



**NEWSLETTER VOL. 1 No. 2
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This newsletter highlights some significant events of the past ten months.

**INTERNSHIP AT SYNERGIC
SYSTEMS – MERIDEN, CT
JANUARY 2012**

While Sr. Virgilia was a student in La Crosse she, along with Sr. Kathleen, expressed the desire to learn web design at the Synergic Systems, one of the services of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. They addressed an appeal to Mother Shaun, the Superior of the FSE, who spontaneously welcomed the idea and expressed her readiness to welcome them in her community.

Sr. Virgilia left for Meriden on Monday, January 2, 2012. Sr. Virgilia recounted: *As it is well known, one of the procedures of getting an internship in any company is to go through an interview. I had to undergo my interview the evening I arrived at Paul VI convent at Meriden. The first question I had for my interview was to identify each Sister in the FSE community by her name. Thanks be to God, I was able to identify each sister and was readily qualified to be admitted as a candidate for the internship at the Synergic Systems.*

The internship was under the direction of Sister Kieran Foley, learning how to construct web sites using Dreamweaver software. Thanks to Sr. Kieran, who used skillful teaching methods, the essentials needed to create a website were accomplished. A new website for the Cameroon Province will be launched in the very near future.

My time spent with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist was a great opportunity to experience another aspect of the Franciscan values. Each encounter with the Sisters brought me deep joy and fulfillment, said Sr. Virgilia.

In spite of the limited time available, Sr. Kieran not only concentrated on teaching how to design a good web site but also made sure that Sr. Virgilia visited a few companies where there was an IT department to augment her knowledge of the IT field.



**Sr. Kathleen and Sr. Virgilia
GRADUATION FROM WTC**

Sisters Kathleen Shela and Virgilia Zamah graduated “with honors” from Western Technical College (WTC) in La Crosse on May 11, 2012. Sr. Kathleen completed three concentrations including computer support systems, networking, and computer administration. Sr. Virgilia completed the computer support concentration.

While Sisters Virgilia and Kathleen were living at St. Rose Convent, Sisters Mildred Tigges and Antona Schedlo FSPA provided support in various ways such as tutoring, organizing, driving, finding winter clothing for them, etc. Sister Mary Avila FSPA, a resident at St. Rose, made 100 rosaries to send back to Cameroon with them. Sister Genny Morrissey FSPA raised between \$8 and \$9,000 for children’s education in Cameroon.

The opportunity to study in the United States at the invitation of Dr. Lee Rasch, president of WTC and founder of the Friends of Cameroon, was for Sisters Kathleen and Virgilia definitely an experience of mutual learning for our Common Venture communities.

TSSF GENERAL CHAPTER PREPARATION COMMISSION



The TSSF General Chapter Preparation Commission met in Hall, Austria from July 2-12, 2012. Twelve Sisters representing the provinces of Hall, Brixen, and Cameroon and the Region of Bolivia met with Mother Maria Theresia Oberwalder and members of the General Council from July 8-12, 2012. Because Sisters Marcia Lunz OSF and Marlene Weisenbeck FSPA will be facilitating the General Chapter for the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis in 2013, they were present with the commission for the purpose of preparing for and designing the work of the Chapter in 2013.

The first day of work emphasized values as energies which prompts us to choose one thing over another. An intuitive response as well as a purposeful analysis of the chapter surveys resulted in moving toward recommended themes for the chapter.



Using Clare of Assisi's *Gaze Upon Christ* letter to Agnes of Prague, the second day focused on creating TSSF "faces" that mirrored the communal face of TSSF. With faces in hand the sisters were invited to examine alternative models for the composition of the chapter

which could serve as a mirror of the congregation.

The final days were spent in "Gathering the Fragments" of the entire meeting. This included 1) clarifying recommendations, 2) discussing ways in which the commission members could support the province's election of delegates through preparing the members about the role of a general chapter and the role of delegates in the chapter, 3) suggesting specific content, and 4) outlining the remaining tasks for both the general administration and the chapter commission.

The General Chapter has now been announced to the congregation. It will take place in Brixen, Italy from July 14-August 4, 2013.



(By way of history, Sister Marlene Weisenbeck FSPA, with the assistance of Sister Ann Clare Keeler FSE, facilitated the last General Chapter of 2007 in which the TSSF Constitutions were revised.)

SEPTEMBER 2012 COMMON VENTURE MEETING IN MILWAUKEE



Attending the September 2012 Common Venture meeting in Milwaukee were (back row) Eileen Lang FSPA, David Sauer, Shaun Vergauwen FSE, Euphrasia Yuh TSSF, Diana DeBruin OSF, Barbara Cline FSE, Georgia Christensen FSPA, Marie Therese Diang TSSF, Miriam Seiferman FSE, Nicole Nchanji TSSF, and (front row) Margaret Kruse OSF, Virgilia Zamah TSSF, Marla Lang FSPA, Gabrielle Kowalski OSF, Linda Mershon FSPA, Alexine Munteh TSSF. Not pictured but attending were Florence Deacon OSF, Joanne Meyer OSF, Ann Kelley OSF, Joyce Meyer PBVM and Marlene Weisenbeck FSPA. Alphonsa Magdalene TSSF attended part of the meeting via skype from Rome.