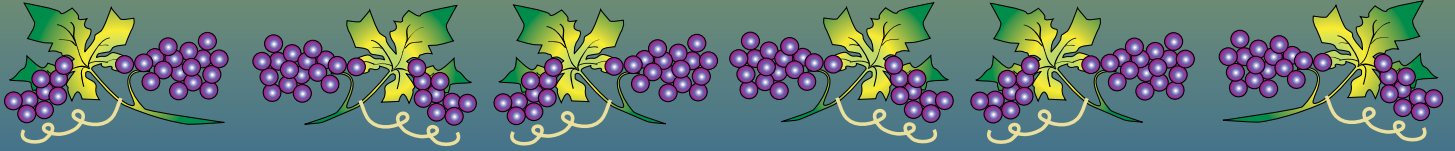


CONSECRATA

A newsletter for member communities, friends and supporters of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious



FALL 2019

2019 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: *Called to Be Experts in Communion*

By Sister Mary Dominic, OP



The 2019 CMSWR National Assembly met in St. Louis, Missouri from September 19–22 to consider the theme “Called to Be Experts in Communion.” Attendees from the various congregations were able to share with each other their experiences of maintaining unity as they accept vocations from countries outside those of the institute’s origin.



On Friday, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre addressed the Assembly on the communion of the Church with God, mediated through Christ and bound in the Spirit. Later that day, a panel presentation by five sisters from various kinds of communities shared their communities’ joys and challenges in living unity amid diversity in an increasingly globalized world. They described how diversity in language and culture among members has actually fostered unity, understanding and religious detachment within their communities.



On Saturday evening, keynote speaker Sister María de Guadalupe Rodrigo, SSVM, in “With God on the Battlefield,” recounted the occupation and control of Aleppo, Syria by ISIS from 2011 to 2014. In spite of unrelenting bombing, torture and deaths of Christians and shortages of basic necessities, the ordinary people became joyful and courageous witnesses and sometimes martyrs for the sake of their Christian faith, continuing their Christian worship in spite of the constant threat of death. Sister Guadalupe now works to promote the cause of persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Beautiful daily liturgies and holy hours grounded the four days in prayer. The keynote addresses and panel discussions were sources of wisdom and inspiration, and practical ideas were shared for helping participants in the challenges of leading their communities. Most of all, through their friendships and mutual support, the member communities modeled how religious are called to be “experts in communion” in the universal Church and in living in unity their founders’ charisms.

“Experts in communion, religious are, therefore, called to be an ecclesial community in the Church and in the world, witnesses and architects of the plan for unity which is the crowning point of human history in God’s design.”

#24 Religious and Human Promotion, April 1978

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Sister Mary McGreevy, RSM

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Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to greet you on behalf of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. We have just completed our National Assembly in Saint Louis. The Drury family have been exceedingly generous in financially supporting our presence in their hotel at the Arch.

We gathered for prayer and adoration reflecting upon culture and our role as women religious to live a common life in service of that communion, prompted and guided by the Holy Spirit, which follows upon a lively faith in the promise of Jesus that “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

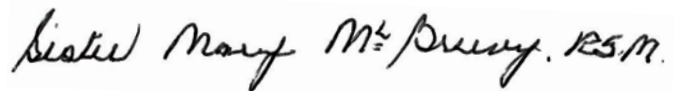
You will see in the articles and pictures that follow a reflection of the beauty and fruitfulness of gathering, “in His name” according to the founding Charism of each Institute. With the Lovers of the Holy Cross we mark a tremendous witness to fidelity and in each one making profession of perpetual vows we see religious life being

renewed and revitalized by the consent of these religious women to keep faith with the Bridegroom in service to the Church in our place and time. The Formators workshop provides an opportunity for those responsible for basic and ongoing formation in our Institutes to pray together and reflect together about the blessings and challenges facing them as they engage with young women who come in faith seeking to follow Jesus in the vowed life lived in common according to each unique Charism.

May the Lord bless you abundantly and give you peace.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

In Christ,



Sister Mary McGreevy, RSM
Chairperson of CMSWR



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2019 FORMATORS WORKSHOP: *Formative Listening*

By Sister Gilmory Kay, RSM, Chairperson of the Formators Workshop Committee

Speaking to religious formators at the 2015 international Congress for Formators, Our Holy Father said, “Thank you, dear men and women formators, for your humble and discreet service, for the time given to listening—the apostolate “of the ear,” to listen—for the time dedicated to the accompaniment and the care of each one of your youths.” The 2019 CMSWR Formators’ Workshop took up the theme “Formative Listening” to enhance and encourage the virtue and human skill involved in attentive listening.

With over 100 formators and superiors gathered at the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA, the workshop began with an optional day of retreat on Monday April 7th and continued to Friday April 12th. From their vast experience as religious formators, Benedictine Fathers Thomas Acklin and Boniface Hicks opened the conference with reflections on listening in the interior life and discerning the Holy Spirit’s action in conversation with others. Sister Mary Madeline Todd, OP presented guided meditations on cultivating a listening heart, hearing God’s will and the necessity of grounding listening to others in silence and prayer. Steven Giordano offered practical exercises on listening and mentoring. The group participation exercises were enjoyable and a highlight of the conference. Opportunities for Eucharist, praying the liturgy of the hours, and communal meals were part of the workshop experience. Some of the participants’ comments:

“I found that the quality of the speakers this year provided us with the actual tools for listening—for learning the skill and being able to practice it.”

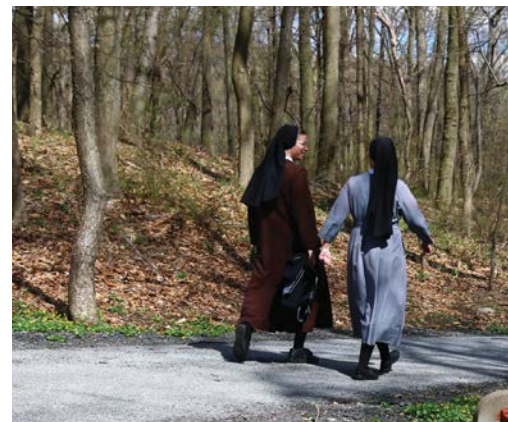
“Hearing Father Tom and Father Boniface speak out of their vast experience was a real privilege. Sister Mary Madeline inspired me greatly to deepen my life of prayer.”

“Steve Giordano’s presentations were very practical, delightful and just plain fun.”

“The role playing and receiving feedback on coaching and listening was extremely helpful.”

“Thank you for the beautiful liturgies and for Father Bob’s homily and for hearing our confessions, truly he is a gift.”

“This being my 1st time here, it was very welcoming. I received a lot of hope to give to my community at home.”





*Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus of Los Angeles*



*Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of
the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Mercy*



*Congregation of
Mary, Queen*



*Disciples of Our Lord
Jesus Christ*



Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima



*Dominican Sisters of Mary,
Mother of the Eucharist*



Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia



Franciscan Daughters of Mary



*Franciscan Sisters TOR of Penance
of the Sorrowful Mother*



*Handmaids of the
Heart of Jesus*



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*Oblates to the
Blessed Trinity*



*Olivetian Benedictine
Sisters*



*Poor Clare Missionary Sisters
of the Blessed Sacrament*



Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará



*Sister Servants of the
Eternal Word*



Sisters of Christian Charity



Sisters of Life



Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis



*Society of Our Lady of
the Most Holy Trinity*



Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows

BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER CLELIA MERLONI

Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Mother Johanna Marie, OSB

On November 3, 2018, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus experienced the joy of having their holy foundress, Mother Clelia Merloni, beatified in Rome at the Basilica of St John Lateran. The Apostles held a celebration at their Provincial House in Connecticut on the same day.

Blessed Clelia was beatified after the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approved a miracle worked through her intercession in 1951. A doctor in Brazil suffered rapidly worsening paralysis until he was barely able to swallow. When a Sister gave him a drink of water in which a piece of Blessed Clelia's veil had been placed, the patient immediately began to improve. He was restored to full health and lived another 25 years.

Blessed Clelia founded her congregation in Italy in 1894 to bring the love of Christ to the sick, poor and orphaned. By 1900, they were already sending Sisters on mission to the Americas. Like so many saints and founders, Blessed Clelia suffered great hardships and humiliations, but they only served to draw her closer to Jesus until she entered into eternal life in 1930. Her personal holiness and apostolic zeal continue to inspire her Sisters, who today serve on



five continents. The American Province includes about 115 professed Sisters working in education, parish ministry and service of the sick and poor, in the tradition of the first Apostles.

In the spring of this year, the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus hosted several regional celebrations of the beatification in the areas in which they serve. They have posted extensive information about Blessed Clelia, her beatification and their own celebrations on their website: www.ascjus.org



CELEBRATING 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOVERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

“Per Crucem Ad Lucem - Qua Thánh Giá tới Vinh Quang - Through the Cross to Glory”

By Sister Grace Duc Le, LHC



With thanksgiving to God for the many blessings He has given to the Congregation of the Lovers of the Holy Cross in the past 350 years, and united with all the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross throughout the world, we, the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles, solemnly open our Jubilee Year on September 14, 2019. As I reflect on the gift of this Jubilee Year, I recall Pope Francis’ truly inspiring words: “Look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope.”

Gratitude to God for our roots:

Looking back to the past with gratitude, the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Los Angeles give praise and thanks to the Lord for His constant love and blessings, which have enabled the Congregation to survive and thrive to this day. We are also grateful to our Founder, Bishop Lambert de la Motte, for providing us with a priceless spiritual heritage: the path of sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ Crucified. Founded in Vietnam in 1670, and experiencing a turbulent history of persecutions, wars, and religious suppression, the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross continue to remain faithful to the Church, working with the local Church and bringing the Gospel to everyone.

Living the present with passion:

We endeavor to live our spirituality and charism authentically and radically with Jesus Christ Crucified at the center of our lives. Striving always to be united with God, we live the spirit of Love and Sacrifice and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Since the beginning, our spiritual patrimony continues to inspire us to offer ourselves

generously in serving the poor and homeless in shelters and on the streets, assisting the sick and lonely, and teaching the youth faith and morals. May we passionately do everything for the sake of glorifying God and for the salvation of souls!

Embracing the future with hope:

We totally trust in God’s providential love! In the near future, the Congregation hopes to venture into new apostolates to respond to the needs of our time and to bring God’s love, joy, and hope to those who are suffering. Boasting in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ alone and trusting in the loving mercy of God, the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross continue to listen to and discern God’s will for us with hope for the future. We look forward to your collaboration and support!

On behalf of all the Lovers of the Holy Cross, and particularly the Sisters of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Los Angeles, we sincerely give thanks to all Bishops, Priests, Families, Benefactors and friends who have accompanied us and continue to be part of our life, supporting our religious vocations and serving beside us in our apostolic mission. We remember all of you in our daily prayers, especially in this Jubilee Year of grace. May Jesus Christ Crucified bless and grant you and your loved ones abundant grace. Please continue to pray for us, so that we may live worthily as Lovers of the Holy Cross and daughters of Bishop Lambert, always choosing Jesus Christ Crucified as the One and only Object of our minds and hearts.

Sister Grace Duc Le, Superior General
Lovers of the Holy Cross Los Angeles



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INVEST IN SISTERS AND INVEST IN OUR CHURCH!

"The faith is strengthened when it is given to others."

Pope Francis



Pope Francis states, "Women religious are the fruit of the prayers elevated to God by His people." You support our sisters in what Pope Francis calls "the pursuit for solid spiritual, theological, communitarian and pastoral formation, so that they may serve as humble witnesses of the mercy and tenderness of God and hence, be capable of communicating and sharing the love of Christ to all people."

We invite you to consider a gift to the CMSWR through the use of the enclosed envelope or on our website, www.cmswr.org. May God give you His Peace.