

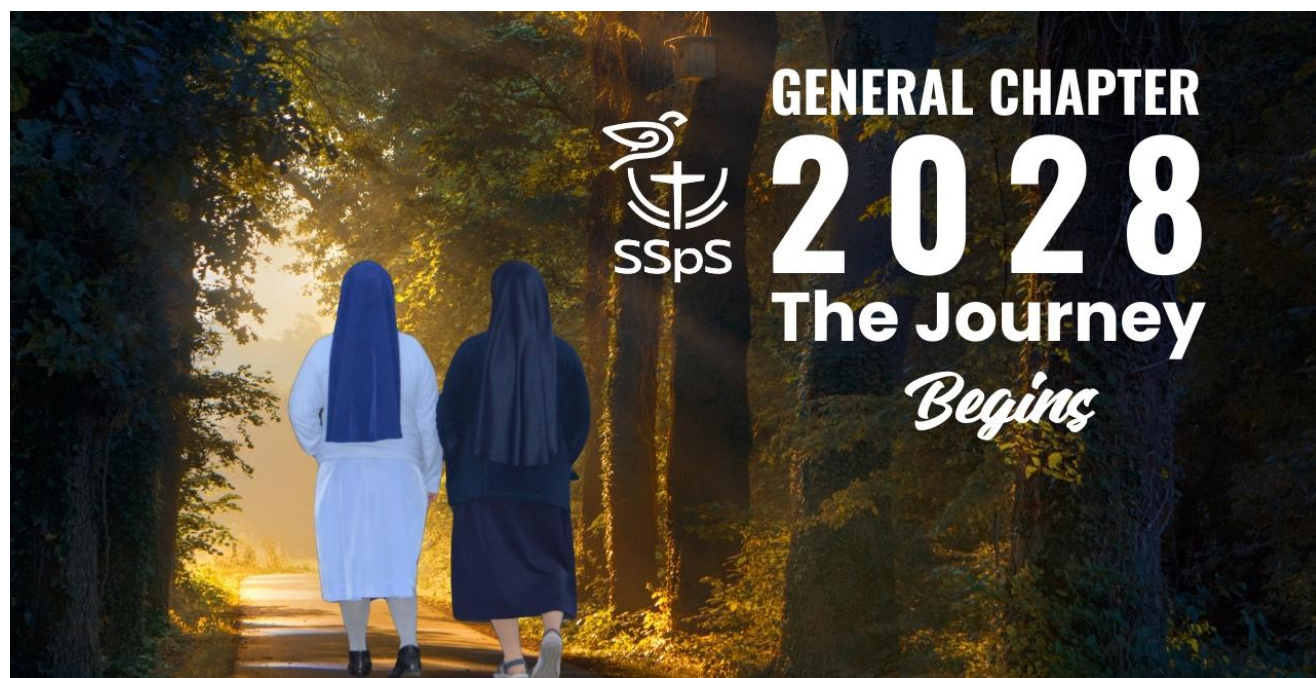


SSpS

Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

WORLDWIDE E-NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2026



On Fire with the Spirit

The journey toward the 16th General Chapter has officially begun, and this time, we are asking the most crucial question of our mission: Who does God want the SSpS to be today? The Congregational Leadership Team announced the start of a transformative process leading to 2028. Rooted in the theme, "On fire with the Spirit committed to life in mission," this is a call to every SSpS to rekindle the original fire and courageously discern the future of the Congregation.

The General Chapter is not an isolated event but the culmination of our faithful, everyday response to God's call. Each mission experience, every act of compassion, and all moments of service become the raw material for discernment. Walking toward 2028, the Spirit is already speaking through ongoing ministries, shaping the SSpS identity and mission in real time. The Chapter is alive when there is an encounter of touching people's hearts, in the choices made daily, and the fire of mission carried moment by moment.

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ASPAC Leaders' Assembly: Unity in a Divided World

Sr. Cecilia Lamsen – Regional Leader of Vietnam



SSpS provincial and regional leaders gathered in Taiwan to strengthen collaboration and pave a shared path forward.

From June 3 to 12, 2026, Provincials and Regional Leaders of the SSpS Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) gathered at Fu Jen Catholic University in New Taipei City, Taiwan, for the ASPAC Assembly themed "Witnessing Unity in Diversity to a Divided World." The gathering provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, deepen collaboration, and discern how the ASPAC Region can respond more effectively to today's challenges.

The Assembly featured a symposium with resource speakers addressing community life and interculturality, missionary leadership, SSpS formation, and migration and human trafficking. Beyond the conference hall, participants visited Harmony Home for people living with HIV/AIDS and their children, met with the Indonesian migrant community, and toured the Museum of World Religions. Traveling together by Metro Railway Transport and train offered participants a deeper appreciation of Taiwan's cultural context.

A significant portion of the Assembly was devoted to reviewing commitments from the 2025 ASPAC meeting in Brazil. Province and Regional reports highlighted progress in formation, migrants and human trafficking, and community life with interculturality. Participants identified practical action plans, including strengthening formation programs, supporting formators, expanding migrant orientation, promoting anti-trafficking education, and creating shared online resources.



Group discussion on formation, migrants and human trafficking, and community life allowed the leaders to share their stories.

In her closing message, Sr. Mikaelin Bupu reflected on ASPAC's remarkable growth since the 2022 General Chapter, affirming that genuine collaboration and unity have flourished despite geographical distances. The Assembly concluded with deep gratitude for the Taiwan Region's hospitality and renewed hope for advancing the shared mission throughout ASPAC.

Europe Community Leaders : Reflecting Together is Moving Forward



Community leaders from the new European Province of the Holy Spirit convene for four days of prayerful discernment and collaborative planning.

The goal was to deepen mutual understanding and expand networks. In the new European Province of the Holy Spirit, 32 leaders from 28 communities were convened for four days of prayerful discernment and collaborative planning. The Provincial Leadership Team (PLT) meticulously organized and facilitated the event.

On Day One, introductions and a poster exhibition, plus statistical presentations by Sr. AnnaMaria Kofler, provided an overview of the province. Day Two was dedicated to reflection and group sharing, which fostered an open atmosphere for discussing observations and experiences.



Day Three centered on the PLT's vision, mission, and spiritual foundation, drawing from Zephaniah 3:12: "I will leave within you a humble and lowly people." Participants engaged with the scripture through individual and group reflections, offering suggestions for improvement as they came to mind. The day also included informal fellowship—a river walk, café lunch, and evening recreation with the Steyl community.

Ms. Stefi Mager, Province Communication Coordinator, and Sr. Madelyn Masajo, Province Treasurer introduced themselves and shared insights into communication and financial coordination, which clarified the broader organizational structure and strengthened mutual awareness.



The final day began with Eucharist, followed by an evaluation, a toast, and the distribution of information and photo books to sustain current connections. Overall, the meeting succeeded in synthesizing unity, reflection, and renewed commitment to shared service.

The goal of the assembly was to deepen mutual understanding and expand networking with an open atmosphere for discussing observations and experiences.



Vivat Annual Meeting : From Local Realities to Global Advocacy



Sr. Gretta Fernandes – Vivat Executive Secretary
Sr. Maria Lourdes Santos, SSsP – Vivat New York

Erosion of international commitments, rise of anti-migrant politics brought to light during VIVAT International's Annual Meeting.

Sustained migration and human rights violations, and VIVAT International's mission of advocacy were the headlines in the 2026 Annual Meeting of the faith-based NGO held online on June 22-23. More than 100 members logged on. Sr. Miriam Attenhofen, SSsP Congregational Leader, served as the general conference moderator.

As keynote speaker, the International Catholic Migration Commission's Chief Operations Officer and Policy Director Stéphane Jacquemet presented the following emphasizing on "a global overview of the rights of refugees and migrants, highlighting the erosion of international commitments, the rise of anti-migrant politics, and the disproportionate burden endured by low-income countries hosting displaced people."

(Top Photo -right) Cover of VIVAT International Commemorative Book on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

VIVAT members in Uganda, Mexico, Tanzania, India, and Poland gave testimonies about the realities of food insecurity, legal uncertainties, illegal detentions, and family separations. On the other hand, they also reported hopeful responses obtained through legal aid, shelters, skills training, women empowerment, collaborations with local churches and civil society partners.

The second day focused on advocacy at the United Nations. Cecile Kern— global policy and research advocate with Mercy International Association and immediate past chair of the UN NGO Committee on Migration—presented the Global Compact for Migration, which stresses the essential role of faith-based organizations in ensuring that international advocacy reflects migrants' actual experiences.

Reports— from VIVAT International Executive Secretary Sr. Gretta Fernandes, SSsP; and VIVAT representatives Sr. Maria Lourdes Santos, SSsP; Fr. Roy Thomas, SVD New York; and Fr. Kachi Adindi, CSSp, VIVAT representative to the UN (Geneva)— highlighted VIVAT's engagement in UN processes through advocacy, networking and capacity building. Examples from Paraguay on indigenous land rights and Papua New Guinea on sorcery accusation-related violence demonstrated how local concerns have been impacting global action.



(Above) More than 100 participants logged on to VIVAT International's Annual Meeting, held online this year.

Safeguarding Conference in Rome Reasserts Roles and Commitment

Sr. Bernadette Dere, SSpS – Province of Ghana



Nearly 300 practitioners from 69 countries join the meet, proof that the work is global; SSpS takes on a significant role.

The SSpS joined the recent International Safeguarding Conference 2026 held in Rome and attended by 298 practitioners from 69 countries, to share expertise, build networks, and reaffirm a shared commitment to protect the vulnerable. It was a contribution that the Congregation extended with great love and thought.

Held June 16-19 at the Pontifical Gregorian University, the conference expounded on the theme, "One Commitment, Many Contexts: Safeguarding Across Cultures." This recognized safeguarding as a universal responsibility implemented within diverse cultural, social, and legal frameworks, one that requires global commitment and local action.

The SSpS Congregation's role proved to be significant and accurate. Sr. Miriam Angelika Altenhofen, SSpS Congregational Leader, served as general conference moderator, facilitating dialogue and promoting intercultural exchange. Sr. Mary John Kudiyiruppil represented the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), and Sr. Jessie George Theruvankunnel shared expertise in counseling.

Sr. Bernadette Dere Nulenpaala, SSpS, presented a research paper on safeguarding in the Ghanaian and Dagaaba cultural context, highlighting the importance of transparency, accountability, and compliance. Her presentation emphasized the need to integrate universal safeguarding principles with local cultural values to build safer communities where every person's dignity is respected and protected.

Left to right) Sr. Jessie George shared her expertise in counseling, Sr. Mary John Kudiyiruppil (center) represented the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), Sr. Miriam and Sr. Bernadette Dere presented a research paper.

SSpS participation likewise demonstrated the Congregation's commitment to the Church's mission of creating safe environments for children and vulnerable adults. The conference hoped to strengthen international collaboration and further encourage mutual learning. In the meantime, it succeeded in reiterating that safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and that the work begins within communities, then extends through every ministry and vocation, to elevate the quality of life itself.



Sr. Miriam Altenhofen was the general conference moderator.

Lay Associates Deepening the Trinitarian Spirituality

Sr. Teresita Artita, SSps – Province of the Philippines North



SSps Associates in the Philippines held its 13th National Convention from May 15-17 in Tagbilaran, Bohol to renew a pledge of mission and communion

"Spirit Alive, Unity in Diversity" was the theme of SSps Associates Philippines' 13th National Convention held from May 15 to 17 in Zorex Garden Resort, Tagbilaran (Bohol), in Central Philippines. The aim: To deepen Trinitarian Spirituality and Mission among the members.

Sr. Estela Parmisano, the Philippine South Provincial Leader, opened the meet with a welcome address, in which she urged members to safeguard integrity, stand firmly and always for justice and charity, and actively collaborate with the Sisters, bearers of the SSps charism.

SSps sisters and lay Associates gathered for the convention, whose theme was, "Spirit Alive, Unity in Diversity."

Sr. Maria Elizabeth Ello, explored the dimension of communion within Trinitarian Spirituality, describing it as "a heart-to-heart relationship within one global family—a connection capable of giving life to one another." She gently challenged the attendees to become more conscious of borders and barriers often built to keep out others.

Fr. Antonio Bon Pates, SVD, delivered an insightful review of initiatives and approaches in engaging Lay Mission Partners for the Arnoldus Family. He then presided over the Holy Eucharist celebration (in anticipation of the Feast of the Ascension), during which all participants present solemnly renewed their commitment.

The evening presentation highlighted the country's diverse cultures, talents, and skills, that serve as a source of joy and deeper bonding. The participants allowed the Spirit to fill their hearts with love and joy, making it a truly memorable experience of celebrating as one family. The gathering affirmed that unity in diversity is not merely an ideal, but a lived reality among those who share the SSps values and vision.



Sr. Maria Elizabeth Ello, SSps, shared about communion within the Trinitarian spirituality.



Arnoldus Family Lay Partners Meet in Brazil

The 2026 Fraternity Campaign's call brought lay missionaries of the Arnoldus Family to Rio Grande do Sul for a time of reflection and retreat.

The lay missionaries of the Arnoldus Family' share the spirituality and evangelizing mission of Saint Arnold Janssen. They work to bring Jesus Christ to society through their own lives.

The four groups of Lay Missionaries of the One and Triune God (Missionários leigos do Deus Único e Trino or MLDUT) met on July 12 in the municipality of Três Passos, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil for a meeting and retreat at the Santo Arnaldo Janssen Hall in the São José Home. MLDUT is one of the branches of the Arnoldine Family, which includes the SSps, SVD, SSpsAP congregations, and lay groups.

Under the coordination of Sr. Olmira Bernadete Dassoler, SSps, the meeting began with group presentations honoring their patron saints. Sr. Olmira then spoke about the 2026 Fraternity Campaign, themed "Fraternity and Housing" and with the motto, "He came to dwell among us" (John 1:14). Brazil is facing a housing crisis— inadequate residences lacking basic sanitation, overcrowding, and, occasionally, unstable structures. The campaign calls for social conversion and concrete actions that would guarantee dignified homes for all. One group presented research findings on housing in Três Passos, that revealed both interesting and concerning data.

The retreat included an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which brought about a deep reflection on connection with God and one's neighbor. Following group work and plenary presentations, the Eucharist was celebrated. In their evaluation, the participants said the gathering enriched and strengthened them as lay missionaries.



The Fraternity campaign calls for social conversion and concrete actions that would guarantee dignified homes for all.

Future Digital Missionaries Train For Next-Level Evangelism

Sr. Anima Dung dung, SSps – Province of India Central



Catholic youth in Indore, India urged to move from passive content consumption to creative production.

Satprakashan Sanchar Kendra Indore, a regional communications center in Madhya Pradesh, held a week-long training program from June 15 to 21 to equip Catholic youth with the knowledge and skills to become competent and responsible digital communicators. More than 130 priests, religious men and women, and young people from across the region participated in the seminar-workshop, inaugurated by Bishop Thomas Mathew Kuttimackal of Indore.

Fr. Babu Joseph Karakombil, SVD, former spokesperson of the Indian Bishops Conference, challenged participants to move from passive content consumption to creative production,



The SSps participated in a program on Artificial Intelligence. Theme of the celebration was "Magnifica Humanitas and Preserving Human Faces and Voices," Participants were urged to reflect on human dignity, authentic communication, and challenges posed by a rapidly evolving digital world.

introducing AI-powered tools for developing innovative digital platforms. Fr. Anthony Swamy, SVD, a leading communication coordinator for the Catholic Church in Asia, conducted practical sessions on mobile photography and Canva design, covering camera techniques, composition, lighting, and visual storytelling.

Experts provided lectures on social media writing and AI tools for content creation and storytelling. Participants composed original songs and created digital artwork, animations, and visual stories using AI applications—combining creativity, technology, and Christian values to communicate the Good News.

The training concluded with a certificate ceremony witnessed by members of the Conference of Religious India, who also attended a special session on Human Dignity and Authentic Communication. The training reaffirmed the Church's commitment to preparing young people as faith-filled, ethical digital missionaries—equipped not merely to navigate the digital world, but to transform it with creativity, integrity, and the light of Christ.

Interactive sessions generated lively discussions on such concerns as worsening mobile phone addiction and how future generations can preserve their authentic voices and identities.



At the Center of Church Efforts are the Vulnerable

Sr. Clara Silalahi, SSpS – Spain, Province of Europe

EUROPE

Joining thousands from across Spain, SSpS sisters welcome Pope Leo XIV during his recent pastoral visit.

Thousands flocked to Madrid from across the city and all of Spain to welcome Pope Leo XIV, who was visiting the capital from June 6 to 9. These quickly became days of momentous fellowship, celebration, and renewal for the Church, experienced with exceptional joy and hope by numerous communities and ecclesial organizations.

The SSpS community in Madrid participated in various events organized by the diocese's Social Ministry, alongside institutions committed to supporting and advocating for the most vulnerable.

A most meaningful interaction took place at CEDIA (Centro de Día) Cáritas Madrid, a 24-hour shelter for the homeless, where the pontiff had precisely chosen to start the main part of his visit. Greeters and volunteers who heard testimonies from the beneficiaries were blown away by the Holy Father's subsequent address that conveyed palpable affection, closeness and belonging: "Whoever is in Madrid belongs to Madrid," he said. "And so, I too am among you as just another Madrilenian."

CEDIA being a vital part of the capital's social services network, Pope Leo's central message for this particular occasion unequivocally placed the most vulnerable at the center of the Church's efforts. "The joy and pain of each person are the joy and pain of all," he stressed, reaffirming commitment to those in need.

The Sisters in Madrid (from R): Sr. Sandra Agyeman, Sr. Clara Silalahi, Sr. Mary Saranya Maria Anthuvan, and Sr. Delia Maria. They participated in various events organized by the Diocese's Social Ministry.

During the welcome at the Archbishop's Palace, Pope Leo meets mothers and their infants from Hogar Santa Barbara Center. Third from right is Sr. Clara Silalahi.

Sr. Clara Silalahi, SSpS, (a volunteer at the Hogar center) personally greeted Pope Leo earlier at the Archbishop's Palace, along with mothers and infants from Hogar Santa Bárbara, a residential support project also managed by Caritas. Hogar staff members represented volunteers who stay with the families at the residence.

The Pope's visit left an enduring imprint, a reminder that the Church's truest strength lies less in numbers than in its willingness to kneel beside the vulnerable and rise with them in hope.



The MaZ Journey: Marked for Mission

Steffi Mager – Germany, Province of Europe



Sixteen young volunteers receive a blessing and special rings at the start of their work in SSsP communities around the world.

Since early this year, a group of 16 young people have been preparing to become Missionar auf Zeit (MaZ) volunteers. That is, to leave behind familiar surroundings and embark on a life of prayer, and work with SSsP communities worldwide—embodying the MaZ motto.

"Missionar auf zeit" translates to "missionary for a limited time." It is a German overseas volunteer program that seeks young adults volunteers who get to spend about a year working in social, educational, or pastoral projects. Core pillars of the program — "sharing life, sharing prayer, sharing work, and transformation"— provide an immersive cultural and spiritual experience.

During celebrations in Steyl on the Monday of Pentecost, the group was blessed, and each one received a special ring from MaZ coordinators, Sr. Maria Müller and Magdalena Beier

In the Motherhouse chapel, Sr. Maria Müller and Magdalena Beier present the special rings.

The black ring, made from the Tucum palm of the Brazilian Amazon, recalls the 1968 Medellín conference, when Latin American bishops formally embraced "Option for the Poor," a commitment to stand with the marginalized and a departure from the Church's colonial past.

"By wearing this ring, you commit to walking with the poor, standing in solidarity with them, and giving them a voice," said Pastor Thomas Schmidt, who celebrated the Mass. "Take courage and hope with you to your places of service and share them with everyone you meet."

Thus, they were sent on their first mission. In the summer and autumn, they will make their way to host provinces around the world. The European Province expresses deep gratitude to the volunteers, who have singled out this transformative experience with courage and hope, and to all communities that are welcoming them with open hearts.

Former volunteers and the in:spirit team give their blessings and strong support to the latest set of MaZ volunteers.

In:spirit is a group of committed young adults, returned missionaries on a temporary basis, professional staff, and sisters. Its goal is to walk alongside young people and young adults, discovering together what life holds for each individual. The group is affiliated with the SSsP congregation.



Transformed Hearts are Ready to be Sent

Sr. Vivian Ama Addo, SSpS – Tertian from Ghana Province



After months of prayer, study, community and missionary life, the International Tertians celebrate the completion of the formation program.

A joyous highlight was the entrance procession of 13 victorious tertians dancing the Pilgrims Dance, each one carrying a symbol of her personal journey and hopes for the future.

They had completed the 10-month International Tertianship Formation on July 12 and were marking the feat with a Eucharistic celebration evocatively themed, "Transformed in God's Love, Radiating Hope." The community had gathered to thank God for His faithful presence and the abundant graces received throughout that sacred journey.

Throughout the 10 months, the women— from Slovakia, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Togo, Ghana, and Argentina — encountered Christ more deeply through prayer, silence, contemplation, community life, study, missionary experiences, and personal reflection. Amid challenges, God's transforming grace held their faith intact, deepened their unity, and nourished their missionary spirit.

In the spirit of Mary, and fully transformed for their final fiat, they now entrust themselves to the Holy Spirit, ready to serve wherever they are sent.

Each tertian offered one symbol at the altar during the mass.

(Above) Ten-month Tertianship formation has concluded for 13 Sisters from seven countries.

(Below) Sr. Janet Tellis and Sr. Maria Virgo Sesfao were the program coordinators. Each tertian offered one symbol at the altar during the mass.





PANAM Tertianship Commences in Misiones

Sr. Gilda Maria Leguizamón, SSps – Tertian from Argentina Province

PANAM

On the Feast of Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk, four Sisters from three countries begin a journey of formation and renewal in Argentina.

Four Sisters from three countries began the PANAM (Pan Americas) Tertianship Program, or preparation for final profession, last May 7, 2026 at the Formation Community in Puerto Rico, Misiones, Argentina. The occasion coincided with the 31st anniversary of the beatification of Mother Maria Helena Stollenwerk.

The four Sisters (holding roses) prepare for the final / perpetual profession of vows.

Journeying toward a definitive “yes” to following Jesus also means the Sisters have adopted the motto “Only God fills the heart reborn of the Spirit.” It expresses the desire to be like shoots that the Lord wishes to grow, following the example of Blessed Maria Helena, who allowed herself to be shaped by His love.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Adám Klinikowky, SVD, with sisters from surrounding communities, pre-novices, and lay collaborators in attendance. After the homily, Sr. María Cristina Mandali, Provincial Coordinator of Argentina, welcomed Sisters Clara Elena and Nancy Raquel (Paraguay), Sr. Gilda María (Argentina), and Sr. Marie Eunide (United States), and explained the formation stage ahead.

During the offertory, PANAM flags were presented to symbolize “Women of Hope, United in Diversity,” embracing the mission in the world. The four Sisters offered a sprouting seed, signifying the desire to be reborn in the Spirit. As Mass concluded, Sr. Raquel Peralta from the PANAM Coordinators’ Team delivered a brief message. The Sisters are committed to allowing the Holy Spirit to renew their hearts, she said, to grow as fruitful seeds in God’s hands, open to His will and in service to others.



Sr. Raquel Peralata (Paraguay Province) and Sr. Maria Cristina Mandali (Argentina Province) joined the occasion as well as Sisters from nearby communities.

Euro Juniors Sisters in “Small Steyl”

Sr. Momoko Katayama, SSsP – Junior Sister from the Province of Japan



Seven junior sisters from four European provinces gathered in Nysa—known as “Small Steyl”—for a meeting that became a pilgrimage to the living roots of their SSsP vocation.

From July 19 to 24, 2026, the European Juniorate gathering was held in Nysa, Poland, with the warm support of the Provincial Leader and Junior Directress of the Polish Province. Seven junior sisters from the Polish, Ukrainian, and European Provinces (Austria and Ireland), together with a sister newly missioned to the Polish Province and a guest who shared part of the novitiate journey, gathered for the meeting.

Although they belonged to three different novitiate groups, they were connected through the ENE (English-speaking Novitiate in Europe) and shared the same formation journey. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they rejoiced in the gift of precious companions on their vocation journey.

Nysa is known as “Small Steyl” because the communities of SVD, SSsP, and SSsPAP stand side by side—a place deeply connected with SSsP history and spirituality, as St. Arnold Janssen visited it many times.

These four days in Nysa were not merely a gathering but a pilgrimage—a journey to the roots of the SSsP vocation. There, the junior sisters encountered the living spirit of St. Arnold, a spirit that transcends time and place, continuing to gather and guide missionaries for the Church's mission today.

(Top – left to right) Sr. Aneta, Sr. Irena, Sr. Anne-Sophie, Sr. Liudmyla, Sr. Paulina, Sr. Doris, Sr. Mariia, Sr. Amelia, Sr. Ewa Lidia, Sr. Roma Ulina, Sr. Momoko, and Ms. Daria.



Sr. Ewa Lidia and Sr. Mariia talking with Pink sisters. Sr. Wanda is telling the history about Small Steyl in Nysa.



Coming Home Program Opens in Rome



United by charism and mission, 18 SSps sisters start their international tertiated program.

A Eucharistic celebration kicked off the English International Tertiate (“Coming Home”) Program on July 23, 2026 at the Casa Generalizia in Rome.

Fr. Andrzej Miotk, SVD, presided the Holy Mass and Sr. Miriam Altenhofen, SSps, delivered the welcome remarks, in which she urged all participants to embrace the formative experience of coming home to oneself, the congregation, the mission, and to God.

Sr. Michaela Leifgen, and Sr. Maria Jose Rebelo accompany the Sisters as program coordinators. Following the Mass, the Generalate Community hosted a garden celebration of the manifest fellowship among the Sisters.

This one week stay in Rome, allowed the participants to meet the Congregational Leadership Team and visit historical places. The next journey brings the Sisters to Oies, Northern Italy, then onward to Steyl, The Netherlands, where the program continues at the Motherhouse through August 31, 2026.

This final period of intense training allows each Sister to reconnect with the congregation’s founding generation and spiritual roots, and draw renewed strength for the missionary vocation.

Coming Home Program opened in Casa Generalizia, Rome, Italy.



Sr. Michaela and Sr. Maria Jose (program coordinators) gave the Sisters a journal notebook as a welcome gift and a companion in their journey.



Following the Mass, the Generalate Community hosted a garden celebration of the manifest fellowship among the Sisters.





From East to East: A Story of Sisterhood

Sr. Beatrice Han, SSps – Province of Korea

A delegation from the SSps Korean Province traveled to Japan for inter-provincial collaboration and a reunion with a pioneering sister in the mission.

Five Sisters of three nationalities from the Korean Province visited Nagoya Province in Japan from April 9 to 15 to further collaborative work. The Sisters in Nagoya warmly welcomed the guests.

To maximize networking through personal connections, seat assignments during meals were rotated. Transcending language barriers, the participants communicated with and understood one another through gestures, simple verbal exchanges, and casual fellowship. Notably, elderly sisters over the age of 90 prepared a delicious dinner and cookies for the visitors.

A highlight of the collaboration was the reunion with Sr. Cecilia Takemi Saito, whose much earlier, and highly influential, presence in the Korean Province, is well-remembered and cherished. Her small, stooped figure in a wheelchair during morning Mass evoked poignant memories. The visitors presented her with gifts, and read letters of love and gratitude from Sisters back in Korea. Despite her advanced age, Sr. Cecilia demonstrated a masterful command of her second language, right up to a tender moment when she invited the visitors to return next year.

During visits to smaller communities, the Korean delegation received equally warm welcomes. On occasion, resident nonagenarian sisters even prepared meals and cookies for them.

Visiting Sisters from Korea read letters from back home to Sr. Cecilia.

Sr. Cecilia herself stays in Betania Community, which houses 22 elderly Sisters, many of them with mobility challenges and early dementia. Sr. Angelina Mine, community leader, took the guests on a tour of the facility, which showcases high standards of elderly care through efficient spatial design, hygiene, and safety elements provided for these senior sisters at the end of their lifelong journey as missionaries.

Just as the rising sun symbolizes passion and hope, the setting sun reflects the beauty of obedience, humility and end-of-life “emptying.”



A group photo of the visiting sisters from Korea with the community of the Japan Provincial House.



A Life Fully Lived: 50 missionary years in PNG

Sr. Arnolda Kavamur, SSpS – Region of Papua New Guinea

After more than fifty years of faithful service in Papua New Guinea, Sr. Edith Ties was bid a grateful farewell by the SSpS and SVD communities, family, and friends.

With hearts brimming with gratitude, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, together with the Divine Word Missionaries, family members, friends, and lay collaborators, gathered at the Alexishafen Conference Centre on June 28 to bid farewell to Sr. Edith Ties, SSpS, after more than 50 years of missionary service in Papua New Guinea. The farewell followed the annual combined retreat and jubilee celebrations—a moving occasion of thanksgiving for a life marked by unwavering faith and generous service.

A special celebration marked the thanksgiving for Sr. Edith's 50 years of missionary life in PNG.

Representing the PNG Region, Sr. Miriam Dlugosz, SSpS, thanked Sr. Edith for her lifelong commitment. Fr. Jose, SVD, expressed appreciation for her collaboration at Divine Word Institute in Madang, and Sr. Andrea Wulu, SSpS, reflected on her kindness and joyful spirit.

Born in Austria in 1943, Sr. Edith entered the SSpS in 1965, professing perpetual vows in 1974. Arriving in Papua New Guinea in 1975, she dedicated decades to teaching Mathematics and Science at Divine Word Institute and Malala Secondary School, inspiring generations of young Papua New Guineans. She also served in leadership as Local Community Leader, Assistant Provincial Leader, and Provincial Leader of the Holy Angels Province.

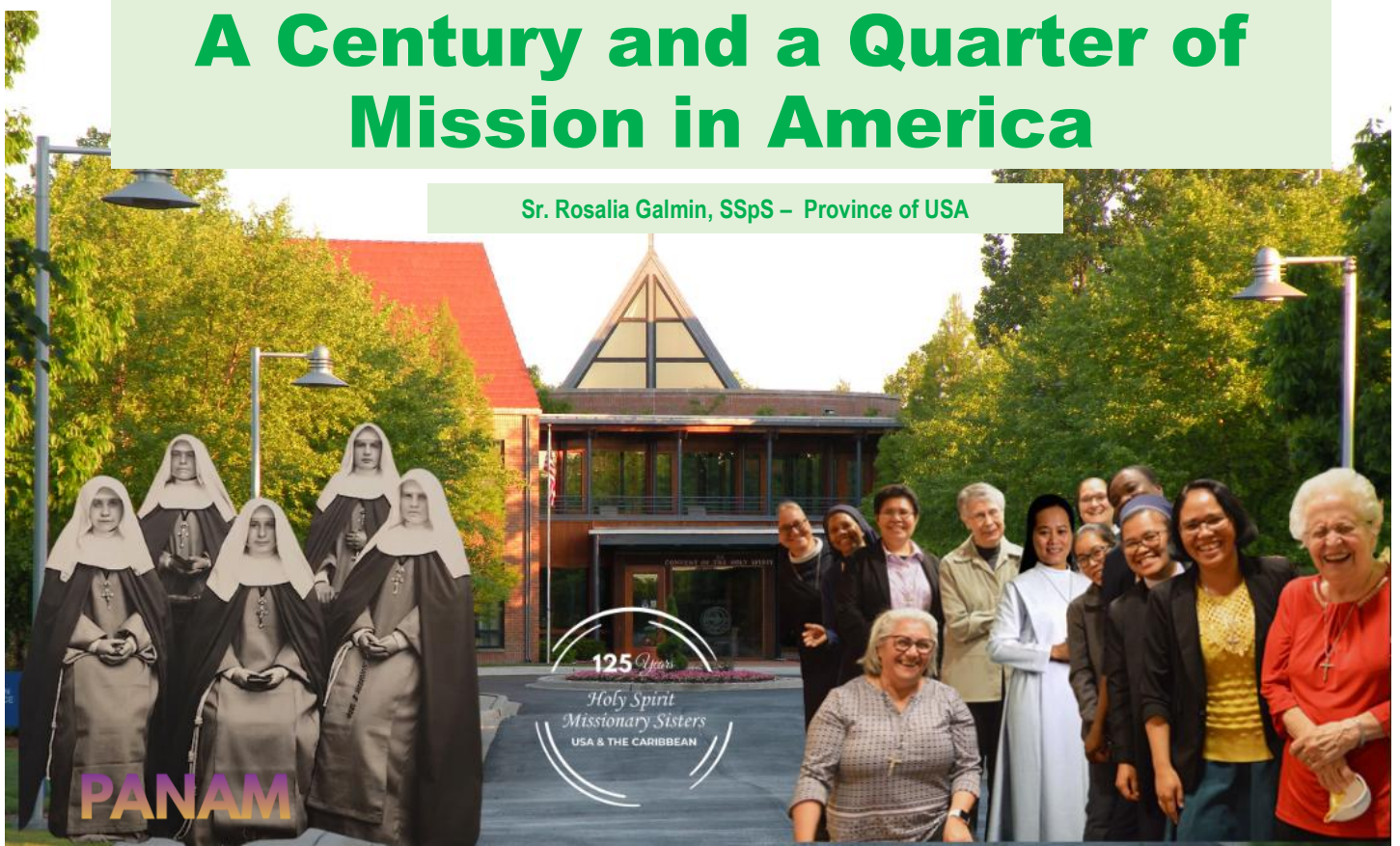
Due to medical reasons, Sr. Edith now returns to her home province in Austria for care. The SSpS community assures her of continued prayers and wishes her God's abundant blessings as she begins this new chapter.



The SVD and SSpS families joined hands to put together a tribute of love and gratitude. The celebration was followed by a spiritual retreat of the combined Arnold Janssen Family.

A Century and a Quarter of Mission in America

Sr. Rosalia Galmin, SSpS – Province of USA



The Paraclete Province of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters celebrates 125 years of mission in the United States and the Caribbean.

It has been a journey of trust, courage, and enduring fidelity. In 1901, five SSpS pioneers—Sr. Leonarda Lentrup, Sr. Klara Baumgartner, Sr. Foureria van Acken, Sr. Alexia Gerhards, and Sr. Martina Müller left the security of their homeland in Europe for the unknown. Arriving in New York they traveled by train to Shermerville, Illinois, with 47 cents and a tenacious missionary spirit. From that humble beginning, the Paraclete Province grew and flourished.

The sisters established the first mission in Techny, Illinois, opened St. Ann's Home, and responded fully to the call to serve Black communities in the segregated South and underserved communities throughout the Midwest. Throughout the Great Depression, World War II, and Vatican II, they remained symbols of hope in hospitals, schools, and local communities. As the Church renewed itself, the sisters embraced new ministries—serving as pastoral agents, social workers, and advocates for migrants and the marginalized. Since then the Province has expanded its mission to the Caribbean, deepening its commitment to justice, women empowerment, and accompaniment.

What began with five courageous sisters has evolved in unexpected and creative ways marked not by recognition but by faithful and dedicated service. The legacy of those who have gone before inspires new generations to respond to God's call with the same missionary spirit. The light they kindled 125 years ago continues to shine brightly today.



(Inset) Holy Ghost School, Jackson, Mississippi (1909-1996) / Colegio Holy Ghost, Jackson, Mississippi (1909-1996).



St. Ann's Home for the Elderly, in Techny, Illinois (1903-1981), Nursing / Elderly home, St. Ann's in Techny, Illinois (1903-1981). At right, New York- Pastoral ministry and VIVAT UN (2001-Present).



Four Days in Asia Russia

Sr. Maria Severina Anok, SSpS – Region of Russia

Six young women meet in Abakan, South Siberia, to find the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives via a four-day recollection.

The young women are from Novosibirsk, Tomsk, Angarsk, and Abakan, all cities in Siberia (Asian Russia). These six young women invited to a recollection from June 24 to 28 on the charism and spirituality of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

A visit to the Yenisei Hydroelectric Power Station

The spiritual gathering was held at the SSpS Abakan Community. They were accompanied by SSpS Sisters Danuta and Raynildis (Abakan), Sr. Servina (Irkutsk), and Sr. Maksimiliana Maria (Kemoro).



"Filled with the Holy Spirit" was the recollection theme. The young women were urged to "recognize and experience the work of the Most Holy Trinity." One of them, Meriam, found God the Father to be like her grandparents, attentive and affectionate. God the Son, she said, was like a mother, cuddly and protective; and God the Holy Spirit, like an older sister.

The ladies familiarized themselves with symbols of the Holy Spirit—palms, fire, doves, wind— and agreed that, gradually, they got to experience God's breath in the beauty of nature. Their reflections on the third and fourth days were centered on the Spirit's seven gifts and fruits, drawn from Isaiah 11:-3: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.. Soon enough they were openly discussing how those gifts stood by them in both their struggles and triumphs as students and workers.



Bible sharing with the group, a time for reflection and learning. The young women expressed their reflections through glass painting.

In addition to spiritual exercises, the young women learned to make rosary bracelets and express their reflections through glass painting. "One heart, many faces," the words of St. Joseph Freinademetz, aptly captured the spirit of the past four days. The participants returned to their respective cities with grateful and joyful hearts, enriched by their encounter with God, others, and themselves.



Standing at a kairos moment, the Congregation starts the journey toward the 16th General Chapter, by calling on every SSpS to discern once more who God invites us to become for tomorrow's mission.

The Congregational Leadership Team has started laying the groundwork for the 16th General Chapter in 2028. The Preparatory Commission, convened in Rome in January 2026. The Chapter theme chosen was "On fire with the Spirit, committed to life in mission."

Central to the process is one fundamental question: Who does God want the SSpS to be today? This shall guide the Congregation in rediscovering its missionary identity and responding faithfully to the times.

The Chapter framework is grounded in the organizational lifecycle model and Nygren & Ukeritis's study of religious institutes. It follows a four-phase "Vitality Cycle" template, moving from purpose to leadership, then to organization and, finally, to resources. In the initial phase, the Congregation rereads its charism in light of current realities by listening to concrete mission experiences shared from provinces and regions. The second phase focuses on models of leadership and shared responsibility for mission. The third phase examines formation programs, governance structures, and necessary changes. The final phase assesses tangible assets and demographics in service of the vision.

Such a process invites all Sisters to work with the Spirit, moving from consultation toward genuine conversation rooted in lived experience. The outcomes will be presented to the General Chapter for deeper discernment and decision-making on the Congregation's future direction.

Source: CLT Circular to Provinces and Regions



Earthquake Devastates Flores, Indonesia



A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Flores in the early morning hours of August 15, 2026, at approximately 6:00 a.m. local time.

Amid the widespread devastation, the SSpS communities in the provinces of Flores East (FLE) and Flores West (FLW) have been confirmed safe.

All SSpS communities in FLE—including those in Ende, Ratedao, Maukaro, Ndora, and Mataloko—are confirmed safe, although the SSpS house in Ratedao sustained significant rear damage. In Maumere, the sick and elderly sisters are also safe, with tents erected in front of the Kewapante convent courtyard as a temporary shelter (photo above). While the sisters' families are safe, numerous family homes have collapsed or suffered severe damage. At Kewapante Hospital, patients have been evacuated to the central courtyard, where tents provided by the police have been set up, and the congregation has expressed deep gratitude for this assistance

As for the situation in FLW Ruteng, several key buildings—including Biara Hati Tersuci Maria (HTM), the Dian Yosefa Education Foundation building, and the Goreti Girls' Boarding House—have sustained serious structural damage and visible cracks, rendering them unsafe for use. Additional damage has been reported in Reo, where part of the local clinic was affected, in Koko, where the community house is in severe condition, and in Sumba, where the rear fence was damaged. School facilities in Ruteng have also been heavily impacted, leading to class suspensions and the temporary accommodation of boarding students in emergency tents.

Widespread electricity and internet disruptions have further complicated communication and coordination efforts across the region. In a spirit of compassion and solidarity, JPIC SVD Ruteng and SSpS West Flores have established a Joint Command Center at the JPIC SVD Ruteng Office to coordinate aid and support for all those affected by the disaster.



In FLW, sharing food provisions for calamity victims. Sisters take temporary shelter in tents.



JPIC SSpS Flores East together with the SSpS Community in Mataloko visited victims of the natural disaster in Nagekeo.

Generalate News

Congregational Leadership Team



Sr. Miriam
Altenhofen



Sr. Mariana
Comezzana



Sr. Mikaelin
Bupu



Sr. Tressa
Sebastian



Sr. Kreti
Sanhueza



Sr. Natalia
Tóthóva

**Staying
connected in life
and mission**

Constitution Art. 649

The General Visitation is a special time of religious-missionary renewal for each sister and community. It helps to keep the life and work of every Sister directed towards our common goal in harmony with the Constitutions of our Congregation. The general visitation should give the general administration a realistic picture of the conditions and needs of the various areas of the Congregation.

Sr. Miriam Altenhofen	Aug 22-27	Paraguay	Formator's Course
	Aug 28-31	Bolivia	Regional Chapter
	Sep 6-12	USA	PANAM Assembly
Sr. Mikaelin Bupu	Aug5-Sep10	Mexico	General Visitation Regional Chapter
Sr. Mariana Comezzana	Aug 18-30	Rome	Facilitator St. Clare Cong.
	Sep 4-7	Austria	General Chapter (Ireland) European Assembly
Sr. Natalia Tóthóva	Sep 9 – 30	Ukraine	General Visitation
Sr. Kreti Sanhueza	Aug-Sep	Rome	
Sr. Tressa Sebastian	Aug 8-25	Mozambique	Regional Chapter
	Aug 25 – Sep 4	South Africa	Regional Chapter

FACTS & PHOTOS AROUND THE GLOBE



ROME

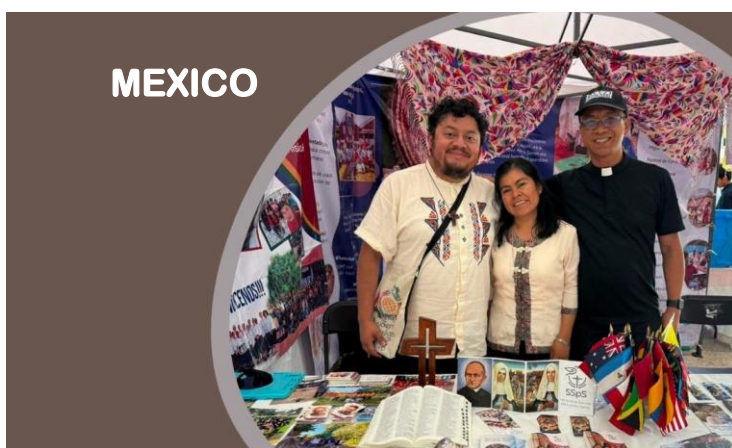
New SVD PRM (Provincial /Regional/Mission) Leaders visited Casa Generalizia community in Rome.

Sr. Miriam, Sr. Mikaelin, Sr. Kreti and Sr. Mariana were invited to share in the meeting of new SVD PRM Leaders in Nemi, Rome.



SLOVAKIA

National Youth Gathering and Expo 2026 in Poprad, Slovakia (July 31-Aug 2).



MEXICO

15th National Youth Missionary Congress took place from July 23–26 at the Potosí Arena, Mexico City.



PHILIPPINE NORTH

Education for indigenous communities in the Philippines; Sablayan (Mindoro) Mangyan Mission celebrated the summer bridging program culmination.



FLORES EAST

Sr. Fransiska Imaculata conducted a seminar on The School Environment Introduction Period (MPLS) activity at SMAS Bhaktyarsa Maumere, Indonesia about bullying and violence in a school setting.

Teachers from the various educational communities of SSps participated in the Provincial Retreat for Educators, which took place at the Superior Institute of Espíritu Santo, Leandro N. Alem, Misiones, Argentina.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JPIC Office was grateful to support the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI) in helping immigrant students start the school year.



On August 2, 2026 at the São João Batista Parish, Jarú, Brazil marked the farewell of the SSps after 38 years of mission.

BRAZIL SOUTH



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Layout

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