

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

Connections

A Warm Welcome for Our New Cluny Congregational Leaders



L-R Sisters Maria Nieves Cremada, Marie Fatima Faye, Clare Stanley, Luciana d’Rosario, Maria da Conceição Adelina, Ann Stevens, Teresa Rai, Agnès Thévenin, Matilde Faneca.

Sister Marie Cooper

A General Chapter is a graced moment in the life of our religious congregation, for it brings together representatives from the four corners of the globe. They are different from one another in so many ways: language, culture, nationality, dress, age . . . and yet, gathered as one they elect our leadership for the next six years, and set the direction of our mission.

Missionary Disciples for a New World is the theme that inspired our delegates in their prayer, faith sharing, deliberations and

discernment. They took on the challenges of this new world and provided us with a three-fold path to guide us forward.

Each month of the 2019 Cluny Province Calendar highlights these priorities for our mission.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they elected our new leadership team pictured here. We are most grateful for their generous gift of themselves.

For close-ups and more information, please visit the webpage: <http://sj-cluny.org/Government-Leadership?lang=fr>.

Photo: Sister Rowena Galvin

In this Issue

Welcome, New Cluny
Congregational Leaders!

From the Editor’s Desk

Let’s Hear It for the Saints!
Saint Oscar Romero

70th Anniversary
Celebrations

Cluny Around the World:
Cluny Sisters in India
Flood Relief Effort

Thanks from a Grateful
Province of USA/Canada
for 70 Years of
Partnerships and
Support

(Continued on Page 7)



Cluny Connections
is a publication of the
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Province of USA & Canada

Editor: Anne Marie Liston, SJC
ellenliston@yahoo.com

Javouhey House
78 Carroll Avenue
Newport, RI 02840

Phone: (401) 849-5124

Layout: Marie Cooper, SJC
clunymarie@gmail.com

78 Carroll Avenue
Newport, RI 02840

Phone: (908) 728-0090

Relocating?
Want to subscribe a friend to
Cluny Connections?

Please use the form below (right)
Just send back your label from this
issue with your new address
attached to:

Cluny Connections
7 Restmere Terrace
Middletown, RI 02842
USA

Reminder: to receive *Cluny Connections* via
Email or to add a friend to the list, please
send name and address to:

clunydevelopment@hotmail.com

Thank you.

The tips of the ginkgo tree in our yard are starting to turn golden, a sure sign that fall is here and winter is just around the corner. After our heat waves of the summer, we are looking forward to some coolness (well, almost.)

Speaking of the ginkgo reminds me of our garden. It reminds me of some small but hopeful signs. While the flowers haven't done so well with the heat, our butterfly bushes are thriving. Although we only have two bushes, so far this year we welcomed two beautiful monarchs, fully grown and delightfully colored. This is the first year we have seen them on a regular basis. Maybe next year we will have more! Thanks to all who helped our project with their donations and prayers. Our little efforts have shown promise. It may only be two little butterflies, but we are doing what we can for the environment!

Sister Anne Marie



Photo: Sean Stratton-487674 Unsplash



On the Move

Sister Marie Cooper
78 Carroll Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
(908) 728-0090

Sister Joan Van der Zyden
310-516 Cannonberry Court
Oshawa, Ontario L1G 2Z6
CANADA
(905) 723-0148

Address Change

Change __ Correct __ Add __ Remove __

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Prov./Postal Code _____

Country _____

Email

Please email to:

clunydevelopment@hotmail.com
or send to:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny PO Box 66 Newport RI 02840-0001

Check/Credit Card Gift

We invite you to donate through
our secure web site donation
page at:

[www.clunyusandcanada.org/
pages/share_donate.html](http://www.clunyusandcanada.org/pages/share_donate.html)

Donation by check:

Please make check payable to:
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
and send to:

Let's Hear It for the Saints!

Sister Anne Marie Liston

With the turning leaves and the shortening of daylight, we realize that summer is past and we are in the fall. At this time of year, the stores go mad for pumpkins and spooky window dressings and most children think excitedly of Trick or Treat.

When I was younger I'm sure my mind was there too, but All Hallows Eve brought other things to mind as well. The next day was All Saints Day and the good sisters made sure we were aware of that. There used to be a publication for children of saints books. Small, not more than 4 square inches, and about 30 pages long, it had a brief life of the saint on the right, and a colored picture of the saint on the left. I pestered my father into buying all of the series, and I really loved those books.

Then I grew up, and I suppose the books collected dust on the shelf or were passed along to others. This past year I happened upon a small, monthly booklet containing the liturgy for each day, several reflections, and...the life of some saint, or blessed, or just plain, ordinary good person who tried to make the world better. The Church is good at categorizing and classifying...and the saints are no exception. The old familiars are there, Francis for the birds and animals, Anthony to help us find the car keys, Monica for the weary, patient mother waiting for her offspring to get their act together and lots more...indeed, many are contemporary, and lots of them were not EVEN Catholic! Reading their stories reminded me that there are far more good people than bad, that the turmoil and troubles of our Church in this age are not beyond our efforts to live the faith with hope and courage, that, as Thomas More once said, "The world can never be so

evil that a good man (or woman) cannot live in it."

We can be discouraged so easily by the chaos and discord we see around us, but let us remember that other ages and times have been worse, that God is still in charge, that we have a whole host of saints at our backs, and that together, little by little, we make the world a better place.

P. S. I'll send you the title of the booklet, if you e-mail. (I don't want to be in trouble for unsolicited ads.)

Saint Oscar Romero

It seems only fitting that as we celebrate the Feast of All Saints we welcome seven new members into their midst. One of these, Bishop Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador's Ciudad Barrios on August 15, 1917. Oscar learned the carpentry trade with his father, and after studies was admitted to the seminary. He was ordained a priest in 1942 in Rome but soon after, was missioned back to his native country.

Torn by the dissension and conflicts that existed in El Salvador at that time, he found himself embedded in the turmoil of the day. By nature he was introspective and inclined to be conservative, but the needs of the poor people touched his heart. He could not countenance the injustice he saw all around him. As bishop of the small rural diocese of Santiago de Maria he encouraged his people with his radio broadcasts and sermons to work for peace and justice and to have hope. On March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass he was shot by a group of gunmen angered by his words to the people.

His life and writings have been studied and he was the subject of several films and videos, but the greatest tribute was the throngs of people who celebrated his canonization by the Church he loved so dearly. Some biographers saw his apparent change of attitude as a result of the death of so many of his priest friends, but when asked, he said, "It was the poor who taught me love and compassion."

Celebramos la vida de este santo hombre con todas nuestras hermanas y hermanos hispanos de las Américas, y oramos para que la voz de la justicia y la compasión se escuche en toda la tierra.

Visit us online



Get to know us better on our website:
www.cluniusandcanada.org



Connect via FaceBook for frequent updates:
www.facebook.com/cluniusacanada
and
www.facebook.com/clunyglobalconcernscommittee



Check out our blog for news:
<http://cluniusandcanada.blogspot.com/>

I'm so very glad I came!

The sharing experience felt like family.



I am so happy to have met the sisters and learned about Blessed Anne Marie.



70th Anniversary Ends with a Gala Weekend

Saturday July 14

- Gathering of many local friends as well as some from as far away as California, West Virginia, New Mexico and even Canada!
- Introduction of our new General Superior, Sister Clare Stanley and her international team.
- Cluny Affiliates and Associates took the floor to share about what it means to them to be a part of our extended Cluny family.
- Reflection and small group sharing on our experience of Blessed Anne Marie's vision and how our connection with Cluny has influenced our lives.

Sunday, July 15

- Celebration of Mass for the Blessed Anne Marie's Feast at Salve Regina University Chapel
- Celebration of Jubilees: Sister Rachel Philippe Racine - 60 years and Sister Eugenia Brady - 65 years
- Buffet supper together at a local restaurant

We are most grateful for all the messages of congratulations from near and far and for all the generous gifts we received on this occasion.



SMILES ALL AROUND!

When we don't get together to meet and share I feel like something is missing.



*This
has been a
beautiful
day.
I am happy
I could be
part
of it.*





Cluny Sisters in India Flood Relief in Kerala

Cluny Connections is grateful to our sisters who gave their all in this amazing response in the wake of devastating floods, and to Sister Teresa Rai (General Councilor) who forwarded the accounts of the sisters. What follows is a summary from the sisters' report. Sister Marie Cooper

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. (Is. 2)

Continuous, torrential rain required the opening of almost all the dams in Kerala. In two hours, the waters had reached the convent in Vandiperiyar. Like everyone else, Cluny Sisters fled as the flood waters roared through their compound, felling the walls, and invading the convent and school buildings. The water rose so quickly that by the time the last sister left the convent, the water had risen up to her neck. After several days the waters subsided allowing the sisters to return to face the damages to the convent and school buildings.

Before very long, however, with the support of Cluny Sisters from three provinces in India (South, South East and South West) the sisters sprang into action to reach out to the poor who had lost everything. Stagnant water had become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, posing hazards of vector-borne diseases. Houses filled with mud had become a refuge for snakes.

The sisters focused on the remote village Panamram of the Waynad District that lacks access to transportation, medical, educational and social services. After a visit to the Collectorate to study a model temporary shelter, the sisters proposed and obtained funding to build 30 temporary shelters. These houses comply with the three principles of the United Nation's convention on disaster management shelters: they are cost effective, capable of immediate completion, and are re-usable. The roofs and sides of the houses are made of sheets of galvanized tin and supported by steel pipes. The front and back are made of local materials like bamboo or plywood.

Many local volunteers came to work and contribute from the little they had. They were joined by many others, including sisters from the other Cluny provinces. The Association of Engineers of Kerala provided technical support.

Cluny school teachers, parents and students, and many other benefactors contributed cash and gifts in kind to support outreach for immediate needs. The Catholic Church and Caritas-India were quick to respond. Cluny Social Services collected and distributed food, clothes, toiletries and other essentials. Our school at Changanacherry became a relief camp, housing over 250 people until they could return home.

The sisters also organized counseling sessions, yoga classes, medical camps and entertainment programs to help the victims of the disaster overcome their fear and anxiety and to begin the healing process.

[\(Continued on Page 7\)](#)



Work in progress.

Photo: Cluny Sisters, Kerala

New Cluny Affiliate Welcomed

At the recommendation of the Province of USA/Canada, Sister Clare Stanley and the General Council awarded Spiritual Affiliation to Shirley Hurta, a long time friend and benefactor of the province and of the congregation.

On October 15, the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, congregation patron, Sisters Luke and Josephine welcomed Shirley into the community of Affiliates. During a prayer service at her home in Michigan, surrounded by family, Shirley received her pin and certificate of affiliation.

Shirley told us: "I am truly, truly honored to receive this certificate. I first came to know the Cluny Sisters 40 years ago. From the beginning, I was impressed and inspired by their dedication, their caring, and their self-sacrifice. I knew then that I would want to be a part of them as much as I could be. They have been doing good work all over the world, and I'm glad that in some way I was a part of that. Also, I feel privileged that Sr. Luke and my dear friend of



Photo: Jessica Hurta

Shirley Hurta

40 years, Sister Josephine, came all the way to Michigan just to give this honor to me. Thank you so much."

Cluny Around the World

(Continued from Page 6)

Over 4,500 fishermen with some 650 boats were able to rescue more than 65,000 people. The Chief Minister of Kerala honored this brave team in a special ceremony, and offered them financial assistance. The Indian government estimates that at least 40 percent of the 30 million people in the State of Kerala were affected by the flooding.

Cluny Sisters were also recognized for their efforts. They were told: "Your presence is a great inspiration and support for the community. . . You are where you are supposed to be at this time! Thank you Sisters."



Photo: Cluny Sisters, Kerala

Sisters in (saris and blue habits) and volunteers in front of an unfinished house.

New Cluny Congregational Leaders

(Continued from Page 1)

General Superior

Sister Clare Stanley (Sierra Leone)

General Councilors

First Assistant: Sister Matilde Faneca (Portugal)

Second Assistant: Sister Agnès Thévenin (France)

Sister Teresa Rai (India)

Sister Maria Nieves Cremades (Spain)

Sister da Conceição Adelina (Angola)

Sister Luciana D'Rozario (India)

Sister Marie Fatima Faye (Senegal)

Sister Ann Stevens (Australia)



Photo: Cluny Sisters, Kerala

A Cluny Sister stands in the doorway of a completed house.



Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Province of USA and Canada, Inc.
7 Restmere Terrace
Middletown, RI 02842

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport RI 02840
Permit No. 286



Bringing Hope & Compassion

WE WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR OVER 70 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT!

Without you, our friends and supporters, and all who have gone before us, not one day of these many years would have been possible.

Literally thousands of children and adults have been welcomed with compassion, and helped to find hope for their future because you have been our partners and have supported us by sharing your time, your gifts and talents, and your treasure.

We are encouraged by your affirmation as we continue to bring hope and compassion to the lonely, the suffering, the abandoned and the rejected.

You are gratefully remembered in our prayer, and special Mass of Thanksgiving will offered for your intentions.

May you be richly blessed!

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