Mary Euphrasia tells us:

My dear daughters, Lent is for you a new source (spring) of graces. Let us prepare ourselves to take advantage of it. How are we going to spend this holy season? Surely by our constant union with the will of God. In our Congregation, the interior life, prayer, solitude should be our principal aim...for none of you can work fruitfully for the salvation of persons if she has not beforehand drawn, from silence and prayer, the light needed to lead persons to God.

### Conferences, Chapter 24, “Before Lent”

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Since June 2012, the Indonesia Province has aimed to restructure the ministry in order to be more focused and managed professionally. At that time, Sr. Clare Nolan facilitated sessions inviting the sisters to map and picture current situations and realities in the ministry. The efforts continued in October 2013 with Sr. Susan Chia and Sr. Anya Borbon conducting a Capacity Building workshop. The training enabled us to identify priorities in the Province and develop human resources for the mission. We thank God for our dear Sr. Susan Chia, our link councilor for six years. Sr. Susan challenged us to have the courage to go beyond our fears for the sake of mission. A province discernment process initiated in January 2015 called every community to reflect on the effectiveness and sustainability of ministry. We were challenged to take a critical look at mission and ministry as well as the limitations of the sisters’ capacity. Within the context of discernment the next phase continued with the support of the Singapore/Malaysia Province.

We began a three-year process of strategic planning with a workshop on Capacity Building on April 8-13, 2015. Ms. Braema Mathi, a lay mission partner of the Singapore/Malaysia Province, is an independent consultant with expertise in the areas of gender, migration, trafficking, advocacy, and professional coaching. Sr. Joan Lopez, Province Leader of Singapore/Malaysia, introduced Ms. Braema and expressed gratitude for the history that links the Provinces of Indonesia and Singapore/Malaysia. The Singapore/Malaysia Province gives full support to the Indonesia Province by sharing their resource person for three years. Ms. Braema will assist the Leadership Team of the Indonesia Province in the process of restructuring through 2017. Sr. Joan also encouraged the sisters to welcome lay partners with open hearts as we invite them to work with us to develop the ministry. For it is not about what we can give to others but what we can share as we support one another, according to Sr. Joan.

Ms. Braema started the first training programme by addressing gender issues. This session gave participants a better understanding of those issues and their impact on women and children. The session included training in how to make an organizational web, ministry mapping, and the development of a strategic plan based on assets, constraints, and relevancy to the present situation. Every participant learned how to make an organizational web. The knowledge and practice of making an organizational web gave the participants the basic tools and skills for strategic planning and the ability to apply it to their particular ministry. Monitoring
the process will be more effective because of clarity and focus. Twenty-two sisters working in social ministries attended the second training programme on May 20-27, 2015. It began with a session on leadership. Ms. Braema challenged each participant to develop critical self-analysis as a leader and to perform a self-assessment by listing the qualities of leadership they already have and to examine their quality of leadership. Later they were able to share with the group the insights gained from their reflection. The training continued with a review of the organizational web and strategic planning, including steps for implementation in the ministry. The strategic plan provides a reference for the ministry and will be monitored by the Province Leadership Team. As a whole, the two programmes challenged the sisters to have courage and risk for mission as they proceed to restructure ministry. There is much to be grateful for: the work of the Holy Spirit, the openness, dialogue, humility, and availability of the sisters. The learning process is ongoing and continues to invite us to reflect on each situation, to search within, and to look at our potential and the qualities God has planted in order to be relevant to the needs of those we serve.

Restructuring ministry in Indonesia has a long way to go. In her closing remarks, Sr. Chatarina Supatmiyati, Province Leader, stated that the process is not as simple as closing or starting a ministry. Rather, it is a matter of developing accountability, sustainability, and continuity of the mission. Furthermore, it requires a commitment to walk together. Sr. Chatarina invited the sisters to be patient with the process and to support each other during times of uncertainty. Although it might seem like entering a long, dark tunnel, she emphasized that we all hope that the Light of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit always accompany us. We also hope that the sisters will be renewed and transformed as we continue to be the presence of Jesus the Good Shepherd. We are willing to be energized by the Spirit and, together, risk for mission.

With one heart as a province, we express deep gratitude for the generosity and support of Sr. Joan Lopez and all the sisters in the Singapore/Malaysia Province. We are grateful for Ms. Braema Matti, for her love, passion, and zeal as she mentored us during the programme and going forward as we restructure ministry in Indonesia through 2017. May we do so in the spirit of St. Mary Euphrasia, driven by our love for God and for those whom we serve.
My heart is always filled with wonder when I recall years of experience since my initial “Yes” to God. How creative God was when He planted the seed of my vocation. From the beginning, I wanted to join a religious congregation of sisters who do not wear a habit. Although I knew some groups of sisters, I was not attracted to them. I had never heard about Good Shepherd Sisters because there was no Good Shepherd convent where I lived. But for God nothing is impossible. A friend from Jakarta visited me and I told her about my desire to join a religious congregation whose members did not wear a habit. My friend knew about Good Shepherd and gave me an address near my place. That started my contact with the sisters and my vocation journey with the Good Shepherd.

As I reflect on my journey I thank my Shepherd God for the grace of my vocation and for being my faithful companion. Even though my reason for choosing the Good Shepherd Sisters in the beginning was very simple, God used it to lead me to this community. Through ups and downs God has helped me to discover the core of my life, the core of my vocation. Our Shepherd God has led me to his heart, a heart filled with compassionate love. I have never doubted his love that has renewed my life and I know I have chosen the right path.

The theme I chose for my perpetual profession of vows was from John 15:5. “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” In discovering my gifts and talents I experience how God’s love sustains me to bear much fruit. God has blessed me abundantly in order to be a shepherdess for others.

I thank God for allowing me to profess my final vows on November 21, 2015, Mary’s feast, together with the sisters who renewed their vows and our lay mission partners who renewed their commitment as partners in mission. We were one in spirit and in our commitment to the mission of reconciliation and our call to witness to the merciful love of Jesus the Good Shepherd. The celebration was held in Jakarta and the Eucharist was presided by Fr. Hardijantant Dermawan and Fr. Lucius, SVD. We also made this occasion a family gathering among our mission partners, our staffs, teachers, students, and friends. The teachers were among the choir, the staff took part in the liturgy, and our students entertained us with their music performance. We distributed the books, Daily Message of St. Mary Euphrasia and The Admirable Heart of Mary by St. John Eudes, as a way of sharing our spirituality with others. It was a special moment to experience a Good Shepherd family gathering.
My maternal grandmother had a huge influence on my growing up as I actually lived with her and my grandfather. They were both deeply religious people and went to daily Mass. On school holidays I was brought along, not too willingly, I must admit. The mystery of ritual and the smells of wax candles and incense penetrated my being and fascinated my imagination and wonderings of who and what, is God all about.

I was educated by the Dominican and Mercy Sisters, I think from my first communion day I wanted to become a “nun”, to be part of all this mystery and rituals.

By the end of secondary school I had decided to enter the Dominican Sisters, the date set was 15th October 1977. My grandmother died on 28th August 1977, I was with her on the Saturday morning that she had a heart attack and travelled to the hospital in the ambulance with her, after phoning my father. It was my first experience of losing someone I deeply loved and of the loneliness and finality of death.

I had a wonderful experience of formation with the Dominicans. A whole world of theology, scripture, philosophy, Church history, poetry, literature and liturgy was opened up for me. I was energised and excited and felt I was learning everything there was to know about God! I had found God! The prologue of First letter of St John captured me and spoke of something deep in my being that I was unable to articulate:

*Something that has existed since the beginning,*
*that we have heard,*
*and that we have seen with our own eyes,*
*that we have watched*
*and touched with our hands:*  
*the Word who is life –*
*this is our subject.*
I began to sense that God was much nearer than I thought and was to be found more in this world than somewhere out beyond me and in the heavens. Overtime I struggled with some of the theology and teachings of the Church that seemed to be not quite big enough for this God I was sensing. During the time of temporary profession I became increasingly unsettled and it became clear that Dominican religious life was not for me. By mutual agreement I left before final profession. This was a second experience of profound loss and of abandonment, and I was 25 years of age.

While adjusting in the world of work and of any job that would earn a living for me – I felt I wanted to work with young people, and especially those who might be having a difficult life. I applied for a job as a care-worker in a residential setting for teenagers, and after three attempts was given the job. I became an employee of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. Almost immediately, as I saw how the sisters related to and spoke about the teenagers I felt that this was where I was meant to be, this is how I wanted to live life. The Centre accepted teenage girls that other Centres couldn’t cope with. I saw that each girl was loved and treated with the utmost respect and there was always another chance, and another chance...especially for the ones who would most break your heart and try your patience.

After about a year or so working with the teenagers I decided this was the congregation for me. I entered and I left after about a little over a year. For the next 12 years I tried very hard to get this religious life bug out of my system and failed. To make what could be a very long story short, at the age of 40 years after much discernment and encouragement from a spiritual director I took my courage in my hands and asked if the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity would take me back. They did. At my final profession in 2005, my father said that he and my mother kept giving me to God and that I kept coming back to them. I’m not sure if he was preparing himself or the sisters for what might still happen!

I have no idea of the what or the why of all this journeying that has brought me to this place, what I do know is that, I am the person I am, because of it. And even more incredible, I write this as a Sister of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, (one more congregation to my credit) living in the generalate in Rome.

Today, in contrast to my youthful belief that I had found God, know this not to be the case. I believe that God cannot be contained, defined and controlled. I believe that the God-life takes shape in each of us and urges us towards compassionate, respectful, tender loving and living with all that is created. Science, cosmolgy, quantum physics, the New Universe Story and new theological thinking, especially feminist theologians, convince me that God is far beyond what I have understood or perceived. They speak of a God who is in evolution, as is each one of us and the whole cosmos. That everything is in relationship and interconnected. My action or inaction contributes to the well-being or destruction of persons and creation.

So I find myself at this stage of the journey with very many questions and wonderings. I have very few certainties. I am on a quest of discovery and I don’t know to where it will bring me. This doesn’t worry me too much, well
sometimes maybe! But what is important for me is being and knowing myself loved, being loving, compassionate, gentle and joyful. When I wake up feeling not so joy-filled or loving - I very quickly begin to look at all there is to be grateful for. I am alive and healthy, I have just gotten out of a warm comfortable bed, I have water to wash in, and clothes to wear and food to eat. I have a community around to support me. For our congregational journey these next 6 years, I believe if we really plough the depths of Brother Pinto’s input given to us at chapter, and explore it in relation to our Direction Statement, we can and will be agents of transformation, wherever we are in the world. If we can be opening ourselves to Science and the New Story of the Universe, and new theologies, our understanding of our spirituality, of Justice and Peace and how we do mission will also be radically altered.

I would like to finish by praying this blessing on each of us:

**May our minds come alive today**
**to the invisible geography**
**that invites us**
**to new frontiers,**
**to break the dead shells of**

---

**yesterdays,**
**to risk being disturbed and changed.**

May we have the courage to live the life that we would love,
to postpone our dream no longer but to do at last what we came here for and waste our hearts on fear no more.

(From Brother Pinto’s paper, At the Gates of Tomorrow, Adapted from John O Donohue)

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“I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE. I HAVE CALLED YOU, AND YOU ARE MINE.”

By Sr. Zelna Oosthuizen

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was born on the 10 November the feast of St. Leo, the Great. It was a great day for my parents. When I was in the novitiate, at age 26, I learned that my parents prayed earnestly for a child and even turned to natural midwife remedies. In return for the favor of conceiving a child, they promised to dedicate their child to God. “I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have called you and you are mine.”

I grew up in a devoted Catholic family with two brothers and two sisters. My mother was Catholic, my father was a convert to Catholicism, and my extended family were Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim. Growing up we celebrated all the important feasts in the various religions with great joy.

My mother was one of the first Good Shepherd Lay Associates in my home town of Port Elizabeth. Working with the sisters, my mother reached out to all the Catholics, young and old, in her community to bring them back to the church and teach them catechism. It was during the time of Apartheid and there was segregation according to race—white, black, and coloured. Many people, displaced from their homes, felt lost and were in great distress.

As a young girl, I remember our home was always filled with children and adults attending catechism classes. My parents were very dedicated and extremely creative in presenting the
priest I also met sisters from other religious congregations. My parish priest encouraged all young people to discover their call in life by joining a group called “Journey with.”

My introduction to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd was made possible while attending the “Journey with” group as it was held at their convent once a month. Every young person in the group had to have a spiritual director and I chose a Good Shepherd sister to be mine and she really was a true Shepherdess to me during my discernment as a young adult. We had to visit various convents for exposure and listen to talks on married life and single life. When I visited the Good Shepherd Convent it felt like home instantly. The process of exploration, exposure, and discernment took two years. I had to decide which lifestyle helped me be fully myself. Religious life was still the strongest voice within me as I had a great desire to offer my time to the needy and work in the church ministries. But which Congregation? I was at the end of my four year Nursing studies and was still unsure which congregation to choose, Cabra Dominican Sisters or Good Shepherd Congregation? I then applied to work in a small town hospital to help me decide. There I experienced the cry of many people for dignity and community. They were like sheep without a shepherd. I was very happy assisting them in their needs and no task was too big for me. I then realized that the Good Shepherd Congregation was the place for me. Restoring dignity to all. “A person is of more value than the whole world.”

I contacted the Sisters in Pretoria, went for one week of “Come and See” and, on my return, I was sure that the Good Shepherd Congregation was for me. I resigned my full time job at the hospital. My friends thought I was joking and laughed at me when I told them about my plans. I had great support from the hospital matron and she said: “I knew there was something different about you as you always spoke with the underprivileged and most needy staff and prayed with all the patients, no matter who they were.” I entered the convent in 1997, made my temporary profession in 2000 and perpetual profession in 2005. I have gained much experience in various ministries with women, children, partnership, and leadership. In my new capacity as a congregational councilor I hope to share that sense of belonging and love for all as equal in God’s eyes, an aspect of the charism that drew me to the Good Shepherd family.
Taking advantage of the school vacations, I went to spend time with my family and while there I met a gentleman, and two months later I thought the time to form my own family had come. When I practically had everything ready to form my new family, while in Mass, an inner voice told me “marriage is not for you, without saying anything go to a place where he cannot find you.” I decided to find someone to talk to and found a missionary sister whose name was Laura. She guided me and told me that God was calling me to a contemplative life style. Sister Laura accompanied me to visit the convent of the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Pomasqui. As soon as I entered the parlor of the convent I felt complete. I knew that I had found what I had wanted for a long time without knowing it. It was March 5, 1987, I was 19 years old. My whole family suffered a lot when they learned I was entering the convent and disagreed with my decision. After six months, my mother and my aunt came to see me with the intention to convince me to return home. I asked my mom to forgive me for not having taken her in consideration for my projects and how he said that I should be a doctor to help the neediest people of the place and/or be a military woman ... I was six years old then and I remember that my dream was to learn swimming so I could swim across the river or learn how to sing. I loved sports as my favorite pastime. I loved solitude and to be in silence. When I was 9 years old, my father became very sick with cancer and my mother had to travel very often to the city with him. I had to take over the care of everything in the house. Two years later my father died and my mother was left alone to care for all my brothers. These were very painful and difficult times for everyone. As a consequence, I had to stop my education and did not return to school until I was 16 years old. I did not waste that time in between, however, and took it upon myself to prepare for my first Holy Communion and Confirmation. I was happy learning all about the religion and really wanted to devote more time to learning all about the catechism. I worked and continued my studies, and during that time I discovered something that I had kept deep within me long before, my infinite hunger and thirst for God but I did not know what name to give it. I never had religious friends or belonged to any youth group.
decision to enter and at the same time I asked her to give me her blessing so I could stay. The happiest years of my life have been the ones in my religious life because I feel full of God’s presence. My life has been a life full of fervor and enthusiasm following in God’s footsteps. I have encountered some difficulties, it is true but I had learn to let others help me to know myself better. I have learned to respect and understand others in their own struggles. I have learned to emerge from my inner community world to achieve other goals such as a higher education and to accompany my sisters as community animator.

One of the essential elements of the contemplative life has always been community life. In community life we experienced Gospel values, virtues and learn how to take the merit of all that is offer quietly to God every day. Contemplative religious life is beautiful but one must know how to live it. I consider myself a positive person and I dream with a Congregation that walks with the neediest. But most of all with a Congregation that may experience God's supremacy in a profound and renewed way; A contemplative life, lived in the true spirit of their own vocation; finding new paths and appropriate ways to implement the declarations and recommendations of our Congregational Chapter. And when I looked forward to my new mission face to face with the entire congregation I do it with optimism and with full confidence in God. I do it with full confidence on having the support, the love and the prayers of my sisters and partners. I do it tanking humbly that I am but an instrument in God’s hands! Blessed be Jesus the Good Shepherd and our Holy Founders!

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM ON TRAFFICKING - PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
OCTOBER 2015 VATICAN CITY ROME

Interview with Yen Chu Good Shepherd lay Mission Partner
Taiwan

By Marie Françoise Mestrry

Concerning her profile:
Yen Chu first got involved in a global anti-human trafficking campaign during her internship in Bangkok, Thailand. She then joined Good Shepherd Taiwan and has worked as a specialist in prevention and advocacy against human trafficking via various programs among the public, targeted mainly the youth and adults, throughout Taiwan.

Concerning the event:
'Real love chases away fear, greed and slavery: young leaders must pave the way' was the name of the second youth symposium held by the (PAS) Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences from the 7th to the 8th of November, 2015. As Pope Francis urges the importance of working against human-trafficking, youth who have devoted themselves on this issue were invited to share their experiences from all over the world.

Yen Chu had the privilege of participating at the symposium as a speaker and had the opportunity to share the current situation of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Taiwan as well as the anti-human trafficking services conducted by GSSWS (Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services) Taiwan during the event.

Her experience of working with the Good Shepherd services in Taiwan

How are you involved in the GS Service in Taiwan?

“There are basically six service domains in Taiwan and I am involved in the area of Human Trafficking prevention. Our office
is located in the capital city of Taipei but we run programs throughout Taiwan. For my part I mainly do awareness raising programs on the university campus and also in the local community. Compared to high school or secondary school students, the university students faced a greater risk of being trafficked because they get more opportunity to travel especially now when people are willing to go abroad even for short periods. There may be Problems of visa, Risk of forced labor, cases of sex trafficking.

In the local community we focus on adults. Since the population of Taiwan is ageing many families cannot afford to take care of the elders. So they hire migrant workers for cheap labor. It is a huge task, it is hard to limit their working time as it takes a lot of time for the domestic worker ... they have to do all the domestic household.

We also collaborate with churches and we go there after the mass to share some information on basic rights, labor rights, minimum wage, etc. of migrant workers.

How was your experience as a speaker in the symposium?

“There were around 25-30 speakers and 30 observers. The majority was young people, but there were also some adults. We shared our experience in the symposium including international cooperation and the introduction of the Good Shepherd service Taiwan and the current situation of trafficking in Taiwan. The main reason the GS came to Taiwan was because of Child

prostitution in 1970. We are reverting to the original service again. The elders and the senior have devoted so much effort in this regard and we think it is time that the youth got involved. With energy and enthusiasm we can share our concerns on this issue through the internet and social media.

The Prevention and protection office collaborate in this task. We sometimes visit the shelter to know what is happening to the victims in Taiwan making sure to safeguard the privacy of the victims. At the symposium, 6 to 8 victims from Argentina Mexico, Kenya, Nigeria presented their cases sharing their experience and testimony of suffering, how they were rescued and helped to overcome such trauma.”

Was there any resolution to network among you?

“The aim of this event was to evaluate best practices in combating modern slavery, to create a global network of young people throughout the world, and to create a handbook on human trafficking and slavery.

The situation all over the world differs much from place to place e.g. Latin America is different from Taiwan or East Asian countries. We spent a lot of time...
discussing ways of delivering this message to our local youth and I think it is fortunate that we are living in the era of the internet. We can use the internet to keep the discussion going. A website could be set up to deliver such message. For places where the internet is not easily accessible we are hoping to produce a hand book with relevant information from the website.”

I also visited Manilla to attend a very important conference then Indonesia and we have much connection with the office in Thailand.

What message are you bringing back?

“I think I will share more about this issue happening in the world although it seems that it is not that serious in Taiwan. We get more opportunity to travel around the world and we could get involved from the perspective of prevention of trafficking.”

Cristina who was also present during this conversation summed up with these words:

“We hope that there will be some opportunity to develop our regional network in Asia in working with different provinces on GS Program and may be the MDO will call on people like you to give inputs.”

“I WILL MAKE MY VOWS TO THE LORD IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE PEOPLE.”

BY SR. ROSA APAZA

25th Anniversary of Religious Profession
La Paz/Bolivia

As a Good Shepherd Sister, I was very enthusiastic to have made my perpetual vows in August 3, 1990 with the clear determination that if I had not made them then, I will make them now. The Lord accepted my consecration today as he had accepted them before, prolonging the gladness and joy He has given to my life.

I am happy dear Lord to have professed my vows, that day in my youth with generosity and enthusiasm to have consecrated my life publicly in poverty, chastity, obedience and zeal for the salvation of souls.

In my pastoral work I felt that I should always make God known through His Word, share the life of women in their familiar surroundings, especially those who most need God’s mercy.

Thanks to my Congregation which has loved me all my life and to the sisters with whom I had the chance to share, who have helped me live these 25 years in total fidelity to the God of life – all my gratitude.
THE WALK OF “CONTIGO MUJER”
TALCA/CHILE.
By Sister Sonia Salas

We are happy to be able to share our mission in the city of Talca that is growing every day more.

A bit ago, the SENCE (National Formation and Job Service) formation courses began; 25 women attend these courses and they are formed to customer service, but they take also part in other workshops, such as knitting, crochet and recycling. In those workshops, the focus it so materialize our dream which is to implement the “Economical Justice.”

We would like to thank Sister Adela and the Communication Center for the management of the donation made by the Professional Institute DUOC that donated us a number of computers. These help the professional team work and the implementation of a telecenter.

SAINT MARY EUPHRASIA, HER NAME PRESENT IN SAN FELIPE.
San Felipe/Chili.

On the 31st of May of this year, day of the Holy Trinity Solemnity, and having taken the slogan “Following your steps, Good Shepherd, we continue the road towards those who are put aside”, the Good Shepherd Congregation celebrated its 160 years of life in Chili; it had been established in the city of San Felipe in 1885 by initiative of Bishop Rafael Valentín Valdivieso. As a recognition for the work done by the sisters of the Good Shepherd in this city during more that a decade and a half in the field of youth an women reinsertion, the distinguished Municipality of San Felipe has give, through a decree, the name of Saint María Eufrasia to San Martin’s street, from the corner of the street that meets Yungay avenue to the west, exactly there where the Sisters’ Community and the Spirituality Center of the Bolivia-Chili Province are located. The presence of the name of María Eufrasia in the street has been lived with joy in a celebration act. Among the persons who were present, we can mention the mayor of the city of San Felipe, Patricio Freire Canto, the bishop of the dioceses, Cristián Contreras Molina, authorities from the Regional Counsel, the Provincial Animator of the San Felipe house, Sister Leticia Cortés, sisters from the province, members of the Good Shepherd museum foundation, collaborators, friends.

The Mayor, the Provincial Sister and Sister Eliana Letelier talked briefly but eloquently reminding of and thanking the path and the work done by the sisters in favor of the woman who is violated in her dignity. The founder, Mary Euphrasia, was particularly remembered. Later on, the bishop of San Felipe, Cristián Contreras blessed the sign with the name of the Saint on it. Dyptychs have also been distributed and in them one could read the story of the life of this wonderful woman, founder of the Good Shepherd Congregation, so that the person who were present could know the most important characteristics of this woman who used the slogan « a person is worthier that a world » in order to sent missionaries to Chili, to San Felipe, in order to spread the Good News of mercy.

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SAINT MARY EUPHRASIA, HER NAME PRESENT IN SAN FELIPE.
San Felipe/Chili.

On the 31st of May of this year, day of the Holy Trinity Solemnity, and having taken the slogan “Following your steps, Good Shepherd, we continue the road towards those who are put aside”, the Good Shepherd Congregation celebrated its 160 years of life in Chili; it had been established in the city of San Felipe in 1885 by initiative of Bishop Rafael Valentín Valdivieso. As a recognition for the work done by the sisters of the Good Shepherd in this city during more that a decade and a half in the field of youth an women reinsertion, the distinguished Municipality of San Felipe has give, through a decree, the name of Saint María Eufrasia to San Martin’s street, from the corner of the street that meets Yungay avenue to the west, exactly there where the Sisters’ Community and the Spirituality Center of the Bolivia-Chili Province are located. The presence of the name of María Eufrasia in the street has been lived with joy in a celebration act. Among the persons who were present, we can mention the mayor of the city of San Felipe, Patricio Freire Canto, the bishop of the dioceses, Cristián Contreras Molina, authorities from the Regional Counsel, the Provincial Animator of the San Felipe house, Sister Leticia Cortés, sisters from the province, members of the Good Shepherd museum foundation, collaborators, friends.

The Mayor, the Provincial Sister and Sister Eliana Letelier talked briefly but eloquently reminding of and thanking the path and the work done by the sisters in favor of the woman who is violated in her dignity. The founder, Mary Euphrasia, was particularly remembered. Later on, the bishop of San Felipe, Cristián Contreras blessed the sign with the name of the Saint on it. Dyptychs have also been distributed and in them one could read the story of the life of this wonderful woman, founder of the Good Shepherd Congregation, so that the person who were present could know the most important characteristics of this woman who used the slogan « a person is worthier that a world » in order to sent missionaries to Chili, to San Felipe, in order to spread the Good News of mercy.

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left the country in 1966/67. Nine local Sisters returned to Myanmar in 1973 and refounded the congregation. Today there are 51 Good Shepherd Sisters, 2 novices and 9 candidates in Myanmar. The Jubilee day begins with the morning liturgy at 5.30 AM in the convent.

The prayer was based on the fruit of the past one whole year of spiritual preparation of the Sisters. Each community came up with a Jubilee symbol which expresses each Sister’s spiritual journey as Good Shepherd Religious. Grateful remembrance of each missionary who served during 150 years was part of the liturgy.

The message of Sr. Ellen Kelly, the Congregational Leader is read by Sr. Regina Htoo Htoo, Province Leader. They prayer ended with Sisters beating the gong 150 times opening the auspicious time of Jubilee day.

After prayer morning everybody proceeded to the Heart of Mary Grotto at left corner of the convent for the blessing of the 150th Jubilee Commemoration Plaque which was attached to the Grotto.

The thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration was held at 5 pm in St. Mary’s Cathedral of Yangon Archdiocese. His Eminence Charles Cardinal Bo of Yangon Archdiocese led the solemn Mass with four Bishops from Myanmar and one from Thailand, and with about 75 priests from different dioceses and different countries. The presiders and Good Shepherd Sisters entered the Cathedral with a beautiful procession led by a music band playing the Jubilee theme song and our Lady’s song.

Among those who joined the occasion were the former province leaders, Sr. Juliana Devoy, Sr. Louise Horgan, Sr. Joan Gormley, Sr. Euphrasia Mesomklin and Sr. Michelle Lopez, Good Shepherd Sisters from Macao,
and be transformed into his way of life and being. Sharing together as sisters with a common project of life and mission, we draw close to the existential and geographical margins and leave behind being self-referential. It involves a prophetic commitment, communion, proximity.

Jesus also invites us to seek new ways of conversion. The new wine is still in old wineskins. We are challenged to create new wineskins or innovate existing wineskins that we maintain. It will be necessary to break the vessels (Jeremiah 18, 4) and will require audacity and courage.

Are we still in love with Jesus? This question is key for all those challenges that face us.

A special atmosphere surrounded those days of closing the Year of Consecrated Life and beginning the Year of Mercy. We were able to participate in language groups as we celebrated in different churches. We went through the Holy Doors, moved by our faith and the desire to welcome the mercy of the Father for us and our loved one.

I am Sister Monica Scabucci of the Province of Argentina-Uruguay. A friend of mine who belongs to the Order of Consecrated Virgins invited me to take part in the conference. It was a special opportunity to close the year of consecrated life and a moment of renewal of my vocation and service to the church and our congregation. A great gift! A grace! It was indeed a beautiful experience to see a great number of consecrated women and men from various countries and cultures. It was an occasion to contemplate the diversity of those with the common call to the radical following of Jesus.

We spoke many words and many left my heart troubled. Our call is to focus on the person of Jesus, to listen to his Word, to follow him and be transformed into his way of life and being. Sharing together as sisters with a common project of life and mission, we draw close to the existential and geographical margins and leave behind being self-referential. It involves a prophetic commitment, communion, proximity.
We have just experienced a very hot summer compared to other years! Different groups have been praying unceasingly for rain and a few drops have come. We are in the midst of a drought as there has been no rain. We usually have rain in spring, beginning in September. Predictions indicate that rain will only come in March. Therefore conditions might not be pleasant with the rain coming so late.

**Our ministries**, vibrant with children and women, affirm that our charism is still relevant to the country. We observe the Year of Mercy as we seek to be inclusive to all people who walk through our doors. We embrace the world with gratitude as we continue “to be shepherds with the smell of sheep.” Our schools had graduations for the three centres with pre-school and day care. Parents came in good numbers to see their children performing what they have learnt thus far. Children had the Christmas play and this stays with them as another way of spreading the gospel.

In these very schools we continue to network with Social Development, the Department of Health, and the Department of Education. In this regard, the government is very supportive and we appreciate the networking. From the church, we have CATHCA, “Catholic Health Care Association” networking with our clinics, board of management leasing with Catholic schools of which there are different congregations and the support of experts from mission partners.

Again we are grateful to all people who continue to support our ministries and in turn we feel so blest for this endeavour. Most of these people become our collaborators as the number of sisters has dwindled. We deeply rely on God’s providence and we have tried to be in the forefront with those at the margins. South Africa is a transit for many countries and we have enjoyed visits from many of our sisters.

No matter how brief, such as a one night flight change, we have enjoyed sisters’ visits. We have always welcomed our temporary professed sisters for mission experiences. We now have Sr. Sobia from Pakistan. We were happy to host our sisters who were on their way to Hungary. Their stay became a mission preparation and we had a wonderful time together. We gathered to bid our dearest Zelna a good-bye in Johannesburg without our sisters from Port Elizabeth because of the distance. We wished her well and also did our rituals to remind her of us. We felt good that, although we are few in number, we are able to share what we have. We hope we will be rewarded with many vocations and missionaries.
Working with immigrants is a part of our mission in the city of Talca. On June 7th was the traditional meeting with them. 50 persons were attended. In common, we prepared salads and sweets from different countries.

All of us enjoyed artistic and cultural presentations by the folk group "Jallalla" who delighted us with traditional dances such as Tinku, caporales and zachas.

One result of this meeting was to gather to practice different dances such as "Cumbia Colombiana", "Salsa" and "Cueca".

This activity exceeded our expectations, so we are happy to welcome and accompany them.

The next meeting will take place July 19 to celebrate the day of Colombia.

Every year the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd participate in the annual march for Peace held on the 1st of January. The march usually ends at St. Peter’s Square where thousands of pilgrims wait to listen to the Pope’s message and the Angelus. This year we met many refugees from different countries. We tried to listen to them and told them that the entire Congregation holds them in prayer. We assured them all the sisters are in solidarity with them.

Pope Francis renewed his calls for peace and good will throughout the Earth. The Holy Father’s appeal came at the Angelus prayer with pilgrims and visitors. The Pope said: “Today we celebrate the World Day of Peace, whose theme is: ‘Overcome Indifference and Win Peace.’ Peace, which God the Father wants to sow in the world, must be cultivated by us. Not only this, but it must also be ‘won’. This leads to a real struggle, a spiritual battle that takes place in our hearts. Because the enemy of peace is not only war, but also indifference, which makes us think only of ourselves and creates barriers, suspicions, fears and closure. These things are enemies of peace. We have, thanks be to God, a great deal of information; but at times we are so overwhelmed by facts that we become distracted by reality, from the brother and sister who need us. Let us begin this year by opening our heart and calling attention to neighbours, to those who are near. This is the way to win peace.”

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The community of the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd of the Province of Central America, El Salvador, wants to joyfully share a lovely experience. Our community is located very near the Catholic Educational Center named “Heart of Mary”. This program is under the direction of the Apostolic Sisters. This Educational Center is attended by 846 students: children, adolescents and teenagers up to the 9th grade.

On different days of the week, some of the teachers, who work at the Center, come to our chapel with different groups of children. On one occasion, the teacher was explaining to the group of girls and boys in a very simple way the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. These are the words she used to explain the Blessed Sacrament, “Jesus is found in this little house before us. He is the Son of Mary, and the Son of God.” They took a moment of silence, sang and then prayed an Our Father and a Hail Mary. Both prayers are well known by both young and old.

The teacher then took each one of the children and helped them to make the Sign of the Cross. Then she asked the girls to stand and together they made the Sign of the Cross. Afterward, she invited them to leave the Chapel one by one with much respect. It was admirable to see the devotion and obedience in such small children.

On different days of the week older students come. The adolescents bring special and personal intentions to Jesus. Among their intentions they are praying for a fellow student Valeria Michelle Ochoa Duarte, who has terminal cancer. The students, with much devotion and fervor stay for at least a half hour praying and singing for this intention.

Lent is the path to reconciliation ...
Each time will be in different one language

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The word is in French. with 11 letters.


Mary- after— receiving— the -Good- News— told— to— her - by—the— Archangel— Gabriel- Mary—in - her - Magnificat— prophetically— sings— of— the mercy— whereby— God— chose- her.

Thank you to the translators!

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