

## Cluny Sisters in India Found a New Mission in Sri Lanka



Photo: Courtesy of the Province of South India

**Sister Elsa Puthussery and Sister Pakia Mary Salette**

**S**ister Rosary Chinappan, Provincial of South India, recently announced our first foundation in Sri Lanka.

Sister Elsa Puthussery and Sister Pakia Mary Salette, arrived on June 10, 2019 in the parish of Mandaithivu-Allaipiddi in the Diocese of Jaffna. They will collaborate with the de Montfort Brothers in an education project. They will also engage in pastoral and social ministry in the parish, which has a sub-station of 250 families. A third sister will join them later this year.

The long drawn out civil war lasting 30 years has left its mark. The people yearn for peaceful development, and they see education based on sound values as the foundation necessary to build a better future.

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

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Thank you.

**S**orry to have missed the last edition. Old age is catching up on me! It is good to have Sister Marie here to take my place, and to have so many different adventures and far off places to tell you about.

Now we will anticipate her adventure in New Zealand. Will she see a duck-billed platypus? Or is that Australia? And of course a kiwi bird! My knowledge of the wild life leaves much to be desired. Whatever encounters she may experience we shall look forward to hearing about them.

It is always great to get some pictures of your house or village, and even better when we can put a name to a face we see. It makes the world seem smaller somehow.

We look forward to welcoming some visitors over the summer and remember gratefully in our prayers some of our Cluny friends and benefactors who have gone home to God since our last edition: Marilyn Donnelly, Dermot McDermott, Mary Horgan, and Joe Madory. May they rest in peace.

Sister Anne Marie Liston

## Whitesville Food Pantry Closed in June

**I**t is with heavy hearts that we learned of the closing of the Whitesville, WV outreach program directed by Sue Pauley for almost 25 years. Catholic Charities, which sponsored the program after Cluny Sisters withdrew from the area, recently announced the closing. In addition to food distribution, Sue oversaw several other programs, including school shoes and winter coats for children. She also welcomed church youth groups and made it possible for them to assist the elderly and disadvantaged with much needed home repairs.

We wish to acknowledge Sue, her husband Stan, and all the wonderful volunteers who selflessly dedicated themselves to the people of the area and made a difference in so many, many lives.

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# Celebrating 200 Years of Cluny Presence in Senegal

Cluny Sisters of the Province of French-Speaking West Africa, Affiliates and Associates, past students, as well as Cluny Sisters' delegations from other provinces and other religious congregations, laity and priests gathered for the anniversary Mass. The archbishop of Dakar presided, assisted by the bishops of the other dioceses where we minister, as well as a large group of priests.



Entrance procession: Sisters and past students carried candles which they placed at the statue of Blessed Anne Marie in the sanctuary.



Blessing of the water



Delegation of Cluny Sisters from the Province of West Africa



Bicentennial Choir

Photos: Sister Marie Cooper

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# Hands Across the Sea

## Provinces of USA/Canada and West Africa

Sister Marie Cooper

**B**lessed Anne Marie Javouhey sent sisters out to missions around the world, but her desire was that all her sisters would be united in one Cluny family. “May you always be of one heart and one spirit”, she wrote. So, while our *Rule of Life* calls us to be ready to leave our community, province or country in response to the call of our mission, we are also called to collaborate and support one another across the province boundaries. Many of you have met sisters from the Province of West Africa (Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Ghana) when we welcome a sister from the province and facilitate her travel to the parishes assigned for the annual Mission Cooperative Program.

This year, at the request of Sister Catherine Jarra and her leadership council, we collaborated in a new way. I responded to their request to spend a few weeks in the province to lead a retreat and several workshops in each of the countries of the province. I also conducted workshops with other sisters, laypersons, priests, catechists and seminarians, and was interviewed on radio and TV.

It was not “all work and no play” as I was able to visit the sisters in their various communities and ministries. It was a privilege and a true joy to be with our sisters in each of their countries, getting to know them, their people and their many ministries. For me it was a great gift and a learning experience.



Photo: Sister Marie Cooper

***Workshop: Successful Change Agents for Today’s World*** – Sisters honing and applying skills and tools to respond to specific instances of injustice and local needs. Each community identified a specific issue and developed a plan of action that will be completed over a period of two to three months. Each community will present its project evaluation during the annual general meeting in August.

# Hands Across the Sea

## Provinces of USA/Canada and West Africa



**Workshop: Faith Development, Evangelization and Small Christian Communities** – Sharing faith on the scriptures in community, and evangelizing by founding and supporting small Christian communities in parishes.



**Diocesan – Evangelization Workshops:** These catechists were in the group that participated in two workshop days at the Gambian Pastoral Institute.

Portions of the workshop were live-streamed to diocesan TV; clips of video recorded were used in the diocesan TV programs; and audio was used on diocesan radio.



**Cluny Contemplative Charism Retreat** – Connecting the scriptures with the spirit, vision and ministry of our founder, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey for our mission today. Ten sisters, and among them, these four novices preparing to make their first vows participated.



**Workshop: What Makes a Cluny Local Community Unique** – After brainstorming in the larger group to name the essential elements that make our communities unique, each community created a visual to express how those elements are made real in their life and ministry together.

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**Jubilee Celebration** – We all celebrated with Sister Geraldine Jackson on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee. Sister Geraldine has spent almost all of her religious life in West Africa.

***Congratulations, dear Sister!***



# Cluny Sisters in South East India

## Blessing and Inauguration of New Nava Jeevan School Building for Special Needs Children

Sister Grace of the Province of South East India

*J*une 6, 2019 was a red letter day in the history of the community of St. Joseph, Karaikal as Nava Jeevan, a school for special children, was inaugurated and blessed. Not able to get a suitable place for the school, the sisters moved it from place to place and house to house, but managed to run the school for the past 13 years. This year, the community was able to purchase a beautiful building with the help of the province, and to convert it into a spacious and well equipped school for special children, the new poor of our locality. Today over 50 children are benefitting from our service.

The school was inaugurated by Sister Rosita, our Provincial, cutting the ribbon and invoking the presence of Christ by lighting the Kuthuvilakku (brass oil lamp). The parish priest Father Antony Raj blessed the house and celebrated Mass to bring down God's blessings on the school. The presence of a few members of the Provincial Council, sisters from Pondicherry and neighboring communities, staff, students and parents of Nava Jeevan, and well-wishers added solemnity to the function. Congratulations and best wishes to Sister Daisy, the Director, the staff, and students of Nava Jeevan.



Photos: Courtesy of the Province of South India

# In Memoriam

## Cluny Affiliate Joseph Madory

Joe and his beloved wife, Kathy have been wonderful friends and benefactors for many years. Any Cluny Sister, from any province in the congregation was always welcome in their home. They became Cluny Affiliates of the Province of the West Indies on February 11, 1982, but they also were a part of the life of the Province of West Africa and our province here in USA and Canada in many ways.

It was with shock and deep sadness that we learned of Joe's sudden death on March 28, 2019.

Joe spent a lifetime in service of others. He was born and lived on Staten Island all his life, but it didn't matter whether he became aware of local need or one from the West Indies, Africa or beyond: Joe was ready to respond. He was a true missionary disciple, spreading God's love and helping others. He is a great loss to Kathy, who says, "He was my best friend," as well as to all of us Cluny Sisters and the many local organizations he supported. Yet even in death, we continue to be enriched by the memories of Joe's witness to his faith, outreach to those in need, and love of all those he met.



Photo: Sister Joan Van der Zyden

Joseph Madory

### 200 Years in Senegal (Con't)



Sister Hortense, Provincial of French-Speaking West Africa (L) and Sister Clare Stanley, Superior General (R) cut the anniversary cake at the reception.



Sister Hortense, with Cluny students in traditional dress who attended the panel discussion.

In addition to the beautiful Eucharistic celebration, other events also gathered many to tell the Cluny Story and to rejoice.

At the panel discussion, Sister Madeleine Sene, SJC Ph D enthusiastically mapped out for us the challenges and accomplishments of Cluny Sisters in Senegal from the foundation up to the present day.

Brother Laurent, O. Carm. shared his reflections on Blessed Anne Marie, describing how she was grounded in family and faith; how she daringly engaged in the mission her whole life long; and how she gave birth to a whole new way of being women religious, a congregation explicitly missionary, in the Church.



Photos: Sister Marie Cooper

Sister Madeleine Sene



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*Bringing Hope & Compassion*

## Congratulations to the Sisters of Australia/Papua New Guinea as Second Papuan Cluny Sister Makes First Vows



Photos: Courtesy of the Province of Australia/Papua New Guinea

Left: Sister Sylvian (kneeling) pronounces her vows. Sister Rachel, Provincial, (top, right) receives her vows.  
Right: Sister Sylvian proclaims the Scripture.

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