



# CONGREGATION LIFESTREAM

WE ARE DIFFERENT YET ONE

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

**-Pope Francis**

Volume IX Issue No. 6 November-December 2021

## A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

How wonderful it is to contemplate that this Christmas brings three births to us:

*“TODAY sacred Christendom celebrates three births, each of which is such a source of joy and delight that we should break forth in jubilation, love and thanksgiving. The first and most sublime birth is that the Heavenly Father begets His only Son in the Divine essence, with distinction of persons. The next birth celebrated today is the maternal fruitfulness in virginity that was both chaste and inviolate. The third is that God is daily and hourly, truly and spiritually, [re-]born in good souls with grace and love.”*

(from *The First Sermon on the Feast of Christmas*, Johannes Tauler)

I pray that Jesus may be born anew in each of us, so that by our renewed lives we may bring joy and new hope to our community and to all people we encounter.

Let us walk the way of Jesus together and participate joyfully in the Synodal Process and the mission of the church throughout the New Year 2022!

(Excerpt from M.Maoro Sye's Christmas Message)



### IN THIS ISSUE

Visitators to Angola.....	2	Website/Sr. Rosaria.....	6
Generalate Calendar.....	3	Casa Community Events.....	6
Two Hospitals/Punalur.....	4	Events.....	8

**VISITATORS  
TO ANGOLA**

The second part of the visitation of Torres Novas Priory was in Angola conducted by M. Maoro Sye and Sr. Vania Maria Toscano from November 3-27. The visitation of Angola started in Kikolo community on November 3. The visitators then moved to Waku Kungo community for the first group workshop. The next visit was in Kuito Bie community then in Menongue. From Angola, M. Maoro and Sr. Vania flew to Portugal on December 5 to conclude the Torres Novas Priory visitatio, as the Torres Novas Priory also covers also Madrid and Angola communities.



*Kuito Bie Community*



*Waku-Kungo Community*



*Menongue Community*





*Kikolo Community and the Novitiate*



*M.Maoro & Sr. Vania in Waku-Kungo*



*Workshop in Waku-Kungo*



### VISITATIONS

February 12- March 9, 2022

Tutzing

M. Maoro and Sr. Regina Tesch

February 13-26

Norfolk

Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca and

Sr. Katharina Mtitu

March 17-31

Peramiho

Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca and

Sr. Katharina Mtitu



*Welcome in Kikolo*



*Torres Novas Priory – Conclusion of the Visitation*



Tacloban



Pambujan

## A TALE OF TWO HOSPITALS

SR. EDITA ESLOPOR OSB

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” (Charles Dickens) as the two hospitals, Divine Word Hospital, Tacloban and St. Scholastica Hospital, Pambujan have been passing through best times and worst times (in the time of pandemic) in responding to the health needs of the people. This is also the best time to attempt to establish its sustainability and viability, and to carry on the much-needed health services. Both are located in Eastern Visayas, prone to calamities as Pacific Ocean is facing this region. The Society of Divine Word owns the Divine Word Hospital and has been administered by the Missionary Benedictine Sisters for 56 years. St. Scholastica’s Hospital is owned and administered by us Benedictines and has been on its exploration stage for the past 5 years old.

In times of pandemic, the two hospitals forged in the same

Vision: continuing the healing ministry of Jesus;  
Mission: providing quality, immediate, affordable and accessible health care to all people regardless of economic status, belief and race

Goal: to serve as holistic and wellness center founded on Christian values

Passion and commitment: serving the poorest of the poor.

In the worst of times, the pandemic has serious effects on the health and on the jobs of many of our sisters and brothers. A lot of the poor have to struggle to care for themselves, to feed themselves and to think of their well-being. The two hospitals have to bond together at their best on their relevance, on their stable finances, on the economic development of their workforce, on the protection of their front liners, and on the struggle to be Covid 19 virus free. Divine Word Hospital established the Virology Laboratory to test the people’s vulnerability to the virus and to offer the

needed medical intervention. It is the only private covid 19 testing facility in Eastern Visayas. St. Scholastica’s Hospital on the other hand, as mandated by the Department of Health has to allocate 4 beds in case of need.

In the best of times, volunteers trained Community Health Workers, Philberth grantees showed they could be best partners at all levels in their communities to facilitate outreach activities like feeding, catechism, relief giving, herbal medicine making, organizing and in the latest community pantries. In God’s time, this is a way of reaching out to most of the poor people on the periphery, giving flesh to Pope Francis loving encouragement: “We must get out of ourselves and go toward the periphery.”

## PUNALUR, INDIA CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE OF BENEDICTINE PRESENCE

SR. CECILLE IDO, OSB

October 1, 1996 was a historic day for the Generalate House community in Rome. Three sisters were solemnly sent forth to India. The rite of mission was integrated to the Eucharistic celebration on the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, patroness of the missions. Bishop Matthias Kappil presided and blessed M. Edeltrud Weist, Sr. Cecille Ido, and Sr. Lioba Yang. They arrived in Trivandrum in the morning of November 9, 1996, and were warmly welcomed by S. Leoni Manimala, our first Indian sister, who also just arrived that same day from the Philippines where she completed her integration experience. Their fifth member, Sr. Veronica Origenes, joined them shortly. Thus begun the FOUNDATION OF THE MISSIONARY BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF TUTZING in Punalur, India. Exactly 25 years  
*(next page)*



*PUNALUR...from page 4*

after, November 9, 2021, we celebrated the foundation with a eucharistic celebration in our convent chapel with Bishop Selvister Ponnuthan, the Bishop of Punalur as main celebrant, and fourteen concelebrants. Fr. John Kaippallimyalil OSB, Superior of the Benedictine Fathers in Kumily, Kerala. represented the St. Ottilien Congregation

Part of our celebration was revisiting the past through a gallery photo exhibit at our entrance hall. Guests milled around the exhibit commenting it was a unique way of presenting our history.

As we enter the threshold of the next 25 years, we look back with gratitude as we reflect on the past to honor the sisters and the people living and dead, on whose shoulder we now stand. We look to the promise of a great future.

The journey continues. Building on the legacy of our predecessors, we continue to strengthen the community spiritually and program the professional training of its young members. Meanwhile, we focus our education efforts through a Tutorial Center and a School Support Program for poor students. We intensify parish participation through the Catechetical Program of the Diocese and the Basic Christian Community; set up structures of care and grace when needed. We continue

solidarity work with sisters of other congregations in joint common projects as well as initiate simple farm development activities for food security.

Once again, with grateful hearts, the sisters of Punalur thank all of you, far and near, who had been a part of Shanti Nivas, for your constant support. As we brave our way to the future, we take to heart Jesus' reassuring words: FEAR NOT, I WALK WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.



*File photo of 1996:  
Pioneering Community of Shanti Nivas, Punalur*

*L-R: Sr. Cecille Ido, Sr. Leoni Joseph, Manimala M. Edeltrud Weist (superior), Sr. Veronica Origenes and Sr. Lioba Yang*



*2021 Punalur Community with Bishop Selvister and 15 Concelebrants*

**UPDATE ON THE  
CONGREGATION WEBSITE**  
SR. REGINA TESCH, OSB

Welcome to the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing!

The CONGREGATION website has been redesigned. It was published on December 3, 2021, feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of mission on the same address as the former congregation website <http://osbtutzing.org/>

It is meant to be a site for information on and about our Congregation as well as a site in the web inviting for prayer and reflection.

We continue to work on it updating, changing, improving. You can help us by sending us your feed-back and suggestions through the contact form on the site.

We invite you to have a look and stay connected with us!

**SR. ROSARIA YOON  
FINISHES LICENCIATE IN  
ORGAN**

SR. MARIE BRUNO SHIN, OSB

The graduation concert of Sr. Rosaria Yoon was held in the chapel of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome on December 10. Sr. Rosaria made a good ending of her six-year studies, getting full marks in the concert.

Roberto Marini, her academic adviser, before the performance, introduced that an impressive feature of her performance is that the compositions are interpreted in relation with personal meditation on bible verses. Though attendance was restricted due to coronavirus, a good number of sisters of our Casa community were allowed to attend the concert. At the end of the program, Sr. Rosaria expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all those who supported her during her study, and especially to God and Our Lady only through whom all this was possible.

**CASA COMMUNITY EVENTS**  
SR. ANTOINETTE ADELMAN, OSB

**Tour of St. Paul Outside the Walls.** It all began when Abbot Emeritus Edmund Power said ‘yes’ as director for our annual retreat here at Casa Santo Spirito, Rome. As the retreat unfolded, it became clear that the Abbot had negotiated to have several of his conferences centering around St. Paul, his writings, and the treasures of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls where he was Abbot from 2005-2015. The retreat theme was to be on monastic values; but around the Word.

The Abbot was installed when the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls was undergoing

*(next page)*



*Sr. Rosaria (center) flanked by M. Maoro(l) and Professor Marini)*





*Ab. Edmund showing the bronze door with images of the life of St. Paul*



*Ab. Edmund explaining how in one night in 1883 the Basilica was destroyed by fire*

*CASA COMMUNITY...from page 6*

significant changes, both internal and external. During this time, the Abbot, also was occupied with preparations for a "Year of St. Paul" in 2009, that marked the 50th anniversary since the Vatican II.

So, December 16, the Sisters accepted his invitation for a guided tour through the Basilica. Now, Abbot Emeritus Power could recount many of his personal experiences within these walls. He related of special historical moments, such as St. John XXIII's announcement of the Vatican Council II in this place. He pointed out to us magnificent historical artifacts housed at the Basilica and monastery, as well as the treasury of the building's cycles of development.

Among the valued treasures housed at the monastery and Basilica, are the original and a facsimile Bible from the 9th century, a beautiful reliquary with the precious contents, a monstrance gifted by St. John XXIII to mark the occasion of his official announcement of opening the Vatican Council in 1959.

The Sisters returned to the Casa with new impressions and appreciations of our Christian legacy under the teachings and example of the Apostle to the Gentiles.

**Annual Visit.** On December 18, the Casa *(next page)*



*A pose with Abbot Primate Gregory (seated 3<sup>rd</sup> from l) and Fr. Mauritius (4th from l)*

CASA COMMUNITY...from page 8

community had again the benefit of the Christmas visit from Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, and Prior Mauritius Wilde from Sant' Anselmo. This annual visit has been taking place since 2019. After a festive, short colloquy to taste the traditional Italian *panatone*, the guests and sisters went up to the community room to hear from the Abbot Primate of events from the Benedictine Confederation and of Sant' Anselmo activities like the 2022 Monastic Formation Program from March to June and the "Leadership and the Rule of Saint Benedict", a joint educational project of the universities of St. Gallen in Switzerland and Sant'Anselmo in July 2022

Sr. Rosaria Yoon could share some of her joy after obtaining a licentiate in organ music and skill. On the piano, she played a work from Chopin for our guests. As the exchange ended, the Abbot Primate expressed heartfelt gratitude for the joyous spirit he felt present in the community. Then, neglecting all 'distancing' precautions, the community gathered around for a memorable photo with the Abbot Primate and Fr. Mauritius.

**INTERNATIONAL JUNIORS' PROGRAM (IJP)**

The 2021 International Juniors' Program (IJP) in Rome which started on March 1, 2021, will end on February 13, 2022.

The 2022 IJP starts from March 10, 2022 till January 22, 2023. Prioresses and Generalate District superiors who are interested in sending their junior sister/s, kindly communicate with Sr. Marie Johann Heo through email: johannz@hanmail.net

**REST IN PEACE**

- + Sr. Marie Vita Kim, 76, died in Seoul on December 4.
- + Sr. Jin-I Kim, 50, died in Seoul on December, 18.
- + Sr. Lucida Schmieder, 94, died in Barbalha on December 25.



Sr. Cecille

Sr. Anita

- Sr. Cecille Ido from India/ Generalate District back to home priory, Manila after a short assignment
- Sr. Anita Park from Daegu Priory to Peramiho Priory
- Sr. Magdalena Maembe from Peramiho Priory to Norfolk Priory



Sr. Magdalena

**HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**



Sr. Josefa Knab of Tutzing Priory turned 100 on November 18

*Feliz Natal!* (Shèngdàn kuàilè)  
 성탄 축하합니다!(Seongtan chughahabnida) 聖誕快樂  
*Krismasi Njema! Feliz Navidad!*  
*Maligayang Pasko! Честито Рождество Христово*  
 (Chestito Rorshdestvo Hristovo )  
*Santhoshakaraamaya Krismas! A Blessed Christmas! Frohe Weihnachten!*

**THE GENERALATE THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED.**