

SOLT *Sisters'* SPOTLIGHT



Dear Friends,



I pray that as COVID restrictions lessen and the days of summer arrive, you are looking forward with hope to the many blessings God has in store. In this edition of the SOLT Sisters' Spotlight, we are happy to share with you two stories filled with hope and evidence of God's goodness and fidelity, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Please know of our prayers for you and your families in these days.

Sr. Megan Mary, SOLT



PHILIPPINES

NUEVA CACERES**
LEGAZPI*
SORSOGON*
NOVALICHES*

PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

MT. HAGEN**

THAILAND

RATCHABURI*
CHANTABURI*

*DIOCESE

**ARCHDIOCESE

CONTACT US

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SOLT Sisters | Spring 2021

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME



On May 31, 2017, the feast of the Visitation, St. Mary's Out of Home Care Centre was formally established at St. Mary's Mission in Ulga, a small village in the Northern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. This centre is a response of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mount Hagen to meet the needs of a growing number of children who are orphaned, abandoned, living on the streets, or being abused in their families and communities, and is staffed and operated by the SOLT Sisters. The aim of St. Mary's is to provide temporary shelter for these vulnerable children.

Not only is St. Mary's Centre the first home for vulnerable children within the Archdiocese, it is also one of the first of its kind in the country. In a country where children traditionally have had no voice, no name, and no protection, it was imperative that a safe and loving home was created for them. The vision of the shelter is, "Let the children come to me, to a place of love, safety and refuge in the arms of Jesus through His Body the Church." Our goal is to render service to all, especially to those who are vulnerable and in deepest need, regardless of faith, race, and status. The focus of our service is the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of vulnerable children.

In September 2017, we accepted our first group of five children, and we currently have fourteen boys and girls between the ages of three and fifteen. While the children stay with us, we are able to provide them with healthcare, education, basic skills training, spiritual and human formation, as well as programs adapted to their specific needs and capabilities.

Our hope is to reunite the children with their relatives and/or community if this is in the best interests of the child. For the children who do not have the option of returning to their families, we work to find adoptive families and permanent homes for them or sponsors to help support their educational needs.

Please pray for all of us at St. Mary's, especially for all of our little children.

Sr. Mary of Corpus Christi, director of St. Mary's Out of Home Care Centre, contributed the information for this article.

PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH

Ten years ago, I walked the Camino de Santiago for five days, as part of a pilgrimage in Spain. Backpacking thirteen to seventeen miles a day was exhausting, but the experiences made the journey unforgettable. The road led our group along the side of highways, through villages, and into local farmers' fields. We relied on each other for help and encouragement, and on the providence of God to get us through each day and for all of our needs. The highlight was daily Holy Mass in whichever beautiful Spanish church we found ourselves, and at the end of the journey, we rejoiced at the Pilgrim's Mass in the Basilica of Saint James in Compostella.



This year, by God's grace, I will profess perpetual vows in the Sisters of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. I find an extraordinary parallel between my experience on the Camino and the path of consecrated life. Serving on ecclesial family teams has given me a true family to walk beside and rely on. Being in mission in areas of deepest apostolic need has led me to Latino, White, and Native American communities. My vow of poverty enables me to travel lightly through this world, relying on the Providence of my Father. Chastity makes me a bride of Jesus Christ, united to Him through a complete offering of myself to Him. Obedience enables me to live God's will for my life each day, confident that I will not get lost on the path. And I await that glorious day when I will be united with all peoples in the feast of Heaven.

The collect prayer for the Mass of Perpetual Profession states that it is through the grace of baptism that consecrated persons follow "more closely in the footsteps" of Jesus. I believe this very deeply, because I knew from a very young age that I was called by God to be a sister. Please pray for me as I profess perpetual vows, so that I may enter this new chapter of my vocation with renewed grace, following Jesus, my Bridegroom, Who is The Way.

Sr. Mary Rachel Craig is originally from South Texas. She is currently serving in Benque Viejo, Belize, as she prepares for her perpetual vows.



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St. Mary's Out of Home Care Center in Papua New Guinea.



Sr Rachel prepares for perpetual vows.

On the cover

Sr. Holy Hope shares her gift of organ music with Most Holy Trinity Parish in Phoenix, AZ. She is currently serving as a music teacher for Most Holy Trinity Catholic School.



SOLT Sisters serve the people of Benque Viejo, Belize.



Shamella is served by our Children's Home in Papua New Guinea.

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