

Wisdom & Knowledge PRESENTERS



Please contact
the United States
Region Leadership Team at
smrusateam@gmail.com
for information
or to initiate dialogue.

Sisters of Mary Reparatrix USA Region

SHARING WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

*"It is important to share between generations the wisdom
and experience that exists in the Congregation."
23rd General Chapter*

Why Offer Wisdom & Knowledge?

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Why Offer Wisdom & Knowledge?

In late 2010 conversations about initial formation in the Americas made region members acutely aware that for many years we have not been involved in initial formation in the congregation.

We remembered that Chapter '07 said "we are all implicated in formation....It is important to share between generations the wisdom and experience that exists in the congregation." Region members are "women rooted in the love of Christ" who seek to "live the charism with passion, audacity, zeal, and creativity" in collaboration with others as we "offer the best of ourselves." We have



taken the 23rd General Chapter "recommendations to heart and search for appropriate ways to live them." We made them our own in our 2008 Region Objectives when we committed ourselves to "Dialogue with other Regions/Provinces about Mission/ministry so as to understand and respond to needs on a short-term basis...."

During Region meetings in February, June and August 2011, we considered how we might become involved in SMR formation. In August we felt inspired and affirmed by the following quote from the SMR Theology Synthesis, "As sisters of different generations we feel called to open ourselves to the wisdom of one another and to search together for ways to commit ourselves to the creation of a new humanity."

In the spirit of this openness, we who have lived long lives committed to reparation offer our wisdom and knowledge, fruit of many years of education, ministry, and life experience, in the hope that together with you we might help create a new humanity within a healthy Earth community. The following pages tell you a bit about who we are and what we have to offer to formation in SMR.

The USA Region Invites You to Consider...

- inviting SMR USA presenters to your Province, Region or Union
- collaborating with us to plan a multi-workshop event in your area or ours
- coming to our Region to present a workshop to us and other SMRs
- language study and immersion in our English speaking country

We realize that area Chapter preparations are under way. In the midst of that, we hope that reading this descriptive brochure, *Sharing Wisdom & Knowledge*, will provide you with the information you need to contemplate working with us to bring these workshops to life in the future.

We are very aware that no matter where these events take place cost will be involved. We are researching ways to finance this project in as economical and equitable a way as possible. In the meantime, if something in the brochure peaks your interest, or if you have ideas, suggestions, questions, or concerns we invite you to contact the Region Leadership Team at smrusateam@gmail.com.



*It is important
to share between the generations
the wisdom and experience
that exists in the congregation.*

VATICAN II & SMR

Concepción González-Cánovas *(Sp/En/Fr)*

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have lived the years of Vatican II as a young religious. The transformation and new life brought by, not only the final documents, but also by all the theological papers, council presentations and discussions, marked me profoundly. In those pre-internet and pre-computer days, we eagerly read articles, studied the writings of theologians we had never heard of before, and discussed them during recreation and community meetings. In Rionegro, Chamartin, and Chiclayo, where I lived during the conciliar and post-conciliar years, we passionately studied the Documents of Vatican II and often invited presenters. We heard and responded to the invitation to "go to the sources." Our understanding of the Church, ourselves, our ministry, and our community life expanded and changed, not without pain.

I would approach a presentation not from an intellectual point of view but from the perspective of sisters from different parts of the congregation. I would prepare for this by asking SMRs of different languages and cultures to share their experience of Vatican II with me. I would also trace the spirit of Vatican II in General Chapters and other SMR documents. My hope is that by remembering pre-Vatican II life and by gratefully acknowledging the Council's impact on Church and society, we might understand and do our part to keep the spirit of Vatican II alive with courage and openness.

Margaret Hoey *(En)*

When Vatican II began, I had already lived as an SMR for ten years. Even though my initial formation time was over and I had made my final commitment in 1961, I was fortunate to be able to work with novices during the Council. As a result, I learned a great deal about its documents and processes as they unfolded. For the last fifteen years I have served in a parish setting. Over the course of several of those years I gave classes on Vatican II to RCIA candidates. As a result, I would be happy to facilitate experiences of learning and sharing on Vatican II and its impact on SMR.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Ann Kasparek *(En)*

Eight years of educating/sharing/living the two feet of Catholic Social Teaching, justice and charity, have taught me that Catholic Social Teaching is not only based on the example and teachings of Jesus the Christ, but also is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic and a citizen of the world.

Margaret Hoey *(En)*

More than one author has said that "justice is a constitutive element of the Gospel." Over the last eight years Ann Kasparek and I have coordinated Christian Service Ministry in a parish. Through all that time we have studied, learned, prayed and shared on the foundational principles of Catholic Social Teaching with innumerable small groups of persons. Over the last 40-50 years, these teachings have been gathered into an organized format which provided us with a wonderful tool for teaching them. I would be glad to share what I have learned about the principles of Catholic social justice because, for me, they spell out more clearly the invitations and challenges we encounter today. I would prefer to do this in collaboration with Ann Kasparek because of our shared ministry in which these teachings have been essential.

CHURCH HISTORY

Ann Kasparek *(En)*

The history of the Catholic Church recounts the Christian community's memories about God's active presence in the world. Today, as we add to those memories, we ask ourselves how we understand Church: as People of God, as Body of Christ, and/or as Presence of the Spirit in an evolving world?

The vibrancy of the human spirit is manifest in all our human stories. Now, as in years past, I joyfully anticipate sharing historical accounts, particularly the ones related to the Church, with diverse groups of people.

COMPUTER Skills, ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, PUBLICATIONS, & THE WORKPLACE

Team: Martha de la Torre, Judy Frasinetti & Gerry McCullagh (En/Sp/It)

In the early 90s when *Windows 95* initiated a new phase of technology and personal computers were becoming more accessible, the need to explore this new frontier was recognized. Realizing that women would be underserved, we considered how we might “repair” the situation. In need of knowledge and skills, we took hands-on workshops, and courses to learn programs; networking; computer building and repair in order to be better able to understand and teach other women the technology of the day.

- Our technological skills include building, repairing, restoring computers, and teaching the use of popular computer programs most of which would be available to workshop participants through the charitable organization, *TechSoup*.
- Our desire is to share our knowledge of *Microsoft* programs such as *Word*, *Excel*, *PowerPoint* and additional desktop publishing and photo enhancing programs, so that others can become comfortable with their use. Specifically, we could:
- Assist in the development of computer skills and knowledge of programs such as *Power Point* (slide presentations), *Photoshop* (enhancing photos/graphics), *Publisher* or *InDesign* (brochures, cards, etc.), *Word* (letters, flyers, announcements), *Access* (database) and *Excel* (accounting sheets). Use of these would result in clearer, more efficient work environments.
- Help participants learn how to create simple data bases (*Access* 2007/2010) and accounting charts (*Excel* 2007/2010). Teach programs such as *PowerPoint* (*MS Office* 2010); *Publisher* (*MS Office* 2010); *Photoshop Elements* (9) or *Photoshop* (*Adobe CS* 5) which can be used to create artistic, colorful, appealing brochures, and inviting presentations which could be used to make us better known.

PERSONAL GROWTH & THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Martha de la Torre (Sp/En)

Participation in a personal growth workshop at the Instituto Centroamericano de Espiritualidad in Guatemala and two others I attended in Mexico, one on the Enneagram and the other on the Ignatian Exercises, prompt me to facilitate experiences on personal spirituality and the Ignatian Exercises.

Self-knowledge is elemental in discerning the source of spiritual movements. This requires a healthy integration of our woundedness. The Ignatian Exercises can help free us to accept our own story and to recognize how God has been at work within it from the beginning. Reconciliation with ourselves through the unconditional love of God changes our whole life.

TRANSLATIONS: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Martha de la Torre (Sp/En)

My basic studies were done in Spanish and English at the Instituto Hispano-Ingles in Mexico where I prepared for a career as a bilingual secretary. I also took nine foundational English courses at the Instituto Mexicano-Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales de San Luis Potosí, A.C. At present, I am a student at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan, USA.

Though I do not have experience doing significant translations, I have facilitated conversations between English and Spanish speaking people. I can read and write in English, though not perfectly. I would like to offer myself to assist in one-on-one and small group translations.



**GOD'S STORY,
OUR STORY,
MY STORY.**

ONCE UPON A TIME IN SMR

Concepción González-Cánovas (Sp/En/Fr)

Considering SMR history as a whole is a challenging endeavor because its scope is very broad. I would like to offer sisters of a particular geographic location a glance at the early days in that place within the context of the larger story of SMR and the world of that time. My motivation is to provide a sense of historical continuity to our younger sisters and to acquaint them with the wonderful women who preceded them.

Margaret Hoey (En)

SMR has experienced many historical events since I entered in 1953. For the first fifteen years of my life in SMR, we had very little if any knowledge of or exposure to current world events and their impact on the congregation. All through the years, I have been blessed to live in a province/region where there is very strong interest in congregational events. Therefore, though I certainly don't consider myself an historian, I would be very happy to share my perspective on SMR history with anyone interested.

ONLINE RETREATS & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Judy Frasinetti & Gerry McCullagh (En/It)

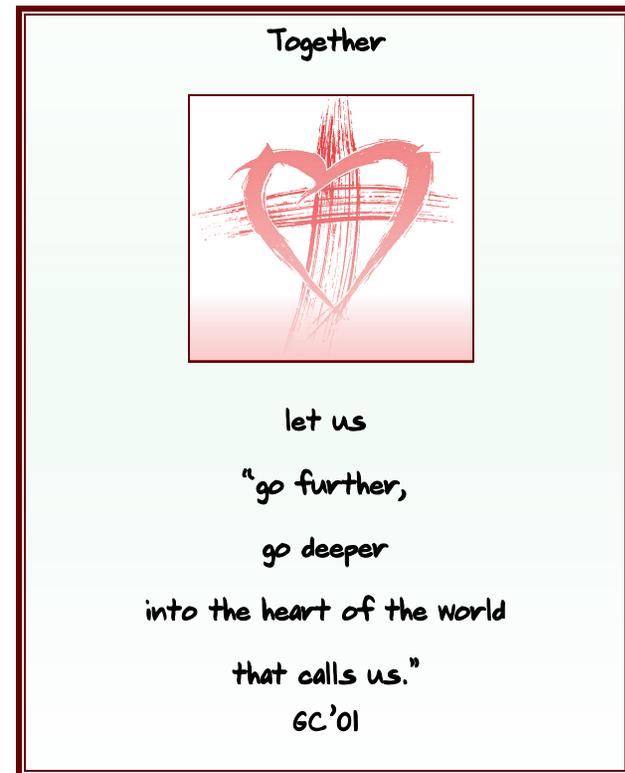
Our training in retreat ministry and spiritual direction moves us to:

- Offer online retreats and spiritual direction using SKYPE or other programs available for online communication.
- Create a simple format for an Ignatian retreat experience using tools like a webcam and/or a microphone. Specific instructions for both director and retreatant would support the “online” experience which would help those interested to become comfortable with this type of retreat environment. Elements that could be incorporated into the retreat include a feminine perspective, social justice, discernment and life choices.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WHAT MATTERS

Veronica Blake (En/Fr)

Reflective, prayerful, trusting, open, and deep conversation about the stuff of our ordinary lives is a wonderful way for SMRs to get to know, understand and appreciate each other, our values, and the way we live. Such conversation also helps us continue to adapt and respond with growing freedom, flexibility, and alacrity to all we encounter on our personal and congregational journey. As a Catholic woman who has lived before and after Vatican II, I would be very happy to share the wisdom and knowledge I have gained through the years while I learn from others whose journey may be similar or different from mine.



Eco-Theology, Spirituality & Action

Veronica Blake *(En/Fr)*

Life in Texas and Michigan raised my consciousness and responsiveness to environmental concerns. A 1990 Master's Degree in Social Ecology gave me tools to put our SMR charism to life on crucial issues in new ways. Since then I have given workshops to SMRs in Canada, the US, Ireland, in Spain during a tertianship, and at Full Circle EcoHouse of Prayer and in other locations on request. I contributed a paper on ecotheology to the SMR theology study. I believe that working to repair the way in which humans relate to Earth and its creatures is an urgent call to Reparatrixes today no matter where we are or what we do. Because of this conviction, I am open to offering eco-workshops in English, alone or in collaboration, and in French with an English-French speaker present for assistance as needed. In Spanish, I can offer prepared text and facilitate prayer. Concepción González-Cánovas would be an essential co-presenter for dialogic processes in Spanish.

Concepción González-Cánovas *(Sp/En/Fr)*

For 20 years I have pondered relationships between ecology, theology and our charism. This quest finds expression in my personal choices. I am passionate about enriching and broadening theological concepts with the scientific story of the universe. I believe that deeper knowledge and understanding of these subjects can lead us to live respectfully with compassion as members of Earth community.

With Veronica Blake I have prepared and presented countless workshops on different aspects of ecology and spirituality at Full Circle EcoHouse of Prayer. In 1999 Veronica and I were invited by the Province of Great Britain/Ireland to give a 3-day workshop. In 2003 I gave 5 days on "Reparation & Ecology" to tertians in Rome. In 2010 Veronica and I spent two weeks in Peru at the initiative of the Region of the United States and in collaboration with the Region of Colombia/Panama/Peru. During that time we gave a 3-day workshop on "Ecology from the Perspective of Our Charism" to our sisters and shared the same in different ways with Associates and parishioners from Naranjal, La Ensenada and Chiclayo.

FINANCES, THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS

Ann Kasperek *(En)*

Several years experience as region treasurer has allowed me to be of service to SMR and to value this service as a call to ministry with and for others. Serving in the ministry of finances is not only a privilege but an opportunity for spiritual growth in seeing all things as gifts of God.

Margaret Hoey *(En)*

Twice, I have been provincial or regional treasurer for about six years each time. I would be very happy to facilitate an exploration of the spiritual dimensions of financial ministry that I have come to appreciate, especially the concepts of stewardship, accountability, transparency, discretion, confidentiality and attentiveness.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ann Kasperek *(En)*

Human trafficking is one of the major concerns of Catholic Social Teaching today. It is also a priority of SMR (see General Chapter XXIII documents, English p. 13). One way that the U.S. region works to help eliminate human trafficking is through membership in financially and socially responsible organizations in the United States. Working in collaboration with other religious congregations to stop human trafficking has given me the opportunity to learn more about this serious moral and legal issue. I would be glad to share what I have learned about human trafficking with anyone who is interested.

LITERATURE & POETRY: BROADENING THE VISION

Concepción González-Cánovas *(Sp/En/Fr)*

I am a lover of words. My vision of this presentation is to invite others to sample and savor a variety of literary genres originally written in their own or other languages. The wisdom, beauty, drama, humor, pain and joy of stories can open a new chamber in our hearts. Our small, personal tents expand at the rate we stretch our intellectual and esthetic limits.