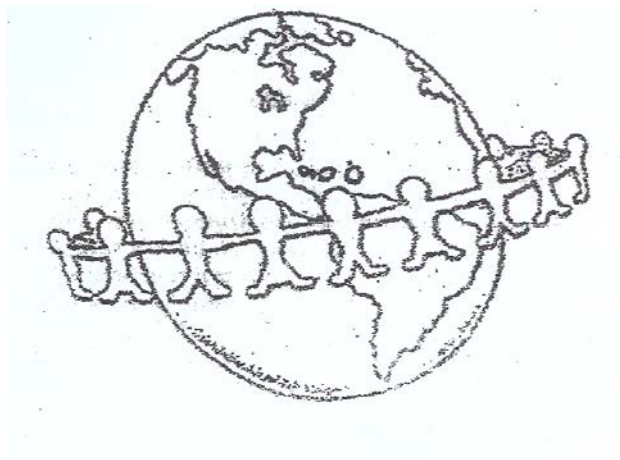


Vinculum

Newsletter of



**The Secular Institute
Servitium Christi**

August 2017

Dublin
July 2017

Dear Members

Warmest greetings from Dublin, where we are enjoying the warmth of Summer and the joys of the holiday season! I know that for some of you this is mid-Winter, and I pray that you can all stay safe and warm and escape the Winter illnesses that prevail in your area.

It has been my great privilege (and pleasure) to attend the General Chapter of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament which took place in Chicago USA in June. I was present from 16th to 19th June. On 17th June, the main business was devoted to “The Charismatic Family”, and the session was opened by a major presentation on this subject by Fr. Eugenio Barbosa Martins, Superior General. The text of this Presentation has just been received and will be circulated. It emphasises the importance of the concept of “Family” to the Eymardian charism which we all share. Following Fr. General’s Presentation, Sr. Jeannine Bourque made a presentation on behalf of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, and I followed with a Presentation on Servitium Christi. I was very encouraged by the warm response, and insightful questions which followed my Presentation, and I am confident that we have the practical support of the Eymardian Charismatic Family. I hope that we too can continue to play our proper part in this family to which we are so blessed to have been called.

We are now approaching the Feast Day of the founder of this great Charismatic family. On 23rd March 1865, St. Peter Julian wrote in his Retreat Notes that ***“I must be united to our Lord Jesus Christ as His human nature was to the authority of His Divine Person, as Jesus was totally to His Father. But in order to be so, this union must be a vital one, received from Him and communicated by Him. This branch must first be warmed by the sun in order to receive the flowing life-sap. The seasoning sun which draws this divine fluid is recollection, holy desires, prayer, the gift of self – in a word, love”***. Our charism needs to be nurtured and nourished. Let us always remember and attend to that.

Our charismatic family has been saddened by the death of our Dutch Member, Lies van Lexmond, who will have been well known to many of our Members world-wide. She was much loved by all and is very sadly missed by the remaining Dutch Members. Please keep Lies, and the Dutch Members in your prayers, as they strive to come to terms with the reality of their present situation.

Our Servitium Christi family is strongly bonded, and Vinculum plays an important part in that bonding process. Many thanks to Maria Angelica, who works so hard to publish Vinculum three times a year. However, Vinculum is only as effective as the members allow it to be, and it is very important that each Region plays its part in making Vinculum an effective bonding instrument. I therefore ask that special attention be paid to this. It is not only an opportunity to give an account of your own life, but an opportunity to inform and inspire other Members of our Family.

I wish you all a good preparation for the feast of St. Peter Julian Eymard, and a joyful celebration of the day. Love and Prayers to all!

Mary Keane, General Directres

IN MEMORIAM



LIES VAN LEXMOND

Deceased 05-04-2017 in IJsselstein, The Netherlands.

Born same town 30-10-1931 eldest child, behind her two brothers both deceased before Lies.

Her parents died: her father in 1958, her mother in 1969. Lies felt strongly she had to look after her mother, although she felt the need to seek God and answer to His claim on her.

Worked at the administration of a small hospital in her town

Huge new hospital was to be built near her home at IJsselstein; afraid of being sacked., Lies took leave from her hospital job to follow a course at the archdiocese education centre for deacons at Utrecht (nearby for her). Became pastoral worker in her parish church.

Contact with Servitium Christi followed late summer 1975 leading to acceptance by special prayer into formation period.

On 01-06-1979 Lies became a member by making first temporary vows – in 1985 definite membership by vows for lifetime.

Feeling at home soon, Lies was willing to take up tasks in the dutch region as member of the regional council.

In this function Lies organised together with Jeanne van den Besselaar our weekends for study, prayer life and get togethers, members feasts, looked after special birthdays, church feasts etc. She represented the region at general assemblies and extended general council meetings and thus got to know many of our non dutch members with whom she kept in contact.

In the meantime she worked in her parish, very much so when pastors fell apart because of illness etc. Visited regularly sick and elderly people.

She set up a group for special Evening prayer for a deceased as well as the liturgy on the next morning funeral services.

Happy to sing in two church choirs.

Her funeral service she made up herself, theme : resurrection.

Church was full : about 200 people, I guess. Warm service, everyone present shared prayer and songs.

Han held a short memento, explaining what Servitium Christi is, and how Lies lived it, being inspired by the Eucharist .

Service was followed by funeral at nearby churchyard. Lies was buried next to her mother.

To me a great privilege.

We thank you Lies, for all you meant and did to us members of Servitium Christi, and to many other people. May you find your rest and your glory in God's House.

Present at the funeral: from S.Chr. Wies Dorgé, Han Bollen, Wil and Joke Hoek, Trees Duivestein , Trees Eckmeyer.

We appreciated very much the presence of Fr. Theo Ewals and Br. Louis Zaat from the SSS congregation of Brakkenstein, Nijmegen.

Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 07 – 07- 2017

Han Bollen

Lies – A Tribute

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death on 5 April 2017 of Lies van Lexmond, and I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to her.

I first met Lies before I had even joined Servitium Christi. At that time another Irish woman, Maura Kavanagh, had made contact through Christine Stone, with the Dutch Members, as the UK was then still part of the Dutch Region. In response to the request to accept Irish Members, Gien Huitink and Lies were sent to meet Maura. As a recently arrived interested person, it was arranged that I too would meet them. This was the start of a warm friendship. Approval of the commencement of the Irish foundation was soon obtained. Sadly Maura died shortly afterwards, but in the years that followed Gien and Lies were annual visitors to what has now become the Dublin Centre. Together they were very much part of my formation in Servitium Christi, and I have a special place in my heart for them both.

In more recent years, Lies took a lead role in the Dutch Region. She served very efficiently as Regional Treasurer, and represented the Region at successive General Assemblies and Amplified General Council Meetings, always participating fully. She also served as a valued Member of the Servitium Christi Finance Board. It was in this capacity that I last met her. Indeed she attended a Board Meeting in February this year, just a few weeks before suffering a severe stroke. My annual visit to the Board was for their next meeting on 3 June, and warm tributes were paid to her. We really felt the void caused by her absence. Many of the Dutch Members and all the Board Members attended her funeral in her native Ijsselstein

Apart from her self-giving as a Member of Servitium Christi, Lies was also a loving and well-loved parish worker, sister and aunt. Her passing has caused much sadness to many people. May her dear soul rest in peace and may we who mourn her be comforted by our union with her in Christ's Mystical Body .

Mary Keane
General Directress

PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES WILL BE RENEWED BY LIVING THE
EUCCHARIST
WHOM WE RECEIVED EVERYDAY

On June 17, 2017, at the eve of Corpus Christi in its Holy Hour at our Parish (Our Lady of the Assumption), God has given me the opportunity to give a sharing based on the theme stated above.

Personal and community prayer must work together for the renewal of parish and community. As our first mission in the world is to be a leaven, to teach our society how to pray. For me, all of these should not have been possible if God has not given me the instruments, situations, and above all the reasons so that I may grow full of faith, hope, and love in Him.

Everything has started from my parents whom I can hardly believe at my young age seeing my mother waking up at very early dawn on Sundays to go to church despite of a very long distant walk away from our home to the church. Poverty and difficulty of living did not matter for her, and all what she needed was to be with the Sundays Eucharistic celebration. All these were kept in my heart and did not even dared questioning her. It was just lately then I realized that it was all about God's initiation to feed me spiritually so that nourishment of my faith in Him will be sustained. Like my mother, I did not make poverty a reason for elevating our condition in life, and one way maybe, pursuing my studies. Working hard and trusting everything to the Lord paved my way to success and having a job as well that sustained our living.

As time went on, confrontation in life came up and moment of questioning myself if what really God wanted me to do for Him started. Joining several catholic Christian groups was made and was even invited to a religious group. Yes, calling was there, but being chosen maybe in a different way. God's love was really enduring and He knows very much what my heart desires. This desire come to an end until His divine intervention came through the person of Connie Gonzales, who invited me to join the Servitium Christi.

Doubts, anxieties, worries, unworthiness then were arising at the start which caused almost 2 years for me to answer such invitation, and in most cases, associated with fear. Liberation from my weaknesses then is what I longed for to make myself free and confident to become worthy to serve God in this faith. I have to give up my old wineskin to have a new one. Thanks God for His great mercy and compassion because transformation occurred which leads toward reconciliation to Him. I was accepted in the Institute and made my devotional commitment last March 2010 and received my 1st profession last March 2013. Beyond all of these are the inspiring efforts of the members of my community and above all the endless spiritual support of my superiors Lourdes Velasco and Connie Gonzales who are always God's instruments in the nourishment of my faith.

Responding to God's call, I must always be faithful to my promises and keeping myself as the living bread – taken, blessed, broken, and shared for others. Praying that through these simple Eucharistic Acts, maybe, I can be a part in the renewal of our parish and community.

Virginia A. Boltron

Servitium Christi - Davao Center

Davao City, Philippines – July 12, 2017

MARIAN YEAR

As we know, the Church is celebrating the Marian Year, both the Jubilee of the 100-Year-Apparition of Our Blessed Lady in Fatima-Portugal and the 300th anniversary of the encounter of the image of Our Lady at the Paraiba do Sul River in Aparecida, São Paulo, Brazil. This is the reason why the name Our Lady of Aparecida.

The celebration of the Marian Year means celebrating that YES pronounced by Mary, and her fully self-giving for the realization of the Kingdom. As consecrated women, each of us has also been called to fully self-giving to make it possible that the Kingdom of God keeps manifesting in our places.

In Belo Horizonte this year, we are also celebrating the 80-Years-Jubilee of Perpetual Adoration at the Sanctuary of Adoration (Our Lady of Good Voyage Cathedral), in which we find SSS priests. They came invited by the first Archbishop of Belo Horizonte, Mgr. Antonio dos Santos Cabral.

For our Archbishop, Don Walmor, the Sanctuary of Adoration is the "Pearl of our Archdiocese", because Eucharistic Jesus remains exposed for 24 hours. At night, several groups take shifts so that Adoration is not interrupted. Some time ago, just men used to be in adoration at night, but nowadays women also worship Eucharistic Jesus three nights per month.

Mary was the Alive Tabernacle and she remained faithful to her life option.

May Eucharistic Jesus and Our Lady assist us to witness God's everlasting love for mankind, manifested by Jesus in the Last Supper.

Sonia Maria Olivera

Regional Directress, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

News

St. Clare Region.

On the 6th of May this year we had a lovely Celebration at Blessed Sacrament Shrine in Liverpool, where Fran Cassidy celebrated her Silver Jubilee, I my 50th Golden, and Sheilagh Sworm made her First Vow, It was a very special occasion with many people attending, including friends and relatives, there was a nice selection of refreshments including a Jubilee cake which was enjoyed by all.

It is with grateful thanks to God that we have achieved this milestone in our live, and we feel extremely Blessed.

Christine.

Region of Chile

Condolences

We have accompanied Maria Antonieta García with prayers and fraternal love due to the death of her beloved bother Hugo.

May the Lord strengthens her family and shelters don Hugo in His loving arms.

35th GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

We are glad to offer our prayers and send our congratulations to the members of the new General Council:

Fr. Eugênio Barbosa Martins, S.S.S. – General Superior (Re-elected)

Fr. Martins Tine, S.S.S. (Senegal)

Fr. Benzy Philip Romician S.S.S. (India)

Fr. Joseph Vu Quoc Binh, S.S.S. (Vietnam)

Fr. José Antonio Rivera Ruiz, S.S.S. (Spain)



Next issue: December 2017

Articles to be included in this issue should be sent no later than November 15th to María Angelica as an attachment to the e-mail address: servitiumchristi@hotmail.com, or FAX no. 56-2-29825878, or to Juan Francisco Gonzalez 653 - Villa El Andén - San Bernardo-Chile.