



Roma, 9-13 / 05 / 2016

**SR. CAROL ZINN, SSJ**

**Crossing the Threshold: Weaving Global Solidarity for the Life of the World**



*“Yes, the UISG invites each and all of us to embrace the times in which we live: times of increased interdependence, accelerated communication, globalized travel, widespread intercultural relationships, unprecedented peril and promise, historical interfaith and inter-religious dialogue and unimaginable vulnerability and vision. The mission of UISG is needed here and now. The members of UISG are needed today and tomorrow. And the manifestation of UISG is needed again, anew, each day and every day. Earth needs UISG. The world needs UISG. The Church Whom we Love needs UISG. The future needs UISG. Religious Life needs UISG. You need UISG. The time for the lone wolf is over, says the poet. It is time for working, walking, and witnessing together, for the life of the world.”*

She is a Sister of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA has ministered in the formal and non-formal education profession. She has taught on all levels (pre-K through post-graduate) and has worked in the areas of educational leadership, religious education, sacramental coordinator, and music minister.

Dr. Zinn earned a BS in Education from Chestnut Hill College, PA; a Master’s in Theology from St. Bonaventure University, NY; and a Doctorate in Curriculum Development and Education Foundations from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She was also a research fellow at Episcopal Divinity School and Harvard University on the topic: Leadership and Transformation.

Dr. Zinn worked in grassroots-based international movements as consultant and facilitator. In particular, she worked on the United Religions Initiative and the Earth Charter. She works with multi-sector and multi-issue groups in helping people deepen an understanding of global realities, local efforts, and the connections inherent. Dr. Zinn also worked as the Education Program Director for Global Education Associates, a non-governmental organization working to further global systemic change.

Dr. Zinn served as the main representative for the Congregations of St. Joseph, an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations. She represented over 15,000 Sisters of St. Joseph who live and minister in 57 countries.

In this capacity she participated in UN meetings on the topics of Human Rights, Eradication of Poverty, Environment, Peace and Disarmament, Education, Sustainable Development, Women, Children and Healthcare. She also spent time with individual congregations and provinces in helping them connect their particular efforts and energies to the global issues and concerns. This aspect of her work took place in retreat settings, congregational/provincial assemblies, chapter gatherings, and community meetings.

Dr. Zinn served on her Congregation's leadership team and in the Presidency of LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) for a 3 year term, 2012-2015. She currently serves as the Senior Vice President for Mission Integration for Plante Moran Cresa Company.

### **SISTER MARY SUJITA, SND**

#### **Solidarity for Life on the Periphery**

*"We humbly acknowledge that, in the face of all the global issues of injustice that beset us, we can do very little as individuals or even as communities and congregations. But imagine, if each woman religious would reach out even to a few persons on the margins, how the margins would be transformed into islands of hope!"*

Sister Mary Sujita, SND, is a member of the Sister of Notre Dame, an international Congregation founded in Germany in 1850. She was born in Kerala, South India, and joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in the Northern Province of Patna. As a missionary, besides being a teacher and mass media educator, she has spent most of her time in sharing the life and struggles of the most marginalized people in North India. She was appointed by the government of India to head the Women Empowerment programme of the government of Bihar in 1991, a duty that took her to the hearts and lives of thousands of rural poor women and girls. In 1998 she was elected as the first Asian Superior General of the Sisters of Notre Dame with its headquarters in Rome. In 2004 she was reelected for a second term of office. After completing her two terms as Superior General in 2011, she has been engaged in conducting seminars, retreats, giving talks and facilitating Chapters both nationally and internationally.



### **SISTER MÁRIAN AMBROSIO, IDP**

#### **Weaving Solidarity for Life - Living and witnessing as women religious of Apostolic Life**

*"Now let's imagine a large and heavy machine for producing weavings. All you have to do is press some buttons, some other buttons, and after a few minutes gather many meters of identical material that will be quickly sold and resold someplace in the world... The machine does not smile nor sing love songs, but it is very efficient and competent. Sisters, don't you perhaps believe that the tiredness or frustrations we sometimes experience at the end of a lot of work can indicate something?"*

*Dear Sisters, how are we living, how are we witnessing? Like a machine turned on day and night for greater production? Or like a weaver who has before her eyes the person that will be warmed, valued, and honored?"*



Sr. Márian Ambrósio is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. She studied pedagogy in the School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters (FAFI) in Paraná. She studied Spiritual Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, Italy. She has been the president of the National Conference of Religious Men and Women of Brazil.

#### **SR. GRAZIA LOPARCO, FMA**

**Consecrated Women in the church for the world. UISG 1965-2015.**

*“The traced out path documents how the UISG, in overcoming an isolated view of Institutes, has put women religious in dialogue on a world-wide level to foster needed and difficult change around identity and mission thought out together, without dichotomies. In the first period great ferment is noted, a wanting to be renewed and collaborate, of “being” in the world. In the search for the proper role the superiors asked for more listening and interaction with the Holy See and bishops, remaining, on their part, receptive toward the Magisterium and to the innovative experiences also in collaboration with the laity and international organizations. The UISG promoted the development of a feminine religious consciousness, desiring greater responsibility in the local Churches and in their countries, competing, yes, with the great issues of development, but also with the resistances to a real breakthrough needed to decrease ecclesial and cultural delays.”*



Sr. Grazia Loparco is Professor of History of the Church at the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Sciences «Auxilium» in Rome, and historical consultant to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

#### **SISTER ROSEMARIE NASSIF, SSND, PH.D.**

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** ([www.hiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hiltonfoundation.org))



A School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Rosemarie Nassif oversees the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation’s Catholic Sisters Initiative and its Catholic Education Programs. Her responsibilities are to advance the vitality of congregations of women religious globally, enabling Sisters to contribute more profoundly to human development, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of Catholic schools.