

HAT ALL

SISTER FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 55 Issue 1

www.sfccinternational.org

October/November 2024

# ICC REPORT

MEMBERSHIP 2023-2024

affirmed 27 withdrawals 4

deceased 9 SFCC permanent affiliate 1

#### COMMUNICATION

As we looked back over the last year and in preparation for the transition to the new ICC team, we are grateful for many blessings as the community continues to grow and develop.

Our role is primarily to facilitate communication in the community and in order to do this we have met every 3 weeks with the 3 of us via Messenger plus using email, texts, phone calls and Whats App as needed. For our team and the new team we have connected every other month in a Zoom meeting to pray, share our spirituality, provide insights from the last six years, and sharing regarding issues and approaches. This year the 6 of us will have met before the Assembly in Jacksonville to continue this process.

As part of our ICC role, we have striven to keep the community updated and connected through ICC Notes in ATA, seasonal messages in Rise Up, SFCC Global, SFCC Philippines plus phone, email and Texts. We have informed the community regarding Masses offered and condolences sent of those who are now beyond time and on whose shoulders we now stand.

We send Christmas cards to those who live outside the USA and those in the USA who are in some form of care or in isolated situations. Though we try to reach everyone we probably have unfortunately missed someone. Finding current addresses can be a challenge.

We also communicate with Church and civil authorities but only when requested and needed in keeping with our non-canonical status.

We strive to communicate in ways that enable us all to be one and to facilitate oneness wherever we are as a community and as individuals.

# BECOMING PROCESS 2023-2024 INQUIRERS

M A Y

Philippines 6, Nigeria 6, Uganda 1, Kenya 12, Tanzania 1, Zambia 1, Italy 1, U.S.A 3

TOTAL:31

#### **AFFILIATES**

Kenya7, Tanzania 9, Zambia 2, U.S.A 1
TOTAL: 19

# BECOMING PROCESS MONTHLY SESSIONS

<u>First Sundays</u> Africa (Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria) Inquirers

Third Sundays East Africa Affiliates
Fourth Sundays Philippines Inquirers

# ICC FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Income

Beginning Balance	\$	769.81
Service Role Funds		800.00
Donation		84.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 1	,653.81
Expenses		
Postage		178.65
ICC Team Meeting		600.00
Mass Stipends		120.00
Christmas Cards		89.00
Maintenance Fees	_	132.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$1,	119.66
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 3	544.16



#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

As we look to the future and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we see gifts and challenges through individual members, worldwide regions and the SFCC community at large.

\*We are blessed to be growing internationally with gifts and opportunities that are beyond our expectations. At the same time these gifts also challenge us to develop a deep respect for those who do think in a different manner while at the same time staying rooted in the essence of SFCC and its non-canonical status. This has a variety of expressions in different cultures but still needs to be the root of who we are.

\*A challenge is how to stay connected with the gifts and limits that come with the various modes of communication. Virtual connection works for many but not for all. Either by mail or electronically ATA works for many but not for all. Some serious thought will need to be given as to how to bridge these realities so that all may be more fully one. Probably the way forward will be a combination of various methods.

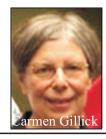
\*We are called to be financially independent and also many of us reach out and help others in various ways. The issue is how to do so without creating an expectation of ongoing

financial assistance. In addition, there are others who are in extreme need and how to respond to this since we do not have community funds.

\*It has been a profound blessing to connect in person at assemblies in various locations in different parts of the world. We need to begin to think about how to have assemblies when costs are rising, travel is very difficult for some, and some don't have good virtual connections plus the differences in time zones.

\*We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and we are called to reveal God's presence, love, and goodness so that all in the community and in the larger world may become more one and thrive in time and beyond time. This is something that we are invited to ponder more deeply individually, regionally, and globally as we live in our world that is both blessed and profoundly suffering.

So, we pray: Come Holy Spirit fill our hearts and enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Submitted by: Outgoing ICC Team:







### COLLEGIAL PROCESS REPORT

The Business Meeting was facilitated by Kass Collins with Alma O'Brien acting as recorder and Carmen Gillick as timekeeper. Kass began by explaining the nine-step collegial process and reviewed the steps at the beginning of each session. Time was allotted for clarification and discussion of the proposal and recommendations.

Results of the consensus session are as follows:

**Proposal 1**: (submitted by the DAM Region and clarified by Pat Mitchell)

We propose, with modification from the floor if applicable, a new international service role: the International Finance Team. We propose that this team be created and implemented with the specific purpose of reviewing and reporting the financial activities of all international service roles, including the ATA newsletter.

The proposal was withdrawn by the DAM Region and, with modification, submitted as a

recommendation.

**Recommendation 1**: (submitted by the WEB Region and clarified by Alma O'Brien)

We recommend, with modification from the assembly floor, if any, that the form for the International Service Role Fees be separated from the Subscription for the ATA.

**Consensus**: The recommendation was affirmed. **Recommendation 2**: (submitted by the WEB Region and clarified by Alma O'Brien)

IF THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ROLE FEE FORMS ARE SEPARATED, we recommend that sisters who receive the paper copy of the ATA support the printing and mailing of those copies by sending the Subscription Form published in the October issue. All sisters who submit an email address with the International Service Fee Form receive the ATA digitally.



Both forms would continue to include the current options:

Unable to pay all or part of the fee but wish to receive the ATA.

Additional donation to International Service Role
Fee

Consensus: The recommendation was not affirmed.

**Recommendation 3**: (submitted by the DAM Region and clarified by Pat Mitchell)

We recommend, with modification from the assembly floor, if any, that a temporary committee be formed to develop a standardized template for reporting the financial activities of all international service roles, including the ATA newsletter.

**Consensus**: The recommendation was affirmed. As follow up to Recommendations 1 and 3, two committees were formed:

**Committee to develop** forms for the ATA Subscription and International Service Fees: Mary Rose Accetturo, Rose Miles, Mary Hughes, Carmela Chetcuti, Deb Murphy.

Committee to develop a standardized template for reporting financial activities: Deb Murphy, Rose Miles, Francesca Ezeokonkwo, Roz Frampton.

Service Role Reports appear elsewhere in this ATA. The Archive report was given by Marta Nyaga and Fran Campbell, the Website report by Fran Campbell, the ATA report by Mary Rose Accetturo, the ICC report by Denise Ware, Virgie Azcueta and Carmen Gillick.

As part of the archive report, Fran Campbell explained that the SFCC historical documents were transferred from Avila University (Kansas) to Cleveland, Ohio where WRAC is located. Women Religious Archive Collaborative is a partnership of 35+ women religious communities in the USA and Canada. Historical documents from these communities will be housed in a multimillion-dollar facility funded by foundations such as Hilton and Lily.

The following service role was affirmed:

**ICCs:** Kass Collins, USA, Mary Balogun, Nigeria, Bernadette Mendez, Philippines

### **Future Assemblies:**

Assembly 2026 in the Philippines was affirmed. It will be held at the Pius XII Retreat Center in Manila, January 14-18, 2026. Details will appear in a future ATA.

Ireland was mentioned as a possibility for 2027 but no plans have been developed yet.

Mary Ellen Pitts offered to coordinate gatherings at the Mercy Retreat Center in St. Louis in the summers of 2025 and 2026. There would be no assembly schedule but a time for spiritual renewal and companionship.

**Evaluator's Report:** The Business Team followed the nine-step collegial process and did a wonderful job. *Submitted by* 



### SFCC HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS HAVE A NEW HOME!



As reported last year, Avila University closed its archives and research center, making necessary the transfer of several historical collections, including the

SFCC Special Collection.

After many months of searching and long zoom sessions of negotiating, we signed official documents on March 15 and became a member of the Women Religious Archive Collaborative (WRAC) located in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Our document collection was transferred from Avila to Ohio during late March.

With that transfer we joined 35 other women religious communities to form WRAC collection. Our documents will now be available

to professional researchers, as well as to any SFCC who wants to view them either at the multimillion-dollar facility or online.

WRAC is the first independent holding for 35 women religious' archival collections completely free of all hierarchical control. Research, public events and programs will honor the past while also inspire present and future generations to think, dream and serve in response to the needs of their time.

To learn more about WRAC it's origins, dreams

and realities, visit the website: www.archivescollaborative.org

SFCC is very fortunate to be a partner in such a forward-thinking collaborative! *Submitted by Fran Campbell* 





# SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

A	A	В	C	D
1	WEBSITE		7/2023 to 7/2024	
2				
3	Balance for	rward from 7/2023		1829.00
4	reserve fund distribution			5000.00
5	ATA distribution			528.00
6		total budget		7357.00
7				
8	Expenditur	es		
9	Redesign			
10	9/20/2023	new web host fee		240.00
11		design/training		2700.00
12		old web host fee		70.00
13		old web mail box		72.00
14		old web bandwidth		275.00
15		total expenditures		3357.00
16				
17	Balance forward 2024			4000.00
18				

### SFCC WEBSITE ANNUAL REPORT

Find below, the accounting of how the \$5000 was spent thus far toward developing the new SFCC website. To date, the new website is partially ready. You will be notified through the various SFCC chats and group emails when the final design is launched. I hope that will happen in late August, early September.

During June I had two training sessions to begin to learn how to work with the new software and thus ensure that we will be able to maintain the website ourselves rather than hire a non-sfcc to do that job.

You will also note from the above spreadsheet that community money was also used to keep the old website functioning. The contact box remains active and receives daily inquiries about SFCC and requests for contact.

With the new website we will be able to

include media: short videos, YouTube and Zoom. The overall appearance of the site will look more professional and updated. Photos and pictures will be "anchored" into place instead of floating around the page.



Submitted by Fran Campbell

#### ATA ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

Revenue Forwarded from 2023 \$13,020.76 **ATA Subscriptions** 2,021.00 Service roles: ICC 884.00 **Archives** 1,274.00 Website 543.00 60.00 Directory **Donations** 1,010.00 **Total Revenue** \$18,480.32 **Expenditures** ATA 3,775.71 Service Roles: **ICC** 884.00 **Archives** 1,274.00 Website 543.00 One-Time Web Build 5,000.00

2024 Net Balance Forward \$7,003.61

\$11,476.71

**Total Expenditures** 

### **ATA Subscriptions**

Hard Copy:

Domestic 62 (97%)

International 2 (3%)

Total Hard Copy 64 (35%)

Email:

Domestic 78 (66%)

International 40 (34%)

**Total Email 118 (65%)** 

**Total Subscriptions 182** 

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**Shared Subscriptions:** 8

**ATA Printing** \$2,351.40

**ATA Postage** \$1,424.31

### Submitted by the ATA Team







We, in the *Benelux Region among other* things continue to share, through WhatsApp' daily readings, (scripture, universal truths, philosophy, inspiration from e.g. Henri Nouwen) as well as our emails and visits to and with each other, which all underscore our SFCC vision 'that all may be one' and the vows of listening, loving and serving, as we understand them. Each time we meet, share, we are even more impassioned and inspired to be instruments of peace, where we live, work, wait. Our SFCCs in Louvain, Belgium, organized in July this past summer a two-day retreat. It was the first of its kind being organized by our new SFCCs there, hence it was a special one.

The *takeaways* from the retreat message were mainly deep personal reflection on one's Christian calling, message of hope, trust and renewal of one's religious calling to be a light to the world. In my travels throughout our *Benelux Region*, and in all of our gatherings together, with our SFCCs, *Permanent Affiliates*, those in the *Becoming Process*, as well as *Inquirers*, each of us realize even more than ever before the importance of *being* light to the world, in our various places of work, with our colleagues, amongst ourselves, and in each place, we find ourselves at any time. We all

agree that the interpretation of our vows which we all share, are crucial daily inspirations in our very needy world.

Authentically *listening*, giving-ear-to each person with whom we come into contact; that people feel heard and seen; *Loving* unconditionally —-and if that is too much to ask, then 'respecting'—-all people; *Serving* in the dedication of all our time, talents, possessions, for peace & reconciliation, wherever we wait, work, watch, rest.

Each of us, wherever we are living and working in our Region, continue to be inspired by these vows and the spirit of our foundress, Lillanna Kopp. With every meeting/ contact, we cannot express enough our joy in belonging to SFCC and our enthusiastic fervor for encouraging each other to

'be' the vows we proclaim to live. One of my nieces said many years ago to me, "Auntie Teri, you change the world just by showing up!" THAT is what I am able to say of *each* and *every one* of us in our *Benelux Region*.

**Submitted by** Sr Teresa Takken, *RCC Benelux Region* 





Koinonia (Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana plus) meets via ZOOM on the first Friday of the month. Usually Rachel Richards,

Fran Smith, Patsy Guyton, Mary Jo Meadow, Carmen Gillick, Debbie Clingsmith (affiliate) and Becky Ijeoina (Inquirer) meet. Jean Tighe also stays connected to the region via Carmen. Our usual gathering includes opening and closing prayer, a question for spiritual sharing, updates about our li es, updates about the community, and prayer request.

Every other month we share regarding a

power point that is used in the becoming process which leads to insightful conversation for those in the becoming process and for the rest of us. On the alternate weeks one of us and Debbie discuss an aspect of what it means to be SFCC.

Patsy and Carmen alternate being facilitators and all alternate leading prayer in the group. We have been blessed with many interesting and uplifting ones. Among our

spiritual sharing has been "How has the Eucharist been a gift or meaningful; how have you experienced the guidance of the Spirit, how have you helped in the world and/or community" that all may be one" etc. Submitted by Carmen Gillick, SFCC Koinonia







The Maranatha Region of Wisconsin met on **June 24th** at Avalon Square in Waukesha.

Present were Judith

Smith, Roberta Zelhofer, Darlene Kanera and Deb Murphy. Due to a blinding rainstorm Rosella Reinwand and Julie Krueger were absent. Elaine Beluschak and Florence Ogah were excused but were with us in Spirit.

Our opening prayer, prepared by Julie, was a poem of life. The prayer reminded us that life is short, and is but a stopping place in our journey to Eternity. After our prayer, we took time to share our favorite memories of Betty Bradley whose journey ended on June 6, 2024. Present at her funeral were Sisters Elaine, Deb, Judith and Darlene. Roberta remembered taking trips with Betty. Judith spoke of Betty's joy despite her issues with sight and hearing. Deb remembered what a blessing she was at St. Ann's Home where she lived. Darlene reminded us of the blessings of her friendship with Sr. Elaine. Betty was a joyful member of Marantha and will be missed by all.

Next, we discussed the Assembly and the daily schedule. We also discussed the proposal of a financial overseer. We do not agree with this proposal and wonder what precipitated this idea. We enjoyed a group call to Rosella and Julie during the meeting. We were glad to hear they arrived back home safely. Then we took turns reading the small book "Walter Fish". In many ways, Walter's story helps us become better people. We asked ourselves "Do we see what others need and respond to their need or do we wait for someone else to respond to their need?

We closed our meeting with the prayer of St. Francis prepared by Julie. Out next meeting will be August 24<sup>th</sup>. After closing, we had a surprise birthday party for Sister Roberta whose birthday was June 16<sup>th</sup>. She was indeed surprised and we all enjoyed watching her joy.





Submitted by Deb Murphy & Darlene Kanera

### Minutes of Maranatha Region

The Maranatha Region of Wisconsin met on **August 24** at Avalon Square in Waukesha.

Present were Judith Smith, Roberta Zelhofer, Darlene Kanera, Rosella Reinwald, Julie Krueger and Deb Murphy. Elaine Beluschak was excused but was in our thoughts. She is living at Mitchell Manor in Milwaukee and is doing well.

Our meeting opened with a prayer from the Assembly. Group prayer is such a beautiful, powerful way of experiencing our Sisterhood and our God. The prayer led into our meeting which covered many topics.

Deb and Judith began by presenting information on the Spirit of the Assembly. Both of them were moved by the Remembrance Ceremony during which Sisters from different regions spoke of a sister she remembered and loved in this life. SFCC has many saints and many stories in heaven.

The next Assembly will be in in Manilla from January 13-17. Synodality in SFCC will be the main theme. We look forward to hearing more about this in future versions of the All to All. Of special interest was the unstructured gatherings discussed by Mary Ellen Pitts. We are excited to hear about this and look forward to further information. Potential locations including Mercy Center in St. Louis were mentioned along with possible dates. We all treasure any time we can spend with other SFCC members.

We are happy to hear about the new ICC team, including Kass Collins from the US, Bernadette Mendez from the Philippines and Mary Balogun from Africa. We understand they have worked with the outgoing team this past year and will continue to meet often. We express our gratitude to Virgie, Carmen and Denise for their past service.

We discussed the three recommendations presented at the Assembly. Sister Judith followed this by presenting the paper on the life and influence of Sr. Rita Mary Bradley which was prepared by Rita Yeasted. The song "Keep Marching" was also included and we reflected on our own interpretations of this song and how it spoke of Sr. Rita Mary's life. We hope to continue to use material from the Assembly at future meetings. Our meeting ended with prayer and snacks. Our next meeting will be October 19 at the Avalon.





### Ruah UK Meeting 19 - 22 August 2024

At the end of August, the Ruah UK Region met for a four-day retreat in Whitby, a beautiful and historic sea port on the North Yorkshire coast. We were four sisters, Stephanie

Hartas, Mary McCullough, Patricia Irogementi and Lilian Ehidiamhen. Sadly, due to illness, Agnes Miller, Roz Frampton and Esther Iheme were not able to join us. We felt the need of gathering face to face, because although we zoom meet on a twice monthly basis, we have not been able to spend more than a few hours in person together since our three new members, Patricia, Esther and Lilian began the becoming process.

We had for our inspiration Saint Hilda who presided over a monastic community of both men and women as well as leading the famous Synod of Whitby of 664. Synods and women in leadership being important topical issues in the Church at the moment. We prayed and meditated together, shared our stories, discussed SFCC matters, took inspiration from the beauty and history of the place and had fun and laughter.

We really appreciated Steph's arranging and organizing this event so well. We enjoyed her expertise and experience both for SFCC matters and for the local area. Our stay was in the Anglican Priory of St Hilda, a serene and beautiful space where we were welcomed and well looked after by the nuns—Order of the Holy Paraclete—and staff.

We visited the windswept moors, took a bus tour of the town and looked out over the wild

sea and coastline. Particularly moving was the hour we spent standing shivering on the cliffs by the ruined abbey, gazing at the sun setting over the sea and pondering on the meaning of creation and life for us.

Although no decisions could be taken because we weren't all present, we nevertheless were able to discuss important issues and our dreams for the future.

We had all thoroughly enjoyed the recent Assembly, especially Lilian who had attended in person. We had appreciated all the presentations and want to build on Lilian's presentation on Non-Violent Communication by studying this over the next year.

A major point of agreement was how valuable and wonderful it is to meet face to face. We wanted to meet as a region twice a year within the constraints posed by physical difficulties and cost of travel. There was a suggestion to set up a joint fund to help with costs. We also wanted to meet more with people from other regions, firstly Ireland - soon and in person, then Europe - maybe next summer and also other regions by zoom.

We left inspired by getting to know each other better and determined to do more of this. A face to face meeting is scheduled for 28th September in London for the region members to meet Ellen Lenihan from Ireland. As we get to know each other more, we will surely continue to discern what are the pivotal issues for ourselves individually and as a community, as we pursue 'That all may be one.'

Submitted by Mary McCullough

# S.F.C.C MEMORABLE FEAST DAY IN KENYA. (15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024)



On this great day of Assumption of our Lady into Heaven, we SFCC in Kenya chose to make this day a joyous, memorable and historical event, as we celebrated the first SFCC day in Kenya. The Mustard Seed that has grown to be a mighty tree was our chosen theme that carried us through the day as we witnessed Sr. Mary Idda Mutinda, saying her final yes to the Lord and Srs, Julian Khaisia, Lucy Kingori and Ann Njeri became affiliate members of SFCC during the colourful celebration of Holy Mass. Sr. Fran Campbell gave us a virtual PowerPoint presentation where she emphasized on SFCC Collegiality,

Consensus, financial independent and invited all the sisters to share in the Gethsemane prayer of Jesus reflected in our charism that *ALL MAYBE ONE*. She also invited the sisters to be free to pray to God in their own spirituality that bring them closer to God.

After a shared lunch, the sisters embarked on an afternoon recreation session that added laughter, happiness and strengthened our bond. Each affirmed member received a booklet containing the history of our founder Lilliana Kopp, the history of SFCC and individual encounters of affirmed sisters with SFCC. We are so grateful to God who has strengthened the roots of the Mustered SFCC seed planted by our own Sr. Virgie in Kenya. We are witnessing the growth starting with Sr. Marta Nyaga, the first SFCC from Kenya and many sisters are joining us and finding solace and freedom to Serve the Lord. *Submitted by Sr. Marta Nyaga Archivist for Africa*.





In honor of Father's Day which we celebrate in June, the sisters in the WEB Region that month shared their

experiences of the men who have most influenced their lives. For most sisters, it was their own fathers that were fondly remembered. We were encouraged to watch the new documentary on the life of Teilhard de Chardin on YouTube.

The region did not have a Zoom meeting in July because of the assembly. In August we focused on the assembly held in Jacksonville, FL. After viewing Ken Burn's commencement address which was recommended by Rita Yeasted in her presentation, we shared our thoughts on the video and experiences of the assembly. Many concerns were expressed about the difficulties with the Virtual component:

- 1. The virtual group could not interact with the group in the conference room who were far away and could not be seen.
- 2. The "owl" that was used in 2018 would've been helpful in allowing the speaker and sisters to be more visible.
- 3. It was suggested that a screen shot be taken of the virtual group at a specific time, just as those present pose for a picture so that all participants can be remembered.
- 4. Since many sisters are unable to attend assembly, could the presentations be recorded and posted for sisters to watch later?
- 5. Some consideration might be given to hiring professional assistance, although there are many sisters who use Zoom for large groups in their

work and ministries and could offer expertise in improving the quality. Both Lynnette Davis and Maggie Gonsalves in WEB offered suggestions and are willing to serve.

- 6. There are "large meeting" or "hybrid connector packages" available through Zoom. The Zoom product also includes links for "how to do" and equipment needed for good hybrid gatherings. Pricing for various packages is available at zoom.us/pricing.
- 7. There are better resources available both in equipment and tech-savvy sisters. The sisters in the Philippines are aware of the technological concerns as they plan the 2026 assembly.

Our September meeting welcomed several new Inquirers. Sisters shared their summer/vacation experiences: Lynn celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday by spending time at the Augustinian Monastery in Montreal. Maggie spent several weeks with family in Canada for her nephew's wedding. Kass' parish celebrated her retirement party, after which she spent two weeks in Colombia S.A. with the family of a priest friend who had been part of her parish staff. Roberta visited for six weeks with family in MN. Roberta is suffering from serious and vision threatening

eye problems and is in need of our prayers as she seeks treatment. We remembered Loretta Primus who was celebrating her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee that day in her parish. Some of the sisters present then told their vocation stories and how they were led to SFCC.



Submitted by Alma O'Brien

## Address change

Johnson Alice Billings Lodge 1180 Belanger Ave OTTAWA, ON, CANADA K1H 8A2

TEL: 613-521-1962 x 3629 E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:srajohnson@vianet.ca">srajohnson@vianet.ca</a>

Region: ANAWIM

\_\_\_\_\_

Guadalupe Moore, SFCC 1621 Granada Ave. San Diego, CA 92102 Cell is 310.592.2539

Email: guatasarroyo@yahoo.com

Sr. Alvina SFCC

3901 Retallack St. Regina, SK, Canada S4S3C1

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\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Carol Bearss,

Grandvue Medical Care Facility 1728 S Peninsula Rd, East Jordan,

MI 49727, USA

### **Correction:**

We apologize for printing a wrong birth date of Francesca C. Ezeokonkwo in April-May issue of 2024.



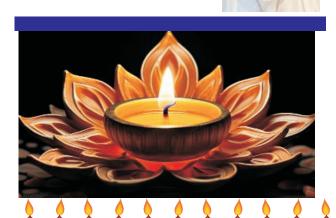
# **Congratulations and Welcome**

"We welcome and congratulate our new fully affirmed vowed sisters into our SFCC worldwide community, Jennifer Ezema and Ursulamaris Chukwujezie who celebrated their vow commitment ceremony mass Saturday 16th March 2024 in the church of Saint Quintin (Kwintenskerk) at the Begijnhof of Louvain, Belgium". Submitted By Carmen Notario, SFCC archivist for Europe



SFFC in Kenya welcomed the following sister in to full membership as sisters for Christian Community.

SR. MARY IDDA MUTINDA SFCC AFFIRMED:15<sup>TH</sup> /8/2024 ST. RITA REGION-KENYA



### **AFFILIATES**



JULIANA KHAISIA SHIVONJE. AFFLIATE: -15<sup>TH</sup> /8/2024 ST. BAKHITA REGION-KENYA



LUCY WANJIRU KINGORIAFFLIATE: -15<sup>TH</sup> /8/2024 ST. RITA REGION-KENYA



ANN NJERI. AFFLIATE: -15<sup>TH</sup> /8/2024 ST. BHAKITA REGION-KENYA

### **Affiliate Michigan Region**

Sochima Mamah, Michigan Region, decided to move forward in the becoming process. Carmela Chetcuti,RCC, traveled up to Anchorage Alaska to witness her signing on Aug 3, 2024. Carol



Bearss and Mary Hughes also joined us via zoom. It was a nice ceremony with all of us present. We continue to meet regularly in Northern Michigan for prayer and a shared meal Sochima finished her chaplaincy program in Anchorage and has been searching for a chaplain position in the lower 48 states.

Submitted by Carmela Chetcuti RCC



## **INQUIRERS - WEB Region**

#### **CHRISTINE UGBUT**

Christine was born on February 16, 1961 into the loving and caring family of Mark and Cecilia Ugbut in Nigeria. She was the fourth of



eight children, seven girls and one boy. After Catholic Elementary School, Christine went to the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus Juniorate and in 1978, at age seventeen, entered that community as a postulant. Christine came to the U.S.A. in 2002. Due to miscommunication between the Provincial Superior and the Superior General, the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus dismissed her in 2013. Christine has an Undergraduate degree in Special Education for the Visually Impaired, University of Jos Nigeria. She earned her Master's in Early Childhood Education/Teaching children with special needs from St. John's University, Queens, NY in 2013 and is currently in Doctoral studies: Psychology in Education, Northcentral University, California. Christine works at Fountain House of New York with adults who have mental health problems. Christine desires to continue her religious vocation as an Inquirer into SFCC.

### PATIENCE CHILBUZO NWAGWU

Patience Chilbuzo Nwagwu was born February 2, 1973 in Ibeme in Isiala Mbano L.G.A. Imo State Nigeria, the fifth of seven children. After high school Patience worked



at the catholic secretariat bookshop. In 2000, at the age of 27, she began religious formation with the Passionist sisters and made her final profession in 2011. Much of her ministry was in Italy and Patience became an Italian citizen in 2018. She has a degree in childhood education, has taught kindergarten and also cared for the elderly. She has worked as an interpreter in the Tribunal of Florence, Italy. Patience had a wonderful life experience in the Passionist

congregation but after deep reflection, prayer and consultation with her spiritual director, she feels she can best witness to the Lord within the structure of SFCC. Presently Patience Chibuzo lives in Italy. She is Nigerian and Italian



citizen. Her family in US is working on her stay in the east coast. *Submitted by Karol Jackowski* 

# Financial Report for Assembly 2024 in Jacksonville, Florida

Income:		I	
Beginning Amount		Hospitality	Donated
From 2022 Assembly in St. Louis	\$ 5,192.50	Total Expenses	\$11,865.88
Received from Attendees		Online to Hotel	\$ 1,970.00
32 Attendees	\$10,850.00	Online to Hotel	\$ 7,775.28
Amount Available	\$16,042.50	Online to Hotel	\$ 1,818.00
		Online to Hotel	\$ 302.60
Expenses		Total Payments	\$11,865.88
Meals	\$ 5,483.97	Balance	
Projector Package		To Assembly 2027	\$ 4,176.62
Pojector Package	\$ 2,964.31	Submitted by Deb Murphy	
Room Rental	\$ 1,599.60		
Breakfast	\$ 1,818.00		





The South Nigeria Region gathered July 28,2024 at 4:00 PM. In attendance were Sisters Mary B. Modupe, Theresa Maiyamma, Onemena Oghenejode, Stella Chibukoke, Nnneka Okoro, Gert Bassey, Saratu Abrama, and Patricia Idoko.

The meeting started with Saratu Abrama's Affiliation Ceremony.

There were catch ups from 2024 International Assembly at Florida from Sisters who attended in person and virtual: Gert Bassey, Mary Modupe, and Stella Chibukoke.

Many issues were deliberated upon in relation to being in Union with the Divine from the first presenter. Each sister also spoke on the ways we should be in union with the Divine. The presenters highlighted the Divine in life through hardship, the Divine through Nonviolence Communication, which should start within us as SFCC.

The region discussed intensively the ways each sister should pay their International Assembly Payment (physical or virtual) to those who wish to attend. Importantly paying ATA SFCC Global Newsletter for 3 quarters of a year which is \$15 for each sister. In doing this, we will commit ourselves to SFCC service roles contributions. Suggestions were given as a way to generate fund for the Region. The region agreed with the suggestions.

Questionnaires were sent to the sisters in

the region. A committee will collate the questionnaires and put the outcome together so that it will serve the Region as a guide.

The Region meeting came to an end at 5:40 PM with closing prayer led by Sr. Patricia.

Submitted by Gert. Bassey, SFCC, RCC



## **Obituaries**



Suzanne Doolin Life: 1936-2024 SFCC: 1976-2024

A member of the Great Lakes Region, Suzanne Doolin passed away on December 14, 2023. Suzanne served with the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) for 21 years before being affirmed into SFCC in 1976.

Suzanne devoted her life to teaching at the elementary

level in St. Bride's School in Chicago, where she also served as Principal. We join together in celebrating her life with us, and welcome her into our everlasting SFCC sisterhood. Blessed Be our sister, Suzanne Doolin.

An active member of the Maranatha/Wisconsin region, Betty Ann Bradley departed this life peacefully on June 6, 2024. A native of Wisconsin, Betty Ann served with the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) for 40 years before joining SFCC in 1998. In reflecting on the seamlessness



BETTY ANN BRADLEY L I F E : 1 9 3 5 - 2 0 2 4 SFCC: 1998-2024

of the transition, she wrote, "Having known former SSND's who joined SFCC, as well as others in the Wisconsin region, I attended the 1994 Assembly and have been part of the group ever since." Divine Intervention.

Until retirement, Betty Ann devoted her life to teaching primary grades (K-3) in Wisconsin schools, and in sharing the joy of sisterhood with the Maranatha region. We join together in celebrating her life with SFCC and welcome her into our heavenly SFCC sisterhood. Blessed Be our sister, Betty Ann Bradley.

Carol Baltosiewich died early on September 18, 2024, of long-term health problems. For 30 years Carol served with the Hospital Sisters of Saint Francis, leaving in 1993 and joining SFCC three years later. As an active member of the Great Lakes region, Carol also served as the region communication coordinator during the early 2000's.

During her lifetime in health care, Carol served as Head Nurse, Assistant Director of Nursing Staff, Director of Pastoral Care, and Assistant Director of the Gateway Foundation for



Carol Baltosiewich LIFE: 1943-2024 SFCC: 1996-2024

Cancer Research. In 1988, Carol and Sister Mary Ellen Rombach co-founded Bethany Place in Belleville, IL, a care center for AIDS victims and their families, offering support groups, medical services, transitional housing, rent subsidy program and

HIV/AIDS testing, serving thousands in the Metro-East area of St. Louis. Carol and Mary Ellen were awarded for their services by the Governor and the YWCA.

With heartfelt gratitude we celebrate Carol's life with us and welcome her into our everlasting sisterhood.

Blessed Be our sister, Carol Baltosiewich.

An active member of the WEB region, Marion McDonald departed this life on August 14, 2024. For 38 years, Marion served with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, devoting her life to ecology,



Marion McDonald LIFE 1930-2024 SFCC 1993-2024

land management, the closing of all nuclear power plants, and the proliferation of sustainable, renewable sources of energy. Her soulful connection to Mother Nature also led her to teach on the Navaho Reservation in Northern Arizona.

In joining SFCC, Marion was attracted by the freedom to choose her own

ministry and living situation. "I want to live my vowed life with a community that is committed to the vision of Vatican II and Gospel values." In celebrating the life of Marion McDonald, we share her passion to revere Mother Earth as Holy Ground and welcome her into our everlasting SFCC sisterhood.

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### MICHELLE FALTUS LIFE: 1935-2024 SFCC: 1993-2024

An active member of the Great Lakes Region, Michelle Faltus departed this life on June 19, 2024. Michelle served with the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of



Perpetual Help for 36 years before joining SFCC in 1993.

As an educator in the classroom and at the administrative level, Michelle taught for 11 years in Kansas City, served as Principal for 9 years, Associate Superintendent for 3 years, and Superintendent for 8 years. In developing a strategic educational plan for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Michelle emphasized the essential need "to be conscious that every child learns

differently. We want to raise the awareness of teachers and make instruction helpful for all students." She devoted her life to cultivating the sacred individual gifts of every child. Michelle was also appointed



by the Governor to serve as a board member for the State of Kansas Board of Standards.

We celebrate the life of Michelle Faltus in our sisterhood and welcome her into the everlasting SFCC community.

Blessed Be our sister, Michelle Faltus. Submitted by Karol Jackowski, Archivist



To all the SFCCs and their friends and relatives, who are going through redemptive suffering, we send you prayers through ATA News letter.-All To All Team.

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## SFCC 2026 Assembly at Philippines

THE THEME: Synodality in the World, the Church, and the Sisters for Christian Community

The theme "Synodality in the World, the Church, and the Sisters for Christian Community" highlights the concept of synodality, which means "walking together" or journeying in communion. This term is central to

Pope Francis' vision for the Church and is rooted in the idea that the entire people of God—laity, clergy, and religious—are called to actively participate in discerning the Church's path, mission, and ministry.

Synodality in the World: Synodality recognizes that the Church exists in a global context and must engage with the social, political, and cultural realities of the world. It encourages the Church to listen to and dialogue with diverse voices, especially those marginalized or excluded. The Church should act as a bridge-builder, fostering unity, peace, and justice across nations, cultures, and faith traditions. Themes like human dignity, care for creation, economic justice, and human rights are integral. Synodality in the world pushes the Church to address these issues with a collaborative, inclusive approach.

Synodality in the Church: Inclusive Participation is about fostering greater involvement from all members of the Church—laypeople, religious, and clergy alike. It encourages a structure where authority and decision-making are more shared, with dialogue, discernment, and collective listening at the core. Synodality emphasizes the Church as a community that listens to the Holy Spirit through the lived experiences and insights of its members. It contrasts with hierarchical or top-down models, where the decision-making is concentrated at the top. As a process of ongoing reform, synodality calls for adapting structures and practices to reflect the needs and concerns of today's faithful. The recent Synod on Synodality launched by Pope Francis is an example of this focus on discernment, dialogue, and reform.



Synodality and the Sisters For Christian Community: The Sisters For Christian Community (SFCC), an international Christian women consecrated to God by the evangelical vows in a non-canonical, ecumenical community, who strive to realize the prayer of Jesus, "...that all may be one", embody synodality in our structure. We promote non-

hierarchical, participative forms of governance and ministry, where leadership is shared, and each sister has an active voice in decision-making called a collegial discernment process held during the assembly. SFCC embraces an inclusive, autonomous way of living a religious life, often without rigid institutional oversight. This model aligns with the synodal approach, which prioritizes listening, shared leadership, and flexibility in ministry. Our focus is on mutual support, a prophetic commitment to social justice, and community service.

In the context of the SFCC, synodality means a model of religious life that fosters communion, equality, and cooperation. It embodies a vision where decision-making is collaborative and shaped by the voices of all members, reflecting the spirit of synodality at the core of our community.

In this theme, synodality is presented as a way for the Church to walk together with the world, to reform itself by listening and collaborating, and for our global community, the Sisters For Christian Community to model this participatory and inclusive approach in our lives and ministries and applied it in our regions. It calls for unity, active listening, shared leadership, and a prophetic stance toward justice and service.

Submitted by 2026 Assembly Team





## SFCC Philippines 2026 Assembly Team Zoom Meeting

The three Regions of SFCC Philippines, namely, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, San Pedro Calungsod, and Yesu Marie Region have decided to convene a zoom meeting on every 2nd Sunday of the month. Accordingly, the meetings were held on August 11, 2024 and September 8, 2024, @ 6:00 PM. (Manila Time)

Sixteen sisters participated in the abovementioned virtual meetings including the former ICC Virginia Azcueta and 2 members from the present ICC, Kass Collins, and Ma. Bernardita Mendez, who presided over the meeting.

The main agenda of the SFCC International Assembly 2026 to be hosted by the Philippine

Regions in January 13-17, 2026 at PIUS XII Catholic Center 1175 United Nations Ave. Paco, Manila 1007.

After a series of deliberations and brainstorming, we all agreed on the **Theme:** Synodality- The World, the Church, and

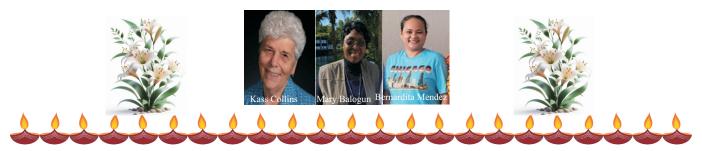
**SFCC**. After which different committees were formed and each sister volunteered to be part of the committee they like to work with. Margaret Gonsalves from India and Lynette Davis from USA are included as team members of the Virtual Assembly.

The registration fees for the assembly is \$50 per person. The room accommodation fees will depend on the choice of the participants from Standard, Deluxe, Executive, and Suite. A tour day will be optional, costing \$100/- USD, per person, which will include transportation and hotel. The tour venue will be announced once it is finalized.

It is suggested that the tour could be arranged somewhere near the beach resort where sisters can relax and unwind after the whole week's assembly. The registration form will indicate the actual cost in ATA - Dec.-Jan. 2025 issue. The next virtual meeting will be held on October 13, 2024. @ 6:00 PM. (Manila Time)



From left to right: Janet Mapa, Ma. Bernardita Mendez, Virginia Azcueta, Alma Mangao and Ejasmine, Lucasan, Kass Collins, Socorro Rivera, Corazon Navarrete, Maria Concepcion Jordan, Hazel Marie Sencio, Marivic Cotiamco, Ma. Luisa Asuncion, Marieta Calderon and Eliza Chan.





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