



Congregation News

Notícias. Nachrichten. 소식지

Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing

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**“Wherever the Stream flows,
it will bring life”**

(Ezek. 47:9c)

***Conversatio Morum &
New Evangelization***



‘The tree of life’ from the apse mosaic of St. Clemente Church in Rome

**Missionary Benedictine Sisters
Preparing for General Chapter -
September 20 to October 25, 2012 in Rome**

Brasil, Olinda: Pastoral Ministry To Prisoners at Buique

Since 2008 we have had a small community at Buique in the interior of the state of Pernambuco. One of our novices spent her

time of apostolic experience there. What touched her most deeply was visiting a prison for women together with Sr. Edith Lemos, who has been at Buique since the beginning of the year. The municipality has a population of over 50,000. Besides the county seat, four districts and many small towns are part of it,

including one Indian settlement. Several years ago a prison was established for delinquent women from the interior. Planned for 200 persons, the house is hopelessly overcrowded now with more than 300 women. There are six double-deck beds in a cell, but now two are sleeping in each bed and at times additional women are lying on mattresses on the floor. There is one toilet with a chance for washing in each cell, but for 12-15 persons this is not sufficient.

The directress, a fairly young woman, has often requested the authorities not to send any further prisoners, but without success. Unfortunately, the number of female delinquents continues to increase. In 2000 women were 4.3 % of the prison population; by 2010 they were 7.4 %. Most of them were convicted of dealing in drugs. The “friend” or partner acquires the “stuff,” and the woman is caught trying to deliver it. Sadly, there are also pregnant and nursing mothers among them. Their cells are somewhat better, with baby cots. The children may stay with the mother until the age of 6 months. Then they are handed over to relatives able or willing to raise the children. If this is not the case, a child is turned over to a foster family.

The women form groups for cooking and baking the daily bread. Some also work in the vegetable garden. There are classes for the illiterate, and the women can be trained as beauticians, in manicure and pedicure. They also can engage in some handicrafts.

The provisions for hygiene are inadequate. There is hardly any soap, toothpaste, or menstrual pads, which is particularly embarrassing. Very few of the women are visited by relatives who might bring such items. The cleaning supplies also are insufficient.

This is part of the pastoral ministry of the parish group of about ten persons, among them a Franciscan sister and our Sr. Edith. She went to the schools of the city and was permitted by the principal to ask the students for donations. So at her next visit, she was able to distribute soap and sanitary pads. The

pastor exhorted the faithful during Sunday Mass to donate cleaning supplies. But it is difficult to convince the believer that these women prisoners also are loved by God, are our sisters in Christ who said, “I was in prison and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).

Each week the sisters go to the prison for evangelizing. Like all visitors, the pastoral visitors must turn in their cell phones and keys when registering. There are chances for personal conversations with the women, in which the sisters, of course, try to include God. There are also catechetical instructions and the rosary, in which the women mostly like to take part. Once a month the Eucharist is celebrated, and all join enthusiastically in the singing. For some it probably is a welcome variation, since many have been given up on by their families and no one comes to visit them.

From their conversations with the prisoners, the sisters have found that few of the women repent of their crimes. Sr. Edith was quite shocked by a woman telling her, quite coolly, that she had killed a doctor.

The majority of the women prisoners are between 18 and 25 years of age, but some are above 70. Most of them come from poor situations and cannot afford lawyers. The lawyers provided by the government are overburdened and naturally not very interested in cases from which no benefit can be expected.

Sr. Edith states, “This kind of work seems very important to me. It is a difficult, but necessary kind of mission.”

Philippines, Manila: Two Jubilee Celebrations ... and Another One Coming Soon

By Sr. Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB

2011 is a year of jubilees for the Manila Priory: St. Scholastica’s Academy, Marikina celebrated 50 years last July 15 - 17, and St. Scholastica’s College, Westgrove celebrated 10 years last July 1. St. Agnes Academy in

Legaspi City, meanwhile, opened its year-long Centennial celebration on July 1 – 2.

St. Scholastica's Academy, Marikina (SSAM) celebrated its Golden Jubilee on July 15 – 17, 2011. The celebration was opened on the 15th of July by Sr. Roseve Balagat, OSB (Directress) and Sr. Lydia Villegas, OSB (Superior) with a cutting of the ribbon and a blessing liturgy. The three-day celebration began with a motorcade, followed by a presentation of the history of SSAM in drama, songs, dances and video presentation. The second day began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Abbot Tarcisius Maria Narciso, OSB, followed by a field demonstration and a Bingo. The third day was a homecoming organized by the SSAM Alumnae Association. The event was a big success, thanks to the help and cooperation of many people.

St. Scholastica's College Westgrove Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Foundation

By Sr. Rosalina Fajardo, OSB

The ten-month-long preparation, which kicked-off last October 2010, culminated last July 1 to mark the exact date of the school's inauguration ten years ago. It was a celebration of praise, thanksgiving, and reverence.



10th Anniversary Logo

With the theme, “A Decade of Thanksgiving toward Excellence and Service,” the whole community looked back at how SSCW laid its foundations ten years ago. And with the numerous memorabilia displayed at the improvised room created for its purpose, Scholasticans reminisced how the institution

has molded its alumnae to becoming leaders in the service of Christ, Country, and Creation. The festivity started with a motorcade where students from Kinder to Grade 2 paraded from the school campus to Laguna Bel-Air and vice-versa. After which a thanksgiving Mass was held at St. Benedict's Church presided by Rev. Fr. Abbot Tarcisio Ma. Narciso, OSB.



“As we celebrate with joy the tenth anniversary of the founding of St. Scholastica's College-Westgrove, let us thank the Lord for His abiding presence in our community, for the gift of persons whose lives have intertwined in this school community, and for the opportunities that loving and serving the children of God has given us!” Fr. Abbot Narciso emphasized in his homily.

“May this community continue to grow in love and service of the young people of our land in this part of the country and may they deeply imbibe the ideals of St. Scholastica's College!” he ended.

After the Holy Mass, invited guests witnessed the opening and cutting of the ribbon of the Archive Room housing the memorabilia exhibit of the Institution for the past decade. It was opened for public viewing by no less than its Board of Trustees Chairperson, Fr. Abbot Tarcie, OSB, along with Sub Prioress Sr. Baptista Busmente, OSB, concurrent School Directress Sr. Rosalina R. Fajardo, OSB along with the former Directress Sr. Bellarmine Bernas, OSB.

The highlight of the celebration was the Literary Musical Extravaganza held at the

gym in the afternoon. Scholasticans expressed their gratitude to the school through their performances that thrilled, not only the current members of the community, but also the pioneers and the guests.



In her speech Sr. Rosalina reminisced the early beginnings of the Institution by giving the account of events that transpired during its inception. She later on relayed the chronology of how SSCW reached its present position to date.

The SSCW Pioneers, then, stepped up the stage and sung wholeheartedly the song “Yesterday’s Dream” while reminiscing the memories brought about by a decade of togetherness as a family. A video presentation,



showing SSCW as it was ten years ago, was also presented to the crowd. The well-prepared program ended with the closing prayer lead by Sr. Edissa Manrique, OSB.

Bulgaria: New Regional superior



On 11 September 2011, Sr. Maoro Sye, OSB installed Sr. Rosa Maria Santana as Regional Superior of Bulgaria. May you be blessed Sr. Rosa Maria and may you be a blessing for the Sisters and the people of Bulgaria. Sr. Rosa Maria replaced Sr. Beate Schröter, OSB who had served as Superior for eight years. Thank you Sr. Beate for all you have been and done so devotedly for our Sisters and for the people of Bulgaria for eight years. Bulgaria is a big country which is recovering from many years of Communism and whose people are very eager to receive the Word of God. But there are at present only two communities of Missionary Benedictine Sisters with a total of only 7 Sisters! The harvest is great, but the labourers are indeed few. May the Lord of the harvest send more labourers into his vineyard.

Bulgaria, Sekirovo: Some of the Pastoral Activities

By Sr. Ma. Agnes Cerina, OSB

July 2011

The 4th of July marked the start for the children's summer camp which lasted until the 23rd July 2011. Every day, interesting activities consisting of various kinds of handiworks and different games were offered. During the first week seven youth from Zarevbrod came to experience and learn the way Sekirovo summer camps are managed and handled. They are actually being trained in the process as "animators". Together with the four trainees from Sekirovo they helped one another in the facilitation of everything for the whole group.



In the middle of all the activities the group of animators and the sisters found time to pause and celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict. On the 11th of July at 4:00 p.m. guests from the neighboring parishes came. More than 50 people graced the occasion including three Franciscan Sisters and a Franciscan Brother and three Diocesan priests. It was an event that served three purposes: the unveiling of the statue of St. Benedict, the launching of a Benedictine publication, and the opening of a small classroom catechetical library.

The summer camp culminated with a short program where the children presented four different playlets and a bazaar.

August 2011

From 3rd to 8th of August 2011, the four young volunteers for Catechists started their formal catechetical sessions. The topics given

were: the "Story of Creation" and "Salvation History" facilitated by Fr. Rumén Stanev; "Church Sacraments" with emphasis given on the "Sacrament of Reconciliation" by Fr. Boris Stoikov; and "Christology" given by S. Ma. Agnes Cerina, OSB.

On the 20th August 2011, a meeting of young people throughout the Diocese of Plovdiv was organized. The youth meeting had the same theme of this year's World Youth Day held in Madrid.



Immediately after this event, S. Ma. Agnes, OSB held a meeting with the two priests together with Postulant Nadia Ruzhina who was on vacation with her family. A short assessment/evaluation of the September 2010 to August 2011 activities was presented to the group and working relations were discussed. S. Ma. Agnes, OSB who facilitated for the meeting gave suggestions with regard to the direction of the parish for 2012: to stabilize the different groups that have been set-up and the formation of the parish organizational structure.

September 2011

September 5 to 10, 23 and 24, were devoted to the preparations of the feast of St Michael Archangel Parish. Sr. Ma. Agnes, OSB and Fr. Boris facilitated the ongoing rehearsal of the children for the September 29, 2011 feast presentations.



After the installation of the new superior on Sept. 11, 2011, the two visitors from Rome, S. Maoro Sye, OSB and S. Terese Zemale, OSB came to visit Sekirovo community. Upon their arrival at 4:00 p.m. the sisters met with Fr. Boris for a courtesy call. It was a chance for S. Rosa Maria Santana to be introduced as the new superior of the Bulgarian mission. The following day, Sept. 15 (Thursday), Sisters Maoro and Terese together with S. Ma. Agnes and Yobko – the driver, visited Rila Orthodox Monastery where they saw Bulgaria's vast spiritual heritage. In the afternoon of September 16 they traveled to Sofia for their trip back to Rome.

Brasil, Olinda: Program for Spiritual Leadership Development *Ir. Francisca Oliveira, OSB*

The PROFOLIDER VIII, a course of on-going formation, organized by the CRB (Conference of Religious of Brazil), was held at Brasília, from June 06 to August 04, 2011. Its purpose is to build up a new generation of consecrated persons, who keep steady in the way of following Christ, and are capable of meeting the ventures of changes and of showing the values of the Kingdom of God in their relationships.



We were 38 participants, 33 sisters and five priests from different Congregations of various regions of Brazil and from other nations, like Argentina, Angola, Bolívia, Mozambique, Nicarágua and Peru.

The disciplinary rules of boarding created a suitable ambient to deepen and consolidate our basic values as consecrated people. It helped us to qualify our relationship with God, with ourselves, with the persons in their

diversity and with nature. This experience provided incentive for awareness of how God is creative in the process of relationships.

The model of Consecrated Life is the primitive community of Jerusalem, where all things were put in common (Acts 4,32-35). In this context the consecrated life finds the motivation to promote a new kind of evangelical leadership according to the example of Jesus who said: "The Son of Man has come, not to be served by others, but to serve" (Mt 20,28). In close relationship with the Father and in relation to the mission he received, Christ lived a gratuitous love, with gentleness and humility. To follow this example, we need to detach ourselves, to modify the paradigm, to be open for the new, conscious that our existence is ambiguous. The process of growth depends on our interior openness and humility to learn, because we know that "This treasure we possess in earthen vessels" (2 Cor 4,7).

The program of study consisted of the following modules: I- The person and the Institution: Analysis; Interpersonal relations: Leadership. II- The reality: Christian Anthropology; Cultural Modification and subjectivity; Cultures and Ethnic groups; Ethics and Religious life. III- Theology of Consecrated Life: Theology and Vows; Building of relationships between Men and Women; Christology and Following Christ; Ecclesiology and Consecrated Life; Charisma and Mysticism. VI- Spirituality and Mission: Biblical and Liturgical Base of Mission; Administration, Management and Leadership; Spirituality and Liturgy; We had spiritual orientation, existential groups and final retreat.

These subjects stimulated us to apply what we learned in our relation with the sacred. They gave us hope and motivation for our convictions and made us review our way of living our consecrated life amid a society which is in continuous transformation and to strengthen our interior freedom and the relationships in our community life today. In this way we can live our charisma with joy and simplicity, our spirituality and our consecration, with our eyes fixed in Jesus,

without losing our starting point. We are grateful to our Priors, in Christ.

Inter-Priory Sharing and Transfers

25 July 2011

Sr. Fortunata

From Iberian Priory to GD/Rome

27 July 2011

Sr. Marie Ivan Kim, OSB

From Daegu to GD/Rome

**God bless you & your mission
dear Sisters!**

These have returned to the Lord

Sr. Dorothy Consuji, OSB

21 July in Manila

Sr. Dorothea Emanuel, OSB

21 August 2011 in Windhoek

Sr. Concepcion Pellosa, OSB

24 August 2011 in Manila

May they rest in peace!

Faith and Transformative Spiritual Leadership Development Program

By Sr. Ida Nnungu, Sr. Lusina Cheptoo & Sr. Marjorie Biryeri

A first of a kind Faith and Transformative Spiritual Leadership Development Program has been organized by the Association of Sisterhoods in Eastern Africa (ACWECA) and is being sponsored by Canadian Sisters. The program is taking place in Jinja, not far from our Sisters' Convent in Jinja.

"We began our course on 1st July, 2011 and we are 29 participants, 27 Sisters and two Brothers, among them three Missionary Benedictine Sisters: Sr. Ida Nnungu from Ndanda Priory, Sr. Lusina Ng'eny from Nairobi Priory and Sr. Marjorie Biryeri from Jinja community. The participants come from ACWECA countries namely: Uganda (17),

Kenya (2), Eritrea (7), Tanzania (1) and Zambia (2).



(from left to right) Sr. Ida Nnungu from Ndanda Priory, Sr. Lusina Cheptoo from Nairobi Priory, Sr. Marjorie Biryeri from Jinja)

The course focuses on preparing leaders for Africa considering the current challenges in our society; to equip them with the needed skills through the following courses:

1. *Faith seeking understanding in the 21st century*
2. *Revelation and understanding Scripture*
3. *Transformative Spirituality of Joy and Hope*
4. *Developing Critical Thinking Skills*
5. *Challenges to Human Growth and Development*
6. *Consecrated Life, Freedom and Vows in the light of African context*

Some of the workshops covered include the following;

- *Communication skills, Sexuality, Spiritual Direction and Discernment, Substance Abuse and Addictions, Stress, Burn-out, Loss, Grief and Bereavement, Gender and Justice, Leadership and Mission.*

The course is very rich and inspiring thus we are faced with the challenge of being the Light of Christ in this century in our different communities and ministries. Our gratitude goes to our Prioresses and Superiors for giving us this chance to learn and grow spiritually in order to be of better service wherever we are assigned. Trusting in God's divine protection and guidance we hope to be

tools of good works as St. Benedict puts it in the Rule by our way of life and service.

First Profession

Daegu: 15 August 2011

Sr. Abraham Lee, OSB
Sr. Aloysia Kim, OSB
Sr. Marie Eva Kim, OSB

Windhoek: 8 September 2011

Sr. Anselma Samuel, OSB
Sr. Mary Martin Likuwa, OSB
Sr. Mary Magdalen Mbangi, OSB
Sr. Bakhita Ameya, OSB
Sr. Bernita Shilikomwenyo, OSB
Sr. Mary John Paul Hosea, OSB
Sr. Joyce Ipakwa, OSB
Sr. Julitta Enkono, OSB
Sr. Pia Iita, OSB

Nairobi: 23 September 2011

Sr. Loice Kisang, OSB
Sr. Eznah Osano, OSB
Sr. Milian Amwoka, OSB
Sr. Naume Philomena Ajuno, OSB
(for Jinja)

Congratulations dear Sisters!

Final Profession

Peramiho: 18 June 2011

Sr. Daniela Ngonyani OSB
Sr. Michaela Chibesa, OSB
Sr. Agape Mgaya, OSB
Sr. Agnes-Maria Ngailo

Congratulations dear Sisters!

A Miracle Visa and A Path Less Travelled

By Sr. Monica Nabirye, OSB

For years our foreign Missionary Benedictine Sisters working in India have had to put up with visa arrangements that require them to

leave India every three or six months in order to renew their visa for staying and working in India. This year 2011, by some miraculous providence, I was able to get a missionary visa for two years without the requirement to leave India in order to renew it every six months.

On 26 November 2010, I had submitted my application for visa to India and I was told the process may take more than 7 months or a year. I did not mind it, trusting that whatever is the will of God will come to be.

On 23 January 2011, after interesting trips to the people of Mahaba and Lumada, in Marihatag, I got a call from the office of the Indian Ambassador telling me that I may prepare my flight ticket to India. It sounded unbelievable.

During the interview with the Indian Consul in Manila, he was happy that I was going to take care of the sick and to teach. He told me that he was once in Uganda and with a nice smile he said that my Missionary Visa for two years was granted, and that I do not need to go out every 6 months but should follow the procedures at the office of Police High Commissioner in Rajkot.



In 3 days I had all the documents ready and on 28 January 2011 I left for India via Singapore. At the airport to meet me were Sr. Isabella Mary and Sr. Leoni with the driver Jomon (first adopted son of Sr. Isabella Mary). It was such a joy to meet them after waiting for me for 6 months of uncertainty.

On 2 February 2011 I went with Sr. Isabella Mary to meet the Police High Commissioner as directed by the Indian Counsul in Manila. I was given the documents which I would need on 15 June 2011 for the extension of visa from Rajkot.

On the way back to the Convent, Sr. Isabella Mary (Ama, as well known here) told me already that I will be teaching the nursing students microbiology and in the morning hours I will teach English in the Grade School. I had a day to study the syllabus of both the nursing and the grade school and the following day I was full swing in class.

Later, I started teaching computer to the Grade 6 pupils. Since I teach them English they can follow my instructions. The teachers here do not speak English. They have expressed their desire to have me give them basic instructions in English, and every day we meet for about 30 minutes for that purpose. Ama Isabella has asked me to be the Principal of the grade school as well since there is no one to take care of that area.



God has blessed Sr. Isabella Mary with good health in such a way that at her age, above 80, and taking care of 7 adopted children, she can still afford every morning to bring the children to school and fetch them at 1:00 p.m. She goes with the driver. She is on the move from morning to evening. The oldest adopted son is 21 years old and the youngest is Rose 3 years old. They all seek for love from left and right as they have never or will never experience the love of their biological parents.

Taking the path less traveled is for me unfolding God's unconditional love to reach out to those who need our care; embracing the children of God.

Indeed I say thank you all for granting me the opportunity to experience this path less travelled.

Generalate Schedule

**Oct.17-Nov.12, 2011 General Chapter
PREPCO Meetings in Rome**

Nov. 11-13 Tutzing Election Chapter
M. Angela & Sr Terese

Nov. 10-13, 2011 AIM Meeting
Sr. Adelaida

Nov. 25-30, 2011 ITM in Rome

Dec. 3-11, 2011 Annual Retreat

Mid Dec. 2011 India Visit
M. Angela & Sr. Maoro

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