



ECO-NEWS SSCM

General Administration, 2029, Holy Cross, Montréal (Québec) Canada H4E 2A4

Autumn 2024
Number 5



"Meraki" Day Center, in Presidencia de la Plaza, Argentina

Summary

**"Hope and Act with
Creation".....2**

**Time for Creation at
Mvog -Ada
.....2-3**

**Ecological Day at Saint-
Rosaire Hospital--
Mbalmayo.....3-4**

**Intercongregational
Experience among the
Poor.....4-6**

Editorial

Listening to the Clamor of the Poor

The massive destruction wrought by wars and natural disasters - hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts - that are occurring more and more around the world, are exposing the world's poorest people to harsh realities and to the daily struggle for survival. The damage caused calls on us not to give up, but to listen to the cries of the earth, the cries of the poor.

The people of San Martin II, Argentina, whom we recently visited from October 7 to 10, are facing the harsh reality of a 4-year rain shortage, making it impossible for them to farm for a decent living. It was a miracle for us, Sister Maria Margarita Hernández, Superior General, and I, to see the rain falling as we left the town.

What a joy to visit our Sisters at Presidencia de la Plaza, the "MERAKI" Day Center! which means "Doing something with the soul, with love and creativity". This is an institution designed to care for disabled children, young people, and adults. Despite their vulnerability, through many activities, these people are happy to do their part to sow hope.

In this 5th edition, our Sisters and their collaborators tell us about their way of loving and committing themselves to caring for God's Creation.

Paule-Marie Ndjom, SSCM
General Secretary

“Hope and Act with Creation”



The theme of the 2024 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation has not gone unheeded by those of us living a missionary experience on Cuban soil.

Indeed, during our visits to sick people in our village, we were deeply saddened to see the precarious food situation of our brothers and sisters overwhelmed by illness. Given this, we approached our parish priest to obtain a plot of land to grow subsistence crops (tubers and vegetables). Following his favourable response, without wasting any time, we created a garden at the Santa Rita post, a 30-minute walk from our community. Therefore, seeing our dreams come true is a great joy. We go with joy and hope and are grateful for this opportunity to express our feminine genius and SSCM Charisma and develop a vision of life full of enthusiasm to pass on.

May Pope Francis's words continue to inspire our prayer and action: *“Concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and inner peace”* are inseparable (LS 10).

**Srs. Yolande Mbezele Onana and Proidencia Ngwekah, SSCM
Cuba**

Time for Creation at Notre -Dame d’Afrique in Mvog -Ada

“Without end, Lord, God our Father,
Without end, Lord, we will praise you:
The earth rejoices;
Blessed art thou, God of the living!”



On the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, as a community group, we had the joy of carrying out two activities to mark this time of ecological communion: an open-air prayer celebration and the planting of a few flowers.

These activities, carried out on September 1, 2024, the day of the beginning of the Time for Creation, was a precious opportunity for each Sister to renew her personal and communal commitment to our vocation as guardians of Creation while giving thanks to God for the marvellous work He has entrusted to each of us.

We invoked His help for the protection of Creation, presenting to Him the tears of our brothers and sisters, of our Sister Earth, particularly during the recent floods in the Far North of Cameroon, which caused many losses.

This time for Creation, lived in a spirit of ecological faith, challenges each of us to convert our way of life and become more responsible for safeguarding our common home.

**Sr. Aline Rosette Marie Amogo, SSCM,
nature's friend
Cameroon**



Ecological Day at Saint-Rosaire-Mbalmayo Hospital



Saint-Rosaire Hospital's team in its dynamism and desire to take joint action to care for our planet, named Thursday, October 10, 2024: **Ecological Day.**

Under the tutelage of the Hospital Director, Sr. Judith Carole Ngoubea, we carried out various activities to show the importance of protecting our ecology and our concern for offering a pleasant hospital environment to our patients and visitors.

Protecting the environment should be an individual as well as a community mission. That's why we, the staff of Saint-Rosaire, have contributed in our way to protecting our common home through concrete gestures such as:

Planting Flowers

Flowers purify the air inside the home, absorb harmful gases from the outside, ward off certain pests, and decorate or embellish the environment. Flowers express serenity, life, joy, and welcome. So we did the same for our structure, to offer it an ideal and attractive setting. As this is the month of the Rosary, the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patron saint, it was only natural to pay homage to her by planting roses in the hospital.





Hospital Cleaning

We have worked hard to clean the whole hospital from top to bottom to keep the image that passers-by have from their testimonies that this is the cleanest hospital in Mbalmayo.

Turning Off Cell Phones Until Noon

This activity refers to the fact that telephones are tools or devices that contribute to atmospheric pollution, as they emit harmful waves that in the long term can also destroy our health by causing certain illnesses such as skin cancer. The idea was to go back to the natural way of life, to a time when technology was not the master of mankind, as we can see today that it is becoming difficult to get rid of one's telephone. So we went on a cell phone fast.

Ecology being the relationship between man and his habitat, requires that it be healthy for his survival, hence the importance of adopting responsible behavior as we did today to mark this day of Thursday, October 10, 2024.

What if everyone did what Saint-Rosaire Hospital does: respect the ecology and provide a liveable environment for its visitors!



**Dr Ange Carmi BAKOUIKA,
General Practitioner, HSR Mbalmayo-Cameroon**

Intercongregational Experience Among the Poor



This is the first year of the inter-congregational experience that Sister Rosa Martinelli, of the Company of Mary, and I, Susana Teruel, of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, have been living in San Martin II, Formosa, since May 1, 2023.

We joyfully share two different charisms and spiritualities, which complement and enrich each other in common prayer, in congregational celebrations, those of the Company and those of the SSCM, lived among ourselves, with the parish, and with the people.

We share life with the poor, especially the most excluded: aborigines, peasants, and BECs (basic ecclesial communities).



We organize workshops with aboriginal women and young people: baking, sewing, painting, as well as motorcycle repair and carpentry. We have also organized three workshops aimed at affirming the identity of Aboriginal women and workshops on addictions. We support Aboriginal and Creole beekeepers who sell honey through EDUPOSAN (a popular education association). Aboriginal women go into the bush to gather a plant called “carandillo”, with which they make their handicrafts - which are veritable works of art - and with the help of people, friends, and relatives, we help them sell them in Entre Ríos and Buenos Aires.

On a pastoral level, we support catechesis and the training of catechists, the economic team, and a dozen small communities, whether for the patronal feast, sharing the Word, or visiting the sick. At Sainte-Jeanne Chapel, for example, I also provide spiritual guidance, aided by the listening ministry training I've just completed. In the “Espace Famille” - a group made up of professionals and the two Sisters - we accompany people who are victims of violence.



Our presence as consecrated life is appreciated by people, who develop simple, friendly relationships with us based on support, trust, and listening. We've noticed that people don't differentiate between one congregation and another; what they appreciate is the presence of consecrated life, as our parish priest has emphasized.

Among the challenges we face is adaptation, as we are of different ages (66 and 88) and life experiences, different generations, and cultures; Sister Rosa has been here for 35 years and I have just arrived. This helps each of us to grow in our devotion to the poorest, starting from a new experience of community, which involves dialogue, listening, mutual acceptance, self-knowledge, respect, and sharing of who we are and what we do.

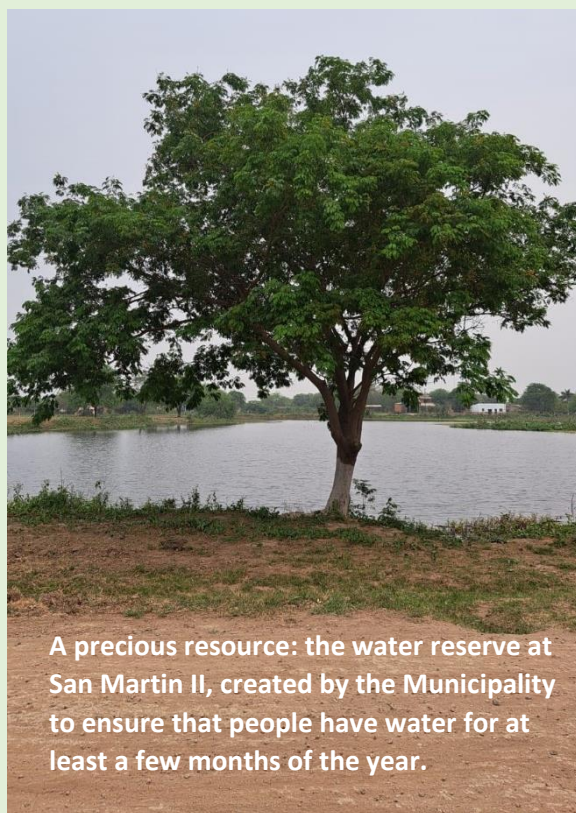


We are grateful to our Congregations, as well as to all the Consecrated Life of the NEA (Northeast Argentina), who

support and sustain us in this experience of mission among the poor. Within the framework of this Consecrated Life in search, we live this experience - still so fragile - as a gift of the Spirit to the Consecrated Life, which struggles to unite its forces in order to respond to the mission and remain in the midst of the poor.

For me, it's an experience that has strengthened my relationship with God, my being SSCM, the charism of the Congregation, and my charism. More aware of my identity as a consecrated woman and proud to be SSCM, I feel happy.

**Sr. Susana Teruel, SSCM
Argentina**



A precious resource: the water reserve at San Martin II, created by the Municipality to ensure that people have water for at least a few months of the year.

Contributors to this issue:

Copywriting:

Sr. Paule-Marie Ndjom

Sr. Yolande Mbezele Onana

Sr. Aline Marie Rosette Amogo

Dr. Ange Carmi BAKOUIKA

Sr. Susana Teruel

Secretariat :

Sr. Paule-Marie Ndjom

Ms. Dora Malterre