



CONGREGATION LIFESTREAM

WE ARE DIFFERENT YET ONE

“The way of Jesus...to walk united with our differences.”

-Pope Francis

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Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, Via dei Bevilacqua 60, Rome, 00165

O GLORIOUS ST. SCHOLASTICA, O DOVE WHO FLEW TO HEAVEN ON WINGS OF LOVE



Olinda

Manila

Madrid

Haus St. Benedikt

India

“May St. Scholastica, the dove, the beautiful one, who was known for her powerful prayer, help us arise and make haste to greater heights in our new journey of attentive listening to one another and above all to the voice of the One who called us unto life everlasting.”

-Excerpt from M. Maoro Sye’s Common Letter, February 10, 2022



Norfolk

Rome

Nairobi

Ndanda

Seoul

Sorocaba

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l-r: Sr. Aquinata, Abbot Primate Gregory, M. Maoro

Renewal of Profession

CASA CELEBRATES JUBILEES

SR. MARIE BRUNO SHIN, OSB

Holy mass was celebrated in thanksgiving for the 40th anniversary of religious profession of M. Maoro Sye and the 60th of Sr. Aquinata Böckmann on February 10, solemnity of St. Scholastica, in the Casa Community in Rome.

The two jubilarians were seated at the decorated front benches of the winter chapel. The faces of the two sisters looked peaceful as if they were children in God's arms..

On the same day when the Profession Anniversary Mass was celebrated in Rome, the other six sisters of the same group of Sr. Aquinata gathered at Haus St. Benedikt in Tutzing. Sr. Victoria Kauth, who stays in the Mother House, went to Haus St. Benedikt for the Holy Mass together with the five other sisters, namely, Sr. Lucia Jörger, Sr. Maria Georg Nowottny, Sr. Martha Baumeister, Sr. Amabilis Zink and Sr. Quirina Seidl.

At the beginning of the Holy Mass, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan OSB said “Today we are celebrating 40 years of monastic profession of M. Maoro and 60 years of Sr. Aquinata, so a total of 100 years!” In his homily, he talked about ‘a mysterious interplay between prayer and providence’ that encompasses the story of St. Scholastica, the monastic lives of M. Maoro and Sr. Aquinata amd Mary and Martha’s story, which was the Gospel of the day. He said, "*There is a mysterious interplay between the two -- prayer and providence. They are mutually supportive, one of the other. For it is in our prayer that we*

surrender ourselves to God’s plan; it is in prayer that we are sometimes given a window into the mystery of providence, most often only a glimpse, to see how the parts of life’s puzzle begin to fit together. It is in prayer that we seek and receive the grace not so much to understand the workings of providence, but to do the will of God by making choices which are grounded in faith. It is in our most earnest prayer that we come before God, confident in divine assistance, when all else seems to be failing."

We had coffee colloquy in the afternoon. On the table were refreshments and cakes sent by the Rector of the Korean College, our neighbor. While M. Maoro and Sr. Aquinata were cutting the cake, the lively Swahili song ‘Kata Keki’ from the African sisters resounded. Then followed the program prepared by different groups. At the end, M. Maoro expressed her deep gratitude for her religious vocation. Sr. Aquinata expressed her cordial appreciation for the 60th Jubilee of her profession, along with her thankfulness for having been in the international Casa Community of Rome. With the sisters on their anniversary, we stop walking for a moment and look back at the past, and then, we come to realize that, as we walk in God's arms, every moment of our life has been woven by His providence and loving care. Also, we become aware that long years are flying on the wings of time as if it were a fleeting moment. We only use the time and space allowed to us for a short time, and then leave. Let us pray that what we leave for God, to the universe, to the world, and to those who are with us on the journey of our life, may be the fragrance of God and longing for the Lord.

NORFOLK PRIORY

WELCOMES VISITATORS

SR. MICHAEL MARIE ROTTINGHAUS, OSB

The visitation in the Norfolk Priory conducted by Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca and Sr. Katharina Mtitu took place from February 13 – 26, 2022.

The traveling of our visitors took on the semblance of an obstacle course. The first obstacle was passing the *COVID-19* hurdle – this one Sr. Katharina did not pass but she could only try again a week later at which time she succeeded in passing and could go to the actual *plane catching* hurdle which Sr. Lumen Gloria had

already gone through with some predicaments and dilemmas on the way. We were very pleased that they both arrived safe and sound to Monastery portals.

Our meetings took place in the Chapter Room which had been prepared by our sisters with a very beautiful display with symbols reflecting the different ethnic groups which make up our Priory Community: German – Filipino - Korean – Brazilian – Tanzanian – Kenyan – Australian - Swiss - and of course American. And like the display a meaningful prayer opened the days of visitation.

Sr. Lumen Gloria in her indomitable way took
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Winnebago Community

l-r: Sr. Deana, Sr. Magdalena, Sr. Katharina, Sr. Lumen Gloria, Sr. Suelene



Sioux City Community

l-r: Sr. Fidelis, Sr. Pia P. Sr. Lumen Gloria, Sr. Gabrielle Marie, Sr. Laura Ann



Norfolk Priory

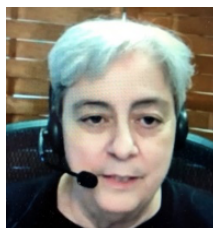
VISITATORS...from page 1

on the first tasks of the visitation without the support of her companion Sr. Katharina, who was still on the way. Sr. Lumen Gloria began with providing information about the Congregation and related topics. The Information she shared was a joy to hear and see especially when we could get a glimpse of sisters from around the congregation whom we know from different encounters.

We then moved to the task of animation, which was most engaging and at times trying, trying to capture the essence of the questions posed. Through the sessions which we had in groups, a deeper appreciation for the gift of Community and the individual sisters who make up our monastic family surfaced. There was considerable gratitude expressed throughout the sessions for our community and for each other.

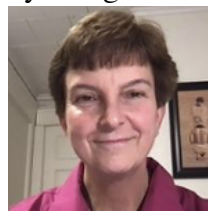
Now we look forward, that with the help of the Holy Spirit we may find the energy and the graces initiated through this visitation process to be renewed in heart, mind, and spirit.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Lumen Gloria and Sr. Katharina for all their labors of love and prayers for our community, before, during and in the days following this blest time of Visitation.



Sr. Judith

the crisis of Benedictine life in the USA. Sr. Judith brought forward some very salient and challenging points. She said, “We have to confront today’s world and listen to its hungers so we can know what to bring forth right now to feed those hungers.” She quoted Johannes Metz who said that communities and orders rise up, “not when the Church is flourishing but when it is profoundly unsure of itself.” Sr. Judith emphasized the importance of “listening for the Spirit, to be talking about the possibilities, and to be moving in a direction.” She encouraged us by saying, “Each generation of Benedictines has survived by being what was needed at the time.”



Sr. Maria

During the annual meeting we were challenged still further during the two-days of presentations and discussion with Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ. Sr. Maria spoke

encouraging words of how Benedictine life is certainly still needed for our time. She challenged us to see this moment of our history as a time for conversion, transformation, and revitalization. She reminded us that the Spirit’s gift is evolving. We are not only to be yeast but also to be yeasted. Throughout the days of conferences and meetings, the words of Habakkuk 4 were a mainstay, “The vision still has its time; if it delays, wait for it. It will surely come.”

Sr. Maria encouraged the participants to welcome this moment of believing and trusting; we are walking in God’s plan. We build the road by walking.



**THE CONFERENCE OF
BENEDICTINE
PRIORESSES
MEETING THE
CHALLENGES
OF OUR TIME**

SR. ROSANN OCKEN, OSB

The USA Conference of Benedictine Prioresses held their annual meeting virtually from January 27-31, 2022. Forty-five prioresses and administrators attended, coming from the three Federations and six non-federated communities.

The diminishing number of members among the Benedictine women’s communities in the USA sparked considerable discussion in preparation for and during the meeting. Already last August the Conference members listened to a virtual conference given by Sr. Judith Sutera,



Sr. Matilda Handl was transferred from Casa Santo Spirito, Rome to Haus St. Benedikt, Tutzing/Generalate District on February 11.

INTERCULTURALITY THROUGH INTER-PRIORY SHARING

SR. ANITA PAK from Daegu Priory to Peramiho Priory



Sr. Anita with Tanzanian women

I arrived here in Peramiho on December 3, 2021 and I started to serve at the health center in Uwemba from January onwards, a very short time to share mission experience. First I was surprised. People in Tanzania do not wear masks everywhere, except in hospitals and other public areas designated. I carried 300 pieces of masks because I was afraid of Corona. After a warm welcome ceremony at the priory house I attended vespers. It has been 5 months now since I left Daegu Priory. I almost cried when sisters prayed + Ee Mungu. Unielekezee msaada... (+ O God, come to my assistance...)

I am grateful that I am a Missionary Benedictine Sister of Tutzing because we have the same liturgy. It is good that we pray in the same tonus. It makes us one community even if we are from another priory.

In Korea, I was always in a hurry and tried to be always punctual. Here reigns the famous word: "pole pole", (slowly slowly), no need to hurry and no problem. Nobody complains. At first, I felt a little uncomfortable, but now I have become comfortable, "pole pole" (slowly slowly). People here smile always. In the beginning, I was too serious because of too many tensions. Now I have learned to be more relaxed. It is just a short time that I have been here but with a lot of experiences that made me change in a positive way. Asanteni (Thank you!).

SR. MA. IGNATIO CHUNG from Daegu Priory to Bulgaria/Generalate District



As I walk through the convent, I pray that the flowers, the main ingredient of м е х л е м

ointment made here, will grow better this year. We sisters have put great effort to make the soil fertile by watering it, pulling weeds, and above all through our prayer. м е х л е м ointment have healed a lot of people. People like to hear the bells of the convent that are rung three times a day. Others say that just seeing the convent from afar is comforting enough. When I hear the stories of the people, I feel that our stay here is itself a mission.

Our convent is connected to a psychiatric hospital. Occasionally, when I hear a cry of a patient in the hospital, I pray earnestly.

Last year, I was seriously ill with COVID, and I received a lot of prayers from many people. Not only the prayers of the living people, but also the prayers of the sisters in heaven. The experiences of difficulties and hardships have also been precious gifts to me. That what I see is not everything, that what I know is not everything, there are so many things I do not know, things I do not recognize.

It snowed a lot in early February. Snow-loving children from the opposite side of the convent were riding sleds in front of the house. The children, who understood my poor Bulgarian vocabulary, pulled the sled for me. The joy of riding a sled, the warm hearts and smiles of the children they showed me made me happier. The time our sisters share with the children and with our neighbors gives me joy. I am also grateful for the dedication and hospitality of the sisters and for their hard work and service. Above all, I am truly grateful for God's love and providence.

SR. LYDIA JACOB from India/Generalate District to Ndanda Priory



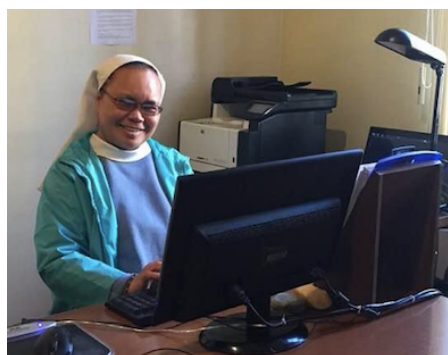
As a missionary I always expressed my willingness for the mission "ad extra."? ---->

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I studied in Kerala, India. Now I work as a medical laboratory technologist under a contract of one year at St. Benedict Ndanda Referral Hospital. It is a wonderful time with many people not only working but also learning many good things everyday through the Tanzanian people. This has helped me to develop relationships that give me easy access to families. I felt difficulties while working in the laboratory during the first month because people spoke Swahili and people were new to me. Now I am okay and have adjusted well. I appreciate the way we work here in the hospital which is beyond the barriers of language and culture. I have many good friends among my colleagues. I like the Tanzanians and love this Ndanda priory. We live together, pray together, eat together. That's a symbol of unity in Christ. As a missionary I can follow it.

Today in this present difficult situation of Covid-19, more than ever I am convinced of my call to be a witness of God's love and mercy to all my brothers and sisters, irrespective of caste, color and religion as mentioned in the third Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis "Gaudete et Exultate " (Rejoice and be glad, 2018). As I work in the church for small or big decorations and in the hospital, I work for God and the people surrounding me. Life does not have a mission but it is a mission.

SR. STEPHANIE ZAMORAS from Manila Priory to Windhoek Priory



I believe God has a purpose in calling me to international mission. To be immersed in a completely different

culture is not a joke. Thus, my temper was tested, my humility, my sincerity and my perseverance were all tested. In the process, the worst of myself came out, yet the best of myself also surfaced. After all, the grace of God prevails.

I am thankful for the kind of community where I belong, that is, the RCH (Roman Catholic

Hospital) community. The Sisters, belonging to different nationalities, are so caring and loving that I recovered from Covid quickly. Even recently, I got sick again, but recovered shortly.

God really prepared me for this kind of mission. Everything that I learned in school, be it academics, theology, spirituality, handicraft, gardening or music, is enormously useful in fulfilling my mission. Who would ever think that I can play the pipe organ at Sunday mass, repair worn out books, crochet headbands and develop a garden of flowers from the rocky spaces of the convent, not to mention the legal knowledge that helped me fulfil my job as a secretary. To be a secretary to the Archbishop is not a simple secretarial job. It's really helping the local Church of Namibia operate as such.

I am thankful to the Generalate for assigning me to the international mission and for the generosity of the Manila Priory for sharing me with the Windhoek Priory where I feel I bloom.

ANNITA LAWRENCE from India/Generalate District to Manila Priory



Sr. Anita caring for the sick

February 21, 2020 was a memorable day as I leapt into my missionary journey out of my country for the first time from India to Philippines. I was supposed to be missioned in Pumbujan but because of Covid -19 pandemic I was stranded in Marikina at St. Benedict's Home. Yes, God has a plan for everything. I was welcomed by the sweetness and warmth of the elderly and sick sisters who spent long time in mission areas. As a new beginner, the culture, people, food, and the language were very strange to me. But Sr. Consilio, Sr. Maria Luisa and Sr. Gertrud support and encourage me. I always have the privileges of being the youngest in the community. Almost I have adapted well, and I have learned a lot. *(next page)*

INTERCULTURAL from page 6

It is a great opportunity for me to work as a nurse among the elderly and sick sisters, to assist them in their disabilities, to serve them in their need, to be available when they need somebody to listen to. Many times, I have been inspired and felt accepted when they utter to me " I am praying for you", or when they leave a blessing and when they express their thankfulness even for the smallest help done to them. I realize that I have become more patient and more helpful. I have been touched to see an elderly sister praying privately before the blessed sacrament. I am inspired to see a sick sister fighting with her sickness to be back to health. I enjoy my missionary service with these sisters who see this home as a preparation for their entrance to the eternal home.

SR. MAGDALENA MAEMBE from Peramiho Priory to Norfolk Priory



Sr. Magdalena with Sr. Rita Hess

My trip to Norfolk, Nebraska USA was the longest trip in my whole life. But it went very well. And I received much help on the way. I met a woman from Tanga-Tanzania named Magdalena when I arrived in Doha. I then flew to Dallas, Texas and there I met a young man who called Sr. Rita Marie for me to let her know I was OK. When I arrived in Omaha, Sr. Rosann, Sr. Letisia, and Sr. Rita Marie were there to meet me. I was

welcomed by the sisters very joyfully, some even played drums and were singing so lively.

It took me some time to adjust to all the things here in this big five-story monastery. My days and nights were mixed up for a whole week, I was sleepy during the day and awake during the night. This place is cold even if the sun is shining. In my country when the sun shines, it is warm!

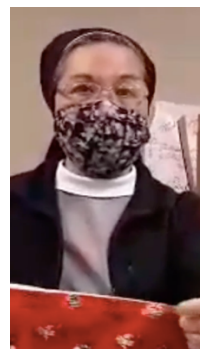
I am a Missionary Benedictine Sister, but I never

thought that one day I would be sent as a missionary to the United States, because I know that my "struggle" is with English!

I am the first Missionary from the Peramiho Priory who has been missioned to this Norfolk Priory. This is living history.

It is my prayer that the Lord will help me in the apostolate to which I am entrusted.

SR. GABRIELLA URIAN from Rome to Norfolk Priory to Haus St. Benedikt



A month or so I shall be going to Haus St. Benedikt, Tutzing for my next assignment. I am grateful to God for his faithfulness during the past 7 and a half years as part of the Norfolk Priory, with rich experiences from spiritual to practical. I was assigned first at the Spirituality Center, served groups and guests, helped in the infirmary and laundry and then as sacristan. I was transferred to another mission among the Winnebago and Omaha native Americans. I was given office work to help out the community outreach ministries: food pantry and thrift store. During our missionary journey things may not always go well. Back to the Priory house, I was assigned in the refectory. In between jobs I was engaged in sewing and mending, which taught me how to be more patient with myself. It was a privilege working with the Sisters and serve the community with the talents God has given me. I learned to be creative. I do appreciate all these opportunities. Each Sister is a treasure to me.

Side trips with the youth several times, like the "Lifeteen Summer Camps", March for Life trips to Washington DC, were enriching in which we sisters were given the chance to tell our vocation stories and share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Packing Mercy meals once a month was so dear to me. I was given the trust to coordinate our group.

In the community, what I love most are the quiet atmosphere which favors my prayer life, the liturgy, recreations and community celebrations with games with our faithful Oblates. Part of monastic life are some challenges, not spared from some pains and difficulties, but the Lord is good

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and merciful all the time. One of my struggles is how to learn the right pronunciations, however I am enriched with my monastic life of prayer and our intercultural living.

SR. SUELENE GOMES DE MATOS from Olinda Priory to Norfolk Priory



On December 6, 2017 I arrived at the airport of Omaha. Sr. Michael Marie and Leah Ann were there waiting for me with a warm coat, a big smile and a welcome hug.

Right there and then my heart began to warm up with their hospitality and joy. When we got home, all the sisters of the community had waited for us at the entrance and welcomed me with songs. It was a beautiful emotional moment.

Even with my English difficulty, they made every effort to understand me. Sr. Pia Portman was the prioress at that time and she enrolled me at the Northeast College for my English class. I spent 3 months in the Priory house.

On March 13, 2018, I was missioned to Winnebago Community. I have been teaching the kindergarten at St. Augustine Indian Mission School, which is in our Nebraska community, the only school that serves the needs of the Native American students in our Nebraska community. It was founded by St. Katharine Drexel. I feel so blessed for being part of this beautiful school and be with the lovely little ones, making God known and loved by children is my mission in school. We work with two tribes, Winnebago and Marcy. So, we have many opportunities to put our missionary zeal into action. I thank God for our Missionary Benedictine vocation.

SR. LEAH ANN SISON from Manila Priory to Norfolk Priory

I came to Norfolk Priory on the Memorial of Saint Boniface almost 15 years ago. I came in the



midst of the Norfolk Priory House Community packing up for the renovation of the monastery in a few months. By

Fall of the same year, the sisters moved to an apartment building a few blocks down the road which would be our “monastery” for the next 18 months. It was there where I mostly learned the ways and monastic practices of my new community in another culture and in another country. Scrabble, Canasta, Rummikub were a few of the games that we love to play during our evening recreations. Other sisters would either be working on a knitting or crocheting project or simply just visit with each other.

On my first years I worked in the library, laundry and helped prepare breakfast and Sunday noon meal and/or evening meal. I was also tasked to be one of the members of the Liturgy Committee, as well as one of the organists. These, among other assignments, are the ways I serve our priory.

In the priory, we not only spend national holidays eating picnic style, playing games and relaxing, we also commemorate them in our liturgy of the hours and Eucharist, praising and thanking God Almighty who make all things good.. During the summer months, we gather for our annual community retreat, celebrate the Fourth of July, as well as visit our families or take time out for some vacation days. It is also the time when we work together to process the produce (fruits and vegetables) we receive, as well as share them with our friends and neighbors. For us in the priory, fall or the autumn season is the time when we celebrate the monastic jubilees of our sisters, and sometimes monastic professions, too. Before this colorful season ends, we gather again as a priory for Thanksgiving Day.

SR. BEATA MBUVI from Nairobi Priory to Rome/Generalate District

I have so far experienced the “unspeakable sweetness of love” expressed in our Casa
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