

UNITED IN MISSION



ATLANTIC-MIDWEST PROVINCE

Transforming the world through education

June 2022

Easter Comes in Many Ways...

Since the last issue, we not only celebrated Easter but lived through an entire Easter Season. Scripture recounts for us Jesus' many appearances to people he was close to during his lifetime. We heard accounts of Jesus appearing first to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, then to the other women as they return from the tomb, to Simon Peter, to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later the disciples in the upper room - first without, then with Thomas, to the seven disciples at work, fishing at the Sea of Tiberius. He appeared to the 11 disciples at an appointed place on a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus gives the "Great Commission". Jesus appeared to 500 brethren at once and was seen by his brother James. He was seen ascending into Heaven by the apostles and others, but



General Council, AM Council and AM province directors April 13, 2022.

but not before instructing them to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the receipt of his power. And lastly, he appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. In all instances, the disciples experienced Christ no longer dead but risen, which led to a deepening of their belief in him and the building of the Christian community.

Reflecting on the post-resurrection experiences, I cannot help but draw parallels to the General Council's visit to our province in April. While their visit was not exactly aligned with the time after Easter, they 'appeared' (although not unannounced like Jesus) at our Provincial offices, Sisters' residences and our sponsored and co-sponsored

ministries. They shared their love, joy and hope, they listened, encouraged, admired, affirmed. They shared faith and assured us of their presence and prayer, and in the spirit of *You Are Sent* and the Directional Statement *Love Gives Everything*, they affirmed the call each one of us has, 'to make one' in our times, to be and build community in its many forms.

Looking back and contemplating both the General Council's visit to you and your ministry and/or Sisters' residence, and the disciples' post-resurrection experiences, can you make a connection? Is there anything revealed to you? Is something being moved inside you? What might be

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20*

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asked of you? Following in this newsletter are sample accounts of councilors' visits with the ministries and a link to a video of their visit to the province. Enjoy the stories! As for myself, I had my own 'post resurrection experience', not by encountering an empty tomb but an empty office. My treasured colleague, Patrick Laorden, left SSND in pursuit of new professional endeavors and to be present to his family, now including a

newborn son, Oscar Joseph. Congratulations! Patrick contributed significantly to the purpose of Ministry Services and the SSND mission at large. We will miss you, Patrick, and wish you well for your future, both personally and professionally. Please see Patrick's own words of goodbye in this issue of United in Mission.

With the Easter season culminating in the feast of Pentecost, we are assured of God's Spirit in the form of

an Advocate being always with us. As we move into summer, it is my wish for you, to be restored in body, mind and spirit, to be strengthened for mission and in vision as lived out in the unfolding SSND charism through us, the living community.

Have a happy summer,

Yvonne DeBruin, Director
Department of Ministry Services

Corazón a Corazón – Blue Island, IL

*Sister Miriam Patrick Cummings, SSND
Interim Executive Director*



*Sister Martina Radež and a tutor
encouraging a student.*

A visitor from Rome is coming; a visitor from the General Council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame is coming! Excitement all around and whatever anxieties about "Undercover Boss" may have surfaced were quickly put to rest the moment Sister Martina arrived on the scene.

Her quiet, respectful, and warm personality immediately made her "one of us". Meeting one-on-one with some of Corazón's tutors and ESL learners, Sister shared with each her own struggles learning the English language. Her advice to each learner was, "Practice, practice, practice – that's the most important thing." And to the volunteer tutors, "Thank you, thank you, thank you". Learners felt encouraged by Sister's visit, especially by her empathy. Some comments after the visit captured the impact of the visit:

"She was interested in us and knowing about our community".

"Sister Martina was very nice and approachable".

"I liked Sister, she encouraged me."

"It was interesting talking to someone from another country and made me aware of the larger world."

"Having a visitor from the General Council at our small ministry made me aware of the care SSND has for the mission everywhere."

"Sister's visit made me feel that what I do is important."

"Make sure they know about the good we do at Corazón!"

What did Sister Martina's visit mean to Corazón a Corazón? Our hearts were truly connected; we were enriched and blessed by her presence among us and thank God for all the blessings of SSND.

Caroline House – Bridgeport, CT

*Helen Ramos-Paiz
Executive Director*

She got to know the pre-schoolers who received her with a smile during lunch. Then, she visited every class-

room and encouraged our students to never give up. We talked about her experience as an ESL student herself and that even though it could be hard at times, it is only with faith and perseverance that our students can reach their



*Sister Irmã Inês and Executive Director
Helen Ramos-Paiz*

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goal of learning English and find better opportunities for themselves and their families.

Notre Dame of Maryland University – Baltimore, MD

Julia Campagna

Director of Mission and Ministry



Sisters Julie Lattner and Peg Malone meeting NDMU students

Notre Dame of Maryland University had the privilege of welcoming Sister Carolyn Anyega, Sister Julie Lattner,

She recognized that coming to Caroline House made her feel welcome and saw how our students feel supported and safe in this place. It was

and Sister Peg Malone to campus in early April. Their visit made the international community and reach of the SSNDs tangible, serving as examples of how interconnected we truly are as a sponsored institution.

Together, they were incredibly present, listening and sharing with our faculty, staff and students. Their insightful questions allowed our NDMU community to share about the ways in which we have been challenged and grown as an institution over the past

a blessing to remember and share our mission and some of our success stories that our mission has made possible.

few years. Their presence on campus was a symbol of the SSNDs as a whole, a community that lives out its charism in ways that inspire those that they accompany.

Their visit illustrated NDMU's own rich history and tradition, reflected throughout the day by our students, faculty and staff, as well by Sister Carolyn, Sister Julie and Sister Peg. We are grateful for the time they spent with us, as well as the energy and enthusiasm that they shared.

SSND Educational Center – Woodhaven, NY

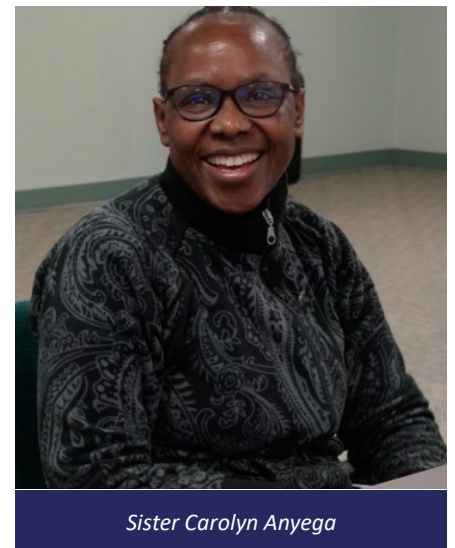
Sister Cathy Feeney, SSND

Executive Director

Sister Carolyn Anyega received a warm welcome when she visited the SSND Educational Center. Her time with us was all too short, but it was most enjoyable for our students. Sister immediately connected with the women in each class that she visited. Always eager to greet visitors, the students

learned more about the global ministry of SSND.

Sister Carolyn was amazed at the variety of first languages spoken by the students. It was surprising to her that women from fifteen different countries found ways to communicate and befriend each other. Having taught in countries where the Muslim religion was predominant, Sister Carolyn shared some of her memories of good relationships with staff.



Sister Carolyn Anyega

SisterHouse – Oak Park, IL

Patricia Banks

Executive Director

I had only been the Executive Director for a little over a month when a call came in from Sr. Miriam Patrick, informing me that she and Sr. Martina Radež

would be coming for a visit. I immediately agreed to accommodate their visit. I never thought coming to work on a Sunday would be such a joy.

Sr. Martina seemed a little reserved. She had a pleasant smile and appeared to be a

woman of few words. Well, that was not necessarily the case. Sr. Martina was quite the conversationalist, super supportive, and very open-minded. It was great being able to have real conversation about some of the realities women from SisterHouse encounter.

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We discussed the plague of fentanyl being added to drugs, the affect it had on women and the best way to intervene and help our women in their recovery process.

As we toured the house, we talked about how beautiful the convent was and how it heightened the spiritual

element of the women's recovery. I also shared my hopes and vision for SisterHouse. A conversation I had with Sister Miriam Patrick and Sr. Martina helped give me the confidence needed to make a proposal to our Board of Directors on some major changes that are now in place. Thank you, Sr. Martina, for being a great sounding board and supportive player!



Sisters M. Martina and Miriam Patrick (from *Corazón a Corazón*) visit with Executive Director Patricia Banks.



Beyond Borders – Haiti

Beyond Borders Staff

We found the General Councilors to be very engaged, affirming the work of the SSND and Beyond Borders partnership and how it fits within the implementation of both Love Gives Everything and Laudato Si'. This partnership can serve as a model for the congregation on future partnerships with other organizations addressing different issues. We don't have to do it all, but we can work with others to address

some pressing issues of our times. Love Gives Everything lays it out for us in these two paragraphs.

We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation. (YAS, C 9, 17; GD 19)

We discern as a congregation which urgent and critical global concerns we are called to address and we dare to respond boldly in unsuspected ways. (YAS, C 17; GD 36-38)

The councilors asked really good questions. They were participative and engaged on each section of the presentation. They really

appreciated the work that went into it; the time together was very meaningful and inspiring. We hope we can do this again in the future. The interaction in the breakout sessions were also enjoyable. Everyone seemed to be comfortable. The staff were comfortable, happy to share of the work that they have been doing.

The partnership is helping SSND continue in a new way to fulfill its call and mission. Sister Roxanne was impressed with the work of the Haiti Collaboration Committee. She encouraged us to continue to broaden our vision and enhance the work we are doing.

Reflection Questions:

- By participating in the SSND mission, how has the charism of "making one" come alive in you?
- As the congregation reaches 188 years of existence, what are your hopes for SSND for the future?

"Making One" in a New Way

Dear Colleagues,

When it comes to goodbyes I prefer to say, "see you again soon." I'm a firm believer

that God places people in our lives for a reason. For me, these past 2.5 years have been formative in my life, both as a lay person

and soon-to-be father. What I'm most grateful for is how much my network has grown. I've learned so much from Sisters, Associates and Colleagues.

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The SSND mission and charism is still needed today, living in a time of pandemic, war and climate change. For anyone working with SSND, expect to be transformed both in mind and heart. 'Making one' will take on new contexts, both in your personal and professional life. At the heart of it all is relationship. Thank for you enriching me, deepening my sense of mission and communion.

I hope our paths will cross again in some shape or form. As I start a new chapter, 'making one' will take on a new face – with family and a new workplace. Blessings in all that you do and know of my prayers for you.

With gratitude,



Patrick Laorden
former Associate Director
Department of Ministry Services



Upcoming Events

Proclaiming the Fire Within Retreat

June 28-30, 2022

Cranaleith Spiritual Center, Philadelphia, PA

Ministry Formation Session I

October 21-22, 2022

Virtual

Ministry Formation Session II

March 3-4, 2023

Planned on-site at Villa Assumpta,
Baltimore

Claiming the Fire Within Retreat 2023

June 25-28, 2023

Malvern, PA

Resources

[Lessons From a Cross-Racial Team About Building Belonging, April 2022 \(BoardSource\)](#)

[Conducting a Positive Exit Interview to Benefit the Organization and the Departing Employee](#)

[About the Laudato Si' Action Platform \(Laudato Si' Action Platform\)](#)

[International Solidarity Reflection, May 2022 \(Shalom\)](#)

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