



Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Journeying with Josaphata

Advent 2017



Sisters Servants Elect New Superior General



SSMI General Curia 2017-2023

Sr. Sofia, Sr. Bonifatia

Sr. Luiza, Sr. Janice, Sr. Mykola

"The Sisters Servants convened their XIII General Chapter from July 9-27, 2017 in Rome, Italy. The theme was "Following in the footsteps of Blessed Josaphata", our Foundress. According to the Congregation's Constitutions, a General Chapter is held every six years. The General Chapter has several aims, a few of which are to a) elect a Superior General and her Council to govern for the next six years; b) review the Congregation's faithfulness to the charism of the founders and assess the apostolate in the light of the Gospel; and c) propose changes in the Constitution, when the need arises.

The Chapter was held at St. Josaphat Pontifical College Seminary. The Basilian Fathers and Seminarians were our gracious hosts. The participants of the Chapter consisted of the reigning General Curia along with the Provincials and delegates of each province, along with the secretaries and observers, which totaled 32 attendees.



Delegates travelled from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine and the United States. Although the General Chapter is a serious time of business, and long days of deliberation, the delegates relished being with other Sisters Servants from around the world in the Eternal City. On July 9th, Bishop Mikhail Bubny, (delegate of His Beatitude Sviatoslav) celebrated the Divine Liturgy for blessings upon our Chapter. The excitement continued as we journeyed to the Vatican for the audience at the square, in which Pope Francis greeted and blessed the SSMI's as we would begin our Chapter. The next day's event was much anticipated, as we would celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the SSMI's in Zhuzhel, Ukraine in 1892, with a Divine Liturgy in the Basilica of St. Peter, followed by a festive banquet.



On July 12-13, we prepared spiritually for the Chapter opening, which was called to order by Sr. Theresa Slota. Sisters processed in with symbols representing the charism and heart of the SSMI Congregation. *(cont'd on p.2)*





Sr. Kathleen, Sr. Eliane and Sr. Tekla were the delegates from the Immaculate Conception Province in the U.S.A. It is a custom that each province brings a "gift / подарунок" for the Chapter delegates. Our province gave a fleece mini-blanket which the European sisters thoroughly enjoyed as they always complain about the "draft / протяг" from the air conditioning or open windows, while the North Americans sweat!

The next 11 days and nights, were filled to the brim with deliberations, conferences, presentations, individual sharing as well as small and large group discussions. Each province gave a presentation about their status, community life and ministry. It seemed that one common thread ran through each presentation: the issue of aging and the lack of vocations. However, the common bond of hope and faithfulness to our vows of consecration, and the charism of Josaphata, prompted us to look at the need to venture in the future with the willingness to risk and respond to the needs of society today.

Although the Chapter was a time of business, and the discussions were not always pleasant and agreeable, the time of recreation was truly life-giving during the days of Chapter. It was amazing to see these women, who run hospitals, schools, communities, let their hair down and enjoyed having fun, as witnessed in the picture of "musical chairs."

Finally, on July 24th began the voting for the new Superior General and her Council. We know that the Holy Spirit was working over-time, as for the first time in our Congregation's history, the sister elected as Superior General was not a delegate at the Chapter, which meant that the Chapter was suspended until Sr. Sofia Lebedowicz from our province in Poland arrived in Rome! The General Councilors elected next were Sr. Bonifatia Dakiv from Ukraine, Sr. Janice Soluk from Canada, Sr. Mykola Ctepac from Serbia and Sr. Luiza Ciupa from Brazil. Mnohaya Lita! May God bless and guide you!



Sr. Clare Holak, SSMI—Eternal Memory



Sr. Clare fell asleep in the Lord on July 27, 2017, approximately one week before she would have celebrated her 65th Jubilee of Consecrated Life as a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate. Marian Holak was born in Jersey City, NJ and attended St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, NJ. She attended St. Mary's Villa Academy in Sloatsburg, NY which was operated by the SSMI's. Marian obviously experienced some type of "calling" during those four years at the Academy, as she soon entered the Congregation.

Sr. Clare's ministries spanned the spectrum, as she spent many years in elementary and secondary levels of education as a teacher and principal. She served as pastoral associate and also a hospice volunteer who journeyed with the terminally ill and dying. Her final ministry before retiring was in the finance department of an Extended Care Facility. Sr. Clare believed that her priority was to build a relationship with Jesus Christ through her prayer and reflection of Scriptures, to which she tried to be faithful. May God grant to his handmaiden, eternal memory and peaceful repose.

St. Joseph's Adult Care Home



Reflecting on the past few months of our home, we are extremely pleased of the progress that we have made with improvements to the facility, while still going forward to raise the money needed for a building expansion to become “Assisted Living.” Although we are in need of a great deal of money to make our dream of expansion a reality, we are proud of the improvements that we have made to St. Joseph’s Home to assure the safety and comfort of our residents. We cannot and will not neglect the fundamentals needed, or ignore improvements that are needed to continue the tranquil quality of life that we provide. We have held two fundraisers this year to help supplement costs of improvements, to which we have thanked God for an abundant success. The first fundraiser was an Art Gala that was held in June in the Gallery of St. Mary’s Villa. Marlin Art was the sponsor who brought in over 175 pieces of beautiful and collectable pieces of artwork that were auctioned off. It was a wonderful evening with a great response from the audience, requesting that we hold another Art Gala next year. Upon the success and request of our guests, **mark your calendars for Friday, April 27, 2018 for our next Art Gala.** The second fundraiser was a “Legend’s Night” that was also held at St. Mary’s Villa in September. Once again, we were blessed to have a wonderful evening with our guests. With the enthusiasm and overwhelming response to this event, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting another “Legend’s Night” next September. The profits made by these events are helping to offset the cost of a much needed new roof to a wing of St. Joseph’s, new carpeting on the ramp of the second floor, and possibly new front doors at the entrance of St. Joseph’s. The Sisters, staff and residents are grateful for the blessings that have been given to us to continue our journey. With all the positive blessings that we are sharing with you, we would like to inform you of where we stand with our building expansion project.

The final approval for our Assisted Living hinges on the new addition to be built. Our building project can only go forward with the necessary funds to meet that goal. Thus, one hinges on the other. We continue to reach out to every resource possible to make our dream of expansion a reality. If there is anyone that you have contact with that would be of support to us, please reach out to them and share our story. What we do, is not only for today, but for the many tomorrows. The day will come when we will be asked if we have met our financial goal to begin construction. If not, we have lost all attempts to acquire an Assisted Living License.

The warmth and generosity of people continues to shine through in our everyday life in which we do not take one day given to us by God for granted. Your continued prayers and support are never forgotten, and we will keep you all close to our hearts and in our prayers. *Sr. Michele*

100th Anniversary of Fatima



For one hundred years, the miraculous apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima have been inspiring the faith of millions. October 13th was the 100th Anniversary of the last appearance of the Blessed Mother to Bernadette, Jacinta and Francisco. St. Nicholas Catholic School, PK 4 – Gr 8th, in Passaic, was blessed on October 18th for having been visited by Our Lady of Fatima statue which came from Fatima and is traveling from family to family in the city of Passaic and Clifton.

Sr. Eliane, SSMI, visited each classroom with Our Lady of Fatima and every grade stopped and prayed the Hail Mary, asking the Blessed Mother for her protection to them and their families; blessings to our school, and the students prayed especially for peace in the world. After praying, they all had the opportunity to venerate and touch the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. **If you can't go to Fatima, Fatima will come to you!!!**

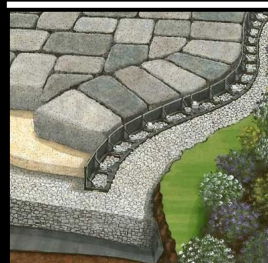


Sr. Cecelia, SSMI—Religion teacher, shared the message of Fatima during her classes.

Mark your calendars **64th Holy Dormition Pilgrimage**
August 11-12, 2018



The Blessed Josaphata Service at the Cathedral in Philadelphia will be postponed until Spring 2018



Blessed Josaphata Chapel Shrine Walkway

In 2010, the Chapel was built, providing a place to which people can come year-round to light candles and pray to Blessed Josaphata for her intercession. There are still several "bricks/pavers" available to be engraved as a lasting remembrance. The cost is \$50 each. Please call Sr. Kathleen at 845-753-2840 for more information.



Your Contributions Support the work of the Sisters Servants

We need your help in continuing our ministries which will aid us in carrying out the charism of Blessed Josaphata to be a "living light for all people."

Please be a part of our work by making a contribution to:

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Inc.
Have you considered remembering us in your will or with an annuity?

If you would like more information about the Sisters Servants, please visit our website: www.ssmi-us.org
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