

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

Connections

Cluny Sisters Celebrate 150 Years in Peru



Sisters of the Province of Peru/Cuba gathered prior to the arrival of COVID19.

When our sisters in Peru celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Cluny Sisters in Peru with Mass in the cathedral in Lima on June 7th that was broadcast on national television, we joined them in spirit. Although plans were adapted because of the COVID19 pandemic, the joy and thanksgiving were no less real as the many sisters who have ministered in Peru and the life of the province were remembered. In this vibrant corner of the Cluny world, sisters minister from the Amazon region to the mountainous Altiplano to Lima on the coast, as well as in Cuba.

Cluny Sisters landed in Lima on June 8, 1870 to begin a new foundation. French immigrants, many of whom were skilled artisans from the south

Continued on Page 3

In this Issue

**Celebrating 150 Years of
Cluny Presence in Peru**

From the Editor's Desk

**Cluny Around the World
Carrying on our Mission
in Difficult Times**

**Year of Prayer for the
Canonization of
Blessed Anne Marie**

Am I Racist?

Our Thanks to Our Donors

From the Editor's Desk



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.

Well, here we are in the midst of a heat wave and still locked into the grips of the pandemic. It seems like it has been going on forever! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that you have escaped the dreaded COVID19 virus. So very many people have already passed away, and it doesn't look like the end is anywhere in the near future. May God grant safety and good health to those suffering around the world. And may He grant peace and tranquility to our country as we try to work for the equality and freedom that everyone should enjoy. Let us pray fervently for this.

This coming October 15th, we Clunys will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the beatification of our Foundress, Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey. We ask all of you who receive this letter and know of Anne-Marie's life to set aside a special moment each day to pray to her for the gift of her canonization. What a blessing it would be as the world strives to truly become a place of real freedom, and equality as Anne-Marie struggled in her day to bring equality and respect to those to whom she ministered. What a great gift if we could realize her dream!

Maybe we could mark it on our calendars and make a concerted effort for prayers to go up for this very real and needed grace in today's world! You will be hearing more about the preparations. If you have received special graces and blessings through her intercession we would be grateful if you could send us the information by letter to:

Srs. of St. Joseph of Cluny
7 Restmere Terrace, Middletown
RI 0284

or email to:

clunyusa@hotmail.com

Cluny Sister Annette Ambatt, Postulator for Blessed Anne-Marie's cause, will receive the information you send. Surely, with all the prayers and intercessions of her thousands of sisters—and all your requests—our prayers cannot go unanswered. Let us storm heaven with our requests!

Sister Anne Marie

Visit us online



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



Connect via FaceBook for
frequent updates:
[www.facebook.com/
clunyusacanda](http://www.facebook.com/clunyusacanda)
and
[www.facebook.com/
clunyglobalconcernscommittee](http://www.facebook.com/clunyglobalconcernscommittee)



Check out our blog for news:
[http://clunyusandcanada.
blogspot.com/](http://clunyusandcanada.blogspot.com/)

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:

Cluny Sisters Celebrate 150 Years in Peru (Continued)

of France as well as the French portion of the Basque Country settled in Peru during the 1800s. At a request from the French welfare society in Peru, the sisters first took responsibility for the French Asylum, a medical facility for families of French origin who needed care and support.

Soon this Asylum became the “House of Health” clinic, open to all. The sisters also extended their outreach by founding a school in Lima. For almost a century the sisters were responsible for the administration, and ministered in all the services of this clinic. Students rapidly increased in number at the school, which was appreciated by both French and Peruvian families for the excellent study methods taught by the sisters. Over the past 150 years, the number of Peruvian sisters and the ministries have continued to grow.

Today, they form ten communities responsible for a vast variety of ministries: three schools (nursery through secondary); a health care clinic with an alternative medicine center; social action networks that include creches (children 0-3 years); boarding for women who come to Lima to study; two canteens/soup kitchens

for students and sick or abandoned seniors; home visiting; accommodation for those who come to Lima for medical treatment; a spirituality center for retreats and for Christian, spiritual and human development groups; catechesis and sacramental preparation; and celebration of the Word in the absence of priests.

Guided by our Cluny missionary spirit, the sisters responded to a request to found a community in Cuba in San Miguel de los Baños in 1997. Subsequently, a second community was founded in 2001 in Colon, Cuba. The five sisters in these two communities are involved in pastoral ministry. They are responsible for two canteens/soup kitchens for poor elderly people and home visits to families, catechesis and preparation for the reception of the sacraments, and celebration of the Word in the absence of priests.

The words of Anne-Marie Javouhey resound in the heart of her daughters: “Be courageous, serve God with joy and generosity ... Be of our time so as to win it for Jesus Christ ... I want to be wherever there is good to be done! ... May God be glorified ... in everything and always His Holy Will.”



Adding to the joy of the celebrations, on July 20 Sisters Doris, Gloria, Yely and Ofelia pronounced their perpetual vows. We join our sisters of the Province of Peru/Cuba in rejoicing and giving thanks for their commitments.

The four sisters are pictured here with Sisters Maria Virginia (past Provincial) and Sister Miriam (current Provincial).



To learn more about Cluny Sisters in Peru and Cuba, please visit:
<https://www.clunyperucuba.org.pe>.

To contact the sisters, go to the website, and click on “contacto” to send a message.

Mailing Address :

Jr. Arica 360
Madelena del Mar, Lima

Telephone :

51 1 461 82 26

Cluny Around the World - Carrying

Sister Maria

We deviate from the usual style of this column to bring you some vignettes from life and service in our COVID 19 Pandemic according to their gifts, talents, and possibilities for collaboration with others to serve.

Paraguay/Argentina



We rejoice with the sisters of Paraguay/Argentina as Sister Valentina with Sister Maria Jesús (far left) celebrated her silver jubilee of vows in Pozo Colorado and Sister Raquel (right) celebrated in Capiibary.



Sister Eulalia's 90th birthday was also a cause for great joy and recognition of her lifelong loving ministry.

Meanwhile, the sisters are working hard to assist the poor, who are most severely affected by the COVID19 pandemic.



Guinea

Another cause for joy and celebration is the news that eleven young women from Guinea (Conakry) are beginning the first year of their novitiate training. Through the collaboration of sisters of Guinea and Senegal, they have been welcomed into the novitiate in Dakar, Senegal.



g on the Mission in Difficult Times

rie Cooper

*ur Cluny world. Each province, community, and sister has responded to urgent needs flowing from the
serve the most vulnerable. But these months have not been without good news and reason to celebrate.*

Peru/Cuba

In both Peru and Cuba, the sisters have generously increased services during the pandemic. Not only do they provide food for those who come to the centers (left), they also visit homes (right), and, at the canteenes they manage, the sisters serve meals, and companion and encourage those who come (below).



India



The sisters in India have also been responding in different ways to increase response to urgent needs, including distributing rice and staples, working in rice fields, and making stacks and stacks of masks.

Continued on Page 7

Year of Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Anne Marie



An artist's rendering of Blessed Anne Marie and the children of the world.

Cluny Sisters around the world began a year-long preparation for the 170th anniversary of the death of our founder, Blessed Anne Marie. The celebration of the feast on July 15th began a special year of prayer for her canonization (recognition of her sainthood) by the church. Each province is focusing on her charism, the special gift given her and also to us, to serve in the Church.

Blessed Anne Marie's life of holiness and ministry reveal an ideal model for today's world. She took to heart the mystical experience when St. Teresa presented her with children of many races. She firmly believed that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore deserve freedom, self-determination, a meaningful livelihood, education, housing, and medical and social services. As sharers in this same vision, for over 200 years, Cluny Sisters have carried on, often in places where no one else would go, doing what no one else would do, but grounded in faith that it is all part of God's great loving plan (God's Will) for all God's children.

Her canonization would make her and her vision known worldwide, providing an inspiration and a challenge for millions. Please pray with us!

Am I Racist?

Sister Anne Marie Liston

The death of George Floyd and the events which have rocked our nation have challenged us to pause and reflect on racism in our own lives and to ask, "Do I, consciously or not, harbor remnants of the racist past which we admit stains our history?"

My own prayer and reflection has brought to mind an incident in the past that I find rather telling in my own life. As a white American growing up in the aftermath of World War II, I perceived only a glancing image of what racism looks like. Social scientists and scholars give us reasons and explanations for this troubling and pervading stain that taints our history. Indeed, our history is fraught with factual evidence and blatant examples of racial prejudice. We can condemn it and deplore the violence of it, but do we own it?

Several years ago, I found myself a student at an eastern college situated in the heart of an inner city neighborhood where African American families resided. When I was getting to know my way around, the sister in charge warned me to use the main streets and to avoid the side streets for safety's sake. Unfortunately, this made my walking commute longer. Late one Friday afternoon, I made my way, laden with school books and other parcels. Aware that nightfall was fast approaching, I decided to take a short cut down a side street. As I walked along, I heard heavy footfalls approaching from behind. Suddenly, a large heavy hand landed on my shoulder. I stopped, fearing the worst. With that a voice said, "Say a prayer for me Sister, I have an exam." And the running steps continued. A young black man wanted to ask me for prayers, but I had assumed the worst.

At that moment, I was afraid, not because he stopped me, but because I was frightened to be in an African American neighborhood, my conscience told me. I am sure to this day that if that had been a white neighborhood, I would have reacted differently. Was I afraid because I assumed that he was black?

Many times since then, I have had to go back to that afternoon and ask myself: am I racist? The tiny seeds of doubt and fear grow in our hearts when we let them go unnoticed. How many times might I have judged another by color, or language or nationality without ever really acknowledging my bias. All of us have our little prejudices, our quirks, but they don't have to make up the fabric of who we are. The only way we can overcome the evil of racism in our world is to admit that we all stand in need of forgiveness.

West Africa



In West Africa, outreach to the most vulnerable is ongoing. But, when schools closed, the sisters in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Ghana took to the garden to grow food to meet the increasing need brought about by the COVID19 virus. These photos of manioc, potatoes and tomatoes testify to their great success!



The COVID19 pandemic affected all of our ministries, calling forth the best in us to respond to those in need. These efforts cannot take us away from our other priorities, however.

In Ghana, for example, the sisters collaborate with others to provide youth with information about human trafficking, and how to protect themselves from abduction.

Continued on Page 8

Our thanks to all our donors!

During these difficult times,
we rely on the help of you,
our readers, to continue our outreach.



Because of you
our lives
have been changed!



With your help
more lives can be
changed!



"You'll never know the difference you made in my life."

In this issue of *Cluny Connections* you've seen the difference Cluny Sisters around the world are making, and how we continue to be stretched beyond our usual ministries in responding to the needs of those affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

We are most grateful to all our donors for your generous support.

Please consider making a contribution today—no gift is too small.

Please use the enclosed envelope
or
donate online:

http://www.clunyusandcanada.org/pages/share_donate.html

Thank you!

We never share your contact information with anyone.



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

Cluny Around the World (Continued)

Sri Lanka

In the Fall 2019 newsletter, we reported on the first Cluny foundation in Sri Lanka. The sisters arrived on June 10, 2019 in the parish of Mandaithivu-Allaipiddi in the Diocese of Jaffna. They join the de Montfort Brothers in the work of education. Recently, the sisters rejoiced with the laying of the foundation for their residence.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to the sisters as they contribute to this important project in the field of education, after the example of Blessed Anne Marie.

We hope you have enjoyed these little clips from Cluny life around the world, and we thank the provinces for providing the photos that introduce the sisters to you and help to liven up the commentary.



Dedication Ceremony: Sister Pakia Mary Salette readies for the laying of the foundation stone.

Your contact information is never shared with anyone.
Please remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in your will. Thank you.