

Javouhey House Sisters and Bible Study Group Gather Aquidneck Islanders to Hear Father David Reid, SSCC "Beauty in the Gospel of Luke"

Sister Marie Cooper

With energy, enthusiasm and wit, Fr. David delighted his audience with insights into how Luke set forth the Good News for a faithful and struggling community.

In his words, "Luke demonstrates how Jesus de-uglified". He dealt with the ugly, coming on the margins, breaking down barriers, and reversing human expectations proclaiming that God's promises are fulfilled. *The blind see, the lame walk.* (Luke 4) Luke's "way of beauty" reveals how those "demonized" by society like Zaccheus could come into harmony with God. Mary's Magnificat sings of this reversal and of the harmony of the Kingdom: God's promises are fulfilled.

By popular request, Father David will return on February 20, 2020 for another talk.

We are most grateful to St. Lucy Parish for their warm welcome, to the members of our bible study for their support, and to all who made a free-will offering.



Father David with Pat Callahan

Photos: Sister Marie Cooper

Yes, it is a small, small world! When Pat Callahan learned of Fr. David's upcoming talk through Joan Galvin, a member of the bible study group, she was delighted. Why? Her uncle Frank was the first American member of Father David's community, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. Meeting Father David, who knew him, and reminiscing about her favorite uncle after the talk brought her excitement and joy.

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Thank you.

All our prayers and best wishes go out to all of you for the New Year 2020.

As always, our issue brings you news of Cluny near and far. Whether gathering in Newport, RI, San Pedro, CA or out in the South Pacific, it is always a joy for us to be together. And when we cannot travel, at least to connect through modern communication. We hope you will enjoy "traveling" through this issue with us "Down Under" to meet some of our sisters in the New Zealand/Philippines Province at home and in Samoa, as well as recognizing old friends right here in North America.

Our thanks go out to all those who have contributed to our annual appeal, *You Did It For Me*. All those whom we help are deeply grateful.

We depend on your generosity to reach out to those in need here at home.

We ask that you keep our Editor, Sister Anne Marie, in your prayers. She has had some health challenges recently, but hopes to be back at this desk soon.

The Editorial Staff

Saints Once Were Children, and then Teenagers

But sometimes, we forget!

As a little girl, Nanette, who later became Blessed Anne Marie our founder, snuck a sip of wine from a barrel in the cellar!

Sister Rachel Philippe reminds us in this sketch of how little Nanette did ordinary chores, like feeding the chickens.



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Cluny Students from New Zealand Reach out to Samoan Children

Sister Emeli Flavia

Manuia Le Aso from Tauranga to you all.

On October 5, I left Tauranga with Teresa Rush, one of our teachers and a Cluny Associate, 27 students and 30 parents from our St. Mary School. We were welcomed to Taumeasina Island in Samoa with the blowing of cone shells, beating of drums and garlanding of tropical flowers.

We experienced the culture and traditions of Samoa and visited two schools and a support center. At a coconut and kakaoa (cocoa) plantation we learned how to roast and pound the kakaoa the old way. We visited a Samoan fale (home) and learned how Samoans prepare and cook their food in a traditional way. In the evening we enjoyed a cultural evening, the Samoan Siva Night.

Our visits took us to The Samoa Victim Support Development Center for children who have suffered sexual abuse, St. Mary Primary School for Girls, and the Marist Primary School for Boys.

At the Samoa Victim Support Development Center, it was a very emotional time listening to some of the children's stories. Many tears were shed when the children sang and danced to Amazing Grace, I'm Alive, and other songs. Afterwards we were invited to mingle with the children. Back on our bus, I asked everyone to spend a minute in silence to reflect back on our experience and the sad stories we had heard from the children. Mothers wiped tears from their eyes, as all sat in silence.

At St. Mary Primary School for Girls and the Marist Primary School for Boys we shared cultures, and dances, and visited the classrooms. It was a very good experience for both our pupils and theirs. We brought

sports gear and other donations. The highlight of this visit was to see the faces of students, staff and parents when they received their new rugby uniforms as rugby is the favorite sport in the islands.

This journey has brought joy. We received the call, we reached out and we shared. I felt that the being part of this *malaga* (mission) trip to Samoa was fulfilling our Provincial Chapter proposal which states "Finding ways of reaching out to remote mission communities..." (Chapter Proposals, New Evangelization, The Provincial Chapter Encourages. #2)

Faieksia 'e hanisi. (Thank you very much.)



Sister Emeli and Samoan children.



New Zealanders pounding the kakaoa.

Missionary Disciples for a New World

C luny Sisters of USA and Canada gathered during the month of October for further reflection on our mission in a world of great diversity. Sister Niki, a Maryknoll Sister, facilitated a two-day workshop that helped us deepen our understanding of the importance of recognizing and validating our own gifts and the variety of gifts of our sisters in community, and of all whom we meet.

The joy of being together and sharing in reflection and dialogue made our time together a great blessing. The photos show a few highlights of the days.



Row 1: Sister Maria, Sisters Niki and Rachel, Sister Anne Marie; Row 2: Sisters Yannick and Mary, Sister Josephine. Row 3 Left: The group that met in San Pedro, CA: Front Row: Sisters Loretto, Ena and Genevieve; Back Row : Sisters Marie, Mary, Niki, Joan, Luke and Mary Patrice. Row 3 Right: The group that met in Newport, RI: Front Row Sisters Rachel, Maria, Anne Marie, Yannick and Josephine; Back Row: Sisters Eugenia, Luke, Mary and Marie.

Photos: Sister Marie Cooper

Hands Across the Globe

Provinces of New Zealand/Philippines and USA & Canada
Collaborate to Provide a Special Cluny Sisters' Retreat

*How I desire all my dear daughters to be
of one heart and one mind!*
(Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey)

Sister Marie Cooper



Retreat participants:

Front row - Sisters Bernadette St. Leger, Francis Kelly, Gabrielle O'Neill, Irene Boucher-Hayes. Back row: Sisters Allison Macalister (Province Leader), Pacifica Sun Chunmin, Rosalie Johnson, Marie Cooper (retreat leader), Sister Lusini Falemaka, Sister Luisa Nava and Sister Emeli Flavia Marafono.

*A*s *Missionary Disciples for a New World*, we Cluny Sisters reach out, collaborate, and support one another by sharing personnel across provinces (geographical regions) and continents. Sister Allison Macalister, the province leader of New Zealand/Philippines, invited me to lead a retreat for our sisters in Tauranga, New Zealand. I felt deeply honored and also joyful and full of expectation not only to lead a retreat, but to get to know our sisters, their ministries, and their beautiful country.

After the retreat, Sister Allison wrote, "We were so happy to have you and to be receivers of the wonderful knowledge you have of our Foundress, making our Charism Retreat alive with her spirituality and humanness. I know that each sister who entered into the retreat went home richer for this special time."

For me also, it was a very special time, and I returned home richly blessed through my encounters with the sisters and through our contemplation and prayer together. I truly feel that Blessed Anne Marie was smiling on her daughters as we gathered in one heart and mind to let her missionary life and the scriptures illumine our journey as disciples on mission in this "new world".

Continued on Page 8

*I was hungry, thirsty, sick, in prison . . .
when you did it for my sisters and brothers,
you did it for me. (Jesus)*



Because of you
our lives
have been changed!



With your help
more lives can be
changed!



Thank You!

*Y*our prayerful support, encouragement, and financial contributions make it possible for us to reach out to the poor, the home bound and those in nursing care, and to sponsor spiritual support and faith development for adults, such as bible studies and scripture talks.

"You'll never know the difference
you made in my life," so many people tell us.

***To continue our outreach, we must meet our goal
of \$50,000 for 2020.***

If you haven't made a gift, it's not too late to help out!
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too small.

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Cluny Sisters in the South Pacific Respond to the Measles Crisis in Samoa

Province of New Zealand/Philippines

*I want to be everywhere there is danger
to do a little bit of good.*

Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey

Samoa declared a state of emergency on November 25, closing all its schools, banning children from public gatherings, and mandating that everybody get vaccinated. Teams of people have been travelling the country administering thousands of vaccines.

Sister Lusini Falemaka, a nurse from our community in Mangere, joined one of the 23 medical teams that New Zealand sent to respond to the crisis. On her team there were three nurses, three administrators, an aide, a driver and a policeman.



Briefings were held at the Apia Hospital. The parish hall of Vailele village served as a base in the morning. In the afternoons the team made house calls in Letogo and Laulii.

Sister Lusini wrote, "My team vaccinated 330 persons yesterday. We see more than 300 in a day. The police are present for the villages that have no matai (chief). . . . After the morning round of vaccinations, we were sent on house calls. Every home in the village was visited."

Join us in praying for the people of Samoa and those responding to the crisis!



Photos. Directly above: Sister Lusini giving an injection; upper right: Sister Lusini with the team; lower right: with inoculated children.



Photos: Sister Lusini

In Memoriam

Cluny Affiliate Shirley Hurta

My Mom

Christie Hurta

The world lost a beautiful soul when my mom passed away at the age of 76. She was diagnosed with MS over 40 years ago, and within five years, was unable to move from the neck down. She had four young children, my dad traveled a lot for business, and yet she always made sure we all had a life full of choices and opportunities, and were never limited by her condition.

She faced every challenge with grace and dignity. She never complained about her MS, but always demonstrated an enormous amount of compassion and empathy for others. Her internal strength came from her faith, and the love of so many.

She was incredibly generous. She didn't care about material things for herself, but chose to help others, especially in countries where the poverty level is unimaginable. She never asked for recognition or praise, and was forever humble.

During her last days in hospice, I "spoke" with her a lot about the phenomenal mother she was, how many lives she positively touched, and admitted that I wasn't always a great daughter. I could be impatient and abrupt, which she never deserved. I asked for her forgiveness; I know it was granted, not only because that's what moms do, but also because she had a huge heart and always forgave us all.

Despite wishing for even one more day with her, we knew she was ready to go, her time had come, and she's at peace. I miss her so much, and continue to figure



Photo: Jessica Hurta

Shirley Hurta

out how to live a life without her in it. She was the best mother and role model, and being her daughter was the greatest gift and privilege I could have hoped for. She has my gratitude and love, always.

Remembering Shirley

Sister Josephine St. Leger

Shirley came to Cluny School in 1979 to register her family - our first meeting. We became good friends. We were both in a new place and venture. These were good years as the children developed and became very supportive in the family. Shirley's illness progressed, but her mind was sharp and she guided and supported the work at home.

Shirley became totally bed-ridden by the time she and her family moved away from Newport. However,

she never forgot us at Cluny and supported us for many years.

In 2018 at our request, the Congregation awarded her spiritual affiliation in recognition of her strong support over the years. She has and will continue to benefit from the prayers and works of the sisters.

Now that she has gone home to God and is with Don again, I feel she has not forgotten us and our years together. May God reward her generosity and the example she has left us.



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Bringing Hope & Compassion



Left: Sister Pacifica receives her candle.

Center: Sister Irene accepts her candle.



Right: Sister Allison thanks Sister Marie, and presents her with a gift from the province.



Hands Across the Globe (Con't from Page 5) Retreat Closing Ceremony

Sister Allison Macalister presented each retreatant with a candle and sent her forth to let her light shine as a Missionary Disciple for a New World.

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