



ALL-TO-ALL

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

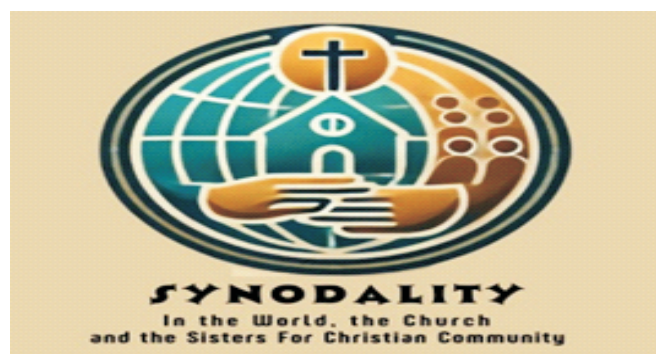
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 55 Issue 3

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February -March 2025

WELCOME to the SFCC International Assembly 2026- Manila, Philippines



The final Registration Form with edition is in this issue of ATA Feb. March. Accommodations are in Friendship Hall 1 and Friendship Hall 2. Prices are shared depending how many are staying in a room. Friendship Hall 1 has twin beds, aircon, toilet, hot shower. Friendship Hall 2 has twin/full beds, aircon, toilet, hot shower, TV phone. Note this details as you book your accommodation.

Registration at the front lobby will start on January 13 at 3:00 pm. Assembly Schedule begins on January 14, 2026. Payments must be done in Philippine pesos. Please try to arrive by Jan 13th. Earlier arrivals have to purchase their meals at the Pius XII cafeteria or along the United Nation Street and a Mall where fast food is available.

Catering paid with your registration will start with breakfast from 14th Jan- until Jan 18th breakfast.

Those who will stay longer in Pius XII can take care of their own meals similar for early arrivals. You are free to omit snacks deduct in your meal payments. Distilled water dispenser for drinking will be provided at the meeting hall and in the corridor of Friendship Hall 1 and 2.

Our Speakers are as follows: First Day, Jan 14- “**Synodality in the Church**” we are still waiting for confirmation from Cardinal Chito Tagle. (In the

event that he will not be available, we are looking at a Lay Woman Filipino Theologian who attended the Synod in Rome) Second Day, Jan 15- “**Synodality in the World**” by Fran Campbell, SFCC. Third Day, Jan 16- “**Synodality in SFCC**” by Mary Balogun, SFCC (ICC Team member)

The Philippine time zone is ahead 9-11 hours from USA, UK and 5-6 hours ahead of most African countries. The program committee considered this time difference in creating the schedule as follow.

1st Day January 14, 2026 Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 6:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 7:30 AM | Facilitator Welcome/ Orientation |
| 8:00-9:30 AM | Presentation/Speaker |
| 9:30-10:00 AM | Snacks |
| 10:00-1:00 PM | Business Meeting |
| 1:00-2:00 PM | Lunch |
| 2:00-3:00 PM | Siesta/Free Time |
| 3:00-3:15 PM | Divine Mercy Prayer |
| 3:15- 3:30 PM | Snacks |
| 4:00 PM | Necrology |
| 4:30-5:00 PM | Mass Preparation |
| 5:00-6:30 PM | Holy Mass |
| 6:30-7:30 PM | Supper |
| 7:30-8:30 PM | SOCIALIZATION |
| 8:30 PM | Free Time/Rest |

Jan 15-16 schedule is the same without Necrology

4th Day January 17, 2026 Saturday

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 6:30 AM | Breakfast |
| 7:30 AM | Facilitator/ Announcements |
| 8:00-9:30 AM | Business Meeting Part 1 |
| 9:30-10:00 AM | Snacks |
| 10:00-1:00 PM | Business Meeting Part 2 |
| 1:00-2:00 PM | Lunch |
| 2:00-3:00 PM | Siesta/free Time |
| 3:00-3:15 PM | Divine Mercy Prayer |
| 3:15-3:30 PM | Snacks |
| 3:30-4:00 PM | Mass Preparation |

4:00-6:30 PM **Commitment Liturgy**
 6:30-9:00 PM Banquet & Celebration
 9:00 PM Free Time/Rest

5th Day January 18, 2026 Sunday

6:30 AM Breakfast
 8:00 AM **CHECK OUT**

Our Business Teams are:

Facilitator: Kass Collins, (U.S.A.), **Recorder:** Isabelita Bulala, (Archivist-Asia),

Time Keeper: Damaris Muthusi, (RCC Lillanna Regi, N. Kenya).

(The former Business Teams have offered to mentor the new team members).

Domestic flights are available for the Southern Philippines and comfortable buses to go to North, with. 2-9 hours ride.

The Finance Committee will make an appeal for the scholarship to help the sisters from Africa, India and the Philippines to attend the Assembly.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to:

Sr. Virgie Mission Fund
 17434 W. Hickory Ln.
 Grayslake, IL 60030.

For the 2023 Assembly in Kenya, there were generous donations that made it possible for 99% Africans to attend.

Submitted by Virgie Azcueta

Member of the Assembly Finance committee-



Regional Reports



KOINONIA

Region gathers on the first Friday of Each month. Rachel Richards (RCC), Fran

Smith, Patsy Guyton, Mary Jo Meadow along with Debbie Clingsmith (Affiliate) have been present. Jeanne Tighe, Sally Soules, and Becky Ijeoma (Inquirer) are connected through monthly Koinonia regional emails. A number of people have health concerns and issues.

We begin with prayer offered by a different person each time and are blessed by the variety and depth. We continue with sharing about our spiritualities with a prompt such as 'how have we experienced God's presence or guidance. We looked at what would be the focus for each of us in 2025. We shared about what we saw would be important for the community for 2025 such as a deeper awareness of the gift of international growth and the challenges which this also brings in empowering "That all may be one".

As usual we share about what is happening in our lives with its gifts and challenges. Every other month we each view a power point regarding the community and then share our insights when we gather. We viewed 'Sudden Spring' sharing insights and questions as part of the becoming process for Debbie. In between, once in a month, one of us have conversation with Debbie with the power point on SFCC Community, and other interest. This way we get to know Debbie better and she gets to know us. As part of each month's gathering, we update our community and assembly planning, etc.

Our closing prayer includes intentions for the world and its needs, our nations, and our individual concerns. We rotate who leads the closing prayer. We wish we could gather in person but given where each of us lives this unfortunately can't happen. However, we continue to grow in becoming ever more one. *Submitted by Carmen Gillick*





The **Midwest Region** met on October 19 at the Sarah Community in Saint Louis. Present were Darlene Boyd, Colleen Calhoun, Cecelia Ann Loomer, Laurinda Mayer, and Mary Ann Wachtel. Those unable to attend were Joann Kuchler, Joann Mazzocchio, Elizabeth Miller and Pearl Johnson. The opening prayer was focused on Carol Baltosiewich, who died on September 18 at the Benedictine Nursing Center at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, Illinois. After our prayer we shared memories of Carol. There were some surprises found among her effects. Carol was a talented nurse. She eventually burned-out working at a busy hospital in Wisconsin. She saw a listing for a homecare nursing in Illinois, applied and got the job. She grew tired of caregiving in the rural area and broke ground in the 1980s by opening an organization to provide services for people living with HIV and AIDS. Though she was a trained ICU and ER nurse, Sister Carol had much to learn. She saw an opportunity, and with another sister to volunteer at Catholic hospitals in Kansas City, Chicago and New York City on the front lines of the AIDS crisis. After this immersive experience, Sister Carol returned to Belleville and got to work. She set up a helpline to answer questions about HIV and AIDS, which turned into a highly respected AIDS service organization known as "Bethany Place".

That experience dramatically changed Sister Carol's perspective. She witnessed firsthand the suffering people with AIDS experienced, along with their partners and family members. But it was the deep love present amidst the suffering that profoundly changed her. She

would come to realize that ministering to people with HIV and AIDS first required a sincere self-examination. As she put it, "You can't even deal with AIDS until you first face your own prejudices and biases."

Michael O'Loughlin, a journalist, contacted Carol in 2016, for her story which is featured in a book, **Hidden Mercy** (2021). Loughlin wrote that conducting interviews for his book had a "profound effect" on his faith, so much so that he wrote a letter to Pope Francis to tell him about the book and the conversations he had. In August, the pope wrote back. The letter was written in Spanish but was translated to English, "Thank you for shining a light on the lives and bearing witness to the many priests, religious sisters and lay people, who opted to accompany, support and help their brothers and sisters who were sick from HIV and AIDS at great risk to their profession and reputation," Pope Francis wrote. He added, "Instead of indifference, alienation and even condemnation, these people let themselves be moved by the mercy of the Father and allowed that to become their own life's work; a discreet mercy, silent and hidden, but still capable of sustaining and restoring the life and history of each one of us."

We attended the funeral Liturgy for Carol with the Sarah Community. In the afternoon we talked about having our funeral arrangements available in the Region. We also reflected on Rita Yeasted's beautiful Assembly Presentation. We recommend that our Profile (Who We Are) be updated to read: We are Christian women 'living in a new pattern of the consecrated life in a prophetic ecclesial' community. We were all energized by Ritamary Bradley's vision 25 years ago! We set our spring date and closed our meeting by praying with Shaina Taub's, "Keep Marching."

Submitted by Mary Ann Wachtel, RCC



On October 26, 2024, several of our Sisters from the Great Lakes Region met at St. Patrick's Residence, which is the home of Mary Potthast in Naperville, IL. Present were Mary Potthast,

Monica Sesko, Nancy Gannon, and Gloria McElwain. We missed the presence of Ann Marie Cunningham, Virgie Luchsinger, Angela Woodworth, Mary Anne Mupo, Barbara Benz, and Marlene McDonnell, but we knew that they were with us in the Spirit and in the connection of community.

We started the meeting with time to re-connect over a delicious lunch that included sandwiches and dessert. Mary filled us in on her ministry of

visiting among the residents at St. Patrick's as well as the online presence that she maintains with friends and family. At 102, Mary is active in regularly attending Mass in the residence chapel, and she encourages others through a Bible study group and her firm belief in "letting God" work in and through all aspects of life.

Nancy and Monica caught us up on their continuing ministry in their home parish of St. Francis Xavier in Joliet, IL. In addition to conducting prayer and Bible study groups, they also lead communion services at some of the local assisted-living residences in their area. Monica trains and serves as a lector at St. Francis, while Nancy serves as a Eucharistic minister. They are well-loved and vital members of their parish.

Gloria works full-time as an infant teacher at a large early childhood education center on the Abbott campus in Lake Forest, IL. As a more recently affirmed member, she mentioned that she has been directing her energy at building connections with the women who are also closer to the start of their journeys as SFCCs. She maintains contact with the Sisters through phone calls, emails, texts, and, when possible, in-person visits. Distance in our community is a challenge to be approached with ingenuity and enthusiasm!

We discussed the information that we had received about the 2024 International Assembly. Although we were unable to attend in person, we offered our

prayers and support for the incoming ICCs as well as our gratitude for the service of the outgoing ICCs. We are looking forward to the coming year as Kass, Bern, and Mary step into their new roles and keep us all informed about their travels and communications from their respective areas.

As our SFCC community expands around the globe, it will be exciting to see how they will work together as a team. May the Spirit guide and bless them abundantly!

We ended our gathering with a prayer service led by Monica, and we remembered Suzanne Doolin who moved beyond time in August. Lots of hugs were shared as we prepared to depart. It was such a delightful time of togetherness, and we look forward to the future when we can all meet again!



(L to R) Gloria Mclelwain, Nancy Gannon, Monica Sesko. Seated: Mary Potthast.

Submitted by: Gloria Mclelwain RCC



Thea Bowman Region Nigeria

During the past months, we have been fortunate to attend various training sessions to enhance our skills. Sisters Lucy and Rose participated in trauma healing training, Sisters

Gloria and Rose undertook sexual health and addiction rehabilitation training, and Sisters Rose, Gloria, and Lucy received training in nonviolent communication (NVC). We are especially grateful to Sister Lilian for her support and help in securing the scholarship for the NVC training.

Our regional gathering with the theme, "Embracing People as Human," was held in Otukpo from December 10th to 16th, 2024. Our

reflections and sharing helped us develop a greater appreciation for the dignity and uniqueness of every individual as created in God's image. This fosters a culture of love, acceptance, and compassion that reflects God's character, as stated in Genesis 1:26-27 and Psalm 139:13-14.

Sister Lucy gave a talk on nonviolent communication, emphasizing observation, feelings, needs, and requests.

Observation - Communicating what we see and hear without judgment.

Feelings - Connecting emotionally with others to build understanding.

Needs - Identifying what we value and need to feel satisfied.

Requests - Communicating our needs to others in a non-threatening manner. She emphasized that valuing community through communication

fosters a sacred bond built on respect, understanding, acceptance, appreciation, and compassion. Those who embody these five essential pillars can practice nonviolence effortlessly each day. Continuing on nonviolence, Sr. Gloria guided us in reflecting on the consequences of violent behaviors on others while highlighting the need to respect individual rights.

During our gathering, we welcome Bridget Mbanan Ugboho who made her Covenant of Affiliation commitment. After our gathering, we visited Bishop Michael E. Apochi of Otukpo, where we had convened. He was pleased by our presence in his diocese. The Bishop invited us to

dinner at the Bishop's House and surprised us with a light celebration to mark the occasion and the birthday milestones of Sisters Rose and Gloria (who turned 40)

and Sister Lucy (who turned 50). The Very Rev. Fr. Samuel Odigbo, the cathedral administrator, and other priests residing at the cathedral parish attended the event. It was a memorable and joyous celebration to usher in the new year!

Submitted by Rose Bako, RCC



Eleven Sisters and four Inquirers participated in the Zoom on Saturday, December 14, 2024, celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas which was the focus of our prayer. At the conclusion of the prayer service, Christina pronounced her affiliation covenant and the sisters welcomed her with the SFCC tradition of singing "Alleluia". A new Inquirer, Bernadette Ekwutife, a nurse from Baltimore, joined us for the first time. Alice Obidile from Atlanta GA made a late appearance. We spent some time introducing ourselves for the newer members among us.

We then shared our reflections on the readings by Ilia Delio and Thomas Merton, their challenge to be awake to Jesus already present among us and His closeness to the margins. It was a discussion that stretched in many directions, including: science as a source of faith,

Fr. Greg Boyle's latest book *Cherished Belonging*, an Indian parable, recent actions by Pope Francis, current politics in the U.S. that call forth our prayer. We closed wishing one another a Merry, Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Fourteen Sisters and five Inquirers/Affiliates joined the WEB Zoom gathering on Saturday, January 11, 2025. Since Saturday was the last day of the Epiphany/Christmas Season, we began with

a prayer service devoted to the theme of Epiphany and made it part of our discussion. The question leading into the discussion was: "Where have you experienced epiphanies in your life?" (An epiphany is any manifestation of the Divine Presence right in the midst of daily life). The responses were many, varied and rich in content.

Before closing, Janet recommended the Netflix film, *Six Triple Eight Battalion* and Loretta suggested the Thea Bowan Documentary, *Going Home Like a Shooting Star* on YouTube as we approach Black History Month. We remembered family members impacted by the CA fires. Inquirers, Patience and Alice, expressed their desire to become Affiliates.

WEB's next Zoom will be February 8, 2025.

Submitted by Alma O'Brien RCC



Address change

Phyllis Superfisky

6951 NW 99th Ave.
Coconut Creek, FL 33073
C: 754-302-1095
E: ussteelcity2@gmail.com

Miller, Agnes

Astor Lodge View Care Home
Lamb St, Cramlington
NE23 6XF UK
(no cell or email)

Mullen, Pat

1616 W. Glendale Ave.



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Our **Florida gathering** on December 22, 2024 was opened by Joan Gabbin with a prayer in praise and thanksgiving for the Christmas Miracle and in celebration of our opportunity of reconnecting (by Zoom facilitated by Mary Steves). Attending were Joan and Mary, Jill Bond, Ita Hickey, Phyllis Superfisky and Andrea Zbiegen. Barbara Kennedy, Loretta Morgan, Louise McEachern, and Sharon McLaughlin regretted they could not come.

Everyone shared selected highlights of the Assembly which Ita, Loretta, Sharon, Mary and Andrea were able to attend. The others very much regretted they could not attend as highlights were shared about the outstanding presentations, the opportunities to interact with our sisters, the meeting of some of our new members, the sharing of common values, and increased clarity about community. We were very grateful for the preparation and hands-on care of the Assembly team.

As we connected amongst ourselves we learned that Joan underwent successful surgery in January, 2024 and anticipates two more surgeries but keeps busy with her many ministries. Ita celebrated her 70th Jubilee at Assembly and with the Orlando Diocese and remains open to other sisters joining her ministry. Phyllis retired from her position at St. Andrew Towers and is enjoying being a busy octogenarian. Jill has completely

recovered from an April fall and is wisely following a daily health regime. She remains very active at Catholic Health Services. Mary continues to stay busy with her practice, her community and supporting the changes in her family. Andrea stays busy with her ministries but is able to travel and visit family since her retirement in 2022.

Ita introduced us to Janet Nunez, one of our sisters, who may share her ministry but has difficulty procuring the appropriate papers. We wish them the best.

This was the time for us to renew Regional service responsibilities, and as we thanked Joan for her service Andrea offered to serve three years as RCC and Phyllis agreed to support her as Regionals. We will revisit the Regional and Community forms so that our information regarding eldering/illness/end of life plans are available. Experience shows us this will help us help ourselves, our family and our community.

We each spoke of wanting to keep up with community thinking and developments and realize the All to All is very important and we are grateful but need to connect more regularly. Phyllis is willing to look into apps where ongoing communication is going on in the community and help those interested to learn to use them.

The next Regional meeting was set for February 16 with a backup for March 2 at 2:00. We are looking forward that as many as possible will be able to gather. Andrea and Ita closed the meeting with an inspiring message from Oscar Romero and Luke 2:10-11. **Submitted by** Phyllis Superfisky



JOIN LITURGICAL PRESS & THE GLOBAL SISTERS REPORT

CELEBRATING WISDOM FROM THE GLOBAL SISTERHOOD:

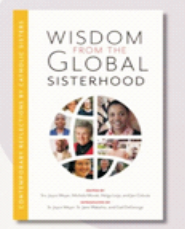
A Conversation with the Global Sisters Report

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025 | 10:00AM CST

REGISTER TODAY



With panelists Sr. Margaret Gonsalves, Sr. Magda Bennessar, Sr. Kathryn Press, Sr. Teresa Anabuike, Sr. Judy Dohner, and moderated by Gail DeGeorge



Out of Five two Sisters from our SFCC community were invited to be on the Panel organised by Liturgical Press in Collaboration with The Global Sisters Report. Sr. Magdalene and Sr. Margaret were able to share their views in keeping up with the Jubilee year. View the panel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tw4mESnsqHk>

Affirmed



Emmanuel Region



Sr. Caroline Achimba
12 /12/2024



Sr. Pauline Kanini
12 /12/2024

Lilianna Kopp Region



Sr. Lucy Kithiji
12 /12/2024



Sr. Jannefer Mwende
12 /12/2024



Sr. Maureen Pangale
12/12/2024

Affiliate South Africa Region



Grace Mary Keyonga
27 /12/2024



Miriro Jane Javangwe
27 /12/2024



Anita Kasanga
27 /12/2024

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SFCC welcomed the following sisters in to full membership as Sisters For Christian Community.

South Nigeria Region



Sr. Nneka
Gertrude Okoro
13 December 2024



Sr. Saratu Abrama
13 December 2024

NEW RCCS

Sr. Milcah Ngolo- Bakhita Region -Kenya

Sr. Jane Odey- South Africa Region

Submitted by Marta Nyaga Archivist Africa

Tanzania

Furaha Region



Sr. Idda Kimario
7/12/2024

Amani Region



Sr. Maria Happiness
7 /12/2024

South Africa Region



Sr. Jane Odey
27/12/2024



Sr. Catherine Mutezi
27/12/2024

St. Rita Region-kenya



Sr. Rosemary Irima
12 /12/2024



Sr. Pauline Thome
12 /12/2024



Inquirers

Monye Ngozi Blessing Scholastica.
Lillana Kopp Region. -Nigeria

Born on 11th March 1982.

Monye Ngozi Blessing joined Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC) congregation in the year 2009 to 2024 and later she left because she felt she was not supported and was treated unjustly despite of her loves and service to God through the Congregation. Monye Ngozi Blessing guiding principles in life is Determination to achieve her goals. Monye Ngozi Blessing holds Diploma in Fashion and Design. She is currently in Ogwashi-Uku polytechnic Delta State. Monye Ngozi Blessing was attracted to SFCC by the way the SFCC Spirituality.

NEW REGION IN NIGERIA

Lillanna Kopp Region

Members of the sisters in the region:-

1. Sr. Theresa Maiyamma, RCC
2. Sr. Stella Chibuokr
3. Sr. Sarah Abraham Kyiba
4. Gert Bassey

Inquirer: Monye Ngozi Blessing Scholastica



Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archivist

WEB Region



Bernadette Ekwutife, Bernadette was born in Nimo/Ikemba/United States of Biafra, Nigeria. She was a member of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus for 30 years. Bernadette's ministry in that congregation brought her to the U.S. in 2004. She left the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus last year because she was uncomfortable with the focus on power and money. While living in Houston TX, Bernadette learned of SFCC through Mary Pat Morris, SFCC. Bernadette now lives in Baltimore MD and serves as a nurse with Maxim Health Care



ALICE OBIDILE: Alice was born October 8, 1963, one of eleven children, in Anambra State, Nigeria. After completing education in Catholic elementary and high school, Alice wished to pursue training as a Medical Assistant but felt the call to be a religious sister in order to serve the sick and poor. In 1986, Alice and several other girls were invited to join a group of active Carmelites in Rome. But after their six years of temporary vows, the 13 Nigerian sisters were asked to leave the congregation. Alice joined relatives in the U.S. She has worked as a nursing assistant and has begun courses at Clayton State University in preparation for a nursing degree. Alice learned of SFCC through Patience Nwagwu.

Having maintained a spirit of prayer, and conscious of the vows made to God, Alice desires to renew her religious life in SFCC.

Submitted by Alma O'Brian

Maranatha Region

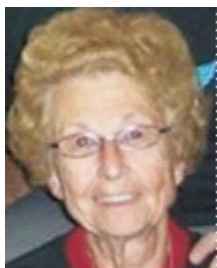


Florence was born on February 28, 1980 in Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria into a loving family of Christopher and Rebecca Ogah. Many years later, after High School, Florence joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Osun State, Nigeria. While with them, she graduated from St. Augustine College of Education (Affiliated to the University of Ibadan) with a Major in Guidance and Counseling and a Minor in Religious Education. In the years following from 2011, Florence served as a Principal at St.

FLORENCE OGAH Michael's Primary School in Umutu, Delta State, Nigeria. From December 2015 until December of 2019, Florence's Community missioned her to the United States where she continued to teach at St. Joseph Elementary School and at St. Pius in the State of Kentucky. Afterward, due to a miscommunication, Florence left the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she attended J.J. Johnson CAN (Certified Nursing Assistance) to be a Medical Assistant. After completing her courses, Florence worked at Froedtert Hospital from 2022 to 2023. Presently, Florence works with the Department of Corrections so that she can transfer to the medical department as a Medical Assistant. Since the beginning as an Inquirer in March of 2024, Florence has expressed her new felt sense of freedom and joy and she is looking forward to continuing the SFCC expression of Religious Life.

Submitted by Judith Smith





Obituary

Carmelita Theresa Stinn
Obituary April 28, 1928 -
December 19, 2024

Carmelita Theresa Stinn, 96, of Hattiesburg, MS, passed away on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Carmelita was born on

Saturday, April 28, 1928, in Neola, Iowa, to Edward and Bertha (Kronfuss) Stinn. Bertha loved the name Carmelita and was told her name was too complicated for young children to pronounce, Carmelita's two-year-old brother, Edward, proved otherwise, confidently declaring "Carmelita." Later, at her confirmation, she added the names Theresa and Isabel, embracing her full identity with pride. Carmelita loved her family deeply, sharing tender moments such as eating pie with her mother while preparing dinner and teaching her younger sister, Angela, the rosary bead prayer: "A little pair of rosary beads, as plain as plain can be, but only God in heaven knows how dear they are to me."

Carmelita graduated high school in 1946 from St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines, Iowa. She worked at an orphanage, as a nurse's aide at a hospital, at Life magazine, and Pastime Club, all in Des Moines.

Carmelita was engaged to Frank West. However, she felt a sacred calling and returned the ring to Frank, remaining friends with him and his family throughout her life.

In 1949, Carmelita followed her holy vocation to serve God and His people as a nun, joining the order of the Holy Spirit Missionaries based in Techny, IL. She took the name Sister Edwardine after both her father and late brother. Sister Carmelita was known to leave the convent to minister to inmates at a state penitentiary; rumor has it that she advocated to the governor for better living conditions for them. Throughout her life, she had a sweet tooth, and shared stories of her intense dislike of the prune soup at the convent. Nieces and nephews remember "Aunt Carm" buying them ice cream from the Good Humor Man when they came to visit. In 1952, she was sent by the order to teach at Magnolia State in Mississippi, as well as in Pine Bluff, AR, Meridian, MS, Greenville, MS, and finally to Northbrook, IL, where she taught second through fifth grade for 17 years.

Carmelita joined the Sisters for Christian

Community in 1975, which allowed her the freedom she desired in serving outside the convent environment and in the broader community, furthering her pursuit of helping others. She returned to her birth name, becoming Sister Carmelita Stinn. Sister Carmelita once said, "I was so happy I said I would come back, and that's where I am. I guess it was my first love. I've liked every place I've been, but there was something about Mississippi." Sister Carmelita settled in Hattiesburg, MS, first living in a small apartment appropriately located on Agape Avenue (agape meaning sacrificial love). She later purchased her current home. Carmelita received her Masters in Social Work at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1977.

Sister Carmelita was adjunct faculty member of USM. She was a member of: National Association of Christian Workers, American Association for Mental Deficiencies, National Association for Social Workers. And the Mississippi Conference of Social Welfare. She was also a board member of: Right to Succeed (Mental Retardation), Foster Care Review Board, Governing board Royal Maid Association of the Blind, and the Forrest County Association for Retarded Citizens.

Her practicum was at Ellisville State School in Ellisville, MS, where she remained as a regional case manager for 17 years. She was invested in establishing and organizing community-based apartments and group homes for many of her clients until her retirement in 1993.

After retirement, Sister Carmelita became even busier. Carmelita loved the community of Hattiesburg selflessly, especially the Hispanic community. Throughout her life, she was known for serving, modeling to those around her how to be like Jesus. Sister had a gift for finding a friend in others, regardless of whether they were wealthy or poor. She even had a baby named after her, Carmelita Hernandez. In 2010, she founded St. Thomas Aquinas Parish's Social Services Ministry, supporting those in need throughout the Hattiesburg area. Bags of donated items were often left on Sister Carmelita's doorstep for her to distribute to families around the city. Every Christmas, she would wrap presents to give to those she served. Other times, when she was out of food to distribute, she was known to "borrow" leftover food from the church. Even after her



stroke, Carmelita continued to get rides into every area of town, making deliveries to families. Sister Carmelita faithfully served God's Kingdom in sisterhood for over 75 years.

In 2011, Sister Carmelita received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Southern Mississippi. Sister Carmelita also received the Hattiesburg Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award, the National Association of Social Workers Mississippi Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award, The Southern Miss Social Work Pioneer Award (2010), and the Welcome Mat Award for her volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity (2009).

Having a way of connecting to the hearts of children, Sister Carmelita would often run and play with them, described by the kids as "lightning fast." She enjoyed jogging and speed-walking into her 80s on the University of Southern Mississippi's gorgeous grounds. Many people who joined her in this endeavor had a hard time keeping up with her pace. She always lived her life on the go; few could keep up with her boundless energy. Carmelita had a great sense of humor, her laugh was contagious and will always be remembered. She loved to play Scrabble and was quite competitive. Sister Carmelita enjoyed spending time with her many siblings, nieces, and nephews. She viewed her family as her special blessing from the Lord.

Sister Carmelita Stinn touched numerous lives and was loved by many. She is survived by her sister, Angela Jacobs of Waverly, Iowa; brother, Dennis (Margaret) Stinn of Fort Collins, CO; brother-in-law, Phillip Duggan of Spring, TX; sister-in-law, Lynda Stinn of Santa Maria, CA;

many nieces and nephews, and dear friends throughout the years. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Bertha; sisters Hedy (Mac) McQuade, Marita Duggan, and Joan (Marvin) Nehring; brothers Vernon (Frieda), Edward, and Gerald Stinn; nieces Theresa Davis, Catherine Spillers, and Theresa Foss; brother-in-law Earl Jacobs; nephew Craig Jacobs; great nephew Zachariah Langford.

In the countless letters she wrote, she always added, "Pray for me, I'm praying for you."

"His lord said to him: Well done, good and faithful servant, because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Matthew 25:21

Thank you to Kathy Loftin and those that cared for Sister Carmelita. Sister loved and viewed you as family. You honored her wishes to be in her own home and cared for in dignity and love. Thank you to the many great friends and family who prayed for, supported, and loved Sister Carmelita throughout her life, and to the Hattiesburg community, who Sister Carmelita faithfully loved and served alongside.

Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Visitation will be held from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Monday, January 13, 2025, at Hulett-Winstead Funeral Home. Interment will be in Highland Cemetery.

Submitted by Karol Jackowski, Archivist



Correction:

In the last issue of the ATA there were a couple of mistakes in Anne McGinn's obituary notice.

The heading should read:

ANNE MCGINN

LIFE 1929-2024

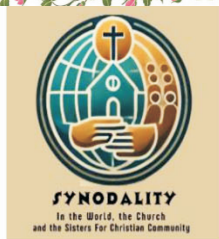
SFCC 1985-2024 (not 1989-2024)

In the first paragraph of the obituary, it should read:

"...Anne passed early in the morning on October 5, 2024..." (not October 4, 2024)

Submitted by Pat McCarthy, sfcc

Remember
Issue-5: June-July 2025
is the Last Chance to Submit
proposal or recommendation
for Manila Assembly
January
2026



SYNODALITY: IN THE WORLD, CHURCH, SFCC

REGISTRATION

SFCC INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY - January 14 to 17, 2026 PIUS XII CATHOLIC CENTER

Location: 1175 United Nations Ave. Paco, Manila 1007 piuscatholiccenter@gmail.com +63-28356-2232

(Please check where appropriate)

☐ Registration Fee - P2800 or \$50.00

ACCOMODATIONS PER NIGHT- Friendship Hall 1, Friendship Hall 2

☐ Standard - Double P1050 or \$18.00 Total _____ FH 1

☐ De Luxe- Double P1100 or \$19, Triple P1400.00 or \$24.00 Total _____ FH 1

☐ Suite – Single/Double P1500 or \$26.00 Total _____ FH 2

☐ Suite – Triple Ph1900 or \$33.00 Total _____ FH 2

Specify Room mate _____, _____

MEALS: Check : Vegetarian _____ Food Allergy (specify) _____

☐ Per day Breakfast P200 (\$4.50) Snacks P150 (\$2.70) Lunch P280 (\$5) Supper Ph280 (\$5) Total _____

☐ *Interested in visiting places of sisters in Philippines? Contact any RCC in the 4 regions for details.*

☐ **VIRTUAL REGISTRATION – P2800.00 or \$50.00**

For Philippine payments send GCash to Sr. Florida J. Cadenas - Ph _____. For Foreign currency wire transfer \$ _____ please email cadenasflorida@gmail.com for bank details.

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City/Town/County _____ Country _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____ SFCC Region _____

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COMMITMENT SERVICE ☐ Affirmation ☐ Affiliation Covenant ☐ Jubilarian (25/50/60/70)

SEND SCANNED COMPLETED FORM TO svirgie@gmail.com



Send Information for next issue to atasfcc@yahoo.com no later than **March 30th, 2025**

