Roman Union stage.



## Cambodia

### NEWS OF MARCH 2021

**Community:** After a long time away from the Battambang community, due to the impact of COVID and related travel restrictions and isolation demands, Sr Sensa, has finally returned to Cambodia, to join Sr Entin and Sr Songsaeng, in their community at Chrab Viel.



While they have been managing to continue their commitments to ministry over the last few weeks, in some format or other, the Government has now officially declared Battambang, a Province with COVID infections.

All schools and educational facilities have, once again, been required to shut down, in accordance with these new Government regulations. Prior to this total lockdown, students were only allowed to attend school 2 days a week, with a maximum of 25 students in each session. Our sisters managed these restrictions well, still offering school attendance to the children, in two groupings, twice a week.



It is now again, a difficult time for staff, students and families as they adjust to being unable to attend school face to face, as well as for the locals in the villages and towns, dependent on some employment to reduce the impact of poverty in their lives. We continue to support and pray for our sisters and all those suffering in many ways, economically, health-wise and psychologically, during these times of uncertainty and disruption.

**Sisters' House:** We are now in the process of planning and negotiating the construction of a house for our sisters in Chrab Viel village. It will be built within the same grounds as the schools and the parish church. The sisters are presently living in a rented house, which will no longer be available to them by the end of the year. We are hoping their new house will be completed by this time.

**Kindergarten Mother of Peace »:** We have 205 students on the Kindergarten list! The Kindergarten now has some fresh, newly-built toilets, for their students.



These were possible through the generosity of donations from schools connected to

Ursulines.

The students' safety has also been enhanced by the



building of a new fence to prevent entry onto other nearby properties.



The students are learning to look after their natural environment, while participating in key learning areas in the classroom and learning to work together to achieve their goals.



The children also receive a delicious, nourishing meal daily, to help them continue with their times of learning, as well as learning how to clean up their lunch dishes.



Staff are trying to have the children wear their face masks as a COVID safe practice. However, they have found it difficult getting the three year olds to follow this and keep their masks on! After about 30 minutes, a couple will throw them away and then the others follow!

Recently, the teachers and staff of Mother of Peace Kindergarten, Chrab Viel village, visited Taken Kindergarten, which is under the direction of Fr Kike. The aim of the visit was to build relationships and share experiences with each other.



The Mother of Peace Kindergarten staff team, in turn, also had visitors from Don Bosco Kindergarten (this belongs to the Don Bosco priests). The aim of these visits is to build up a sense of collaboration between educators and share ideas as to



how best to meet the needs of the families they serve in this area.

**P**Primary school « Mother of Peace »: Construction of Mother of Peace Primary school has now been completed!

**A**s you can see from these images, the buildings are well built and inviting in their newness. Everyone is very proud of this new addition to the educational facilities provided for families in Chrab Viel and surrounding villages.



*Flag Pole donated by the builders.*

**I**t was hoped that the students would transition from their current classrooms, in the Ursuline Learning Centre, into the new classrooms of the new Mother of Peace Primary School building, in April. However, with the new COVID lockdown, these plans may need to be adapted. A small blessing ceremony, to welcome students and staff to their new learning environment, conducted by the Parish priest, Fr Bongbong, is planned for May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Again, the COVID situation may demand some flexibility around this celebration.

**A** more formal and official opening of the new school is being planned for some time in 2022, when, hopefully, more Ursulines from the Asia Pacific region, will be able to travel to be part of this significant celebration.



*Sr Songsaeng and Bishop Kike inspect the new building.*

**M**eanwhile, students are seeing how St. Angela's focus on respect and harmony, applies here, as they learn the importance of caring for their new learning environment and care for one another. Student attendance has now been affected with the recent COVID lockdown, as parents worry about the virus and choose to keep their children at home.

**W**e offer our deep gratitude to the Provinces of the Asia Pacific Region and their sisters for their financial support towards this project, to the General Council for their generosity in approving our Insieme Grant request and for the many Provinces and Ursuline schools around the Institute, who continue to contribute so generously to this mission and this project. We offer our thanks also, to the many people who worked tirelessly, attentively and creatively, to complete the new school buildings and who support the mission in many ways. We thank Sr Songsaeng, Sr Entin and Sr Sensa, in particular, for their consistent attention and presence during each stage of the construction process, negotiating and managing many aspects of this, even amidst the COVID pandemic. Sr Songsaeng has maintained a detailed photo history of all phases of the building works, which will become a valuable memory of this stage of the mission's history.

We also give thanks to Fr Bongbong, PP and Mr Tom Chheat – Principal (nominated Cambodian) whose knowledge, experience and advice, throughout the phases of the building, has been valuable and much appreciated in ensuring a safe and high quality construction.

The construction company has also been generous in providing a number of additional resources, free of charge.



*The official start of the new school year included the village chiefs of Phum Chrab and Phum Bang villages.*

## USA West

### NUN OFFERS LIFE-CHANGING CARE AND ENCOURAGEMENT AT ANGELA'S PIAZZA

*Empowering vulnerable women, April 13, 2021*

In Billings, Montana, just outside the expansive Crow Indian Reservation, sits a small white frame house on a busy street. Over 1,500 women a year walk through the door of this modest place, where they find the warm welcome and steady guidance of Sister Mary Dostal, an Ursuline nun and former Lumen Christi



finalist, operating “Angela’s Piazza,” a Catholic Extension-supported drop-in center.

Angela’s Piazza is designed to meet the immediate needs of women by providing food and clothing. Through its many empowerment and companionship programs, including parenting classes and addiction recovery groups, it also provides support for vulnerable women seeking to forge a hopeful future.

**A** life changed forever  
Melissa was 18 when she met Sister Dostal. She and her mom, who was in addiction recovery, wanted to attend a women’s empowerment conference. Sister Dostal paid their way.

Inspired by what she learned at the conference, Melissa returned to Angela’s Piazza. With whole-hearted support from Sister Dostal, they established “Daughters of Tradition,” a program that helps Native American girls, ages 8–13, create healthy identities for themselves.

*“Melissa did not have a lot of parental structure growing up and she struggled,” explained Sister Dostal. “She wanted to help other young girls avoid similar difficulties.”*

Melissa was very dedicated to the success of the program and savored every moment. She wanted to do more with young people, but she needed higher education to do so. She felt she would be forever stuck in her job at a fast-food restaurant. Then Sister Dostal suggested college.

*“She was reluctant at first,” said Sister Dostal. “She had tried a semester after high school but got pregnant and dropped out. Reflecting on it now, all she really needed was someone to believe in her and help her to overcome obstacles along the way.”*

It took nearly seven years for her to finish school, with Sister Dostal tutoring, babysitting and ensuring access to

computer resources. Today Melissa teaches first graders at a local Catholic school.



*“God created us to be in community,”* said Sister Dostal. *“He wants us to be a support to one another.”*

**A**n immense land of limited opportunity The Diocese of Great-Falls Billings covers an astounding 94,000+ square miles, a land mass larger than the entire United Kingdom. Sister Mary Dostal is one of only 38 religious sisters to serve this diocese, which is home to five tribal nations.

**T**he largest of the diocese’s tribal lands, the Crow Indian Reservation, spans 2.2 million acres, with its northwestern border only 10 miles from the city of Billings, where some go to live or pursue job opportunities. In their search for opportunity, they often encounter poverty, compounded by loss of community and cultural identity. Women can find themselves trapped in abusive relationships.

**A**ngela’s Piazza offers education and supportive care for abuse survivors, providing a place where others will understand their situation. *“They share what works for them and what doesn’t,”* said Sister Dostal. *“Together they see possibilities. Having their feelings and ideas validated helps them grow and become empowered.”*

Sister Dostal understands that these women’s stories begin years before they come to her—in the past she has met many children with their mothers, only to see them struggle through similar issues as they grow up.

*“These kids are just so full of life,”* said Sister Dostal. She prays often for their

protection. But she also puts her prayer into action

*“I feel a real sense of duty to help bring out all that wonderful God-given potential.”*



## **H**elping women support each other

Angela’s Piazza operates on a shoestring budget, so they rely on the generosity of others.

In August, Sister Dostal received a grant from the Sisters on the Frontlines initiative, a program that aims to give 1,000 Catholic sisters \$1,000 each to help those most impacted by the adverse effects of COVID-19. Additional support this past year has come through Catholic Extension’s Catholic Kinship initiative designed to help the poorest Catholic communities in the wake of the pandemic.

**W**ith the funding, Sister Dostal helped a mother, Raniza, and her family of six after she lost her job due to the pandemic. Monies helped pay for food, rent and a large portion of Raniza’s laptop purchase so that she could study for a new certification.

Another woman helped by the center is Isabella. For her, Angela’s Piazza has been life-changing.

*“I am surrounded by women with similar wounds,”* she said. *“In the groups, we heal together. This community of women shares ways of giving back to ourselves, healing our souls. We learn how to be comfortable in our own skin.”*

When Sister Dostal helps one woman embrace their God-given dignity and

talents, she believes they can empower others to do the same. The steady love that Sister Dostal shares at Angela's Piazza has transformational power. It ripples through

countless challenging lives, creating the potential for healing and recovery.

## European Novitiate

### TESTIMONIES OF APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCES

*In the European novitiate, as in all our novitiates in the Institute, the two apostolic experiences are important times in the second year of the novitiate. For Sister Margareta (from Croatia) and Sister Thérèse (from France) it also meant a time spent in their provinces! The two experiences, which in past years took place at two different periods of the second year of novitiate, this time took place between mid-February to mid-April to make it simpler in terms of travelling in this pandemic time.*

*What do the apostolic experiences consist of? One of them is more connected to our community life and the apostolate of the province. The Formation booklet describes it as a time "spent in an Ursuline community where the Novice lives the life of the community and takes part in its works."*

*The second experience is called a "liminal experience". The Formation booklet explains that it is a time "where the Novice is confronted by the social realities of our world and where she can see how she personally responds to the challenge. She can evaluate how the contemplative development of her first year of the Novitiate helps her to deal with this apostolic activity."*

*As you can imagine these two experiences are "a good source of learning and discernment". We asked Sr Thérèse and Sr Margareta to share something of this special time.*

“**S**ee then how important is this union and concord. So, long for it, pursue it, embrace it, hold on to it with all your strength; for I tell you, living all together thus united in heart, you will be like a mighty fortress, or a tower impregnable”  
*(Last Counsel)*



**W**anting to write about what has been woven in these two months of apostolic experience in my Province, I have to put community first: communion in every way, in the parish, in the kindergarten, but above all the communion

we live in our communities. This is what was most important and most beautiful and what I felt I needed most. This is what made my apostolic experience so special!

**I** spent the first month in our kindergarten “St. Anđela Merici” in Zagreb. Due to the earthquake in March 2020, the kindergarten was damaged, so work in the rooms of the kindergarten was not possible. So, for now, the kindergarten has only one mixed group. During this month I learned a lot of important lessons, but the most important one was about justice. One afternoon in the kindergarten, I was playing with the kids one of their favorite games. I had to run after them and catch them, and when I caught them they had to remain “frozen” until one of their friends came and “thawed” them. When I grabbed one boy by the hood, he complained that it wasn’t fair, while I claimed it was. He remained “frozen”, but not for long. As



soon as I turned, he ran after me and took off my veil. I believe he wanted to show me how the same rules apply to me and how that is fair. If nothing else, the other kids were overjoyed to see that I have hair, although I disappointed them a bit, because it wasn't as long as they expected.

The experience of the community life and communion, especially prayer communion, with the sisters in Vlaška colored the pages I have written during those two months. The daily gathering at the feet of Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist was for me a sign of communion which later manifested itself in every aspect of our lives and from which, I must admit, it was very difficult for me to separate.

I spent the second month in the kindergarten "Cekin" in Slavonski Brod. The special feature of this kindergarten is that it follows the program of Maria Montessori, especially on the education and socialization of children with disabilities. Since the Kindergarten and the Polyclinic are located in the same place, in addition to the kindergarten program, children with disabilities have the opportunity to use rehabilitation therapies in the Polyclinic "Zlatni cekin" on a daily basis. When I saw one of the girls who came to kindergarten in the morning with a large medal for bravery stuck on her T-shirt, I asked her what it meant. She told me that she had been to the dentist and that

**L**iminal experience  
These two months of experiences were rich in meetings and sharing. This time was very formative.

For the beginning of my apostolic experience I was fortunate to be welcomed by the community of Beaugency. There I was able to share the daily life of the



she had been very courageous. I praised her, and she replied that she was really very courageous, but that this was not the only time she was courageous. She told me: "I fought for my life and I succeeded, I was very courageous." In fact she spoke to me about the heart surgery she had. Meeting children with disabilities and those who will remember their childhood in hospitals and surgeries and on the other hand witnessing events that show their togetherness and acceptance by other children certainly made me think about the importance of community and the beauty it can achieve.

**A**nd again, I have to mention the community life with the sisters in Slavonski Brod. A communion that gives birth to love, care and tenderness, a communion that remembers interesting, funny, joyful and special moments from the past, a communion that leads to Christ and that unites all more closely with Him.

**W**ith wonderful impressions and memories, I returned to Rome, and our novitiate community also continues its path of communion, a communion that strengthens us and makes all difficulties simpler.

*Sr Margareta*

community, helping the sisters in the kitchen, with the liturgy or in the garden. They shared with me their love for the Word, each one from their own personal approach, which made me want to deepen my biblical knowledge.

**I** had the opportunity to discover the Archives! Impressive treasures, witnesses of the History of our Community.

In spite of covid I was able to accompany a sister to the school to share with the children on the beginning of Lent. I also had the chance to participate in the installation of Gospel scenes in one of the churches



with the ladies of the parish. I was impressed with their work. The

sisters were preparing a time of prayer with other parishioners from different villages, to share on the Gospel of the following Sunday of Lent. I was very happy to join them and to rediscover the richness of parish life. The sisters also introduced me to a historical place in the area that has witnessed centuries of Christianity: the Basilica of Notre Dame de Cléry.

On my return from the *liminal experience* I enjoyed coming back to Beaugency and sharing what I had experienced and I had the great honor to participate in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Sr. Marie-Colette! On this occasion we had mass in another historical place: the church of Notre-Dame des Miracles in Orléans.

The liminal experience took place at the Campus of Transition. It is a place of



research and training whose objective is to discover an alternative way of life taking into account the constraints of a finite planet. They seek to live an ecological, economic and social transition in kindness, trust and tolerance. I had the pleasure of being immersed in a tide of youth in search of meaning, young people in search of the

means to reconcile their way of life with their values. It is a place in the line of Laudato Si, even if it is non-confessional.



So I participated in the different activities necessary for life on the site: vegetable garden, animal care, cooking, housekeeping, laundry... I appreciated the richness and diversity of the exchanges. I discovered new words and concepts like Woofing, "écolieux" (ecoplaces), ZAD (Zone to Defend), *Free Currency*, *Active Listening*...

We had exchanges and training about money, non-violent communication, energies (nuclear, solar...), lacto-fermentation, solar ovens... There were also times for games and manual activities (Easter egg decoration, chocolates, origami...).



I appreciated the relationship in this place between

work and time and the importance given to the person and to the quality of the relationship rather than to the search for any kind of profitability, while respecting the rhythm of each person. I felt the confidence in the capacity of each one to enrich the common life by giving what he or she is. I appreciated the energy that most of them had to realize what they wanted to do, respecting the beliefs and diversity of each one, the free exchanges and contributions, the desire to share.

I thank my Provincial and her Council for allowing me to have this experience

*Sr Thérèse*



## Indonesia

### *CARITAS CHRISTMAS CROSS CHALLENGE ("4C")*

As we know, the covid 19 pandemic has totally changed our life style: we keep on using face shields or masks, washing hands, keeping physical distance and avoiding crowds. Offices, shops, restaurants and schools have to minimize their activity or even close. Economic activities and trade have had no good fortune.

Students still learn from their home. In Indonesia, and especially outside Java, schools could not afford to pay non-permanent teachers' salaries or upgrade facilities. People are concerned about this situation and want to help others to deal with it.



Caritas Indonesia, a humanitarian organization under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Indonesia (KWI), together with the Indonesian Jesuit Alumni Association

(AAJI), the KWI Education Commission and the Jakarta Archdiocese's Daya Dharma Institute (LDD-KAJ), initiated the movement in Indonesia and 17 other countries. Its fund raising is called Caritas Christmas Cross Challenge. At least 3000 people including 900 priests and religious were running, walking and cycling.

"Confused, don't understand how to beat the challenges": that's how the Ursulines

felt. Some said that they were not quite sure if there are any good people wanting to spend their money for charity-

But Ursulines wanted to join 4C. First, only a few sisters joined then it reached hundreds of Ursulines. 137 sisters were ready to walk, jog or cycle in their own places - Indonesia, East Timor, the Philippines and Italy. Besides Ursulines there were many other groups who joined 4C. Unexpectedly it became an international movement.

The challenges started in December 2020. The Ursulines had 5 teams and contacted a lot of their friends and relatives to donate through Ursuline teams. They prepared the apps Strava and Aktivin on their gadgets. When they started to walk, they had to turn on the Strava and Aktivin so that their activities could be recorded and seen by others. Donations were converted into points. One point equalled Rp. 50.000.

Ursulines didn't beat other groups but they got donations. The more donations they got, the more points they have to complete. Donors and supporters could see their progress through Aktivin.

Of course there were challenges such as not being able to activate Strava and Aktivin, incompatible gadgets, poor internet connections. Some sisters got tired, felt pain or had less time. Some were busy for the school semester before the Christmas holiday.



## Caribbean/Guyana

### ST. ANN'S ORPHANAGE - 170<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On July 2nd 1847, less than 50 years after the country had been ceded to the British and barely 9 years after the emancipation of slaves in the colony, at the invitation of the Vicar Apostolic, Bishop Hynes O.P., six Ursuline Sisters coming from Sligo in Ireland, set foot on the soil of British Guiana, a foreign and unknown country, to establish an Ursuline presence here.

Exactly 4 years later, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1851, Bishop Hynes brought two little girls from the Palms, a Home for the elderly, and asked the Sisters to take care of them. They were soon joined by other homeless girls and thus began St. Ann's Orphanage which has continued unbroken for 170 years.

In the early 1940's there were 102 girls there being cared for by one Sister, another Sister assisting her, a matron, a seamstress, a cook and a washerwoman who did the laundry of the whole orphanage as well as the bishop's clothes – without a washing machine or detergent!



Today, partly because of covid-19, there are only 23 girls being cared for by one Sister, an assistant administrator, a matron and six caregivers, but these girls are far more difficult to manage than previous generations due to serious changes in society, media influence, peer pressure, and other personal problems.

Financially, we have been able to survive by the grace of God with the help of generous benefactors from among our Sisters in different parts of the world, - one Sister had her parish adopt us (St. Ann's Parish in Ossining, NY), other Catholic charities and countless local persons of all ages, races, religions and social classes.

To mark the occasion of our 170 anniversary, the whole Home was treated to a major face lift damaged parts were repaired, furniture renovated, new curtains hung, everywhere thoroughly cleaned and fresh coats of paint to brighten our stairways.

On the morning of the day itself, our favourite priest came to bless our refashioned grotto and the whole Home.



During the day, staff and children enjoyed a special lunch and other treats. The high light of our celebration was our Mass in the afternoon of July 3, celebrated by our Bishop Francis Alleyne, O.S.B. in a beautifully decorated chapel. At this Mass, besides our children, the staff and our Sisters, we had invited limited numbers of other religious congregations, members of our Board of Advisers and some outstanding benefactors. The processions at the beginning and end of the Mass were led by six of our girls in a joyous dance specially prepared for the occasion. That night everyone went to bed happy and satisfied.



**D**uring all this time, because of the generous gifts we are receiving of foodstuff and other useful supplies, we are able to help dozens of persons who come to us for help because of the hardships they are experiencing on account of covid-19.

**I**n all this we give praise and thanks to our good Lord whose loving providence

has sustained us throughout these years, sometimes by almost miraculous rescues, and for the many children who have left us and not only have been successful in their careers, but have shown by their spirit of service and generosity that our efforts have borne fruit in their lives.

## Italy

### EASTER 2021 AT SETTEVILLE DI GUIDONIA



**D**uring our preparation for Easter in our parish of Santa Maria in Setteville, we experienced an intense time of prayer, attentive listening to the word of God, catechesis and celebrations of the sacraments.

**W**e entered the week with a great desire to participate in the Easter triduum, the vigil - "night of nights", to pass with Christ from death to new life! Easter!!! Listening to the preaching, which, during the catechesis, gave us back momentum; hope to start over, despite the heaviness, suffering, fears and uncertainties of the pandemic. *"Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our life means feeling compassion for the wounds of Christ crucified ... let's start again, wrote Pope Francis, let's learn the amazement of the Lord's infinite love that traces new paths, within the paths of our defeats".*

**A**nd this Easter we witnessed a miracle, a visible sign of the Lord's mercy, in great joy: a young man named **Liam** who attended post-confirmation classes for several years, asked for Baptism!

**I**would like to give some explanation regarding the **Neocatechumenal Way**, *an itinerary of "Christian initiation" and "ongoing education in the faith"*, repeatedly confirmed by the Church as a "Gift of the Holy Spirit; and, above all, it is a Way of Evangelization for our days. A walk that through the announcement of the news of the kerygma, has opened the door of faith to many people. And, through the door of faith, the new life of Christ has entered into the lives of many people; and, through the grace of faith, conversions, healings, the Yes to life, to children, readiness for forgiveness and willingness to share. Communities have arisen everywhere and have truly become bearers of evangelization to the ends of the earth. It is impressive to see how hundreds of

families, families with numerous children, stand up and make themselves available for the Mission, the New Evangelization " (from Text by Kiko Arguello "The Kerygma in the barracks with the poor". ed S Paolo 2012).

I had the opportunity to participate with some families of our parish, on the occasion of World Family Day with Pope Benedict XVI, in Milan. At the request for missionaries for the new evangelization, about two thousand families came forward... a river of people ... many couples with their children ... brothers who offered to go anywhere in the world to evangelize!

We know that the preaching and proclamation of the Gospel is the work of the Holy Spirit who accompanies the preachers. The Holy Spirit not only inspires them, but puts himself inside the one who is listening, so that he can believe in the announcement.

One listens and his life changes, thanks to the fact that the Word enters him. This is faith (Rom 8:16) - this testimony that opens the eyes and transforms, is the work of the Holy Spirit!

In our parish several communities have been born during these years - and a few years ago **the new experience of Post-Confirmation began** for young people who have received the sacrament of Confirmation.

The purpose of this service is to create a support, a healthy environment for young people who go through this sensitive stage characterized by great changes (physical, psychological and affective) in a relatively short time, during which the horizon of their social relationships expands (entry into high school, greater independence from the family, new friendships, etc.), with frequent conflicts with their parental figures.

This development leads to the search for new friendships and points of

reference with respect to previous ones, especially with respect to their family of origin; here is where the godparents come into the scene and act as "shock absorber" by cooperating in the educational work with the parents. These are the founding elements, the guiding ideas that are the mechanism of this experience: the families of the godparents of the PostConfirmation, that thanks to many years of Christian initiation in the Neocatechumenate Way, are capable of an authentic Christian testimony of mutual forgiveness and openness to life and put themselves at the service of these young people in communion with the parish priest and their own catechists. This model, revealed by God for the integral education of the person, is today more than ever requested by the families of those being catechized. The family is therefore given as the first point of reference for young people, so that it is an effective sign of unity, fidelity and fruitfulness whose members act as godparents for the children. Priests, in communion with the parish priest, their catechists and with these families, can bear witness to the serenity and joy that obedience to the call of the Lord can give and, in the image of the Good Shepherd, can offer the sacraments of mercy and the Body and Blood of Christ as they preside over the liturgical assembly and breaking the Bread of the Word.

The small group: each pair of godparents begins this experience with a group of a maximum of 8 children; this allows for greater attention to the individual person and allows for each one to be more open and sincere.

The house of the godparents: three out of four meetings take place at the home of the godparents; this family environment is particularly welcoming.

The Bible, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" with its "Compendium" is the basic reference texts for the contents of the catechesis and the preparation of the catechists themselves. It is a long path that begins immediately after

Confirmation until maturity. Every Friday throughout the year they meet with the godparents. The monthly cycle consists of four meetings; they always begin with the fourth commandment, because behind this there is a "Promise!" (Deut 5:16: *"Honour your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."*).

**L**iam's story: he arrived at the post-confirmation meetings together with his school friend Antonello. His parents are separated; he lives with his father who has remarried, and he visits his mother in Canada during the summer holidays. When he joined this group he was struck by Stefano and Anna and in particular by Stefano as a father figure. He was fond of him, listened to him, and obeyed him and remained faithful to all the Friday meetings.



**N**ot having been baptized and seeing his active and faithful participation, his godparents invited him to think about the sacrament of baptism as a good thing for his life, without ever forcing it. Unfortunately the lockdown due to the Covid pandemic and Stefano's sudden death took a great toll on him. But even without Stefano, he continued to participate in meetings with the others, receiving a strong witness of faith from Anna. They shared with her this moment of pain, mourning and detachment.

**B**efore Easter Anna invited him to go with her to the cemetery. Anna spoke to him about her last days with Stefano and

her experience of how the Lord made her strong ..., inviting him again to think about



being Baptised. He gave his reply on Good Friday.

**O**n Holy Saturday during the prayer of praise, like every day of Lent, we were surprised to see Liam with his godmother Anna and godfather Don Leo receive the first rites of baptism and with great surprise and joy receive as a baptismal name, from the parish priest Don Gino who presided over the liturgy, the name of Stefano his godfather who rose to heaven on November 30, 2020.



**G**reat, great joy for Liam, for Anna and for all of us, as on Easter



night he was baptized in the presence of so many brothers, adults, children and teenagers, who shared the great grace received, that of having become a child of God. Praise and honour to our God, merciful and faithful Father!

*Sr Annarosa Porro, osu*

### PAINTINGS OF THE CHAPEL

*Our archivist at the Generalate, Dottoressa Emanuela Lauro, has had published in "Arte Cristiana", a prestigious history of Christian art review, (May/June 2021, Vol. CIX, Issue 924) an article "Mario Barberis nella Cappella delle Orsoline".*

The article, the text with excellent photographs, gives the background to the decisions made for the decoration of the Chapel of the Generalate, the execution of the decoration, the stained glass windows, the rough sketches and cartoons, the reordering of the Chapel after the Second Vatican Council and other works by Mario Barberis.

Mario Barberis (1893-1960) was a well-known religious artist of the time. His works can be found in many religious houses and churches in Rome and other cities of Italy, as well as in Jerusalem, Poland and the USA.

Barberis worked in the Chapel from 1936-1937. He was particularly drawn to the Passion of Christ and, in fact, designed numerous Stations of the Cross during his life time.

The Chapel was dedicated to Christ the King. The proposal of Mother Marie Vianney Boschet of the centre piece in the sanctuary of the crucifixion and the Trinity, with the story of St Ursula and her companions on the one side and St Angela and her daughters on the other both leading towards the cross fitted well with the ideas of Barberis himself.

In addition to this main painting, Barberis also completed the work on:

- the decoration of the apse with angels,
- the decoration of the vault with vine shoots and wheat sheaves,
- the painting of the Madonna and Child with St Agnes and St Catherine,
- the design of the stained glass windows which were executed by the Giuliani art

glassworks in Rome with whom he had already had a long collaboration,

- a set of Stations of the Cross,
- the painting in the sacristy of St Jean Marie Vianney,
- another Stations of the Cross for the St Angela chapel (missing today),
- decoration of the refectory with paintings of Jesus and the twelve Apostles (missing today).

In 1965, the altar was changed in keeping with the requirements of the Second Vatican Council and in the 1970s further changes were made:

- in the apse the scene of the crucifixion with Mary and St John was left without the further decoration, with a view to placing more focus on the new tabernacle,
- the decoration of the vault, the triumphal arch, the counter-apse, the side chapel and the symbolic decoration of the walls was removed,
- the painted Stations were replaced by others in copper relief.

The article explains the thinking behind these works and the negotiations which took place between the Ursulines, the artist and other experts involved.

*Sr Armida Veglio, osu*

The article is in Italian.

**N.B. We do not have permission to publish it on our website or anywhere in the Internet, but we can send copies by email to anyone who is interested.**

If you would like to receive a copy, please apply directly to the Secretary General at [sgorosu@ursulines-ur.org](mailto:sgorosu@ursulines-ur.org)



## **JUBILEES**

### **January - April 2022**

#### **January**

5	EGONG Albertine	Comoro-Dili	INDONESIA	50
	SUTADIHARDJA Flora	Solo	INDONESIA	50
	WATU Edith	Jakarta, Jl Pos	INDONESIA	50
7	DASILVA Jacqueline	St Teresa	USA EAST	60
16	HAASE Bridget	Lewiston, Mère Marie	USA CENTER	60
	MASCORRO Rita Joseph	Florissant, St Agnes	USA CENTER	60
	MICHAUD Laurianne	Waterville, Mère Marie	USA CENTER	75
	SKELLEY Rosemary	Springfield	USA CENTER	60
27	BUDIASTUTI Gracia	Bandung, Provincialate	INDONESIA	60
	DUXBURY Catherine	Holland Park, Australia North	AUSTRALIA	60
	KARTADIRDJA Agneta	Jakarta, Otista	INDONESIA	60
	WONGSAWITJARA Sebastiana	Surabaya	INDONESIA	60
29	TRAUTMANN Maria-Regina	Rio de Janeiro	BRAZIL	70

#### **February**

11	ALVES Maria Albaneide	Salvador - N.S. da Soledade	BRAZIL	25
	MIRANDA Geize	lhéus	BRAZIL	25
	NOTTE Enrica	Milano	ITALY	70

#### **March**

12	BUNOZ Cécile	Lyon	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
	LE HEIGET Jeanne-Françoise	Quimperlé	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
15	HROTKO Barbara	Klagenfurt	SLOVENIA	70
	SOMMERBAUER Veronika	Wien	SLOVENIA	70
19	MARTIGNONI Giuseppina	Montefelcino	ITALY	60
	TOZZI Letizia	Setteville di Guidonia	ITALY	60
	VERZINO Celestina	Milano	ITALY	60
	VISCUSI Emilia	Milano	ITALY	60
25	BUČKOVÁ Pavla	Jiřetín	CZECHO-MORAVIA	50
	LORINQUER Marie Noëlle	Saint Malo	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	50
	MACHKOVÁ Jana	Jiřetín	CZECHO-MORAVIA	50
27	DRU Annie	Saint Saulve, NDG	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	50

#### **April**

7	LINHARTOVÁ Marie-Anna	Prague, Provincialate	CZECHO-MORAVIA	25
23	BENYON Anne	Thanet, South Thames	ENGLAND	60
	GLENCROSS Katharine	Greenwich, South Thames	ENGLAND	60
	RICHARDS Mary Gwyn	Thanet – South Thames	ENGLAND	60
26	FEKONJA Marija Bogdana	Izola	SLOVENIA	50
30	LORIZIO Felicia	Milano	ITALY	70
	TIENGNAMDEE Pornprapha	Chiangmai, Regina Coeli	THAILAND	60

## ***PROFESSIONS***

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

Sára Szabó	Slovakia	19/05/2021
Lilian Awour	Kenya	09/06/2021
Christine Olouch	Kenya	09/06/2021

### ***HAVE MADE TEMPORARY PROFESSION:***

Lidia Luasti Gulo	Indonesia	12/06/2021
Marselina Fitrianis Nehe	Indonesia	12/06/2021
Yovita Jijung	Indonesia	12/06/2021
Maria Perpetua Belo	Indonesia	12/06/2021
Adelheid Medo Wotan	Indonesia	12/06/2021
Klara Novianti	Indonesia	12/06/2021