

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny  
Province of USA & Canada

# Connections

## Education that Develops the Whole Person



Photo: Sister Begonia Posaz

Sister María Celina García and the students are selling churros (fried flour bars dipped in chocolate) on the occasion of the feast of St. Joseph, to raise funds for the Cluny Center Niño/Nina Feliz (Happy Boy/Girl) in Asunción, Paraguay.

Sister Begonia Posaz, SJC  
Province of Spain

From the earliest days, Blessed Anne Marie focused on preparing children for a well developed human life of faith, of academic success and abilities to enter into the world of their time. Today Cluny Sisters

carry on this tradition, preparing students for a new world.

In their province-wide approach, Cluny Sisters in Spain strive to provide an educational system that evangelizes and is comprehensive

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Thank you  
for Your Support!



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Thank you.

Well, here we are right in the middle of this wonderful winter! I think bears have the right idea. Hibernation! At any rate we can still be grateful for the good days we have, and that February is just around the corner. We hope all of you had a Blessed Christmas and a good start into the New Year.

We are all moving (I use the term loosely) around OK. Thank God for the inventors of braces, wheelchairs, canes, rollators and walkers. We mourn the death of our dear Sr. Angela, but we rejoice in her new found freedom from sickness and pain and remember the good times we shared with her.

We had an exciting two weeks here in Newport. It seems that a valve froze. As a result, all Newport and parts of Middletown had the gas service cut off during some of the coldest days this month. We were lucky because we have oil heat. Schools, churches, many small businesses, restaurants, and many other places were closed. Sr. Bernadette was evacuated along with the other residents of St. Clare's and there was quite a bit of turmoil in town. It took several days to fix it and there were gas and electric trucks all over town. Thank God, we were lucky, it could have been like the explosion in Massachusetts, where so many people lost their homes. (That will teach me to complain about the cold...and I was one of the lucky warm ones.)

I hope and pray the rest of winter will be easy on all of us, especially the immigrants and displaced women and children in our country and so many others. We must remember too, the meeting of the Pope with the Bishops in February. We have a lot to pray for in these winter days. May the Lord bless all of you and remember, the Clunys are praying for you.

Sister Anne Marie

**2019 Appeal Theme:**  
"From angry to amazing"



In our 2019 Appeal, you read about Sister Mary Patrice's ministry in the school library. Here she is with a group of students. Your support of our appeal supports her ministry and our other USA/Canada ministries. Thank you!

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Photo: Sister Begonia Posaz

across all areas of human development. Science, culture, and faith are integrated in the curriculum. The vision of their education plan is to nurture personal freedom to respond to the call of our loving God in the world of today with all its opportunities and challenges.

The teachers, both sisters and lay, participate in an ongoing training for the implementation of a holistic

human development curriculum throughout the schools. This methodology, sequenced in twelve developmental stages, assists children to discover the meaning of life through personal lived experience and personalized accompaniment.

With teachers as their mentors, students get in touch with their personal motivations, feelings, and desires. The students become motivated to search and discover the depth of their personal reality and of their relationships with others. As they grow and mature, they develop a healthy sense of self, of their sexual identity, and of their relationship with God and others.

A strong sense of mission and solidarity runs through all the schools in the province. Students work to raise awareness of care for Creation, and the needs of the poor. They dedicate their parties and the celebration of their patron saints to mission work. At each school, students put together missionary campaigns to raise funds for Paraguay and the most needy missions.

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## Cluny Sisters in Sierra Leone

Sister Anne Marie Liston

As we begin this new year we, as Cluny Sisters, are encouraged by our recent General Chapter to new move forward in sustaining the “missionary thrust into the future” as Missionary Disciples for a New World, which has become our new motivation. It is too easy to fall back into the “woe be gone attitudes” of “we’re too few, too old too busy” etc. Anne Marie Javouhey was a woman of great vision and courage, we all agree as we read her letters and share stories of her courage and audacity. But we can’t live the adventure of the present if we are stuck in the memories of the past.

Reflecting on the message of our chapter and the inspiration her life shows us by the way she acted and how much she risked advancing into the fearful and unknowable.

Remember the story of her getting into a canoe to be taken upriver to a mission, all the while knowing that the local oarsman had taken money from her adversaries to upset the vessel and dispose of her. Yet, she boarded, and did not show her fear, all the while trusting in the Lord. The man could not bring himself to do it, so she arrived safely. Stories of her audacity and trust encourage her daughters today to set new goals, seek new ways to serve, and climb new and challenging paths.

One of these ways is our assistance to the Province of West Africa, made up of Sierra Leone, Ghana, and The Gambia. For ten years, Sierra Leone experienced a devastating war, and this was followed by the terrible Ebola epidemic, which struck Sierra Leone hardest of all. Much of the progress they had made was lost. Sierra Leone is a country known for its diamond mines, graphically depicted in the motion picture “Blood Diamonds”.



Photo: Sister Angela Bangura

**The novices with Sister Angela (far right)  
The novitiate is located in Magburaka.**

Because of the turmoil of war and destruction, the schools, convents, clinics of our sisters sustained extensive damage. They have been building it up, and assisting people in the area to become economically self-sufficient. Each year a sister comes to preach at churches to raise money for their mission. We Clunys here facilitate the arrangements and their

# Cluny Around the World

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travel. In this way we are all part of their mission into the future.

Last year welcomed Sister Angela Bangura, a sister from the northern province of Sierra Leone. It was her first visit to the USA. She has been involved in teaching and school administration for several years. She also has played a significant part in the training of the women aspiring to become Cluny Sisters. Sister Angela volunteered to take on this task, as there was a temporary respite from the work with novices. (Novices are what we call the young (and not so young) women in formation who seek to follow our way of life.)

She very much enjoyed the friendly generosity and hospitality of the people in parishes she visited, from coast to coast, and was very happy about her experience, especially with the heartwarming welcome extended by the people who shared their homes and parish life with her. Of course, the sisters

tried their best to expose her to the special American hallmarks which we see every day. Ice cream, soft and hard, of all flavors; hamburgers, rides along the ocean drive to watch the sunset, and as many visits to our other sisters in the province as we could fit in.

Sister Angela was very happy to experience the liturgy in different parts of our province and was grateful to feel the special bond that unites all of us through the Eucharist. Perhaps if she returns she could introduce us to some of the dancing and singing which makes African liturgies so lively. (That would be something!)

There are a lot more things about Sister Angela and her mission I would like to share with you, but it might turn into a book! So, if you would like more information or wish to help this special mission in any way, please email me. Until then, God bless, pray for us and our work for the Lord...and try and stay warm!



Photo: Sister Angela Bangura

**One of the novitiate projects is raising little piglets, who seem to be very content with their mama here!**



Photo: Sister Alice Vivien

Editha, Theodosia, Veronica, Vestina and Vaileth

## Novitiate in Seychelles Islands Welcomes Candidates from Tanzania

**T**hanks to generous inter-province collaboration, the novitiate in the province of Seychelles-Tanzania has reopened to welcome five women from Tanzania to begin their formation. These five young women, Sisters Editha, Theodosia, Veronica, Vestina and Vaileth, were received on January 21, 2019. We are delighted to welcome our new candidates at this time and support them and their formators in our prayer.

In 1998, the Seychelles expanded its mission to Tanzania, in the archdiocese of Tabora, to provide affordable quality health care to the people of Mwanzugi. The sisters' ministries include health care and pastoral and social outreach to the poor.

# In Memoriam

## Sister Angela O'Callaghan

Born into this life: August 8, 1931

Religious Profession: March 8, 1951

Born into Eternity: January 3, 2019

**I**n the little town of Loughfouder, Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry, Ireland, Bridget O'Callaghan was welcomed into the family by her parents, Patrick and Mary. She grew up there with her sisters and brothers, Nora, Jerry, Jimmy, and Mary. The gift of faith, nurtured in the family home, blossomed as she matured. She attended primary school in the town, but then went off to our Cluny secondary school, Mount Sackville, in Dublin, where she continued her academic and religious formation.

During these years, Bridget heard God's call to religious life, and was attracted to the missionary charism of the sisters. Along with the other students, she would have been present when the sisters sang, "Go ye afar; go teach all nations. Bear witness unto me, on earth, in every clime, and I with you will be until the end of time," as different sisters were sent off to foreign missions. We can imagine her heart quickening at the thought of these young women setting out for the unknown together; her wondering about her own future, and where the life of a missionary might lead her in foreign lands. She would probably have met sisters returning from the missions as well: some for an infrequent home visit, others in their old age, returning to the land of their birth. All able to share stories that intrigued the young students.

Bridget was received into the novitiate in Gallen Priory, Ferbane, County Offaly, and took the name Sister Angela in 1949. She made her first vows there in March of 1951. Together with her companions, Sisters Lelia Clarke, Ena Maguire, Laetitia O'Donoghue and Loretto Moynihan, she set out for the United States. She first ministered in SS Peter and Paul School in Wilmington, CA, and then at St. Catherine Laboure School in Torrance, CA. Moving back East, she served at Cluny School in Newport for many years. During that time, she volunteered with Newport Hospice soon after its founding, delighted to offer a few hours of respite to caregivers on weekends.

Upon leaving the classroom, Sister Angela moved to the Cathedral Parish in Providence, RI where she ministered to the elderly in low income housing and in



Sister Angela O'Callaghan

nursing homes. When illness required that she move to St. Clare Home in Newport, RI, Sister Angela continued her mission through presence and prayer among the other patients.

Many are the testimonials of her interest in others, her caring ways, and her spirit of faith. Her rosary was rarely far from her hands. Those of us who lived with her will always remember her devotion to us when we were struck down by cold or 'flu, and her beautiful, welcoming smile. She is missed by family, friends, and all of her Cluny sisters.

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## Associate Margo Sullivan

Margo FitzGerald Sullivan, of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, went home to God on November 1, 2018. Margo was serious about her life of faith, and used to attend regular days of recollection that Sister Eugenia Brady led at the new Salve Regina University Chapel. Margo became attracted to Blessed Anne Marie's missionary zeal that led her to travel widely from Europe to Africa and South America. Her attraction to our founder and her spirituality led her to join the Associate group. She is remembered as a caring and gentle person, and is greatly missed.



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*Bringing Hope & Compassion*

## CLUNY ANNUAL APPEAL 2019



Thanking all who have joined hands  
with us to transform lives  
in amazing ways!

**If you haven't participated, there is still time to send your gift!**

Please remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in your will. Thank you.