



ALL-TO-ALL

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

SISTERS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Volume 53 Issue 3

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Assembly News

While composing this lyric I was remembering Martin Luther King Jr. who offered us a good starting point. In his last Sunday sermon on March 31, 1968, he preached, "We are challenged to develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone. No nation can live alone. And anyone who feels that he can live alone is sleeping through a revolution. ... The world in which we live is geographically one. The challenge we face today is to make it one in terms of [community]."

SFCC Theme Song of Oneness Kenya Assembly 2023

**Chorus: Lets Sing with One Voice,
That We All Are One!**

Vatican II -A Bodhi Tree of Insight:
*Re-Connecting and Re-visioning
Treasured gems of "non-duality".
All beings breathe One Breath.*

One Consecrated Green Earth,
The Source of our Oneness.
Harmony is our life force,
Loving Oneness is our Source,

Sudden Spring Echoing:
Shalom's image and likeness
Separation is an illusion,
Inter-being is a vision,

*Giant shoulders we stand upon,
A field of Oneness in the making,
Sister of stages one-two-three-four –five
-Sixth nurtured by Sophia so naïve.*

Lyrics by Margaret Gonsalves, SFCC
Music will be composed
by Nona Barairo, SFCC

2023 ASSEMBLY UPDATES

To date there are 68 participants registered on site in the Clergy Home -Nairobi, Kenya. Countries attending are: U.S.A., Ireland, UK, India, Philippines, Guatemala, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya.

Deadline for Virtual Registration is on April 1, 2023. Please send your Virtual Registration Form and payment directly to Mary Rose Accetturo, SFCC .

Registration on site, take note of the change of address where to send US dollar payments and your registration form.

Sr. Virgie Mission Fund

17434 W. Hickory Ln. Grayslake, IL 60030- U.S.A.

All arrivals will be met at the Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. If you are still buying your airline ticket, please try to get a day arrival time. Departure time can be anytime.

July is winter in Kenya so remember to pack warm clothes. Swimming pool will be heated for those interested. *Submitted by Virgie Azcueta*

OTHER NOTES

Arrival and Registration -July 12

Opening Program- July 13 starting with breakfast at 8:00am followed by

Presentation at 9:00 am

Please note this change as you buy your airline tickets and online visa to Kenya

End of Assembly - July 17

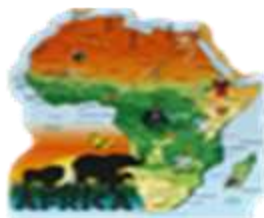
Departure after morning Mass

Hybrid Meeting- 4:00-7:00 pm Kenya time

July 13-16



SAFARI
Optional Safari - July 18



ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Many of our sisters in Africa are finding it difficult to meet the financial demands of the accommodations at the Clergy Home in Nairobi, plus travel expenses and the registration fee for the 2023 Assembly. Could some of us, who have the resources, but are unable to go to Kenya, provide scholarship money to assist them?

Such funds can be sent to:

Sr. Virgie Mission Fund

17434 W. Hickory Lane

Grayslake, IL 60030

and noted as "Assembly scholarship".

Thank You!

We now have a coordinator for Safari after the Assembly.

She is an Affiliate in Kenya

Florence Mulwa

floramulwa@gmail.com

ICC Report

As a new ICC Team will be affirmed at the 2023 Assembly, we have been asked how did Carmen, Virgie and Denise make it work with different locations in different time zones and differing sets of commitments. So, we thought it might be important for us to share some of the practices and insight we came to.

We did a Messenger face-to-face meeting every 3 weeks for a good hour and a half with one of us preparing an agenda, which each of us could also contribute to. We also used phone, Messenger, and What's App to check in with each other. When we sent any communication out on behalf of the 3 of us, we sent it to each other before it went out, so that we were on the same page and could find anything that needed clarification. As we gathered every 3 weeks, we also had a spiritual sharing and concluded with a simple prayer. It was important that we listened to each other respectfully, even when we held differing perspectives on a topic or issue, so we could understand each other's perspective.

We also met in person every year...even during the pandemic, for 3 days, to look back and to look forward on the coming year and the needs of the community. We were blessed to be able to do this in person at a retreat house on the East Coast. At the beginning of our term, we divided the responsibilities and also geographic areas to be in contact with. When we gathered, we re-evaluated these to see if we needed to change anything, or if there was something which was not getting adequate attention.

(see Viewbook p 18 or website for descriptions of responsibilities)

We find it important to look with gratitude at the community and all the great and simple goodness there is in so many ways. As a community, we are truly standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and now from beyond time, continue to empower us by their example and intercession that all may be one.

*Carmen Gillick
Denise Ware
Virgie Azcueta*



As reported in Volume 53, Issue 1 of ATA

In order to open up the opportunity to the full SFCC membership to serve as ICCs and for the full membership to make an informed discernment about all candidates, we propose that the individual member and/or team put their name(s) forward in the ATA with a brief statement of the gifts they bring to the service role. All names to be considered for ICCs will be published no later than the February-March issue prior to the affirming Assembly. Submission of names after the February-March issue will not be considered even from the Assembly floor.

The original proposal, **except for the last sentence**, had been affirmed in the 2012 Assembly in Calgary and remains intact.

**Candidates are presented
On pages 4 & 5**

Consideration for ICC's

PROPOSED ICC TEAM 2024

We have heard from several in SFCC who believe the time has arrived for an international ICC Team that will reflect the current nature of SFCC.

We are among those who think it is important to have 1 member of the next team be a past ICC who will (1) act as mentor to the other team members and (2) ensure the ICC Team will remain focused on the affirmed responsibility of service-upon-request.

After prayerful discernment, the 3 of us listed below wish to step forward to serve as ICCs for 2024 - 2027.



Marta Nyaga

Among the first group to be affirmed in Kenya, Marta currently serves as RCC of the Kenya Region. Marta is very familiar with the structure and process of SFCC, the Becoming Process and community archives. She has attended 3 International Assemblies



Bernadette (Bern) Mendez

Bern has attended 2 International Assemblies, serving as technology coordinator at two of those assemblies. Bern is familiar with the structure and process of SFCC and the new member Becoming Process. She is an active member of the Calungsod Region in the Philippines.



Kass Collins

Kass has attended numerous International Assemblies. As a past ICC, Kass is very familiar with the structure and process of SFCC, as well as the affirmed responsibilities of the ICC Team. Kass is an active member of the WEB Region, USA. Kass will serve as an effective mentor in this exciting evolution of SFCC as the community becomes an international presence.

(Continued on next page)



Priscilla Kyarisiima
Uganda Region

I am Priscilla Kyarisiima from Uganda in East Africa, affirmed on 7/14/2016 at the General assembly in Savannah Georgia.

In my previous Congregation, I served as Superior General for 12 years but was not successful as my community attempted to live the life we believed was inspired by Vatican II spirit but some authorities saw it negatively.

My heart rested when God called me to embrace the Spirit of SFCC. That was the vision I had always sought, unaware that a community existed that espoused Vatican II vision.

My education includes a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Social Administration and a graduate degree in Microfinance. My ministry focuses on community development.

The SFCC spirit overwhelms my life and the very fact that our presence on all continents is on the increase makes me feel the urge to make a contribution to our growth.

Therefore, I offer myself to serve on the forthcoming ICC team, so as to enhance our communication and make it more meaningful as we humbly serve God's creation with our gifted lives.

Sr. Priscilla Kyarisiima
RCC Uganda.



Roberta Kardell
East Central Region

I was asked by the Sunbelt Region if I would be willing to serve as a member of the ICC Team. After prayerful consideration, I agreed and am willing, but have some concern about having provided this service before.

I have been a member of SFCC since 1986 and have been active in our East Central Region and at International Assemblies.

I served on the ATA Team from 2005-2011, have been a member of the Collegial Process Team on several occasions, and served on the ICC Team from 2013-2019. As a former educator and administrator in several small schools, I believe I have the skills necessary to fulfill the service description as delineated in the Viewbook.

While I may not be as proficient as others, I am fairly computer literate and have used zoom and skype for work and personal communication.

Submitted by Roberta Kardell



INQUIRERS



**FLORENCE NDUKU
MULWA**

KENYA REGION

Born on 10th October 1974 at Tala. Florence has 3 siblings. She lost her father Francis Mulwa in 1994 and her mother Agelina Mwikali in 2010.

Florence joined Reparatrix Sisters in 2004 and after 6 years of profession she left the congregation because she was not admitted for final vows.

Florence guiding principles in life is to remain focused and do everything for the glory of God.

Florence holds a certificate in social work, psychology and counselling. Currently working in the regional office in Makadara Nairobi as an office administrator of fundraising and donor relations.

Submitted by the Archives



**ROSEMARY IRIMA
NJIRU**

KENYA REGION

Born on 23rd March 1972 at Siakago Hospital, Mbuguri Village. Rosemary has 5 Siblings. Her father is Philip Njiru a carpenter and her mother is Judith Ngungi a farmer.

Rosemary joined Queen of Angels Monastery Contemplative in 2017 and after 5 years she left because she did not find personal fulfilment there.

Rosemary guiding principles in life are prayer and firmness in whatever she does.

Rosemary holds certificate in fashion and design and she is currently teaching at Divine Mercy Kathagutari Technical Training Institute.

Submitted by the Archives



**PAULINE
BOLANE**

NIGERIA REGION

Pauline was born on 3rd March 1972 at Ile-Ife Osun State. Pauline has nine siblings. Her mother was Christianah Motilola Ayoka who was a tailor and her father was pa Emmanuel Faniyi Famoriyo who was a teacher.

Pauline joined Franciscan sisters of the Immaculate Conception and after perpetual profession she left because she wanted to experience more beauty of using God given free will.

Pauline guiding principle in life is that God must be greater while she becomes smaller.

(cont'd on next page)

Pauline holds BA in linguistics and African languages and currently working as a hospital supervisor at St. Francis Catholic Hospital, Lagos Nigeria

Submitted by the Africa Archives



**OKORO NNEKA
GERTRUDE**

NIGERIA REGION

Okoro was born on 2nd Oct. 1978 at Awo-Omamma Oru East

L.G.A.Imo State. Nneka has 5 siblings. Her father is Sabastine Okoro, a carpenter and her mother was Rosestella who was a civil servant.

Nneka joined Medical Missionary of Mary and before making her final vows she left because misunderstanding with her superior.

Nneka guiding principal is treating others as she would like them to treat her.

Nneka holds a certificate in health science and Technology Okporo all in Imo State. Currently working as a health worker in mile four hospital Abakaliki Ebonyi state.

Submitted by the Africa Archives



**JENNIFER EZEMA
BENELUX REGION**

Jennifer Ezema was born on the 29 of December, 1988 in Kaduna. Her former congregation is: Daughters of Divine Love

in Enugu. Nigeria.

She has two siblings:(one younger, one elder) sisters.

Presently she works in a resident home (*rusthuis*) in Leuven (Belgium) as a health care giver.

Studies: Advanced Masters in Theology and Religious Studies, KULeuven (completed in 2015) Doctorate in Social Psychology, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain 2016-until the present. Masters in Conflict and Developmental Studies , University of Ghent, Belgium 2021- until the present.



**ONYINYE
CHUKWUJIEZE**

BENELUX REGION

Baptismal name Ursulamaris (“Maris”)

She was born on the 1st of June, 1977 in Lagos state Nigeria

Her former congregation was: New Evangelization sisters Iseleuku, Delta state Nigeria.

She works as an assistant nurse (*Zorgkundige*) in old people’s homes and hospitals (for 3 years now).

Studies: she completed BA in Theology in Leuven, Belgium, and now she is studying nursing.



FRANCA:

Official first and last name: **FRANCISCA
EBERECHUKWU**

BENELUX REGION

She was born on the 15th of June, 1976 in Jos, Nigeria.

Current Congregation.: Trinitarian Missionaries of Merciful Love. (*cont’d*)

She has 5 sisters and 2 brothers. She works with the elderly, through an agency in Roma where they serve the elderly at home and in old folks homes.

Studies: Doctor of Canon Law, Pontifical University of the Lateran in Roma (2021)



**MARIA
CONCEPCION
GLINDRO
PARARUAN**

**PEDRO
CALUNGSOD
REGION**

Concon, as she prefers to be called, has been perpetually professed for 13 years with the Augustinian Sisters Servants of Jesus and Mary. She is awaiting the dispensation from the Vatican.

"I felt I could do more for God's people and the Church than simply occupy the cozy confines of the convent," she explained.

Turning 48 in July, Concon spent 5 months as volunteer in the Risen Savior Mission's feeding program in the Diocese of Catarman until December 2022.

She also worked as parish secretary at Santo Nino de Cebu Parish in Binan, Laguna and at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Lopez, Quezon. At one time, she was in charge of the orphanage at Mother Teresa Spinelli's Treasures in Tagaytay.

Concon finished a two-year computer secretarial course at the National Teachers College and a short caregiver course at the Adventist University of the Philippines.

She also read the Annual Course of Missionary Formation in Rome and basic

catechism at Bishop Obviar Evangelization Center.

While Concon visits her mom whenever she is on vacation, her dad died 10 years ago.

She has 2 brothers and a twin sister.

Her mentor is Alma Mangao.

Submitted by the Asian Archives

NEW AFFILIATES **in Kenya**



**JANE JOAN-
BAKHITA REGION**
Covenant of
Affiliation
December 26th, 2022



**JENNIFFER
MWENDE**
LILLANNA REGION
Covenant of
Affiliation
December 26th, 2022



JOYCE JEBET
ST. RITA REGION
Covenant of
Affiliation
December 26th, 2022

NEW AFFILIATES

in Ruah Region



**Esther Chioma
Iheme
RUAH UK Region**

I am Esther Chioma Iheme from Umuopara Nguru, Nigeria. I am the youngest of eight children and was born into a committed Catholic family on April 16th 1980.

I attended Regina Caeli Secondary School in Ogbur Nguru and after that I studied for a BSc. in Psychology at Imo State University, Owerri. Later, I did my National Youth Service Corps in Calabar and later still, I studied at Chrysalis College in the South East of England where I obtained my certificate in Hypnotherapy and Counselling Skills.

I entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton in England where I was professed in 2016, leaving them in August 2021. My greatest desire is to help the poor, visit the sick, teach the young, support those in need and touch lives positively.

I want to live in a community where there is love, unity and peace and am attracted by the SFCC charism, 'That All May Be One'. That is the life I want to live and the contact I've had with SFCC has already helped to transform my life and I have come to cherish everything about the Community. I like singing, dancing, cooking, reading and working as a catechist.

My mentor is Stephanie Hartas.



**Lilian Ehidiemhen
RUAH UK Region**

My name is Lilian Ehidiemhen, from Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria. I was

formerly a member of the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love, Enugu, Nigeria. Inspired by the vision and mission of Sisters For Christian Community, I left my former congregation after 17 years of my first profession to continue my vocation with the Sisters For Christian Community. Currently, I am a research assistant at the Research Unit of Theological and Comparative Ethics, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium. My research focuses on Catholic Social Teaching on Peace, Conflict, nonviolence, and nonviolent communication. I offer on-line training on 'Non-Violent Communication', with more than sixty participants involved at present.

I am particularly drawn by the SFCC vision which promotes building a global community, nonviolence, love, forgiveness, reverence, equality, diversity, integrity and care for creation. These values meet my need for meaning, spirituality, contribution, and community. I am thrilled by SFCC's understanding of the evangelical counsels of obedience as listening, chastity as loving, and poverty as serving. I understand SFCC as a community that gives its members the opportunity to grow and thrive according to the Gospel values and the realities of our contemporary world.

My hope for the future is that SFCC will continue to engage actively in the promotion of Gospel nonviolence which is the task of

Christian discipleship in a world where violence appears to be the norm.

My mentor is Stephanie Hartas.



**Patricia
Okwuchukwu
Irogementi
RUAH UK
Region**

My name is Patricia Okwuchukwu Irogementi. I was born in Orsuhiteukwa, Orsu, LGA Imo State, Nigeria in 1969. My parents are deceased but I have two brothers and four sisters who live in different States in Nigeria.

I am a qualified teacher and have a Bsc (Ed) in Accounting. I also have my National Certificate in Education, all from a College and University in Nigeria.

I came to the UK in 2014 and entered religious life with The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton, where I stayed for seven years.

My ministries involve caring for the elderly and caring for children with special needs.

I am energetic, humorous and kind. My guiding principles in life are to remain positive, focused and let God take charge.

I want to belong to a community where everyone is equal, treated with respect, kindness and know that in Christ we are all one. I am attracted to SFCC because of their simplicity, shared responsibility and non-canonical status.

My mentor is Roz Frampton.



**Onyinye Innocentia
Uwakwe
RUAH UK Region**

I am Onyinye Innocentia Uwakwe and I was born in Imo State, Nigeria in 1968. I am the third of six children, having four brothers and one sister. My siblings are all happily married, two live in Imo State, where my mother still lives, and the others are in Lagos.

After coming to the UK in 2006, I entered religious life with The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton, and was with the community for twelve years. I left in 2021 and now live and work on the outskirts of the city of London.

I have completed some vocational courses in college and I'm hoping to study for a degree in the near future.

My past ministries include working with school children, teaching communion class in the parish and caring for the elderly. At present, I am working as a mental health support worker.

I am a cheerful person with a good sense of humour who likes to bring joy to others. I love singing and dancing. I'm a member of a choir as singing is one of my gifts. I believe in kindness, justice and fairness.

I heard about SFCC from a friend and I'm attracted by SFCC's simple life style and non-canonical status.

My mentor is Roz Frampton.

Withdrawals

Four sisters from the Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila Region have withdrawn their membership from the SFCC.

Affirmed Marivic Destacamento left on January 10, 2023, in order to be full time with the Risen Savior Mission (RSM).

Those who withdrew from their affiliation stage: Helen Mijares on January 21, 2023, Marissa Gallego in December 2022, and Lilian Firme on November 4, 2022.



**ANDREA GAVIN
(JANE)**

LIFE: 1933-2023

SFCC: 2005-2023

One of the pupils she taught at that time, described her as an excellent teacher and a lovely, very gentle person.

Andrea was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where her parents had a newsagents shop. She was one of three children.

She was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and went on to train as a teacher with the Sacred Heart Sisters in Edinburgh. Having qualified, she returned to Glasgow where she taught in a primary school for several years. One of the pupils she taught at that time, described her as an excellent teacher and a lovely, very gentle person.

In 1962, she left Glasgow and entered with the Sisters of Mercy in Sunderland, England. During her time in Sunderland, she taught at a large primary school in the city, where eventually she became the principal. She was highly respected and well-liked by both staff and pupils and made many good friends who kept in touch with her right up to her death.

Andrea became interested in Counselling and having retired from teaching, and with the permission of her community, she returned to Glasgow in order to study at Sterling University, from where she gained a Master's Degree in Counselling. She began working towards her Doctorate but because of health issues, she was unable to complete this. She was also a trained reflexologist.

When, in 2003, her Mercy Community in Sunderland asked her to return there, she made the big decision to leave them. Having contacted Mary Paul Gilroy, whom she knew from the past, she began attending SFCC meetings and having followed the Becoming Process, she was affirmed into SFCC in December 2005. Andrea attended one International Assembly - San Antonio in 2006.

Following her commitment, Andrea lived alone in an apartment in Glasgow and continued her studies, alongside working as a trainer of counsellors at the nearby university. As her health deteriorated, she was unable to travel to Regional Meetings

but the SFCCs from the North East of England kept in touch and visited as often as possible.

In the autumn of 2019, because of increasing dementia, Andrea reluctantly moved to Nazareth House Residential Care Home in Glasgow where she died on New Year's Day 2023. The last few years have been difficult for Andrea but thankfully, she is now at peace with the God she served so faithfully.

Submitted by the Archives



**AGNES M.
HAGEN**

LIFE: 1938-2022
SFCC: 1976-2022

*Agnes spent her vowed life
dedicated to bringing to those she
served just what they needed...*

Agnes was born in Albany, NY on June 14, 1938, and was given the name Mary. She was the only child of Terrence and Julia Hagen to survive birth. After 12 years of education at the Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, Mary entered the novitiate of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, in Rome, NY, where she received the name Sr. Agnes Mary. In 1974, Agnes took this as her legal name.

From 1958-1972, Agnes taught first graders. Her teaching career took her to Albany, NY, Fall River, MA, Syracuse, NY, Washington, DC, and St. Petersburg, FL. During these years, she earned her B.A. in English from

Medaille College in Buffalo NY, and her M.Ed. from the University of VA.

One of Agnes' hobbies was writing, and this skill came in handy when she sought to clarify her stand on the issue of religious community. The March, 1973 issue of Review for Religious carried her article entitled "Religious Community after Vatican II." She also wrote a series of articles for "The Evangelist" to help the laity in Albany, NY, understand the recent changes in religious life.

In 1972, Agnes moved to Silver Spring, MD, and became associated with the Archdiocesan Office of Education in Washington, DC where she served as a reading specialist and specialist-consultant, and volunteered her services in adult literacy programs.

Agnes joined the SFCCs in 1976 as a dual member. This dual Membership ceased in 1991 when Agnes officially left the SNJM Community. Sisters who knew her during these years described her as "a very social, fun-loving and energetic person, and deeply committed to SFCC," as "a joyful spirit in love with God and radiating that presence," and as "a real saint in our midst to encourage and inspire us." Her deep commitment to social justice became evident after she joined SFCC, and was free to begin the next phase of her religious commitment.

In 1976, Agnes, armed with a real estate license in Baltimore, went to work in the inner-city with the Jesuits at St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, where she worked finding and facilitating the selling of affordable homes to the poor. In 1983, Agnes returned to teaching, but this time she taught young at-risk adults enrolled in Job Corps. When the Center closed three years

later, Agnes moved to Staunton, Virginia to teach for the Virginia Department of Correctional Education.

While teaching at the Men's Prison in Staunton, Agnes wrote eight books for the men she was teaching who were remedial readers. Four of these books were westerns and four were mysteries. The Westerns won an award from the Public Library Association. When the Prison closed in 2002, Agnes retired, but she continued to serve her local community, even taking on leadership positions in groups seeking to effect change on the local level.

Agnes became a member of the Sunbelt Region when she moved to Staunton, but she also participated in many of the meetings of the WEB Region. Agnes was adventurous, and one of her favorite hobbies was kayaking. She loved to travel. She would drive in her white truck to the Sunbelt Region meetings, or just up into the Blue Ridge Mountains to enjoy a day of rest and relaxation. She travelled to Ireland, Italy and Switzerland.

Agnes enjoyed attending the SFCC Community Assemblies and making friends. For the local SFCC group in Central Virginia, Agnes would take her turn hosting meetings in her little house in Staunton. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and loved to celebrate special occasions. Throughout her years in Virginia, Agnes took part in the Spiritual Development Seminars taught by Msgr. Chester Michael, and she credited these seminars with nourishing her deep life of prayer.

After her retirement in 2003, Agnes identified "Contemplative Outreach," as her new area of ministry. By this time, she had become very active in the Centering Prayer Movement, sharing her spiritual wisdom with the Centering Prayer Groups she led in

Staunton, VA. She continued doing this until 2010 when her health became seriously affected, by what doctors later identified as a stroke.

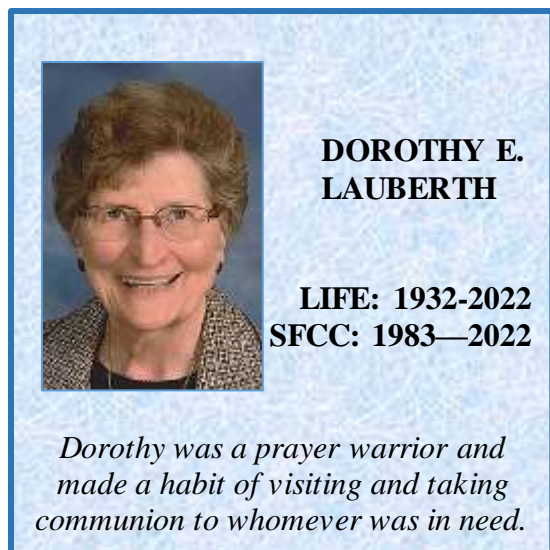
From June 10, 2010 to October 31, 2022 (the day she died), Agnes was on the last and final phase of her earthly journey, a journey of surrendering her involvement in everything she had known and loved. She had given up her home in Staunton, VA, the mountains she loved, the activities she enjoyed, and her independence, to a life of total dependence and continuing memory loss.

In 2012, Agnes was moved from Staunton, VA, to an assisted living facility in Richmond, VA, to be closer to her local SFCC Community, and, while she knew she was deeply loved and cared for, she had given up "everything." Her strength for this final journey came from the God to whom she had totally dedicated her life, first, as a teenager in the SNJM Community, and then as a mature adult, in the SFCC Community. Strength also came from the friendships she had forged throughout her life, and finally, and most importantly, it came from her deep prayer relationship with God, the One who, she knew, loved her unconditionally.

Agnes spent her vowed life dedicated to bringing to those she served just what they needed – spiritual formation, educational skills, decent and affordable housing, a sense of worthwhileness to the imprisoned, friendship to co-workers and parishioners in Staunton and Waynesboro, and a true gift of sisterhood to those in her SFCC Community. We have known a religious woman who taught us by her lived life to give the credit for all good to God.

Thank you, Agnes.

Submitted by Francesca Ezeokonkwo, Emma Flaherty, Pat McCarthy, Marion McDonald, and Anne McGinn of the WEB Region



Sister Dorothy E. Laubert, 90, of Sullivan, Mo., passed away peacefully Sunday, December 18, 2022 at her home.

Sister Dorothy Elizabeth was born on February 28, 1932 in Freeburg, Mo., to Joseph Henry and Mary (Eisterhold) Laubert. She grew up and attended school in the Freeburg area before graduating and moving to St. Louis. She worked several years in St. Louis before entering The Sisters of St. Mary's Community. Sister Dorothy was a member of the community for over 25 years. During this time, she continued her education and earned a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Sister Dorothy spent much of her career as a nurse, not only ministering as a nurse in many states but also in several Missouri penitentiaries. In 1983, she entered the Sisters for Christian Community, Midwest Region, where she remained until her passing.

Sister Dorothy, is remembered as a faith-filled woman, loved cooking, baking (especially sugar cookies), making new friends and spending time with those she loved. She was a prayer warrior and made

a habit of visiting and taking communion to whomever was in need. She also loved her dog, Bandit. Sister Linda, a companion for 45 years and Sister Joann, a companion for 22 years, were sisters in community as well as special friends. Sister Dorothy donated her body to St. Louis University's School of Medicine for medical research. We are forever grateful for her unselfishness and the most charitable gift to support medical education and research.

The last day of the year, December 31, 2022, was reserved for the Memorial Mass for Sister Dorothy at St. Anthony Parish, in Sullivan, Missouri. Our small SFCC community have been members there since 2007, It was celebrated with much joy, admiration, and love. Those celebrating the Mass were a combination of our three families (Laubert, Cox, and Kuchler), plus three of our Sisters: (Cecelia Ann Loomer, Mary Ann Wachtel, and Colleen Calhoun).

Parishioners and many friends, joined in the wonderful celebration of Life, which was followed by a full luncheon, prepared by the women of the parish.

Dorothy remains an angel at the side of all who knew and loved her, especially the SFCC sisterhood who stand upon her shoulders.

Submitted by U.S. Archives



**NIEVES P.
ROBILLOS**

LIFE 1936 - 2023
SFCC 2002 - 2023

It was on a hilltop that she built a prayer and retreat house for those who can't afford to pay for spiritual retreats, adding a dorm and an office for SFCCs passing by Cebu.

Nieves P. Robillos passed on to eternal life on January 9th, the start of Cebu's week-long *Sinulog* or the Feast of Santo Niño, kindling memories of her endearing childlike qualities.

When limbs were limber, Nieves prayed through dancing and singing, joining the multitudes that celebrate and honor the Holy Child Jesus yearly. She delighted in singing and dancing with the late Helen Fernandez at SFCC Philippines inter-regionals.

She was a happy and gentle person, the serene smile and twinkling eyes undimmed by old age and strife. And how she loved children, teaching them in elementary, high school and college in the Philippines and in Thailand, guided by childlike faith.

As *Sinulog* is a family and community celebration, Nieves knew that children are nurtured in the family and becoming adults, nurtured in an expanded family called community, always interdependent on each other.

Trusting to the point of naivete, she became a builder of communities, with courage in trying uncharted waters and starting again at her beginnings after a failure.

She retained her childlike humility and lack of pretension despite coming from a landed and illustrious clan. Her father, Pio Robillos, was an Asian and national champion sprinter who became a professor in Cebu. He and his wife, Filomena Pastrano, raised a brood of two daughters and two sons. Nieves was the younger daughter.

She joined the Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres in 1959, but left to spend more time with her ill father.

When the Marian Contemplative Community that she was trying to organize in Bukidnon didn't pan out, she tried forming the Marian Missionary Society of the Philippines. She almost got killed in reaching out to a drug dependent.

Nieves formed the Golden Heart Foundation in Cebu City with daily feeding for up to 20 people, livelihood projects, social services and other activities despite funding lack.

It was on a hilltop that she built a prayer and retreat house for those who can't afford to pay for spiritual retreats, adding a dorm and an office for SFCCs passing by Cebu. There she spent her last years, plagued by ill health till she succumbed to pneumonia.

Having formed a close bond with Nieves when they were both based in Dumaguete, Jess Ayeng remembers her friend as "very gentle, calm, sweet" and "very holy".

Bohol-based Jess continued making time for her friend in Cebu, stopping for her and holding her hand. She visited Nieves on her 87th birthday on May 18 last year.

The Robillos' domestic helper Rosa, along with her own family, moved in with Nieves to keep her company and take good care of her. They moved her to the safety of the adjacent dorm when her house was destroyed by super typhoon Rae in December 2021.

This final community that Nieves built out of kindness for the marginalized responded in kind till she breathed her last.

Submitted by the Asian Archivist



Josephine Sinack, an active member of the Great Lakes Region throughout her life in SFCC, departed this life on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2022, at 90 years of age. Josephine entered this world in Chicago IL on April 24th, 1932. At the age of 17, she entered the Convent of Benedictine Sisters in Lisle IL, where she served for 31 years, leaving in 1980, and joining SFCC in 1981.

In the sisterhood, Josephine served as elementary school teacher (junior high), elementary school Principal, Director of Religious Education, and Pastoral Associate; excelling in each, strengthened as she was by a BA in Music Education, MA degrees in

Religious Education and Theology, and a D.Min degree from Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary.

Gifted as she also was as an organist and choir director, Josephine's interests were, in her words, "varied and many, including "art work, stitchery, needlepoint, and sewing," along with travel, which she did "extensively" in the Middle East, Europe, Ireland, Canada, and throughout the U.S. In professing vows of sisterhood with SFCC, she said, "I wish to be of service in Christian Community."

Wish granted for Josephine, SFCC, and all whose lives were touched by hers. We remember Josephine in gratitude for all the joy she brought into this world, and the everlasting love her life gives to SFCC. Blessed Be Josephine Sinack

Submitted by the U.S.Archives



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Minutes of the Lillanna Region-Kenya,
meeting held virtually on 18-12-2022

Members Present

Mary Wangeci

Vivianne Akinyi

Florence Mulwa

Philomenah Bahati

Maureen Pangale

Odilla Kisingu

Jacinta Mbatha

Absent with apologies

Damaris Muthusi

Jennifer Mwende

AGENDA

1. Introduction of each member

2. Our expectations and plan as a region

3. How often should we be meeting

Min 1/12/2022

Our virtual meeting was called to order at 5pm Kenyan time, starting with a word of prayer from our affiliate Florence Mulwa.
Min 2/12/2022.

Each sister introduced herself telling us where she was born, her current parish, former congregation, Ministry and what lured each sister to join SFCC.

Min 3/12/2022

Expectations and plan as a region:

The sisters unanimously agreed to plan every activity as a team in order to have a sense of belonging.

Continuous communication and prayer was encouraged, activities such as recollections and retreats were also lauded to be done as a region.

The sisters agreed to alternate the meeting in the sense that they have both zoom and physical meetings after every two months. The sisters emphasized on sharing of their daily life experience and work whenever we meet.

We encouraged visiting each other and with that, there was an agreement that our next physical meeting will be held in Jamal hospital being hosted by Sr. Bahati Philomena and Jacinta Mbatha.

The sisters proposed that they will commit themselves by ensuring that they attend both physical and virtual meetings. They also agreed to participate actively in Divine Mercy prayers everyday at 3pm and reach out to each other via phone call.

Min 4/12/2022



The members agreed that the next meeting will be physical and it will be held on 28th January 2023 at Jamaa hospital from 2pm.
Min 5/12/2022

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6pm with a word of prayer from Sr. Philomena Bahati.

Submitted by Vivianne Akinyi

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It was a glorious day in the Florida Region when we convened face to face after being interrupted by several hurricanes and the lingering effects of COVID-19. The following met on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at the Hampton Inn in Melbourne, Florida: Jill Bond, Joan Gabbin, Loretta Morgan, Mary Steves, Phyllis Superfisky, & Andrea Zbiegen. Regrets also from Denise Lonergan, Barbara Kennedy, Avy Morse, & Louise McEachern. Since circumstances prevent attendance by remaining members, we developed a way to remain connected with those who are challenged by distance, lack of computer access, or other realities of life. Everyone present will connect with one or two people in the Region to share regional or community news (from the computer).

Joan opened the meeting with a hearty welcome, and Loretta set the tone by offering an opening reflection based on our theme for the day which was based on Ecclesiasticus: *...a time for every purpose under heaven.*

After the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, we affirmed the importance of the minutes which refresh our memories, prepare us for active participation in the upcoming meeting, and serve as a basis for our submission to the ATA.

After presenting the Treasurer's report, Mary provided an update on membership of the Florida Region. Returns of the regional contact sheets were received from 13 active members. Phyllis will compile the most recent contact information for easy reference

which will facilitate internal communication within the Region.

Loretta and Mary led us in a prayerful remembrance and sharing of memories of Marie Tougas who was born to eternal life on October 4, 2022. An extensive exhibit of photos and memorabilia, largely supplied by Avy, Marie's longtime friend and companion, enhanced our recollections of Marie's unique presence in our lives. We expressed a desire to have Avy welcomed to future gatherings.

Andrea demonstrated connecting to the Eucharistic Revival website where we could access informative videos and updates on the U.S. Bishops Eucharistic Revival.

Mary reported on the most recent Assembly which was held in St. Louis in 2022. She shared the 13 Word documents converted from the Powerpoint presentations developed for the mentoring process by the Archives.

We looked ahead to the next Assembly in Kenya (one member is able to travel and several are hopeful to participate via Zoom) and reviewed the Community issues from the Assembly (p. 7 ATA, Volume 53, Issue 1). We look forward to continuing dealing with those issues at Assembly with the hope of melding the nuances of different cultures without compromising the richness of any. We considered posing questions such as the following to every region and member: What are your hopes/expectations of SFCC? What first attracted you to join SFCC? Has your vision of the mission evolved since your membership in SFCC? If so, how? Our hope is to encourage a multi-cultural panel at an Assembly so as to come to know the thinking and journey of our members especially around our common call to the spirit of Vatican II in our church and in the world. We look forward to such discussions continuing on a common site for all. That, along with the discussion about the Zoom attendance,, was our way of saying, despite

time, distance, and eldering, we want to stay connected.

After this discussion, we were encouraged to surface names of possible candidates to call forth to serve as future ICCs and we will connect with them. We congratulated Loretta on the celebration in the Diocese of Orlando of her 65th Jubilee. Jill shared an update on Michelle Olivier whom she had been mentoring with Phyllis. A resident of Punta Gorda, Florida, Michelle experienced devastating losses from Hurricane Ian this year and is currently working to repair extensive damages to her residence. She has decided to enter formation with the Secular Carmelites with whom she has met at her Parish to continue to focus on her interior life and relationship with God. We wish Michelle many continuing blessings as she continues her journey.

A review of the two recommendations submitted by the Florida Region concluded our deliberations. After review, we decided to submit them again in a briefer form in the next ATA taking into consideration other recommendations or proposals in this ATA. The meeting concluded with a reflective viewing of "Life On A Train" provided by Phyllis. *Respectfully submitted by Phyllis*

*Left to right: Phyllis, Mary, Andrea, Loretta, Jill, and Joan
(Surrounding memorabilia honoring Marie)*



After a year of topsy-turvy events of my spinal surgery, caring for my dad and mom's ill health has given me enough of strength to forge ahead and secure a teaching job in a non-Catholic pre-primary school, run by a Hindu married couple. There are neither Catholic students nor teachers or any other staff. This seems to be a year of Sudden Spring of opportunities for inter-religious dialogue, where I was able to introduce Christmas Celebration giving message of Peace through the narratives of Jesus.

. ~ Shital Parmar

Congratulations, Rexilla Raymond, (Affiliate), for successfully scoring distinction in ICN (Infection Control Nurse) from the University of Singapore.

January 14-15, along with a sister from other congregation and a Hindu friend, we had an opportunity to celebrate Christmas at a Hindu pilgrim center called Ganeshpuri, enjoying the Springs of Hot Water. A Hindu family welcomed us with Christmas lunch and a Catholic family offered us Farm House for our two days recollection.

Submitted by Margaret Gonzalves



Patsy opened our January Zoom meeting with a beautiful prayer to begin 2023. We centered our conversation on the many ways we can accept what happens each day, an increase in loving and improving ourselves, that we might be better ministers to those we meet, a clearer focus on each day and a joy-filled spirit, patience with ourselves and the circumstances in which we find ourselves, trying to live a healthier life style and the love and strength we need for each new day.

It seems that, at this time, each of us is struggling with some health issues and we prayed for the strength and courage to “keep on keeping on”.

Rachel is still working with young children as a teacher’s assistant and this brings her much joy and satisfaction and, needless to say, the children love her happy spirit and care for them. Patsy is looking forward to many new blessings in 2023. Kathleen continues to minister to the other seniors who live in her facility, and brings them smiles and happiness by her loving attention to them on a daily basis. Fran is enjoying nature. . . . the mountains, cactus, walking each day. They need rain in her part of Mexico. Carmen rejoices that the pool is open and she can take her daily swim. She is also taking a New Testament class giving valuable historical background information on the Gospels. Marie continues radiation and chemo.

We then surfaced some names as possible ICC candidates and we were encouraged to speak with those Sisters and invite them to submit their names for consideration in the discernment process.

Rachel asked about the role of RCC, in which she serves and we spent considerable time, sharing our experiences of serving in that role and how it has changed since the view book was published. For example, several regions have divided the single role into various parts and different Sisters handle them according to their gifts but ONE person is still designated as RCC for the region.

Carmen led us in our closing prayer reminding us of God’s presence in, above, below and behind us and throughout the universe. We look forward to our next Zoom meetings on the first Friday nights of February and March.

Submitted by Marie Seaman





On October 29th, The Maranatha and Namaste Regions had a joint meeting at Avalon Manor in Waukesha. Present were Judith Smith, Roberta Zelhofer, Betty Bradley, Rosella Reinwand, Julie Krueger, Darlene Kanera and Deb Murphy. Elaine Beluschak was not able to attend.

The meeting opened with a beautiful meditative reading on The Beatitudes. We ended with the prayer "Lord, grant us the wisdom to recognize you in all the events of each day and in all of those with whom we live and work, so that we will truly become a beatitude people".

The remainder of the meeting was spent sharing with each other people and saints who have inspired us to live a better fuller life. These people lived or are living lives much like our own with problems, illnesses, fears and worries. But, their faith gave them courage to live out their beliefs and stay close to their God. We honor them and thank them. We mentioned Francis of Assisi, Mother Theresa, Therese the Little Flower and Anthony of Padua. We also mentioned our own Sisters, Lillanna, Mary Sferre and Maria Sanchez. All have inspired us and have given us courage to move forward with gratitude. Sr. Judith passed out inspirational soap stones to hold and to ground us as we pray and meditate.

Our meeting ended with snacks and conversation. This was our last meeting of 2022. Our next meeting will be April 29, 2023.



*Submitted by:
Darlene Kanera & Deb Murphy*



The San Pedro Calungsod Region had its Regional Christmas Fellowship Assembly on December 28, 2022, at the residence of Erlinda Lanigao in Naval, Biliran.

Only four sisters attended due to the low pressure area in the whole Visayas that time. They were Erlinda Lanigao, Isabelita Bulala, Virgilia Lepasana and Maria Bernardita Mendez.

The activity started with a faith sharing followed by the regional report and updates by the RCC, Maria Bernardita, after which they had a simple exchange of gifts and games with prizes given to the winners. The working students of Erlinda joined the games and received gifts and prizes.

Everyone had fun and enjoyed the simple Christmas fellowship. It was one way of sharing love and joy to the members

especially to Erlinda who was not physically well because of her illness. Please continue praying for her speedy recovery.

Submitted by Maria Bernardita Mendez



Bernardita, Erlinda and Isabelita



Bernardita, Isabelita, Erlinda and Virgilia



Erlinda and Isabelita.



With Erlinda's working students.





Left to right: Roz Frampton, Lilian Ehidiamhen, Esther Chioma IHEME, Onyinye Innocentia Uwakwe, Patricia Okwuchuku Irogementi, Agnes Miller, Stephanie Hartas and Mary McCullough

On the 29th November, 2022, the active members of the Ruah UK Region met at the FCJ Spirituality Centre in London. Present were Agnes Miller, Roz Frampton, Mary McCullough and Stephanie Hartas, along with our four Inquirers: Onyinye Innocentia Uwakwe, Esther Chioma IHEME, Patricia Okwuchuku Irogementi and Lilian Ehidiamhen.

We had come from the far north and the far south of England, with Lilian travelling from Belgium, to be there. It was a particularly joyous occasion because, although we've met many times on Zoom, this was the first time that we had all met face to face.

During the meeting, each of the four Inquirers requested to move on to the Affiliate Stage of the Becoming Process. We were delighted to accept them and so, during a beautiful spontaneous prayer service in the

FCJ Chapel and amidst joyful singing and dancing, they each pronounced the Covenant of Affiliation. The celebrations continued as we enjoyed food and drink we brought with us. Our new Affiliates had brought food which they cooked to give us a taste of the dishes they enjoy in their home country of Nigeria. All in all, it was a wonderful celebration but too short as we had to leave to catch trains to our various far flung destinations.

Those of us who have been SFCCs in the UK Region for many years feel very blessed to welcome new members who are so full of joy, enthusiasm and deep spirituality. The best is yet to come!



Submitted by Stephanie Hartas



The Sunbelt has been meeting on a regular basis by phone. Present at these meetings are Judith Pask, Kathleen Terlau, Gertrude Bassey, Lucy Comer, Mary Ann Wachtel, Patsy Guyton and Helen Waugh.

We have been using the prayers from the 2022 Assembly for the opening and closing of our meetings. Content shared has been from the Assembly, discernment concerning the next ICC team and other timely topics.

We have prayed, shared and discerned SFCCs for the next ICC team. SFCCs have been contacted and have expressed their willingness to serve. Two persons have been asked to submit their strengths, experience and the gifts they would bring to the next



ICC team. They are Roberta Kardell from the East Central Region and Priscilla Kyarisiima from Uganda, Africa. We thank all the SFCCs who were contacted for sharing their time, concerns and wisdom

with our region.

Submitted by Lucy Comer, RCC



There were sixteen sisters virtually present for our Zoom on Saturday, December 10, 2022. After welcoming one another we participated in an Advent reflection by Dan Schutte. He spoke of our attachment to security that prevents us from being open to God's surprises, of our church that may need to die so that something new can arise from the ashes, of a greater awareness of God's presence among us here and now, of letting "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus", be the song in our hearts this Advent. The reflection provided a vibrant and enriching discussion among the sisters.

The sisters from Virginia related the details of Agnes Hagan's death, funeral service and burial, of Agnes' publications and prison ministry. Pat McCarthy and Anne McGinn had provided loving care and attention to Agnes for the past ten years.

On Saturday, January 14, 2023, twenty-one members of WEB (18 sisters and 3 affiliates) gathered for the monthly Zoom meeting. After prayer welcoming the New Year, there was clarification concerning virtual attendance at the Assembly and an update on names to be submitted for the service role of ICC in the February ATA. The question again was raised about the \$150 fee for virtual participants. Notable in the 2022 Assembly was the absence of sisters from the developing countries who did not join virtually; \$150 U.S. dollars is more than most can spare. It is important that Mary Rose submit a report to the community of expenses incurred in purchasing

equipment for the assemblies. Is there another way this could be funded?

We spent some time discussing the question raised in the December ATA: How do we see SFCC in the next five years?

Membership in SFCC has shifted from the Eurocentric hemisphere to the eastern hemisphere and we need to be respectful of those cultures, and the Church as it is present there. As traditional religious communities decline, SFCC is providing a bridge to the future of religious life there as it did in the 1970s in the U.S. Most of our new members, regardless of region, are native to the African continent. It is important that they be represented in service roles.

Thinking of the rapid advances in technology, what will communication in SFCC look like in five years? The dream is that our central system will be virtual, utilizing what is then available to accommodate the global membership. Who will provide the expertise and how will it be funded?

Another concern raised is the possibility of SFCC adopting a critical global issue of the day and speaking as one voice to support change instead of focusing, as has been our history, on internal problems. But it was mentioned that, as individuals, we can each tap into resources available and make a difference by our personal involvement.



Before closing, there was some discussion of how the discernment process among the ICC nominees might be effected in a hybrid assembly.

Our next Zoom will be on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Submitted by Alma O'Brien



Virgie Azcueta

New U.S. Address for **Mission Fund**
17434 W. Hickory Ln
Grayslake, IL 60030

Agnes Miller--Ruah/UK Region

Cell: +07 445 555 111

Judith Pask

Cell: 719-321-0064
Judithpask@gmail.com

Mary Ann Wachtel

marywach129@gmail.com



Rose Claire Nanjira (St Rita Region, Kenya)

for her family as they grieve the unexpected death of her young nephew, Brian Ambani.



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

REGISTRATION FORM

SFCC INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2023- JULY 13 TO JULY 18 CLERGY HOME, NAIROBI KENYA

Location: Queen of Apostles Seminary, opposite safari park hotel,
Tel No: +254 707 608331/+254741187716

(Please check where appropriate)

- Registration fee at \$50.00 (KES 5500)
ACCOMODATIONS includes room, meals, wifi, conference hall
- Clergy Home (single) \$42.00 (KES 5000.00 per day)
- Clergy Home (double) \$29.00 (KES 3500.00) per day.
- Little Sisters of the Poor Guest / Aspirant House for sleeping only- Donation accepted
- Meals at Clergy Home at \$21 (KES 2500) per day for non-resident
- Check : Vegetarian _____ Food Allergy (specify) _____
- FREE DAY OPTIONAL SAFARI fee per day at \$160 (KES 19,040)
Nairobi National Park <http://www.kws.go.ke/parks/nairobi-national-park>

REGISTRANT INFORMATION

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 CITY.....STATE.....ZIP CODE.....
 COUNTRY.....PHONE NO.....
 EMAIL.....
 ARRIVAL DATEDEPARTURE DATEAIR/LAND.....

COMMITMENT SERVICE

- Affirmation
- Affiliation
- Jubilarian

Please send your scanned completed form to: svirgie@gmail.com or akiniviviannechristine@gmail.com

Make checks payable to:

Total (USD) payment to Sr. Virgie Mission Fund, 17434 W. Hickory Ln, Grayslake, IL 60030, USA

Total (KES) payment to Akinyi V. Christine, Cooperative Bank,
Account number 01108014821100 swift code: 0003, Kisumu Branch-KENYA-MPESA - 724933264

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION--2023

NAME:

COUNTRY **REGION**

Option #1 Attend Whole Assembly **\$150**

Option #2 Attend Business Meetings Only:
Collegial Process, Service Role Reports **\$75**

Email Address /

Mobile Number used to Login to Zoom:

//

Make checks payable to:

Sisters for Christian Community

Send completed form and fee to:

Mary Rose Accetturo, SFCC
9418 N Green Bay Rd, APT 134
Milwaukee, WI 53209 USA



THAT ALL MAY BE ONE
21 Merlini Dr., Columbia, PA 17512

Send all content for Volume 53 Issue 4 to atasfcc@yahoo.com no later than **March 30, 2023.**