



The SSCC SECULAR BRANCH in 2014-2015

June 16th, 2015

Feast of Saint John Francis Regis



Words of the coordinators of the Spiritual Animation Team

Dear ss.cc lay brothers and sisters,

Dear ss.cc religious,

We are now in the month of June when we celebrate the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. These two hearts are an example for us of the love of God for the men and women of this world. Each heart can respond to God in its own way. We are consecrated to the sacred hearts. We are invited and «called» to spread the love which God has for the world, by looking at the Heart of Jesus and by asking Mary to help us to understand the heart of her Son as her mother's heart as always done. Happy Feast of the **Sacred Hearts** and a joyful Feast of **Saint François Régis**, our Patron.

You have in your hands the first edition of information on the ss.cc Secular Branch. This first attempt responds to one of our objectives, to be able "to inform the Congregation about the life of the Secular Branch." This first edition is not complete because of the little information given by the Sectors of the Secular Branch. We hope that there will be a more positive and generous response in the next editions.

We need to remind you that the Secular Branch is growing numerically each year.

- There are around **38 communities** of the Secular Branch in the world.
- These communities are spread out in **35 Sectors**. You should know that there are Provinces where there are one or more sectors.
- And the total number of **members** of the Secular Branch, today June 2015, is **647**.

We thank God for this gift given to the Congregation, to the Church and to different families who benefit from our Charism and spirituality.

We hope that you enjoy a good read and that you will have a little information on the life of our communities of ss.cc laity.

On behalf of the animating team of the Secular Branch

Mary McCloskey, ss.cc.

Camille Sapu, ss.cc.

Words of Pope Francis

PASTORAL LETTER TO ALL CONSECRATED PERSONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

21 November 2014, Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

III. THE HORIZONS OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

1. In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to ***the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission.*** Some Religious Institutes have a long tradition in this regard, while the experience of others is more recent. Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a “charismatic family”, which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.

I urge you, as laity, to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire “family”, so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today. On some occasions when consecrated men and women from different Institutes come together, arrange to be present yourselves so as to give expression to the one gift of God. In this way you will come to know the experiences of other charismatic families and other lay groups, and thus have an opportunity for mutual enrichment and support.

The SSCC Secular Branch in the world

FRANCE – QUEBEC

There are 5 small communities: Poitiers, Paris, Brittany, and Meaux ... and recently Montgeron.

The most recent events in the SB in France:

- The creation of a group in **Montgeron**, as the group in Paris had become too numerous. Fr. André Mark sscC accompanies them. M.A. Roussiale is the animator. On the 24th March they had a day “open doors” and several people expressed an interest.





came to the last meeting. That is a good sign.

- The group from **Meaux** started up again after the departurs of the ss.cc community. Now it will no longer be Fr. Jean Claude Marjou sssc who will accompany them but Fr. Alphonse Fraboulet, along with Charles Pavard. For the moment the group is small.
- In **Brittany**, they have their meetings every three months, due to the distances: twice they were held in Sarzeau with Fr. JC Marjou sssc and once with Fr. Bernard Couronne sssc. Several people from Sarzeau came to the last meeting. That is a good sign.
- On the 7th June, the feast of Corpus Christi, members of the SB in Paris and “the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the Home” met in Picpus. There was a beautiful Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Serge Goubèmon sssc, and the singing led by the choir of Young people from the “Resseau Picpus”. Afterwards Fr. Bernard Couronne sssc led a reflection and sharing on adoration. The day ended with sung vespers.
- Our **national weekend** will take place on the 19th and 20th September, when 10 people will renew their commitment.
- The SB in France publishes a **bulletin** (2 or 3 times a year) with information from each of the communities..

Yours sincerely, *Marie-France Gazan* (coordinator of the Sector)



GERMANY

*There are two communities in Germany, one in the **Eifel** region and the other in the “north”. As well as this the German Sector has another community in **Norway**.*

In our Sector we have had the following important meetings and events:

- The **"summer party"** of the two groups of the SB with other people interested in ss.cc spirituality.
- The **“Dies”**, that is, a day, together with the ss.cc brothers, with the eucharist, a meal together and a sharing about what has been happening throughout the year.



- Two member of the “north” group went to the national meeting of the French SB in Poitiers.



- The Renewal of commitment of members of the “north” took place on the 28th March in **Werne**, with the ss.cc brothers. The fact that we began together, means that we renew commitment together. We try to hold our meetings in the houses of the ss.cc brothers so that we can participate in their moments of prayer, in the mass and be together at meal times.

■ In June, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we participate in the pilgrimage to the ss.cc convent in "**Arnstein**", which is a place of pilgrimage to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**: We are part of the team that takes charge of the pilgrimages. This year has been of special significance as it was the 90th anniversary of this pilgrimage.

(cf. <http://www.sccpicpus.com/fr/nouvelles/un-pelerinage-special-a-arnstein-freres>)



IRELAND – ENGLAND

In the Irish-English Sector, there are two communities, one in Dublin and the other in England, in and outside London.

The **Dublin** group:

- Three new member made their commitments in November 2014.
- We joined our ss.cc brothers and sisters in December for an Advent prayer service.
- We invited people from the parish of **Sruleen** to join us in adoration on the first Tuesday of every month.
- We celebrated the feast of St. Damien with our ss.cc brothers and sisters on the 9th May. This was organized by our brother Harry O’Gara ssc in **Cootehill**.
- We participate with the ss.cc brothers and sisters in the annual retreat in the Emmaus retreat centre from the 9th to 11th June.



Assembly of brothers, sisters and members of the SB,
at Emmaus (Swords), 2014



Community meeting



Meeting with sisters of the General
Government

SPAIN – IBERIA

In the Sector Spain-Iberia there are 3 communities: Madrid, Andalucía and Lisbon

The most significant event for the **Lisbon** group were:

- The commitment of Patricia Gonçalves;
- The meeting with the Provincial of the Iberian Province (brothers);
- The farewell of Fr. Henry Scheepens ssc, who after many years had to return to Holland through illness.
- When Ana Rute (from the SB of Madrid) goes to Lisbon, there is a sharing of news (although there is no official meeting):
- On “mothers’ day” we distributed flowers with messages from the Good Mother for all the mothers who were present at the Eucharist.
- In communication with the community in Madrid, we lament the fact that we have not been able to make a connection via Skype, as had been programmed: we would also like to take advantage of feast days (eg. 1st May) to be able to visit Madrid for 2 or 3 days.



Patrícia Gonçalves



Commitment Celebration, Lisbon

From the **Madrid** community there is no text with information...but there are photos.



A community meeting



The celebration of commitments



Celebrating Damian (St Victor Parish, Madrid)

The same for **Andalucía**



FLANDERS

THE NETHERLANDS



With the general councillors Goyi Marín ssc and Alicia Mamani ssc

POLAND

PARAGUAY - BOLIVIA

In the Sector of Paraguay – Bolivia there are 4 communities. The communities are “baptized”. There are two in Asunción (Paraguay): “Ignacio de Barrios Barreto” (an exemplary member of the SB died) and “P. Javier Jiménez ssc”. In Presidente Franco (Paraguay, some 340 km from the capital Asunción, on the border with Brazil and Argentina) is the community “Buena Madre”, and in La Paz (Bolivia) the community is called “Primitiva”.

The Lay Community *Primitiva* here in **La Paz (Bolivia)** has a 20yr history. Throughout this journey we have experienced the enriching presence of the Holy spirit and the deep love that God has for us. The significant events of these last few months have been:

- In the month of December 2014, six members of our lay community had the celebration of the renewal of our **lay promises**, through which our vocation has been even more strengthened.
- We are firmly convinced of the need to awaken and encourage the birth and accompaniment of **new SS.CC lay communities**. We believe that the charism and the spirituality is to be shared, because we have experienced it as something good in our lives.

Essentially we would like to share two proposals:

1. Deepen the levels of communication and strengthen the lay communities in the world: This could begin with the twice yearly or yearly publication of the Bulletin, which in its content, as well as giving information about the events of the Secular Branch, could create theoretical reflection on our lay vocation, and on our pastoral activity from a lay perspective.
2. Create a global Project of lay missions, if we are convinced that the Congregation is missionary since its origins, the Laity cannot be an exception.

In **Paraguay**,

- In November 2014, we had the first retreat of the two communities in **Asunción** and had two days of reflection and lovely sharing. The retreat was preached by Sr. Lilian Bordon and took place in the sisters' house in Villa Victoria (the sisters' provincial house).
- An evaluation meeting of the Secular branch members' meetings during the year 2014, also in Villa Victoria.
- Celebration of the Feast of the Good Mother (adoration on the 22nd November, mass and lunch on 23rd November).
- In February 2015, a meeting to plan the calendar of meetings to take place in the formation house of the SS.CC sisters. Present at these meetings are SS.CC sisters from the different communities in Asunción, sisters from each one of the communities and members of the Secular Branch from the two communities in Asunción: "Comunidad Ignacio de Barros Barreto" and "Comunidad P. Javier Jimenez."
- The celebration of the Good Father's Feast in the formation house of the brothers.
- Mass and refreshments to celebrate the 60 years of perpetual vows of **Sr. Eulalia Bordetas**, at which were present members of the Secular Branch, some teachers and the parish priest of the SS.CC Parish that is now being run by the diocese).
- The celebration of St. Damien's day with reflection and work in groups, followed by a lunch offered by the two communities of the Secular Branch to celebrate all the ss.cc members and postulants (men and women) and seminarists.



Members of the Secular Branch with Sr. Eulalia at the 60th anniversary of her perpetual vows

- The solemn opening of festivities to celebrate the **50 years** presence of the SS.CC sisters in Paraguay. The members of the Secular Branch will participate in the opening mass, by reading at the liturgy on the 9th and 10th May, in all the parishes in Asunción and Presidente Franco, where there is an ss.cc presence.

A photo of a meeting of members of the two communities of Asunción which took place in **Bañado Sur** (a rubbish dump in the city of Asunción), (where there has been a community of ssc sisters for many years) At the time of the meeting the community was temporarily sheltering in a school belonging to the Jesuits, in the highest part of the barrio, as there had been a flood from the River Paraguay and all the very many families had to leave their homes and were living in squares and streets in higher areas where the water didn't reach.



Nos gustaría resaltar lo fructuoso y placentero del poder convivir tan de cerca, fraternal, y regularmente entre las hermanas, hermanos y miembros de la RS como se ha venido haciendo **por casi 15 años en el Paraguay**. De igual manera, queremos hacer ver que esta convivencia nos motiva y posibilita a todos a vivir como familia.

Another point refers to the efforts we are making to meet and motivate others to join the Secular Branch. We are extending an invitation to 9 or 10 (of whom 8 are married) who have already expressed a desire to make this journey. The first meeting will take place in a parish of the Congregation, after the Sunday mass (possibly on the 7th June, during the novena for the Feast of the SS.CC) and will be open to those parishioners who show and interest in knowing more about the Secular Branch.



BRAZIL

In the Sector of Brazil there are several groups: *Campinas*, *Patrocínio*, *Pindamonhangaba*, *Tijuca*, *Campo Grande*, *Formosa*.



CHILE



New members of the SB in Concepción

ECUADOR

PERU

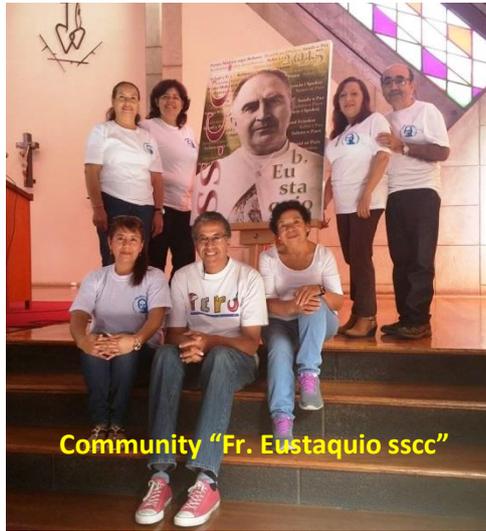
In Lima there are several communities of the SB.



Community "Hector de Cárdenas ssc"



Community "Belén"



Community "Fr. Eustaquio ssc"



Assembly of brothers, sisters and members of the SB, January 2015

UNITED STATES

In the US Sector there are communities of the SB in the area of "New England" (US east), in California and in Hawaii.

In **Hawaii** there are a few highlights:

- Hawaii SB communities sent school and household supplies to Bagong Silang (Manila, The Philippines) in Sept. 2014. This is their 8th annual Project TLC (*Tools to Live and Learn for Children and Families overseas*).



SSCC sisters in Manila, receiving the supplies



With Sr. Vandana Narayan ssc

- Sister Vandana Narayan ssc gave a talk on the SS.CC. Mission in India to the Kauai SB Community in May 2015.

- SB Member William Tulua, who is currently a seminarian gave a formation talk to the Kauai SB Community in June 2014.

- Some of the Oahu SB members attended the Family Night during the Provincial Assembly in November 2014.

- We provided input to Superior General Javier Álvarez-Ossorio's request for the Synod on the family.
- We are extremely pleased with the planning for the 2017 SB Meeting.

In the Hearts,

Aileen Kupihea,
 coordinator.



William Tulua's talk



The Secular Branch in **USA- East Coast** (New England):

We are a "young" branch (not in our personal ages) but in our groups' longevity. Our main mission is group prayer, adoration, and support of the ministry here at the retreat center in **Wareham**. We are very blessed to walk the journey with the pre-novices and have got to know some wonderful men in their discernment process.

We are also blessed to have Sr. Claire Bouchard ssc and Fr. Stan Kolasa ssc, our spiritual guides / mentors. Over the past few months we have had to miss some of our monthly meetings due to significant snow. We hosted the annual Christmas Open House here at the retreat center and we all have



different ministries that we live out in our various parishes and communities (we do not share a common parish).

We are planning our SB. conference, here in the fall and a BIG capital campaign kick-off for our retreat center in October. Hope this helps and I will be talking with my members next week for future comments.

God bless and all honor and glory to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Margaret Boutiette, Coordinator.

From the SB in the **East Coast (California)** we have this picture (January 15, 2014) with Javier Álvarez-Ossorio ssc.



ÁFRICA

In Africa there are two Sectors: 3 communities in Kinshasa (Congo) and a community in Boane (Mozambique).

In **Kinshasa** (Congo):

- From the 31st January to 1st February the **General Election Assembly** took place;
- On the 17th February we had a meeting of the **new coordination team** for the SB in Kinshasa with the **provincials** of the Province of Africa (brothers and sisters);
- On the 5th April 2015, on Easter Sunday, there was a meeting of the SB in Kinshasa with sisters from the **ss.cc General Government** Alicia Mamani and Goyi Marín, who were on the canonical visit here in Kinshasa;

- On Sunday the 19th April 2015, we had the commitment of 2 **new members** and the renewal for 3 years of 3 other members.
- We have a “**Life Project of the Sector**” and a “**Calendar**” for 2015 of the activities of the sector. We also have an email address for the SB: bseculsscckin@gmail.com



Members of the SB in Kinshasa with the sisters from the General Government

Boane (Mozambique)



Members of the SB in Boane with Goyi Marín and Alicia Mamani, sisters of the General Government

INDONESIA

In Asia there the SB is only in **Indonesia**



On the **Feast of Saint Damien**, Sunday 10th May 2015, ten Indonesian members of the SSCC Secular Branch declared their commitment during a celebration in **Damien Seminary in Bandung**. Six members made their first commitment, while four members renewed their commitment for three years.

Alongside the Sisters' and Brothers' Branches of the Sacred Hearts Congregation in Indonesia, the Secular Branch is also growing slowly but surely. It is everyone's hope that the future of our Congregation is being planted during these days in the country that is known to be the largest Archipelago in the world, and with a population of 256 million placed as the fourth highest populated country in the world, after China, India and USA.

FRENCH POLYNESIA



<http://www.sccpicpus.com/en/secular-branch-508>

This is the link to the website of the Congregation where you can find plenty of material on the SSCC SECULAR

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