At the beginning of September Teresian Sisters from Europe, Africa, and the Americas arrived in Rome for the XVII General Chapter of the congregation. Sr. Gina Geraci, Sr. Marina Aranzabal and Sr. Bertha Montiel represented the Teresians in the U.S. Held every six years, the General Chapter elects new leadership, gives direction, and suggests lines of action for the coming six years. Prior to this meeting in Rome, the sisters participated in regional and Provincial meetings in preparation for the General Chapter. Therefore, this Chapter is the end result of the work of all the sisters during his past year.

On September 4, Sr. Asuncion Codes, General Coordinator, welcomed the sisters to the Chapter, and we celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, the spirit of prayer, community, and joy permeated our gathering.

The first few days were dedicated to learning about the life and the apostolic activity of the Teresian Sisters in 22 countries. On September 8, we welcomed eleven lay members of the Teresian Family who had been invited to work with us. Lena Jo Rodriguez, from Sacred Heart School in Uvalde, Texas was with us during this section of the Chapter as we studied the working document and shared our insights and learnings.

We felt that the Spirit was leading us to commit ourselves to protect all life and our planet, to deepen into our Teresian educational charism and to establish channels of reconciliation among all people. Following the directives of Pope Francis, we also felt called to reach out to young people and to support them in their journey of faith.

A highlight of our time in Rome was the Papal Audience on Wednesday, September 13. Pope Francis spoke to us about the need for reconciliation and forgiveness. Following the final blessing we were invited to stand by the steps of St. Peter's basilica and to wait for the arrival of Pope Francis. After greeting the pilgrims, he walked towards us. We sang St. Teresa's: "Let Nothing Trouble You". Pope Francis greeted the sisters and asked us to pray for him. We assured him that we would, and he gave us a thumbs up sign while he smiled at us!

We also went on pilgrimage to Assisi and celebrated the Eucharist at the Basilica of St. Francis and prayed at his tomb. This visit to St. Francis' tomb really touched our hearts.

On September 19-20, we elected our new leadership, and during the remaining days, we dealt with business matters that are important for the Society.

The Chapter ended on September 24 with a beautiful closing Mass celebrated by a Carmelite priest who spoke to us about St. Teresa and St. Henry de Ossó. We ended the Mass by singing "All for Jesus!"

Our task of living out the Spirit of this Chapter now begins as we return to our countries and put our agreements into action. **ALL FOR JESUS!**

-Sr. Marina Aranzabal STJ
Kyra Cook is a former parishioner of Ascension of Our Lord Church in La Place, La., where she volunteered as a catechist with the Parish School of Religion Program for about six years. In a desire to grow in a deeper relationship with God, she enrolled in a series of workshops sponsored by the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center. Kyra was convinced that God was calling her to a major change in her life, and continued her discernment through ongoing spiritual direction. Soon Kyra found herself discerning the possibility of a vocation to religious life. She communicated with several religious communities including the Teresian Sisters. Kyra’s natural attraction to St. Teresa and her experience of our community and prayer life were the catalyst that would confirm God’s call to become a Teresian Sister.

On Saturday, June 3, 2017 Kyra entered the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus during vespers at the St. Henry de Ossó Chapel in Covington. The sisters from New Orleans and Covington gathered to celebrate Kyra’s entrance along with a few friends and Kyra’s father. We rejoice with Kyra in this first step of her journey in religious life and pray that St. Teresa and St. Henry de Ossó may continue to guide her. All for Jesus!

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From the Provincial

On behalf of the Sisters, I want to thank you for your prayers for the 17th General Chapter of the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus, which we hope and pray will bear much fruit. Sixty-two delegates from all over the Teresian world, eleven lay women and men, and seven General Team members gathered at the Generalate in Rome from September 3-24 to discern the Spirit’s lead.

Together we affirmed that we Teresians have much to learn, but we also have much to offer in the committed spirituality of Teresa of Jesus and Henry de Ossó. The process we lived during the Chapter led us to assume the ethics of care as a means that generates a new way of relationship with God and with the whole of creation, putting the entire treasure of the Teresian educational charism at the service of the care of life and of our common home. Care is the new name of solidarity! This will require a new way of being, of producing, of consuming, and of relating to each other and to our immediate environment; this will have vast consequences in our daily lives and in our educational mission.

Nothing of what we say and wish for in the years ahead can be done by ourselves alone. Sisters and laity together — as the Teresian Family — share the mission entrusted to all of us. We are convinced that the Teresian educational charism remains a life-giving alternative in the new scenarios of the world in which we find ourselves.

As we take this big step, we open ourselves with hope to this task and are thankful for the pathways we have traveled together as a Teresian Family. It is a great work that we undertake and we know that God goes with us. With St. Teresa and St. Henry as our guides, let us advance! 

-Sr. Gina Geraci, STJ

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Thank You!

Thanks to the Teresians in Action, the sisters’ convent in Miami was boarded up on September 9, a day and a half in advance of Hurricane Irma’s arrival. Orfa de Arma’s husband and Heydi Morice’s future son-in-law covered all the windows of the house with wood.

After the hurricane, members of the group, along with good friends and neighbors provided the sisters with food, drinks, ice, batteries and battery powered fans for the days they were without electricity.

All of you ARE the Teresian Family, and we are deeply humbled by and grateful for your care and concern for your sisters! May everyone who has experienced the destructive power of a hurricane this season be as richly blessed as we are!

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Congratulation and Welcome to Our New Pre-Novice, Kyra Cook

Kyra Cook is a former parishioner of Ascension of Our Lord Church in La Place, La., where she volunteered as a catechist with the Parish School of Religion Program for about six years. In a desire to grow in a deeper relationship with God, she enrolled in a series of workshops sponsored by the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center. Kyra was convinced that God was calling her to a major change in her life, and continued her discernment through ongoing spiritual direction. Soon Kyra found herself discerning the possibility of a vocation to religious life. She communicated with several religious communities including the Teresian Sisters. Kyra’s natural attraction to St. Teresa and her experience of our community and prayer life were the catalyst that would confirm God’s call to become a Teresian Sister.

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Do you know someone who might have a vocation?
Contact: Sr. Clarice Suchy, STJ
e-mail: claricestj@yahoo.com
Phone: (210)532-7303

-STJ Vocation Corner

Listen for God’s voice in the stillness!

-Sr. Gloria Murillo
Continental Encounter of Teresian Apostolic Movement

From July 5-11, delegates of the Teresian Apostolic Movement-TAM (Movimiento Teresiano Apostolico–MTA) from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and the United States gathered in Managua, Nicaragua for a time of encounter and planning for the future of TAM on the continental level. The purpose of the meeting was to connect the different countries and to collaborate in the work of improving TAM by creating a plan and common vision for the future.

The representatives from the United States, pictured to the left, were Alitza Vega, Carolina Rivas, Heydi Morice, Ana Luisa Ortega and Sr. Bertha Lorena Montiel. During the meeting a new continental team was elected for the coming six years. The new team for 2017-2023, pictured below, consists of Josefina Ferrer from Uruguay, Nayibe Dergal from Mexico, Yuri de Souza from Brazil and Ana Luisa Ortega from the United States. Sr. Claudia Callejas from Nicaragua is the Continental delegate. This team will help foster, encourage and recreate ways of living out the Teresian charism in TAM. They will also facilitate the communication and sharing of ideas, projects and resources among the various countries.

Our time together was enriching and unforgettable. Our days of encounter invited us to continue to think outside the box, to create closer bonds and to continue being transformed from within.

-A na Luisa (Wicha) Ortega

Teresian Associates Gathering in Covington, LA

Excitement buzzed around the Covington property in July as Teresian Sisters and Associates gathered from Florida, Louisiana and Texas for three days of reflection and sharing. The Associates were presented with a challenge to live an encounter with Jesus in the spirit of St. Henry de Ossó and St. Teresa of Jesus. Ana Luisa Ortega, an Associate from Florida, discussed the importance of the laity in the global Teresian Family and its projects. The group was missioned and commissioned to restore all things in Christ with the same determined determination as St. Teresa and St. Henry de Ossó.
The annual Batesville Mission took place this year from June 9-17. Several volunteers, pre-novices Kyra Cook and Alice Snee, and Sisters Dolores Aviles, Bertha Montiel and Clarice Suchy worked with the children of St. Patrick’s Mission throughout the week. The children enjoyed games, skits, arts and crafts, prayer and music as they learned more about their faith and how to trust in God in difficult times.

Youth Retreat in La Pryor, Texas

On May 27-28, the youth from La Pryor and Batesville gathered for a retreat led by the youth group from Mary, Queen Peace Church in Mandeville, LA. The theme for the weekend was ALIVE! All the presentations, as well as the songs used during the weekend encouraged the youth to become ALIVE IN CHRIST! On Saturday evening there was a special time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an invitation to follow Jesus more closely. All those present expressed their desire to commit themselves to live their lives with and for Jesus. The retreat ended with the 1:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph’s Church in LaPryor. Sr. Bertha, Sr. Marina and Elise Bennet, Youth Minister at Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Mandeville planned and coordinated the retreat which was a huge success. Plans are ongoing for another youth retreat in the Spring on 2018.

Providing Assistance to People Affected by Hurricane Harvey

Catholic Charities in San Antonio has collected and distributed more than 4 million dollars in donations for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Trucks of water, food, clothing, diapers, and cleaning supplies were sent to Victoria, Corpus Christi, and Houston. Hundreds of volunteers gathered on different days to load the trucks and caravan the supplies to Catholic Charities locations in each of these affected areas. We are grateful for the generosity of so many people. What a wonderful display of solidarity with and care for our brothers and sisters!
Sr. Marina Aranzabal celebrated the 50th anniversary of her religious profession on May 3. Shortly after her profession in Tortosa, Spain, she was transferred to the United States. Sr. Marina has ministered in several schools and parishes in the Archdioceses of New Orleans and San Antonio for the past 50 years. We give thanks to God for 50 years of blessings as a Teresian Sister!

Sonia was also unassuming, quietly using her experience and knowledge for the sake of others. Most of us were unaware that she held a degree in nursing or that she had tirelessly confronted social injustices throughout her professional life. We only knew that Sonia was a woman of deep faith, generous to all, committed to a life of service and providing for the needs of others. In later years, she faithfully visited our sisters at St. Francis Nursing Home, and never empty-handed; she always brought a special treat wherever she went.

Sonia's family and the Teresian Sisters will miss her greatly. For so many of us, Sonia was a model for holiness, who inspired us to be holy, and to love and trust in our Lord, commending our prayers to our Blessed Mother.

50 Years of Blessings!

Welcome!

Sr. Giselle Gomez, STJ, a member of the general team in Rome for the past 12 years, is returning to the U.S. where she made her novitiate. While taking classes at St. Mary's University and working at the Mexican American Catholic College from October 20-January 10, she will live with our sisters in San Antonio. Sr. Giselle says she is happy and grateful to be back, if only for a few months. Welcome!

Intensive Spanish Course at MACC

During the month of July, pre-novices Alice Snee and Kyra Cook spent a month in San Antonio taking an intensive pastoral Spanish class at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC). In this course they learned vocabulary and basic grammar, practiced their conversational skills and pronunciation, and learned more about Hispanic culture and religious practices.

They also had the opportunity to get to know all of the sisters in San Antonio and learn more about the various ministries the sisters are involved in. They enjoyed visiting with the sisters at St. Francis and sharing their experiences with them. It was a positive, if at times challenging, experience for both of them.
Teresian Family Bingo, Miami

Another successful Teresian Family Bingo was held on April 30 in Miami. Many friends, families and former students enjoyed an afternoon of fun. Special thanks to the Teresianas en Acción for all their work in planning, organizing and running this event. We are blessed by your presence and partnership with us.

Offering of Flowers to Mary, Miami

The annual Rock-N-Bowl was held on June 4. Many of our friends, co-workers and associates enjoyed a fun evening of bowling, wonderful music and delicious food. Special thanks to all those on the coordinating and planning committee for making this a very successful and delightful evening.
Congratulations to our raffle winners!

First Prize: June & Ken Cognevich (New Orleans)
Second Prize: Arcela Santos (Uvalde)
Third Prize: Roberto & Maria E. Ibarra (Coral Gables)
Fourth Prize: Maria Martinez (Coral Gables)
Fifth Prize: Teresian Sisters (San Antonio)

San Antonio
Sunday, November 19, 2017
Mass at 3:00 p.m.
New Frontiers Charter School, 4018 S. Presa, San Antonio, TX
(parking and entrance through Fair Avenue)
For more information: Teresian Sisters (210) 532-7303

WE NEED YOU...
...to help us update our data base. We have moved from an Excel Spreadsheet to an internet based software program. The new program provides fields to personalize information for each person in our database. We are anxious to identify all of our alumni, parents, colleagues, family, and friends!
When you receive your survey in late November or early December, you will note that most of the questions are in the form of a checklist. The survey also provides an area for you to write about yourself and your connection with the Teresians sisters. You are important to us and a special part of our Teresian family. Please complete the survey and return it to us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Good Friday in Covington, LA

A beautiful outdoor service of the Stations of the Cross was held at the Teresian Spirituality Center on Good Friday. About 70 members of the Hispanic community gathered in the evening for prayer and some light refreshments. They were accompanied by Fr. Angel Diaz, OP and Sr. Marina Aranzabal, STJ.
Mission Statement

Inspired by St. Teresa of Jesus and St. Henry de Ossó, we Teresian Sisters are a community of consecrated women who collaborate with others in bringing forth the reign of God. Through prayer, education and evangelization, we seek to know and love Jesus and to make Him known and loved by all. We are called to be prophetic signs of God’s merciful love: protecting Creation, proclaiming the dignity of all people, and defending justice, in solidarity with the poor and marginalized.

Save the Date

October 15
Family Day in Covington, 11 am

October 22
Teresian Alumni Luncheon, Miami, 11 am

November 5-14
Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain

November 19
Family Day in San Antonio, 3 pm

December 9
Advent Retreat, Miami

Your generous donations help us to make Jesus known and loved in our world today.

Special thanks to Kraig Schexnayder of DocuCenter who has helped make this newsletter possible.

Contact us at 985-893-1470

Be sure to visit our NEW website

www.teresiansisters.org

Check out our international website

www.stjteresianas.org