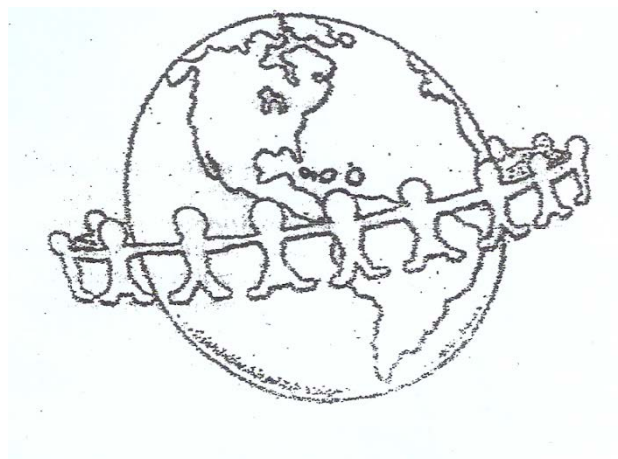


Vinculum

Newsletter of



**The Secular Institute
Servitium Christi**

Christmas 2016

Dublin
Ireland

Christmas 2016

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us" (Matthew 1: 23)

God is with us! Still with us! Still Emmanuel!

The birth of a baby is a common event. To the people of Bethlehem, the birth of Mary's baby might not have seemed to be any different from the births of any of the other babies born that week. It might all have gone unnoticed had it not been for the shepherds who were prompted to come and worship Him, or the Magi who came a long distance to bring him gifts.

What is really extraordinary, is that the joy that those visitors, the shepherds and the Magi, felt on visiting this baby Emmanuel, can still be experienced by us to-day, just as if we had been there at Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. When we are in the Presence of the Eucharist, we are no less close to Jesus than the shepherds or the Magi were at Bethlehem. So let us rejoice not just at Christmas, but every day when we answer His call to come to Him in the Eucharist, and let us respond as generously to His call to us in Servitium Christi, as did the shepherds and the Magi to His call to them in Bethlehem. Let us also, as they did, bring Him our most precious gift - our "Self - and make it available to Him to bring His Presence into those places where it is most difficult for Him to reach. Who would ever have thought that He could be found in a stable? So then, is there any place where we cannot bring Him?

Since last Christmas, there have been some happy times and some sad times for us in Servitium Christi. Our gathering for the Amplified General Council was both happy and fruitful, helping to consolidate us as a worldwide Eucharistic Community. Similarly my visit to Chile, and our participation in the CMIS Congress to mark the closing of the Year of Consecrated Life were also happy and fruitful experiences of Eucharistic Community. We were saddened during the past year by the passing of Gertrud, Maria Augusta, Glicia, Jeanne and Olympia. May their dear souls rest in peace, as we remain united with them in Christ's Christ's Mystical Body. With them in His Presence, and He in us, they are still very much part of us.

I wish each of you, and your loved ones, a Happy and Holy Christmas, and every joy and blessing for the New Year 2017. I hope that it will be a year of further deepening of our union together, and of our union with Christ in the Eucharist.

God be with you!
Love and prayers

Mary Keane
General Directress

A Visit to Chile

Although I had travelled to Chile on two occasions - for the Amplified General Council Meeting in 2004, and for the General Assembly - I had met very few of the Members. Since becoming General Directress, I had longed to visit there to meet them, and my dream came true in September 2016. I arrived at Santiago airport on 20th September, and was met by Maria Angelica. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to catch up on General Council business. Patricia Maldonado then accompanied me on my onward journey to Temuco airport. Maria Valdebenito met us and we travelled on to Nueva Imperial.

In the days that followed I met with all the Members in Filomena's home, and later in Magdalena's home. While most live near each other in Nueva Imperial, others had to travel a long distance to come there. They gave me an account of their life and their community. It is clear that all are actively involved in their local Church and neighbourhood community, but more importantly, they are a very happily bonded community. Most of these Members have a little chapel in their homes, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. The local Parish priest, Fr. Edgardo, is close to the group, and clearly holds them in high regard. He provides a considerable amount of Spiritual support to them. While I was there, their former Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Marcos, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination, and it was indeed a privilege for me to attend his Anniversary Mass and to meet him and thank him for all the support he has given, and indeed continues to give to our Members.

On Friday 23rd September, I said good-bye to the Nueva Imperial Group, and travelled back to Santiago accompanied by Patricia, and Maria. Once again, Maria Angelica met us at the airport and accompanied us to the convent of the Salesas Sisters, where Maria and I stayed for the next three nights. These days provided the opportunity to meet with the Santiago/San Bernardo Members, to hear about their challenges, and to discuss many issues. Once again I found a vibrant active community. The transfer of their Regions Spiritual Assistant (Fr. Rafael sss) from Santiago to Buenos Aires, has been a blow to both Centres, but especially to the Santiago Centre, but possibilities for ensuring continuing Spiritual Assistance were discussed and will be pursued in the coming months. On Sunday 25th September, we were joined for lunch in Antonietta's house, by the Bishop of San Bernardo. I consider this to be a sign of the high esteem in which he holds Servitium Christi.

While the Chile Region is not entirely without its difficulties and challenges, it is nevertheless in a very strong situation, with well formed active and closely bonded Members in both Centres, all under the caring direction of the Regional Directress, Maria Valdebenito. I congratulate them all on what they have achieved. I also thank them for their hospitality during my visit, especially Maria, Filomena, Magdalena, Antonietta, and Maria Angelica who opened their homes to me and to the group. Patricia and Maria Angelica acted as translators, and must have been very tired by the time I left on 24th September. It was a privilege and a pleasure to share the Members lives for this short visit, and to meet them and discuss with them how best to proceed to make our beloved Servitium Christi a powerful source of Christ's Presence in Santiago and in Nueva Imperial. Congratulations, and many thanks to all. It really was a wonderful experience.

Mary Keane
General Directress

Photo in Antonietta's house with Bishop Juan Ignacio González, Bishop of San Bernardo.
(María V. -Inés-Mary-Patricia-Mgr.Gonzalez -M.Angélica-Antonietta-Manola)



Photo in Nueva Imperial (Mary-Gumercinda-Magdalena-Filomena-Carmen-Emelina-Patricia)



AN EXPECTED VISIT

I thank God and Servitium Christi's General Directress Mary Keane, for her recently visit to the Region of Chile during September. I thank also for her great disposition and her deep interest when we invited her.

On September 20, 2016 she arrived to the last corner of the world, first, to Santiago Airport and then, to La Araucania. She came here with Patricia Maldonado, a member of the Santiago center, as her interpreter during the meeting with the members of Nueva Imperial.

She worked very hard in a fraternal and trusting environment during her visit. She paid some visits to the homes of some members, she gathered with all the people of the South Center and with the Nueva Imperial priest. She participated in the celebration of the 60 years of Father

Marcus Uribe's priesthood, who worked with the Nueva Imperial group for 20 years (regarding his health, he is in a very delicate state).

We saw her enjoy the Chilean sightings, especially Villarrica and Pucon, where its wonderful volcano shined with its snow on a spring day. In Santiago, she was amazed by the ageless trees of a park located in the city of Pirque, in the middle of which there is a gorgeous castle.

She was profoundly interested in meeting all the members, she made us all feel confident around her and showed a great maternal instinct, joy and wisdom in every subject she was introduced to in both centers. In one word, we saw in her the love and selfless spirit of the Institute.

In San Bernardo, she gathered with all the members, except with Elena, who is in poor health.

She could also enjoy the company of the bishop, Mons. Juan Ignacio González, and the visits to Maria Angelica and Antonieta's houses.

This visit was very encouraging because it left us great challenges, with good orientations and the help of God.

As Regional Directress I lived an enriching, unique experience when I was able to meet Mary in her short visit. Behind every chosen authority, there is the hand of God, which makes us keep being faithful to the Lord with His Grace and our trust put in Him.

Mary Keane, thank you very much.

Maria Valdebenito Palacios.
Regional Directress, Chile.

IN MEMORIAM

JEANNE van den BESSELAAR

On August 5th 2016 we received the sad news of the unexpected decease of Jeanne. It was a real shock.

Jeanne had been ill, suffering from various diseases for a ,long time already. Lately she had been admitted into hospital for surgery at the knee.

Surgery proved succesful, but lateron complications showed up at the intestines which needed immediate treatment. Fo Jeanne it was already too late. She was able to take leave of relatives and friends before God took her away.

On Tuesday 11 Aufust 2016 we, members of Servitium Christi, her relatives and friends came together at the St. John' s Birth in Nieuwkuijk, the church of het baptism and childhood . She was buried next to her Father's .

Jeanne lived a very active life. As regional directrice of Servitium Christi she succeeded in finding the right leaders / speakers at our get-togethers five times a year in Nijmegen., resulting in lively discussions and sharing.

Her activities were not only limited to our institute, She was involved in parish work, in women's movement etc, in various places. Her heart on the right place.

The last few years of her life have not been easy, Much pain many diseases. I admire her because of the way she explicitly phased out her life.

A strong woman she was

May she now live in peace.

We will miss Jeanne Remembering her will carry us through the days and inspire us on our way to God.

Lies van Lexmond
Servitium Christi
Region The Netherlands.

OLYMPIA PANAGATOS

I first met Olympia in Leicester when she came to visit a friend, and after that we became very good friends. She was a very special person and always interested in what I was doing in my life as a member of our Institute. She worked in the Parish of SSS fathers and had the Month of August for her holidays, so we arranged that I should take some of my holidays at the same time in Holland so we could spend time together, we always has an interesting time as various members took us round different places, we always exchanged Birthday and Christmas cards, but also kept in touch throughout the years. She sent me very nice pictures on her computer, sadly my computer skills were very limited (stiiil are), so I could not return these favours. Anyway it was a special friendship whille it lasted, so I will miss her now but hope pray for her dear soul to Rest in Peace.

Christine Stone
St.Clare Region

XVII NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS Belem, - BRAZIL

With great joy Marlene and I (members of the Sao Paulo Center) went to the XVII National Eucharistic Congress, that took place on August 15-21, 2016 in Belem, Pará, Brazil. The subject was “Eucharisty and Sharing in the Missionary Amazon and the slogan was “ They recognized Him as He was breaking the bread” (Lc 24,35).

Mons. Alberto Taveira Correa, archbishop of Belen, has work very hard for this religious event, which is so important for the Church and the Kingdom of God, and he took place to celebrate the Mystery of the Eucharist. He says: “We want to show throughout Brazil the strenght of the Eucharisty and the missionary work in the Amazon, people of faith who give testimony of being a living Church, besides, we hope that more people participate in the Eucharisty, strenghtening their presence in the parish life, in the liturgy teams and in every aspect of the Church being also faithful to the word of God, carrying the Gospel to every creature of the world.”

The Congress programme was wide, which included Worship, Conferences, First Communion of children, Holy Masses in different languages, etc.

We couldn't participate in every event. For me, it was a great joy to participate in this Congress and I highlight the experience of sharing with Marlene. It was a very good opportunity to knowing each other and I thank God for everything I've learned.

Sonia Maria de Oliveira
Brasil

The joy of God

God doesn't love sadness
God loves joy
Pure and sincere joy
Like the most Holy Virgin

She knew the difficulties that would come
But she decided to face it with joy
Angel Gabriel was sent by God
to give her the news from Heaven

Virgin Mary waited and thought about it
and then she answered "yes" to the angel
the angel was very happy
and soon he disappeared.

Virgin Mary always had a holy and loyal heart.
So she departed to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

Virgin Mary greeted Elizabeth
And John jumped with happiness
Elizabeth, illuminated, soon proclaimed:
Why, the mother of my Lord comes to visit me?

And the Virgin Mary, full of Grace,
this beautiful hymn sang:
"The Lord has done wonderful things in me"

The two cousins were very happy
and Mary stayed with Elizabeth
the necessary time.

Efigenia Margarida de Paul
Belo Horizonte - Brazil

NEWS

Region of Brazil

Condolences.

Our sympathy to Helena Dias Muelas, (Indaiatuba) on the death of her sister Izabel on 20 October.

We also accompany to María Luiza da Silva (Belo Horizonte), on the recent death of her brother Antonio, on 22 November.

We pray the Lord comfort their families and to receive Izabel and Antonio in their Kingdom of Peace

Gratitude

Our gratitude to those who contributed articles for Vinculum this year 2016.

Special thanks to the translators and those responsables for the distribution.

Vinculum and the website are an important link of communication and unity.

We want a very productive Year 2017 in contributions to increase our mutual knowledge and fraternal friendship.

Next issue: APRIL 2017

Articles to be included in this issue should be sent no later than March 15th to María Angélica Núñez as an attachment to the e-mail address: servitiumchristi@hotmail.com

CELEBRATIONS 2017

ANNIVERSARIES

30 Years Professed

Antonina de Almada Bini (Brasil) - 16 July

40 Years Professed

Maria Valdebenito Palacios (Chile) - 17 August

50 Years Professed

Elena García-Huidobro (Chile) - 06 Janvier

Christine Stone (R.St.Clare) -06 Janvier

Rosa de Tavernier (R.Netherland) -06 Janvier

BIRTHDAYS

90 Years old

Maria de Lourdes da Silva (Brasil) - 03 July

80 Years old

Inés Jara Magaña (Chile) - 28 May

70 Years old

Emelina Coñoman (Chile) - 25 January

Rosa de Lima Tran (Vietnam) - 05 June

Nadir Generoso (Brasil) - 29 September

Rosario Belda (Philippines) - 06 October

Milagros Orticio (Philippines) - 01 November

60 Years old

Maria Nguyen Thi Xuan HOA (Vietnam) - 22 April

Rosario de Castro (Philippines) - 01 October