

# Mission Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit

## History of the Korean Region

### Initial Discernment

"Korea" was mentioned for the first time in the Japan Province Report to the "Second Asian Assembly of the Missionary Sisters Servant of the Holy Spirit" (October 21 - November 04, 1985 Bangalore / India). The report was prepared by Sr. Maria Luisa Nagai, SSpS who attended the Assembly together with Sr. Marcellina Hiragaki, the Provincial Leader.

The concern at the Assembly was to reach out to the many young people in Asia who have embraced Christianity and need support and aftercare. Therefore as "our missionary response as SSpS", the readiness to explore new areas of mission was expressed.

At the "Meeting of the Superior General with the Provincials at the Asian Assembly," Sr. Annemarie Reisch (Congregational Leader) said: "Sisters should also be available for new missions such as Bolivia, Togo, perhaps Korea. Possibly, sisters from Ghana could go to Togo, sisters from Japan to Korea.

In the letter from Sr. Annemarie (Ref.: Possible foundation in Korea) dated 07 January 1986 and addressed to Sr. Marcellina (PL) , Sr. Annemarie asked what part the Japan Province thinks it could play in any future foundation in Korea:

1. Would the Japan Province be in position to take responsibility for this foundation, so that the community there would belong to the Japan Province?
2. Preliminary investigations. Would your Province be able to undertake this task on behalf of the Congregation?

## 1986

### Preliminary investigation

#### 04 - 12 April 1986

**Sr. Marcellina Hiragaki (PL) and Sr. Caecilia Saito** were the first Sisters from Japan to visit Korea for the investigation. In Seoul they met with Rev. Bishop Kang who was in charge of the religious Congregations. A report of their investigation dated 16 April 1986 was sent to the CLT.

#### 06 November 1986

Rev. Bishop Kang with sent a letter of welcome; with it he also sent a letter of invitation from Rev. Archbishop Kim to help the Sisters to process their visas. They now had permission to study the Korean language in Seoul.

## 1987

### Mission opened in Korea

#### March 9, 1987

Sr. Marcellina (PL) and Sr. Caecilia, the first SSpS missionary in Korea, arrived at the Kim-po airport. One SVD priest and an aspirant, one Sister from the Congregation of the Korean Martyrs and one Sister from the Marianist Congregation welcomed them. Our Sisters visited the Provincial House of the Congregation of Korean Martyrs in Cheong-pa-dong and met Sr. Agatha Yeon-i Cho, their General Superior. She wholeheartedly welcome d our Sisters.

#### March 10, 1987

Sr. Caecilia applied for Korean language studies at the Yonsei Language Institute.

She moved to the Marianist Congregation and started boarding there.

#### May 7, 1987

Sr. Laurentia Sato (Japanese) and Sr. Theotildis Feldhofer (Austrian) arrived at the Kim-po Airport. They joined Sr. Caecilia.

### **July 5, 1987**

Veronica, Nam-eun Kim who was interested in our Congregation had a talk with the Sisters with translation of Sr. Agatha Kwak, who was a secretary of the General Superior in the Congregation of Korean Martyrs. Veronica was introduced to us by the Sisters of the Congregation of Korean Martyrs and she promised to come for a regular meeting once a month.

### **10 July 1987**

In her letter of this date (Ref.: Establishment of Korean Mission), Sr. Annemarie Reisch (CL) stated: "With the arrival of Sr. Caecilia Saito in Seoul **09 March 1987, our Korean mission was officially established.** Sr. Theotildis Feldhofer and Sr. Laurentia Sato joined her on 07 May 1987. These three Sisters will be remaining in Seoul for two years while they are learning the Korean language. During these two years they will have the opportunity to plan the future activity."

## **1988**

### **January 31, 1988**

Veronica Kim received permission to enter our Congregation from Sr. Marcellina. It took 5 hours by bus for her to attend the vocational meetings. She was very glad to hear the news about her permission to enter.

### **February 4, 1988**

The Sisters signed a contract for purchase of a new house which was located at 253-2, Seongbuk 2 dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul. It had 2 floors and a basement. Since the formal documents had to be signed by Korean people, the Sisters of the Congregation of Korean Martyrs helped in the legal procedure for purchasing. Therefore, in the documents they named as the owner of that convent.

### **June 11, 1988**

Sr. Caecilia, Sr. Laurentia and Sr. Theotildis, who were staying at the Marianist Congregation, moved to the new house prepared as the first convent. At the same time they started remodeling it.

## 1989

### June 7, 1989

The remodeling took almost one year. After it was finished we had a Mass of blessing for the new convent with SVD priests and brothers, Claretian Fathers and young ladies who were interested in our Congregation present. It was a very meaningful celebration.

### June 29, 1989

Veronica, Nam-eun Kim -our first Korean aspirant - entered the Congregation.

### July 13, 1989

Sr. Monica Yoshikawa from Japan came to Korea as a fourth missionary.

## 1990

### May 20, 1990

Postulant Veronica got permission to start the novitiate.

### June, 1990

Sr. Maria Luisa Nagai from Japan came to Korea as a fifth missionary.

## 1991

### April 10, 1991

We bought a new house as a second convent which was located in 206-21, Myongnyun-dong 4ga, Chongno-gu, Seoul. We asked Mr. Raphael Woo-chang Shim and Januario Jeong-ha Mun who belonged to Seongbuk-dong Church to do the remodeling. Thanks to their faithfulness and efforts, the building was repaired well and in short time.

## 1992

### May 25, 1992

The third convent which we bought was located next door to the second one in Myongnyun-dong.

## **September 29, 1992**

Sr. Veronica, the first fruit of our mission in Korea, professed her first vows. The Mass was celebrated by **Fr. James**, SVD.

## **1994**

### **September 1994**

Sr. Lioba Hayakawa - Provincial Leader of Japan Province - visited Korea to attend the first profession of Sr. Adria, Ju-yeon Lee and Sr. Clara Maria, Myeong-sun Paek.

## **1995**

### **October 11, 1995**

Sr. Josepha Maria, Hanna Lellek from Poland came to Korea. She was the first missionary from Europe.

### **November 14, 1995**

We decided to build a new building as our main house on the land we bought in Myongnyun-dong. We moved to a simple house we rented that was located in front of Seoungkyunkwan University.

## **1996**

### **April 1996**

We had the ceremony of laying the cornerstone for the main house.

## **1997**

### **July, 1997**

We had a blessing ceremony for the completion of construction of the main house.

## **1999**

The Provincial Assembly in Japan (**dates**) recommended that the community in Korea be raised to a status of Region.

## 2000

### Korea becomes a region

#### **April 14, 2000**

The Congregational Leadership Team decided that Korea be raised to a Region under the General Administration.

#### **June 7, 2000**

Marcelino Children's Group Home - the first apostolic community - was started in Wangrim, Diocese of Su-won. It was a joint venture with SVDs. Sr. Eleonora Cichon, Sr. Maria Helena, Young-soon Jung and Sr. Trinitas, Kyong-suk Park were appointed there as the first apostolic community.

#### **September 30, 2000**

Sr. Rosa Angelica Libron, Philippines, was appointed as the first Regional Leader.

Sr. Lucia Mercedes Keiner, CLT member, attended the ceremony of starting the Korean Region. We had three Korean Sisters in perpetual vows at that time.

#### **October 2000**

Sr. Monica and Sr. Caecilia, the first missionaries, went back to Japan. All the Sisters expressed gratitude to them for their sacrifices and love for our mission in Korea. All of the Sisters missed them a lot.

## 2001

#### **September 13, 2001**

We sold the novitiate house in Seongbuk-dong, which had served as the first convent. The Deok-su Protestant Church bought it.

#### **September 14, 2001**

We got a permission from the CLT to buy a new novitiate house at 1-548, Ahyon-3dong, Sodaemungu, Seoul.

## **October 2001**

Sr. Maria Serva, Yeong-sun Jung left for Cuba as our first missionary sent abroad from Korea Region. She had an appointment there as a Junior Sister.

## **2003**

### **January 1, 2003**

Sr. Eleonora and Sr. Maria Elisabeth, Hoon-hee Song were appointed to AIDS Shelter - our second ministry - entrusted to us by the Catholic Social Welfare of Seoul Archdiocese.

Marcelino Children's Group Home was moved from Wangrim to 445-25, Su-yu5dong, Kangbuk-gu, Seoul. The joined venture with SVD was interrupted and it was entrusted completely to the SSpS. The name was changed into Haesol Group Home and it was registered in the Catholic Social Welfare of Seoul Archdiocese.

## **2004**

### **October 29-31, 2004**

The first Regional Chapter was held. Sr. Eden Panganiban as a representative of the CLT attended it.

## **2006**

### **December 19, 2006**

Sr. Clara Maria, Angelina Mine and Sr. Pauline, Min-suk Im were appointed to the new community in Yong-ho Parish Church in Su-won Diocese.

## **2008**

### **January 27, 2008**

The new community for the Seoul Shelter for Women was opened. Four Sisters will be employed at the shelter for women with different problems: homeless, alzheimer, psychological... There are 150 women and about 38 employers.

**August 21, 2008**

The Little Light Shelter for the people living with HIV/AIDS was closed and from tomorrow the Sisters will be commuting daily from the Regional House for the same group of people. The activities will be changed from life-institution to day-care institution.

At present we have missionaries from the following countries: Philippines, Poland, Japan, India, Slovakia, Indonesia, Romania. Some of the Korean professed Sisters are appointed as missionaries to: Taiwan, Cuba, Japan, Zambia, Ghana. We have 23 professed Sisters 3 novices in Korea now. There are girls who are preparing to enter our Congregation soon.



Regional Chapter 2007