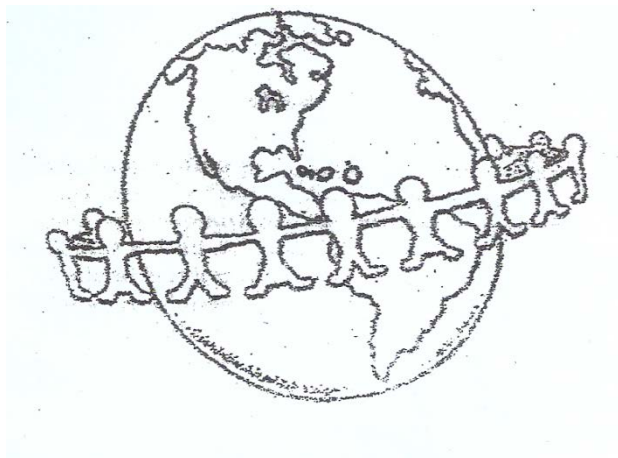


Vinculum

Newsletter of



**The Secular Institute
Servitium Christi**

August 2016

Dublin,
Ireland
July 2016

Warmest greetings from a very sunny Dublin, where Summer is at its height, we have about 18 hours per day of daylight, schools are closed for the Summer holidays and the thoughts of all are on seaside, mountain walks, picnics, gardens, and generally, resting and gathering strength to prepare ourselves for the dark Winter Season ahead.

In May, we in Servitium Christi made our preparation for the years ahead, when we met as Amplified General Council here in Dublin. We worked hard, and discussed many issues and made many plans, but we also had our lighter moments when we were able to relax together, and enjoy a party, an outing, and other social occasions. While our meetings and discussions were of course very important, and were the real and most serious reason for us to gather here, it was the times of relaxing together that bonded us as a Community, the Community that is Servitium Christi. It was a very special experience. Many thanks to all the participants for their generous engagement with the occasion.

Since then, I have made my annual visit to Nijmegen in Holland to attend a meeting of the Servitium Christi Board, that small group of volunteers who safeguard our finances, and thus ensure that we have sufficient income available to fund our General Assembly, our Amplified General Council Meeting, and the development and maintenance of Servitium Christi at General Council level. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

We have also received with sadness, the news that two of our Members have been called home to the Father's house - Maria Augusta of the Belo Horizonte centre in Brazil, and Gertrud (Sauter) of Duren, in Germany. May their dear souls rest in peace.

As we prepare the August issue of Vinculum, we are also preparing to celebrate the Feast of St. Peter Julian Eymard, the spiritual father of the great Eucharistic Family to which Servitium Christi, and each one of us, belongs. At this time also, Connie Gonzales is planning a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Centre in Vietnam on behalf of the General Council. Fr. Bong Luistro sss will accompany her. Unfortunately, the time required for me to obtain a visa makes it impossible for me to join them. Please pray for the success of their visit, and also for the well-being of the Members of the Ho Chi Minh Centre.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of Vinculum. A special word of thanks to Maria Angelica for her work as its editor. Vinculum is an important organ of communication in Servitium Christi, but it can only be effective if make it effective by providing material for inclusion. Please remember to send your articles to Maria Angelica in good time for the next issue.

God bless you all!
Love and prayers

Mary Keane
General Directress

“GOD’S WILL and the POWER of PRAYER”

I’m so grateful to God of what I experienced during the Amplified General Council Meeting of Servitium Christi in Dublin, Ireland last May 10 - May 20, 2016. At first, I thought I could not attend the meeting because of the limited time I had for getting my Irish VISA, but with the help of Mary’s prayer and Novena and of Virjie’s command to me, to go at once to Irish Consulate of Ireland Embassy, I really did it. For just only one week, my VISA was granted.

What I asked and prayed to the Lord that time was this, “If it is your will that I should go to Dublin to attend the AGC, my VISA will be granted.” And He will accompany me in all my undertakings and in my travel to Dublin. For me, It was a miracle. Because the normal procedure and VISA processing time takes 4-8 weeks while in my case, it took only 1 week indeed, with God’s desire intervention and with all the prayers of the Servitium Christi, nothing is impossible.

It was my first time to attend the AGC and to reach the very beautiful place of Dublin, Ireland. I really like the place, so clean, fresh and green. It is very amazing to see different kinds of green trees, plants and beautiful flowers. I enjoyed the cool temperature and the I experienced the 4 kinds of climate in just one day. I was blessed meeting the regional and local directress of the different countries like Chile, England, Brazil, Germany, Vietnam and Ireland. They were all strong persons dedicated to their vocation. I was inspired by their way of life, their strong faith and how they live as consecrated lay. Even though we have different dialects, we can easily relay to each other what we wanted to share regarding our vocation. It is because of our very kind interpreter , Carmen Avaloz. EMMAUS is a perfect venue for the meeting, the chapel, session’s room, dining place, coffeedock and the bedrooms are all comfortable and excellent. The surroundings outside is good for meditation and reflection.

I was impressed of our General Directress Mary’s full energy in taking charge of the whole affair. She’s like a mother to us attending everything, even our personal needs. Thanks for the hospitality and full accomodation, especially the full support of your family, your brother, sister and your in-laws. Thank you for accompanying us in the tour at Co. Wicklow, at Glasnevin and at the Phoenix park. We had the chance to see the beautiful vicinity of Dublin.

To Fr. Martin Tine, You’re such a great and joyful person. You explained very well to us what charism is and the importance of our vows. Thank you also for the documentation and taking of photos.

The sharing during the discussions of concerns and problems about charism, secularity, formation, finance and community in the groupings and in the combined discussions of both English and Spanish groups were very clear and fruitful. I’ve learned a lot from each of the participants.

I am so glad meeting the members of Saint Claire Region. Congratulations to Penny in her perpetual vows. To Virjie, Thankyou for everything. Thanks also to Fr. Jim, Fr. Raphael and Chris Aspill of SSS Chapel. To Janneke Groos, Thanks for being in SC Board.

To Connie, Thank you for the love, care and support. I would like to give thanks to Christine, Maria, Sonia, Karola, Marianne, Teresa, Elliette and to the GC and to our General Direstress Mary Keane, Also to Carmen and Pat. All of you were part of AGC's success. THANKS BE TO GOD!

Gene Moratalla
MANILA CENTER PHILIPPINES

PERPETUAL ADORATION IN MY CITY

In Chile, next to the Cathedral in the city of San Bernardo, it was created a chapel for worshipping God. For 2 years, it has been open during the day, but now in June it became a Chapel of Perpetual Adoration. Worshippers have gradually increased. Last Saturday 23rd, the first meeting of worshippers of the Diocese took place and it was chaired by Fr. Patricio Hileman.

Ten years ago, Fr. Hileman left his life as a Benedictine monk and hermit, to respond to a special call from God. In an interview appearing today, July 25th, at www.religionenlibertad.com we can read his statement : "The Holy Spirit took me from the desert to announce the Lamb of God , to point out that He is really present among us in the Blessed Sacrament". His goal is, he says, "to cooperate so that we may have 1000 chapels of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in Latin America"; to date we have got six hundreds of them.

To the question "Why do you think it is urgent to count with Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapels? His response was:

"Worship in Greek means prostrating, recognizing God as the creator, as my everything. And in Latin it means a kiss, a hug . It is a gesture of love. That is to say, to be with God, be loved, to let yourself be loved, be inspired, to bless, to protect, to heal and to free because He is in person. "

He added:" In a Holy Hour you are silent. Jesus has an hour to be with you, to speak to you, to heal you, to bless you, enlighten you!. If a Catholic has not cried before the Blessed Sacrament, he has not felt His love, His forgiveness, His mercy, His presence, His power. he has not yet met the true Jesus. "

I joined them and had a wonderful experience. Wednesday are a special day for me. Since I open my eyes, I just remember that I have an appointment with my Beloved. The morning passes quickly, so I plan each task to arrive on time at 03:00 p.m.when is my turn at the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration.

How much peace I find at His feet! Worshipping the exposed Blessed Sacrament is different than worshipping Him in the Tabernacle. It means looking at each other and finding us together in the silence that lulls, letting ourselves be loved by Him: it is an encounter of two.

Ma. Antonieta García León
San Bernardo, Chile

A great Occasion, and an Illustrious Ancestor!

‘My name is Penny Carroll and I was privileged to make my Final Vows on that 15th May 2016, surrounded by international delegates also attending the Amplified General Council from as far away as Brazil, Chile, the Philippines, Vietnam, Germany and Holland.

It was a great joy, a great grace from Our Eucharistic Lord for me to be there, and for myself the moment when Fr Raphael, SSS from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Dublin, blessed my ring and told the delegates it had been my mother’s wedding ring was a poignant moment. Deo Gratias.

The previous day Fr Martin Tine SSS General Council Member from Senegal, who was the main celebrant of the Mass of the Final Profession on Pentecost Sunday, had spoken to us on the topic of Vows.

He said “through the Vows, Consecrated persons are called, like Mary, to say a complete and generous Yes to the Lord in their Congregation or Secular Institute”. Additionally, Fr Martin said “Our life as consecrated persons has a special vision to which we must adhere – “consacree et envoyee” he said in his mother tongue “consecrated and sent”. Thank you Father Martin for blessing us with your presence that weekend.’

Later that day of Pentecost, all the members were taken on a short visit to the famous Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin. I had chosen this venue as I have a famous Irish forbear in my family. His name is Daniel O’Connell who died 1847, and I had wanted to see his tomb on this occasion of visiting Dublin. Daniel O’Connell secured political equality and religious freedom for his fellow Catholic Irish countrymen in 1829, the Catholic Emancipation Act. I knew that the main street in Dublin - O’Connell Street - is named after him, but I never gave it much further thought. On visiting his ornate crypt tomb our astonishment was unbounded because the whole top of the tiled tomb was covered in large bouquets and sprays of flowers which had been placed there that same morning.

Unbeknown to us, we were visiting his last resting place on the very anniversary of his death on 15th May 1847, to mark my Final Profession of Vows on 15th May 2016. The guide told us that each year on Daniel’s anniversary the President of Ireland sends a wreath of flowers with a signed message, and a memorial service is held – and there we were arriving on that special anniversary day. Flowers in abundance had been placed there to

honour the nation's hero, including one tribute from "The Government and People of Ireland". It was only then that I came to realise the esteem in which this man is held in Ireland and I am so proud that he is a part of my family history (my great-great- great Grandfather!). I also felt as if he had shared in a special way, in the celebration of my Final Profession. Deo Gratias.

Penny Carroll
St. Clare Region



In memoriam of GertrudSauter

Gertrud was a dear co-Sister, who was always friendly and helpful. She patiently suffered the physical pains of old age. We are deeply saddened by her unexpected death, at the age of 89 years. But death was for her a release. In the splendour of heaven she is living, and also in our hearts. We will keep a faithful remembrance of her, until all of us reencounter in Paradise.

The German Members of the Secular Institute **SERVITIUM CHRISTI**.

Gertrud Biography

Gertrud was born on March 17, 1927 in the small town of Enzkofen near Sigmaringen, Southern Germany. She was the third of ten children of the marriage of Elisabetha and Josef Sauter. The little girl suffered very much when her mother died at an early age. Gertrud turned ten when she suddenly lost her nine brothers, because the children were separated and raised in different cities. Gertrud was taken to a children's home in Schöneburg and attended school there. After completing her elementary education, she attended a school for training as a homemaker and learned the profession of dressmaker. Later on, she found a job at the convent of the Blessed Sacrament in Rottweil to work in the kitchen. The Fathers make her feel excited to follow Christ. When she came of age, she decided to dedicate her life to Jesus and therefore entered into a Spiritual Community of

Women in Rottweil , which honored Jesus in the Eucharist, as the Fathers did. Ladies wore a habit and were called Sacramentine Sisters. The great model for the Consecrated Ladies was Saint Peter Julian, whose center was the Bread of Heaven.

Peter Julian lived from 1811-1868 and served God as a priest. He founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, whose members worshiped Jesus on the species of bread and wine. The daily celebration of the Holy Mass, (which is also called Thanksgiving) is to this day for this community of men, their main goal.

In 1958 Gertrud was called by the Directress of the Community to a Center in London. There, she was four years in charge of the parochial parish in Noterlands. Then, she was transferred to Germany, where she lived with several co - sisters in Duren. In 1965 the Eucharistic Community of Ladies was established as a Secular Institute. Members no longer had the habit of the middle ages, but clothed laity. The Community also change the name to be called Servitium Christi. But everything remained as before. The Main House was then in Holland, where members were formed in such spirituality.

In 1965 the first members made perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Among them was Gertrud Sauter. In Düren, she worked first as a nursing assistant for five years and after that , many decades until his retirement as a secretary in the Peter Julian Parish . In this activity, with her kindness and helpfulness, she could help and guide many people.

In August 2015, Gertrud celebrated her last big party in this world. In the convent chapel in Düren she could celebrate the 60th anniversary of her first profession

On June 7, 2016 she was called by her Spouse Jesus to the heavenly homeland. On June 25 it took place the Requiem in the parish of Santa Ana in Düren with great participation of the people

On July 25 she was buried in the new cemetery in Düren

Miriam Kienzler
Germany

A SMALL TRIBUTE

Glicia and Maria Augusta were two late vocations that greatly contributed to the growth of the Centre of Belo Horizonte.

Glicia in her quiet way, was very humble and attentive to what I used to talk, she always had a pencil and a notebook ready to take notes. When possible, she attended meetings, retreats and events to which we were invited. In the last two years before his illness, the person who took care of her was always by her side in our meetings.

Maria Augusta, really loved“Servitium Christi ”. How much she liked to be present at meetings and retreats, even in poor health! In one of the retreats she was with the oxygen machine. Last year, the doctor gave her permission to participate in the Eucharistic celebration at the end of the retreat. And she was there , happy to be with us !

I can say without fear of contradiction, that both of them had a great sense of belonging to the Institute and can ensure that they remain most present in our lives, in our walk. Their testimony will be a mirror for us.

Thank you Lord, for giving us an opportunity to live with Glicia and Maria Augusta. Now they are our intercessors with our Father .

Sonia Maria de Oliveira
Centre of Belo Horizonte, Brazil

NEWS

Germany

Our prayers for Gertrud Sauter , member of the Centre of Düren who died on June. Those who previously met her could appreciate her warm welcome, kindness and fidelity to our Charism.

Our condolences to the members of Germany and our special affection for Maria Jungbauer who has shared her life with her and other members of Düren for many years.

Brazil

Our prayers for Glicia and Maria Augusta, members of the Center of Belo Horizonte who recently died. We remember them with great affection and gratitude.

We hope their fidelity to the Charism of our Institute has already been recognized by the Lord and they are resting next to Him. Our condolences to the members of the Center of Belo Horizonte.

Chile

Elections

On May 28 elections for Regional and Local Directresses took place. The results were:

Regional Directress: María Valdebenito

Local Directress of the Nueva Imperial Centre: Emelina Coñomán

Local Directress of the Santiago Centre :María Angélica Núñez

Mary Keane's Visit

Members of both Centres are joyfully awaiting the first visit of Mary, General Directress, announced for September. Her arrival will be on Tuesday 20th, traveling directly to Temuco. On Friday 23rd she will arrive in Santiago and return to Ireland on Monday, 26th .

Holland

Our condolences to the members of the Dutch Region and our prayers for Jeanne van den Besselaar. She has gone to her eternal reward last week.

Jeanne has been in leadership roles in the Dutch Region for many years, and has served faithfully despite on-going health issues. This is a very sad blow to the remaining Members in the Dutch Region. May her dear soul rest in peace.

We keep Jeanne, and all of the Dutch Members and Associates, in our prayers at this very difficult time.

Philippines

Elections in Davao

On July 9, the elections of the Centre of Davao took place.

Results were:

Local Directress: Virginia Boltron

Assistant of the Local Directress: Lorna Castanares

Treasurer: María Concepción Gonzales

Condolences

We are deeply saddened to hear of Virjie Cruz' mother passing away. Virjie is a native of Manila, but now lives in Dublin, as is a Member of the St. Clare Regions. We accompany her with our prayers and fraternal affection. May the Lord comfort Virjie and her family in their sad loss.

THANKS

I thank you for the recognition of the work done for Vinculum, and those who have contributed articles. As Mary said in the AGC, its existence depends entirely on the contributions made by each Member, Centre or Region.

We hope that this bond is strengthened to make us feel that we are part of a large family and community called Servitium Christi.

I am grateful to Carmen Avalos for the translations of the Spanish and Portuguese documents into English and to Maria Antonieta Garcia for preparing the texts for printing.

Next issue : December 2016

Items for inclusion to be received by 15 November

Please send to María Angélica as attachment to e-mail : servitiumchristi@hotmail.com, or at FAX No. 56 2 29825878, or to Juan Francisco González 653- Villa El Andén- San Bernardo.-Chile.

