



# ALL-TO-ALL THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 52 Issue 5

[www.sfccinternational.org](http://www.sfccinternational.org)

June 2022-July 2022



## **Dancing with Sophia! Dancing in Community!**

The Assembly Team of 2022 welcomes our sisters to come dance (and pray and laugh and sing and share) this summer, August 7 thru August 12.... whether it be in St. Louis at Mercy Center, in cyberspace, or in the Spirit of Community!

Please refer to the last ATA for general information and specifics about our assembly. In addition, elsewhere in this issue is all the information needed to join us thru the internet.

Sisters planning to come to Mercy Center will not be asked about their vaccination status or required to wear a mask. We are respecting each sister's decision on these matters. The long-standing principle of SFCC is that as independent, responsible women, we leave it to the discretion of each sister how to protect her health and the health of our sisters. We realize that this decision will not please all potential attendees. But we feel it is in keeping with our SFCC traditions. (Please note that if the

COVID situation changes, we may be directed by Mercy Center requirements, which follow St. Louis County mandates.) We remind you again to use the two dedicated email addresses to give us information and to ask questions.

[comedancewithsophia.2022@gmail.com](mailto:comedancewithsophia.2022@gmail.com)  
and  
[dancingincyberspace.2022@yahoo.com](mailto:dancingincyberspace.2022@yahoo.com)

Two important developments to note:

**The fee for the assembly has been adjusted to \$250.**

Please send your **registration form and checks to**

**Deb Murphy SFCC  
13060 W. Bluemound Rd. Unit 108  
Elm Grove WI 53122.**

(Sisters who have already mailed forms and checks to Sequim WA will have them sent to Deb.)



Let us continue to pray for one another, for the concerns of the Community to be discussed in August, and for the wisdom and discernment of the Assembly Team.

*Submitted by Mary Ellen Pitts*

(Additional information on the Assembly-- Registration form and Virtual Registration information, may be found at the back of this issue of ATA)

# ICC Report

**Pentecost Blessings and every gift to each of us and to our world so in need.**

**Saturday, at 10 am EDT, June 4, is the date for our ZOOM** to talk about how we have experienced or not experienced the synod and to share what we would like the synod to know either individually, as a community, as Church or in the larger world. **Our format is simple** with a Welcome, opening prayer, breaking into small groups with the group choosing a reporter, sharing on the two questions mentioned above, then reporting back to the larger group, closing prayer and open greeting and sharing.

The Link and phone connections were sent out on Riseup, Philippines ,SFCC Africa, SFCC global. **It is enlightening to hear the world-wide perspectives that the community has.**

**As we know our Assembly is in St. Louis August 7-12.** It will be good to see those who can attend in person and to connect with those who can do so via ZOOM. Then the proceeds of the Assembly will be shared in the ATA.

**Let us keep the team and ourselves in prayer as we prepare to connect.**

**Come Holy Spirit fill our hearts and our world that your peace , justice, and healing will flow everywhere.**

*Submitted by: ICC TEAM: Carmen Gilick, Denise Ware, Virgie Azcueta*



**Venue for the meeting:** Sisters of St Mary of Loretta Retreat House (Near Bomas)  
The regional assembly for the Kenya region was held from **22<sup>nd</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**  
*(Cont'd on next page)*

*In attendance were the following:*

1. *Sr Marta Nyaga RCC*
2. *Sr Nancy Onger*
3. *Sr Vivian Akinyi*
4. *Sr Christine Mugure*
5. *Sr Jacqueline Kiio*
6. *Sr Christine Chepkemo*
7. *Sr Florence Kisilu*
8. *Sr Odillia Kisingu*
9. *Sr Felister Mukui*
10. *Sr Eunice Njeri*
11. *Sr Margaret Aringo*
12. *Sr Tabitha Njambi*

The meeting began on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the arrival of the Sisters at the venue. Registration, evening prayer, supper, and an overview of the program followed. The hosting community was very welcoming and provided 4 o'clock tea at no cost.

On Saturday, we began our day with the Morning Mass followed by breakfast. This was followed by our first session in which we reflected on the evangelical counsels.

In our second session, we took time to reflect on our journey. This was guided by three questions as follows:

1. What are your past regrets about your vocation?
2. Two reasons why you are thanking God
3. Three things you desire for the future.

The presentation for the above was very enriching, indeed, this served as an opportune moment of bonding and identifying with each other as companions who have strolled the same road. While some expressed regrets about having accepted certain responsibilities in their former communities, others felt that such were opportunities that have made them what they are today. We felt that religious life is a journey and we must keep moving beyond all odds. We also felt the need for

healing accepting the challenge and moving forward.

The afternoon program included the business meeting, Divine mercy prayer, necrology, and affiliation ceremony. To begin with, the business meeting included a discussion on the issue of land, an inter-regional meeting in Dar, and the theme of international assembly. The theme of the international assembly was retained as discussed in the previous inter-regional assembly "unity in diversity".

Having concluded the business meeting, we joined in the Eucharistic celebration where four inquirers became an affiliate. The rest of the evening followed a colorful celebration with a sumptuous supper. The hosting community offered ice cream and cake. Our evening was marked by 'party after party' it was indeed a wonderful moment. We ended our meeting the following day with the Eucharistic celebration followed by breakfast.

*Submitted by Marta Nyaga  
RCC Kenya Region*



**Nigerian Regional Monthly Meeting  
Held on the 04/03/2022.**

Attendance: Sisters Rose, Mary, Antionette, Francesca, and Gertrude. The meeting started at 4:00 pm Nigerian time and 11:00 am Eastern time.

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It was opened with prayer and reflection directed by Sr. Antoinette at 4:00 P.M. After the prayer a report was taken from Sr. Antoinette on her visit to the Bishop of Lafia. She said the letter sent from ICC to Bishop of Lafia arrived a day before her visit. The Bishop said, he will not acknowledge or welcome her into the diocese until his proper finding about SFCC. Sr. Rose explained why she never accompanied her to see the Bishop as they are from the same diocese. According to her Sr. Antoinette gave her this appointment with the Bishop, late, when she was already out of town.

We, in the Nigerian Region recognized the Nature of the Church in Nigeria and its Hierarchical Structure. Hence, we recommend that such a letter from **Sr. Virgie on behalf of ICC IS NOT Needed** for now. We must work things out the way the Church operates here in Nigeria. Thus, we should move at slow space and allow the Region to flourish at its pace. Making the difference in the life of the people will make sense before the bishop's recognition.

Strong relationship with Affirmed sisters to one another was encouraged. An open communication as well as transparency and working together was also highlighted.

It was agreed that only the Affirmed sisters should host the subgroup meetings with Affiliates and Inquiries. They were encouraged to always keep in touch with each other. Their togetherness would be a source of strength for the Affiliates and Inquiries.

The Region agreed to start contribution this year, and Sr. Rose was to give update by the next meeting. The Nigeria Region is a young region with three Affirmed sisters. We suggested the three Affirmed sisters to

continue to go through previous Zoom presentations to be current with the tenets and life of SFCC. They were requested to be part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Zoom monthly presentations for this would also be an opportunity to learn or relearn.

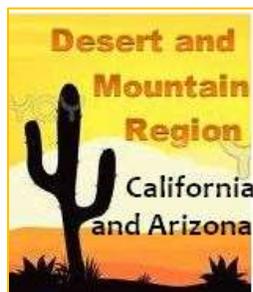


The meeting came to an end by 5:00 P.M with prayer by Sr. Rose.

*Submitted by  
Gertrude Bassey,  
RCC*



**FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS—  
SFCC TODAY**  
*(Read page 18 of this Issue)*



*from top left to right:* Magda Bennasar, Fran Campbell, Suzanne Dunn, Pat Mullen, Rose Miles, Pat Mitchell, Jeanette Love and Carmen Notario

Spain Region Magda Bennasar and Carmen Notario joined with The DAM via zoom for a day of discussion, reflection, prayer and sharing.

Opening prayer was facilitated by Jeannette which was followed by a discussion on the widening fractures within SFCC. Facilitated by Magda and Carmen, we explored ways to help SFCC return to its founding roots of tolerance, acceptance and consensus: recognizing that there are significant

differences within SFCC individually and culturally; but adopting a community-wide openness to listening with respect. SFCC was founded upon active respectful listening and the time seems to have arrived to reemphasize that key component within the community.

Our spiritual reading/reflection focused on the writings and theology of Marcus Borg (Progressive Theology). Pat Mullen facilitated this part of our day and began with the question: What event transformed your spiritual focus and challenged your theology? Pat's insightful question prompted each of us to share an event or person who set us free from the strict confines of belief in order to explore, read, question, change and grow. Discussion was deep, intense and rewarding.

We remain focused on the climate crisis for our social justice discussion. This time, each of us researched a topic found in the website [www.regeneration.org/nexus](http://www.regeneration.org/nexus). Founded by Paul Hawken, the Regeneration Project details what needs to be done and how to do it on all levels of agency, from an individual to a city, from a classroom to a company. Topics we discussed: CLOTHING INDUSTRY ("fast fashion" synthetic clothing that deposits plastic microfibers into wash water), FOOD APARTHEID (food deserts determined by racism: 23.5 million Americans must travel over 1 hour each way by 2 or more busses to shop for fresh foods), FIRE ECOLOGY (treat fire as a partner in regenerating the land with controlled burns or friendly fires), HEAT PUMPS (common hvac systems use 13-30% of the fossil fuel, Ductless heat pumps, tankless water heaters, solar and LED light bulbs reduce that number to 5%) and TIDAL WETLANDS (protect coastlines from erosion as well as serve as nurseries to

*(Cont'd on next page)*

nearly all marine life). We each shared steps we are taking personally to participate in these areas of global regeneration.

Closing prayer was led by Suzanne Dunn. Next gathering will be September 10 via Zoom.

*Submitted by Fran Campbell*



On May 22, 2022 the sisters from the Great Lakes Region met in Wheaton, IL to celebrate two special birthdays: Mary Potthast will be 100 years old on June 6th and Josephine Sincak was 90 years old on April 24th. It was a festive time with angel food cake made by Monica Sesko and special ice cream. A prayer service also by Monica preceded the festivities.

Present were Nancy Gannon, Virgie Luchsinger, Ann Marie Cunningham and Gloria Mclelwin, Ken Keefner, Monica and Suzanne Doolin had other commitments and Angela Woodworth in Minnesota was deterred by the weather.

Here in Chicago we noticed that it always rained for our gathering and for our long commute to the southern suburbs. But God was with us!

After sharing a delicious Chinese dinner, we took time to discuss current issues in SFCC. Two questions were raised:

- What did you think of the sentence in the ATA that Sisters who became SFCC members prior to 2010 have not heard of the 4th Vow and those who became members after 2010 have heard of the 4th Vow? None of the Sisters present heard of the 4th Vow, and a couple were infuriated.
- Second question which clarified the first: Quoting Lucy Comer, SFCC (Sunbelt Region) who asked the question, “Who speaks for the SFCC Community?”

The first question was seen as divisive to the community. The second question was answered by the existence of the “proposal/consensus process.” This speaks for the SFCC Community. The coming International Assembly in St. Louis will certainly address this question.

*(Cont'd on next page)*



*(back row) Anne Marie, Nancy, Gloria, Virgie,  
(front row) Mary, Josephine*

Our attendance from the Great Lakes will be small due to the rising number of Covid cases and variances again. However there will be a large presence due to Zoom.

We departed early with daylight still guarding our way on the expressway. We wish the greatest happiness and more days for both Mary, who still ministers with groups, and Josephine who shares her music with the community around her.

*Submitted by Virgie Luchsinger*



### **REGIONAL LENTEN RETREAT WITH THE SAN PEDRO CALUNGSOD REGION 2022**

The members of San Pedro Calungsod Region which composed of Naval, Biliran, Dumaguete and Bohol held its Regional Lenten Retreat at the SVD Resort, Maribago, Lapu-Lapu City last April 4-6, 2022. It is a 3-day Lenten journey with Sr. Ma. Bernardita S. Mendez, SFCC as the main facilitator.

There was a culmination mass and confession with Fr. Orencio R. Rodriguez, SVD on the last day of the retreat. It was indeed a memorable and enriching Lenten spiritual



journey for the sisters as they shared laughs, life experiences during the sharing session and skills in cooking as they take turns in sharing their menus and expertise in cooking. After the Lenten Retreat, follows the regional meeting. The group decided to have its Regional Christmas Fellowship on December 28-30, 2022 at the residence of Sr. Erlinda Lanigao, SFCC in Naval, Biliran. The RCC had a short visit to the house of Sister Nieves in Quiot, Pardo, before going back to Bohol.



(photo from left to right: Josefa Arac, Bernadette Mendez, Isabelita Bulala, Fr. Oencio Rodriguez, SVD, Virgilia Lepasana and Erlinda Lanigao)

*Submitted by Bernadette Mendez*





Seventeen members of WEB gathered via Zoom on April 9. Present were Kass Collins who is our faithful hostess for the sessions and Pat Wieczynski from MD, Ana Marina Colocho, Pat McCarthy, Anne McGinn, Emma Flaherty, Marion McDonald, Francesca Ezeokonkwo from VA, Loretta Primus and Janet Thompson from DE, Alma O'Brien and Maureen Milnamow from PA, Virgie Azcueta from Philippines, Maggie Gonsalves from India, Roberta Winkels from Guatemala, our Affiliate Lyn Davis from NJ and our Inquirer Esther Onwunali from CA.

The opening prayer, focusing on Palm Sunday, included the hymn, Jerusalem My Destiny, which brought back memories of the 1995 Jubilee Assembly in Lancaster PA. It was the theme of the assembly. The Synod report that had been formatted for submission to the USCCB and the Vatican was reviewed; suggestions were then incorporated into the document and the revision sent out to the region.

The National Catholic School of Social Service will celebrate the lives of Sr. Ann Patrick Conrad and Sr. Vincentia Joseph, both SFCCs on May 12 at Catholic University in Washington DC. Local SFCCs are invited to attend. An endowed scholarship for graduate students in social work has been established in their name.

Sisters were invited to explain the Holy Week celebrations unique to their cultures. The celebrations are varied and deeply



significant, more vibrant than found in most of the U.S. churches.

Because many members have scheduling conflicts in May, it was decided our next Zoom would be June 11, 2022.

*Submitted by Alma O'Brien, RCC*



**Nona Barairo, SFCC** received The Director's Award in the Archdiocese of

San Francisco on May 12, 2022. The Director's Award is given to those individuals who have served the needs of the catechetical community in a special way outside of their ordinary ministry to the Church. Nona is retiring after 31 years as CCD Director.





**WHO and WHAT is this weekend about?  
How may it help me better answer God's  
call in my life? Come and see!**

These were the questions in my mind as I gathered with 25-30 recent former members of religious communities, dreamers and pragmatists from across the U.S. gathered for that watershed weekend at Dunrovin, MN, Summer 1971.

Young and old, who also like me had "come to see" if this might be the way to gather and support one another as we cast out into the deep-in faith-to answer the call for new wine, new approaches to meet the needs of changing times:

We were steeped in searching questions by prayer and research and reflection and innumerable community discussions and experimentation for the past few years and had become convinced of the values and visions of Sister Formation Movement, Suenens' Nuns in The World, the documents of Vatican II-while all around us, the social upheavals of the turbulent '60's could not be ignored.

We came with hearts afire with promise for the future to search for new and viable ways to hold this moonbeam in our hands while continuing to answer the call to religious commitment and fostering apostolic zeal.

This weekend involved a variety of activities focused on two main areas of content:  
1) Lillanna shared her recent sociological research and collaboration with religious communities around the world, primarily

U.S. regarding the state of affairs regarding religious communities addressing changing times. We discussed in large groups and small how these findings/conclusions have meshed with our own experiences.

Lillanna then shared with us nascent copies of the Profile, as a possible way to guide a group of like-minded individuals into becoming a cohesive group entity. This was to become the guide and working paper for SFCC for the next few years as SFCC began to take shape. I recall that the sisters in the group were no neophytes as to "the questions"-each sister had come from a rich lived heritage of religious faith, community, training and apostolic endeavors and most had been involved with these same questions in their prior communities and were now looking for viable ways to personally address the situation for the future. The questions and comments following were lively and mostly supportive. There were many quips that weekend at Dunrovin about being "done roving". They had finally found something big enough to be open to welcome many visions. This they could hold onto and become a part of, to be supported by as well as contribute to its development.

2) Other "content" of equal importance to Lillanna and the group was to hear the voice of each sister tell the story of "her own religious life journey" and her hopes for the future. As we sat in a large circle of co-equals, each by turn poured forth. Suffice it to say, each sharing was spoken with simplicity and candor and received with openness & reverence and held in trust with care. Very moving, amazing stories of faith & courage ensued, from all levels of backgrounds, accomplishment, abilities, personalities and talents. As stories began to unfold, each recounted a "call story" of continuing response and becoming.

It was like being in the presence of a gifted artisan-spirit and watching her weave the many beautifully colored and textured threads into one exotic tapestry beginning to turn it into a thing of beauty right before our eyes.

The WHO, the WHAT, the HOW and the WHY of SFCC would grow from that small beginning at Dunrovin into the future and across the continents as it continues even now. Many changes and developments along the way to be sure. But remaining true to its early beginnings: spelled-out and documented in Lillanna's writings, chronicled in All-to-All articles and reports through the years, hammered out in the business of regional meetings and assemblies and lived in shared communications, loving concern and support among the members. Sisters FOR Christian Community

is, was, and will be a COMMUNITY of SPIRIT, NOT AN OBJECT of buildings and structures, common works, with rules and by-laws and common assets holding it together, but a CHRISTO-CENTRIC LIVING ENTITY OF COMMON SPIRIT following bedrock values inherent in the vows of Poverty/Simplicity, Chastity/Loving, Obedience/Attentiveness to the Word guiding our life choices, with respect for each individual's charism, marked by collegiality among its members and love and welcome extended to all, while the banner flies overhead:

**That All May Be One.**

*Submitted by Nancy Brossette  
Gulf Central Region*

*(This article is a continuation of  
Betty Waigand's memoir  
in the last issue of ATA)*



## MINNESOTA '71

**First SFCC Assembly:** Dunrovin Retreat Center in St Croix, Minnesota (August 1971)  
Lillanna Kopp is in the back row and indicated as #2. The three remaining SFCC from this first assembly are also in the back row: Betty Waigand is #1 Nancy Brossette is #3 Barbara Bentz is #4

**Jeana Bodart****New address**

Silver Birch, 7125 Hanna St.  
Apt. #202

Fort Wayne, IN 46816

**New phone #**

260-441-3094

*REGION:* Anawim

**Alice Johnson,**

6 Meridian Pl #334

Ottawa, Ontario K2G 6L9

Canada

H: 613-729-9700

[srajohnson@vianet.ca](mailto:srajohnson@vianet.ca)

*REGION:* Anawim

**Ellen Frances Lenihan**

Cuan Mhuire

Coolarne House

Coolarn

Turloughmore

County Galway, Ireland

H65YW98

**Phone number is the same:**

00353 85 224 2141

[efl\\_aisling@hotmail.com](mailto:efl_aisling@hotmail.com)

**Christine Mugure, SFCC**

P.O. Box 12

Gatundu 01030

Kenya, Africa

**Marie Tougas**

The Retreat

1321 Herbert St Rm 213

Port Orange FL 32129

**Colleen Gorman**

Prayers for Colleen and the Gorman Family on the passing of Colleen's brother Richard, who died unexpectedly, and for her brother Joseph, who passed away on Easter morning.

MARINYCT Region.

**Marie Tougas**

Marie is suffering severe dementia and Avy, her long time housemate, has placed Marie in a memory care facility to ensure Marie's safety and ongoing care.

FLORIDA Region

**Marcelle & Pauline Chouinard**

We recommend to your prayers the repose of the soul of Terry Chouinard LaPointe, the sister of Sisters Marcelle and Pauline Chouinard. Terry died on April 25 and is dearly missed.

FLORIDA Region





## INQUIRERS



**ANGEL ESTHER  
CHIOMA**

Inquirer: January 10,  
2022

**Region: Ruah/UK**



**PATRICIA  
OKWUCHUKWU  
IROGEMENTI.**

Inquirer: January 10,  
2022

**Region: Ruah/UK**



**ONYINYNE  
INNOCENTIA  
UWAKWE**

Inquirer: January 10, 2022

**Region: Ruah/UK**



**RACHEL  
MUTHONI NJAGI**

**Kenya Region**

Born at Kevote Village. Rachel Muthoni has 6 siblings. Her father is Mr. Isaac Njagi Kothumba and her mother Prisiba Marigu Njeru.

Rachel joined the sisters of Our Lady of Charity. And after 35 years of service she left the congregation as final professed sister due to the merging of their congregation with the congregation of Our Lady of Good Shepherd which it did not work.

Rachel's guiding principles are being focused on what she does, giving herself the best and above all to let Jesus to be everything for her. Rachel holds a Diploma in Human Development and Degree in Social Ministry in Mission. Presently working in Jamaa Hospital.

Rachel was attracted to SFCC by the openness of SFCC members and especially the way they live their religious life while using one's talent to serve in whatever the capacity one has.

*Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives.*



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE



**FRANCA HINDI**  
**Nigeria region**  
**Born at new Bussa**  
**Nigeria state.**

Franca has seven siblings. Her parents are Mr. Sebastian, a retired prosecutor and her mother is Christiana Hindi a tailor.

Franca Hindi joined sisters of St. Louis Nigeria province in 2011 and before her final profession she left due to community misunderstanding.

Franca Hindi guiding principles in her life is helping the less privileged, keeping positive even when life goes rough and to keep God first before all things.

Franca Hindi holds a masters degree in education, and works as a teacher.

Franca Hindi was attracted to SFCC by the way SFCC live their religious life especially the humanitarian way of serving the people.

*Submitted by the SFCC Africa Archives*



**GLORIA**  
**McLELWAIN**

**Great Lakes Region**

Gloria Mclelwin is beginning her journey with the SFCC'S as an Inquirer.

Gloria was formerly a member of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters and left the congregation before professing her third vows.

Since that time, she has been an early childhood educator with a primary focus on working with infants and toddlers. Gloria states, "Every day with young children is a challenge, an adventure and a privilege, since I am allowed to be with them as they discover the wonderful world that is all around".

Gloria's guiding principle is to listen to the Holy Spirit as she engages with the people in her work and home communities. Gloria asks for wisdom and that loving kindness will be a trait that others see in her life. Her prayer is that all may be drawn towards the Greater Presence who calls each of us to a life that reaches beyond our boundaries and welcomes those who need care compassion and hope.

*Submitted by Ann M. Cunningham*

#### **FOUR INQUIRERS BECAME AFFILIATES DURING THE REGIONAL MEETING IN KENYA:**



*Eunice Njeri*



*Tabitha Njambi*



*Margaret Aringo*



*Felister Mukui*

**MANILA REGION**

**MARY VILLANUEVA**  
Affirmed, 15 May 2022



**KASKA CYGAN,**  
Affiliate, 15 May 2022



**HAZEL SENCIO**  
Affiliate, 15 May 2022



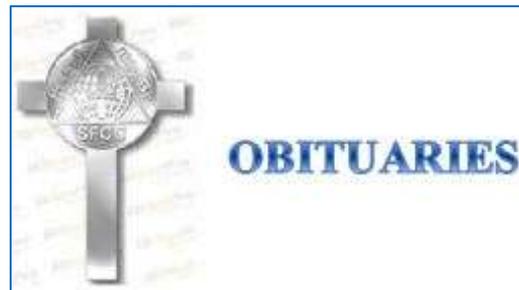
**MARY McCULLOUGH**  
**Ruah Region**

Affiliate Mary McCullough from the UK Region will become an affirmed member of SFCC on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Her commitment ceremony will take place at her home in Northumberland and SFCCs

from the region will be there either in person or online along with members of her family and friends. Please join us in praying that she will continue to be blessed abundantly and be a blessing to others.

*Submitted by Stephanie Hartas*



Obituary  
**MARY PAUL GILROY**  
(Cecilia Philomena)



10<sup>th</sup> March 1935-  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

SFCC: 1985 – 2022

*The light of God shone through her enriching the lives of all who knew her.*

Mary Paul's life journey began in the North East of England. As the seventh of eight children, she had a happy childhood and by her own admission was a 'tom boy', at her happiest playing football and marbles with the boys in the backstreet. She attended the local primary school but at the age of ten, she rebelled when she was expected to move into the class that was being taught by her eldest sister. Her parents decided to send her to the Convent of Mercy School in Newcastle upon Tyne, hoping the sisters there would "make a lady of her".

She entered the Mercy Convent, aged fifteen and a half, and stayed for thirty three years. It was there she was given the name Sr. Mary Paul, trained as a Primary School teacher – a role she loved and excelled at – and was eventually appointed Head Teacher.

She always valued what she'd gained as a Sister of Mercy and remained good friends with many of the sisters, but in 1983, decided to leave and two years later, following Agnes Miller's lead, she became a Sister For Christian Community.

Shortly after retiring from teaching, she was asked to take on the role of volunteer parish sister in the parish of Our Lady and St Joseph, New Hartley and thus began twenty nine years of unstinting and loyal service. She became the welcoming presence at the back of church, the parish visitor, carer for the sick and hospital visitor. She played an active part in all the parish's social events and worked closely with the other Christian Churches. She cared deeply about everyone and shared their joys and sorrows. On hearing of her death, our parish priest said, "I've lost a mother and a friend" – he'd only known her for six months. She was a mother figure to many and a much loved sister and friend to all. She was a true SFCC, building community wherever she was.

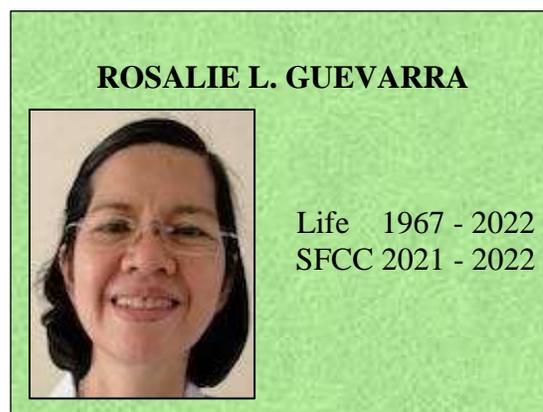
Having been diagnosed with esophageal cancer in November 2021, she was determined to make the most of every day, keeping up her parish ministry for as long as she could and enjoying drives along the coast and into the country. She loved her garden and spent the last few weeks of her life enjoying the blossom on the trees and shrubs she'd planted herself. She remained positive, peaceful and grateful to the end.

Mary Paul is greatly missed by her family, friends, fellow parishioners and SFCCs in the UK especially Agnes Miller and Stephanie Hartas. Stephanie was blessed to share a home and life's journey with Mary Paul for many years and was privileged to care for her during her illness and be present as she died.

The little church of Our Lady and St Joseph was packed for her funeral, which was a beautiful celebration of her life. She wanted her Requiem Mass to be a simple, joyful celebration followed by a party and it was.

Mary Paul gave those who knew her a wonderful example of how to live and how to die and we're grateful that our lives have been enriched by her presence.

*Submitted by Stephanie Hartas*



Rosalie L. Guevarra passed away on Good Friday, April 15, after a bravely fought battle with breast cancer. She was 55.

No sister had met Sally in person for she joined SFCC as inquirer just when the pandemic was raging. She however left an indelible mark in the hearts of the sisters by making every moment count in her short stint with the community.

She never missed any Manila region and inter-regional Zoom meetings. She was a familiar presence in the twice-monthly Light Group Zoom meetings, having missed only one gathering due to family obligations. She was collaborative and hardly complained despite her ailment.

Sally energized Manila Region's Prayer Group with her daily presence in the morning prayer. Later, she formed the Prayer Warriors that meet online for vespers and compline. She always accommodated requests to pray for those who are in most need of prayers.

Soon after her affirmation in September last year, Sally accepted the secretary service role for the Manila region, doing her task diligently notwithstanding her worsening physical pain. She was still giving her best and her all to the community just as she was leaving us.

In the last months of her life, Sally showed us how to face death bravely, gracefully, pragmatically, with faith. She taught us how to die, with her last thoughts still not for herself but for family, relatives and friends. She was grateful for even the little things: a phone call, a caring message, a photo of her favorite color green, a compliment.

"I'm grateful to God that through His grace, I can still pray to Him, that I can still offer Him something, even if it's only my pain, that I'm able to share the Lord's pain on the cross," said Sally who certainly also shares in His resurrection.

Her concern was her mother Ligaya, as no mother should have to bury a child. The Guevarras are a closely-knit and religious family, with Sally the eldest among 7 siblings. Their father died six years ago.

An economics graduate, Sally was called to the religious life following the 1995 World Youth Day in Manila. She joined the Missionaries of the Child Jesus in Makati but left after 6 years to help her parents in the schooling of her 2 sisters.

After her sisters finished college, Sally joined the contemplative Congregation Servants of the Blessed Sacrament but left after 5 years to care for her ailing father.

She so desired to become an affirmed SFCC but doubting her abilities compounded by her inability to work, she decided to postpone her application from last year to this year. But a sister, seeing her dedication and consistency in serving God through the community, prodded her to apply pronto.

Sally was affirmed on September 26 last year, fulfilling her greatest desire. "My goal in life is to be a religious until my last breath," she said.

*Submitted by the Asian Archivist*



**VIRGINIA  
CONANT**

Life: 1927-2022  
SFCC: 1971-2022

Virginia Margaret Conant, 94, of Port Charlotte, Florida passed away peacefully in the morning on Monday, April 4, 2022.

Virginia Margaret Conant was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 21, 1927. She attended St Adalbert School and graduated from Catholic Central High

school in 1945. Virginia entered the Sisters of St Francis of the Providence of God in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1948. Virginia remained with the Franciscans until 1971 when she transferred to SFCC.

Virginia received BE and ME degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She taught elementary education in several states from 1950 to 1969. She returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1969 with her friend, Dolores Vask. Together they joined the Sisters for Christian Community in 1971. Virginia was present at the first SFCC assembly at the Dunrovin Retreat Center in St Croix, Minnesota during August, 1971.

Virginia continued teaching in Kelloggsville public schools in Kentwood, Michigan as a first-grade teacher from 1970 to 1975. She was appointed the principal in 1975 of Southeast and Southwest Elementary schools. In 1979 Virginia was appointed the Enrichment Education Director for the school district.

Virginia moved to Placida, Florida in 1980. She was a member of the fourth-Grade team at Meadow Park School from 1980 to 1987, and she also taught at Neil Armstrong School until 1989 and Port Charlotte Middle School. Virginia retired from teaching in 1990.

Virginia was a member of San Antonio Catholic Church in Port Charlotte where she served as a Pastoral and Eucharistic Minister. Virginia was also a member of the Board of Directors at the Homeless Coalition in Charlotte County, Florida.

Like many of our sisters, Virginia lived an award-winning life. In 2012, she received the President's Volunteer Service Award in recognition of 6,500 hours logged in over 12

years. A Port Charlotte news article reported, "Anyone who has ever met Sister Virginia knows that when it comes to the needy, the 85 year old nun doesn't mess around;" noting especially her "Holy Roller" crusade, encouraging people to donate rolls of toilet paper to the Safe House Shelter.

Our sisterhood bows in gratitude to Virginia Conant for bringing the love of God to the least among us, and now remaining an angel at our side, an everlasting inspiration to all who follow her footsteps in SFCC.

*Submitted by the US Archives*

## ATA TEAM

The ATA Team will complete the second term of their service role in June 2023. To provide a year of transition, the community will **call forth a new ATA Team** in the **summer of 2022**. Claim your creative/computer skills and consider serving on the new team.



Loretta  
Primus

Alma  
O'Brien

Debra  
Murphy

### ATA TEAM

*Loretta Primus*     *content*  
*Alma O'Brien*     *print/mailing*  
*Deb Murphy*        *subscriptions*

[atasfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:atasfcc@yahoo.com)

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS—SFCC TODAY

### SUMMARY

SFCC currently has 324 affirmed members

SFCC currently has 75 in the B Process

32 Affiliates

43 Inquirers

SFCC is on 5 continents

See below for Continents, Countries  
and Regions

### CONTINENTS: 5

Africa

Australia

Europe

Asia

North America

### COUNTRIES 21

India

Kenya

Nigeria

Tanzania

Zambia

Uganda

Canada

USA

Mexico

Guatemala

El Salvador

Philippines

New Zealand

Australia

Ireland

England

Scotland

Netherlands

Portugal

Spain

### REGIONS 41

#### Africa 5

Kenya

Nigeria

Tanzania

Uganda

Zambia

#### Asia 6

*Australia*

*India*

*New Zealand*

*Philippines*

Calungsod

Manila

Yesu Marie

#### Europe 4

Benelux

Ireland

Ruah (England & Scotland)

Spain

#### North America 26

##### Canada 3

British Columbia

Northern Lights

Central and East Canada

##### Mexico 1

##### USA 22

Anawim

Desert and Mountain (DAM)

Eagle (Wisconsin)

East Central

Florida

Great Lakes

Great Plains

Gulf South

Jubilee (virtual)

Koinonea (Ohio and Indiana)

Maranatha (Wisconsin)

MARINYCT

Michigan

Mid West

Namaste (Wisconsin)

Pacific Northwest

Rocky Mountain

Sophia Circle

South Central (Texas)

Southern California

Sun Belt

WEB

*From SFCC ARCHIVES*


**SFCC International Assembly 2022**

*“Come Dance with Sophia”*

**August 7 – August 12, 2022**

**Mercy Conference and Retreat Center  
2039 N. Geyer Road, St. Louis  
Missouri 63131**

**Assembly fee: \$250**

Fee includes: Use of chapel all day and daily Mass; use of large meeting room (Round Room), private lounges and nightly snacks; all Assembly materials; Jubilee/Commitment banquet; program costs and speakers; transportation to/from Lambert/St . Louis airport; use of 72-acre wooded grounds (a Certified Wildlife Habitat)

For more information on Mercy Center, visit [www.mercycenterstl.org](http://www.mercycenterstl.org)

**Room preference:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a single room (**\$65/night**)                      number of nights \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a double room (**\$45/night/Sister**)    number of nights \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

**Food needs:**    Meals: \$40 per day. Total: **\$200**

Special diet? \_\_\_\_\_

Meals not wanted: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Virtual Assembly Registration on next page)*

**VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like **Option #1** Attend whole Assembly **\$150**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like **Option #2** Attend Business Meeting, Collegial Process, Community Forum **\$75**

**NOTE:**

Email your name, Option Choice, email address or mobile phone # for connecting to Zoom to:

DancingInCyberspace.2022@yahoo.com

Make checks payable to:

Sisters for Christian Community

Send completed form and fee to:

Deb Murphy, SFCC  
13060 W. Bluemound Rd. Unit 108  
Elm Grove WI 53122 USA

**REGISTRANT INFORMATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

REGION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(PROVINCE): \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ (Celebrating a significant Jubilee? \_\_\_\_\_ )



## ASSEMBLY 2022

Yes, this will be our first Assembly where we can choose to attend and participate in-Person or Virtually!

This article will address the key aspects of the Virtual Assembly: Registration, Zoom Process & Participation and Fees.

### REGISTRATION

As you are considering registering for the Assembly, you have two options: Attending the Whole Assembly or Attending a Limited Portion of the Assembly, which includes the Business Meeting, Collegiality Process and an Open Forum Session. The Limited Portion option will include members' voices who are in our many different countries where they are committed to building community and unable to attend our Assembly In-Person. The Limited Portion option Sessions will begin at 10:00 Eastern Time, which is the best time to Zoom across the many time zones.

Registering for attending the Virtual Assembly requires two steps: 1) Complete the Assembly Registration Form by choosing which Virtual Option you are choosing to attend and mail respective fees as directed on the Registration Form. 2) Send an email with your Name, Region, Email Address or Mobile Phone Number you will be using to connect to Zoom and Virtual Attendance Option to [Dancingincyberspace.2022@yahoo.com](mailto:Dancingincyberspace.2022@yahoo.com).

I am aware that multiple members may be able to view a Zoom Screen together. It is important to note that **only the member that registered** will be able to communicate with the larger group and have a seat in a chat room to be involved in the

Collegiality Process. The remaining members can only just view and listen.

### ZOOM PROCESS & PARTICIPATION

Each registered member will receive a Zoom Invitation with the link, password and scheduled date and time for each Assembly session respectively. Once connected to the Assembly Sessions, you will actually be viewing a Webinar. You will be able to hear and view all that is happening: Prayer Services, Rituals, Presentations and Small Group Discussions.

If at any time, you have a question, you will be able to raise your hand or type your question in the chat section on your screen. The Assembly Team will respond to your Assembly questions and the Zoom Team will answer your Technical questions.

During the Collegial Process, each member will be automatically assigned to a Chat Room. A Chat Room is a place where five or six members will be able to see each other Face to Face and will be able to talk to each other. Once you are assigned to a Chat Room, you will remain in the same Chat Room throughout the Collegial Process. Similar to the In-Person Collegial Process, each Chat Room (Table) will select a Recorder to report to the larger group.

Your Zoom Team consists of Sister Bernadette Mendez, who will be on site and myself, who will be in Milwaukee, WI. As more details become available, I will communicate with the registered members.

### FEES

The Virtual Registrations fees cover technical costs only. I needed to purchase additional Zoom Products: Webinar Software and Chat Rooms, Training and Rental of a Dedicated Computer. Future Assembly Teams might want to increase the cost to cover some Assembly Expenses: Speaker Fees, Cost of Materials, etc.

*Submitted by: Mary Rose Accetturo*

## MERCY CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

### INDOORS

Main chapel – round space with chairs/kneelers and the front altar, available for group worship or individual prayer  
 Blessed Sacrament chapel – an intimate space for personal prayer, including our tabernacle



### OUTDOORS

Stations of the Cross – a circular path for prayer in a wooded setting

Marian grotto – a quiet devotional setting modeled after the grotto in Lourdes, France

Cosmic Walk – A walking path leads to an outdoor depiction of the Universe Story

Labyrinth – an 11 circuit labyrinth, modeled after the one in Chartres Cathedral in France, perfect for walking meditation



## MERCY CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



### **MEETING SPACES:**

**Round Room  
St. Joseph Room  
Marian Room  
St. Louis Conference Room  
Auditorium**

### **OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS:**

**Private Room & Bath with Two Twin Beds  
Private Room & Bath with Queen and Twin  
Private Room & Bath - Single Twin  
Private Room with Shared Bath - Twin Bed  
Accessible Room with Shared Bath - with Lift Chair**



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

Send all content for Volume 53 Issue 1 to [atasfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:atasfcc@yahoo.com) **before September 30, 2022**