



ALL-TO-ALL

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

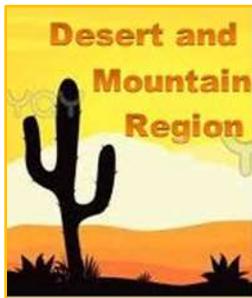
SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 51 Issue 5

www.sfccinternational.org

June-July 2021



Members of the **Desert and Mountain (DAM) Region** met via Zoom 9am to 5pm Sunday May 9.

Present were Fran Campbell,

Suzanne Dunn, Jeannette Love, Rose Miles, Pat Mitchell and Pat Mullen.

Opening prayer was facilitated by Jeannette, which included a 3 minute silent meditation.

Our spiritual reflection and discussion focused on the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. We viewed two brief talks by Buddhist monk, Tich Naht Hahn in which he emphasized the polarities that exist in all creation, as well as in ourselves. It is up to each individual to choose either well-being or ill-being for themselves. Choosing well-being involves choosing also right perspective, right speech, intention, action, effort and mindfulness.

We discussed also the book by Robert Wright, *Buddhism is True*, in which he leads readers on a journey through

psychology, philosophy, and a great many silent retreats to show how and why Buddhist meditation can serve as the foundation for a spiritual life in a secular age. Wright argues that evolutionary biology is linked directly to the need for and ability to meditate. Suzanne led our discussion through these enlightening videos and book content.

Pat Mitchell provided the reading for our social justice session. We focused on DACA (Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals) a federal program instituted by the Obama Administration that provides protections and requirements for children who arrive in the USA illegally. The program had been rescinded by the Trump Administration, leaving thousands of young adults who suddenly found themselves vulnerable to local and federal arrest and deportation. The Biden Administration has reinstated DACA in an effort to stabilize the lives of those who fall within the program's boundaries. DACA participants are enrolled in school, are either employed or serve in the US military and pay taxes, as well as pay into the national funds of Social Security and Medicare. The Biden Administration has released a study showing the 6% drop in the US national birth rate, which, in turn, creates an immediate need for trained workers at all levels from field and factory to hospitals and universities.

We addressed 3 issues from the last issue of the ATA:

(1) We join with the WEB Region to accept the ICC's offer to serve a 2nd term.

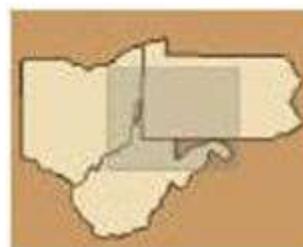
(2) We extend a warm welcome to the new SFCC Nigeria Region and thank both Francesca (FC) Ezeokonkwo and Gert Bassey for their time and effort to help this new region form a firm and well-informed foundation.

(3) We voice our support of the Kenya Region's effort, based on full consensus, to create a fund that will serve affirmed region members in time of emergency. In the past, SFCC regions have opened bank accounts as the result of full region consensus for specific purposes. We understand that the SFCC Profile does not permit SFCC as a global community to create a common fund to provide financial aid in time of need. However, bank accounts may be opened at the discretion of each region through consensus in order to form a fund whose purpose is to express solidarity for region members with a specific need.



Closing prayer was facilitated by Pat Mullen:
Called by Name.

Submitted by Fran Campbell



**EAST
CENTRAL
REGION**



Members of the East Central Region, Sandy Bevec, Roberta Kardell, Betty Waigand, and Rita Yeasted, met on Pentecost, May 23, to simply be together and share stories of their journeying and continual becoming. Meeting for lunch at a local restaurant limited the sharing but as it was Pentecost there was an awareness of the giftedness of each individual.

Not having been with Sandy Bevec for some time Sandy's sharing of her close neighbor's battle with cancer, a family she shared much with over time, called us to think about loss and suffering in life. Sandy gifted us with her heartfelt *compassion*. It was a call to think about our own compassion. Betty, who is 95, gifted us with her continued *determination to be with and for others* and give of herself.

Betty is not about to isolate herself from life and living. She continues to work with the children at the Jubilee Association in Pittsburgh and maintains the responsibility of creating a monthly newsletter. It was a call to think about our own determination

to live life to the fullest. Rita's *commitment to and love of SFCC* brought us together. She gifted us with each other through her relentless attempts to create this opportunity. Indeed the Spirit was working in her and most importantly she responded. It was a call to think about our own commitment to SFCC.

Roberta challenged each of us to respond to the invitation of the ICCs who are wondering **what we might desire from the Spirit and how the spirit is guiding us.** Sandy noted that her desire is trusting to understand beyond what she is going to wake up to-the loss of people. Rita responded saying that her desire is to have renewed and strengthened physical and spiritual sight. Roberta desires to know and experience the mystery of God more fully. Betty desires patience while waiting for the end. Betty further noted that her favorite image of God is a tapestry maker tying up the loose threads. She is waiting to see the picture! There is no doubt that our gathering allowed us to know each other better and to see each other's giftedness and needs. We are counting on Rita to bring us together again!



Submitted by Roberta Kardell



On Saturday May 21. Sisters Monica Sesko, Nancy Gannon, Ann Marie Cunningham, Angela Woodworth, who made her commitment, as well as Gloria McElwain, who is inquiring about SFCC, met at the home of Sisters Mary Potthast and Josephine Sincak in Wheaton, IL. Not able to attend

the meeting were Sisters Suzanne Doolin, Virgie Luchsinger and Brother Kenneth Keefer.

Angela Woodworth began her journey towards SFCC with Fran Campbell; and then continued the journey with Monica Sesko and Nancy Gannon. During this meeting, Angela made her commitment/affirmation in a moving prayer service developed by Angela and Monica.

Upon arrival our meeting began in Mary and Jo's friendly and warm dining room. We had a lunch of fried chicken, various sides and dessert. During the lunch sisters shared how they came to SFCC.

After lunch we moved to the living room for the Prayer Service and a very short business meeting sharing how important it is to attend an International Meeting to really know the community. (August 7--12, 2022 in St. Louis, MO)

There was some discussion on a vow of "Financial stability". More discussion is necessary and the topic was put off until a future meeting. It is well to note that during her affirmation ceremony after Angela's Commitment to the vows as understood by the Sisters For Christian Community; Angela had a sentence acknowledging her understanding of ***financial stability***.

Since this was the vigil of Pentecost the sisters left filled with the happiness of the day and asking the Holy Spirit to lead them in their daily lives "That All May Be One."

Submitted by Ann Marie Cunningham // Pictures by Monica Sesko



Photo added at bottom of Page 11





Ten sisters from Sophia Circle tuned into what was hopefully the last of our Zoom adventures: Mary Rose Accetturo, Mac Canon Brown, Imma Tegete, Eileen Lennon, Janet Pfeffer, Francesca Ezeokonkwo, Barbara Aydelotte, Denise Ware, Karol Jackowski, and our newest member, Lyn Davis. A mysterious black box named GALAXY 5 appeared in our Zoom Room. When we got no response to asking who GALAXY 5 was, we agreed it was a hacker and booted GALAXY 5 out of the room. Afterwards, we learned that GALAXY 5 was Corrine Mullen and Linda Chorlton who could see and hear us, but since we got nothing, they got kicked out of the Zoom Room. Please God may we never need to Zoom again.

The meeting began with everyone raising our glasses high in toasting Marion Hicks, thankful for giving us her life, welcoming her into the Heavenly Sophia Circle, and joining all Sophia spirits in welcoming our newest member, Lynette Davis.

In introducing ourselves to Lyn, each sister told the story of how we were led to SFCC and the work we're called to now. While we all know one another's stories generally, listening to each story all over again became the perfect way to welcome Lyn into the Circle, opening the door to sharing her story with us.

The meeting concluded with total consensus about meeting face to face again in the fall, reserving the weekend of October 15-17 with the Franciscan Sisters in Cherry Hill NJ.



The Zoom Room held us together when The Plague passed through, but we're all envisioning a grand reunion in October.

Submitted by Karol Jackowski



The Sunbelt continues a monthly Conference Call.

April 24 was our 20th "Gathering" this way, in lieu of our cherished semi-annual weekends.

Present: Judith Pask, Kathleen Terlau, Mary Ann Wachtel, Patsy Guyton, Lucy Comer.

Kathleen shared the joy of reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" and Mary Ann, having shared the DVD "Kiss the Ground" with a small group, was invited to air it with her whole campus via TV.

We shared about climate change, caring for the earth and wonder in the midst of Spring beauty.

Judith brought to mind remembrance of sisters, once Sunbelt members, who have died:

Marion Hicks,
whose funeral was
April 27, Ellen Nolan,
Evelyn Mattern,
Pat Murphy, Betty O'Neill,
Anne Brotherton,
Rita Washington,
Josie Jendrisak, Special
sisters, forever friends.



*Submitted by: Lucy Comer,
RCC Sunbelt Region*



On Saturday, April 10, 2021 there were 18 sisters from WEB Region gathered via Zoom: Roberta in **Guatemala**, Maggie in **India**, Virgie in the **Philippines**, Alma and Maureen in **PA**, Kass, Pat W. Gloria, Nancy, Janet Pf. (with her cat, Honey) in **MD**, Ellen and Janet T., Loretta, Pat G. in **DE**, Pat McC. and Anne McG, Emma and Marion in **VA**. Our prayer was a celebration of Easter and also of Virgie's Golden Jubilee year. We lifted up all those impacted by the pandemic and our personal intentions.

Our time of sharing encompassed many topics and was very interactive. The failure of the U.S. bishops to respond to the racism and other current issues in our country became a point of discussion. This led the sisters from India, Guatemala and Philippines to tell of the corruption in their governments and the oppression of the Church that is causing much fear and suffering. In India and the Philippines, the church is considered the enemy for speaking

truth to power; religious leaders are losing their lives in the struggle.

Sisters shared books they've been reading during the pandemic. Among the novels were: *The Nightingale* (Kristin Hannah), *The Goldfinch* (Donna Tartt), *The Water Dancer* (Ta-Nehisi Coates), *Where the Crawdads Sing* (Delia Owens). Books on spirituality included: *Julian of Norwich - Wisdom in time of Pandemic* and *Beyond* (Matthew Fox), *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh* (Matthew Fox), *Triumph of Christianity* (Rodney Stark), *Consuming the Word* (Scott Hahn), books by Richard Rohr including his daily online meditations. Among YouTube presentations were Brene Brown Ted Talks, and Oprah Winfrey interviews.

We talked about the Commitment Service of our SFCCs in Africa last December and Alma offered to send the link to the sisters. This brought up memories of lively services experienced here in "black" congregations that are so much more animated than in our "white" churches.

We wondered about future International Assemblies. Will they be virtual, considering our global membership and our aging American members? Our African SFCCs, who are rapidly growing in numbers, might offer to host 2023 in Kenya or Tanzania. Since the 2021 Assembly is cancelled, the funds left from the 2017 and 2019 Assemblies will be available for 2023.

Our closing prayer was adapted from John O'Donohue's poem, *For the Traveler*, and was dedicated to Virgie, a world traveler through her years in consecrated life and as the international liaison for SFCC.

Again, we are grateful to Kass Collins for being the hostess in our Zoom sessions. These gatherings have enabled many more of us to be present to one another and we hope to continue this format into the future.



Submitted by Alma O'Brien, RCC



Cath Corbin
203/36 Douglas Avenue
Chatswood. 2067 NSW Australia.

Carmen Gillick
H/C: 574-271-0328

Pat Mullen
H 602-569-9507

Nunez, Janet
3-1 Sagpon, Daraga
4501 Albay
Bicol Philippines
C 09179404613
marianalerea@yahoo.com
Region: Calungsod

Sr. Mary Jane Strauch, SFCC
McCullough Hall
603 Southwest 24th. St.,
San Antonio, TX., 78207

Margaret Underwood
3800 N 92 St
Milwaukee, WI 53222
H: 414-463-7570 ext 176
C: 262-419-9055

Angela Woodworth
1504 Valleyhigh Dr NW #2
Rochester, MN 55901
H/C 651-269-0068
engl-sw@hotmail.com
Region: Great Lakes



Madonna Buder—Spokane, Washington:
For recovery from serious accident on her bike. The front wheel detached as Madonna was heading downhill 2 minutes from home after doing 12 miles. The bike crash resulted in a fractured collarbone and scapular plus 12 broken ribs including some abrasions. It is not likely she will be able to compete during the coming season. Madonna says that she has been given the opportunity to exercise patience instead!



Carol Baltosiewich
Midwest Region:
Carol was hospitalized with bi-lateral pneumonia.



INQUIRERS



Jacqueline Kiio
Kenya Region

Religious life, particularly the initial years of formation with the Precious Blood Sisters, was tough for Jacqueline.

The Congregation was founded in Austria in 1885 by Abbott Francis Pfanner, a Trappist monk.

Despite her struggles, the formation helped in knowing herself better and in building a strong relationship with God. It also shaped her guiding principles of never giving up and focusing on values and morals even when others don't.

After 8 years with the Precious Blood Sisters, Jacqueline left in 2006 to pursue a university degree. She is now studying for a master in Environmental Planning and Management while working for Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Center.

She also worked for 6 years as administrative secretary at Tangaza University College and 2 years at IPSOS data collection.

Born in Makueni County, Mali 47 years ago, Jacqueline's mother died when she was 2 years old so she was brought up by her father Bernard and stepmother Mary, both retired teachers. Of the family brood of 12, half were children of Jacqueline's mother and the other 6 her stepmother's.

Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives



Janneth Capagal
Yesu Marie Region

Janneth, 44, hailed from Bislig City, Mindanao in Southern Philippines.

She made temporary vows with the Sisters of Saint Clare, which she left recently after seven years with them.

The Sisters of Saint Clare have a monastery in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, the hometown of ICC Virgie Azcueta. The sisters and Virgie Azcueta are friends and meet for breakfast from time to time.

An encounter between Virgie Azcueta and Janneth was inevitable in such a small town. A grateful Janneth describes it as "an unexpected grace".

As to her decision to leave the monastery after "a deep sense of knowing discernment", "it is not my plan, but it was the plan of God". She had a good dialogue with the sisters and parted amicably from them.

Janneth is now in Davao City in Mindanao caring for her mother Fe, a business woman. Her father, Rogelio, was a shipping company supervisor. Seven siblings, including her, complete the family.

Open to embracing the SFCC lifestyle, Janneth has several options to become financially independent. Tucked with a degree in General Radio Communication, she can work in media and related enterprises or get involved in the family business.

Her mentors are Virgie Azcueta and Janeth Mapa, the RCC of Yesu Marie Region.

Submitted by the SFCC Asian Archives

AFFIRMED



Angela Woodworth
Great Lakes Region

Mentors:
Nancy Gannon and
Monica Sesko

AFFILIATES



Mary Villanueva
Manila Region
Covenant of Affiliation
April 11, 2021
Mentored by
Nona Barairo

Janet Nunez
Calungsod Region
Affirmed
April 11, 2021
Mentor: Virgie Azcueta



Helen Popoola
South Central Region
Helen signed her
Covenant of
Affiliation: April 14,
2021
Mentor: Odessa
Stanford



Maricruz Garcia
Maricruz signed her
Covenant of Affiliation
April 8, 2021. She is part
of the Spain Region and is
being mentored by SFCC's
Carmen Notario and Magda Bennasar.
Submitted by the Archives

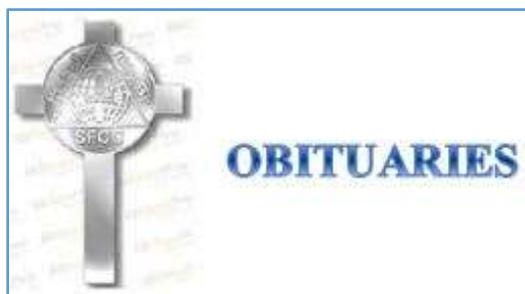
Correction from the last issue of ATA

Antonia Labos decided to extend her period of Affiliation and was not affirmed on April 11.

Fe Matulac and **Rubilieth Tabamo** did not make their Affiliation Covenant on April 11. Yesu Marie region discerned extending their Becoming Process as inquirers to attend more virtual meetings with SFCC Light Group for inquirers and affiliates.

This information was not known at the time of publication





Claudia Adamson

Life: 1943-2021
SFCC 1972-2021

Born and raised in Bayonne, New Jersey, Claudia was the oldest of seven siblings. She was also

the only daughter. Her mother died when she was 12 years and her grandmother moved into the home to care for the family.

Claudia joined the Sisters of St Mary and left after 1 year as a novice. She eventually earned several degrees and certifications in the medical field.

Claudia was a registered medical technologist, MT(ASCP) with specialty certification as a Blood Bank Specialist, SBB (ASCP). She had a B.S. in Medical Technology, M.S. in Immunohematology and Masters in Business Administration (MBA). Claudia worked in hospital blood banks and blood donor center laboratories and retired as a laboratory manager after working for 41 years. By then Claudia had held positions of high responsibility in the health care systems of New Jersey and also in St Louis, Louisiana. During retirement, Claudia became a licensed executive real estate broker and real estate investor.

Claudia was a member of the original group of people who got together to create the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC).

She was also a member of the original group who created Women-Church-Convergence. After retirement, Claudia followed her lifelong calling to the priesthood. She went through seminary to earn a Master of Divinity and was ordained to the priesthood through Roman Catholic Women Priests (RCWP).

Claudia rarely missed an SFCC International Assembly. She was always known for her outspokenness and willingness to tackle difficult issues. In 1974 (less than 2 years after joining SFCC), Claudia was criticized for joining SFCC – a group of “loser nuns who had deserted the Church.” Her reply was printed in the editorial column in the St. Louis Review:

It would be much easier for me to be in a traditional community. I pay taxes, rent, insurance, doctor bills and all other expenses. I do not have a motherhouse to depend upon if I become ill and unable to work. No one decides which hospital I should work in. I must ultimately decide if I am correctly discerning where God wants me to be.

SFCC now has over 300 members throughout the world. Almost all of us are from traditional communities. We range from those with little education to those with doctorates. We do not intend to destroy the church but rather to be an individual leaven working from within. We are not deserters. An honest and viable commitment to God is not static. It is a growth process. SFCC experience and welcome a change in the expression of their commitment to God within the evangelical vows. Our commitment is not changed – only the expression of it.
(1974 editorial in *St Louis Review*)

After several months struggling with kidney disease and dialysis, Claudia died Tuesday May 4, 2021.

Submitted by the Archives



Rosanne Plagens

Life 1937-2021
SFCC 1985-2021
Gulf South Region

Rosanne Plagens (Gulf South Region) died April 17, 2021 from cancer.

Born in a rural area of Texas in November 1937, Rosanne was the middle of three siblings. She graduated high school there in 1956. That same year she joined the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) for 29 years, leaving in 1985. She joined SFCC later that same year.

With the Incarnate Word, Rosanne served as vocation director, on the formation team, a member of the general council, and congregation representative to the Houston Diocese and Galveston Diocese. She earned advanced degrees in English Literature, History, Religious Education and Transactional Analysis.

She was acknowledged as Teacher of Year in the Lafayette Diocese (Louisiana)

When asked what attracted her to SFCC, she replied, "I like the broad, inclusive and welcoming vision of SFCC including the stance of personal choices based on prayerful discernment, time and talent. If you do not like what you are doing, then you are free to and should make a change: SFCC permits and encourages you to do that."

Rosanne discovered SFCC through friend and former member of Incarnate Word, Effie Jean Preddy, who had joined SFCC in 1980.

Retired in 2003, Rosanne taught in a math tutoring lab fourth and fifth graders.

Rosanne is missed by her extended family, past colleagues and, most especially, by her SFCC Region and all SFCC who knew her.

Submitted by the SFCC Archives



(Photo from Great Lakes Regional Meeting on page 3)



**May they know the fullness of eternal life
From ATA—December 2020-May 2021**



Jeanne Frolick
1977-2020



Ann Miller
1986-2020



Gloria Wilkins
1977-2020



Fe Aguilar
2017-2021



Beth Grismer
1987-2021



Lorraine Castelein
1983-2021



Marion Hicks
1976-2021



Rosanne Plagens
1985-2021



Yvette Gosselin
1995-2021



Claudia Adamson
1973-2021

**We give thanks for each and all who have inspired us with their wisdom and strength,
challenged us with their questions and lives, puzzled us and invited us to grow, loved us
and helped us to become one.**

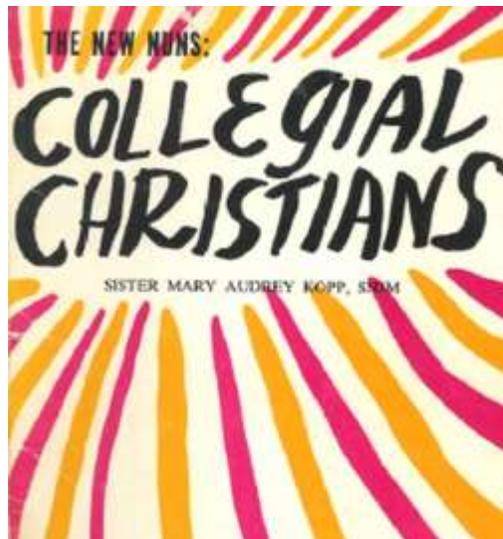
Submitted by the Archives



**TRIANGLE vs CIRCLE:
Lillanna Kopp’s Response to Vatican II
Mandate to Return to Gospel-Based
Collegial Community**

In 1968, Lillanna Kopp composed a brief pamphlet, *The New Nuns: Collegial Christians*, in which she explained the structure she believed best fit the Vatican Council II’s mandate to turn away from authoritarian structure toward a structure of a community of equals (collegial and egalitarian).

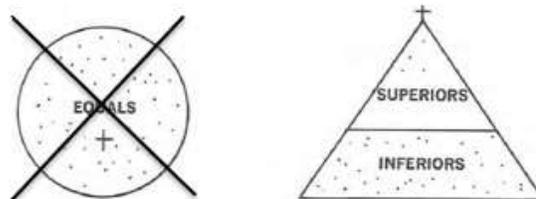
The cover of the pamphlet is shown here.



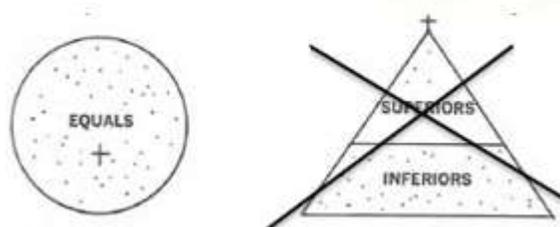
Inside, Lillanna provides several visual examples of what may be termed “the triangle vs the circle.”



The circle is the perfect structure to engender equality. The triangle fosters a two-tiered hierarchy of authority: those in charge and those who are submissive.

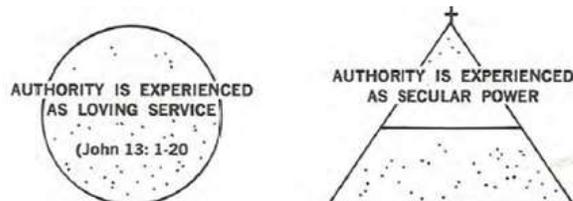


Lillanna criticized what she termed “split level” convents where an elite administration or leadership decide and dictate to members who passively listen and virtuously submit (*New Nuns* p33)



Christ actively opposed and warned against dominative authority and passive submission.

The Vatican Council documents have now asked religious to return to the spirit of their foundress or founder,



to return to the Gospel norms, and to wholly recover the evangelical ways of exercising authority (*New Nuns* p45)

Lillanna challenged all women religious to “study the road over which we have come and the unmapped terrain over which we must proceed together as we blaze new

roads for a new generation of religious”
(*New Nuns* p23)

Lillanna Kopp first envisioned SFCC as an experiment in organizational structure.

She wanted to restructure traditional women religious communities according to the Vatican mandate for collegiality: a community of co-equals who are willing to share responsibilities.

Lillanna called the traditional structure of triangular hierarchical authority **DOMINATIVE**. She referred to the new circular structure as **COLLEGIAL**



Lillanna was convinced that the **COLLEGIAL CIRCLE** would be the correct response to Vatican Council II. She emphasized that religious life restructured according to Vatican II, must be one of cooperation and mutual support where all communal decisions are reached through a consensus process that hears all voices equally and respects them fully.

Lillanna's concept of the Triangle vs the Circle was soon translated to the earliest SFCC logo shown here



The **CIRCLE** (egalitarian collegial community) is enclosed within the Triangle (dominative hierarchical Church and world). The SFCC purpose, *that all may be one* (egalitarian and collegial), frames the **TRIANGLE**. Inside the **TRIANGLE** is a **CIRCLE** determined to make the Christ-prayer a reality.



The current SFCC pendant illustrates the **CIRCLE** imposed on the crucifix. The **TRIANGLE** is now located inside an outer **CIRCLE** and the globe remains inside the **TRIANGLE**. The SFCC charism, *that all may be one*, continues to surround the **TRIANGLE**.



Eventually, a stylized or modern logo was developed. In this design, the CIRCLE is now completely identified with the globe or the world. Where *all are one* (egalitarian and collegial).

In this SFCC logo, the CIRCLE is breaking free from the TRIANGLE.

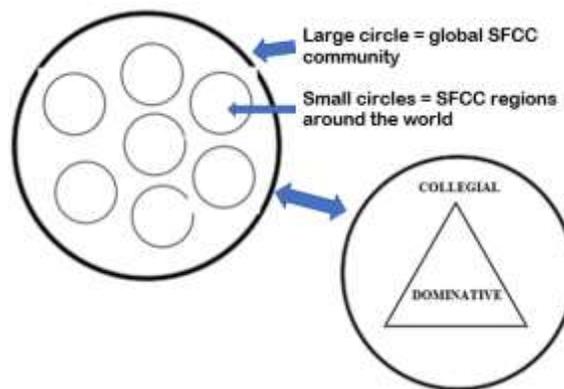
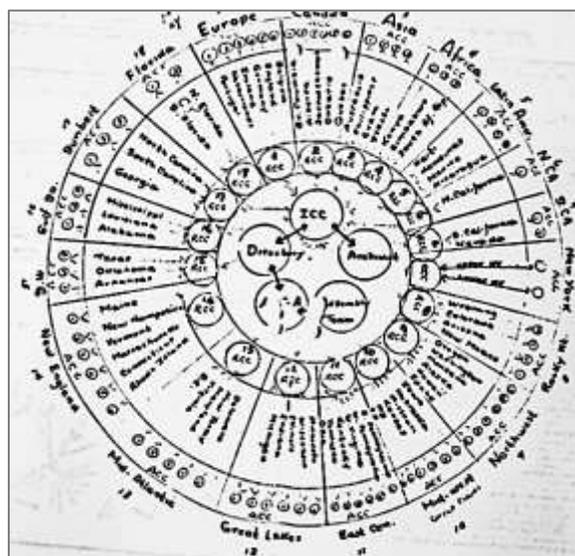
This logo is now used for the banner of the community newsletter, ALL-TO-ALL as shown here



This logo is also found on the SFCC Becoming Process documents: the Covenant of Affiliation and the Affirmation Form



The earliest CIRCLE drafts composed by Lillanna Kopp looked like this one



She wanted a series of concentric circles within which all members shared equally in communal responsibilities.

Simply constructed, SFCC looks more like this today: circles within a circle.

Today SFCC is present in 22 different nations. There are 42 SFCC regions
(Submitted by the SFCC Archives)



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE
21 Merlini Dr., Columbia, PA 17512

Send all content for Volume 52 Issue 1 to atasfcc@yahoo.com **before Sept. 30, 2021.**