

A Time for Remembrance, Appreciation and Gratitude

“Beautiful Africa! Oh my God, how I love it!” St Mary Euphrasia

What joy it was to be in Angola to witness the inauguration of the Sr Susan Marie Chia Training Centre held on 15 August 2017.

We thank the Province of Angola for inviting us to this significant occasion. The warm welcome and love extended to us by every sister and mission partner we met was much appreciated. They spared no effort in making us feel at home, and as Sr Lucy said at one of our sharing sessions in Angola, “I feel so at home here, I feel I am with family.”



Being accompanied by Sr Rita almost every step of the way during our stay was reassuring. She ensured our safety, comfort and most importantly, she patiently explained to us the history of Angola, the culture, the struggles of the people, the founding and ministries of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Angola and the challenges they faced. The time we spent at meetings with Sisters and Lay Mission Partners in Kicolo and Talatona helped us to understand better the works that are being carried out in Angola. We appreciate the perseverance of the Sisters, their audacity and courage to carry out the Good Shepherd mission in Angola regardless of the many difficulties or dangers.

The visit was also a time for us to re-connect with all the sisters who came to Singapore for the English and formation sessions in late 2015 and early 2016.

About the Centre

The objective of the Centre is to provide literacy and skills training aimed at empowering the local women with business start-up and employment opportunities.

Some of the courses available at the Centre are English language, literacy, computer skills, basic business skills, cooking, baking and sewing. In addition, the Centre will provide job placement services for its graduates.

1,200 women are expected to participate in the programmes annually.



Sr Susan Marie Chia Training Centre, Luanda

Inauguration Day, 15 August 2017





The Inauguration was attended by Ms Manuela Maria da Concepcion Bezerra, Administrator of Talatona, Luanda, Angola.



Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Filomeno do Nascimento Vieira Dias



Sr Marcelina holding the key to the Centre



Ribbon-cutting ceremony by Archbishop Filomemo & Sr Lucy Chia





Artwork painted by the Sisters during the session in Singapore in 2015/16



This training center is dedicated to Susan Marie Chia a Good Shepherd sister who demonstrated her zeal and leadership at universal level within the congregation. We are grateful to her for the example she has given us for many years in support of the development of the mission for the poorest and marginalized.

Este Centro de formação é dedicado a Sr. Susan Marie Chia, religiosa de Nossa S...

... Susan Marie Chia, religiosa de liderança na Congregação com Espírito Universal. Estamos gratos pelo exemplo que nos deixou, de seu grande amor pelos pobres e marginalizados e pelo seu empenho no desenvolvimento da missão.

Sharing by Cecilia and Agnes Ee

When our friends and mission partners heard about the planned visit to Angola, many expressed concerns for our safety. On 12 August, we landed in Luanda airport and was met by Sr Marcelina who welcomed us warmly.

The experience at Kicolo where we spent a night, and our five nights at Talatona, was an eye opener and made us realise how much we take for granted what we have in Singapore, especially the aspect of physical safety. That aside, it was so good to catch up with the Sisters who came to Singapore two years ago. The stories of their civil war experience were heart-breaking. We hope and pray for God's continued protection for each one of them.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the visit was our participation at the official opening of the Sr Susan Marie Chia Training Centre which brought tears and memories of our dear friend Susan. It was evident that she was much loved and missed by everyone who was connected with her in one way or another in Angola. We are grateful for the opportunity to be present at the opening ceremony and we thank the Good Shepherd Sisters for their hospitality, love and care during our stay there.



At the Sewing Room, with sewing machines sponsored by friends from Singapore



With Mission Partners working at the Centre. Special thanks to Bernardino & Paulo for spending time with us despite their busy schedule.