

NOVEMBER 2024



SSpS MISSION

Called by the Spirit • Embracing the World

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters | USA & Caribbean



GRATITUDE • ANTICIPATION • PEACE & JOY

CONTENTS

- 02** Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS
A Focus on Mission
- 03** Sr. Kreti Soledad Sanhueza, SSpS
Sr. Margaret Hansen, SSpS
COMPASSION
- 04** Sr. Maria Servina Anok, SSpS
Region of Russia
**Young Catholics in Russia
Navigate a Changing World**
- 05** Sr. Heloise Matos, SSpS
Province of Brazil
**Renewing Lay Missionary
Commitment in Brazil**
- 06** Sr. Fransiska Imakulata, SSpS
Province of Flores East, IN
**Mission Journey to End
Human Trafficking**
- 07** Sr. Veronika Lili Purwanti SSpS
Province of Netherlands
**Beyond Borders: Care
for Polish Migrants in the
Netherlands**
- 08** Sr. Sophia Maryanayagam, SSpS
Province of India East
**Empowering Vulnerable
Women in India East**
- 09** Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS
Honoring Native Americans
- 10** Sr. Patricia Snider, SSpS
HSMA - Directress
Love is Flowing Like a River!

**SSpS Mission Magazine is
published quarterly by:**

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
319 Waukegan Road
Northfield, IL 60093

Visit us at: www.ssps-usa.org
Phone: (847) 441-0126

Editor:

Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS

Art Director:

Andrew Dixon III



@sspsusa



@ssps_vocations_us



holy spirit sisters usa



Focus on Mission

Dear Readers and Mission Collaborators,

As we draw closer to the end of this year 2024 and our focus on COMPASSION... for one another, the suffering sick, lonely, and "Mother Earth", let us not abandon our need to continue this way of being in the: New Year" 2025!

Let us continue to reach out with...
a helping hand,
a listening ear,
an encouraging word,
a loving embrace to one another
and a protective care for "Mother Earth"!

Pray with us for our Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters and the people among whom they live and serve in forty-eight countries of the world. With the strength of God's blessing, the generosity and love of the Holy Spirit, and the life-giving example of Christ, may their service in mission bear fruits of love and peace in our world!

Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS

Editor, SSpS Mission Magazine

Compassion



Surely, all of us SSpS, feel and think that our missionary presence today, wherever we are, must always and ever anew be as witnessing to the compassionate love of God and Jesus, which humanizes, restores and includes all people and protects creation.

In this sense, during this year of compassion, we had the opportunity to deepen and grow in the awareness that we have been called to share our life and mission with each other, with our sisters and brothers at the margins, and with all of creation.

It is our wish that we would feel invited to look at created reality with compassionate eyes. Likewise, may our missionary action strategies contemplate the ways of God and Jesus. May our compassionate love elicit inclusion and participation. May our listening to the pain and suffering of people, as well as of Mother Earth, generate restorative relationships. Finally, may every missionary service of ours give rise to a humanizing movement; that people, like nature, may live a sustainable life in our common home, in accordance with God's original plan.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to show compassionate love to those who suffer any distress or pain. We are to love one another just as Jesus loved us.

Compassion requires us first to become aware of the needs of those we encounter each day. It then obliges us to be sensitive to what they might be feeling. But most of all, it impels us to act, respond, and move beyond ourselves and our own interests. Sometimes this response might be to rescue disaster victims, or to donate a kidney. However, most often showing compassionate love means offering a helping hand, smiling at a stranger, sharing our goods or money, praying for a sick friend, or holding someone's hand. It is in these daily acts of kindness that we cultivate compassion.

As we age, we may feel less able to concretely respond to the needs around us, but if we have spent our lives cultivating compassion in small ways each day, we can become a living Compassionate Presence. Our very being will then radiate love to others.

Sr. Kreti Soledad Sanheuzza, SSpS

Sr. Margaret Hansen, SSpS



Young Catholics in Russia Navigate a Changing World

Sr. Maria Servina Anok, SSpS
Region of Russia



Young Catholics are the backbone of the Church today and in the future. The Diocese of St. Joseph of Irkutsk, Russia, embraced this concept at the XXII Diocesan Youth Meeting held from August 1-4, 2024. Approximately 70 youth gathered, accompanied by priests and sisters from various congregations.

The mentoring sessions, led by Fr. Adrian SVD and Sr. Juliana Gostkowska, covered essential topics such as self-identity in Christ, spiritual life and personal prayer, recognizing spiritual gifts, and building healthy relationships.

Engaging games fostered enthusiasm, cohesiveness, and teamwork, while teaching participants to handle life's challenges and find strength in God. These activities, combined with presentations, helped develop creativity and responsibility among the youth.

Participants were also taught to understand various vocations in life and how to seek their calling according to God's plan. This blend of creativity, Catholic values, and practical application equips the younger generation to remain strong amidst globalization.

The unity of heart, commitment, and shared challenges created an atmosphere of joy. The participants' missionary spirit became a light for others, culminating in a Eucharistic Celebration that emphasized the centrality of Catholic faith.

By providing continuous guidance, the Church contributes to touching the hearts, souls, and minds of young people, helping them remain faithful to Jesus, the source of strength and salvation for mankind.





Renewing Lay Missionary Commitment in Brazil

Sr. Heloise Matos, SSpS - Province of Brazil

In the Stella Matutina Province (Brazil North), the Lay Missionaries of the Triune God (MLDUT) gather regularly for prayer, reflection, and sharing of their Christian experiences (photo below). This year, with the theme of Compassion, these meetings have gained even greater significance, renewing the missionary commitment of these lay partners.

Drawing from the insights of Sr. Kreti Soledade Sanhueza, SSpS, we delved into compassion through biblical passages such as the blind man of Jericho and the Good Samaritan. We recognized that compassion involves not only empathy but also practical action aligned with people's needs, leading to both inner and outer transformation.

As we concluded, we reaffirmed our missionary commitments, which include a deeper understanding of Trinitarian spirituality, knowledge of the SSpS mission fields, active engagement within the parish community, the dissemination of missionary spirituality, and fervent prayers for religious vocations.

“Your life, Lord, is our life. Your mission is our mission.”
Together, we renew our dedication to the mission of the Arnoldus Family.



MISSION JOURNEY TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sr. Fransiska Imakulata, SSpS | Province of Flores East, Indonesia



"Journeying Together to End Human Trafficking: Compassion in Action for Transformation" was the theme of the Second Talitha Kum International General Assembly, held in Sacrofano, Rome, Italy, from May 18 to 24, 2024. It was participated in by 200 delegates from 90 countries including members from men and women congregations, laity, young people, and survivors.

Sr. Fransiska Imakulata shares her experience during the assembly: "I am deeply grateful for the extraordinary opportunity to attend the international meeting representing the SSpS and Indonesia. As a religious missionary, I feel a calling to listen to the cries for help from those who suffer due to human trafficking, sexual violence, domestic abuse, and discrimination. I am invited to immerse myself in their reality and fight alongside them.

Through my work with the Volunteer Team for Humanity (TRUKF), I know that compassion

in action demands sacrifice and self-denial. God instills the grace of sacrifice and love, and I feel like an instrument of His mission. Sharing experiences with people from various countries and listening to speakers provided new insights and a better understanding of the challenges faced by those fighting human trafficking. I was encouraged to reflect deeply on the roots of human trafficking, such as gender inequality and climate change.

I learned to find concrete ways to empower survivors, ensuring they do not experience the same trauma again. Helping them requires everyone to work together, and I must continuously learn to see God's will in every decision and action. I believe God is always on the side of those who fight for justice and truth because He is the source of love, justice, and truth. This belief strengthens me in the journey alongside those striving for healing, justice, and truth."



BEYOND BORDERS:

Care for Polish Migrants in the Netherlands

Sr. Veronika Lili Purwanti SSpS – Province of Netherlands

"In the heart of Brabant, Netherlands a mission is transforming lives, offering hope and support to Polish migrants and local families facing hardships."

Since Poland joined the European Union in 2004, an increasing number of Polish migrants have settled in the Netherlands, typically working in agriculture, logistics, construction, and hospitality. Most have settled in North Brabant, Flevoland, Limburg, and South Holland, regions known for their agricultural and industrial sectors.

The primary motivations for these migrants to seek work in the Netherlands include the pursuit of a better life, higher wages, and the political climate in Poland. However, their journey has many challenges. The majority struggle to secure employment and face periods of homelessness, sometimes sleeping outdoors for weeks before finding suitable accommodation.

In response, a mission in Tilburg supports the poor, including many Polish migrants. It provides hot meals, food packages, clothing, and toiletries. Notably, 80% of walk-in visitors are Polish.

The mission shares 160 meals weekly with visitors and assists in Tilburg Noord 25 impoverished families (106 individuals) through food distribution. Last Christmas, 160 special packages were distributed to various groups in need.

A crucial aspect of this mission is the personal connection fostered by the Sisters. They dedicate time to engage with the people, listening attentively to their stories. This compassionate approach allows the Sisters to understand the unique circumstances and struggles of those they serve, providing not just material aid but also emotional support and a sense of dignity to those who often feel marginalized.

The ongoing endeavors are made possible through the continued generosity of benefactors, whose contributions fund these vital support services for the community's most vulnerable members.





EMPOWERING VULNERABLE WOMEN IN INDIA EAST

Sr. Sophia Maryanayagam, SSpS
Province of India East

The poor are always with us, even in a hi-tech city like Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, India. Alongside luxury apartments, there are dingy slums where daily wage workers struggle to survive. The SSpS India East Province, traditionally focused on rural areas, has started working with domestic female workers in the metropolitan city. These women, an unorganized and vulnerable labor force, face challenges such as unscheduled work hours, domestic violence, debt, poor living conditions, and the burden of supporting extended families.

Our initiatives among them have been progressive. Over time, we've identified various issues and implemented new plans. We support them with empowerment initiatives, awareness seminars, leadership training, and tuition for their children. Recently, we discovered widows and physically weaker women unable to do hard labor.

Thus, we planned income-generating activities, mainly helping them set up small shops. These small shops sell groceries, cosmetics, clothing, and other daily-use commodities. Initially, the Sisters assist with purchasing goods and finding suitable locations. Deserving women receive loans to sustain their businesses, creating a rotating economy that keeps them active and hopeful.

The stories of these beneficiaries are heart-wrenching. Widowed at an early age, some managed with meager incomes for decades, doing various jobs to survive. The consumer-driven economy has pushed them to seek other income sources. Running a small shop doesn't guarantee an easy life, but it makes their multi-tasking more resourceful and challenges them to think creatively and become competent businesswomen.



Sr. Sophia (far right) with the women learning income generating programs.



HONORING NATIVE AMERICANS

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSps

November is a month during which we remember and cherish the Native Americans. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native Americans. They have a rich history and heritage. I would personally like to learn from their cultural and enriching bond to the land. Knowing that there are many different tribal groups in Americas is a start.

In the Techny area we are really on the land of the **Potawatomi Tribal Group**. At many of the meetings that I attend there is an acknowledgement of the land upon which we live. It would be good if you can find out what tribal land where you are living. Let us learn from them. The Potawatomi teach their children these values: *wisdom, respect, love, honesty, humility, bravery, and truth toward each other and all creation*. These principles help us to understand and teach that we are created equal and that nature is essential to life.

We can learn for our lives the virtues, and also about caring for our environment, care for our earth, honoring animals and learning from them. Many of us have lost this touch with the earth and how to care for it. Illinois is now home to the federally recognized tribal nation of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. There is a whole story and history here too, but I will not have room to write about it.

The UN each year has a **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)**. This Year it was from April 15-26, 2024. This year's theme was "Improving the self-determination rights of Indigenous Peoples within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, with a focus on the perspective of Indigenous youth." In 2008, when I attended this forum, it was a learning experience of seeing and listening to indigenous peoples from all over the world and hearing their wisdom.

Thanksgiving is a time when we can remember the gifts that the Native American gave to us, but also what they gave up for us. Here in the US, we have taken the land from Native Americans, have tried to destroy their culture, forced removal and have caused a trail of tears from the implementation of policies by our government. We need to be aware of our policies toward them today.

Pope Francis talks about the importance of the work and perspective of Indigenous peoples in his encyclical *Laudato Si*: "It is essential to show special care for Indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a special space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values..." Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, Paragraph 146)



Love is Flowing Like a River!

Life has many surprises to offer! Last week I was making my annual retreat here at the convent and when I was looking back over my life, I realized that a common image I had used many times in my life, especially when I received a mission appointment to another country, was that of jumping into a river and going with the flow. God seemed to be there with me, floating along beside me. That always made my journey kind of exciting! Besides, most of my life I have been near water which is very precious to me.

This retreat was especially themed for those of us looking at that final journey.... The journey to our eternal life which we often pray about but don't spend a lot of time thinking about when we are active and taken up with our many ministries and activities. I thought about the long trip to my mission in Australia many years ago. I was alone but I knew God was right there beside me and there were loving people to greet me and help me settle into my new life.

Then, years later, my journey to Papua New Guinea was also a long trip by myself but I knew I wasn't alone! My last appointment was to Antigua in the West Indies but there were four of us that time. God was very present as I traveled down that fast-flowing river.

Now, as I prepare for my really long journey to my eternal home, I realize that the river I have been traveling in is really God's love. We talk and pray about the gift of the Spirit of Love which has been given to us as God's children, but we often forget or doubt that we are truly carried along by that river of God's love. If we are to be lights in the world today, we truly need to renew our trust in that RIVER OF GOD'S LOVE, carrying us along and helping us to be 'rivers of love' for other people.

**LET'S JUMP INTO THAT RIVER OF GOD'S LOVE!
COME HOLY SPIRIT!**

Sr. Pat Snider, SSpS

Holy Spirit Missionary Association, Directress

Thank You!



Dear Mission Supporters and Collaborators,

We wish to express our deep gratitude for your prayers and financial support for our mission endeavors in Antigua, Jamaica, and St. Kitts in the Caribbean Islands, and our Holy Spirit Life Learning Center in Chicago, IL. Through your generosity and the ministry of our Sisters in those mission areas, God's love is made visible, children receive quality education, vulnerable women and girls are guided and protected, and family life is strengthened.

We, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, are grateful to you! We offer frequent prayers of gratitude, peace, and love to God that you and your loved ones receive the blessings of God's guidance and protection this day and throughout the New Year 2025!

Sr. Mary Miller, SSpS

Join Us in Mission

Meet some of our Sisters and learn about our mission service with "Christ Over Coffee" Through your prayers and generous support, YOU are in mission with us!



 **YouTube** @holy spirit sisters usa



Please accept my Mission offering of \$ _____

or You may donate online at: [www. https://www.ssps-usa.org/donation.html](https://www.ssps-usa.org/donation.html)

Prayer Request:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail form to: SSpS Mission Magazine . 319 Waukegan Road . Northfield, IL 60093

(Please make checks payable to: Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters)

The Sisters Thank You for Your Support!



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

P.O. Box 6026, Techny, IL 60082-6026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

Called by the Spirit - Embracing the World