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SAGESSE INTERNATIONALE



WISDOM and VOCATION



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Like Marie-Louise Trichet and Catherine Brunet, our jubilarians this year bear witness to their fidelity in following Christ Wisdom.

“WISDOM AND VOCATION”



Sr. Immaculate Makina, DW
General Councillor

From generation to generation, Wisdom has called people of different walks of life to a life of adventure with Her. Daughters of Wisdom, by our entire life we express the ardent love of Wisdom, who proposes a way of true happiness to everyone, “Listen, come to me; I want to make you happy”. (RL 1) God’s call is a call to a life of happiness. Every Christian, through baptism, is called to holiness. We are invited to pay attention to Wisdom’s voice through our different daily mediations.

In everyday language, the word vocation is used to refer to the calling that people may feel for a particular mission. However, in the Christian language, it refers to the inner movement by which a person is called to devote him/herself to God’s service. It is letting ourselves be guided daily by Jesus Christ. When we allow Jesus to lead us each day, we learn to have joy in every circumstance of our life.

Pope Francis in his message for the 2023 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, said *“the Lord’s call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to the faith that*

bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world”. We are called to bear a joyful witness to our faith wherever we are, especially in our mission.

Father de Montfort in his book: *The Secret of Mary* says that *“the acquisition of God’s holiness is our assured vocation; and that is where all our thoughts, words and actions, our sufferings and all the movements of our life must tend...”*! (SM 3) And in our Rule of Life 12 we read, *“I loved Wisdom and sought her from my youth; I fell in love with her beauty, and I resolved to have her as my bride”*. Our vocation entails making a radical choice and decision to follow Christ Wisdom. It is to embark on the journey of constant search for Him who loved us first.

I once listened to a homily whereby a priest was speaking about the adventures of astronauts, who go to the moon to explore the universe. They do a lot of necessary preparations before embarking on this journey. It entails taking risks and going through a lot of sacrifices.

Likewise, for us Christians, our place of adventure is our journey towards heaven. We prepare ourselves daily to attain eternal life through prayer and doing God's will through service to others.

This Jubilee Year of Hope, is a very special year. It is a holy year of forgiveness and mercy, a time to renew our relationships with God, with one another and with all creation. It is an invitation to renew our hope, a hope which comes from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are. The gift of hope is greatly needed in our world today, where we are faced daily with the challenges of poverty, injustice, violence and the destruction of the environment.

In this issue of the International Bulletin dedicated to Wisdom and Vocation, we are going to hear beautiful testimonies of our Sisters who embarked on their journey with Christ Wisdom. Their stories tell us how they have adventured with Christ in their vocation as consecrated women in the Congregation of Daughters of Wisdom and how they have shared their lives with others. Sr. Florence writes, *"Like Mary at the visitation, we bring Christ Wisdom to the people to whom we are sent so that all may have life in abundance"*. As Daughters of Wisdom, we are sent on mission to reveal that love to wounded

humanity, in a world of constant change and instability.

Sr. Marie Thérèse in her article, shares about the beginning of her vocation which was inspired by the witness given by the lives of some Sisters, *"I felt deep in my heart the desire to give totally to God and to serve him following the example of two Sisters I knew, who were always happy, joyful, and peaceful..."* Indeed, we are called to be happy, joyful in Christ Wisdom and our deep relationship with Him brings peace in our hearts. Sr. Jocelyne is amazed and grateful with how Wisdom has seduced her, *"I have allowed myself to be amazed by all the blessings of Wisdom received and welcomed, little by little, over the years"*. What a great witness of life!

We are grateful to all our Sisters who have shared inspiring stories of their vocation and mission and how they have experienced the presence of Wisdom in their lives. Wisdom has been a source of strength in times of joys as well as in times of difficulties. Wisdom is a faithful companion on our journey who sustains our energy to move forward and remain faithful to our vocation.

May Christ Wisdom continue to be a source of wisdom and strength in our vocation so as to remain faithful and strong in our mission as Daughters of Wisdom.

MAGNIFICAT

Hymn 85

Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort

1. *My soul magnifies
My Sovereign Lord,
And God has filled it
With grace and meekness;
For, after groaning so long in wait,
His sovereign majesty
Has looked upon the humility
Of His servant's heart.*

2. *Generation after generation,
By marvelous accord,
Will call me blessed
On earth and in heaven,
For the mighty Lord
has wrought deep within me
Stunning wonders.
How holy and powerful His name!
May He be adored and loved!*

6. *May everyone adore and bless
Our one true God!
May everything resound
And all sing throughout the world:
Glory to the eternal Father,
glory to the adorable Word!
And the same glory to the Holy Spirit
Whose love unites them
With an ineffable bond.*



**HAPPY JUBILEE TO YOU
DEAR SISTERS AND
CONGRATULATIONS!**



Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. ANNE GOODMAN - GBI **First profession : 2 February 1945**



My mother went to school with the Daughters of Wisdom in NE England so the family contact has been for a long time. Sadly, she died when I was eight and I went with my father to live in the SW. He eventually remarried and so at 11 years old I was sent to boarding school in Romsey where I was surrounded by generous Daughters of Wisdom. From that time on I just 'went with the flow' and breathed the spirit of Wisdom in and out.

It seemed natural that when I finished school, I would cross the road to enter the postulate, novitiate and so began my 80 years as a Sister. After profession I was sent to Liverpool, trained as a teacher and then did drama training. In those days we were trained according to the gaps to be filled, however I loved my work especially as a drama teacher. Following my second novitiate in St. Laurent I went to teach in our school in Newcastle. The solidarity in the community was a great strength and sustained me through the difficult times. In later life I worked on the pastoral care team at the Preston hospital as volunteer for 24 years until retiring at 90-year-old! The creativity of Wisdom has always filled my days, even now e.g. Faberge eggs, knitting, calligraphy, card making.

Thank you, Lord, for this rich life in your service.



Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. AVIS BALDWIN - GBI **First profession : 2 February 1950**



I was born in North of England, an only child. My father was in the army, so we travelled a lot. We spent some time in Bermuda and were there when World War II started, so had to remain there. When we returned to England my mother wanted me to go to a Catholic school, so I went as a boarder to La Sagess in Romsey. I was very happy there. The sisters were very hard working even to cleaning the toilets, which impressed me very much.

During that time my vocation was flowering and my father encouraged me to follow my desire. Sadly, he died before I entered but his intervention encouraged my mother to let me become a sister. Going from school to the postulate was just a matter of crossing the road as they were on the same property. After profession I trained as a teacher.

I made my final vows in St. Laurent and later I met a DW from the USA who spoke very nicely about her time in Nyasaland (Malawi). I felt very attracted to working with the mixed-race children there so when there was a request for new missionaries for Malawi, I had no hesitation in volunteering. However, I was appointed to teach in a European school in Limbe. I remained in Malawi 21 years. My desire to have contact with the mixed-race children remained strong so eventually I was allowed to do home visits besides teaching in school. I used to walk to the compound, which was quite demanding in the heat, but my desire kept me going.

On returning to Romsey, I taught in our junior school and later in the Anglican run Abbey school in Romsey as a volunteer. Sadly, eventually, I had to withdraw because of bad health.

At the time of my first communion, I became very conscious of the presence of the Lord and along the way I came to realise the Lord was Wisdom. During my retirement I have become more aware of Mary, Montfort and Marie Louise and with them on the occasion of my 75th anniversary I can sing from the bottom of my heart MAGNIFICAT. On that day, the sun shone brightly, and we had a wonderful to celebrate together.

Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. GRACE MALONZO - UNITED STATES

First profession : 2 February 1955



Now that I am a nonagenarian and have been so blessed with 70 years in Wisdom's family, I thank God that I can still think.

When I was fifteen, happiness filled my heart, as Sister Elizabeth gave me my first job at the Daughters of Wisdom's hospital. Sister Florence was my Head Nurse. She taught me by her life the Christ-like way of caring for the sick. I could also detect the contemplative side of her life.

This happiness led me to enter the Daughters of Wisdom at Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1953.

So many good years followed, including meeting people in nursing, helping the poor and their children in our inner city, being close to many senior citizens, and having the young Navy men and women reach out to them.

I have been blessed with enjoying the ways of life of those in Malawi and the Philippines. For me, each of these was an experience of the great Community of Love!

Even today, since I retired, many of those beautiful people are still my Beloved Community, whom I plan to visit this Jubilee year, probably for the last time on this earth.

Today, in my country, the United States, so much is different. So much seems confused and chaotic that I ask myself, "Where is the Love?". There are so many challenges!

I try to remind myself that happiness is still there because of the One Who is our constant Source in troubled times. My Sisters reminded me that "Hope springs eternally in the human heart".



Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. ANN GRAY - UNITED STATES

First profession : 2 February 1955



As I write this testimony, it is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and I am struck by the words of the entrance antiphon: Be my protector, O God/ a mighty stronghold to save/ For you are my rock, my stronghold!/ Lead me, guide, for the sake of your name. (Ps 31:3-4) The image of God as my rock fills me with a sense of being able “to lean on God” to trust completely that my feet, firm on solid rock, will lead me safely along Wisdom’s Way.

This trust is how I define hope - hope that will not fade. In this Jubilee year 2025, we are called upon to be Pilgrims of Hope. Our feet are on a journey of faith. We are called to recover the confident trust that we need to promote interpersonal and international relations, the dignity of all persons, and respect God’s gift of Creation. Let radical hope propel us to act NOW in our own way and in our communities.

My life as a teacher for over 40 years has unfolded as my life in Wisdom opened to the richness of our tradition. It has been such a joy to see my students develop a love for art and beauty and confident self-expression.

Serving as Provincial brought me a new understanding of internationality. In semi-retirement, I have embraced the call to serve with JPIC. I continue to work for justice for the vulnerable as I assist asylum seekers in finding safe haven.



SR. MARGARET KELIHER - UNITED STATES

First profession : 2 August 1955



How does one share the story of a sister that friends describe as a “very private person”. One listens to Jesus Wisdom, the source of her life: *“By her fruits, you will know her...”*.

Margaret Kelliher’s story begins in Bushwick, New York, in a faith-filled Irish family, daughter of Thomas Kelliher and Margaret Mary Tuomey.

Jubilarians' testimonies

As a student at Our Lady of Wisdom Academy, she met and was attracted to the Daughters of Wisdom, whom she describes affectionately. "They were so different. They liked each other. They made learning enjoyable". Each of those statements would become a blueprint for Margaret's life and mission.

Sister Peggy, as she is known, gave expression to Wisdom through the way she loved and taught children for 25 years, encouraging them to question and be the person God made them to be. Her teaching colleagues continue to visit her, and in their words, "It is like stepping onto holy ground... she shares 'senior energy' that floods the air with welcoming love". One spoke of her social outreach ministry, "Sr. Peggy could be found cleaning the house of a parishioner, taking another to the doctor, always quietly serving those in need".

"Wisdom reaches from end to end mightily and orders all things sweetly". (Wis 8:1) An apt description of Peggy's service as Provincial Secretary to Sr. Barbara O'Dea, where she kept all in good order, organized an international trip for France 74 sisters and was the first smiling face our returning missionaries saw at the airport.

Sister Peggy continues to radiate goodness through her generous smile. Her best friend, Sister Rosemary Connelly, remarked, "We share our Irish roots and a sense of humor". Truly, Sister Peggy, "by your fruits", we do know you as a Woman of Wisdom.



SR. MARIE-THÉRÈSE PALLIER - FRANCE

First profession : 2 February 1955



Magnificat, for seventy years following Wisdom.

In class, at the Daughters of Wisdom, early on, I felt deep in my heart the desire to give my life totally to God and to serve him following the example of two Sisters I knew, who were always happy, joyful, and peaceful...

I entered the postulancy on July 22nd, 1953, and made my profession on February 2nd, 1955. It was the life and writings of Saint Louis Marie, Marie Louise, the formation sessions of Pierre Humblet and Claire Dumont, and ongoing formation

that helped me to discover in depth the Eternal Wisdom, Incarnate and Crucified, and to contemplate her in her love, gentleness, and compassion.

Jubilarians' testimonies

My points of reference:

- People: Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate and Crucified, Mary, Saint Louis Marie, Marie Louise...
- Words: "You did not choose me, but I chose you, so that you might go and bear fruit". - "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me". - "Open yourselves to Jesus Christ". - "Take good care of the poor".
- A prayer: To ask for Wisdom

These people and these words live within me and give me joy and peace, the joy received and shared in community life, in the mission received, strengthened by the Yes, renewed each morning in the consecration to Jesus through the hands of Mary. Many challenges had to be faced, but the certainty of the presence of Wisdom, of Mary, of Marie Louise, meant that joy and peace were stronger than fear and anxiety...

Among the great graces received during these seventy years, I would mention that of having been sent to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. I lived for thirty years among young people in search of themselves, young Daughters of Wisdom in formation. They invited me to remain consistent with our spirituality and our charism.

Divine Wisdom, thank you for this journey, for all the people I have met, whom you have placed on my path. May this new stage be a grace to know you better in this jubilee year, as I become a pilgrim and disciple of hope.



SR. AGNES DEWHURST - GBI First profession : 2 February 1955



I was born and brought up in Preston, England where the Daughters of Wisdom had an orphanage. The Sisters were just always part of our lives. One, who was a parish sister used to regularly visit our home. I was attracted by her friendliness which led me eventually to join the convent.

On the occasion of my jubilee of 70 years I want to say "Thank you Jesus for the opportunity to serve you for such a long time in the Congregation, firstly as a junior schoolteacher for 9 years in Newcastle and 17 years in Inverness, Scotland and then 20 years as Provincial Bursar in Romsey. I thank you for the many opportunities I had to pray and be close to you during this time; for all those who have cared and supported me, especially in my recent years".

SR. BERNADETTE CORNELISSEN - HOLLAND

First profession : 2 August 1955



Sr. Bernadette was born in Amsterdam in 1931 in a boatmen's family. When she was nine years old, the war broke out. It was a profound and frightening experience, as her family found themselves caught in the midst of the heavy bombardment of Rotterdam. Later, she attended teacher-training college and became a schoolteacher.

At one point, she immersed herself in the thought of Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort. The occasion was a play about his life for which she was invited to participate. With her inquisitive mind, she first wanted to know who that man really was. She then read a biography by the Montfortian Pierre Eyckeler, becoming so captivated that she finished the book in one session, until three o'clock in the morning.

After that book and the play, she pursued further spiritual deepening and decided to enter. In this photo, taken in 1955 in Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre at her perpetual vows, she stands between her parents. It was the first time such photos were permitted by the Daughters of Wisdom!

After 18 years in education—ultimately in Hoensbroek, where she also became superior—she took on the administrative responsibilities in 1975/76 for a new foundation that cared for elderly sisters. Together with her community, she moved to Arnhem, from where she visited the various homes where elderly fellow sisters lived. At the same time, major societal and liturgical changes were taking place. Sr. Bernadette studied under Dominican Henk Jongerius and trained in parish work. She also devoted herself with great joy and dedication to helping refugees and migrants, particularly by teaching Dutch language classes.

In 2004, her eye problems got worse and she could no longer drive. From Nijmegen, where she was living with two fellow sisters, she moved to Wijchen in 2006. In Nijmegen, she had celebrated her golden jubilee in 2005, with the theme "May Your Name become visible in us". Now, 20 years later, she chooses these words once again. She reflects on values such as simplicity, gentleness, and justice through which we pass something of God on to one another. Love, and wisdom, of course! Sr. Bernadette is 94 now, and her physical limitations are increasing, but she remains, unwaveringly, a truly devoted Daughter of Wisdom.

Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. EUGENIA DI MARIA IMMACOLATA - ITALY

First profession : 2 February 1955



He is the one who gives meaning to my life

Throughout my years of religious life, I have experienced that Jesus calls us to infinite love and also shows us the way to embrace Wisdom even in difficult times. A faithful and persevering encounter with the Lord is the secret that allows us to discover God's love within ourselves.

To love without end is to carry with Christ the weight of our own suffering and that of others... For him, who gives meaning to our lives.

What do we need to know?

We must discover God's gift to spread tenderness and compassion. Living justice and clarity in our work.

The awareness of being a gift from God and the deepening of His Word help us to be a gift to others in simplicity of spirit.

Wisdom is still the source of life today and, as at the beginning of our Congregation, it is present in the world.

My prayer today

Thank you, Lord, for taking me seriously, so much so that you allowed me to participate in trials and suffering. And now I know that you are stronger than my fears, greater than the obstacles I encounter on my path. Lord, help us all, religious men and women, to live in the charity of Christ, following the example of our Founders. Help us, Lord, to collaborate with you in spreading your Kingdom, to be always ready and responsive to the expectations of humanity, to overcome all obstacles for you, who love us with infinite love.



Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. VIOLAINE GAGNON - CANADA

First profession : 2 February 1965



I was fortunate to be born into a very religious family. My mother, who went to Mass almost every day, often took me to attend the Eucharist at the Daughters of Wisdom. My entire education, from first grade through twelfth grade, was under the watchful eye of the Daughters of Wisdom. I am very grateful for all the values instilled in me by these women who guided me toward Wisdom through their examples of simplicity, dedication, and joy in serving others.

Throughout these 60 years of religious life, Mary has been present at every moment, and the further I advanced in this new life, the more She taught me to know Wisdom better. My journey with the Daughters of Wisdom has been filled with enriching life experiences that have led me to discover the different facets of the needs of our ever-changing world. The trust that our leaders placed in me to help me develop my full potential has allowed me to learn about other cultures, to be aware of the needs of those around me, and to try to spread this Love of Wisdom around me.

I am so grateful to the Lord for this opportunity to have known a religious community that, even today, strives to be close to people to build a better world. Thank you to Father de Montfort and Marie-Louise de Jésus for having the intuition and vision to start the Montfort Family with its three branches: Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, for the service of the Church and for the world today.



SR. JOCELYNE FALLU - CANADA

First profession : 2 February 1965



It was the mystery of the communion of saints that, from a young age, inspired my prayers and my desire to give my life to alleviate the physical and spiritual misery of my suffering sisters and brothers throughout the world. I attended primary and secondary school with the Daughters of Wisdom in French-speaking northern Ontario. After my 12th grade, feeling a call to consecrated life, I entered the postulancy in July 1963.

The years that followed were rich in spiritual, human, and professional formation, as well as in diverse and varied experiences. Thanks to periods of pause and moments of reflection over the decades, I have allowed myself to be amazed by all the blessings of Wisdom received and welcomed, little by little, over the years. I give thanks in a special way for the good fortune I had in entering a Congregation that lived the spirituality of Wisdom proposed by Louis-Marie de Montfort and Marie-Louise de Jésus. Like a treasure that never runs out, I continue to ponder this richness to learn to integrate it, contemplate it, and reveal it humbly in my daily life. The rest of my life will not be enough to give thanks for so many blessings.

Thank you to those who read my testimony for praying with me and for me during this jubilee year.



SR. MADELEINE TESSIER - CANADA

First profession : 2 August 1965



Throughout my 60 years of religious life, and still today, it is the biblical figure of the doe that has called out to me and accompanied me. In fact, my sisters have given me the nickname of "The Gazelle".

Like the doe, I long for living water. I have climbed mountains and rocks, pursuing my adventure and my mission to live with and according to liberating Wisdom.

Having reached the summit of my ascent, I can only marvel at this God of love and at the people who have helped me to grow by singing my thanksgiving day and night.

The gazelle of the Beloved

Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. SOLEDAD BETANCUR - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



My motivation for religious life began at the age of five; it grew through prayer, the sacraments, and the witness of my parents, and became a reality at the age of 15.

My mission experience has been excellent, with difficulties that have arisen but have not been an obstacle to continuing. I have fulfilled myself as a nurse in various places in Colombia in the field of health care, alleviating the pain of the sick.



SR. MARIA DE CRISTO - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



My first contact with the Daughters of Wisdom was at the Monfortian Seminary in Alban, Cundinamarca.

I was very young and accepted their invitation to get to know them. I worked in different activities. This experience motivated me to join the community to continue my vocational process in following Jesus Wisdom, giving a joyful response and performing general tasks.

Lately, I have been working in the infirmary. I thank God for choosing and calling me, and I thank my Sisters in the community for helping me to grow holistically



SR. ESTHER NUBIA DUQUE - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



From a very young age, I attended the Our Lady of Wisdom School in Bogotá, and I was always struck by the kindness, simplicity, and joy of the Sisters. All these details forged in my heart the desire to become a religious. When I arrived at the pre-novitiate and saw other young women who were very happy and enthusiastic, I was motivated to continue and chose this way of life.

Jubilarians' testimonies

I thank God, my Leaders, and the Sisters, and I give thanks for the apostolate in which I have served throughout these 60 years in different cities of Colombia. Working with deaf children and young people led me to give the best of myself to discover the best in them and help them to be agents of their own progress. My gratitude goes to God and to my Sisters in the Congregation for their closeness, collaboration, and constant friendship. I feel very happy to be part of this great Wisdom family to which I owe so much. Several of my teachers have gone to the Father's house, but from there they accompany me and bless us all. I will always carry them in my heart.



SR. CARMEN ROSA AMAYA - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



Being born into a Catholic family, where we prayed and participated in parish activities, helped me make my choice. When I met the Daughters of Wisdom, I was attracted by the witness of two Sisters who, with their joy and dedication, supported blind and deaf girls. They helped them to develop holistically. The call and my response have allowed me to be formed and dedicate

myself to working with children who most need my patience and creativity to share my knowledge with them, using good and healthy teaching methods and methodology.



SR. ADORCINDA PARRA - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



My vocational experience over the past 60 years has been very meaningful and rich in terms of personal and community life. I have tried to respond to the call through teaching and the ecclesial pastoral mission. For this reason, I thank God for my perseverance and fidelity to my vocation.

Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. MARIA INES ALFONSO - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



I was born into a simple, poor family in the countryside. There I learned and lived Christian values. I heard the call and began to respond to God by following him in the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. I began this process in youth groups in the parish, as a catechist, and as an assistant in the radio schools of Sutatenza. In the Legion of Mary, I learned a little about the life of Father de Montfort and the Consecration to Jesus through Mary. At a meeting of various religious Congregations in

Setentena, which was attended by the Daughters of Wisdom, Sister Alfredo de San Marcos spoke with some young women and invited us to try an experience at the Roosevelt Institute. I stayed there working for a few months and then decided to continue and went to Choachi, where I began my formation process. Then I participated in the Vichada Mission with Indigenous people. I thank Jesus Wisdom through Mary because I have been very happy.



SR. LUCILA ACUÑA - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



I felt the call to be a Daughter of Wisdom through two Sisters, Ofelia Giraldo and Cecilia Latorre, who came to my town one day to participate in a priestly ordination. I approached them and asked them what was needed to enter the community. They told me: the call of God and my willingness to respond. I asked them if I could go with them to get to know them a little better. They told me that if I wanted to leave that same day, I could.

I asked my parents for permission, and with their blessing, I traveled with them to Choachí, where I met with Mother Maria Magdalena de San Luis. When she suggested a year of waiting, I said it was now or never. With her acceptance, I entered the pre-novitiate to begin my formation process. I have been happy and fulfilled in the field of education.

Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. MARIA DE JESUS HERNANDEZ - COLOMBIA

First profession : 2 August 1965



My vocational experience of a Daughter of Wisdom began through contact with the Sisters' work with blind girls; curiosity led me to find out how they managed to promote people and how they functioned independently and normally as people with all their senses. I admired the wonders of God. So, the motivation to follow Jesus in the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom was strong.

I lived my mission experience in various fields of education with blind girls, with indigenous people, and with children in public schools and in the Wisdom schools.



SR. MONA GUERRETTE - UNITED STATES

First profession : 2 August 1965



It is interesting to discover how many people of this generation, after I have shared with them, ask me the question, "How could you have remained in Religious life for 60 years?".

After reflecting on this question, I am filled with an awe that prompts me to write the following.

I can only describe my life as a Daughter of Wisdom as a life of energetic love, a back-and-forth relationship with Wisdom over the years. I am reminded of the love between a man and woman who remained faithful after many years of marriage, a committed life with memories of challenges as well as joys. This commitment reveals a Wisdom so needed in this generation. My commitment led me to years of nursing, hospital chaplaincy, and service to women and their children in rural areas.

I am filled with gratitude for my call to religious life as a Daughter of Wisdom and for all my committed Sisters who continue to journey with me.

SR. BERNADETTE PRÉVOT - FRANCE

First profession : 2 February 1965



I understood that I was called to religious life when I was working with the Daughters of Wisdom in PARAME (Ille et Vilaine). I said to myself, why look for another congregation? I entered the postulancy around July 23rd, 1963. I was given Montfort's book, *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*. I was very impressed by Father de Montfort's concern for the poor, the most destitute of his time. I linked this discovery to a saying of Jesus: "Let the little children come to me". That is where my decision to

choose the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom came from.

When you make a commitment through vows, you know nothing about your future. You live and respond to what is proposed to you as your mission. The years passed and I discovered more about myself through ongoing formation on the Montfort charism and other programs. I realized that I had always been loved by the Lord. It was Jesus who made me aware of Mary's role in leading us to Him.

I am very attached to the Montfort charism and I am grateful to Marie-Louise TRICHET who was faithful in revealing to us, through her own experience, what Montfort wanted for each Daughter of Wisdom.

For my part, through my mission with people with disabilities, I have seen how important human relationships are. Over the years, I have come to understand that we form one CONGREGATIONAL BODY. I experience this particularly in welcoming the "Wisdom Year" by supporting the "Friends of Wisdom" group, and also in getting to know the Montfort Fathers and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel better, and in participating in the Montfort Pilgrimage.

The missions I have experienced have brought me great joy. THANK YOU, LORD. I thank the Province of France for allowing me to accompany my mother home until her death and my disabled brother until he entered LARNAY. THANK YOU.



SR. FRANCINE MORES - FRANCE

First profession : 2 February 1965



As a teenager, I was aware of being called to religious life. As an adult, this thought often came back to me. I was searching... and resisting at the same time.

One of my brothers has cerebral palsy. It was because of this reality that I chose to devote my professional life to people with disabilities and became a student teacher in Lille at a school for deaf children run by the Daughters of Wisdom. It was a discovery, both human and spiritual. The Sisters approached these children, who were

deprived of communication, with respect, kindness, and a desire to bring them out of the isolation caused by their deafness. After a long period of discernment, I joined the Congregation and was sent, quite naturally, "to the deaf".

Gradually, the students taught me to communicate in sign language and, faced with administrative and health issues as they entered adulthood, asked me to translate for them.

In 1982, motivated by the Apostolic Project and sent by the Congregation, I created the Centre de Formation et de Culture des Sourds du Nord (Northern Deaf Training and Culture Center) with three deaf adults, where I took charge of the communication assistance service. This service is still recognized and subsidized today by the Department of the North as an "innovative structure responding to a population need".

My participation in REPSA (Religious Women in Health Care), a national inter-congregational association, greatly inspired me in my work. Its goal was to "act as justly as possible". How could I not see the connection with the search for Wisdom?

At the same time, with the help of my community, training was organized and a Pastoral Care for the Deaf team was set up. And since 2006, the Generalate has entrusted me with the delegation to the Deaf Oblate Sisters of Wisdom.

The Lord guides our choices. By following Wisdom, His Work continues.



SR. CHRISTIANE SCHROEDER - FRANCE

First profession : 2 August 1965



“Seek, find, give...” “Serve...” It was through the whole educational approach of the Scouts that my life plan was forged...

“I commit myself to serve God and my neighbor...” This commitment, made at the age of twelve, has permeated my life as a young person and as an adult, and has found its fulfillment and realization in a life consecrated to the Lord. My encounter with Wisdom was providential, as I was

working with the Sisters of the Assumption. A book (Folie ou Sagesse) that I devoured in a few days challenged me: the missionary audacity and originality of Father de Montfort were decisive in my choice of “Wisdom”.

My experiences and commitments in various schools with young people were a source of openness, openness to the world through the organization of school trips abroad (England and Italy), catechesis and pastoral ministry, and of course teaching, with particular attention to students in difficulty. The complementarity between the Sisters in the community and the summer stays in England contributed greatly to my development.

I will remember two points that rooted my calling: illness (cancer) at the age of 38, when I truly became aware of the meaning of life: “You made us for You, Lord”... And after years of teaching and responsibilities, early retirement, where St. Paul's words, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”, prevented me from “sinking” and opened a new stage in my life: Christian culture classes and chaplaincy for young teenagers, a little nod from the Lord since the institution where I have been for 21 years was founded by the Daughters of Wisdom!

After 60 years of religious life, I can say that “Wisdom sitting at my door”, which I tried to open, has always led me on a path of trust and hope...



SR. MARIA TERESA DELL'INCARNAZIONE - ITALY

First profession : 2 February 1965



YOUR WISDOM HAS GUIDED ME WITH LOVE

Sixty years of my life have been devoted to you, Lord. I look back on my history and see how your Wisdom has guided me with love.

In my early days of religious life, when the Second Vatican Council asked congregations to make changes and updates.

In my studies, both religious and secular, which led me to various services and experiences, especially life with and for the poor.

Wisdom guided me to India. To treat patients with leprosy. To learn a little about the ancient wisdom of India and thus deepen my faith and appreciate more its richness and the life it contains.

Wisdom continued to guide me on my return to Italy, especially in my role as provincial, where

- I discovered the hearts of many sisters, appreciated their generosity, and learned from their example of life;
- and I too was able to know and love the Congregation more deeply.

Wisdom has guided, supported and comforted me in difficult, dark times of distress, sometimes when those who were close to me and walking with me forgot me. And now, it continues to be present in the small and humble services I am able to perform in a suburban parish.

Finally, Wisdom continues to guide and support me in the illness that has taken hold of me in recent years. It is not an easy time, but it is certainly a time of grace, which reveals to me more and more your love and tenderness, which teaches me to put things into perspective and to focus my gaze and my heart on what is essential. It reveals to me that fragility and weakness can become a means of encountering and sharing with the many fragile and weak people in the world, and of giving thanks for the attention and love that many people have shown me.

***For everything, Lord, for your Wisdom of love,
may you be forever praised and thanked.***



Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. VIVIANE FONVIL - HAITI **First profession : 8 December 1975**



From the moment I was born, the Lord had already mapped out my path. My mother told me that she had been told I would not remain with her. Indeed, at the age of four, I left my family to live in an orphanage run by the Daughters of Wisdom. It was there that I first felt God's call: I declared that I would become a nun when I grew up.

I continued my studies with the Salesian Sisters, where, encouraged by Sister Nicole Gaillard (of blessed memory), I joined their congregation. After a stay in Santo Domingo, I had to return to Haiti due to health problems. I then taught for several years before feeling the Lord's call again. Thanks to Sister Nicole's support, I joined the Daughters of Wisdom in Mariannie. After my training, I took my vows on 8th December 1975, a blessed day on which I consecrated my life to God.

The Lord then sent me on missions to various places: Acul-du-Nord, Port-de-Paix, Mare Rouge, Rome, Nassau... Each stage was a lesson in humility and faith for me. I also pursued studies in education and computer science.

On 12th January 2010, during the earthquake, I had a near-death experience: a piece of mosaic struck me in the face and a column fell on top of me. When I woke up, I realised that if I was still alive, it was because my mission on earth was not yet complete. Miraculously saved and lovingly cared for by my sisters, I thanked God for this reprieve.

After the earthquake, I spent three years in Canada studying psychology and spiritual counselling, then I returned to Haiti. Later, I had to go to Santo Domingo for medical treatment. Thanks to the kindness of my superiors and the sisterhood of my sisters, I always felt the benevolent presence of the Lord.

Today, in Pétion-Ville, I devote my days to prayer and teaching catechism. I pray for many people and try to spread a little of God's love wherever I go.

Prayer is my life, and my life is prayer.

I give thanks to the Lord for all the wonders He has done in me.

SR. ODETTE DESANA - MADAGASCAR

First profession : 8 December 1975



I am drawn to the example of the Virgin Mary, who consecrated herself to God. I am convinced that religious Sisters also consecrate themselves entirely to God. In turn, I desire to be a religious Sister to consecrate my life to the Lord.

These are the words of God that help me live my vocation:

- Psalm 28:7: "God is my strength".
- John 15:1-12: "Remain in God and love one another".

I became a Sister on December 8th, 1975. What immense joy that day was for me! I would like to share my apostolate with you:

- Teaching catechism.
- Working at the dispensary.
- Head of PMI (Maternal and Child Health).
- Home visits.

My community life:

I have lived in five communities: Marotsiriry, Antsiramandroso, Brickaville, Mahazoarivo, and currently, I am here with the Senior Sisters in Salazamay.

I always feel comfortable where I am, taking charge of my community life.

From time to time, I like to joke around to create a good atmosphere with my Sisters.

When there is a confrontation, I don't hold a grudge. I always seek peace.

My life of prayer

I take my personal and community prayer seriously. I am faithful to the celebration of the Eucharist, which helps me to grow in my spiritual life.

My health

I have been through a very difficult time: a brain tumor that required surgery in France. Thanks to God, I am now cured and can resume my daily activities.

I give thanks to the Lord for all the wonders he has done in my life, throughout these fifty years of trust, faithfulness, and love. His presence has never left me, even in times of trial.

Today, I rejoice with Mary when I say, "My soul magnifies the Lord!".



Jubilarians' testimonies



SR. JEAN ENAD - FRANCE
First profession : 7 May 2000



It has been 25 years since I committed myself to God in the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. Looking back on these years, I see so many joyful, difficult, and trying surprises, even to the point of nearly losing my life. But the Lord has never abandoned me during all these years. . I have grown spiritually in the love of the Lord despite the difficult paths I have traveled.

Behind these trials lies an inner strength and perseverance rooted in a deep love of Wisdom. These years of joy and tears have become a treasure for me, because I have seen and felt, the strength with which God has sustained me until today. I remember, when I was a novice, the words of Mary to her son Jesus in the film "Mary, Mother of God": "This path will never be easy, but don't forget that we are here for each other". Her words to Jesus have never left me to this day; knowing that she, like Jesus, will always be there for me and this has become a source of comfort and joy for me. Yes, the road is still long... and it has led me here, to France, where I never thought I would celebrate my birthday. Life is full of surprises in the Lord, often beyond my understanding.

Living in the Lord is like bread that is always shared. I feed on his bread of life and share it with everyone in communion and solidarity, in the joy and hope of the Lord. I rejoice with a heart full of thanksgiving, and I celebrate the Lord God, my Savior!



SR. GINETTE ULYSSE - HAITI First profession : 22 August 2000



"The Lord has helped me thus far"!

First of all, I thank the Lord for his kindness, his faithfulness, and his closeness throughout these 25 years of service and sacrifice, which have enabled me to bring joy and smiles back to the people to whom I have been sent. In dark times as well as in sunny times, He has always been there to encourage and guide me. His

reassuring presence has always been felt. Thank you, Lord! I am deeply grateful for so many people, sisters, friends, encounters, happy and even sometimes unhappy events that have been essential on this path of continuous calling and listening, following Christ.

This Silver Jubilee gives me the opportunity to share in a few words my personal experience, which is also part of my journey. Wisdom has gradually been revealed to me, from my initiation, my perpetual commitment to the Congregation, and up to now. During this journey, anxiety and serenity have been two faithful companions. Whenever I had to receive my obedience or make an important decision, my first reaction was fear and the anxiety that came with it: fear of the unknown, of being uprooted. But I always referred to Mother Marie-Louise and Catherine Brunet leaving La Rochelle for Poitiers, even though it seemed difficult to me. I remember the first time I had to leave my country to go on mission to the Generalate in Rome, then to France, a decision that was not easy to make. In this totally unfamiliar environment, fear and anxiety wanted to take over, because I couldn't yet see myself living with people of other nationalities. But by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me in my prayer and discernment, He helped me to make this decision. With Him, I responded positively to the service that was asked of me, knowing that He would go before me. Believe me, the Lord transformed all my fears into confidence and hope. I lived with seven nationalities in the same community, and each one learned to know, respect, and appreciate the other for who they are and what they bring. It was a beneficial experience, because the Lord transformed this fear of the unknown into boldness and courage.

Finally, I give thanks to God who has allowed me to follow this path of Wisdom in the footsteps of St. Louis Marie de Montfort and Blessed Marie-Louise de Jésus. May they continue to accompany me on this path, so that I may always have the desire to seek Wisdom, contemplate it, and then reveal it in the peripheries where many of His children live in miserable conditions.

SR. MARIE EVELYNE RASOAHERILALA - MADAGASCAR

First profession : 27 August 2000



During my First Communion retreat, I felt that God loves everyone without distinction. It was a revelation for me, and I felt the desire to offer my life to Him in return. Over the years, I continued my studies, and it was during my work placement that my decision was confirmed: to follow Jesus in religious life.

On August 27th, 2000, I made my first vows. I worked at the school, first as a teacher and then as a secretary. I found great joy in accompanying young people, listening to them, and guiding them.

In 2007, I made my final vows. I then took part in the Year of Wisdom in Rome, which helped me grow greatly in the spirituality of our Congregation.

I have lived in five communities and am currently part of the community at the Tanamakoa Social Cultural Center. I teach computer science to different groups: students, people with disabilities, and adults.

This vocation helps me live my consecrated life and carry out the mission entrusted to me, thanks to the help of the Lord who called me and strengthens me every day. I can make St. Paul's words my own: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". (2 Cor 12:9)

Yes, I am aware of my limitations; that is why I draw strength from personal and community prayer, recollections, and retreats. Our spirituality and charism give me enthusiasm for the various activities and apostolates. For example, I share our spiritual riches with the Friends of Wisdom, which also enlivens my spiritual life.

I live my belonging to our community to the full by giving the best of myself, especially through my participation in community tasks. I am always involved in reflections on the life of our Entity and our Congregation. Daily experience, made up of failures and successes, helps me to grow and makes me happy.

With Mary, our Mother and guide:
***I will bless the Lord at all times,
I will bless the Lord with singing,
for his love is strong and his name is great.
I will bless Him.***



SR. ROMAINE ZAFIZANAKA - MADAGASCAR

First profession : 27 August 2000



“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”. Col 3,17

It was through this passage from the Word of God that I discovered the Lord's call in my life and chose to respond to it through religious vocation.

In my daily life, I have always sought to say and do everything for God alone. On August 27th, 2000, I pronounced my first vows, a memorable and unforgettable moment in my life.

Since then, Wisdom has sent me on mission to Brickaville, Antsirabe, Ambinanindrano, Marotsiriry, and now to Tanamakoa, where I am for the second time.

I am happy to share my experiences through various apostolic commitments:

- Teaching sewing and dressmaking to women and young girls.
- Catechism in the parish.
- Accompanying the Rosary Team.
- And currently, I am responsible for a sewing workshop.

With my sisters in the community, I have always felt happy in the missions entrusted to me. The differences between us have never been an obstacle to my relationship with Jesus, who remains the center of my life. That is why I devote time each day to personal and community prayer.

I give thanks to the Lord who loves and supports me, always close to me throughout these 25 years of my religious life as a Daughter of Wisdom.

I never cease to give thanks to the Lord for his blessings, especially through the guidance and support of my sisters in our Entity. Each in her own way has contributed to my human, professional, and spiritual development.



SR. CLÉMENTINE RAKOTOARISAONA - MADAGASCAR First profession : 27 August 2000



“The Lord rules the world with kindness”. Wisdom 8,1

This jubilee year is an extraordinary moment that fills me with joy as I celebrate 25 years of religious life. I am proud to be a Daughter of Wisdom and to live my consecration to God every day.

I have discovered all the spiritual richness of Wisdom through the various formations and writings of our founders. All this enables me to dare to bear witness to a living faith in my daily life.

For several years, I worked with children, young people, and parents. My heart remains attentive to the voice of the Lord, responding to his call to an educational mission. I give myself fully and offer the best of myself in teaching, with the aim of preparing each person for the future. I love little children, I love young people so much, and I admire the active participation of parents and colleagues. What a wonderful experience!

The young people said, “At least we have unforgettable memories of you, of loving each other without boundaries and helping each other. Knowing how to share love without hurting others is the true legacy you have left us. You taught us to value the little things that we once considered insignificant. You always said, 'Put your trash in the trash cans, children!' or 'Don't write on the bathroom walls because it's annoying’”.

Living in community for several years allowed me to simply embody the face of Wisdom, which is “love for others”. For all the services I have been able to render to the Province, I give thanks to the Lord who, in his goodness, has freely granted me the strength and graces I needed.

What a cross without a cross! I have experienced moments of trial in my mission, but I have always found encouragement to continue on my path in the presence of Christ Wisdom.

Today Wisdom says to me: **“Nothing is as sweet as Wisdom”**. LEW 123

Jubilarians' testimonies

SR. STELLA LAURETTE RAZAFIARISOA - MADAGASCAR

First profession : 27 August 2000



From a very young age, I wanted to become a Sister, and this desire grew stronger when I saw the example of my two older religious Sisters. I said to myself with conviction : “I too want to be a Sister like them”. So, at the age of 19, I entered the Daughters of Wisdom as an aspirant, and I made my first profession on August 27th, 2000.

I am inspired by these words of Jesus: “Whoever wants to be my disciple, must deny himself, and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23) and by these words of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort: “Wisdom is the cross and the cross is Wisdom”. (ASE 180)

For 25 years, I have not regretted the path I have taken, despite the joys and trials. The love of Christ Wisdom gives me the strength and light I need to live fully our Constitution, our spirituality, and the charism handed down by our founders.

I am deeply happy and fulfilled, both in community life and in society. My current activities are as follows: teacher of dressmaking and sewing, catechist in the parish, and leader of the Friends of Wisdom. It is a grace and a deep joy to celebrate my 25 years of religious life in this jubilee year.

I continually renew my faith through fidelity to prayer and deepening my understanding of the Word, and by reading the writings of Montfort and Marie Louise. Without Jesus, my life has no meaning.

“I am all yours, Mary. Guide me.”



SR. GEORGINE NIRINASOA - GENERAL HOUSE

First profession : 27 August 2000



grace, I feel weak.

25 YEARS, A NEW IMPETUS! A NEW BEGINNING.

I remember the enthusiasm with which I made my first vows in the year 2000. I was very happy to pronounce my “Yes” with a heart burning with the love of Wisdom and abandonment to God's Providence. Given Christ's call and the path He has led me to, this verse from St. Paul, “MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU!” challenged me a lot. Yes, since that time, with God's grace, I have the strength to move forward, but without His

Jubilarians' testimonies

I was born in a small village in the south-east of Madagascar. The eldest of five children, I grew up in a Christian family. Faith is the main heritage of my family, practiced in solidarity and unity. My parents instilled in us two commandments to keep: "Be wise" and "Do good to others". These are the values that have helped me grow and have nourished my vocation. From a young age, serving God by engaging in church activities has been the most precious part of my life and the source of my joy.

Before, I didn't understand religious life, but in the Religion class at home economics school, Jesus' words "Come and follow me", when He called his first disciples, opened my mind to this way of life. The disciples left everything behind and followed Jesus wherever He went. This had a profound impact on my vocation. In fact, it was the word "Wisdom" that attracted me to enter the Congregation of Daughters of Wisdom. A precious and very attractive gift that I have wanted to seek, possess and know ever since.

Over the years, I have discovered that it was She herself who took the initiative to deposit her own desire in me. Since then, it is the attractive face of Wisdom that has been shown to me in moments of joy and even in times of trial. This is through my experiences and commitments, through prayer, the writings of our founders and the formation received.

Like the Virgin Mary, my soul praises the Lord and my spirit is filled with joy because He has done great things for me.



SR. JULITA MZEMBA - MALAWI **First profession : 9 December 2000**



My heart will never stop thanking the Lord for the blessings he has bestowed on me for these 25 years. He has provided more than I could ever have imagined. Surely "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows". (James 1:17) Wisdom has been my strength and am the fruit of the work of her hand. The process of crafting using a chisel is very

difficult and painful but produces perfect images.

The Chisel of Wisdom has shaped my prayer, an essential tool for cultivating the ability to discern his will. Wisdom has fashioned me into a strong moral compass

Jubilarians' testimonies

with well-developed internal set of principles and values which help me to differentiate right and wrong. The chisel has scraped scales of inner patience allowing me to navigate complex situation with perseverance, grace and clarity. Transformative wisdom has attributed to both spiritual and physical maturity allowing me to invest in listening to other' stories, be changed by it and make action.

Wisdom has reformed my desire to savor the beauty and power of silence. Silence has helped me achieve goals and see the beauty of focusing on connectedness to my inner thoughts. It has enhanced my self-awareness, ability to absorb new information and potentials of understanding the world around me. It has helped me to emphasize a point, answer questions with more impact and get answers. In my silence others have been empowered.

Wisdom has deepened the use of knowledge, skills and attitudes to create positive change, master the art of operating from the deepest level of who I am and focusing on the good in every situation while expressing gratitude.

Wisdom has molded me to a Nurse-Midwives baker that trains nurses and midwives not merely for the professional products rather than for their self-holistic care. I am really grateful to Wisdom.

“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind in Wisdom”

(adapted from Romans 12:2)



SR. FLORENCE MANJA - MALAWI

First profession : 9 December 2000



I can certify that throughout my life I have been encountering Wisdom in hope and faith, more especially in these past 25 years through the healing ministry of Jesus Christ as I draw from the Source. However, I would like to share this experience with Christ Wisdom in three moments of my life: in the family, in the vocational journey and in the apostolate as a Daughters of Wisdom sister.

Jubilarians' testimonials

Despite their poverty, my parents were, strong Catholics. They introduced me to Christ Wisdom through the sacraments of initiation. That is the very first encounter with Wisdom as God said to Jeremiah 'I set you apart before you were born'. (Jeremiah 1:5)

As a young girl in Secondary School I felt the desire to serve the Lord in Religious Life. I began discerning and searching how to realize this until I encountered the Daughters of Wisdom. Indeed, Wisdom was there guiding me to consecrate myself to Her.

As a Daughters of Wisdom sister, I have been encountering Wisdom first in the Health Ministry. "Like Mary at the visitation, we bring Christ Wisdom to the people to whom we are sent so that all may have life in abundance". (RL 1) (LK1: 39-45) I always feel encouraged and motivated to encounter Wisdom through the sick, the little ones from conception, birth to death. Prayer life, community life and the evangelical counsels empower me to witness universal love of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, it has been ever a joy to share the spirituality and the Charism through vocation promotion where more young women have joined the Congregation, just as Nathanael became the disciple of Jesus through the sharing of the Good News by Philip. (Jn1: 45-51)

As I celebrate the Silver Jubilee this year which is also the Jubilee Year for the entire Church I feel that God is creating in me more opportunities to intensify my consecrated life in this pilgrim journey of hope. I thank the Lord for the gift of the call and the talents that I have in order to be able to proclaim Wisdom to the wounded world. It is an invitation to renew and reconcile myself so as to understand others and to be connected as we embrace the community of Wisdom.



Recognition

SISTER SYMPHOROSE RASOANARIVOSALAMA RESPONSIBLE OF WISDOM YEAR (2022-2025)

“GRATITUDE IS THE MEMORY OF THE HEART”



On our journey of spiritual growth as Daughters of Wisdom, we have encountered people whom God has placed in our lives to guide, inspire, and accompany us. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Sister Symphorose, whose availability and dedication have been fundamental to this

experience of enriching and deepening our Wisdom Spirituality in our Year of Wisdom 2022-2023.

From the very beginning, Sister Symphorose was available to God's call in this mission, welcoming us with open arms and a heart open to interculturality and newness. Her teachings and guidance, based on the Word of God and her life's witness, have been a light for us, illuminating our uncertainties and motivating us to continue to grow in our faith and dedication to our Consecrated Life.

We especially appreciate your time, always ready to listen and guide us. Through your wisdom, sharing your experiences and spiritual richness. Through your example, showing us that holiness is built in everyday life.

Sister Symphorose, you have been an instrument of God in our lives, and that is why today we say to you with all our hearts: Thank you very much!

May the Lord continue to pour on you many blessings and grant you the joy of responding with boldness, availability, and compassion.

"If we do not risk something for God, we do nothing great for Him"

(Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort)

*Sr. Maria Cristina Tucto, Maria Luisa
For Wisdom Year 2022-2023*



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR LIFE

Our vocation demands us to freely and responsibly engage ourselves in the mission that has been entrusted to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, one needs to be free, available, ready and responsible in order to be immersed in the mission. We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to you Sr. Symphorose for the great and recommendable service you have rendered in carrying out the mission of the Congregation by helping many Daughters of Wisdom to be rooted in God's love and eventually develop that ardent desire to continue with the mission as stipulated in

Recognition

our rule of life that 'Our specific mission in the Church and in the world is to extend the mystery of the incarnation and live its dynamism'. It is with grateful hearts that we applaud you for the mission you have carried out. You have really helped many of us to be free and ready for the mission wherever we are sent.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort, our founder, encourages us to have that spirit of zeal and daring. Thank you very much for your daring spirit which you have shown during the time you have been in France. You have been and served like a butterfly!

We have recognized how free and responsible you are to continue with your mission as you go to another country, Indonesia. We wish you all the best as you continue to be rooted in love and wisdom's culture which invites all of us to bear witness, celebrate and radiate the love lived in the Gospel in order to give meaning to all the people we are called to live



with by refashioning our charism, enriching our spirituality and thereafter to give life to the mission we are called to do.

The words we can utter to you is THANK YOU.

*Sr. Ellen Chagunda, Malawi
For Wisdom Year 2023-2024*



"JUST ONE WORD: THANKS—BUT SO MUCH BEHIND IT"



Be rooted in your spiritual life in order to attach yourselves only to Jesus Christ Wisdom and to be responsible.

These were the wise words that Sr. Symphorose kept repeating to each one of us. Her message encouraged us to remain open and allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, who leads us to true transformation.

Sr. Symphorose is someone who truly walks the talk. She leads by example, allowing each of us to be ourselves and to stand firm in our vocation. She continuously motivated us to make the most of every opportunity and to participate actively during this Wisdom Year, a precious time to deepen our roots in our vocation as Daughters of Wisdom.

Recognition

Thank you, Sr. Symphorose, for all that you are and for accompanying us during this formation. We assure you of our prayers. May God bless you abundantly in your new mission.

*Sr. Elisabeth Samur, Indonesia
For Wisdom Year 2024-2025*



SISTER JEANNE ZOLY TIANA MISSIONARY IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (2011-2025)



As a Daughter of Montfort and Marie-Louise de Jésus, Sr. Zoly experienced “leaving Poitiers for La Rochelle” in 2011 when she received the call of Wisdom to go and lend a hand in Congo for the initial formation of young Congolese women. She was sent for a specific service that lasted until August 2025.

This article is dedicated to you, Sr. Zoly, to express our gratitude as an Entity for your complete dedication to the mission in Congo. MELESI MINGI MAMELO [1] (Thank you very much, Sister Zoly).

Here are two testimonials from the young sisters who had Sister Zoly as their formator in the Pre-Novitiate:

Sr. Cécile BASUNDU

Sr. Zoly was my formator at the pre-novitiate. I remember her as a teacher who cared about our holistic formation. She helped me to grow spiritually and humanly. She wanted us (the women in formation) to be able of responding to the needs of our Church, our Congregation, and our Congolese society. That is why the formation with Sr. Zoly included classes and a lot of practical work. We grew fruits and vegetables despite the small size of our garden. I remember planting vegetables in bags filled with soil, in old plastic basins, and even in old car tires. Everything grew because she taught us how to take good care of it. We also learned how to raise chickens and ducks in a small space. Everything had to be clean, and we had to take care of the little ones with love. She helped us connect with our spirituality, which is present in creation. Wisdom is found in beauty and order. Before, I was

[1] Mamelolo, word in Lingala meaning ‘My Sister’ referring to the nun.

Recognition

unaware of the wonders of creation, but since my training, I have developed a love of nature: growing flowers and vegetables with this sense of spirituality.

Sister Zoly, I remain grateful to you for your guidance and your love for the formation of young people in religious life because you believe in the future of the Congregation.

Thank you very much for contributing to my formation in the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. I wish you all the best in continuing your mission in your home province.



Sr. Orguytte NSEY NDOY

I would like to begin by thanking Sr. Zoly, who welcomed me to the Daughters of Wisdom. My first contact with the Congregation was with her in Kinshasa.

She taught me to be creative while I was still visiting the Daughters of Wisdom as an observer. She helped me start small activities to raise money to contribute to my plane ticket to another Province to begin my religious formation with the Daughters of Wisdom.

Then I met Sr. Zoly again as my teacher in the pre-novitiate. With her guidance, I developed a taste for working the land and appreciating nature.

In our life together during formation, Sr. Zoly taught me to be open to others and to help where it was needed.

I found her attentive to each of us during our formation, concerned about our growth. To this end, she knew how to organize practical activities to help us get involved.

I am grateful to her for her support for me and my sisters.

Thank you, “Mamelo”, for truly being one of us. You knew how to adapt to the reality of our country, both in the capital city of Kinshasa and in the province of Kisangani.

May Wisdom continue to guide you.



Sr. Pierrette Bwamba

When the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo was in real need of outside help for initial formation, Sr. Jeanne Zoly (Madagascan) was sent on a mission to Congo for a specific service. Sr. Zoly was able to adapt to the Congolese reality, and her mission will last until August 2025.

Recognition

I thank her for her availability and her simple lifestyle. I really enjoyed working with her. Sr. Zoly did not hesitate to respond to all the services that were requested of her: formator, advisor, local leader... She always knew how to use her creativity for the benefit of the community. We enriched each other through our cultural diversity in our life together. Thus, she brings a little bit of Congo with her, and we keep a little bit of Madagascar within us.



Thank you, Sr. Zoly, for your contribution to the formation of several Congolese sisters.



SISTER ESTHER LÓPEZ

MISSIONARY TO MARIA LUISA (1993-2025)



“Pray for one another”. With these words from our mother Marie Louise of Jesus, I will try to capture the essence of our Sister Esther López Fernández, WD. Trusting in Providence and missionary zeal, she one day said YES to the mission in Latin America.

Going back in time to 1993, when our Delegation was beginning a new chapter in its history, we were the

María Luisa Province, made up of four countries: Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru. Our Province faced the great challenge of responding to the different realities that existed. It was in this context that Sister Esther arrived. With her great missionary zeal, she began her new mission in the Andes of Peru, in the department of Pasco, Province of Yanahuanca. To reach this place, one must travel several hours, all night long, passing through the highest mountain – Ticlio – at more than 4800 meters above sea level. This was unusual for our sister, but not impossible.

Recognition

She was moved by her desire to serve and to say YES to the Lord. In this reality, we can already glimpse one of our sister's characteristics: her sociable and communicative nature, which will allow her to reach out to people and help families in need.

Another reality that comes to mind is the administration of the CREVAL center. This project had already begun, but there are always challenges. One of the challenges is to equip the clinics with medical devices to help people with their therapies and rehabilitation, to obtain operating authorization, and to meet other needs that the center had at that time. Sister Esther is a woman who knows that what is good for people, no matter how difficult it is to achieve or how many obstacles there are, can be achieved with perseverance, effort, and trust in Jesus Wisdom.

After living there for several years, another moment arrives to accept a new invitation, cross borders, encounter another culture, and once again live the

And so she arrives in Cumandá in Riobamba in the country of Ecuador. Without further ado, our sister begins to learn about the reality of the place, starts the process of making friends and networks that can help her mission. Once again, we see her missionary zeal and willingness to take risks. She sets goals for each of her missions and, with effort, perseverance, networking, and great trust in God, she achieves her objectives.

Seeing her in the streets of Cumandá, entering the municipality, talking to those in charge, finding other resources, involving other people, protecting the defenseless, empowering women and adolescents who live in vulnerable situations, is admirable and at the same time motivating because it invites us to live this boldness. In the midst of all this journey, another characteristic manifests itself: a Daughter of Wisdom also knows how to work, to earn a living, so she combines her mission and paid work well. You could feel her concern for generating income, because we also have needs and the little that can be earned is a satisfaction.

Remembering these events are just brushstrokes that have marked a path and that, for my journey as a Daughter of Wisdom, have been an invitation, a way of saying YES, it is possible to live God's call with joy. Thank you, Sister Esther, thank you for sharing your life and how you have revealed the gift of yourself in the simple, everyday things. Continue with your missionary zeal where small and everyday things are great in the eyes of God.



Sr. Violeta Santos, DW

CATHERINE BRUNET, THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF WISDOM (1665–1725)

In the shadow of the founders, Catherine Brunet - Sister of the Conception - was nonetheless a prominent figure in the early history of the Montfortians. On the occasion of the tercentenary of her death, the Congregation's Archives Department invites us to rediscover her life, recounted here by a Daughter of Wisdom based on the work of Sister Stephanie of the Sacred Heart: "Folie ou Sagesse? (Madness or Wisdom?)".

3rd PART: THE SEARCH FOR A MOTHER HOUSE

During the Octave of Christmas 1718: a dramatic turn of events! A poor, tired woman, numb from the cold and immobility, struggles to get out of the coach coming from Poitiers upon arrival in La Rochelle. She had herself taken to the house on Rue St. Louis, taking care not to announce her arrival, which caused a dramatic turn of events, for it was Madame Trichet! She said she had come on behalf of the Hospital and Monseigneur himself to make some serious proposals: the Board was offering Sister Marie de Jésus the position of superior of the establishment. Her Sisters would be with her, under her, in charge of the main jobs. Moreover, if she so desired, the Hospital would become the house of formation that her Institute needed, the headquarters from which many girls would go out, well prepared to care for the poor in schools and hospitals. A

formal contract would be drawn up between her and the Administration to specify the mutual obligations of the hospital and the Community. The episcopal protection of the Daughters of Montfort was already assured.

This unexpected declaration was enough to overwhelm the young Foundress! The establishment of Wisdom must be accomplished: it is the first duty of the one who so happily began it. Why not in Poitiers as well as in La Rochelle? Had not Mr. de Montfort predicted that she would be asked to return to Poitiers and that she would remain there? Marie-Louise consulted a clergyman in whom she had complete confidence. This good priest was clearly of the opinion that God wanted her in Poitiers. This response finally convinced Marie-Louise.

For her part, Madame Trichet returned triumphant, bringing with her the consent of His Excellency. With everything decided, Sister Marie de Jésus gathered her daughters to discuss the question of departure. The Sisters of the Conception and Saint Joseph, who were from Poitiers, declared themselves ready to follow their Superior immediately. As for Sister of the Incarnation (Marie Valteau) and Sister of the Cross (Marie Régner), they could not bring themselves to leave. This separation was not considered definitive, but it was very troubling...

The exact date of this return is unknown, but on January 23rd, 1719,

Time Capsule

Madame Trichet's name appears in the Receiver's register as "newly appointed bursar". She was therefore reinstated to her former position, and Catherine Brunet resumed her former duties.

The Sisters' first visit was to Mgr de la Poype, dressed in his grand cape: the Bishop welcomed them with joy. They began to prepare the contract that would make the hospital the "headquarters" of the Congregation. The administrators set to work: the conditions proposed in La Rochelle were acceptable, but in Poitiers, two articles of which Marie-Louise had not been aware were completely at odds with the Foundress's ideas. What were these two articles that Sr. Marie de Jésus refused to accept? The Board demanded: "1° That it be given the right to appoint the Superior in perpetuity. 2° That half of the dowry of the novices should revert by right to the Hospital". These two clauses placed the Institute under the control of a hospital administration: they deprived the Religious of the essential right to choose the head of their government. They made the exercise of a position that Montfort had reduced to a succession of three-year terms perpetual. Marie-Louise refused outright.

The disappointed administration limited itself to concluding an agreement with Sister Trichet that would perhaps ensure her care and that of her daughters at the hospital for a long time to come. The disadvantage of this situation was that it kept the sisters under secular

directors. Such a state of affairs could not last very long... It was necessary to be content with it for the time being... Once again, a question mark hung over the Foundress: where and how to establish her Mother House?

One day, Marie-Louise was walking down the street in the suburb of Montbernage when she was approached by Jacques Goudeau, a simple man whom Montfort had appointed Guardian of his Madonna. This servant of Mary had something to tell her: "Madam, you are distressed that you have left La Rochelle, and that the establishment begun there by Mr. de Montfort has not survived... Well, I know that there is a lady, Mme. de Bouillé, who lives near St. Laurent, where Mr. de Montfort is buried, who is searching everywhere for memories of the holy life of this great Servant of God and of the miracles that happen every day at his tomb. She is in a position to help you in the execution of your work". No sooner had the good man spoken than a deep conviction took hold in the soul of the foundress: St. Laurent... the place of Mr. de Montfort's burial... There, without a doubt, was where she should lay the foundations of her Congregation!

The Superior returned to the hospital and, without saying anything to anyone, locked herself in her room, knelt down, addressed the Holy Spirit to ask for his guidance and to direct her pen. She recited the Veni Creator and wrote a letter to Madame de Bouillé. The reply arrived without delay: Madame de Bouillé planned to

Time Capsule

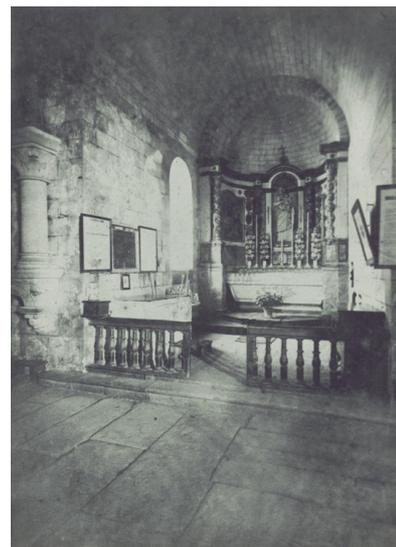
visit Poitiers shortly. True to her word, she did not delay, staying with the Sisters of the Christian Union, a place conducive to discreet meetings and conversations. Sister Marie de Jésus immediately had a long conversation with the woman who had agreed to sponsor her work. Madame de Bouillé applauded Sr. Marie de Jésus' plans and promised to obtain the consent of His Excellency so that the Daughters of Wisdom could leave the hospital.

The year 1719 came to an end, and around the beginning of 1720, Marie-Louise began to make arrangements to leave Poitiers. Mme de Bouillé had found them a residence in St. Laurent and wrote to the Daughters of Wisdom that everything was ready. Counting on her daughters to finish everything that needed to be done at the hospital and in town, and to pack the few belongings they could take with them, the Foundress left alone, accompanied by Mme de Bouillé's trusted servant, who escorted her. She arrived in St Laurent during the Octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi in June 1720.

Upon her arrival, Marie-Louise entered the church, prostrated herself before the Tabernacle, and offered herself to Divine Wisdom, who wanted to "build a dwelling place" through her... She lingered a while before the altar of Mary, placed her lips on the small cenotaph of Montfort... and as evening fell, she crossed the small square... After a few steps, she came to the "Maison-Longue"! The old inn was unassuming, as shabby inside as it was outside... no

furniture... strap beds with flimsy mattresses, a single sheet, and a blanket made of scraps... rustic seats... No linens, no provisions of any kind... Bethlehem!...

Mother Marie-Louise was not expecting her daughters for another fortnight. But her faithful Catherine could not bear the thought of leaving her alone for so long... she arrived in St. Laurent eight days after her Superior. The good man who served as squire to the Sister of the Conception must have marveled at the good humor of this nun, dignified certainly, but so willing to laugh at the comical side of the little misadventures of the road... We are not making much progress, the horses are carrying the packages... traveling on horseback is tiring. We can imagine Catherine's mischievous jokes to lighten her fatigue... the idea of surprising her Superior encourages her courage.



The old parish church of Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre with the tomb of Father de Montfort on the left.

Time Capsule

Her arrival at the "Maison-Longue" brightened up the old apartments: what a joy for mother and daughter to be together to work, pray, go to Mass, and prolong their thanksgiving near the tomb of their venerable father! Another week and the reunion will be complete... Sr. St. Joseph and Françoise Trichet, exhausted but moved, brought the rest of the belongings: linens, clothes, books, and then the priceless treasure: a small, carefully wrapped statue, the dear statue of Wisdom by Fr. de Montfort. Marie-Louise unpacked it respectfully and placed it in a place of honor in the corner of the room she had turned into an oratory, where paper images were already pinned to the wall. From the very first days, the "Long House" was already a convent! The Foundress's joy was profound.

A source of great joy and new concerns was the arrival of several young women at the novitiate: Louise le Bel, Madeleine Renou, and Marie Garnier, who would be admirably trained by the gentle but firm hand of Mother Marie-Louise de Jésus. While the Superior gave her instructions to the novitiate, the good Dean of the House, our Sister Catherine Brunet, took charge of the temporal matters. She took care of everything: cooking, sewing, caring for the sick, searching for medicinal plants for a small family pharmacy, housekeeping, laundry, etc.; she assisted her dear Superior in everything. The novices learned the Rule of the Schools with the help of Sr. St. Joseph, an experienced teacher at the St. Louis School in La Rochelle... Sister de la Conception, an excellent nurse,

introduced the novices to caring for the sick... And so, after their profession, the subjects were able to open a school in St-Laurent and visit the sick in the village and the surrounding area...



The "Maison Longue".

COMMITMENTS IN THE CONGREGATION

First profession

<i>Madagascar</i>	Sr. Marie Solange Fanjanirina Sr. Clairentine Fenofanantenana Fitiavamalala Razafimbola Sr. Ersine Rasoavita Sr. Marie Albine Ratafitaso	22 August 2025
<i>D.R. Congo</i>	Sr. Angèle Bofalo Bafengo Sr. Georgette Dondja Asha Sr. Julienne Sambela Lotutu	24 August 2025
<i>Indonesia</i>	Sr. Maria Asni Muliani Halima Sr. Leonarda Indrawati Nambut	8 September 2025

Perpetual Profession

<i>Madagascar</i>	Sr. Mamy Yolande Rahanitriniaina	3 August 2025
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IN MEMORIAM

"I know in whom I have put my hope..."

Daughters of Wisdom

			Birth	Profession
March 2025				
20	Sr. Brigitte Landry Antoine Marie de Montfort	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Canada	08-06-37	02-08-57
April 2025				
05	Sr. Teresa Della Trinità Gibellini Luigia Esterina	Sanremo Italy	24-03-26	02-09-49
07	Sr. Monique Ravez François-Marie de Montfort	Notre-Dame de la Sagesse Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre	28-04-39	02-02-65
July 2025				
06	Sr. Gabrielle Le Ray Gabriel-Marie de Saint Jean	Chartreuse - Sainte Anne France	22-04-29	02-08-53
28	Sr. Ann Gray Ann Catherine of Our Lady	Port Jefferson United states	25-07-35	02-02-55
August 2025				
22	Sr. Bernadette-Marie du Sacré Cœur Germaine Lantrain	Chartreuse-Sainte Anne France	12-08-23	02-02-48
30	Sr. Maria Rosaria Dell'Immacolata Magnarin Maria	Torino Italy	04-08-34	02-08-60
September 2025				
09	Sr. Thérèse-Marie de L'assomption Thérèse Noirault	Notre-Dame de la Sagesse Saint Laurent-sur-Sèvre	27-01-28	02-02-51
10	Sr. Nicole Rousse Marie-Danielle du Bon Pasteur	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Canada	17-04-39	02-08-60
14	Sr. Mercedes Otalvaro Preja María Cristina de la Paz	Clínica Palermo-Bogotá Colombia	22-06-40	02-02-63
24	Sr. Lise Latulippe Lise-Marie de la Trinité	Maison Accueil-Sagesse Canada	19-02-38	02-08-62
October 2025				
14	Sr. Mary Jo O'Connor Maria Christi of Wisdom	Sound Beach United States	24-10-37	02-08-58
17	Sr. Emma Rohn Frances Mary	Sound Beach United States	28-06-27	02-02-47

Company of Mary

March 2025				
30	P. Giancarlo Palazzini	Bergamo Italy	87 years	67 years
30	P. John McCann	Bay Shore United States	98 years	75 years
April 2025				
07	P. Ronald Jeannite	Jean-Rabel Haiti	59 years	28 years

IN MEMORIAM

"I know in whom I have put my hope..."

June 2025

29	Fr Robert Chapotte	Cholet France	90 years	71 years
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July 2025

05	Fr Johannes (Jan) Van Loo	Maastricht Holland	93 years	72 years
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21	Fr Johannes (Jan) Meeuws	Flobecq - Vloesberg Belgium	84 years	62 years
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August 2025

19	Fr Hermann Josef Mohr	Germersheim Allemagne	90 years	67 years
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26	Fr François de Sales Randrianasolo	Antananarivo Madagascar	63 years	34 years
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29	Fr Basilio Gavazzeni	Matera Italy	80 years	62 years
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September 2025

22	Fr Bernard Brault	Brentwood United States	94 years	63 years
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28	Fr Peter Denneman	Tilburg Holland	80 years	60 years
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Brothers of St. Gabriel

April 2025

01	Br. Henri Degrutere	Thouaré sur Loire France	83 years	64 years
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July 2025

01	Br. Bernard Hervé	Thouaré sur Loire France	95 years	71 years
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09	Br. Vasanth Kumar M.	Hyderabad India	44 years	22 years
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23	Br. Gérard Joly	Laval Canada	89 years	69 years
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September 2025

23	Br. Jean-Marie Querville	Thouaré sur Loire France	95 years	76 years
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October 2025

16	Br. André Forget	Laval Canada	95 years	78 years
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