



SSpSWW E-Newsletter

Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit

Congregational Newsletter

March - April 2025

No. 211



FROM LENT

**TO EASTER
GLORY**

Way of the cross with the youth in Russia.

Quechua-origin peasant community in Tapacari, Bolivia.

Lent is a sacred time of transformation, calling us to renewal through sacrifice, service, and a deepening of faith. As we journey through this season, we witness the power of Christ's Paschal Mystery reflected in the lives of those we serve.

Across our missions, this transformation unfolds in profound ways. In communities facing poverty, addiction, and environmental challenges, our ministries bring hope and renewal. Through education, children from scavenger families in Indonesia and those in kindergartens in Zambia and Mozambique receive not only knowledge but also the values of dignity, faith, and perseverance. In Romania, our mission accompanies individuals in recovery from alcoholism, guiding them toward healing and new life. Acts of environmental stewardship, such as tree planting in Indonesia, remind us that caring for creation is an integral part of our Lenten call to responsibility and renewal.

Our ministries extend to mothers and babies in Spain, while VIVAT International continues to strengthen voices in civil society forums, advocating for justice and dignity.

This journey of renewal is also reflected within our congregation. In Angola, a new chapter begins as it is formally established as a province, a milestone blessed by the visit of Sr. Miriam. Meanwhile, in Java, Indonesia, the community marks a century of mission with heartfelt celebrations. The mission of writing chronicles ensures that our shared history and spiritual legacy endure. Throughout our regions, sisters celebrate Women's Day in various ways, honoring the role of women in faith and society.

As we move from the solemnity of Lent to the joy of Easter, may we embrace this call to renewal with open hearts, trusting in the promise of Christ's resurrection and the hope it brings to our world.

FROM A PALACE INTO A HOME

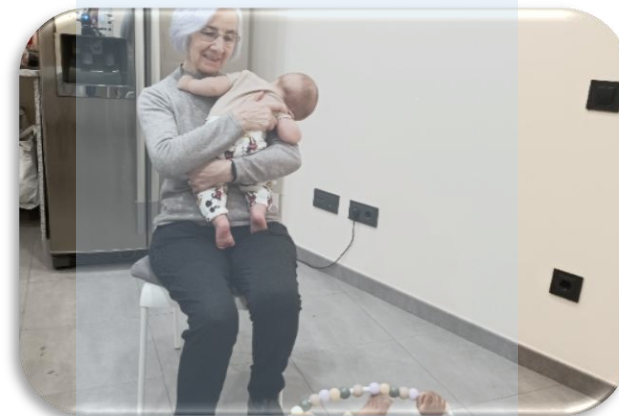
Creating a Safe Space in Spain

Sr. Clara Silalahi, SSsP – Spain/Portugal

When a palace becomes a home, miracles bloom in every path of struggle and risk—this is the heart of Hogar Santa Barbara II, where generosity transforms lives, and hope flourishes.



(Above) Sr. Clara and (below) Sr. Elena Rodrigues attend to the infants in the house.



On November 9, 2024, the day of the Virgin of Almudena, the opening of the Hogar Santa Barbara II of Caritas Madrid was launched. It is an extension project of the Hogar Santa Barbara I of Caritas Madrid that already exists since 2011, located in the Chueca neighborhood of Madrid.

Initiated by Archbishop José Cobo, this supervised home provides nine spaces—four for mothers and five for their children—offering safety and support to those at risk of social exclusion. A true reflection of the Church's mission, Hogar Santa Barbara II is more than just a shelter—it is a place of hope and new beginnings for vulnerable mothers and children.

The project is a supervised residential resource for pregnant women. The home offers places, 4 for mothers and 5 for their children, pregnant women or women with children under five years old, accompaniment to the mothers and their babies on some nights. Their presence is a reminder that, even in life's uncertainties, new life can emerge, and miracles can bloom.

Each mother carries a story of hardship, yet within these walls, they find the strength to build a future. The project stands as a beacon of generosity and transformation, proving that true homes are built not by their walls but by the love and support found within them.

FROM CHAINS TO CHANGE

Journey to Recovery from Addiction in Romania

Sr. Ana Tişea, SSpS – Romania

Breaking free from the grip of addiction, individuals and families embark on a transformative journey of healing, rediscovering dignity, faith, and the joy of a life lived in wholeness.

In Romania, the communities of Roman and Răducăneni are actively engaged in the mission of transforming lives affected by alcohol dependency. Their collaboration with the Don Orione Congregation in the ACAR project (Association of Clubs of Alcoholics in Recovery), provide support, guidance, and renewed hope for individuals and families on the path to healing.

The ACAR project extends beyond treating addiction. It fosters dignity, restores relationships, and encourages a responsible and sustainable way of life. Recovery begins with a personal decision to change, but it flourishes in the presence of a strong support system.

Weekly group meetings in Roman, part of the 13 established in the Moldovan region, create a safe space for individuals and their families to share their struggles and triumphs, reinforcing the importance of honesty, perseverance, and faith in the recovery journey.

Abstinence is more than avoiding alcohol; it is a conscious commitment to a new way of living. Encouraged by family members and guided by moderators, participants learn to navigate their path with courage and resilience. Faith plays a central role, providing strength and hope in difficult moments.

Through education, formation, and faith, ACAR's mission continues to inspire transformation, proving that healing is possible and a renewed life is within reach.



The house in Isai where individuals and families hold meetings..



FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

Empowering Children in Kalimantan

Sr. Imakulata Weka, SSps – Kalimantan

In the heart of Palangka Raya, scavenger children are discovering new possibilities through education, skills, and hope.



Sr. Herminiana Nu'u teach the children to prepare cookies they can sell.

The JPIC SSps Kalimantan Team is transforming lives by offering children of scavenger families more than just an education—they are opening doors to a future filled with possibilities.

The team serves the children at TPA Km. 14 through non-formal classes that go beyond traditional learning. Their activities include basic literacy, horticulture, health education, and cooking classes, all designed to help the children develop skills, express themselves, and break free from the cycle of scavenging.



Self-transformation is a gradual process, requiring patience, mentorship, and meaningful engagement. By shifting their focus from scavenging to productive activities, these children are discovering their hidden potential and learning to dream beyond the landfill.

On February 22, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., the sisters and activists of JPIC SSps Kalimantan Province hosted a cooking class where the children learned to make cookies and kolak, a traditional Indonesian dessert. The session aimed to enhance their culinary skills and introduce ways to generate income using local food ingredients. More than just a cooking lesson, it was an opportunity for the children to gain confidence, develop creativity, and envision a better future.

With continued guidance, these young learners can apply and expand their newfound knowledge, taking small but meaningful steps toward a brighter, self-sufficient life.



The Sisters enjoying the day with the children of scavenger families.

FROM BARRIERS TO BREAKTHROUGHS

Enabling Change Through Education in Zambia

Sr. Jay-Ann Jimenez, SSpS – Zambia

In a small Zambian village, education is more than lessons in a classroom—it is a journey of hope, resilience, and transformation, empowering young minds to dream beyond their circumstances.



Sr. Jay-Ann immerses herself in learning alongside her students, sharing laughter and knowledge.

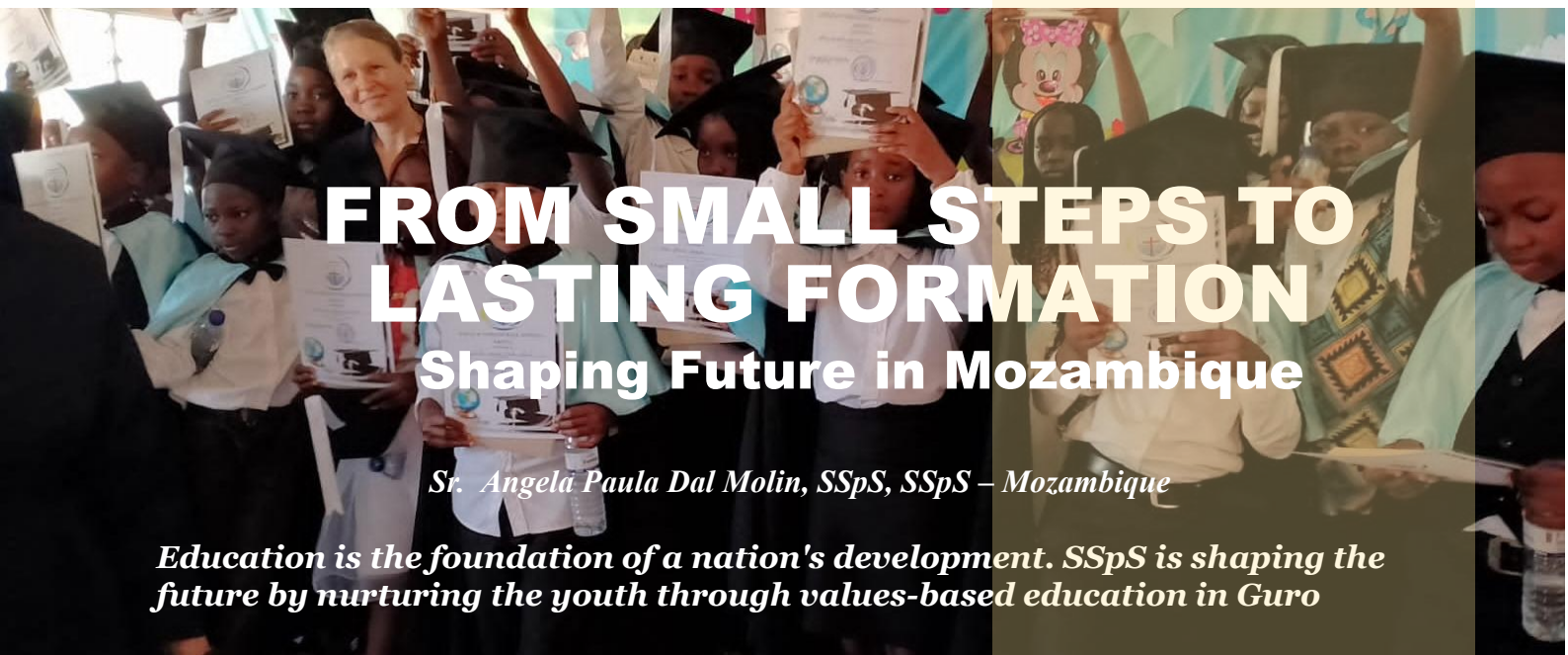


Education is a means of empowerment, instilling hope, love, and Christian values while shaping a future of possibilities. As an educator, I have realized that teaching extends beyond the classroom; it involves nurturing young minds, fostering resilience, and walking alongside students in their struggles and dreams.

Visiting my students' homes has deepened my understanding of their daily challenges. Many come from impoverished backgrounds, yet their determination to learn is unwavering. My commitment is to create a safe, encouraging environment in which every child feels valued and supported.

To make learning engaging and meaningful, I design lessons that spark curiosity while building strong relationships with my students. Despite language barriers, I strive to connect with them, listening to their stories and aspirations. Over time, I have witnessed remarkable growth—confidence blooming, dreams expanding, and students embracing their potential.

They now dream of becoming doctors, teachers, and engineers, ready to give back to their communities. This journey has transformed not only their lives but mine as well. Education is a two-way street, — one that changes hearts, nurtures futures, and leaves an indelible mark on all who embark on it.



FROM SMALL STEPS TO LASTING FORMATION

Shaping Future in Mozambique

Sr. Angela Paula Dal Molin, SSpS, SSpS – Mozambique

Education is the foundation of a nation's development. SSpS is shaping the future by nurturing the youth through values-based education in Guro

Since 2008, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit have been shaping young minds in the Guro District of Mozambique. What began in simple parish huts has flourished into the Espírito Santo Community School and Kindergarten, nurturing generations of children who now serve their community in various professions—a remarkable achievement for a mission that started so humbly.

The school's educational approach extends beyond academics, instilling ethical and Christian values in students. In a society where corruption and disregard for life can take root, the sisters and teachers work tirelessly to foster integrity, solidarity, and respect. By integrating these principles into daily lessons, they equip children with the ability to discern right from wrong, making them agents of positive change.

Unlike state schools, Espírito Santo provides a holistic education, emphasizing responsibility, justice, and environmental care. Students graduate not only with knowledge but also with a deep sense of community and purpose. They leave with an understanding of their rights and duties, prepared to challenge unethical practices and promote a more just society.



A student graduates not only with knowledge but with a deep sense of purpose..



Sr. Olga Abel Jorge, Sr. Angela Paula Dal Molin, and Sr. Juliana Marques Pinto in the classroom.



FROM REVERENCE TO RESTORATION

Faith and Ecology in Action in Flores West

Sr. Herdiana Randui, SSps – Flores West, Indonesia

In an act of environmental stewardship, the SSps Flores West joined hands with the people of Munting Village to plant trees, preserving both nature and tradition.

To celebrate the World Day of Consecrated Life on February 1, 2025, the SSps sisters of Flores West participated in a tree-planting activity in Munting Village, West Manggarai Regency, Indonesia. The initiative was organized by the Forum for Communication of Religious Congregations, in which the sisters have long been active as animators and facilitators. The event was coordinated by Fr. Marsel Agot, SVD, who is deeply committed to environmental issues and always ready to provide trees for planting wherever needed.

This tree-planting effort aimed to conserve nature, uphold the integrity of God's creation, and foster a sense of social responsibility and environmental awareness. The people of Munting Village participated enthusiastically, planting around 2,000 Munting trees, a native species of West Manggarai valued for both its practical use in house construction and its cultural significance. According to Manggarai tradition, permission from ancestors must be sought before cutting these trees, as doing so is seen as an act of environmental destruction. The wood is also used as the central pole in traditional Manggarai houses, symbolizing strength and protection.

The trees were planted around Ghoros and Nggola springs to preserve these vital water sources, ensuring a stable water supply for drinking and irrigation. The presence of the SSps sisters in this initiative has brought a positive impact, reinforcing the importance of caring for nature to sustain life and protect future generations.



Sr. Blandina Terni and (below) Fr. Irenius Bernardus Boli Lolan, SVD planting trees in Munting Village.



FROM CIVIL SOCIETY TO GLOBAL IMPACT

VIVAT International Strengthening Voices

Sr. Elaine Faith Taneo, SSps – Rome

VIVAT International joined the Civil Society Forum with Sr. Marides Santos co-facilitating the program.



Sr. Marides Santos at the UN Civil Society Forum as co-facilitator.

On February 14, 2025, the United Nations Headquarters in New York hosted the 63rd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63). This event highlighted the power of civil society and emphasized the importance of community building.

The Civil Society Forum, organized by the NGO Committee for Social Development in collaboration with UN DESA and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, was a key part of the event. It created a vital space for civil society and grassroots voices to engage with Member States and other stakeholders.

VIVAT International, with Sr. Marides Santos, SSps, as co-facilitator, played a significant role in the forum. Their participation highlighted the importance of working together to tackle social development challenges and ensure that diverse perspectives were heard at the UN. This marked a moment where the voices of those often unheard were amplified.



Members of the opening panel.

Celebrating 25 years of mission, VIVAT International remains a steadfast advocate for human rights, justice, and dignity, amplifying voices for transformative change worldwide.



The World Social Summit in Qatar will be on in November 2025. The Civil Society Forum at CSocD63 was a crucial opportunity for planning. The forum aimed to create a global social development agenda. VIVAT International's commitment to fostering meaningful engagement and collaboration was evident as it worked with other organizations to drive meaningful social progress.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Celebrating Java Province Legacy

Sr. Elisabeth Tey Seran SSpS – Java

Retracing a 100-year journey of faith and service, the three-day event brought Sisters and mission partners together in a journey of gratitude, reflection, and renewed commitment.

To mark 100 years of the SSpS Jawa Province's missionary presence in Indonesia, the Napak Tilas event, held from January 29-31, 2025, retraced the footsteps of the pioneering Sisters who brought the mission to Indonesia. The event brought together 147 participants, including Sisters and mission partners, to reflect on the mission's rich history.

The celebration began with a warm welcome from Sr. Yohanna and an opening speech from Sr. Ignata, the Provincial Leader. A symbolic shepherd's staff, carried by both a Sister and a mission partner, represented their unity in mission. The group visited key sites such as Kembang Kuning Cemetery, where they honored six pioneering Sisters with prayers and roses at their graves.

The participants also explored locations like SMKK Mater Amabilis, Panti Asuhan Undaan, and Blitar, where the first SSpS region was established. These visits highlighted the early work in education, healthcare, and caring for the sick. Sr. Augusta shared stories about the pioneers' commitment and impact on the community.

The event concluded with reflection on the 100-year legacy, deepening the sense of gratitude and pride in the shared history. The Napak Tilas journey not only celebrated the past but also renewed the commitment to continuing the mission into the future, honoring the pioneering Sisters' lasting impact on the mission and the communities they served.



Sr. Augusta Surijah presented the history of the province.



Sr. Yohana during the ritual of face washing at the first location of the Java hospital.



HONORING THE PAST: Remembering the War History in Vienna Hospital

Sr. Ana Damas, SSpS, Rome

Sr. Anna Damas (Congregational Historical Researcher) assisted Sr. Maria Theresia Puchinger in digitizing the historical chronicle of Orthopädisches Spital Speising in Vienna.

In February 2025, I worked in the archives of Orthopädisches Spital Speising in Vienna. The hospital's origins are in the First World War when the SSpS Sisters went to Austria to care for wounded soldiers. It developed into an orthopaedic hospital of high reputation, run by our Sisters.



Community Vienna Orthopedic Hospital Speising (from left) Sr. Lelia Surtina, Sr. Maria Theresia Puchinger, Sr. Bernadette Theresia Plangger; (back) Sr. Norberte Bogner and Sr. Celiana Lorek.



(Left to right) Sr. Rita Josefa Raich, Sr. Anna, and Sr. Maria Theresia.

I spent many a days deciphering and typing the old German handwriting into the computer. 'Why waste time on old stuff?' someone asked. This 'old stuff' was new to me – and fascinating! I realised that the founding generation does not end with Father Arnold's death (who outlived the others), but continues with all those giants on whose shoulders we now stand in our mission work. Just read the story of how the Sisters in this hospital braved the disastrous times of the Second World War, and you can't help feeling dwarfed by their spirit of hope and sense of purpose. Moreover, you will discover that the chronicler knew she was writing a testimony for future generations. (NB: The website www.worldssps.org will feature the chronicled stories of the hospital during the war period).

Historians and theologians show fresh interest in the role of missionary Sisters. In the Past, research focused on male congregations and clergy. New research unearths the unique mission approach of the Sisters. For this, researchers depend on letters and chronicles written by the Sisters.

A NEW PROVINCE: HOLY SPIRIT - ANGOLA

Sr. Miriam Altenhofen, SSpS – Rome

From 16–26 February 2025, Sr. Miriam Altenhofen visited the newly established province, Espirito Santo, in Angola. This visit marked a significant step in strengthening the SSpS presence and mission in the country.

Strengthening Leadership and Community. During Sr. Miriam's visit, there was valuable time for team building, setting priorities, and holding an assembly with all sisters from the 5th vows onwards. Sr. Miriam also visited four of the six communities, witnessing firsthand the sisters' dedication to their apostolates.

Commitment to Health and Education. The sisters are deeply involved in healthcare. Mulemba and Xandala Centers are specializing in alternative medicine that cultivate medicinal plants and herbs. Muxima Wa Jezu Medical Center provide care for pregnant mothers and treating diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, cholera, and more. One sister regularly visits an SVD centre in Luanda to care for street children.

The province is working to improve educational opportunities. The community is currently building the first SSpS-owned school in N'Zeto, a project that holds immense promise for the town and the congregation.

Looking Ahead with Hope. The establishment of the Espirito Santo Province marks a new chapter for our mission in Angola. Rooted in a legacy of service and sacrifice, and guided by the strength of the Holy Spirit, our sisters continue to stand alongside the people — nurturing faith, promoting healing, and fostering opportunities for growth.

With faith, courage, and unwavering commitment, we look forward to seeing this new province flourish, bringing light and hope to communities across Angola.



School for young children.



Visit of three Archbishops/SVDs



Sr. Miriam with the members of the new Angola province.

EMBRACING SISTERHOOD

Sr. Anastasia Kedang, SSpS – Argentina

In the heart of Patagonia's most marginalized communities, a movement of women is rising—one of courage, faith, and solidarity.



Group activities include sharing God's words and faith-life experiences.



Participants learn to make handicrafts.

Being a Woman Project was launched in 2016 in the Argentina South to respond to the complex issues of gender inequality and to accompany women in their struggles.

Currently active in the Patagonia Zone, particularly in Neuquén and Alto de Bariloche, the project operates in neighborhoods lacking basic services such as electricity, natural gas, and sewage. The community faces widespread violence, drug abuse, and rising illegal drug sales, with dealers present on nearly every block—even among the families near our house.

As Servants of the Holy Spirit, we recognize the urgency of this reality and strive to respond through this initiative. Each year, the project's activities evolve based on the specific needs of the women and the availability of workshop leaders.

Our activities include:

- ✓ Celebrations for Women's Day and Mother's Day, offering reflection and empowerment.
- ✓ Workshops that encourage self-discovery, creativity, and community-building, covering topics like Women of Faith, Handicrafts, Sharing Knowledge, Personal Growth and Listening Spaces, and Basic Computer Skills.
- ✓ Annual Retreat and Community Outing, a sacred time to close the year in unity and renewal.

The project's guiding motto of transformation challenges us to step beyond our comfort zones, embrace the reality before us, and journey together—sailing toward new horizons in the same boat.

Generalate News



The new Regional Leadership Team of PNG.

Sr. Miriam Altenhofen traveled to Papua New Guinea. From March 19th to 25th, they held a Provincial Assembly with all the sisters present. The Biblical theme for the assembly was "I want to see," based on the story of Bartimaeus. During this time, they assessed the situation of the province, evaluated the state of the communities and the mission, and developed a vision and strategic plan for the province. During the Assembly, the sisters elected the new Regional Leadership Team: Sr. Scholastica Dising Ihru (Regional Leader) and the Councillors - Sr. Miriam Maria Dlugosz, Sr. Elizabeth Ladong Sila Gilu, Sr. Miliana Kommane Wanguawo, and Sr. Arnolda Roslyn Kavanamu .

After her PNG trip, Sr. Miriam Altenhofen visited the sisters in Hong Kong before proceeding to Kupang, Timor, Indonesia, where she met with the Provincial Leadership Team and Finance Commission. Her journey continued to Surabaya, Indonesia, for the Java Province's 100-year Jubilee celebration and returns to Rome on May 5.



Sr. Mikaelin Bupu (2nd from left) with the new PLT of Togo-Benin. (Left to right) Sr. Aleksa Eutropia Epi, Sr. Francisca Ofori, and Sr. Iwona Piatek (Provincial Leader).



The new Leadership Team of the Generalate Community, Rome. (Left to right) Sr. Jessy George, Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek (Community Leader), and Sr. Maria Jerly Renacia.

Facts and Photos

Women's Day theme for 2025



BRAZIL SOUTH



Sr. Edita Vera speaking as a panelist at the UN event on Women and Church Action.

VIVAT International joins the global community in celebrating women's achievements and reaffirming our commitment to gender equality. At the UN, leaders launched the "Gender Equality Clarion Call," highlighting progress and challenges. Inspiring women shared their journeys, urging continued action against discrimination and for a just, equitable future. Sr. Marides Santos participated in the event on March 8, 2025.

On March 11, 2025, Sr. Edita Vera, SSpS (Argentina) took part as a panelist in the discussion on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Women and Church Action for Gender Equity. This significant event brought together faith leaders, advocates, and policymakers to reflect on the progress and challenges in advancing gender equity within religious and social spheres. Vivat International was one of the sponsors of the event.

SSpS Worldwide

E-Newsletter

Thanks to all the Sisters, Provinces and Regions who contributed to the SSpSWW E-Newsletter No. 211.

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Thank you!

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