



ALL-TO-ALL

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

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"Come Dance with Sophia!"

Sophia invites all of us to join in a dance of joy and community!

Plans are developing for our assembly in August. Mercy Center is ready to welcome us on August seventh thru the twelfth. If given enough notice, they can also accommodate early arrivals and after-stays. It is a beautiful retreat area, with 72 acres of wildlife and outdoor pilgrim devotionals. Take a look around at

www.mercycenterstl.org.

Mercy Center has been very flexible in providing for many possibilities to deal with a variety of our changing needs. A smaller group than first anticipated; more sisters deciding, in the early summer, to come to St. Louis; special accommodations for a return of yet a new COVID variant. We have discussed them all! The team is confident that this assembly, whatever the pandemic conditions and the number of participants, will meet our needs. All staff at Mercy Center has been vaccinated and boosted. They follow the protocols

established by St. Louis County health officials.

Mercy Center prices for services in August will be changing in July, so the cost is fluid. We have put down a deposit, and have determined that totals we quote will remain pretty steady.

In short, the sleeping rooms are \$65 for a private room for each night; \$45 for each sister, for each night, for a shared room. Meals are: breakfast - \$11; lunch - \$13; dinner - \$15. If arranged within two weeks of the assembly start, sisters can change their sleeping arrangements or ask for fewer meals. (To calculate cost, add each nightly room charge to the cost of meals/breaks {\$40} for that day. Roughly \$105 per day for private room; \$85 for shared room. Add to that a share of the cost of meeting rooms and materials. Cost of assembly, roughly, is bedroom, personal choice of meals, plus shared expenses. The estimated assembly fee, given in Oct. ATA, \$300, was for all costs except bedroom.) The rest of the assembly fee will be for materials, snack breaks, hospitality room, and for meeting rooms. We have the option of adjusting the number of rooms we need up into July. The Mother of Mercy lounge, that so many of us enjoyed in 2015 (in our PJ, in some cases!) has been booked for sure. Our sleeping rooms will all be on the same floor, close to this MOM lounge. Evening snacks and socialization, a microwave, refrigerator, TV, sitting area. We have a second, smaller

lounge, on the same floor, for those who at times want quiet conversation. Also on this floor is the small private chapel.

Some sisters have already sent the \$300 fee. Sisters may also want to hold off sending a check until their plans are finalized. Regardless, each attendee will be offered a private time at assembly to "settle up" the bill and see all our costs. We ask that the room and meals total be submitted, by check, by at least June. If you are unable to make it to St. Louis after sending a check, all monies will be returned.

In order to cut down on the traffic of limited-interest messages on our community email group, the email address for all "in-person" assembly concerns is comedancewithsophia.2022@gmail.com.

All the assembly team members will have access to the email, and there will be "group emails" sent to those either who have signed up to come to assembly or who have expressed interest in coming.

A great number of sisters will be concerned with how to access the assembly virtually. Inquiries and information on zooming connections, etc. can be accessed by connecting with dancingcyberspace.2022@yahoo.com.

If a sister does not have internet abilities, she may call **Mary Ellen Pitts SFCC at 360-477-3470** or send a letter to her at **41 Nimbus Lane, Sequim WA 98382**.

There, the sister will be directed to the team dealing with this issue. Please be advised that the most efficient and considerate manner to get information is with the yahoo email address. The individual cost for each participant will be announced and discussed thru this email account. Also specific

instructions on how to connect, how to participate, how to enjoy the assembly thru the internet will be discussed.

Much gratitude to all the sisters praying for this assembly, for our discernment throughout, and for those assisting the team.



Submitted by Mary Ellen Pitts

ICC Report

When the three of us talked in March, two things came to our attention to share with the community.

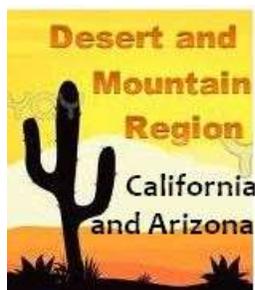
1. It was suggested that the community could find a community wide zoom listening session useful. It was suggested that a topic could be "The Synod and one's experience of the process or lack of it". The session might be able to have small groups during the zoom and then share the insights from each group with the larger group. This could take place on June 4, Saturday of Pentecost weekend, at 10 am EDT. The Link would be shared on Rise up, SFCC Philippines, SFCC Global and ATA.
2. The PowerPoints that are used to help with the becoming process, especially in the rapidly growing areas of Philippines and Africa, and also elsewhere, are available through the archivist for your country. Fran Campbell created these to help share about the

community in these rapidly growing areas where there were originally few affirmed SFCC

In addition, we are grateful that as a community we are able to look forward to an Assembly in St. Louis this August both in person and virtually for those who cannot attend in person.

So, our prayer is “Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of you love” especially in this time of world turmoil, suffering, and conflict.

Submitted by: ICC TEAM: Carmen Gilick, Denise Ware, Virgie Azcueta



Members of the DAM Region gathered in Palm Desert, California February 17-20. Present were: Fran Campbell, Suzanne Dunn, Jeannette Love,

Rose Miles, and Pat Mitchell. Pat Mullen was recovering from back pain and participated from her home in Phoenix, Arizona via Zoom.

Friday the 20th was our annual community fun day: an outing together instead of meetings. This year we visited the renown Living Desert Zoo Gardens. Saturday began with a prayer led by Pat Mitchell followed by our spiritual reflection session, led by Pat Mullen. We completed our reflection and discussion of Barbara Holmes’ *Unspeakable Joy*, which traces the sense of community and spiritual identity among Black Americans from the time of slavery into the present. Reflecting on the final chapters, we were inspired by the Black community’s courage to pursue the dream of justice and equality. It is difficult to assassinate the dream that “political leaders will answer Scripture’s call to lift up the vulnerable, and to stand for justice and to ensure that every human being lives in dignity.” (p 173)

After a lunch break, Suzanne and Jeannette facilitated our social justice session. We continued our focus on climate crisis by viewing You Tube conversation with Paul Hawken sponsored by the Elders Action Network. Hawken is convinced that 98% of the world population does not regard the climate crisis as affecting their family or employment and, therefore, remain unconcerned. Attempts to convince people that action is needed is regarded as confrontative and creates division, not unity.

Hawken is convinced that weather will pivot people at both the local and national levels from disengagement to actions of regeneration. Engagement will happen at the local level, not national, when climate becomes an immediate and personal problem affecting family and employment. Only then will communities come together to learn how to regenerate their region in order to enable it to compensate for extreme weather events.

We discussed the “issue” of the 4th vow (required individual financial responsibility) and reaffirmed the SFCC freedom for each new member to design and word her commitment and vow statement according to personal inspiration. That means any or all of the “requirements” (loving, listening, serving and financial responsibility) may be formalized or not.

This discussion led us to revisit the role of the local region in the Becoming Process of welcoming new members. Because regions are collegial and make decisions through prayerful consensus, all other regions respect the results of that consensus regarding affirming a new member, as well as the form and content of the affirmation ceremony.



Our next meeting will be in Phoenix, Arizona during May.

Submitted by Fran Campbell



SFCC - FLORIDA REGIONAL MEETING - Saturday, March 12, 2022

We met at the Doubletree Inn/Indialantic, FL
Six of us gathered in person: Joan Grace Gabbin, Ita Hickey,

Barbara Kennedy, Loretta Morgan, Mary Steves, Andrea Zbiegien (Jill Bond, Michelle Olivier, Phyllis Superfisky Zoomed in)

Pauline Chouinard had called in and spoke for herself and for her sister, Marcelle, assuring us of their prayerful support.
A lovely reflective Opening Prayer was led by Mary Steves

JGG Opened the Meeting with Approval of 11/16/2019 Minutes.

MS gave the Treasurer’s Report and provided us with the first draft of a request/notice for annual dues. Everyone present gave suggestions.

JGG invited us all to describe some of our experienced impact of COVID

Pandemic. “How are you doing? - Physically-Spiritually-Emotionally?”

Ita and Loretta had attended Josephine’s wake/funeral and they shared stories that had been told. They also made some of the memorial booklets and memorial cards available to us. We shared memories and photos of our dear sister who died just short of her 100th birthday, Josephine Slabinski (03/14/1922 - 11/25/2021)

JGG filled us in on the January RCC/Zoom Meeting which included 27 RCCs.

Our main follow-up discussion was the redundancy of a “4th vow” because the viewbook makes the mentoring role clear on Poverty/Simplicity of lifestyle and fiscal responsibility.

This had been followed by Assembly 2022 concerns:

Mary Ellen Pitt’s most recent ATA article and current email on Assembly 2022.

At Noon, we all enjoyed delightful tales during our round table LUNCH.

After lunch, AZ provided UK articles on “Synod for a Synodal Church 2021-2023”

This included a brief discussion of Parish or website/social media participation with Synodality. Synodal expectations include listening sessions for communion / participation and mission.

At 2:00, we enjoyed a wonderful Facetime introduction to Michelle Olivier who presently resides in Punta Gorda, FL. She shared her life journey leading to SFCC.

JGG invited in-put on Future Florida Regional Gatherings including Agenda Items, Gatherings Roles/Responsibilities for

Next Meeting:



At 3:30. LM led a beautiful Closing Prayer sending us on our way. We extended individual hugs and blessings for safe travels.

Submitted by Andrea Zbiegien



Carmen, Patsy, Fran, Marie, Kathleen, and Rachel met virtually on Feb. 4 and Mar. 4.

In February, Carmen summarized the listening zoom meeting concerning a fourth vow. She said it was generally after 2010 that mention of a fourth vow was expressed. Carmen felt the Spirit's presence in this session. There were questions about whether the SFCC assembly will be held in person. Rachel reaffirmed her status as RCC of the region. Fran mentioned that Caridad is not in touch, seems to be ill, and wonders if she should be listed as an RCC when there are no others in Mexico.

The members shared their blessings. Many included health.

On March 4th members shared where they felt drawn this Lent. Some things mentioned were not taking things for granted but appreciating and being with the occasion,

more attention to both nature and to the people in our lives.

One person shared about looking for more simplicity in her lifestyle so her prayer life would be more focused. Several are remembering the people of Ukraine and Russia in a special way. Patsy reported about a miracle of angels appearing in a Ukrainian church, a bomb not exploding, and some Russian soldiers receiving compassionate help when they desert the army.



Each meeting begins and ends with prayer. The next meeting is April 1.

Submitted by Fran Smith



On February 5th the Namaste Region and the Maranatha Region had a joint

meeting at Avalon Manor in Waukesha. Present were Judith Smith, Roberta Zelhofer, Elaine Beluschak, Darlene Kanera and Deb Murphy. Betty Bradley, Rosella and Julie were present in prayer and spirit.

The meeting opened with prayer, centering on the St Francis prayer for peace.

A large part of the meeting was focused on the 4th vow. Judith shared information from the Zoom meeting where each region's representative expressed their region's opinion on the 4th vow. Our two regions present in Waukesha, believe that in SFCC,

self-support is a life style, not a vow. However, we did discuss the difference between those living in the US and other countries. We have the aid of Medicare, Title 19, Red Cross etc. to help us.

Other countries lack such organizations. “Self-supporting” may take on a different meaning in Africa, the Philippines or elsewhere. We all thought that one of the charisms of SFCC is to live like and with “the people” by paying our bills and living Gospel simplicity and goodness.

We also discussed the 2022 Assembly in St. Louis. Our question was if it will be in person, on Zoom or a combination of both.

Our meeting closed with much joy at being together again. Hugs all around. Our next meeting will be in May.



Submitted by



Deb Murphy and Darlene Kanera

WEB Region gathered via Zoom on February 12 and March 12, 2022. There were 15 – 16 sisters who participated in each of these sessions together with two

Inquirers. March 12 was a special day for Lyn Davis who signed her Affiliation Form to continue her journey with the region. Esther Onwunali was introduced and welcomed as an Inquirer. After some casual chatter while everyone gets connected, we begin with prayer, followed by sharing on a topic. In February, Alma shared a bit from the January Zoom with the RCCs, which prompted some further discussion on the Fourth Vow. Instead of trying to clarify what “self-supporting” means, it might be better to specify what SFCC does **not** do as regards finance.

Kass shared her parish experience with the Synod gatherings of adults and teenagers. Both have been positive encounters. Loretta shared her experience with the Synod Listening Session for Consecrated Life held in the Wilmington DE diocese.

This was followed by comments from the others, many of whom have heard nothing from their parishes/dioceses concerning the Synod.

We were encouraged to tap into the Future Church presentations by Maureen Sullivan on Vatican II and the Synod. These are available on YouTube. It was decided that we, as a Region, would submit a document to the Synod authorities, drawing from our discussions last summer on Communion, Participation and Mission. Alma demonstrated a sample of how this might be done and asked the sisters to revisit those discussions to formulate questions and/or comments that could be submitted as our contribution. It was noted that we include our diversity and global membership and that apart from aspects of consecrated life we also support other broader issues, especially around women in the church. If the SFCC community decides to submit a

document, we would share our work with the larger community.

Our next Zoom session is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 10 AM EDT when we will try to summarize our Synod document, which is due to the USCCB in June 2022.

Because of the two awards, more people know MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

Submitted by Alma O'Brien



(Left-Right: (1) Janet Thompson, Lynette Davis, Maggie Gonsalves, Pat Wieczynski, (2) Alma O'Brien, Kass Collins, Maureen Millanow, Emma Flaherty, Marion McDonal, (3) Virgie Azcueta, Roberta Winkels, Loretta Primus, Pat Mc Carthy, Anne McGinn, (4) Pat Guarriello, Esther Onwunali, Gloria Rubio, Anna Marina Colocho



NEWS FROM MacCanon Brown

We are believing
the SFCC
Community will

have joy knowing about two recent Positively Milwaukee awards which have brought more awareness of our work and of the people we serve.



(MBHS) makes a tremendous difference in the quality of life for homeless and at-risk individuals in Milwaukee. On Thanksgiving, that recognition received wider attention when Sister MacCanon was named both Senior of the Year and (Inspirational) Person of the Year.

<https://youtu.be/TckjwI4mHhI> by TMJ4's Positively Milwaukee with Carole Meekins.

Positively Milwaukee selects from nominees in six areas: Youth Award, Senior Volunteer Award, Healthcare Hero Award, Unsung Hero Award, Teacher of the Year Award, and – a Southeastern Wisconsin person who

has passed away, who left behind a legacy of charity, kindness, and inspiration. They then choose one of these as Person of the Year.

While grateful for the recognition, Sister MacCanon is quick to point out that this is not about her but rather about the “we” she sees in the MBHS family of guests, volunteers, and staff; the many donors who support our work; and the community structures like TMJ4 who spread the word about MBHS.

You can watch the entire program (and past programs) at tmj4.com/awards
To locate the "Most Inspiring Senior of 2021" go to 23 minutes into the program.
To locate the "Most Inspiring Person of 2021" go to 44 minutes into the program.

The actual interviews were long and questions covered many subjects; interestingly the producers chose to focus on the "Oneness" theme !

Everyone's continued prayers are appreciated

Submitted by MacCanon Brown

FADING MEMORIES

Dunrovin, Minnesota, August 6-8, 1971

When I received the new Directory, I checked to see how many of the 38 women who attended the First Assembly of SFCC were still here, and I found four: Barbara Benz, Nancy Brossette, Virginia Conant, and me.

I sent notes to the other three that perhaps we might share the fading memories we have of Dunrovin with our fast-growing number of new community members.

My Mother Helen and I traveled from Pittsburgh, PA by bus in newly purchased “pant-suits,” which Mom intended to change “out of” in the bus

station; only to find that our luggage had been lost!

The kind Vicar of Religious, the priest who would celebrate Eucharist with us at the Retreat Center, rescued us the next day.

What a weekend! Gathered from many states, led by the Spirit and Lillanna Kopp’s vision, we felt “at home” with each other. If you look at the picture, each face was gleaming with the peace of “having arrived.”

The weekend passed quickly. I don’t remember much structure, other than understanding the one-page Profile. We were interested in “who we were and what we were about.”

At the closing liturgy, Mom, a widow, who had spent two years in a Visitation Novitiate, and a young woman who had just finished her service in the Peace Corps, made their commitment.

In looking over the Directory again, I can account for 28 of those present:

- 12 in the SFCC Necrology;
- 2 Episcopalian Sisters who had maintained;
- 3 – a Mother and 2 Daughters from West Virginia;
- 7 – from Chicago; and

the 4 of us still here: Barbara Benz, Nancy Brossette, Virginia Conant & Betty Waigand.



Hopefully all carried away from the weekend the hope “that All May Be One.”

*Submitted by
Betty Waigand*



Theresa Perez has been the only SFCC in Guam for several years. Recently, she relocated to the Philippines where health care is more affordable. She now resides in a nursing care residence in

Quezon City, not far from Manila. Teresa is 90 yrs. old and requests prayers as she adjusts to her new surroundings, different food and new culture

Submitted by the Archives

As you all know already Fern Bentz my long time sister companion died suddenly on January 30. I am just writing this to thank you all for your prayers, emails and sympathy cards. I am especially grateful to those who have suffered a similar loss yet took the time to acknowledge my shock and grief. I have truly felt that the Community has been there supporting me. My life has now taken a radical change since I must sell our house and move into Designated Supportive Living Accomodation. In the meantime, Violet Kroetsch has generously come to live with me, taking care of me and helping me get ready for my transition. And during this time has herself suffered the loss of a sister and niece. Elaine Patsula is also so supportive in many ways too numerable to mention.

And Sister Alvina though she lives far from me is the one I turn to for prayerful support and her warm emails cheer me up constantly.



Thank you and blessings,

*Submitted by
Barbara Rice*



Mary Bowman

Welty Home for the Aged
21 Washington Ave.
Wheeling, WV, 26003

Pat Douglas

105 Mayberry Lane
Conway, SC 29526

Francesca Ezeokonkwo

E: chieze93@yahoo.com

Lea Hunter

959 E. Union Street
Allentown PA 18109
Phone: 610-393-9780
E: 4Vatican2rite@gmail.com

Denise J. Lonergan

711 Deer Run Villas, St.
Simons Island, Ga. 31522
New phone 912-357-3750

Cecilia Loomer

10270 Meadowood Drive, Apt. 6
St. Louis MO 63114-2257

Theresa Perez

10 Don Miguel Street
Don Antonia Subdivision
Quezon City, Philippines
Phone: 63-917-579-5209

Clare Thomas

P.O. Box 82264
Baton Rouge LA 70884

**INQUIRER****MARGARET ARINGO****Kenya Region**

Born on 15th August
1954 in Boro Pap-Kakan
Village.

Margaret has 11 siblings. Her mother is Gaudesia Adongo Rabilo and her father, Barnabas Aringo .

Margaret joined the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph and after 46 years of service left the congregation because she felt she was treated unjustly despite of her loves and service to God through the Congregation.

Margaret guiding principles are Faith in God and prayerfulness, value of life, justice, truth and love.

Margaret holds Master's degree in theology of religious sciences, a Master's degree in Biblical theology, Master's Degree in Spirituality and Culture, a Master's Degree Franciscan Spirituality, a Postgraduate

Diploma in Education, and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology. Currently she is a lecturer at the School of Education at Tangaza University College.

Margret was attracted to SFCC by the way the evangelical vows are interpreted and lived.

Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives

**INQUIRER****FRANCISCA WAYUA****Kenya Region**

Born on 14th
December 1980 at

Makueni County,

Francisca has 9 siblings. Her mother is Martha Nduku and her father is Edward Maitha

Francisca has never been to any congregation.

Francisca guiding principles is discipline.

Francisca holds a P1 Certificate. Currently teaching at Nakuru.

Francisca was attracted to SFCC by the way the sfcc live without the community life.

Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives

**INQUIRER****BERNADETTE SAMPSON****Nigeria Region**

Born on 13 March 1974 at Kalmia. Bernadette joined St, Vincentian De Paul and after she left.

Bernadette guiding principles are that she can do all thing through Christ who strengthen her.

Bernadette holds Degree in Education. Currently working at Federal college of education Oyo, state south west of Nigeria.

Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives



INQUIRER

**OLIVE MATILDA
D'SOUZA**

India

Olive Matilda D'Souza,
who will turn 59 in

October, is a trained nurse who wears several service caps for the poor and the marginalized.

She is with the congregation Poor Sisters of Our Lady, based in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh where she is managing a school during the past 4 years. She oversees the tailoring center that employs women to stitch school uniforms. Her prison ministry involves the release and rehabilitation of those behind bars, especially women.

With her cheerful demeanor and readiness to go the extra mile to serve, Olive is the "animator of the community" wherever she is, be it serving priests at Clergy Home Mumbai and the elderly at the Home for the Aged in Goa or as hospital supervisor and secretary at the Mumbai Secretariat of the Catholic Nurses Guild of India.

She also served as parish catechist and coordinator for small Christian communities and gives communion to the infirm and homebound.

Her motto is "never get tired of doing what is good," adding that "my heart goes out

especially to the poor and I want to help them in any way I can".

Olive came from a happy family of five sisters and a brother. She lost her mother long back while her father died last year.

Olive chose to belong to the Manila Region, with Virgie Azcueta as her mentor.

Submitted by the Asian Archivist



INQUIRER

**GEMERCIA G
LUCERO**

Yesu Marie Region

Gemercia G Lucero,
56, is on exclaustation

from the Sisters of Charity of Saint Charles Borromeo since September last year.

A native of Misamis Occidental in southern Philippines, she is professional civil service eligible and a licensed secondary teacher.

Two years ago, Gem earned her Masters in Education Major in Administration and Supervision, magna cum laude, from the Holy Name University in Bohol. She also has a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor in Arts major in English.

Gem has extensive work experiences in Bohol and in southern Philippines, including stints as community organizer for the National Anti-Poverty Commission in Bohol and prior to that, in the campus ministry of the Holy Name University in the same province.

She worked as administrator of Saint Charles Borromeo Retreat House City and of Stella Duce Learning Center, both in Davao City.

Gem was also active in the Pastoral Ministry for 14 years until 2016, worked at the evaluation and monitoring division of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Cagayan de Oro, and was class instructor and academic assistant at Misamis University.

Her mentor is Bernadette Mendez.

Submitted by the Asian Archivist



INQUIRER

**HAZEL MARIE
SENCIO**

Yesu Marie Region

43-year old Hazel Marie Sencio, a nurse

in Isabela de Basilan in southern Mindanao, got to know SFCC through the social media.

She became curious about SFCCs' unique lifestyle and charism and wanted to know more upon reading the Facebook of Lorraine Pagola.

"It inspired me to think deeply about the sisters (who) are willing to be with the poor, abandoned and malnourished people in remote areas, whether in the islands or in the mountains," Hazel explained the attraction.

Lorraine eventually moved to Isabela de Basilan where she is now a teacher and stays with Hazel and her aunts. Lorraine is Hazel's mentor in the becoming process.

"I became more aware and have witnessed with the SFCC my desire to serve God," said Hazel who was in the past too busy at work to entertain the notion of joining a religious community.

But she is spiritual to the core and hears Mass daily. She is an active member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Community, Ministry of Health, and Lectorate Ministry of the Santa Isabel de Portugal Cathedral.

Hazel is an only child. Her nursing experiences included volunteering in the pediatric ward of Basilan Community Hospital, staff nurse in the medical ward and chief nurse at the nursing service office of Infante Hospital Management Corp.

Submitted by the Asian Archivist



INQUIRER

**MARY ESTHER
ONWUNALI**

WEB Region

Mary Esther Onwunali is 56 years old;

she was born in Nigeria, the fifth child of her parents' seven children. She was a professed member of the Daughters of Divine Love congregation for 29 years.

Esther is a registered nurse and midwife, has worked in hospitals in Nigeria and Italy and is currently employed as a RN supervisor.

Esther lived in Rome for 12 years and has also travelled in Ghana, Germany, Spain, France, Portugal and Bosnia. Esther came to the U.S. in 2007, was licensed as a registered nurse in 2008 and became a U.S. citizen in February 2022.

Esther said she loves religious life which gives her a real sense of dedication and perspective; she "loves Sisters For Christian Community because of their contemporary life".

Submitted by the U.S. Archives

WITHDRAWALS

In the Philippines, affiliates Nimsy Salvador, Antonia Labos and Jonnavel Enopia, all with the Calungsod Region, have left.

Inquirers Linda Dela Cruz (Manila Region) and Anne Llaga (Yesu Marie Region) have also ended their becoming process.

Submitted by the Asian Archives



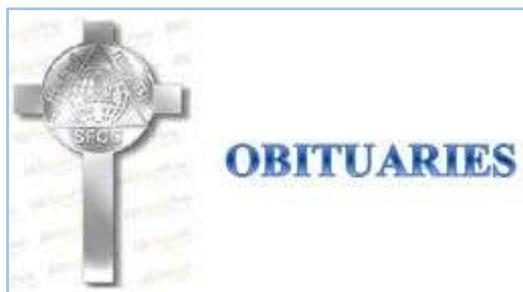
WITHDRAWAL

JOANN MAZZICCHIO

Midwest Region

withdrawal of membership:
February 4, 2022

Submitted by the Archives



FERN BENTZ

LIFE 1939-2022
SFCC 1976-2022

Fern Bentz, our sister in the Northern Lights Region (Alberta, Canada) departed this life early on the morning of January 30th. Barbara Rice tells us “She left suddenly in the midst of planning her day.” Departing suddenly appears fitting for many SFCCs, as though unexpectedly hearing the call to go home,

leaving this life behind, just as we did in following the call to sisterhood.

Fern entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1958 where she served in whatever way she was needed, including cooking, sewing, and driving. In remaining grateful for the spiritual formation she received with the Ursulines, Barbara Rice notes in her obituary how she left the Ursuline sisterhood in 1976 to join SFCC where she could deepen her commitment with greater flexibility and lifestyle and ministry.

As Fern completed a degree in Fine Arts, she became Director of Communications for the Edmonton Archdiocese, providing educational and ecumenical TV shows and videos; working behind the scenes to deliver spiritual values through stories of people whose lives have been changed by the Gospel of Christ.

In SFCC, Fern also served on the ATA Team, as well as part of the Host Team for several International Assemblies. Upon retirement in 1997, Fern and Barbara Rice moved to their country home in Alberta. Barbara describes retirement as “wonderful years when Fern hosted many family celebrations.” And while the artist in her hoped to go back to painting, it was not to be. “Instead, Fern’s artistic abilities were expressed in designing the house and garden, building, repairing almost everything.” Fern also enjoyed visiting Spain and England, as well as other opportunities offered by her work in communications.

As Fern was deeply loved by family, friends, and neighbors, those who loved Fern as Sister mourn the loss of her in this world most. While Fern was the “guiding hand” in delivering the Gospel message through the medium of TV and video, she

remains the “guiding hand” for those who treasure her life as a “work of art,” woven into the fabric we live as SFCCs. In the same manner as all of our dearly departed sisters, Fern Bentz remains an angel at our side, a “guiding hand,” reminding us of the “work of art” we all are as we weave our lives together into a divine portrait of SFCCs Mission in this world. Blessed be Fern Bentz and the Band of SFCC Angels she joins.

Submitted by the Archives



**MARGARET
UNDERWOOD**

LIFE 1938 – 2022
SFCC 1981 – 2022

Early on the morning of January 21st, our sister Margaret Underwood departed this life unexpectedly, as though, in the words of Judith Smith, “She wanted to leave when no one was looking.” Having been in Hospice for a short time, relatives and friends who visited her often were stunned by the peaceful suddenness of her departure, finding it the perfect way for Margaret to depart without notice, as if to remind us our life is about the work we leave to this world.

Having served with the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 23 years, Margaret left in 1981, joining the SFCCs in Wisconsin’s Namaste Region. Rita Yeasted remembers Margaret as attending many Assemblies with her niece, noting her “passion for accountability.” Margaret was a member of what would have been the first Finance Committee, often emphasizing the financial responsibility of sisters in community service roles.

Rita also remembers fondly how much Margaret loved and honored her Irish heritage, “amused over how enthusiastically she celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day annually, remembering lovingly her mother’s Irish Funeral.” All who knew Margaret in this life, including us, will continue to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day with Margaret in mind.

While serving as an elementary school teacher with the School Sisters of Notre Dame for thirteen years, her ministry in SFCC focused on Social Services with the elderly and disabled. Margaret co- founded the We Four Program in Milwaukee where she served as a trained guardian for the elderly and advocate for those with special needs. Judith Smith, who planned on visiting Margaret the day she departed, spoke of Margaret’s “welcoming spirit with an openness to listen without judgment; truly a gift to all who met her;” and truly a gift to all who knew and loved her in SFCC.

May we all remember Margaret in prayer as another dearly beloved sister upon whose shoulders we stand. And may we all call Margaret to mind, especially on Saint Patrick’s Day, as we thank her evermore for the gift she will always be to our SFCC Heritage.

Submitted by the Archives



ATA TEAM

The ATA Team will complete the second term of their service role in June 2023. To provide a year of transition, the community will **call forth a new ATA Team** in the **summer of 2022**. Claim your creative/computer skills and consider serving on the new team.



Loretta
Primus

Alma
O'Brien

Debra
Murphy

ATA TEAM

Loretta Primus *content*
Alma O'Brien *print/ mailing*
Deb Murphy *subscriptions*
atasfcc@yahoo.com

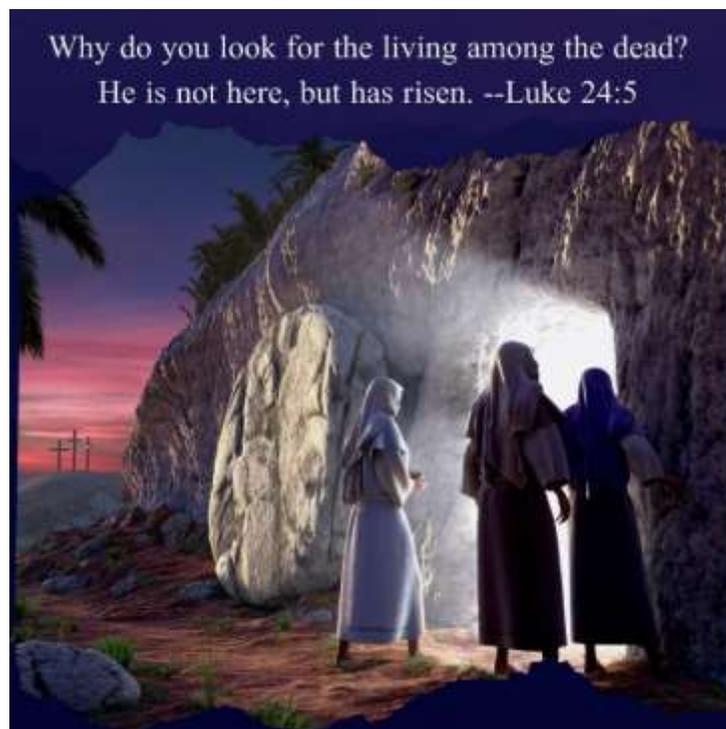
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