



# SOLT Sisters' SPOTLIGHT



## Dear Friends,



On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" in honor of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Holy Father made this proclamation in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, may we imitate St. Joseph by our hidden acts of love and service for Jesus and His people.

*Sister Megan Mary, SOLT*



## FIRST PROFESSION OF SR. MARIA CLARA IN BENQUE VIEJO, BELIZE



*On December 7, 2020, the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Sr. Maria Julia made her first profession of vows and received a new religious name: Sr. Maria Clara.*

My parents had a total of 19 children. Sadly, 4 were miscarried and 5 of my siblings passed away when they were young. At a young age I had a desire to be baptized, and when I was nine years old my dad allowed me to be baptized. After that we moved and didn't go to Mass for many years. But when I was 18, I made my First Communion and Confirmation.

I first felt the call from God at a young age. When I was 12 years old, I wanted to enter the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul but my dad didn't approve. My constant prayer was that if God was calling me to religious life, He would put sisters in my path. Sometime after that, I met Sr. Asunción and Sr. Marta, SOLT. From then on, my experience with the Lord has deepened every day and I have discovered a greater fullness in all my being. Since my encounter with God, I have discovered a deep happiness.

The day I professed my vows, I felt so much joy that I don't even know how to explain it with words. During the ceremony, when they called my name, I felt like it was God Himself who had called me. Thanks to this community, in which I have found the face of Christ, and I have felt welcomed and loved. Thanks be to God!

*Sr. Maria Clara is from Las Flores del Chiquibul, a remote village about 4 hours from the SOLT mission in Melchor de Mencos, Guatemala.*

### PHILIPPINES

NUEVA CACERES\*\*  
LEGAZPI\*  
SORSOGON\*  
NOVALICHES\*

### PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

MT. HAGEN\*\*

### THAILAND

RATCHABURI\*  
CHANTABURI\*

\*DIOCESE

\*\*ARCHDIOCESE

*"...not only is Jesus with you,  
but He awaits you in the heart  
of every person whom you  
serve in mission."*

*-Fr. James Flanagan,  
SOLT Founder*

## WITNESSES OF HOPE

Eighteen years ago, I arrived in North Dakota to begin my aspirancy with the Sisters of Our Lady and to serve at St. Ann's Mission with the Chippewa and Metis people of the Turtle Mountains. The native people welcomed us and shared their culture and unique blending of Native American and French traditions. The joyful witness of the SOLT ecclesial family team and the way the priests and sisters loved and served the people made me fall in love with our SOLT community. The other unique aspect to the mission and the team that made a huge impact on me was the lay missionary volunteers who came with such enthusiasm, love, and a generous spirit.

Bishop John Folda, Bishop of Fargo, instituted a Marian Year of Grace for the people of the Turtle Mountains from October



2019-2020. A couple notable highlights of this grace-filled year were when a large number of people consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary, and when Sr. Caritas Sparke came to visit us in the spring of 2020 to help renew the Volunteer Program. In the midst of the pandemic, God chose this time to send us the great gift of young people willing to serve. During the last week of the Marian Year, our new volunteers began to arrive and we now have a team of ten serving.

This group is exceptional in their prayer, joy, and graced friendships. Whether they serve in our little Catholic school, development office, food pantry, youth ministry, preparing for summer camp, or participating and enriching the life of the parish, they are a tremendous blessing. So many different personalities and gifts; yet one family in Christ. They are true witnesses of hope!

*Sr. MaryAnn Richwald is originally from Newton, New Jersey. She professed first vows in 2007.*



### UNITED STATES

PHOENIX, AZ\*  
SIOUX CITY, IA\*  
DETROIT, MI\*\*  
KANSAS CITY—  
ST. JOSEPH, MO\*  
SANTA FE, NM\*\*  
FARGO, ND\*  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX\*  
SEATTLE, WA\*\*

### MEXICO

NUEVO LAREDO\*  
QUERETARO\*

### CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE CITY—BELMOPAN\*  
APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF  
EL PETEN, GUATEMALA

## CONTACT US

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## LEARN MORE

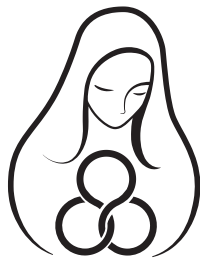
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# A year of St. Joseph



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of the Most Holy Trinity

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*From Pope Francis'  
Apostolic letter Patris Corde:*

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace,  
mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen.*

## On the cover...

Sr. Maria Stella Maris, SOLT teaches students about the Holy Mass in the Atrium at Our Lady's Montessori School in Kansas City.



*Newly professed, Sr. Maria Clara, with the SOLT Ecclesial Family Team in Belize.*



*SOLT novices in Robstown, TX..*



SOLT  
*Sisters'*  
SPOTLIGHT