

Keeping in Touch

SSHJM



July 2023

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Photo on front: Sister Annet being rescued by Catechist Anthony when too many surrounded her for congratulations

A Word from the Editor

Dear Sisters, Sacred Heart Companions and Friends,

At last I have completed this edition of KIT for us all to share! There have been many celebrations and activities in the Congregation with; more Candidates in the Novitiate (now there are 13). Three Sisters professed Final Vows and many more are making yearly steps in offering their lives to God. We offer our continued support to them all and thank God for them.

Sister Cecilia Nachilma shares with us a mediation on Father Victor Braun and Sister Flaviour reflects on life in a new culture.

There are many wonderful projects being carried out throughout the congregation. We are so happy to publish two success stories and look forward to receiving more. The youngsters in Chingola and Sunsuntula sent us photos of life in both places and Sister Lucky, in Chingola, seems to be continuing the charism of Sister Romana in passing on skills of baking etc.

The Sisters in Vienna celebrated 150 years of presence in Austria. They are now approaching their General Chapter for which we offer our ongoing prayer.

The Sisters in Cork always have something to celebrate and it is a delight to see them enjoying their later years. The same can be said of the Sisters in Marian House, they have a lovely new streaming system and can easily follow Mass and prayers in their rooms if they are unable to join the community in the chapel.

To conclude we remind you of the approaching Platinum Jubilee of three sisters—all in Cork.

At the very last minute a lovely article arrived from Cebu so a quick move around and there we are!

With love and prayers to you all

Anne

Perpetual Professions



Congratulations to Sister Annet Ampire who professed Perpetual vows on the 24th of June 2023. She was delighted to have the privilege to do this in her home parish of Our Lady of Mercy, Ibanda, Mbarara, Uganda. The ceremony was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Lambert Bianomugisha. Sister Julie Rose, Congregational Leader, received the vows. Sisters Elizabeth Mooney and Yvonne Mwila from the Leadership Team were also present with Sisters from Uganda and Annet's family. The Ugandan novices travelled from Zambia to be present for this great occasion and the whole congregation was able to follow the ceremony via a web-link.

There was torrential rain on the day but the celebrations were undeterred!

Sister Annet writes;



Front row; Sister Julie, Bishop Binomugisha, Sister Annet, Sister Yvonne Row2 ; Sisters Jane Frances, Rosemary, Paula, Mary Gorreth, Rita. Row 3 ; Sisters Esther, Beatrice and Sister Gabriela, Annet's sp. director



Annet's Dad and Mum

Dearest Sisters,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your prayer support and being with me on the wonderful occasion of Profession of Perpetual Vows.

We will continue to be united in the Heart of Christ. Sister Annet

One week earlier, on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sisters Clara Phiri and Sylvia Mulenga also made Perpetual Profession of vows in Mary Immaculate Parish, Lusaka. The main celebrant was Father Sidney Musonda OMI. Sister Julie received the vows. The families of both Sisters and the many of the Sisters from Zambia were present. Many of us followed the service via a web-link.

Both groups enjoyed a wonderful celebration after the ceremony and the sisters were very quickly ready to return to their mission.

(See the photos of Sisters Sylvia and Clara over the page.)



Left; Sister Clara professing her vows in the hands of Sister Julie.

Below; Sister Sylvia receiving the congregational ring — symbol that each sister receives only on the occasion of final vows.

Right; both Sisters sign the document of profession on the altar.





Above; Sisters Sylvia, Julie and Clara

Dear sisters,

We just want to express our thanks to all of you! Thank you for all the wonderful gifts and cards we received for our profession. Thank you for all your love and support given to us during our preparation and during the profession itself. Your prayers were very much felt!

Sisters Sylvia and Clara

“My little children love one another.”

Father Peter Victor Braun.



These were the last words of our holy Founder on his death-bed before going to his Master whom he had served so well on earth. The words were spoken to the many sisters who surrounded him.

Imagine if he was with us now, this question clicks into my mind. *What would be his last word to me? Would he still repeat the same words?*

My heart challenges me to say, *He would say the same.*

Whenever I reflect on his last words, which have been handed down to us, I see the person who was connected to Christ, a person who pondered on The Word of God and who knew the importance of love. The more I reflect on the words of Father Victor Braun the more I understand the call of St Paul, who, in his letter to the Ephesians, asked the Christians to be *imitators of Christ and to be of the same mind and Heart of Christ*. (Eph. 2:6 – 11). He knew that as Christ's words to his disciples to love each other bound them together through love they attracted many to the kingdom of the Father by their lives. So, too, will the Sisters remain relevant to the people of their time and attract many to God's kingdom.

As we celebrate the life of Father Braun, we remind each other as we journey in this life together that we are standing on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us, from the first foundations until now. We have inherited the rich Charism and Spirituality which have been cherished for over 150 years. It is a race in which each sister is

responsible, whatever her stage in life.

This light has to be guarded and tended so that it cannot be put out. We are deeply grateful to all our Sisters who guarded and handed on this rich charism which we have inherited.

Do not forget that it was the promises of our Lord to St. Margaret Mary and the complaints of His Sacred Heart that gave birth to your Congregation of the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Without this the Congregation would have no reason to exist. The Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are repairers of the Sacred Heart. They are to be souls who bless Him, in the midst of those who outrage Him.

Father Braun is again reminding us of our identity, our mission and our history always making the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus known and loved. It is a call to be connected to this Sacred Heart if we are to make Him known and loved by others. This is our Mission in the world, in which many people hunger for love. Forgetting our identity and our foundation means that despite our existence we would have no relevance.

As our Father Founder said, *What is going to happen tomorrow? Nothing but that which God wills.* He will not ask for anything but what is to his greater glory.

Maybe the question would be, *What is God's will at personal, community and Congregational level?*

Like good stewards entrusted with different gifts let us do our best and guard what has been handed on to us.

Father Peter Victor Braun, pray for us.

Sister Cecilia Nachilima



In every wound there is an opportunity

Acton Homeless Concern

(currently managed by the Spiritan Fathers CSSP).

Sister Janet and myself leave home in Pield Heath, around 09:50 am and travel by bus and underground arriving at Acton around 10am. At the centre, we attend Mass at the parish of our Lady of Lourdes (if on time). The staff report about 07:00 while the volunteers report at different times whenever they can. The door usually opens at 11:30 am to start serving food . Acton Homeless Concern is open five-days a week from Monday to Friday. I attend five days and Sister Janet from Tuesday to Thursday. We help with serving meals, making tea and cleaning.

Coming from a different country, a different background, family and culture, I was totally amazed and shaken to see so many people, who were made redundant during the time of Corona virus and have become homeless. Many are going through one of the toughest times of their lives.

This is indeed a learning period for me, seeing so many men and women in Acton Homeless Concern coming to have their meals reminds me that we are in a wounded world. I feel that no one should be 'left behind' in terms of a stable place to stay and basic food.

While not everyone who attends is homeless, some come because they are struggling with the rapidly rising cost of living and need some support.

One man said to me "When diversity comes our way we need to accept, but we also need to keep going. In some circumstances this is a wake up call from God who is communicating with us and we have to have trust in Him and know that He will answer our prayers and calm our fears."

Some situations are very sad and people can be mentally and psychologically affected depending on how they approach the situation. They may end up abandoning God and start some form of drug or other form of abuse. "

for healing and hope.

This interaction with this person reminded me to that some people need someone to talk to or even counsel. There is indeed a great ministry in just listening. Despite all these challenges some people are always happy and coming to the centre makes them smile.

Some people find it peaceful just sitting around for a while and enjoying their meal and a cup of tea. What we learn is that people feel comfortable where they are made welcome not excluded.

God is so good that he inspires people to set up these types of centre to feed the poor and hungry, inviting others of us to be part of this concern by contributing food and clothing for the most vulnerable in society.

Some of the men who come on a daily basis are given the opportunity to have a shower. They are grateful for this kindness.

I had the opportunity to go upstairs where the men receive clothes. Each is given time to choose what he wants.

The journey out of homelessness takes a long time, with help needed to find accommodation, financial support, employment and/or skills training.

In conclusion, this experience has helped me to see that no matter who we are, we have the chance of showing the best side of ourselves and really it's an eye opener, as well as an inspiration.

Sister Flaviour



Sisters Janet and Flaviour at work

Formation - Entry to the Novitiate

We are blessed to receive another six candidates into the Novitiate



Sister Santrina

Sister Mweenda

Sister Evelyn

Sister Jacqueline

Sister Rebecca

Sister Catherine



A few aul' buns !!!

Formation is a huge part of everyday life and the passing on of skills is a most important aspect. Here we see Sister Lucky, in Chingola, sharing her baking expertise with Sister Monica, (who made first vows in March).



*Srs M. La Salette RIP and M. Romana
RIP in Mbala hospital 1980's*

Pictured below are the
fruits of their labour.



Many of us older
sisters remember Sister Romana both in Chingola and Mbala saying, when
she was in need of a change, *I think I'll just go and make a few aul' buns.*



It looks like the charism of
Sister Romana remains in
Zambia where we loved those
'aul buns'. Sister Romana was
a Confectioner before she
entered in 1955 and then went
on to nursing/midwifery and
care for those with HIV/ Aids
for over 40 years in Zambia.



Households in Distress project in Mungwi District, Zambia



Osward Mwaka Kamisa is a resident of Chiboo Village, in Mungwi District of Northern Province of Zambia, 42 years of age. Married to Pascalina Sampa Kamisa they have 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls

Osward writes; I dropped out of school in Grade 7 in 1995 at Mutemba Primary School,

which is only about 5km away from Chiboo Village. Apart from our own children we also look after three orphans.

I am a small scale famer farmer who only planted maize.

In 2022 I was among those that the sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary - Household in Distress program chose in Chiboo village to receive training on Vegetable Gardening. It has always been my desire to know how to manage a vegetable garden. I used to plant tomatoes even before the training but they were of very poor quality, as I had no knowledge of how to go about it. I depended much on the traditional way of planting, which I adopted from my parents.

I attended the Workshop where we were taught how to plant different vegetables from the nursery, how to manage them and the right fertilizer to be used on each vegetable at a right time. This really came as surprise to me because I have never heard of such fertilizers before. I only knew the ordinary D-compound and urea, common and widely used in Zambia.

During training I understood how I had lived my 42 years in the dark and I said to myself, I wouldn't like to see my children live the same way I

have lived. My children need to be educated. At this point in time I realized the importance of education. I want all my children to be educated. After training we were all asked to choose the vegetable we would like to be focus on. I went for cabbage.

Fourteen days after the training the Household in Distress Program empowered me with cabbage seeds, organic fertilizer for cabbage veg Mix B and chemicals.

It's important also to mention that am not a Catholic by faith and I thought maybe this organization being faith based and originating from the Catholic Church through the SSHJM, at one point I will be dropped from the program. I am really happy and encouraged and my faith has been uplifted to recognise that even people of other faiths can be empowered. Household in Distress Program is for all vulnerable and less privileged persons—in spite of their religious and/ or political affiliation.

After the empowerment I went flat out into gardening with the knowledge and the courage I received from the training. This time around, I was confident enough to believe that my garden would respond well and my family and the community at large would benefit from it. I would spend the whole day at the garden with my wife just to make sure that all is well.



I worked under close supervision and continued support and guidance from the Household in Distress staff, who frequently checked and monitored my garden. This really gave me more courage

to continue working hard. When I see the level of commitment shown to me by the organization's staff, covering long distance just to make sure that am doing the right thing. I count this opportunity as a huge blessing.

Day by day I could see the huge improvement in the way my cabbages were responding, the training, effort and the resources that the people of GOD had put in place to make sure that people like me, vulnerable and less considered in the community, can have a fresh start. Now I can walk in the community with my head up and confident because I know that I have something to depend on.

Other community members are benefiting from the garden by helping watering the garden and I give them vegetables in exchange. Some livestock farmers who are also Household in Distress beneficiaries are benefiting from the garden in one way or the other, by getting the cabbage leaves that I trim from my cabbage to use to feed their pigs. The garden has also created job opportunities for the local people, more especially women who always come to do piece-work.

I want to continue with cabbage growing so that I increase my household income throughout the year, as they only take about 120 days to mature and ready to be sold.

Watering is the most important thing you can do to get cabbage grow quickly. After the next sale am getting a trundle pump to reduce the labour of drawing water from the well and carrying it to water the garden.

SSHJM – Household in Distress Program has made me realize that I have wasted many years on non-profitable crops but after the training I have seen and tested that gardening is the way to go rather than wasting time depending on seasonal crops like maize and waiting for the rainy season, especially with the challenges that comes with climate change, I want to do more in gardening and diversify in other garden crops like

onions and tomatoes that are on high demand on the market.

Now my family have never had a meal without vegetables and we no longer lack sugar and other household's commodities like soap, lotion, salt etc. My children are no longer depending on luck. I manage to provide for my family three meals a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner and sometimes depending on the day I manage to provide an extra meal before going to bed.

Failing to buy essential school items for my children is a thing of the past. am a proudly responsible father and we are now living a happy life. We are no longer the laughing stock in the community

The cabbage crop is ready to be sold in Mungwi District of Northern of Zambia, and it looks like the price is good.

This program has brought a huge change into my life and to my family. We really thank the SSHJM-Household in Distress program (HID) for this life changing program.

May God continue blessing you for touching the lives of the vulnerable people in the communities of Mungwi and Northern Province at large.



SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

STUDENTS SUPPORTED IN SKILL TRAININGS



My name is Titus Bwalya, born in 2000, in Chinsali district of Muchinga province of Zambia. I am the fourth born in the family of five, three girls and two boys. I grew up with Mum because my father divorced her when I was 10 years old. We were left with our mother who is just a small scale farmer, planting maize and beans.

I did my primary school in Chinsali at Caso primary School. My primary school was funded by my mum. I wrote my final grade seven exams and qualified to Grade 8 but this achievement came with its own challenges both material and financial. At this stage my mother was unable to manage to pay for my school fees.

There was no option but to become a charcoal seller, to help my mother financially. Later I started my grade 8 at Caso Basic School but I continued dealing in the charcoal business until I wrote my final grade nine exam and qualified to grade ten.

Then came further challenges; there is no secondary school in my village and so I needed to go to a boarding school or to find a school where I could rent a room nearby. But the question was: Is my mother going to manage to pay for my boarding fees? And if I find a school who is going to pay for the room-rent and the school fees? These questions had (as yet) no answers.

Finally after selling my 15 bags of charcoal I raised about k375.00 (about £25.00 sterling) I decided to leave the village, even though my mother was against the idea, as there was no option but to go the hard way. I left the village and came to Kasama because I was told my father lived there and I had hoped to find him.

I arrived in Kasama around 22.00 hrs and spent my first night sleeping under the tables at the market place, this was started another chapter in my life.

In the morning I started going door to door in Buseko Location area because the rumour was that my father lived there, but I didn't manage to find him. After two days search I almost gave up until I met a woman who was wearing a catholic women's uniform and so I stopped her and explained my problem and situation to her. She said "The man you have mentioned stayed here two years ago, he was my neighbor but am not sure where he is, but the rumour is that he is now in Kitwe and he is married."

She took me to her place and provided food for me and later introduced me to Sister Judith Nankamba who belongs to the SSHJM Kasama community.

This was all by the grace of God. Sister Judith started paying for my school fees at Chileshe Chepela Special School. That is how I finished my Grade 12.

In 2021, Sister Judith told me about the organization called Households in Distress (HID), and later introduced me to a staff member who interviewed me and later added me to the list of the 'Kasama Vulnerable Youth'. We were offered skills training at Lukashya Trades Training Institute. He also offered to help me with meals for three months because it was self-catering at Lukashya.

I thank God, today I am a graduate in bricklaying. God has really done wonders for me through the SSHJM—HID program.

Now I am a different person, able to support my mother in the village and also able to pay for my house rent.

Life has really changed I believe that only God know what he holds for my life, I have met different people who have helped me thus far. It's only by the mercy of God .

Sisters of the sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary –Household in Distress Program, May God continue blessing as you continue touching lives.

Titus Bwalya





Income generation in Chingola.



We give Thanks
for Sunsuntila.





An impromptu Gathering at Field Heath

Early in June Sister Maria Holly collected Sisters Janet, Mary Lesa and Flaviour from their retreat in Clowyn Bay to return to Field Heath. Sister Pierina, from Chigwell begged a lift to save a second car going. On arrival at PH they were met by Sisters Rosemary and Mary Ellen who had a sumptuous spread ready for them. Already there were Sisters Edith and Kathleen on their way to Vienna on holiday. Sister Mary Dargie was also there as she had just returned from Cebu.

We all had a good chat and 'changed the world' for an hour or two before I set off again with Sister Pierina to Chigwell.



Clockwise; Sisters Flaviour, Edith, Maria, Mary D, Pierina, Mary Ellen, Janet, Mary L, Rosemary and Kathleen.



Sister Pius

90th Birthday



Above; Sister Pius, in Marian House, recently celebrated her 90th birthday and was delighted that her younger sister Peggy (a mere 89 years) came along to celebrate with her as did Sister Elizabeth Francis. Below; Father Chris from Lewisham. Sister Pius cooked Sunday lunch for the Fathers there for many years. Cathy George and her husband who are good neighbours from Lewisham, also joined in the fun.





Summer time in Cork

Below; Sisters Bridget McCourt, Laura, Austin and Celine having a chat over morning coffee.



Below; Sisters Sarto and Mary Ignatius enjoying time by the lake



Sister Bridget McCourt looking very 'summery' with a big ice-cream cone.

Sister Laurentia 90 years young!



Sr. Mary Ignatius

Surrounded by her nephews and nieces and her community, Sister Laurentia celebrated her goth birthday in Cork Community



Sr. Margaret Sha-

Sisters Sheila and Bridget Ryan celebrating their birthdays



Sr. Sarto.

Sr. Marie

Sr. Catherine

Sr. Christina

Sr. Sheila

Sr. Bridget Ryan

Sr. Brigid F.

*Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary-Sp.Ed
Learning Center, Cebu.*

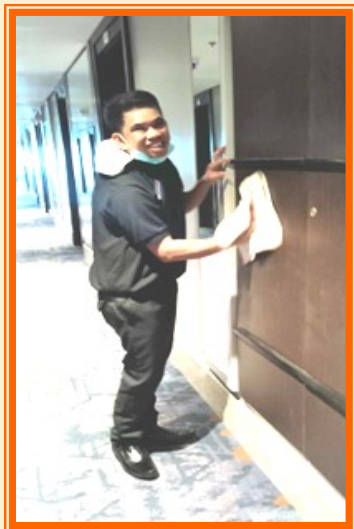
"Every child is born with a special and unique talent that sets them apart." This serves as a reminder that each of us possesses a distinct talent bestowed upon us from above, and it is our responsibility to utilize it in alignment with our true purpose. The thirst for knowledge and the appreciation for the guidance provided by those around us form the foundation for personal growth and the development of our innate abilities.

Our perspectives and beliefs are shaped by our daily observations, auditory input, and acquired knowledge. Therefore, it is crucial to create a loving, respectful, friendly, and nurturing environment when engaging with learners. By doing so, we ensure that they are exposed to positive values and influences. There may be instances when learners become disheartened and lose confidence in their interactions with others, fearing prejudice and discrimination. In such moments, it becomes paramount to reassure them, encouraging them not to be discouraged. Everyone possesses their own unique purpose and aspirations that they are meant to fulfill.



"When we face failure, it does not define us as failures. Often, we perceive failure as a permanent state, which hinders us from trying again. However, life can be likened to the battle between a rabbit and a turtle; the ultimate victor is the one who persists without ceasing. As the quote suggests, 'I may walk slowly, but I never walk backward.'

This realization strikes a chord of hope within learners, inspiring them to pursue their dreams relentlessly



and achieve the rewards of their hard work and dedication. They begin to experience a sense of joy, reflected by the smiles on their faces, symbolizing their newfound positivity. Whenever they feel disheartened, we are always there to encourage them and remind them that 'doing good today will reap rewards tomorrow.'

Sometimes in life, we experience feelings of loneliness, depression, stress, and weariness. During such moments, it's easy to become discouraged. However, it's important to remember that the choices we make shape our experiences. If we

choose to embrace loneliness, we will feel isolated, but if we choose to seek happiness and enjoy life, we can find it.

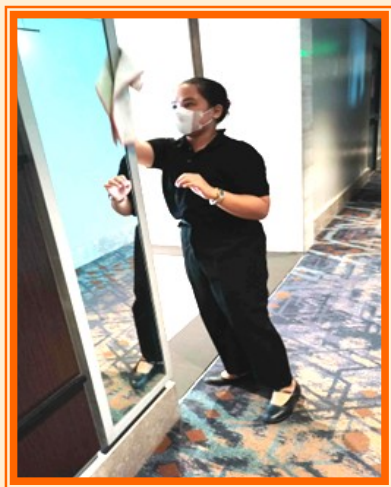
Each one of us has encountered suffering, pain, and made sacrifices because these are integral parts of life. When we feel exhausted, it's crucial to take the time to rest and contemplate the next steps. If you have a problem or a burden weighing on your mind, it's beneficial to express it. A problem is like holding a pebble in your hand. At first, it may feel insignificant, but over time, it can cause your arms to tremble. Therefore, it's better to let go and release the burden.

These words are deeply ingrained in the hearts and minds of the learners we inspire every day. Our learners encounter numerous obstacles in their daily lives, yet they possess a remarkable tenacity and resilience that empowers them to overcome barriers and achieve their goals. With the right assistance and guidance, they can not only flourish but



also make a positive impact on the world around them.

Having acquired the skills to stand tall, become independent, and confront their challenges, they demonstrate that they can accomplish what is considered ordinary. Their unwavering determination enables them to pursue their dreams with unwavering faith and hope, even in the face of adversity. As the saying goes, "There is always a rainbow after the rain," signifying that there is always a glimmer of hope for those who possess resilience and faith.



They begin to ignite the candle of hope for themselves as they embrace independence, receiving a certificate and a pin in recognition of their internship. These learners have now become official student-trainees at Robinsons Summit Hotel and Dusit Thani Mactan Hotel and Resort, two esteemed and luxurious establishments in Cebu, Philippines. Consequently, the learners will be entitled to 75 percent of the company's regular compensation, along with comprehensive benefits and insurance coverage.

Witnessing the progress of our learners is truly inspiring, and we hope that all of them will achieve remarkable accomplishments in the coming year. This serves as undeniable evidence that they possess unique qualities and capabilities, transcending their disabilities. By walking together, we can bring about a significant difference, continuously extending our helping hand to support, guide, and nurture them as they unlock and develop their full potential in alignment with God's plan for their lives.

Indeed, "We are born with special talents; however, without proper guidance, these talents may remain dormant and futile." Therefore, our commitment to assisting those in need will persist, offering guidance, trust, and inspiration to empower them.

Believe in yourself and your abilities. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. Find strength in setbacks, for they are steppingstones to success. Keep striving, even when it feels impossible. Remember, greatness lies within you. Rise, shine, and embrace the power of your dreams.
(author unknown)

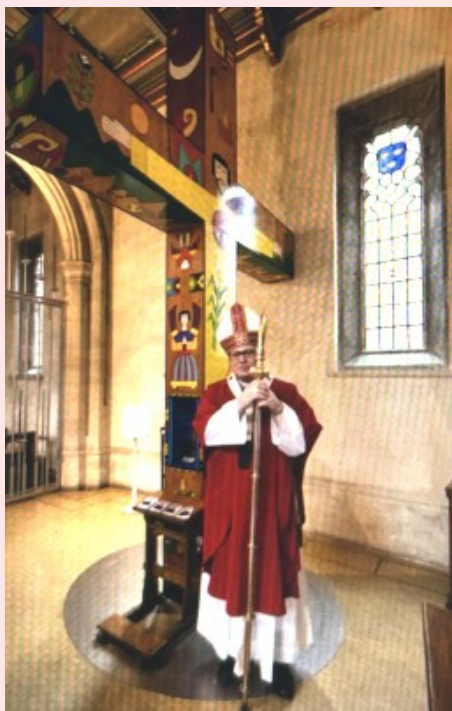
The learners, Krishlia Nicole, Archie, Junmar, and Riann pictured above, were working at Robinsons Summit Hotel prior to their internship program.

Below we see Alexander, Garry, and Haide. who are currently working at Dusit Thani Mactan Hotel and Resort prior to their internship program.



New National Shrine of St Oscar Romero

Source: Archdiocese of Southwark, UK



The Archdiocese of Southwark has announced that the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, has been elevated to the status of a National Shrine for England and Wales.

Following a petition to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales by the Archbishop of Southwark, Archbishop John Wilson, the Bishops gave their unanimous approval to the new National Shrine at their recent Spring Plenary Meeting in Leeds.

Commenting on the elevation to a National Shrine, Archbishop John Wilson said: "We are very grateful to the

Bishops of England and Wales for their support in enabling our Diocesan Shrine to now become a National Shrine for the benefit of people across our Dioceses.

"St Oscar Romero calls us to faithful discipleship of the Lord Jesus and to the full proclamation of the Gospel. We are a people of the Beatitudes who must announce and live the Beatitudes. When Christ taught us to love and to serve he really did mean us to put this into practice, especially towards those in most need. Love of Christ and love of neighbour mean that defending human life and dignity, and working for justice and peace, are integral to our witness. In this, we look to St Oscar's inspiring example and ask his heavenly intercession."

St Oscar Romero (b 1917) was Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador from February 1977 until his assassination and martyrdom on 24 March 1980. He was an outspoken advocate of the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church in defence of justice and peace, human rights and the protection of the poor. He was canonised by Pope Francis on 14 October 2018.

The Romero Shrine in St George's Cathedral was implicitly recognised as a Diocesan Shrine in 2013, and this was made explicit through the promulgation of Statutes in 2019. Since then, St Oscar Romero has been beatified and canonised and there is growing appreciation of Romero in the UK, including through the work of the Romero Trust and the Romero Award (for schools), and also ecumenically.

The National Shrine of St Oscar Romero is situated in the Romero Chapel, off the South Aisle within St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Conceived by the British architect, Jonathan Louth, the Shrine is located between the older chapels of St Joseph and St Patrick. The centrepiece of the Shrine is the three-dimensional Romero Cross, (approx. 4.3 x 3.2 x 0.3 metres) designed and painted by the renowned Salvadoran artist, Fernando Llort.

The Romero Cross contains a reliquary holding a precious fragment of the blood-stained alb that was part of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom clothing as he celebrated Mass on 24 March 1980. This is the heart of the Shrine. Displayed alongside is a zucchetto, one of St Oscar Romero's episcopal skullcaps. These were donated to the Archdiocese, through the good offices of the Archbishop Romero Trust and CAFOD, for permanent display and veneration by visitors to the Cathedral and pilgrims from near and far. The Cross is overlooked by a bust of Archbishop Romero by the artist, Lado Goudjabidze. The Shrine is erected to the Greater Glory of God and to foster devotion to St Oscar Romero and, in a related way, to the martyrs of El Salvador. It is established for the spiritual benefit of the People of God in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The Shrine will make devotional materials available to assist its mission and purpose, namely:

- To encourage and enable pilgrims and visitors to seek the intercession of St Oscar Romero and find inspiration in his example of fidelity to the Christ and his Church.
- To promote the Church's prophetic evangelising mission to proclaim the Gospel, acknowledging the risks this might entail in the pursuit of human dignity, justice, reconciliation and peace;
- To encourage pilgrims and visitors, inspired by the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero, to strive to become more authentic missionary disciples, strengthened in their resolve to bear witness to the Lord Jesus in the midst of the world;
- To propose the model and example of St Oscar Romero, for imitation in the Church, as a bishop who was completely faithful to the person and teaching of Christ and his Church, and who embraced, and lived with holiness, a preferential option for the poor in his ministry and in his daily life;
- To assist pilgrims to find affirmation and consolation from St Oscar Romero's immersion in the 'Word of God' and the 'World of the Poor', in his devotion to the Eucharist and to Our Blessed Lady, as they try to live out a prayerful spirituality together with courageous and loving service to their neighbour in need;
- To provide a focal point for special devotions, liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations which uphold the God-given dignity and rights of every person, especially the poor and marginalised, both locally and globally, in faithfulness to Christ.
- To offer an inspiring setting for visits by pilgrims and visitors, both individuals and groups, from parishes and schools across England and Wales, together with those involved in mission, evangelisation, justice, peace,

and the promotion of Catholic Social Teaching.

- To strengthen and enhance the relationship between a prayerful and orthodox Catholic faith and witness and action for social justice, in order that the love of God and effective love of neighbour are held together in discipleship.

- To foster good relationships and coordinate liturgies with other shrines and holy places that embrace and honour St Oscar Romero and the Christian martyrs of modern times.

For information about the Archbishop Romero Trust see:

www.romerotrusted.org.uk/

Below; In a mural at the cancer hospital where St Romero live and was martyred, Llort depicts Archbishop Romero bringing 'the Good News' to the poor, the sick and the forgotten ones of El Salvador – with symbols of Jesus as the new sun, the sun of divine justice, together with the Father and the Spirit, alongside the community of El Salvador. The mural is a delightful array of colourful, and typically Llort, images – reminiscent of those he designed for the Romero Cross Shrine in St George's Cathedral in Southwark.



***Note:** Fernando Llort was known by many of our Sisters who lived in El Salvador and there is much of his work on display throughout the Congregation especially those brightly painted crosses which are displayed in many of our houses.*

When the Romero Cross was erected in Southwark Cathedral. St Oscar Romero's brother, Gaspar, stayed with us in Chigwell and the Sisters accompanied him to the inauguration.

WIR LIEBEN DICH, WIEN



Sisters Kathleen and Edith spent some of their holidays this year in Vienna visiting the Sisters there. Together with Kathleen and Edith you can see some familiar faces - I recognise Sister Benedicta and Sister Gabriela .

Not sure what is going on below but all I can say is Eye Eye!!!



UNTER UNS

150 years of Sisters in Vienna

How beautiful it is when two,
three or more souls, become one
in heart and soul.

St. Francis de Sales

In memory of the first 150 years, we celebrated a thanksgiving service on Sunday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Church. With the Episcopal Vicar P. Mag. Comma SJ, Mr. Dean Lambrichs, the Salesian Fathers Dr. cellar, Dr Salesny, Pastor Leppitsch and P. Bauernfeind.



Federation Victor Braun

A Federation Council was held in the ballroom on May 1st, chaired by Sr. Julie Rose. All participants welcomed the opportunity to meet after the 150th anniversary celebrations in Vienna. The last international meeting took place in 2019.

Participants: (photo opposite) Sr. M. Adelinde, Sr. M. Dominika, Sr. M. Gabriele, Sr. M. Damaris, Sr. M. Margareta for the Austrian Congregation, Sr. Calixte, Sr. Delphine, Sr. Agathe, Sr. Catherine for the French Congregation and Sr Julie Rose, Sr Mary Dargie and Sr Yvonne for the English Congregation. Furthermore, Sr. Elizabeth Dawson, Sr. Elizabeth Mooney, Sr. Rosemary and Sr. Mary Cathie from England as well as Sr. M. Ludowika from Kühr joined the meeting via video conference.

At the meetings we reflected on the "Federation Victor Braun" and the possible forms of cooperation. During the talks it became clear that ideas had been found at meetings in the past, but that there was usually a lack of implementation.

Another important point discussed was better education in the individual congregations, the passing on of information to all sisters in order to reduce fears, insecurities and reservations about the Federation.

So far, the Federation Council under ART. 6 of the statutes (with the Superiors General and 2 members of the General Council of each Congregation). Sr. Julie Rose suggested expanding the Federation Council as the respective Superiors General and Councillors do not have enough time to organize the information and meetings.

From autumn 2023, a larger federal circle of interested sisters from all three congregations is to be formed, which will deal with the possibilities of cooperation, exchange and ideas for joint projects. Sr. M. Margareta was asked to invite sisters in our congregation to make the Federation

more alive. A meeting with the new members of the Federation is to be held in October, initially via video conference.

It was important to all participants of the meeting to revive the original idea of the Federation and to support each other in the respective works of the three congregations.



A VERY SPECIAL DATE TO REMEMBER:-

PLATINUM JUBILEES ON THE 28TH OF AUGUST:-

SISTER MARY SARTO – CORK COMMUNITY

SISTER MARY AUSTIN – CORK COMMUNITY

SISTER BRIDGET RYAN – CORK COMMUNITY



SSHJM CALENDAR 2024

Would you like a photo, of yourself on mission or persons in your mission in next years calendar? If so I need your photos as soon as possible.

- ⇒ Please send me the photo by email (and do not make it smaller).
- ⇒ If you have a good caption to go with it I am happy to along with it.
- ⇒ We also need written permissions for use of photos of children and vulnerable adults.
- ⇒ Other persons in the photo should be asked if they agree to be included (just good manners)
- ⇒ Any other ideas ?

Congregation
Education
Leadership
Formation
Care for Creation
Health care
communications
Households in Distress

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