

## PHILIPPINE PROVINCE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

# BALITAAN

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Issue No. 2 - August 18, 2014

**Sister Mercy Ang** is our missionary in Japan. She wrote: Alam mo, no daily mass kami dito, Sunday mass only and maybe less than 20 people at Mass. The church is like a matchbox, so small! Today, we went to mass in another city, Kai, one and only Mass every Friday. My! it is so far, like traveling from Ayala to Sta. Rosa. We even passed through a very long tunnel. Both material and spiritual poverty sa life ko dito plus lahat traditional Japanese food without oil. But we are enjoying huge fresh peaches from our neighbors – very sweet and juicy and cooling, it's the season now. This area is known for first class peaches and grapes and of course wine! I am like in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world Mindanao, not first world Japan! Temperature is 37 degrees and grabe ang humidity.

**Sister Olga Cristobal** is in USA and she will be a missionary in Albania. She says: "Albania, here I come! "I do not wish it said any longer that I am French... I belong to every country where there are souls to save." These words of Mother Foundress inspired me to go to Albania. Let me share with you a bit about the country. Albania, officially known as the Republic of Albania is a country in Southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Montenegro to the Northwest, Kosovo to the Northeast, Macedonia to the East and Greece to the South and Southeast.

There are two Sisters working there: Sr. Mirjam in the South-Tirana and Sr. Lalini in the North – Korce. They work with Human Trafficking, IGP with Roma girls, teaching Catechism in the Parish and Pastoral work in the villages. I will be assigned in Tirana, the capital of Albania. I will work with Human Trafficking. Since I cannot speak the language, I will work with the English speaking.

I will be leaving on Aug. 11, Feast of St. Clare who embraced poverty and simplicity of life. What a symbolic feast! I am going to a country with extreme poverty, high unemployment, with limited resources for education, medical and dental. Ten percent are Catholics, ten percent are Orthodox and eighty percent are Moslems.

Good news! Pope Francis is going to Shkodra, Albania on Sept. 23, 2014. It is a two hour drive from Tirana. It has the most Catholic population. He will celebrate Mass in the morning and in the afternoon he will meet with the Religious. Sr. Mirjam and I will have the privilege to meet him. I am excited and fearful to go! Your blessings and prayers strengthen me. I carry with me Jesus' words: "Fear not, I am with you always!" and St. Mary Euphrasia's words: "Courage, go forward!"

Here is Olga's email:  
[srolgargs@gmail.com](mailto:srolgargs@gmail.com)

**Sister Rosalina Wee** is in Taiwan. She said: It is very mainit here. A big disaster in Koashiung, another city. The town gas burst and the road and buildings were all destroyed, looks like there was an earthquake. Good that it happened at night, there were not too many people around.

**Sister Elizabeth Garciano, CGS** writes from Florissant, Missouri, USA: Sr. Madge's Golden Jubilee (Sr. Magdalena Oliva, CGS) was held on July 20, 2014. Her's was a very simple celebration, she just wanted to renew her vows and celebrate with the community without visitors and guests. In fact, she did not even invite her sisters. However, since her sisters knew of it even when she was still in Austria, they came to celebrate with her. They did not forget the date! Two Sisters, a niece and her one year old grandnephew were present for this significant celebration. Her sister, Sister Mary Soledad, OP stationed in Oxnard, California stayed with us for three days while her other sister who resides in Florida stayed with her daughter in Columbia, Missouri, a two hour-drive from Florissant where we reside. Our mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., the usual time for Sunday masses here. Just a few parishioners were present. It was celebrated by Fr. John Nikolai, a young priest, only 2 years ordained. Our local leader, Sr. Sharon Rose invited him for lunch which we had at 1:00 p.m. We had a lovely time together at lunch. I cooked fresh lumpia, chicken and potato salad. We had cake and ice cream for dessert. Sr. Madge enjoyed her day! She was happy to have her family around especially her one year old grandnephew

who was the center of attraction. She said: "I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever."

Sr. Madge works in the Altar Bread department and is the sacristan of the community. I am in the Vocation Ministry. I attend the Mid-north America Assemblies and Chapter, and other preparations for the Congregational Chapter. Sr. Madge prefers to stay home. We had adjusted well especially with the language. By September 30 we will go to our Bayang Magiliw, stay for a month and come back on November 3, 2014. Meanwhile we are getting ready to move out of Florissant. Our new home will be in the compound of the Province Center in Natural Bridge Road. We ask you to accompany us during this time of transition.

**Sr. Mary Rita Danganan** returned to Korea August 13, 2014. The ashes of her brother Conrado Danganan arrived from USA August 2 and the wake was in our Chapel till August 5. After the 10:00 a.m. Mass that day, Conrado was buried beside his wife at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

Sister Mary Rita wants to thank all of you (Sisters) for the prayers, comfort and support that you gave her during the days of her bereavement. Grateful thanks to all the sisters at 1043 who were with her during the wake and stayed with her until her brother was buried. Her relatives said: "Kay bait ng mga sisters!" Sister Mary Rita is truly grateful!

**Sr. Mary Juliet Abrigo** is back to Blessed Maria Droste Infirmary. She had her hysterectomy August 9 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital where she voluntarily gave up her many nurtured "Mayomas." She related that during her surgery, after

she was opened, the doctors were surprised to see her fatty tissues in orange color instead of the usual yellow. Then her forearms turned orange and her cheeks too. The doctors were alarmed and in wonder, but only until after Sister Juliet whispered to them, "Doc, it is because I drink carrot juice everyday!" No wonder! The orange color disappeared when she was in the recovery room.

**Sister Mary Teresita Figueroa** left our Bayang Magiliw August 14, eve of Our Lady's Assumption, for Rome. From Rome she will get her visa to Kenya. During the Provincial Chapter last March 2014, the "Spirit (truly) fired her to risk for Mission" and right then and there she approached Sr. Brigid and volunteered to go to Kenya, Africa to help in the Formation Program. Sister is a member of the International Committee on Formation and the Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Formation Group. We will surely miss Tess' presence here at 1043 Aurora Boulevard who has been here in the different communities since 1990 except for one year she was in Legazpi. Our love and

prayers accompany Sister Tess to her new Mission.

Tess' Email: [tessfigueroa@yahoo.com](mailto:tessfigueroa@yahoo.com)

**NEWSBITS:** From Ecuador – Sister Gina writes: Here in Ecuador, the sisters celebrate the Independence Day of Korea and India, plus the day of mothers in Costa Rica.

**Sr. Terry Danganan** will undergo surgery Aug. 18 at Lourdes Hospital to remove gall stones. Please pray for her swift recovery. CP:0920 605 9777

Her email: [srterryrgs@gmail.com](mailto:srterryrgs@gmail.com)

**Interfaith gathering** for Peace and Solidarity for the people in Palestine was held Aug. 13, 2014 in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila. RGS attended this gathering. Sr. Elen Belardo led the interfaith prayers.

**The Eudist Fathers and Seminarians** celebrated their Founders' Day Aug. 16 and we were all invited to join them in the Eucharistic celebration. A brief program, and lunch buffet followed. Open House was from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.