



SSpS

Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

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On Easter, the Risen Christ breathes peace into a frightened room: “Peace be with you.” Outside, the world remains torn. In the Middle East, war escalates between Iran, the US, and Israel. Cities burn. Families flee. Violence is a daily wound. Yet the risen Lord withdraws not his gift. He offers it where peace seems impossible.

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In this issue, formators co-creating with the Spirit appear alongside a psychologist in Portugal for whom presence is ministry. A tertianship group in the Philippines learns that “being with” is enough. A Mozambican catechist’s joy proves that diversity enriches. In a Seoul kitchen, ten sisters from five nationalities find unity through their differences. After fifteen years of scarcity, a sister in Cuba testifies that the Triune God still sends. An advocate in Madhya Pradesh turns courtrooms into missions. And a mission in Indonesia runs a shelter for survivors of violence.

The Spirit weaves Easter peace through every story in this issue — from a formators’ table to a shelter in Indonesia, from a tribal child’s smile to a sister’s fifteen years in Cuba. That same Spirit does not wait for wars to end. The weaving is happening, in a world falling apart. This Easter, the weaving continues.

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CO-CREATING THE FUTURE OF FORMATION

Sr. Michaela Leifgen, SSpS – Steyl, Province of Europe

Twenty-five formators, five members of the Formation Commission, two representatives from the Congressional Leadership Team, and four service personnel gathered in the Motherhouse in Steyl from March 4 to 25 for the 6th SSsP Formators Assembly. The stirring conference theme was “Transformed by the Trinity: Creating the Future of Formation.”

The image of the Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at the well watched over the assembly throughout the gathering, a reminder that formation begins with encounter. It also recalls the very nature of the Trinity—relational, dynamic, co-creative. Formation is not something done to others, but something entered into with them – by inviting formands into processes of planning, discernment, and growth. It calls for spaces of honest sharing, non-judgment, and mutual transformation.

Regular sessions on co-creative formation helped the participants engage deeply. Explored were intercultural living, bridging generational gaps, safeguarding in formation, response to media and technology, and Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC, a specific framework in Catholic teaching) especially with regards to justice and power. Key congregational practices were reviewed, including mission mandates, cross-cultural experiences, and evaluation of junior sisters.

The 6th SSsP Formators’ Assembly gathered in Steyl recently to explore a relational, dynamic, co-creative approach to formation.

A pre-assembly survey presented the voices and lived experiences of the congregation’s younger members. Their insights at once challenged and enriched the formators, and are expected to continue shaping how formation is understood and practiced. Despite differences in culture and age, there emerged a clear, shared desire to grow as co-creative formators.

Being in Steyl gave participants the added grace of reconnecting with their roots. They were doubtless inspired by Mother Theresia Messner’s deeply personal approach to formation and Arnold Janssen’s pioneering spirit, and by visiting significant sites. The founding generation also encouraged the formators by how they themselves embraced diversity and allowed their differences to instead become a source of strength for mission.



(Above) Fellowship with the Steyl Motherhouse community was always a cherished moment of intercultural sharing. (Left) The opening mass was celebrated at the chapel near the sarcophagus of Blessed Maria and Blessed Josepha.



WHERE PSYCHOLOGY MEETS COMPASSION

Sr. Vidhya Bilwal, SSpS – Portugal,
Province of Europe

The ministry as a psychologist in Portugal weaves professional competence with compassionate presence for those navigating mental health challenges and addiction.

This ministry unfolds at the intersection of professional psychological care and a deeply rooted spiritual vocation. As a psychologist in Portugal, Sr. Vidhya Bilwal, SSpS, serves people from diverse backgrounds with their own wounds and wishes. Among them are individuals facing mental health challenges and those in recovery, including members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Here, healing begins not with instant answers, but with presence and active listening.

After her mission appointment to Portugal and the requisite process of learning the language, Sr. Vidhya became involved in the Jesuit Refugee Service center in Lisbon. Over time, she recognized a growing need: many people were searching not only for basic social support but also for psychological care, meaning, and inner reconciliation. This drove her to earn a master's degree in Psychology from the University of Lisbon, and then register with the Order of Psychologists of Portugal.

Being a Sister and a psychologist are two deeply intertwined sides of her personality. SSpS has grounded her in humility, attentive listening, and unconditional respect for every person's dignity. Her scientific training guarantees ethical, evidence-based care.

She integrates spiritual support with psychological care in a respectful, unobtrusive way. She creates safe spaces for everyone in her charge to find their own meaning. Often, over the course of accompaniment, she finds that people return to their deepest need for connection with God, lost through hurts and resentments.

Ultimately, this ministry is not about fixing human lives, but about walking alongside them with respect, calmness, and the conviction that every person carries within them the possibility of transformation.



Seminars and talks on mental health with young people create greater awareness, breaking silence and building understanding.



In Lisbon, Sr. Vidhya offers attentive care to a client, where professional psychology meets compassionate presence



A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

Sr. Sheela Muthu, SSsP – Province of India Central

An SSsP advocate practicing in the courts of Madhya Pradesh, transforms the legal system into a mission of justice for the poor and marginalized.

Sr. Sheela Savari Muthu's legal practice encompasses civil, criminal, family, labour, service, and land disputes. She appears before the High Court and subordinate courts across 14 districts, providing litigation, legal counselling, and mediation—especially in family cases.

The courtroom as setting naturally makes her role distinct from traditional missionary work. While education and healthcare serve immediate needs, legal ministry addresses structural injustice. Her clients are mostly from the margins—poor families, women facing domestic violence, children, daily wage workers, migrants, and tribals. Common injustices they face include exploitation, denial of wages, abuse, land disputes, and false criminal cases. Having Sister Sheela standing beside them in court provides courage, dignity, and assurance that they are not alone.



Sr. Sheela poses alongside relatives of the clients whose legal cases she successfully represented.

Her journey from a small Tamil Nadu village to practicing law in Madhya Pradesh was propelled by the congregation's discernment of a "need of the time." The India Central Province (INC) entrusted her with legal studies, leading to this prophetic response to injustice. Frequent challenges on her list include judicial delays, money and power influencing justice, and balancing legal practice with community life. She relies on prayer, the support of her Sisters, and the conviction that her role is to remain faithful to God's justice.

Beyond favourable orders, the utmost fulfillment for her comes from accompanying people in their struggles—when a victim reclaims hope, or when a woman gets to leave an abusive situation. She takes many cases pro bono. Her vision is to expand legal awareness, empower women and children, and build sustainable networks, making legal ministry an expression of God's own justice and compassion.



Sr. Sheela received the award for Young Achiever in the Legal Field.



GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH IT

Sr. Fransiska Imakulata, SSpS –
Province of Flores East, Indonesia

Coordinating a shelter for survivors of violence in Indonesia is not labor, but a living out of Psalm 138:8: “God will accomplish it for me.”

Sr. Fransiska’s childhood taught her to help the sick and needy despite her own family’s scarcity. The saddest memories, including witnessing domestic abuse, became a blessing when, with her formators’ help, she experienced God’s change. A 30-day retreat preceding her perpetual vows gave her absolute calm and certainty. Forgiving those who had hurt her opened the door to being quickly moved by others’ suffering.

TRUK-F stands for Flores Humanitarian Volunteer Team for Humanity, a crucial initiative established by the SSpS in Flores, Indonesia to fight human trafficking and provide support for victims. As coordinator for the organization, Sr. Fransiska’s responsibilities include setting policies, designing budgets, reviewing reports, overseeing victim assistance (psychological, legal, advocacy), and coordinating staff. TRUK-F was founded by SVD priests and Sr. Eustochia Monika Nata, SSpS, in response to widespread violence. It walks with women and children who suffer, empowering them in a strong patriarchal culture.

It is Sr. Fransiska’s motto, “God will accomplish it for me,” that sustains her. When, at age 31, her confidence needed a boost, she found assurance in SSpS Co-Founder Mother Maria Helena Stollenwerk’s words: “Every task is a gift.” Sister Eustochia’s legacy reminds her that victims are the face of Jesus.

TRUK F collaborates closely with SVD priests. Its network includes Vivat International, the National Commission on Violence Against Women, and the Witness and Victim Protection Agency. The recent rescue of 13 women from a nightclub in Maumere, to cite an example, began with a single WhatsApp message: “Please get me out of here, Sister.” Through coordination with police and advocacy networks, the victims were secured and the suspects named.

Still the biggest obstacle is the widespread collusion between syndicates and law enforcement. Which does not deter Sister Fransiska from dreaming of a world where women are empowered, children live free from violence, and all sectors of society share a commitment to their protection and dignity. Until then, she stands on God’s promise.



Sr. Fransiska with 13 women from West Java who were rescued from human trafficking.
(Source: Asia News)



TRUK-F manages this shelter for women seeking refuge and protection.



THE HARMONY OF MANY GIFTS

Sr. Maria Aloysia Surwari, SSps – Region of Mozambique

Coordinating catechesis in rural Mozambique, an SSps discovered that true unity in mission does not demand uniformity, but welcomes diversity as a source of richness.

Sr. Maria Aloysia Suryari coordinates the SSps mission in Liúpo District, northern Mozambique. The parishes of St. Francis Xavier in Liúpo (46 communities) and St. Barbara in Moginqual (25 communities) are under the care of the SVD/SSps missionary team. Both parishes are in rural areas with difficult roads, especially during the rainy season. The language is Macua; Portuguese is still little-spoken.

Last year, Sr. M. Aloysia took on the pastoral work of catechesis. The catechists are young people and adults, women and men, each with his/her own life story. Many have served for years. Each catechist has a unique way of transmitting the faith: some dynamic and creative, others serene and profound. These differences are not obstacles but gifts that complement one another.



(Above) The mission of catechesis goes beyond teaching content; it is building a community. (Right) During catechist trainings, Sr. M. Aloysia teaches the group songs that fill their faces with joy.

The mission faces extreme poverty, disease, and poor education. Technology is precarious; most catechists use old cell phones, and few have internet access. Electricity is available only in the centers of Liúpo and Namige. And even with what is available, creativity is needed.

During training, Sr. M. Aloysia taught songs. Rehearsing alone brought immense joy to the catechists' faces. Despite differences in age, culture, and language, they were united by the same purpose. Singing became a visible sign of communion. Unity does not require uniformity; it welcomes diversity.

Leading catechesis means serving, not imposing. The common goal of proclaiming the Gospel is greater than personal preferences. When everyone offers the best of herself/himself, the whole becomes more harmonious. Thus, the mission of catechesis is not only to teach content but to build communion and witness that, in Christ, all are truly one.





Sr. Edisley Mireya Rivera Licea from Cuba made her perpetual vows.

The mission centered in the Triune God challenges every sister toward conversion, reflecting compassion in service to others. This has been an invitation, conviction, as much as yearning of the heart for Sr. Rani Sahaya M.A., SSpS, sharing her life and mission in Cuba for the past 15 years. Of her 25 years as a sister, God blessed her with enriching experiences and learnings during 10 years in India. She does not consider herself precious as much as loved, called, sent, and constantly challenged. Although sociopolitical and church realities occasionally torment her, she strongly feels her collaboration in mission is valuable, and that she is blessed to continue God's mission together with her SVD brothers and sisters.



The arrival of the first SSps sisters in Cuba in 1996, the first three missionaries accompanied by Sr. Maria Adela Muñoz (center), the Provincial Leader of Chile at that time.

CLAMORS FROM CUBA: WHERE THE SPIRIT LEADS

Sr. Rani Sahaya M.A., SSpS – Region of Cuba

After 15 years of mission in Cuba and amid the socio-political turmoil and scarcity, the SSps mission testifies that the Triune God sends forth the Spirit.



The Holy Trinity Region (SSps Cuba mission) is a small region composed of nine sisters.

A communist Cuban life's environment routinely presents youth fleeing to other countries for a better future, leaving parents and grandparents without assistance and support. Many of the elderly end up in hospitals. This implies facing the consequences of lack of food and necessary daily materials. Such realities call the Sisters to extend compassion as SSps missionaries, being instruments of God in continuing the mission.

The Holy Trinity Region is very low in numbers at present, but with the collaboration of lay missionary servants of the Holy Spirit, they continue sowing love and compassion in their mission endeavours. They keep the faith in Divine Providence, trusting that more Sisters will choose to offer their precious lives generously, hold their hands and walk alongside them in the Lord's mission. As founder St. Arnold Janssen said, "The proclamation of the gospel is the most sublime expression of our love to the neighbours." There are many clamours: "O God Holy Spirit, send us your servants to share your compassion in Cuba."



THE MONSOON AND THE MAKING OF A FAMILY

Sr. Tessy Jacob, SSsP – Province of India East

In the boarding houses of Odisha, India, tribal children of diverse clans and languages discover that unity does not erase differences but blossoms within it.

When the first monsoon rains fall, students from remote Odisha villages return to boarding school, leaving behind parents and familiar surroundings. For days, children aged six to thirteen sit in silence, seeing the campus grounds through tears, or gazing into the void, expecting their parents' footsteps. And then a quiet magic begins. Strangers smile, introduce themselves, offer to help carry bags or to bathe the youngest kids. Gradually, the boarding school fills with laughter and conversation, and the warden who earlier coaxed the students to speak now yells for silence.

In the Indian East Province, the congregation manages four boarding schools for poor tribal students whose daily commute defies logic. Once inside, these students assume one identity: hostel student. Diversity becomes a bonding factor. The young find security with seniors; seniors master leadership. Though they speak the state language formally, they connect through their independent tribal dialects. Sisters encourage them to learn from, and care for, each other with single frame of mind: "We are one."

Students come from different faiths but are free to practice their own. It is universally acknowledged that innocent minds do not differentiate "my god from her god." Any worship is a celebration. Diwali, Holi, and Raksha Bandhan are marked meaningfully. Most hostels sit near a church, and Sunday Mass brings joy as children meet kin and buy goodies from street vendors.

Many students would have forfeited quality education without the hostel. Beyond the classroom, exposure to diverse ethnic and social milieus builds confidence to merge into unfamiliar situations. The boarding houses are laboratories for unity—where unique roots become not division but enrichment of a shared garden.



With the Sisters' support and care, students feel confident and secure as they grow together and perform their best.



ONE WITH HIM AND WITH THE OTHER

Sr. Miroslava Mária Artimová SSpS –
International Tertiaship, Philippines North

The International Tertiaship Group in the Philippines experienced the simple yet profound mission of “being with” among indigenous communities.

The mission is something very simple. It is “TO BE WITH.” But to live this beautiful vocation they received, they need “to take and eat” – as heard in the Eucharist – from God’s wisdom. Thus, recognizing that by themselves they only take and eat from false trees that lead away from the profoundest desire of God from all eternity – that they simply ARE ONE WITH HIM AND WITH THE OTHER.



The Sisters in the International Tertiaship Program experienced the simple life of the indigenous community. The most precious gifts, everyone agreed, were the simple moments of sharing – among the local people and between them and the Sisters.

The first two weeks of March were a great opportunity for the 2026 International Tertiaship Group in the Philippines to grow in this God’s wisdom, as they were invited TO BE WITH the indigenous communities in three places: Kawayan (Luzon), Batangan, and Liguma (Mindoro). The Kawayan community was visited for the first time by the SSps Sisters, whereas the two communities in Mindoro have been attended to by the Sisters, who are involved in youth formation (through opening dormitories close to the schools) and in the pastoral education of catechists and community leaders in those areas. Thanks to their presence, education is more accessible for the youth, and families are gathering to listen to the Word of God, which is being planted especially

in the hearts of the little ones, who receive it very eagerly. A day will come when those seeds will bear abundant fruit. As for the group’s short stay there, the most precious gift for all were the simple moments of SHARING – among the local people and between them and the Sisters. The little, little things, but always shared among all around and the most needed. All were poor, and at the same time, they felt so rich. Because TO BE WITH and TO MAKE ONE is the taste of Eden.

As they will soon profess their perpetual vows, they desire their mission to be as simple as this. They entrust themselves and all these brothers and sisters to the readers’ prayers: that they continue to learn from one another to embrace God’s wisdom, which brings that pure joy seen in the eyes of the indigenous communities.



DUSTY SANDALS. EXPANDED HEARTS

Sr. Anastasia Kedang, SSpS – Province of Argentina

Eight days in rural Misiones, Argentina, transformed a multicultural missionary team into a living witness that to be “light in the world” means learning to listen first.

Fueled by the motto, “Following in the Footsteps of Christ, Let Us Be Light in Our World,” the SSpS Province of Argentina, after preparatory visits, spent eight days walking with the San Cayetano Parish community in San Vicente, Misiones. The main mission took place from January 10-18, 2026.

The missionary group embodied “Unity in Diversity”: 14 Missionary Sisters, 11 committed laypeople, and a young volunteer. Voices and hearts from India, Haiti, Poland, Indonesia, Germany, and various parts of Argentina had come together with a single purpose. Despite different languages and cultures, the language of love and service showed that walking together is possible when Christ is the center.

Encounter and listening were the mission’s focus. Activities included visiting families, bringing blessings and a listening ear to homes, formative gatherings, deepening sacramental life, a spiritual retreat, and celebrations of the Holy Mass. An intercultural bonfire provided the backdrop for traditional dances and talents. Amid the quiet of the furrows and missionary warmth, an urgent need emerged— the thirst to be heard. The light of Christ was manifested not in grand speeches but in the respectful silence of sitting down to share meals, allowing another to unburden sorrows and weariness, and to verbalize dreams.

What impacted the team most was the resilient faith of the San Cayetano community. Despite economic hardships faced by tobacco farmers, the community sustained its faith with admirable strength. The women who organized every detail activity reflected a living and resilient Church.

The mission ended with dusty sandals but souls discernibly content and hearts filled with names and faces. Having followed in the footsteps of Christ, the team discovered that being “light in the world” is possible only when diversity is allowed to enrich, and all are one in the love of God.



“Following in the Footsteps of Christ, Let Us Be Light in Our World” – San Cayetano Parish enjoyed days of grace and spiritual renewal.



MANY COLOFUL FACES, ONE SPIRIT

Sr. Cristina Evelina Gal, SSps –
Province of Korea

In the SSps community in Seoul composed of ten sisters from five nationalities, diversity is a gift that reveals the true face of unity.

What does “unity in diversity” look like in daily life? The Seoul provincial house is home to 10 sisters from Korea, Indonesia, East Timor, China, and Romania. Beneath the surface of passports lies an even deeper diversity of personalities, talents, and

ways of serving. Some sisters are gifted in spiritual direction, others in advocacy, still others in hands-on service. Yet the same Spirit moves them to fulfill God's mission.

Diversity shapes every apostolate and this one is no exception. One sister visits the elderly and lonely across the vast city. Another tends to the spiritual needs of migrant workers from Indonesia, East Timor, or China. The rest guide guests at the Retreat Centre or perform advocacy work for women affected by human trafficking. Though the Sisters sometimes work separately, they are never really on their own. They make a point to share experiences when they come home, and check where each one can help the others. When one Sister is exhausted from serving in a homeless kitchen, for instance, another steps in to prepare seasonal gifts for benefactors. Differences become their strength as they learn from, and support, one another. Challenges are real. Varied cultural backgrounds mean different ways of communicating

and a wide range of expectations. Misunderstandings occur. But through all these challenges, it is the Sisters that grow and benefit the most. They learn that unity is not mere uniformity. And so they get to build a culture of encounter, forgiving and encouraging one another's uniqueness. Through the cycles of tension and reconciliation, they witness to unity in a divided world. to enrich, and all are one in the love of God.

This witnessing extends beyond community walls. Whether at a public demonstration for women's rights or serving a meal to the homeless, the goal remains the same: To make visible the Face of Love. Differences are not a threat but a tool. The same Spirit that inspired the founders is alive in them, enriching them through one another. In embracing diversity, they do not lose their identity; they discover it more fully. And in that discovery, they find true unity.



(Above) Sr. Filipa Barbara Miś and the Sisters assist a Diocesan-based youth group in preparing meals for the people near Seoul Station.

(Left upper left) SSps participates in advocacy activities, including protest rallies such as this one in a red light district in Seoul.

(Left upper right) Sr. Genoveva Soomin Lee spends time to visit an elderly.

(Left lower photo) Sisters pose for a group photo of the Korean province.



THE ONE LANGUAGE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS

Sr. Maria Nofiani Tuto, SSsP – Province of Java, Indonesia

For these visitors from the Holy Spirit School of Tagbilaran, Philippines, the St. Rafael Community in Java, Indonesia was tangible proof that the language of love transcends all borders.

On February 3, 2026, the St. Rafael Community in Singaraja, Bali, Java, Indonesia received a visit from the Holy Spirit School of Tagbilaran, Bohol, Philippines. The group included Sr. Remedios Socorro Aunzo, SSsP (School Director), 11 parents, 20 students, two executive directors from SMS Phoenix Global, one tourist guide, and one bus driver. Their arrival in Bali was for an Educational and Cultural Program held from January 30 to February 4, 2026. Because Sr. Socorro knew of the SSsP community and school in Bali, St. Rafael became one of their destinations. Their goal was to visit the community and see the children in Day Care, Play Group, and Kindergarten.



The guests were greeted with a welcome speech and the Puspanjali Dance, a traditional Balinese dance of sincere welcome, performed by five Kindergarten children. After the dance, two children in traditional Balinese attire placed Frangipani (Jepun) flowers in each guest's ear, assisted by the dancers—a symbol of friendliness and respect.

The visiting children then presented the Boholana Mazurka Dance from Bohol Province, depicting the elegance and rhythm of the Philippines. Afterward, the groups were introduced, sang songs together, and Sr. Socorro expressed gratitude to Sr. Nopa Lina Simamora (Community Leader), the Sisters, teachers, and children for the warm welcome. A group photo was taken, and the children resumed their learning activities.

Sr. Socorro Aunzo, SSsP and her companions were invited for fellowship with the Sisters. Although communication in English was difficult, their intentions were understood. As the congregation's great missionary, Saint Joseph Freinademetz, says, "The only language that everyone understands is the language of love." Fortunately, Sr. Socorro speaks Indonesian, which eased understanding. The visitors then saw the Day Care children, sang together, took more photos, and gave gifts for the community and school before proceeding to their next destination.

(Photo Top - Left) Sr. Remedios Socorro Aunzo led the visitors from Holy Spirit School of Tagbilaran, to St. Rafael School in Singaraja, Java. (Photo Top - Right) Guests and hosts shared joyful moments of interculturality. (Above) The visiting students regaled their hosts with the stately Boholana Mazurka, which showcases Philippine grace and Spanish-influenced elegance.



WORKSHOP IN SLOVAKIA REIMAGINES COMMUNICATION

Sr. Veronika Lili Putri, SSpS –
Province of Europe

Ten participants from the European Province of the Holy Spirit gather in Nitra, Slovakia to explore new ways for communication to become a vibrant tool for unity and dialogue.

Under the theme “Communicating Unity in Diversity,” the workshop tackled the evolving role of communication in ministry and beyond. Five experts guided 10 Sisters and lay partners in a program that combined theory, practical training, and reflection. The seminar was made possible by the warm support of the local community and the Slovakia province, whose involvement created a welcoming and inspiring environment.

The workshop opened with a creative prayer and then an overview of communication within the congregation, by Sr. Elaine Faith Taneo, SSpS, who highlighted both challenges and opportunities in the current media landscape.

Sr. Ivica Kúsikov, SSpS, led a practical focus on video production, during which the participants learned the basics of filming and storytelling through visuals. This included a field activity during which they visited Nitra Castle to practice photography and video shooting in real-life settings.

Storytelling and writing were handled by Fr. Kasmir Nema, SVD, who emphasized the power of authentic narratives to connect with audiences in meaningful ways. A session on artificial intelligence by Fr. Nixon Jose Kappalumakkal, SVD introduced practical uses of AI in communication, including content creation, editing, and audience engagement.

Digital tools and social media strategies, further explored with Fr. Thomas Gerbec, SVD, focused on effective, creative, and sustainable communication in today’s digital environment.

Throughout the week, participants reflected on communication as a way of building connection, dialogue, and shared meaning, while likewise enjoying space for networking and exchange beyond the formal sessions.



Outside the session hall, participants came together to deepen not just what they learned, but the bonds between them.



Under the theme “Communicating Unity in Diversity,” the workshop showed how communication can bring people together in creative and meaningful ways.



BEARING THE FRUITS OF JOY: FLORES WEST @25

ASPAC

Sr. Marieta Melburan, SSps – Province of Flores West, Indonesia

The SSps in Flores West, Indonesia recently marked 25 years of missionary presence with celebrations across Manggarai, Sumba, and Sumbawa.

Simple yet meaningful, the Silver Jubilee event commemorated service among the people that actualized the theme, “Rooted in History, Growing in Diversity, and Bearing the Fruit of Prophetic Joy.” Festivities were held in various communities rather than one central location.

Across the mission areas of Manggarai, Sumba, and Sumbawa, the Sisters organized Eucharistic celebrations, social services, and pastoral visits for the faithful, especially the poor, the sick, and those in need of care. Some communities arranged visits to the graves of pioneer Sisters, shared meals with children and workers, distributed food supplies, and visited prisons, orphanages, and the sick — simple gestures that illustrated the missionary spirit of living closely with the people in their service.

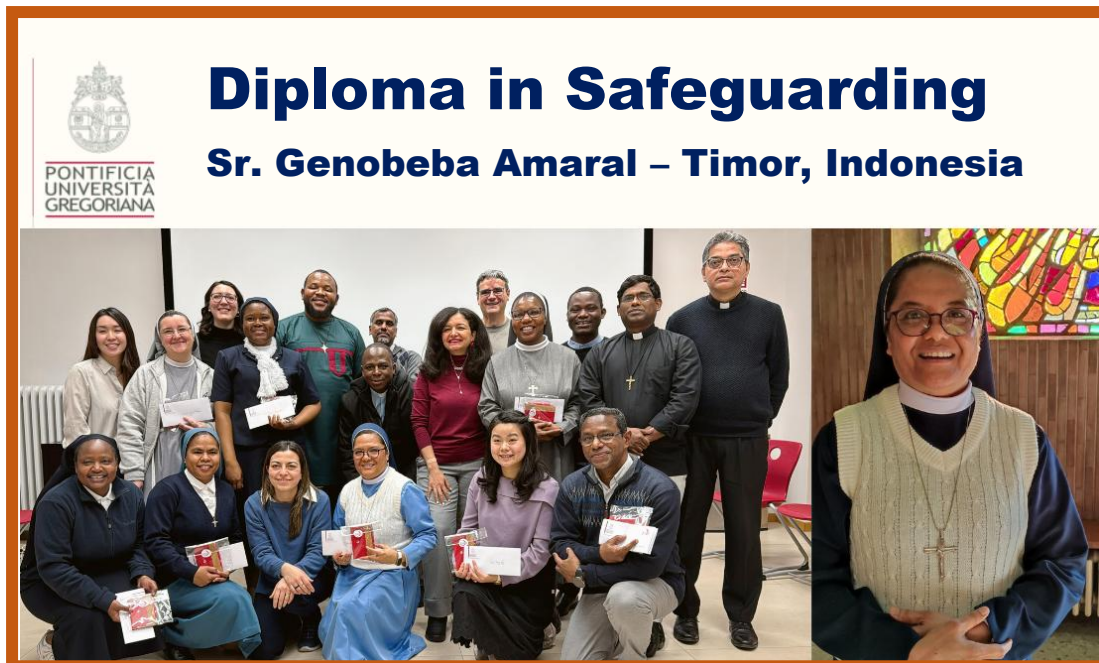
In preparation for the Jubilee, the Province had conducted historical reflections, recollections, and communal activities since February. A documentary film entitled “Footprints of the Holy Spirit’s Love: 25 Years of the West Flores Province (2001–2026)” and a commemorative book were also produced to preserve the Province’s history and mission.

This Silver Jubilee celebration was not only a thanksgiving event for God’s blessings over the past 25 years, but also an opportunity for the Sisters to renew their commitment to continue serving faithfully and keeping the missionary spirit alive for future generations.



(Above) Visiting an orphanage was one of the outreach activities that marked the Silver Jubilee celebration. Sr. Angela M. Bedhu facilitated the activity with the children in Ruteng.

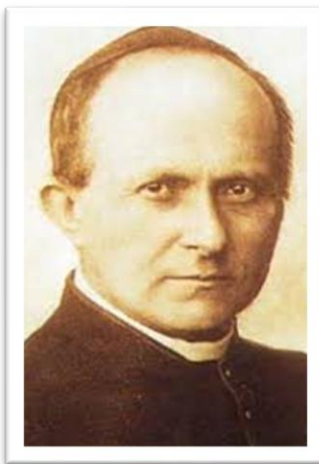
(Left) Sharing goods and supplies with the communities became a meaningful way of extending the blessing of 25 years of life and mission to the people in Labuan Bajo.



From October 1, 2025, to February 6, 2026, the Pontifical Gregorian University's Institute of Anthropology offered the Diploma in Safeguarding, organized by Fr. Hans Zollner, SJ. Sr. Genobeba Da Costa Amaral SSpS of Timor Province joined 14 other participants from four continents—lay, religious, and clergy. The in-person course used student-centered learning: case studies, group work, and shared experiences. This method left the deepest impact. Participants of the course gain crucial awareness to the reality that everyone is vulnerable to becoming either victim or perpetrator. Safeguarding policies end goal is to promote dignity, safety, and a strong culture of care and protection.



From January 12 to July 3, 2026, the UISG hosted its Programme for the Preparation of Formators in Rome—an in-person, intercultural gathering of 46 sisters from 22 countries across Africa, Asia, and Europe. Sr. Jana Smutna, SSpS from Slovakia participated in the course. Rooted in the conviction that “only transformed people transform others,” the course blended human and spiritual formation. Participants explored self-care, integrity, synodal discernment, and expressive arts as prayer. Small-group practice in spiritual conversation fostered deep listening and mutual respect. This transformative experience is wholeheartedly recommended to all formators seeking authentic growth and practical tools for community discernment.



COMMUNICATION CORNER

St. Arnold Janssen used the communication tools of his time as a missionary algorithm—strategically and with purpose. From a speech he gave at the opening of his first mission press in 1876:

"In our day, the press is a great power; indeed, the press must be compared to a sword. ... one's own printing press is a good sword that I hold in my hands."



In the digital age, media and technology are tools that can foster connections and support spiritual, community, and missionary life. However, they also present real risks and abuses, including addiction and challenges to the religious vows. Excessive screen time can even alter brain development. Yet responsible, discerned, and critical use of media and technology is achievable through awareness raising and open, honest discussions within our communities and formation programs. It would include dialogue on the use of internet, social media, phones, and digital gadgets.

Have you heard of digital fasting? Digital fasting is the intentional practice of stepping away from screens and online platforms for a set period—not out of rejection, but for spiritual and mental freedom. Like traditional fasting from food creates hunger for God, digital fasting creates space for prayer, presence, and real relationship. Examples include no phones at prayer, meal, and community times, or a charging station in a common area where all devices stay overnight. Some can observe a silent Sabbath Sunday—one full day without social media.

FORMATION CORNER

Mo. Theresia Messner (first Superior General of the SSps)

"May the good Lord grant our Congregation many wise and selfless superiors who know how to train and form capable and mature religious who will develop into pillars of support for the Congregation. Much grace is needed for that but on our part also great virtue, prudent teaching skills and selfless work."



In the 6th International Assembly for Formators held in Steyl, the "Co-Creative Approach for the Formation" includes a theme on capacity building for mission. How does one prepare sisters for an unknown future? A formator's role is no longer just to be a teacher but also a companion and a mentor, learning when to lead and when to step back. The goal is to build the capacity of each sister to navigate the future with courage.

The world is changing rapidly, and formation cannot be about simply passing on rules. It must build capacity from within—helping each sister discover her own agency, adaptability, and deep trust in God's unfolding plan. During the assembly, through embodied prayer and group activities, sisters explored practical skills for this work. They learned how to use structured conversations that invite sisters to think for themselves and make sound decisions. They practised creating psychological safety within communities, so that young sisters feel free to take risks and grow without fear of judgment. They reflected on how to link each sister's unique personal gifts to the larger mission of the congregation. And they embraced the art of "dancing with the system"—navigating the complexities of community life, cultural expectations, and the evolving landscape of religious life with grace and flexibility. These are not just techniques but ways of accompanying sisters into a future only God can see.

Generalate News

Congregational Leadership Team



Sr. Miriam
Altenhofen



Sr. Mariana
Camezzana



Sr. Mikaelin
Bupu



Sr. Tressa
Sebastian



Sr. Kreti
Sanhueza



Sr. Natalia
Tóthóva



**Staying
connected
in life and
mission**

- ✚ **Sr. Miriam** stayed in Rome during April and May for meetings at the **UISG** (International Union of Superiors General).
- ✚ **Sr. Mikaelin** and **Sr. Kreti** were in the **Philippines North Province** for the **General Visitation** from April 15 to June 1. **Sr. Mikaelin** will proceed to **Taiwan** for the **ASPAC Leaders' Assembly** on June 3 – 6.
- ✚ **Sr. Natalia** attended the **Regional Chapter in Ethiopia** (April 13–24).
- ✚ **Sr. Tressa** and **Sr. Natalia** will facilitate the **Argentina General Visitation** from April 30 to June 27.
- ✚ **Sr. Mariana Camezzana** travelled to the **United States of America** for the province General Visitation (April 18 – June 4).



(4th from Right) Sr. Miriam at the UISG for a meeting with Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury (2nd from left) Sarah Mullally.



(Left) Sr. Mariana with the Provincial Leadership Team of the USA.Province.



(Middle) Sr. Mikaelin in the Philippine North Province, visited one of the missions with the indigenous peoples 'communities in Mindoro island.



(Left) Sr. Natalia and the sisters of Ethiopia-Uganda-South Sudan mission.



The SSps-SVD International Tertiate group visited the SSps Casa Generalizia in Rome on April 12, 2026.

A Shared Journey of Missionary Renewal

From February 27 to April 28, 2026, the SVD and SSps came together for the Joint International Tertiate Renewal Program. This unique formation experience gathered 15 SVD priests, 2 SVD brothers, and 10 SSps sisters for a two-month journey of deepening missionary life.

The program began with two weeks in St. Michael Mission House, Steyl, Netherlands—the cradle of both congregations—and continued in SVD Centro Ad Gentes in Nemi, Rome, Italy. The main goal was the deepening of the religious-missionary commitment based on the charism and spirituality of the founding generation offering participants time for prayer, study, sharing, and personal integration.

Held once every three years, this joint program offered something different from other renewal courses precisely because of its shared SVD-SSps interaction. Learning and reflecting alongside one another enriched the experience, fostered mutual understanding, and strengthened a common mission.

SSpsWW Team

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contributed to the SSpsWW
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Contact:

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Thank you!