

5th Missions Sector Assembly: Together Toward the Future

In joy-as prophets, in communion-for mission

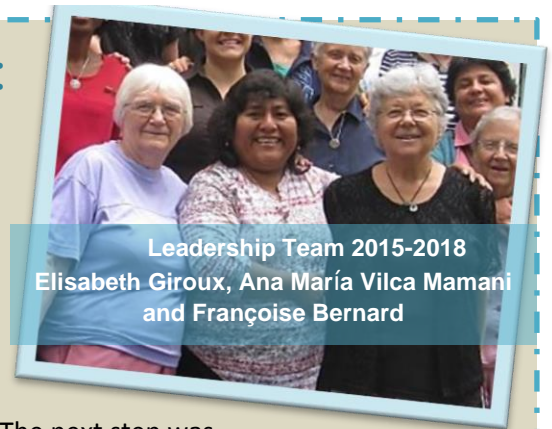
The opening prayer and closing ritual of our 2015 Assembly were inspired by extracts from Pope Francis' pastoral letter on consecrated life. On Sunday we joined the local community at Maison Jésus-Marie in Longueuil for the Eucharistic celebration.

The main objective of the Assembly was to listen to each other and dialogue to understand the position of each one regarding the future of the Missions Sector. The next step was to share and clarify ideas, and to see how each one could contribute, according to her gifts, to live out our mission, and to deepen the experience of the new model of leadership begun in 2012.

In a spirit of discernment, accompanied by a competent facilitator, we arrived at a consensus with the choice of Elisabeth Giroux, Ana María Vilca Mamani to coordinate the Missions Sector: once selected, they met with Catherine Ferguson, Lise Gagnon and Florence Vinet, members of the CLT, present at the Assembly, to listen to each sister and her reasons for accepting as well as to discuss how the team would function. **Ana María Vilca Mamani will serve as the contact person for the team.** In the presence of the Assembly members, Catherine Ferguson confirmed the choice of the new leadership team of the Missions Sector in the name of the CLT.

Another high point was the celebration for the jubilarians – three 50th: Joanne Pundyk, Françoise Bernard, Jacqueline Aubry, and Denise Girard, 60!!!! The festivities included prayers of thanksgiving, a festive meal, special guests and time for remembering and laughter. All was prepared with love, creativity, generosity, and the participation of everyone. Thank you for the beautiful celebration.

Joanne Pundyk, SNJM, Jubilarian



Leadership Team 2015-2018
Elisabeth Giroux, Ana María Vilca Mamani
and Françoise Bernard



Jacqueline, Héléne and Catherine

Why "Commitment by vows today?"

Héléne Harvey from the Missions Sector made her permanent commitment in our SNJM community, on Sunday, September 6, 2015.

'What I will remember from this celebration is the meaning of the vows in our world today' confided to me one the guests.

The chapel at Maison Jésus-Marie was filled by her family, many friends, volunteers from the Missions Sector and numerous SNJMs. Though this may seem counter-cultural, Héléne publicly proclaimed her final commitment to live the Evangelical counsels. Then, all present were invited to renew their commitment to love in their chosen vocation. *'My goal was to have a meaningful ceremony overflowing with joy'* as I prepared it with my formation director, Sister Jacqueline Aubry. *'Moreover, I wanted to reassure my family and my friends that in 2015, the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience will not make me unhappy or deprive me. On the contrary, my vows will help draw me to God and to others with much greater FREEDOM. Even if the vows offer freedom, it does not mean that they are easy to live. On the contrary, they are demanding, even very demanding, because they call me to give daily the MAXIMUM of what I have to give and nothing less, to people who are in need of my welcome, my listening ear, and my time.'*

'May Mother Marie-Rose breathe into me the necessary dynamism ... so help me God'.

Jacqueline Aubry, SNJM and Héléne Harvey, SNJM



Héléne's profession of vows

Brigid Baumann's ministry in Peru: *¡Sí!* A smile, a backpack, a 'yes' and Brigid is on the move. Little did the community of Huáscar know what hit it when Brigid came to town in 2004! She was a mover and a shaker, responding to the community's needs and inviting many along the way to join the cause. She said 'yes' to me to come as a volunteer in 2011; I walked into an incredible organization of programs meeting the needs from the youngest children to eldest women at the Centro María Rosa. Brigid gave leadership opportunities to several women to help facilitate programs such as a library, basic adult education, nutrition, knitting and sewing, and early childhood stimulation.

Brigid also helped some go to college and complete their degrees, while inspiring others in the programs to feel loved and empowered at any step along life's path.

She found a young man working at a computer store and roped him in to assisting the Centro with its technology needs, and invited the husband of one of the Centro's facilitators to build cabinets, fix the lighting, and assist with maintenance. She encouraged women to be guitarists in the churches by teaching the basics of playing this instrument. Brigid's organizational skills, generosity, and loving but feisty presence, has permeated the entire community, resulting in lasting programs to both serve and empower members, especially women, to, in turn, serve their community. While not physically present in Peru at this time, Brigid remains committed to support the Centro through fundraising efforts, to raise awareness, and to mentor facilitators. Brigid writes: *"I am grateful for the acceptance, generosity and impact the people of Peru have had in my life and am committed to continuing these life-giving and growthful mutual connections across the borders."*

Erin Scherer, volunteer 2011-2015



Eyes on the Horizon



Newer Members Forum:
 (Standing) : Alice Mothibeli, Alphoncina Mmofu, Lucia Matima, Lourdes Quintana, Yenny Chipana
 (Front) Ana María Vilca Mamani, Agnes Thokoane

Forum for newer SNJM Members

The forum was held in Lesotho in July 2015. The theme of the forum was 'COME, SPIRIT OF MULTIPLE WAYS'. Forty sisters, the majority from Lesotho with some from U.S.-Ontario, the Missions Sector, gathered together for a second time. The organizing committee – Srs. Crystal Clark, Sophia Park, Alice Mothibeli, Lise Gagnon, Lucia Matima and myself – can now rightly say 'Mission accomplished' The conferences on 'Leadership and Spirituality' by Sister Sophia Park and 'Conflict Resolution' by Sister Mary Pat LeRoy were, without a doubt, two highlights and learning experiences for everyone.

Now, our one and only hope is for a third forum!

Hélène Harvey SNJM



Lourdes Quintana has replaced Ana María Vilca on the Justice and Peace Network. Thank you Ana, for bringing your passion of Justice to the network and thank you Lourdes for your generosity and interest in justice and peace.

Intermission Committee: Agnes Hoy (BR), Marjorie Moffatt (PE), Jo'Ann De Quattro (US-ON), Hélène Harvey (Mtl), Yvonne Massicotte (MB), Josée Lareau (GA), Miquelina Silva (MS).



Lourdes, Andrenèse, Hélène, Yenny at their presentation on formation at the General Assembly.