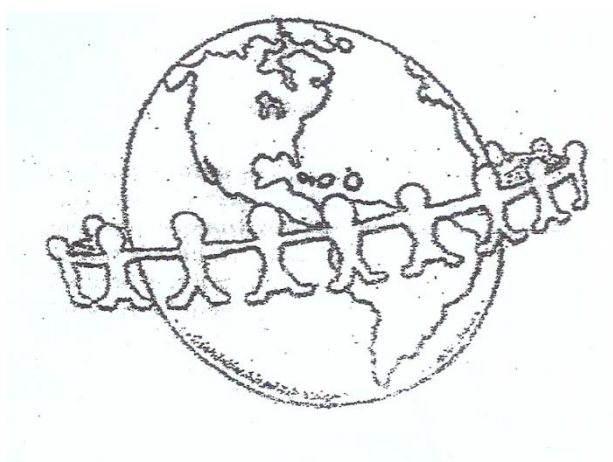




Vinculum

Newsletter of



**The Secular Institute
Servitium Christi**

Christmas 2018

Dublin
Christmas 2018

The Eucharist was sown in the stable of Bethlehem. The traveller who has a goal does not lose sight of it and all his steps lead to it. Our Lord came essentially for the Eucharist. All must contribute to advancing the Eucharist. Furthermore, Bethlehem is the House of Bread, the bread of Kings.
(St. Peter Julian - Homily on Christmas Day 1867)

Dear Members,

Warm greetings from Dublin in these weeks of preparation for the feast of Christmas. As St. Peter Julian points out, the Eucharist was in effect born in the stable at Bethlehem, and so for us, Christmas is indeed a Eucharistic Feast!

Such a humble beginning for the Son of God, the Saviour of the world! With no room in the local hostelrys, and having to resort to a stable - the home of animals - for his birthplace, Jesus had really come down to earth, to the earth which the Creator had considered to be "indeed very good" (Gen 1:31). It may not have seemed so good to the Holy Family on that night long ago, as they huddled cold and unwelcome amid the muck and smells of the stable. Truly we can know that Jesus shared in our worldly experience. He had no special privileges, and just had to get on with doing the job which the Father had sent him to do. In the Eucharist, this same Jesus, Who later conquered even death by rising again, became food that lasts. Lying in a manger of straw, he was lying on what remained when wheat was extracted to make bread, which subsequently became Eucharist. And as St. Peter Julian points out, Bethlehem, where the stable was located, means "House of bread". Yes, truly it can be said that the Eucharist began at Bethlehem.

We can take courage from all of this. We have been called by God to become food for all through our Eucharistic lives. No matter how humble our beginnings or our circumstances, with Jesus within us through our receiving Him in the Eucharist, and sustaining His Presence to us through our adoration, we can surmount all obstacles, and make Him present to others by the way we live our lives. In this Christmas Season, we thank God for the great gift of His Son in the Eucharist, and for calling us to *Servitium Christi* to be instruments of His Presence, instruments of Eucharist, in the day to day life of this world. Our lives are centred on the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As St. Peter Julian once asked, "what more could we want?"

I send warmest Christmas greetings to each and every one of our Members, of our Aspirants, of our Spiritual Assistants, and of those who are associated, or journeying with us. May our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph share with you the joy, love and awe they experienced on Christmas night.

I also wish you a very happy new year 2019, when I look forward to meeting your delegates here in Dublin at the General Assembly. Thank you for your support and prayers for the General Council as this important Gathering in prepared. Thank you also for your support in the past year. A special "thank you" to Maria Angelica for her great work in keeping us in touch through *Vinculum*. This is an important link between us all, and I am very grateful to those who contribute news items, and those who help with translation.

Love and prayers,
Mary Keane

General Directress

25TH LITES ANNIVERSARY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Servitium Christi Members in Manila (including Gene and Veron) are also active Members of the LITE (Life In The Eucharist) Team)

Celebration started with 5.30 p.m Mass on August 17th, celebrated at POLA (Provincialate of Our Lady of the Assumption) by Fr. Rey Capili sss with other SSs priests. Members of LITES from different parts of the Philippines, and Members of the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament arrived and joined in the Eucharistic celebration. After Mass, there was dinner and a small programme presented by guests. The guests coming from the provinces, stayed at the nearby Christ the King Seminary.

On 18th August, the 25th LITE Congress was held at St. Paul's University, Quezon City. IN the morning was the arrival, breakfast, and Solemn Lauds let by Fr. Joseph Matitu sss Provincial Superior. The Conference started at 10.00 a.m. with a talk by his Excellency Rev. Pablo Virgilio S David DD, Bishop of Kalookan on "Eucharist; The Life od every Catholic. He said that in the family, just like Jesus, parents sacrifice everything for their children but never get back in return. We must realise that Jesus sacrificed everything for us and even gave up His life to save us. The action of Jesus int eh Eucharist - took, blessed, shared - is for us to imitate, and also to do for others. To do this, we must have strong Faith, remain humble, and spread the Good News and kindness to others to become Eucharist for others. There was personal testimony after the talk, followed by lunch. After lunch there was a presentation of native dance and songs sung by Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers. The people enjoyed the songs, the golden voices and the modern dancing.

At 3.30 p.m. that day, Fr. Ronaldo de la Rosa OP spoke on "Living out the Eucharist - a constant challenge". He told us that the Eucharist is our Communion with God in His real Presence. We are being transformed into better persons. We can live It out by listening to someone's problem, giving time and help to those in need. We also share in Jesus' sufferings when we struggle with the difficulties of life. During our Sacrifice and difficulties, God is there for us and for that we must always be thankful.

The 5.30 p.m. Eucharistic Celebration was presided by his Excellency Bishop Soforonio Bancud sss, Bishop of Cabanatuan. His homily was about how the Eucharist is being shared with others, starting with our own home and family, especially in listening to our children, giving enough time to them, letting them feel that they are loved and are so important to us, so that they will not go astray. We must give time and be constantly present to each of them. After Mass, there was a photo session, followed by "Agape" meal, before returning home.

On the following day, August 19th, there was a meeting of Servitium Christi Manila and Davao Groups at POLA. We did not realise that Bishop Ronie Bancud sss was still around, but he surprised us by joining our meeting. Members present were Virgie Lourdes and Chato from Davao, and Gene, Tessie, Rosie, Fatima, Veron from Manila, together with A spirant Carmencita Huevos. We started with prayer, and a "warm-up" exercise for older people, taught to us be Tassis. Bishop Ronie then asked us to share our vocation story. Each of us had a rich but difficult experience and in spite of our weaknesses and unworthiness, we were still called to this different kind of vocation as lay consecrated. Bishop Ronie was amazed and reminded us that our inspiring stories of our vocation are sacred and must not be told just to

anybody else. He also told us that what is important is not so much what we achieve, but rather the little things we do for others in our daily lives wherever we are.

The following day I sent a thank you text message to Bishop Ronie. This is his reply: “Today, as any other day, is a celebration of joy, and so keep in mind true joy flows from opening our minds to God so that through us, His love reaches out to His people. To radiate His joy and His loving Presence in our life, is evangelisation”.

Thanks Bishop Ronie! We are so blessed because even for a short while you spent time with us which we will treasure forever

May we share with other Jesus in the Eucharist which we daily celebrate. God bless us all!

Gene Moratalla
Servitium Christi
Manila, Philippines

ASIAN CONFERENCE OF SECULAR INSTITUTES (ACSI)

The 12th Meeting of the Asian Conference of Secular Institutes (ACSI) was held from September 4th to 6th, 2018 at the Pastoral Center of Ho Chi Minh City ArchDiocese, Vietnam.

It was attended by 19 official delegates, 121 Vietnamese participants and 56 foreign participants from thirty-four (34) Secular Institutes (SIs) and lay association from eleven (11) countries in Asia. There were thirty (30) participants from the Philippines, coming from eight (8) SIs. Six members from our Institute in Vietnam attended the Conference, namely: Pham Thi Thanh Nga, Do Thi Thoa, Nguyen Thi Tien Minh, Nguyen Thi Bach Tuyet, Nguyen Thi Xuan Hoa, and Tran Thi Ngan. This Conference has a record number of participants which brought much joy and camaraderie to all. It is noteworthy to mention, the active participation and support of the Local organizer, Rev. Fr. Thomas Vu Quang Trung SJ, Episcopal Vicar for Religious and Consecrated Life as well as the warmth and hospitality of members of the twenty-six SIs of the Dioceses of Vietnam.

The Cardinal Jao Brz de Aviz. Prefect for the Congregation for Consecrated Life, presided over the Inaugural Mass, concelebrated by Abp Emeritus Fernando Capalla (Phils), Bp Peter Nguyean Van De, SDB, Rev. Fr. Thomas Trung SJ, Rev. Fr. Donato (Secretary of the Cardinal), and the Priests from the different secular institutes in Asia.

The 3-fold aim of the General Assembly are:

(1) Plan together for the next four (4) years (2019-2022), (2) Elect the new Executive Board members, and (3) Day of Encounter with SIs of Vietnam and ACSI delegates/participants.

On the third day of the Assembly, the Election of the new ACSI Executive Board for 2019-2022 was held. Decision after the meeting of elected Board Members:

President: Ms. Lilly Fernandes, India

Secretary: Ms. Tran Thi Kim Quyen, Vietnam
Treasurer: Ms. Maria Concepcion Gonzales, Philippines
Council Membes: Ms. Augustina Dwi Susanti (Indonesia) and Ms. Kim Souk (So Korea)

Proposed plan for next ACSI 2018-2022

General:

- 1.Translate the small book "Consecrated Secularity" into various languages. Also ways and means to be found to give Bishops a copy of this booklet.
- 2.Distribute Newsletter quarterly.
- 3.Complete Website of ACSI.
- 4.Help lay associations to be approved as Secular Institutes in the Church.
- 5.Establish different committees who will take care of the various ASCI programs
- 6.Form a pool of topics of common interest of secular institutes in Asia.

Formation

1. Organize at least one formation program for Formators.
2. Form a pool of senior members from member countries to help in giving various inputs in various nations in Asia
3. Study the needs of the secular institutes in each country and the requirements of assistance of any kind.

Ms. Lilly Fernandes, new President of ACSI, thanked the outgoing Council members for their contribution towards the growth of ACSI. Also to Rev. Fr. Thomas Trung SJ, the Vietnamese Committee of Secular Institutes, Ms. Emma and our Lady of Guadalupe Group, for their warm hospitality, care and concern which contributed to the smooth flow and success of the activities of the General Assembly.

Over-all, the three-day Assembly was a success not only in attaining its aims but also in terms of attendance and active participation of various Secular Institutes in Asia. They were enriching days, reinforcing contacts from among the participants as well as building new relationships after the exchanges of life's experiences. We are all looking forward to the next ACSI GA either in Indonesia or Taiwan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, GD Mary and the members of the General Council, for the all out support and prayers you have extended to me during the preparations as well as the Assembly itself. It was a great privilege to be given another chance to represent our beloved Institute, Servitium Christi, in the Asian Gathering.

And thank you too to our Gracious GOD for His outpouring of Love and Goodness. All for God's Greater Glory!

Maria Concepcion de Castro Gonzales
Servitium Christi- Davao Center

IN MEMORIAM
ANEZKA PRAZANOVA

07/12 / 1939- 17/08/2018



On August 17, 2018, Anezka Prazanova, a Czechoslovakian Member, died. Anezka was Ludmila Prazanova's sister, also a member of Servitium Christi, who took care of her in her last illness,. She was also the late Fr. Josef Prazan sss's sister (Vienna).

May her soul rest in peace and her relatives, especially our beloved Ludmila, feel comforted by her permanent union with her in the Mystical Body of Christ.

Let's pray for her and for the Members of the Czech Centre.

Mary Keane,GD

MARIA JUNGBAUER

21/03/1928-28/09/2018



We have said goodbye to Maria Jungbauer, who died on September 28, 2018. Mary was born on March 21, 1928, made her first vows in 1959 and her perpetual vows on October 11, 1956.

Maria belonged to the first Servitium Christi group in Germany. Not only simplicity but also affability, sincerity and reliability were part of her way of being as well as her regular availability to others. Her character marked the development of the Institute in Germany, especially in Düren, where she lived and worked for more than 60 years. We also thank Maria for her gift of self to the General Council, in which she participated for some years. Recent years, lately, Maria spent her days in a home for the elderly, accompanied by friends from her city.

Maria was buried on October 29, 2018 in a grave next to her brother.

Thank you Maria for your presence in our lives and for your example of service to God and to others.

May God reward you with a hundredfold return.

May her beloved soul rest in peace.

Karola Brüker (Germany)

NEWS

News from Rome!

Although very proud of him, we were all saddened to lose our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. Martin Tine on his appointment as Bishop of Kaolack, Senegal. His Episcopal Ordination takes place there on 24th November. However, we are very blessed by the appointment of Fr. Joseph Quoc Vu BINH as his Successor. Fr. Joseph is from Vietnam, and has been a Member of the SSS Fathers' General Council since 2013. Having studied in the USA, and having served in Rome for some time (with responsibility for European Communities) Fr. Joseph is very experienced. He knows our Members in Vietnam, and he understands our Charism. I have met and worked with him on many occasions since 2013, and I am very pleased by his appointment as Ecclesiastical Assistant. We all look forward to meeting him at our General Assembly next May.

Mary Keane
General Directress

CHILE

On December 8th, María Ledda Cayo from Buenos Aires (Argentina) will make her promise. María Valdebenito, R.D. and Emelina Coñomán, will travel there to be present at the ceremony, which will be celebrated by Fr. Rafael Cáceres s.s.s. There is another interested person in that location, so we expect this might be the beginning of the first Servitium Christi Centre in Argentina.

Let's pray for Ledda and this new possibility for our Institute.

CONDOLENCES

Last November 20, Brunilda Jara, Inés Jara's sister, a Member of Santiago de Chile, passed away.

Let us pray the Lord to strengthen Ines and her family.

REFLECTION

...Because there was no room for them in the Inn".

"And she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space." (Lc, 2, 6-7)

Meditating on this text, I was struck by the phrase "because there was no room for them in the Inn". I perceive that even today, there is still no place for them in the shelter of our society's living-space, where the vast majority of people have no voice, not even the hosting of the computer world, to which many do not have access; nor in the shelter of our own blood family or in those of the consecrated people, when we are not able to accept the limits and fragilities of each one; nor in the shelter of the one who is enclosed in his particular world, not allowing another person to walk together, in short, not even in the shelter of our own lives when we do not allow Jesus to be born every day in our hearts.

May our hearts always be mangers so that Jesus is born and lives in us all the days of our lives!

Sonia Maria de Oliveira
Region of Brazil

Dates to Remember 2019

PROFESSION

50 Years Professed :

08 May	Patricia Maldonado Silva	(Chile)
08 May	María Angélica Núñez Castro	(Chile)

25 Years Professed :

09 January	Mary Keane	(Ireland)
17 July	Adriana Gomes	(Brazil)
14 August	Magdalena Vega	(Chile)
28 August	Nadir Generoso	(Brazil)

BIRTHDAYS

90 Years

04 April	Maria Efigenia da Silva :	(Brazil)
22 May	Rosa de Tavernier	(Belgium)
21 November	Maria Karrer	(Germany)

80 Years

09 May	Remigia Nahuelpan	(Chile)
29 July	Marlene da Silva	(Brazil)
14 December	Margot Beumer	(Germany)

70 Years

22 February	Eliete de Souza	(Brazil)
09 April	Antonieta García	(Chile)
12 September	Teresa Do Thi Loan	(Vietnam)
24 October	Veronica Valmonte	(Philippines)

60 Years :

09 November	Gene Abad Moratalla	(Philippines)
23 December	Alena Hulobcova	(Czech Republic)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Next issue: April 2019

Items for inclusion to be received by 15 March. Please send to María Angélica as attachment to e-mail : servitiumchristi@hotmail.com