



Sagesse Internationale

“See, I set before you today life and prosperity”. Dt 30.15

Dear Sisters,

Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom continues to seek human hearts to be born in this world to reveal his continuous presence among them. Every day of our life, we have a choice to make, therefore let us choose life and prosperity so that our life becomes a gift to others.

Since our General Chapter 2018, we have been reflecting on how to implement its Orientation. Each one of you, individually or as a community, has been looking for ways and means to live our commitment as Daughters of Wisdom to “Love without borders”.

In this bulletin, we share the experiences lived at the Entity chapters. It is an invitation to be in union with one another as Mother Marie-Louise desired of her daughters. At the level of the Congregation, many of the Entities have seriously moved forward with the reconfiguration process that invites us to let go and take daring steps with courage and faith.

At this time, I find the invitation of Pope Francis very appropriate for us. He is reminding us to pay attention to the little things of daily life. He writes:

“Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others. The common life, whether in the family, the parish, the religious community or any other, is made up of small everyday things. This was true of the holy community formed by Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which reflected in an exemplary way the beauty of the Trinitarian communion. It was also true of the life that Jesus shared with his disciples and with ordinary people.”

Let us not forget that Jesus asked his disciples to pay attention to details.

The little detail that wine was running out at a party.

The little detail that one sheep was missing.

The little detail of noticing the widow who offered her two small coins.

The little detail of having spare oil for the lamps, should the bridegroom delay.

The little detail of asking the disciples how many loaves of bread they had.

The little detail of having a fire burning and a fish cooking as he waited for the disciples at daybreak.

“A community that cherishes the little details of love”, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelizing environment, “ is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father’s plan.”

As we desire to live our commitment to Love without borders in a prophetic way, ‘let us build life giving communities in order that we may seek Wisdom together and reveal her wherever we are present’. (RL 38)

Sr. Rani Kurian D.W

Sr. Rani Kurian DW
Congregational Leader

ⁱLetter to Henry de Castries, 14 August 1901

¹¹Apostolic exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be glad) No 141-145

Closing Words - General Chapter 2018

Today, we conclude the 59th General Chapter of the Congregation



At the beginning of this Chapter, Sr Louise presented us with a small olive-wood heart as an invitation to be collectively listening to Wisdom, to discern together the invitations and conversations to which Wisdom would call us along the spiritual journey that we were undertaking together as Chapter Delegates. We decided to consciously live this Chapter with an open heart and to “Love without borders”.

All along these days we had the joy of living this theme especially in our sharing and discernment: in the chapter room, in the dining room, along the corridors, in the beautiful grounds at our disposal... It is this experience that helped us to look at this significant moment in the life of our Congregation with its richness and vulnerability. As Delegates of the Chapter we were able to name the richness and the present challenges of the Congregation and to see them as an opportunity to live the present reality with courage and faith.

Through our deep sharing and reflection we came to accept the fragility and the vulnerability of our Congregation with its limited human resources that invite us to move towards reconfiguration of our governance structures and create new bonds among us. Courageously we chose to transform our way of “living together” by living interculturality in our communities and our mission.

I believe that it is not by chance that the poster of Marie-Louise and her words “if I were a piece of cloth I will give myself to the poor” was present with us throughout the Chapter. There were many moments in the life of Mother Marie-Louise where she was confronted with fragilities and vulnerability: for ten years alone at the hospital in Poitiers, the call to leave Poitiers for La Rochelle, the death of Fr de Montfort, her arrival at St-Laurent with very limited resources and the humiliations of the rebel Sisters who spoke against her.

But she lived those realities with love to the point of desiring to become a cloth to clothe the poor. Once her Sisters moved to different places she spent her time visiting them and encouraging them in their mission. Being among us still today, is she not telling each one of us “My dear Daughters I clothe you with love and courage”.

Those of us on the General Council need your support, collaboration and prayers to implement the Orientation that all of us have chosen to live in the coming six years. Together it is possible to move forward even if we will have to face challenges and uncertainties.

My dear Sisters as you go back to your Entities “be firm yet gentle” with yourself in your eagerness to live the Orientation of the General Chapter 2018. Then invite and lead your Sisters to hear the call of Incarnate Wisdom to welcome this Orientation with courage and faith. May each one of us be the Way of Wisdom in our community and mission to love without borders.

Sr. Rani Kurian D.W

Sr. Rani Kurian DW
Congregational Leader



Love Without Borders at Wisdom Year



The Sisters of Wisdom Year 2018-2019 were happy to come together at the end of November to officially begin the year on December 9, 2018.

On this same occasion Sr. Antonella, General Councilor responsible for Wisdom Year, transmitted to the community the Acts of the General Chapter 2018.

This perfectly clear transmission helped us greatly in entering into the dynamic energy of the Chapter. Together, all were very happy to receive the fruits of the Chapter and to participate in making ours the orientation taken by the Congregation for the next six years.

We are proud of our Congregation and ready to commit to the mission, as witnesses to Christ Wisdom in « loving with a heart without borders, wide open to Creation and to God. »

Energized, we will as best as possible put in action our Wisdom Year theme 2018-2019, « Remain strongly rooted, in the love of Christ. » (Ephesians 3:17) in choosing interculturality in our daily community life. »



Wisdom Year Community

Meeting at Vertefeuille



As far back as my Daughter of Wisdom memory can recall, never did we welcome the entire General Council in Belgium.

This became a reality on Sunday October 28, 2018.

Since our Delegation had no representation at the General Chapter, the Sisters gathered at Vertefeuille to welcome the General Council who presented the orientations of the Chapter: "Love Without Borders". Each Sister was so looking forward to hear about the future of the Congregation!

For us the very first question, the word **"Together"**. "Our age or state of health" (RL no 7), as the Congregational Leader, Sister Rani said, "to risk encountering the other, to let ourselves be challenged by different manners of thinking, living and believing. *How can we be cloth for others?*"

For us today, time has come to let go of the field of activity to simply be at a deeper level. In her testament Marie-Louise recommends : "Never deviate from the primitive spirit of our Holy Founder, which is the spirit of humility, poverty, detachment, charity and union with one another..." With joy, till the very end, we seek to pursue the total offering of ourselves to Wisdom in the specific vocation that is ours.

The day passed in a marvelous way. Before leaving, as we were gathered for a simple feast, a power outage struck and the whole dining room was plunged in darkness! We continued, using candles, which highlighted the atmosphere of intimacy. Could it have been orchestrated by Montfort and Marie-Louise to help us appreciate even more the gift received today?



*Sr. Marie-Suzanne
Belgium*

Hope and Trust for the Future



Sr. Rani Kurian, Congregational Leader, visited the Entity of Holland, on December 13-14-15, 2018. What this first visit with Sr. Rani as Congregational Leader meant for us, is quite difficult to express in words. During her stay, we felt joy, strong emotion and solidarity with her for the way she shared our hopes, our wishes and our sorrow.

Sr. Rani showed much interest for the mission entrusted to the Sisters in their past activities and invited each one to share on the subject. With much emotion, she visited the Sisters in the E.H.P.A.D. (Retirement Home) and contacted the two Sisters living in the southern part of the country. In this manner, Sr. Rani wanted to be in close bond with us in an atmosphere of unity and openness. We also shared our thoughts on the Orientation and Decisions of the General Chapter and how we hoped to be able, as much as possible, to adapt and put into action the decisions of the General Chapter.

During the different meetings held, we explained to Sr. Rani, that the process in progression leading toward the end of the Mission and the presence of the Daughters of Wisdom in Holland, is well prepared. We took the right means and planning for our finances. With the approval of the former Congregational Leader, the major financial questions have been addressed, in the designation of local assistance offered to the Sisters till the end. An agreement was concluded between the General Council, the members of our Delegation and a few experts from the Religious Conference of Holland, with whom Sr. Rani had already met.

The result of this visit was to bring us to a deeper sense of unity in our common awareness of forming a Congregation rooted in evangelical values, in the Spirituality and Charism of our Founders, Montfort and Marie-Louise. With respect and appreciation, supported by the commitment of the General Council and the affection and prayer of our Sisters in all the Entities, we continue our path with hope and trust, moving forward in the future which lies in the hands of God.

I would add that Sr. Ruth Dary, General Treasurer, accompanied Sr. Rani, and was present at all our meetings. Sr. Ruth enjoyed her visit and, for all in the world, would not have missed this third visit to our country!

*Sr. Maria Pacelli Senden
Holland*

Let us Open our Hearts to Love

At the end of October, 25 Delegates of the Province of France, were united at St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre for the Provincial Chapter. During this week, we exercised discernment in finding ways to “Love Without Borders”, in response to the needs of our society and the world in faithfulness to our Charism.

How we received and welcomed the Orientation of the General Chapter on the first day in a celebration in the Founders’ Chapel! Together we drank at the wellspring... Then in a sisterly love approach, and in profound sharing, we wrote a text, that will allow us to implement the Orientation of the General Chapter for the next six years to come.

Sister Rani and Sister Marie-Reine were warmly greeted and spent two days with us. We sincerely thank them for their presence. Through open dialogue, they accompanied us and walked us through our discernment process, stimulated our desire to implement the Orientation “Love Without Borders” in our mission in accordance with our reality. In our final celebration at the Tomb of our Founders, in union with you the Sisters of the five Continents, in trust, we offered the present and the future of our Congregation, to our Founders sure of being strengthen by their support.

“Love Without Borders!”: in faith and hope, we welcome this prophetic call of Wisdom in our communities and our missions. Like Mary, we remain humble servants...

*Sr. Marie-Laure Paillet
France*



Provincial Chapter U.S. Province



The Daughters of Wisdom of the US Province opened the second session of their Provincial Chapter at Wisdom House Litchfield, Connecticut, from November 12 to 18, 2018. Delegates and Participant observers engaged in contemplative dialogue and personal reflection on the Acts of the General Chapter From the outset, the Delegates and Participants focused new eyes upon the General Chapter call to “Love without Borders.”

The U.S Provincial Chapter engaged in a study of convergences and differences between their own Provincial Chapter Direction and the Acts of the General Chapter 2018. Study, table discussions and deep listening resulted in the U.S Provincial Chapter Direction – claiming the gift that is theirs in this time and place “to seek, contemplate and reveal Wisdom at the heart of the world, and in so doing, to denounce false wisdoms” (RL 11)

As members of an international Congregation, Daughters of Wisdom committed :

1. to participation in the work of reconfiguration in accordance with their capabilities,
2. to deepened understanding of diverse cultures and to creation and support of intercultural communities;
3. and finally, to a broadened sense of mission by addressing global realities, especially Care for our Common Home, the new poverties and the needs of young people in their search for meaning.

Time was allotted for presentations on those works which embody the mission and charism of the Province:

Wisdom House – a sponsored ministry serves as a center for integration of Wisdom Spirituality, Justice, and Care of Creation. Table discussion and open mike affirmed the new Executive Director in her initiatives.

Fire in Our Hearts – a sponsored ministry begun in 2006 has for its purpose to share with others Wisdom Spirituality. Since 2010 these reflections have gone online affording a far wider audience. This ministry involves both Sisters and Associates of Wisdom.



Consultative Units serve as a positive tool of communication among the members of the Province. Table conversation explored ways that the CU's can become even more effective.

Communications - Catherine McWilliams, Communications Director, stated that the Way of Wisdom has become a way of life for her as well. This attitude informs every communication and video that she creates. She would like to invite more writers from the members of the province to give voice to Wisdom who dwells in experience.

*Sr. Ann Gray
United States*

Reaping the Fruits of the Chapter



The second session of the Provincial Chapter of Haiti was held at l'Accueil Sagesse of Canapé-Vert, October 31 to November 6, 2018. The atmosphere was joyous and filled with hope in order to grasp what steps Wisdom was calling us to take in "Love Without Borders". The opening celebration using the "Disciples of Emmaus" recalled the introduction of the Acts of the Chapter inviting us to discern the signs of the times and to respond accordingly.

The Provincial Chapter moved forward into implementing the orientation of the Congregation "Love Without Borders". We are called to engage in dialogue with the Church and the world, with the Haitian community, to discover the new situations of poverty and to live out this bold wisdom project with audacity.

This invitation puts us in a vulnerable place, in working to abolish borders, on personal, community and regional levels. Together with the Facilitator, we worked out a pedagogy in favor of this great project. It consists mainly in

- Letting God take hold of us and to let God love us,
- Living out the actual reality with joy and generosity,
- Seeking to love others in our brothers and sisters,
- Answering the calls discerned in the signs of the times

We discovered that the founding element of the Provincial Chapter was to take up the wisdom challenge : to place Wisdom at the very center of our lives, also in our hearts without borders and in choosing recentralization of our Charism.

Thus, this challenge “Love Without Borders” brought us to privilege new concrete avenues able to lead us to :

- Enter fully in a movement of reconfiguration of our structures of governance in creating new and firm bonds among ourselves,
- To live out interculturality,
- Revisit our mission’s vision, in light of our Charism in collaboration with the Montfortian Family and the Friends of Wisdom, taking a stand in favor of the poor and the safeguard of the environment (JPIC),
- To intensify vocational awareness,
- To anchor Formation in both the Charism and Wisdom Spirituality.

Let us open our hearts to the Spirit to live out the challenge to love without borders. Let us revisit our way of being as well as our administrative and organizational structures in favor of life and fashion a Wisdom Congregation Body, reconfigured.



Collective Work
Haiti

A Delegation Chapter to Remember!



During an Assembly with the Sisters of the Delegation, Sr. Liane Rainville, Entity Leader and Sr. Henedina Latayada, Delegate, shared their experience of the General Chapter 2018. Together, the Sisters welcomed the call of Wisdom Incarnate to love without borders, knowing that the thrust will be to reconfigure the structures of governance and to live interculturality. Since the assembly we carried questions at our Delegation Chapter such as : How? What? When? Where? Who?

As soon as our Chapter was declared opened by Sr. Liane, our enthusiasm and our fears surfaced. All wanting to be enlightened, participated actively, passionately to this heart-warming event. Realizing that the call for reconfiguration and intercultural living are imminent, we went through the process of prayer and discernment and sharing of ideas with a listening heart.

As the process moved forward, we experienced mourning and embraced the pain, the hope and the joy of birthing a new Delegation. Slowly but surely fears seemed overcome by enthusiasm and a deep desire to fully live out the Acts of the General Chapter. We are open to live interculturality with its joys and challenges, aware that intercultural living and sharing of human resources are in fact a reality in our Delegation.



The presence of two General Councilors, Sr. Isabelle Retailleau and Sr. Marie-Reine Gauthier, was an assurance that we are not alone in this common movement of global reconfiguration. How can we miss our goal? Sr. Ursula Sharpe, MMM, our facilitator, made us experience that we are truly blessed, prepared and accompanied. Her loving and gentle way, enabled us to commit to love without borders. Love cannot be contained; it has to be shared.

In the end, we joyfully and wholeheartedly committed to implement the Acts of the General Chapter, trusting in Divine Providence. The Sisters are ready to move forward in the process of reconfiguration, to take risks, to leave their comfort zone, to accept and celebrate individual and cultural differences. Confident that Mary, Montfort and Marie Louise will always journey with us, we are ready to respond to Wisdom's call.

A cultural presentation high in colors and traditions, with music and dance, joy and friendship, stories and food, ended our Chapter, this time with the sixteen prenovices and novices. What a significant way to concretely live and love without borders by inviting all to join in the new steps of the Reconfiguration Dance.

*Sr. Nancy David
Philippines*

Joy and Gratitude



First Vows of Four Sisters

On Saturday September 8, on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, we held an outside celebration at the Benasandratra Centre. Four novices: Hortensia, Jeannine, Alberte and Anja made their first profession while Sisters Rosette, Jeannette and Clarisse celebrated 25 years of fidelity. It is a great joy for the Province of Madagascar since we now reached a total of 107 Sisters. We see it as a great sign of hope for the future because in spite of the current context, young women still dare to commit their lives in religious life.

The day before, the festivities began with a meeting of the families of the novices, greeted by Sister Symphorose, Provincial Leader. Each family was briefly presented to the others. Then she went on giving an overview of the meaning of religious life, insisting on the three vows according to our Rule of Life. A few parents did not hesitate to ask questions and to express their gratitude. Fully aware of the demands of religious life they encouraged their daughters to commit while promising to support them through prayer.

In the evening, at the Chapel, the three Sisters celebrating a Jubilee were invited to share their experience from 25 years of consecrated life to Wisdom. Whatever their mission : education for Sister Clarisse, pastoral work with prisoners and orphans for Sister Rosette, apostolate with those at sea and mission in France for S. Jeannette, each one manifested Wisdom's generosity and creativity. They made their own these words from Montfort "If you do not risk anything for God, you will never do anything great for Him". Nine other young religious then renewed their vows. At the offertory, the four novices proceeded, carrying the habits to be worn for their first profession and the priest blessed them.



With the parents



Nine Sisters renew their vowa

The following day was the great day! Fifty Daughters of Wisdom, the Montfortian family and the Sisters' families gathered for a solemn mass. According to a Malagasy tradition the novices ask their families to bless them. Then, each novice, freely pronounced her vows. The Sisters celebrating their Silver Jubilee followed, by renewing their "Yes", with faith and courage.

At the closing ceremony, Sister Symphorose sent all four newly professed Sisters on mission. They were radiant with joy! They received a heartfelt welcome from their fellow Sisters. The ceremony came to a close with a hymn of thanksgiving and liturgical dance executed by the Sisters of temporary vows. All were then invited to share at the banquet of Wisdom. Joy was overflowing! All hearts were burning with love!

*Sr. Albertine Solohery
Madagascar*

From Poitiers to La Rochelle

Sister Marie Lourdes Alonso Vicente arrived in Maria-Luisa from France, in January 2011. Her presence during these eight years were spent in the local communities of Quito-La Santiago and at Quito-Pre-novitiate until 2015. Right away she fit well with the lives of the people, the Church of Equator, and the religious life style, as she journeyed with the Sisters in their experience of the mission of the Congregation.



Right from the start, she commits entirely to Wisdom and to the suffering, through her work with the Jesuits in the service of Refugees. Many came from Haiti after the 2020 earthquake. In this mission, Lourdes invests all her efforts so that these people are welcomed and sees that their documents are legal. She initiated both these projects, a school in Spanish and a small enterprise in the making and selling of marmalade.

The Conference of Religious of Equator and the Congregations solicited her services in the way of: courses, workshops, seminars, retreats and spiritual accompaniment of the younger religious in formation. In this way she participated in program planning for inter-congregational initial formation, and helping the younger religious in vocation discernment.

Her theological formation lead her to teach at the Catholic Pontifical University of Equator. She chose the most demanding : the Christian formation of students in the many different faculties. She accepted this challenge to venture out trusting that the Spirit will accomplish the work, since, "How can they believe if they have never heard speak of Him?" (Rm 10,1).

In 2013, she accepts the full responsibility of permanent formation. Sister Lourdes helped us deepen the treasure of our spirituality. In 2015, she took up the responsibility of the Pre-novitiate of the Delegation and the two pre-novices she accompanied are presently at the International novitiate in Clamart.

Sister Lourdes built relationships between our Congregation and the other Congregations of Equator, with society and the Church, opening new avenues. We are absolutely sure that she was enriched by the Latin-American way of life of the Church and of religious life. Through her, intercultural dialogue became a reality. Thank you Sister Maria Lourdes Alonso for the gift of your life in the service of the Maria-Luisa Delegation!

*Sr. Elvira Muñoz
María-Luisa*

“If I were Cloth, I would Give Myself to Clothe the Poor”



Sr. Séraphine Ratavy, from Madagascar, landed at Kiunga Airport PNG, in 2013. She was directly commissioned to Nomad, the remotest part of the Diocese only accessible by small air-planes.

The Sisters had just recently opened a community there. Sr Veronica Paison and Sr Beata Ayombe were looking forward to receiving their new Sister. The small Gebusi Tribe, the Catholic minority in this area, danced, sang and welcomed this Sister who had travelled thousands of miles away to come to them. How happy they were, knowing that good tidings lay ahead with this talented, practical woman from beyond borders! Sr Séraphine truly lived love without borders. She risked stepping out of her comfort zones such as learning English as well as the language of the people. She experienced their simplicity, their heartfelt joy and hospitality.

She lived in their bush hamlets of about ten small family houses and ate their food mainly kokoro banana. She listened to their joyful and sorrowful stories. Surely to walk in such a mission was difficult yet enriching!

The Delegation Leader, Sr. Julienne, Bishop Gilles Côté, and all the Sisters were overjoyed to have her. Sr. Séraphine taught women : sewing, agriculture, nutritious cooking, health and hygiene, knitting and farming. What joy to see how these neglected tribes in the forest were curious to learn new things! The people honored her as their Saviour by providing security, native food and water when she was out on patrol. The Yulabi people built her a nice little house on stilts where she could sleep when visiting them. These communities were the poorest of the poor. They had taken a huge step in learning. Sr. Séraphine had done a miracle in their lives!

Then, due to transport difficulty in and out of Nomad, a remote Station, Sister had to reside in Kiunga and reach Nomad as a visiting Sister whenever necessary. During her stay in Kiunga, she helped in Emmaus Farm and Agriculture School, teaching the youths how to prepare soil and grow crops like eggplants, okra, rice, peanuts sweet potatoes and many others. She also shared her knowledge and talents with the workers on Eagle Wood Plantation.

Soon, the time had come to say goodbye to her beloved Nomad people and all the others. She had touched their hearts and transformed their lives to this day. Sr. Séraphine expressed her gratitude and thanks to all her friends and partners in mission. *Thank you Sr. Séraphine, goodbye and may God bless you! We will miss you!*

First Vows - 18/09/08

Haití

Sr. Dadine Saintelin

Sr. Marie Alma Clermont

Sr. Virginie Siméon

Madagascar

Sr. Hortensia Todisoa Fiononan

Sr. Jeannine Rasoamahafaly

Sr. Alberte Razafiarisoa

Sr. Marie Forence H. Onja Razafimanajara

D.R. Congo

Sr. Judith Baseangandi Noli

Sr. Espérance Nziavake Kanyali

Perpetual Vows - 18/11/03

Malawi

Sr. Jane Mpando

Sr. Mary Kazembe



Planning of the General Council (revised)

January-March 2019

Month	Date	Activity	Members of the Council
January 2019	5-6	Meeting - the 3 General Councils in Rome	General Council
	8	FIM Committee	Antonella
	10-19	Change of Government- Colombia	Rani, Antonella and Pierrette
	19- 1 ^{er} Mar.	Session in Spanish -Columbia	Antonella
	12—15	Visit- Belgium	Pierrette
	13-28	Visit - Congo (cancelled)	Isabelle and Dary
	20-25	Visit- Formation House - Philippines	Marie-Reine
	20-30	Chapter—Congo (canceled)	Pierrette
	27 – 31	Reconfiguration Asia and Oceania – Philippines	Marie-Reine
February	Jan 31- 11	Change of Government - Congo (canceled)	Rani, Isabelle and Pierrette
	17-23	Wisdom Year	Pierrette
	11-14	SEDOS Session- Rome	Rani, Isabelle and Marie-Reine
	16-21	Visit - Malawi	Rani, Marie-Reine and Dary
	22-27	Change of Government - Malawi	Rani and Marie-Reine
March	2-3	Visit – Holland	Rani and Pierrette
	3-4	Development Office	Isabelle and Dary
	5	Development Office	General Team
	13-15	Investment- Formation	General Council
	16-17	Investment Committee	Dary and Isabelle
	17-30 April	Session- English -Nairobi	Pierrette
	17-21	Wisdom Year	Antonella
	20-27	Visit- PNG	Isabelle and Dary
	20-26	Visit- Indonesia	Rani and Marie-Reine
	28-1 ^{er} April	Change of Governments-Philippines, PNG and Indonesia	Rani, Isabelle and Marie-Reine