

Gratitude is the Memory of the Heart

St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

The Missionary Sisters who were honoured guests at the Golden Jubilee celebrations express their gratitude for the rich experiences they shared with the sisters of the Northeast Asia Province

From Sister Maryanne Terrenel

On May 19, 2016, exactly fifty years to the day when American Sisters Rose Virginia Hayes and Mary of the Sacred Heart Willig, both now deceased, opened their Good Shepherd Convent in Ok Pong, South Korea, the Northeast Province of the Good Shepherd Congregation celebrated their Golden Jubilee of Foundation in the Provincial House located in Chun Chon City, two hours by car east of Seoul City, South Korea.

In response to the saying of Mother Foundress that 'Gratitude is the memory of the heart' Sister Marie Jean Bae, the current Province Leader, sent an invitation to the foreign missionaries who had once been missioned to Korea. And the golden jubilee celebration centered on these ex-Korean missionaries. Province Leadership Team member Sister Marie Stella Rhee, and Formation Directress Sister Melania Jung, prepared an Itinerary that brought the ex-missionaries everywhere.

On May 19 there was a thanksgiving Mass in the parish church. The Mass was offered by retired Archbishop Chang Ik, formerly Bishop of Chun Chon Diocese, and concelebrating with him were around 40 priests. There were around 40 Good Shepherd Sisters. Sister Marie Jean Bae welcomed all in the Congregation and also the Bishop and many priests who were in Seoul at the funeral of another Bishop, a brother of the current Chun Chon bishop. The Homily was beautiful, and after Communion there was a video presentation of the history

of the Good Shepherd Congregation. American Sister Eileen Robinson, one of the original Sisters of the Korea foundation, also spoke into the video.

After the Mass there was a big luncheon attended by all those who were at the Mass. Each visitor also received as a souvenir a calendar with daily quotes from St. Mary Euphrasia.

The following day the foreign missionaries were brought to Nami Island, where the movie *Winter Sonata* had been filmed. Many of us had been to Nami Island before, but the place has been transformed into a veritable show place. We were also brought to RAIL PARK, something new for most of us who had lived in Seoul before.

It was a great experience to visit all the different ministries, both in Chun Chon and Seoul, in which the Korea Sisters are involved. In each house we were shown the various rooms, watched a video describing their apostolate, and visited with the girls and women in residence. In one house we met Sr. Johanna Yong, just arrived from the Generalate where she is local leader, since finishing her term as Province leader in Northeast Asia. She was late for the Golden Jubilee Mass because the day coincided with the date she took her Immigration Test in Rome.

Those who attended the celebration were the following:

***Sr. Mary Juliana Devoy**, first provincial of the Korea province after its separation from the Philippine Province whence had come the foundresses of the Korea Mission. (The foundresses were American Sisters missioned then to the Philippines. They were soon joined by other American sisters directly from Los Angeles, and Filipino Sisters directly from Manila.) Sr. Mary Juliana, American, is now a retired missionary but still actively working in Macao.

***Sr. Mary Rita Danganan** from the Philippines, who had worked in South Korea for 44 years as formator and local leader, and took care of foundress Sr. Anna Marie Willig, formerly Sr. Sacred Heart, till she died .

***Sr. Mary Pamela Volland**, American, serving in Beijing outwardly as nurse, but internally as Good Shepherd housemother for 11 single mothers.

***Sr. Mary Bonaventure Mirasol**, Filipino, retired, in Bangkok, after being secretary to 3 Province leaders.

***Sr. Maryanne Terrenal**, Filipino, retired, in St. Bridget School, Buhi, Camarines Sur, which she had helped to establish before her Korea assignment.

***Sr. Mary Joanna Le**, Vietnamese, currently formator of 13 young Vietnamese Sisters temporarily professed, in Ho Chi Minh. She made her Final Vows in Chun Chon, in 1985, in the Korean language.

***Sr. Mary Felicitas Nisperos**, Filipino, in charge of Hong Kong Archdiocesan OFW. She was never missioned in South Korea but came regularly for the Provincial Council Meetings.

***Sr. Mary Rita** of Indonesia, assistant manager of Sr. Felicitas. This was her first visit to Seoul, but she belongs to the Northeast Asia Province.

Sister Marie Jean, and all the Sisters of the Northeast Asia Province, we are so proud of the Northeast Asia Province of the Good Shepherd Congregation. Congratulations!

And thank you for inviting us here for this great celebration.

From Sister Pamela Marie Volland

Loving greetings from Beijing!

You and all the Sisters did a marvelous job! A million thanks! It was such a special treat for me to be with you! I thought especially of Srs Anna Marie, Rose Virginia, Eileen Robinson and how much they would have enjoyed being present. Well two of them were present from heaven and Sr. Eileen was with us in spirit!

I feel badly only for one thing. As a foreign missionary, I felt honored to be invited to participate in the celebrations. And we were given special mention and introduced to the assembly. That was a special honor. But the thing I regret (and I only thought of it after I returned to Beijing!!) is that, after being honored as a missionary, I did not, in turn, honor our current Korean missionary Sisters! Even if

they labor within our Province, still they also have left their country, culture and language and beat their brains trying to learn another difficult language.

I think of those who have served as Superiors in our Province (Srs Therese Song (Hong Kong) John Kang (Macau), Virginia Kim (Taiwan), Gabriella Kim (Macau) also, Sr. Johanna Yong in Rome, Aesun Hyun in Kenya, Euphrasia Park, Ignatius Cho and Pauline Kim in China, Theresa Kim and Serapina Park in France. I did not include here those who are abroad for one year exposure or language study but you would know who else. I am sure I did not mention all.

So, belated as I am, I still would like to honor all these dear Sisters! Much love to you all and a million thanks for all you ARE and DO for our Province and Congregation!

Sr. Pamela Marie Volland

From Sister Bonaventure Mirasol

Dear Sisters,

I just want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to visit Korea again. Part of my heart is in Korea, as you know!

My impression:

"I am overwhelmed with joy by the blessings the Lord has given our humble beginnings. I can see the tremendous growth by the number of Sisters and the ministries we have here. The Good Shepherd is never outdone in His guidance and love for his sheep. I continue to pray for our Korean mission and may you have many good vocations in the future."

With love and prayers,
Sr. Bonaventure Mirasol