

FEBRUARY 2025



SSpS MISSION

Called by the Spirit • Embracing the World

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters | USA & Caribbean

HOPE

How our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness impacts wherever we find ourselves



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SSpS Mission Magazine is published quarterly by:

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
319 Waukegan Road
Northfield, IL 60093

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Focus on Mission

Dear Readers and Mission Collaborators,

Pilgrims of Hope is the theme proposed by the Holy Father for this Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025. Conscious of the struggles, darkness and difficulties humanity and our world face he prayed: "For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. "Because... hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rm 5:5)

From the onset, we can notice that while the Jubilee is a gift to the Church, it is also an invitation to do some work. Pope Francis says: "By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope... and reawaken in every heart the joy and courage to embrace life to the full."

A pilgrim is a person on the move, a person with a purpose and with a resolve to reach a particular destination. During the Jubilee Year, this destination could be any designated church or shrine. A pilgrim is also invited to make sacrifices, pray and praise God, undertaking inner work, seek conversion or reconciliation, look to find meaning, obtain clarity, or seek a particular grace. Making a pilgrimage then connotes having HOPE of becoming a better person, of obtaining special graces from God, and of glorifying God. A "Pilgrimage" brings people together. In fact, the Pope uses the plural in the theme because we travel together as a Church. Hope is a flame within a pilgrim. Hope is the strength that keeps a pilgrim going in spite of tiredness and obstacles. Hope expands one's vision and becomes transformative in as much as it allows for a movement to a more desirable state of being. Christian hope is not simply a good wish, desire or optimism but a certainty rooted in Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Let us journey together during this Jubilee Year 2025 as "Pilgrims of HOPE" ... sharing life and mission, reaching out to our sisters and brothers in need of understanding and comfort, in need of a listening ear or an encouraging word, in need of physical and economic assistance ... in need of our prayers!

Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS



SSpS YEAR OF HOPE & TRANSFORMATION

Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSpS

We, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters throughout the world, begin each day by calling on the Holy Spirit to “renew the face of the earth” which constitutes our fundamental hope of impacting the state of being of things due to God’s active involvement in the matters of this world. We stake our lives on God’s transformative presence in our world. Only then, we employ our own lives and actions as witnesses of hope and conduits of God’s compassion and love.

Personally, in the context of this Jubilee Year, the first aim of hope is eternity. It is the prayer-filled assurance that with the special graces (indulgences) of this Holy Year, life in the presence of God is attainable. Ultimately, we are only pilgrims in this world on our way to the house of our Father. Nevertheless, hope is the necessary quality to live by day by day in order to surrender to the all-embracing longing for God’s vision for humanity. Therefore, we are called to become “tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.” (Spes non confundit, #10)

I am writing this reflection while stationed in our SSpS Community in Antigua, West Indies.

So I ask myself ‘What is my hope for the people I encounter..., for the Church I worship in..., for the tourists that stroll on the streets and admire the natural beauty of the Caribbean..., for the people in the service industry..., for this small island country? Further, I ask myself “How could I be a sign of hope in the reality I live in now?”

The beautiful beaches, picture perfect views and lavish greenery, give rise to hope that this natural beauty will be respected and preserved for future generations. I hope that people’s hearts will be moved to praise the Creator of this spectacular nature. And I hope that actions will be agreed upon at a higher level and implemented locally to curb

climate change, and to limit rising sea levels. In the meantime, I resolve to respect this natural beauty and care for our garden and the abandoned puppy, to inspire people to see all of creation as God's gift for humanity and examine one's propensity for consumerism.

The quaint monuments of the past and the scattered ruins of windmills make me firmly hope that the brutal era of dehumanizing and exploiting people belong uniquely to the past. I further hope that no other generation will experience the burden of slavery, of subjugation, or oppression of any form. I commit to suspend judgments and respect the dignity of each person, to be sensitive to people's needs, to be informed about and act against modern forms of enslavement and trafficking.

The vibrant liturgical celebrations and the natural religious inclination of the Antiguans, makes me hope for growth of the local Church. And I hope that the people's generous commitment to service in the community will eventually result in local vocations to priesthood and to religious life. I make efforts to express my appreciation to musicians and liturgists, to encourage people, and to participate in the various celebrations. I pray in the intentions of the Jubilee Year.

The population of Antigua is historically diverse and became even more so in recent years with the influx of immigrants from nearby islands or from South America. Experiencing this diversity gives rise to hope for a peaceful coexistence, harmonious collaboration, equality, and for human solidarity! It gives me pleasure to acknowledge and to greet people regardless whether or not I know them. I thank those who serve me in stores or offices. I will

continue reaching out to groups in the parish and through ministries.

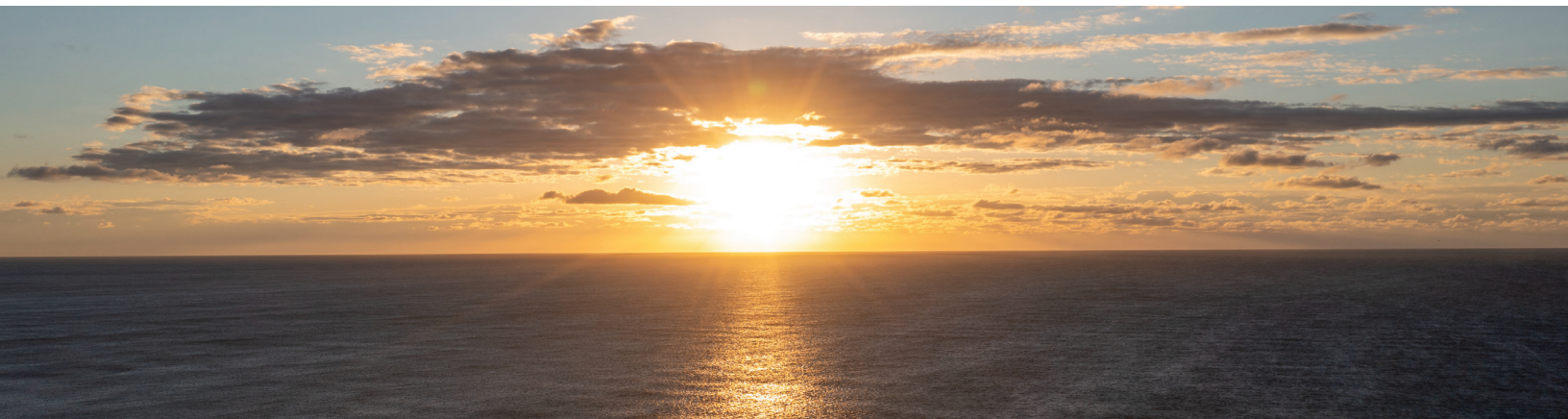
Antigua is not immune to typical personal and national vices such as contention, dishonesty, tribalism, demanding attitudes, bribing, neglecting the poor and more. It is in these areas that being witnesses of hope, bearers of good news, and agents of transformation are most needed.

May we know
'what is enough',
so that others
may have
sufficient!

I invite you now to think of your particular situation: your family, work place, neighborhood, retirement or worship community and to ask yourself "What do I need to renew my hope?" Then you might like to resolve how you can be a witness of hope, join other pilgrims of hope. How would you like others to be or what would you like them to do to witness hope to you?

We would appreciate hearing your ideas and so inspire each other.

Let me conclude my short reflection drawing on the Biblical meaning of a jubilee year. In the Old Testament, every 50th year was set apart, so that the order God foresaw for creation could be re-established. Land and people were given rest, slaves returned home, property returned to their original owner, debts were cancelled and prisoners were freed. May the Jubilee of 2025 bring peace to warring nations and groups. May it assure sustainable living conditions to farmers and laborers. May it flood inner cities with security and purposeful living. May it divert funds from armaments, debt servicing and campaigning, to health and education. May we know 'what is enough', so that others may have sufficient!



CULTIVATING HOPE

THE FARM PROJECT IN GHANA

"A small backyard initiative by the SSpS Sisters in Kwahu Tafo has grown into a thriving farm that provides organic produce, creates jobs, and supports the community and the SSpS Ghana Province."

Sr. Ernestina Mortu, SSpS and
Sr. Dorota Sojka, SSpS - Province of Ghana

Since Ghana gained independence in 1957, efforts to improve rural development have made limited progress. Many rural communities still rely on small scale agriculture, constrained by outdated technology, low productivity, and unreliable income, leaving economic and social conditions largely unchanged.

The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) established the St. Joseph Clinic and Maternity Home in Kwahu Tafo as a crucial healthcare provider for the area. In 2018, the Sisters expanded their mission by utilizing the clinic's land for agriculture, starting with a modest flock of poultry to supply the convent. This initiative grew during the 2020 pandemic, when the Sisters expanded production to provide protein and vegetables to the local community. They also launched the Sisters Tasty Bite Catering Services to serve the clinic's needs and offer meals to nearby residents.

By 2023, the farm had grown significantly, housing over 2,000 layers, a variety of poultry

breeds, livestock, fish, and a thriving vegetable farm, all of which now serve both local and commercial customers from Kwahu South District to Greater Accra. The project has created jobs, offered agricultural internships, and enhanced the community's food security. With organic produce trusted by institutions and markets alike, the farm supports both the local economy and the SSpS Ghana Province's mission.

This project has flourished thanks to the Congregation's support and the Sisters' dedication to serving humanity and caring for creation.





INSPIRING YOUTH & NURTURING HOPE AMID WAR IN UKRAINE

SR. LIUDMYLA KMET, SSFS
PROVINCE OF UKRAINE



Young people play a key role in shaping a just society and remain a powerful force for truth and solidarity, even in the midst of war. The Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit are deeply committed to guiding the youth of Ukraine, providing spiritual support, and fostering resilience in these challenging times. Through retreats, weekly meetings, and the creation of safe community spaces, the Sisters help young people seek God, support one another, and navigate their faith.

In our parishes, we hold weekly gatherings where the youth can discuss faith, share their experiences, and find comfort. These meetings offer a space to explore their relationship with God, address fears, and pray for loved ones on the front lines. Retreats like “Chosen by God: On a Journey with Moses” allow them to uncover God’s unique plan for their lives and understand the true meaning of freedom and the Commandments.

To further build community, we transformed a room in the parish house into a dedicated meeting space, crafted with the help of the youth. This space, which they call “theirs,” strengthens their connection to the Church and to each other.

In these times of conflict, today's youth are asking profound questions and seeking answers. Our mission is to create an environment where they can encounter the living God who fulfills their deepest longings. As Sisters, we are honored to walk with them, witnessing their growth and the vibrant hope they bring for a future rooted in truth and justice.





STUDENTS IN BRAZIL

Spread Hope by Serving Others

Mariana Cordeiro Student at Colégio Santa Maria - Province of Brazil

"Colégio Santa Maria's educational mission extends and goes beyond academics; it aims to cultivate caring citizens. Students from the school demonstrate their compassion to patients in a hospital."

Students from Colégio Santa Maria in Cascavel, Brazil, participated in the "Mission Without Borders" Project embodying the spirit of Easter. During the Octave of Easter, students of various ages, supported by an organization of lay missionaries, prepared and distributed fresh, nutritious sandwiches to patients and caregivers at a local hospital.

This initiative went beyond a charitable act; it was a profound expression of empathy and care, demonstrating how small gestures can make a significant impact on the lives of those enduring difficult times.

The project allowed students to connect with individuals beyond the school walls, offering not only physical nourishment but also emotional comfort. Their presence and kindness provided a moment of human warmth, instilling hope and showing the power of compassion in action. The experience reinforced the values of compassion, social responsibility, and service to others, which are central to Colégio Santa Maria's educational mission.

The school community takes great pride in the students' dedication, recognizing that true education extends beyond academic achievements. It involves shaping conscientious and caring citizens who actively participate in building a more just and humane society.

Sister Marili Fernandes, the school's headmistress, emphasized the importance of this outreach and announced plans to continue the project every two weeks.

Through these ongoing efforts, the school aims to inspire both students and the broader community to cultivate compassion and solidarity in their everyday lives.





Transforming Futures Through Education in Kalimantan

Sr. Maria Fatima, SSpS
Province of Kalimantan

"A program in Kalimantan, Indonesia equips children in scavenger communities with essential skills like literacy, hygiene, and economic awareness. This initiative empowers vulnerable children to aspire for a future beyond poverty. Children growing up in scavenger communities like those at Kilometer 14 in Palangka Raya, Kalimantan, Indonesia, face daunting barriers to education and personal growth. Many, unable to attend formal school due to the pandemic and limited resources, were left to join their parents in scavenging."

In response, Sr. Maria Fatima, SSpS, as JPIC Coordinator for Kalimantan, launched an initiative to provide non-formal, creative education as a path of transformation and hope for these vulnerable children. Starting in May 2021, she established a dedicated space for lessons, snacks, and storytelling, later expanding with support from SSpS Kalimantan and Vivat Indonesia, to build the Non-Formal Creative Education Program.

Launched in September 2024, the program provides literacy, hygiene, gardening, and cooking

skills to foster personal growth, resilience, and economic awareness. Supported by government and local collaboration, the initiative is empowering these children with essential skills to envision and work toward a brighter, more stable future. This mission-driven program reflects a commitment to compassionate transformation, breaking cycles of poverty and opening new pathways to opportunity for the scavenger children and their families at Kilometer 14.



WATER PROJECT:

EMPOWERING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Sr. Nimfa Seranias, SSpS - Province of Philippine South

"The Higaonon Water Project has provided safe water access to an indigenous community in the Philippines. Through the support of the SSpS mission and donors, the project empowers the community."

The Higaonon Water Project has been a long-awaited dream fulfilled for the Higaonon Indigenous People in Sitio Bayawa, Malitbog, Bukidnon, Philippines. Before the project, the community faced shortages during the dry season and murky water during heavy rains. The Higaonon, a mountain tribe whose name means "people of the wilderness," rely on farming and maintaining a strong connection to their land.


Accessing their remote, mountainous community is difficult, especially during the rainy season, but the SSpS mission has remained active there since 2011. The water project became a reality through the generosity of an alumna of the College of the Holy Spirit, Class of 1973.

The project, benefiting 52 households, has fostered cooperation among the Higaonon who eagerly transported materials from the water source, navigating challenging terrain for hours without pay. The local government provided a dump truck to help deliver essential supplies. Despite delays and limited skilled labor, the project is nearing completion.

Facilitated by Ma. Consolacion Matnao, the community has taken ownership of the project through cultural mapping and establishing guidelines for water source management. Representatives, known as "Kadakolon," oversee its maintenance.

The congregation has served the community for 13 years, supporting the Indigenous People School for a decade bringing lasting change, strengthening the school's governance and addressing health needs through a feeding program. The water project and continued educational support reflect the mission's impact on community transformation.





Who Am I Really?

Recently we received a paper on TRANSFORMATION written by Sr. Martina Maria Gonzales Garcia S.Sp.S. from the Province of Brazil North. "Transformation" is the keyword for us for this year of 2025. I was challenged by several quotes and insights.

One quote was from Franz Jalics S.J. "Many religious women and members of the church, ... do many things for God but they lack living in God." This has been a real mystery for me because I never really thought of living in God. The image that comes to me is that God is love and we are God's loved children. It's kind of like we have the same DNA. The thought really helps us to see how we are to see ourselves and our neighbors around the world.

WE HAVE A LOVING GOD WITH WHOM WE SHARE OUR LIVES!

"Transformation can only begin when we are faithful to ourselves and to our time. It asks us to get closer to ourselves and to listen to the breath of the Holy Spirit in the midst of questions, and to search for ways out of the violence, contradictions, and lack of perspective that darken the horizon." (Sr. Garcia)

In some ways we are being asked to get out of some of our present ways of viewing our lives, our ways of making judgements, our views of acting and carrying on our limited experiences of the past. We need new eyes and changed attitudes to bring about the changes needed in the world today. Let's get brave and realize something is happening and, with the guidance of the Spirit, we can be part of a new approach to life. We have to go to our deep inner life and bring forth the true knowledge of who we are.

GOD IS CALLING US!

OUR HEAD THINKS FROM THE GROUND OUR FEET STAND ON!

Sr. Pat Snider, SSpS

Holy Spirit Missionary Association, Directress



In Gratitude,
 We wish blessings on our outgoing
 Provincial Leadership Team

From Left to Right: Sr. Edel Maria Deong, SSps (Councilor), Sr. Mary Lauren Lahnan, SSps, (Councilor), Sr. Ana Julita Bele Bau, SSps, (Assistant Provincial), Sr. Dorota Maria Piechaczek, SSps, (Provincial), & Sr. Elwira Dziuk, (Councilor).

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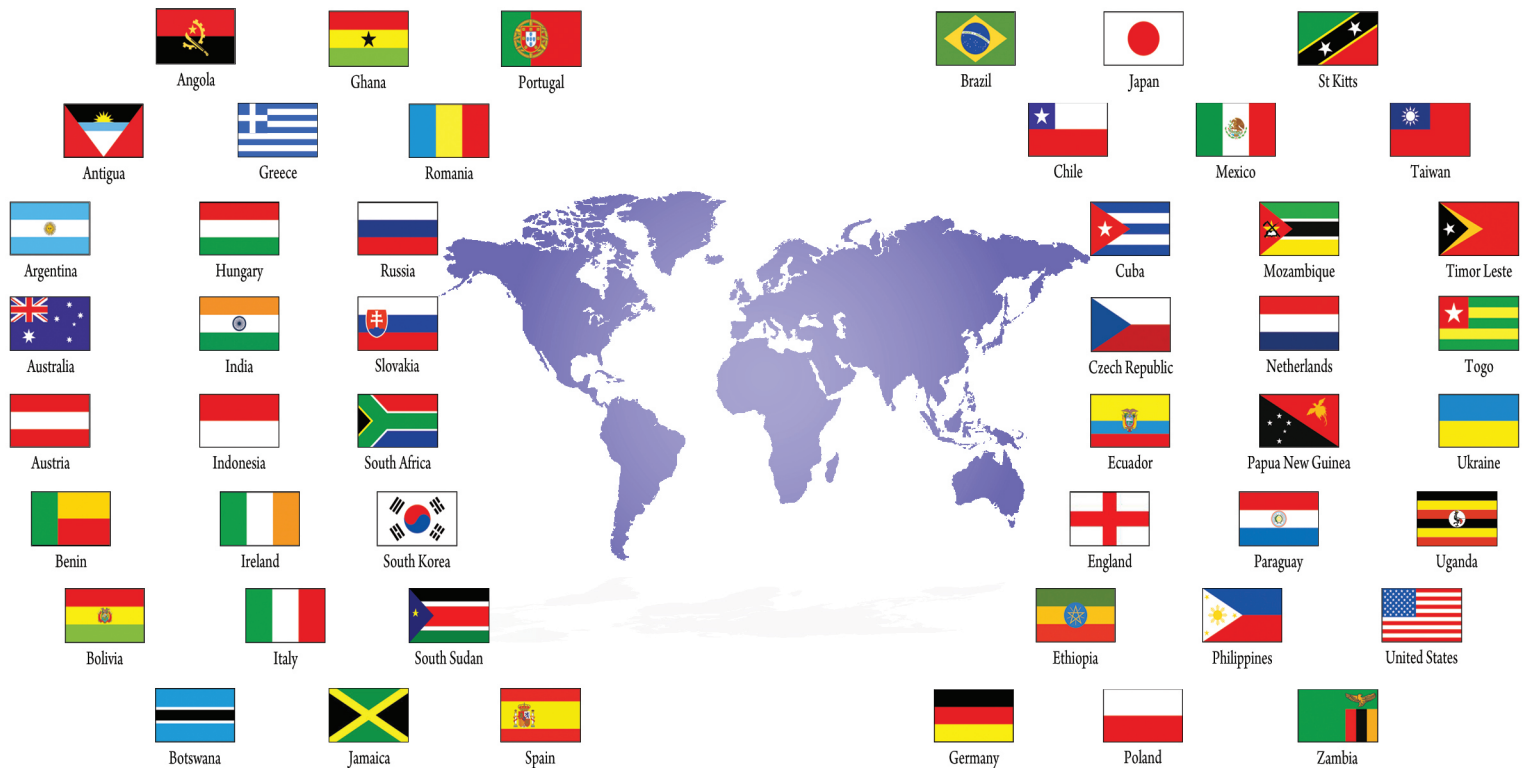


Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

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The Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters are an international—intercultural community of 3,000 Catholic, religious women, serving in 48 countries. Missionary activities include pastoral work and catechesis, education, nursing and health care, social work, adult education, and many other services to promote human dignity.



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