



Seoul priory newsletter

October ~ December, 2018

Our charism hold three treasures: monastic life of prayer and community, mission to bring Christ to the world, and a call to embrace diversity.



The XIII General Chapter had been concluded that Sr. Maoro Seo got elected as new Prioress General of our congregation. During G.C. our delegates had an unusual opportunity to attend the Vatican Mass for the peace on Korean peninsula and some Korean sisters had an encounter with Korean president Moon on his official Vatican trip. Also the Chapter delegates had a private audience with pope Francis in our tradition introducing our new Mother General to him.

Priory house threw a brief nameday party for Fr. Dyonisio Min during lunch time after Sunday Mass on Oct.

7. There were small programs from Novitiate and group Hilde. He was very happy to say his thanks to our community and would expect the next year again.

- St. Joseph Nursing home held the 2 days of annual Family day which includes the exhibition of artworks of the residents. It was the chance of family reunion for the most of hearing-impaired residents, and also local authorities and volunteers paid visits to see around their living and congratulated on the exhibition of drawings, pottery and handicrafts of their own.



- The 3rd annual retreat from Oct.9 to Oct.17 was finished conducted by Fr. Hwang Ji-yeon themed the spiritual journey in the light of enneagram.



- Our 2018 priory house autumn excursion was to Yeon-pung pilgrimage spot where Martyr Hwang-Suk-doo, Luca and many other martyrs had got tortured and beheaded in 1800s. This site was located in remote country side in Chung-cheong province. Some of our faith pioneers had been gathering in hide to keep their faith under the harsh wind of persecution so that the location was known for being hard to reach from other areas while the nearby area called Mungyeong for a wonderful natural landscape of rivers and mountains. It took us several hours of bus ride to get there and for most of us it was for the first time visit. The mountainous roads were embedded with so many stories of martyrs we could hear walking on foot and moving in bus and stopping some memorial spots. Sr. Ji-hye has come from nearby town that her parents brought us lots of special products to feed us and more to bring the convents. We have here the Martyrdom of St. Hwang Suk-doo Luke.



Hwang Sŏk-tu Luke (1811-1866)

Catechist Hwang Sŏk-tu Luke was born at Yŏnp'ung in Ch'ungh'ŏng North Province in 1811, the only son of a wealthy noble family. His father let him study to pass the government examination for the glory of the whole family.

At the age of 20 he left for Seoul for the examination. He met a learned Catholic in an inn on his way to Seoul. Luke heard from him about the wonderful Catholic religion and he was deeply moved. He received some Catholic books.

He returned home three days after he left. He told his astonished father that he had already passed the

examination. What he meant was that he had passed the heavenly examination. Luke was severely beaten by his father but he continued studying the Catholic faith.

Luke converted his wife to the Catholic Church. His father threatened to kill him. In response to this threat Luke pretended to be a mute for more than two years. The whole family tried to heal his dumbness but failed. His father and the rest of the family were worn down and were finally persuaded by Luke to study the catechism and become Catholic.

Even non-Catholics admired Luke's devotion and faithfulness as well as his wonderful personality. When Bishop Ferr 裴利 came to Korea, Luke made up his mind to serve the Church for the rest of his life. He received the bishop's permission to live separated from his wife. The bishop decided to make Luke a priest. However, the Holy See did not approve the bishop's plan because there was no convent for Luke's wife to enter.

After his father passed away, Luke's relatives took all his properties from him. Father Ferron made him a teacher of Chinese literature and also a catechist. Luke performed his duties as a catechist admirably. He finally became an assistant to Bishop Berneux and Bishop Daveluy. He wrote many books with Bishop Berneux.

When Bishop Daveluy was arrested, he asked his captors not to arrest Luke. Luke insisted on being arrested with the bishop. They were all sent to Seoul.

In prison Catechist Luke preached the Catholic religion to his prosecutors, who admired his knowledge and eloquence. On March 30, 1866, Luke was sentenced to death and was beheaded at Kalmaemot (a naval base in Ch'ung-ch'öng Province) following Bishop Daveluy and two other missionaries. He was 54 years old.



- 30 of the 3rd group oblates made their vow-renewal on Oct. 21 during their annual meeting. They had prepared with 2 days retreat in Joseph monastery. We pray for them to be faithful oblates living up the Benedictine values in whatever they do and wherever they are.

- Sr. Hyoju attended the First International Buddhist-Christian Dialogue for Nuns in Taiwan Oct. 13 to 20 which was organized by

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. About 70 participants from all around world were 70 of

Buddhist monks, Catholic nuns and sisters. She made the presentation of 'The catholic practice of the rosary as an aid to meditation and contemplation'.

- On the 31 of October priory house held the fall leaves festival in Arirang garden of Seoul priory house. Trees and bushes dyed in autumn colors were particularly beautiful this year many guest came and enjoyed it's beauty and the programs were prepared to inspire people



to get the idea of how wonderful is the religious life in God's hands. Sr. Edit and Sr. Jihye as facilitators and many other sisters took part in the event. Sr. Martina from Seoul convent, Br. Marco from St. Joseph monastery and Fr. Dyonisio from Missionary Society of St. Columban were standing to tell the stories introducing their religious journeys in different types of calling. Sr. Evangeline hosting the program in the chapel, and sisters and guests together were cheering up whenever series of old pictures of each one were projected with touching explanations of theirs.



November



- On Nov. 1 Sr. Victoria and Sr. Paula made their vows renewed in chapter room. Priory community were gladly hugging them with encouraging words.

- On Nov. 5~6 the 3rd annual seminar of Body theology conducted by Sr. Angela Shin from Blessed sacrament sisters of charity was attended by 23 sisters in St. Joseph monastery. The fall colored with red, orange and yellow was in peak season and sisters could enjoy the enthusiastic teachings and beautiful autumn scenery feeling revived in fresh air and pleasant association with companions.

- For two days Nov.13 to 14 Seoul priory house was busy making Kimch. This year Kimjang was so early unexpectedly that Bonpyeong-dong parish community which we founded and used to stay for some years, brought some hundreds of cabbages in best quality after informed us the day before.

Sisters gladly signed up for 1 day or 2 days work and we could enjoy this unplanned communal work.



- On Nov. 28, Sr. Caritas Seok has returned back after finished her 1 year of junior exposure program in Generalate community.

-From the 26th to 30th november Sr. Philippa and Sr. Lumen Yeo participated in Benedictine Asian Oceania Meeting 2018 in Taiwan. Two sisters shared their experiences about the situation of Benedictine convents there. Sr. Philippa said most of local Taiwanese sisters were in their advanced ages that their most of vocations were filled from Vietnam and mostly they were living in poverty. Sr. Lumen spoke about her gratitude she could feel for the first time identifying herself as a member of MBS and Korean born Taiwanese, how much happy she got to know God and to live as a religious family member in Seoul convent.



- On Nov. 26 during Monday group study Sr. Lena gave a brief PPT presentation about the forefathers of the Israelites for this year's Bible week.

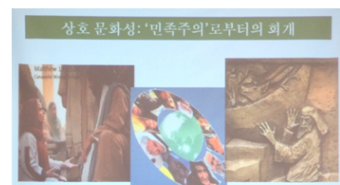
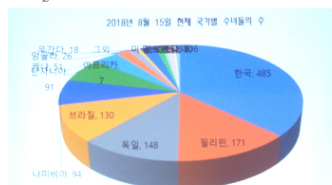
December

- On Dec. 1 Abbot Primate Gregory J. Polan OSB has arrived in Korea and firstly made his visit to Joseph monastery followed by to Seoul priory house. Sr. Phillipa said his visiting Korean monastery was brought up during BEAO meeting in Taiwan. He was warmly welcomed and we were all happy to see him in



Seoul. After morning Mass he looked around priory house, Benedict kindergarten and counselling center showing his particular interest in Novitiate and spent some time with Novitiate family.

- On Dec. 10 Monday there held awaited the Echo-chapter with most of Seoul sisters attended in Sangi-retreat center. Sr. Rosemarie opened the chapter making overall presentation of the 13th General Chapter and Sr. Marie Seok-Moon from Daegu priory was invited to give a conference about the inter-cultural living which was required for our international communities and she said it was subject to local community living within a priory. After midday prayer and lunch in priory house in the afternoon Sr. Maximillian gave the explanation about G.C. decisions of practical agenda we need to implement in priory level. Besides her presentation she was helping us to do some brief exercise in every intercession. And Sr. Therese Kim was explaining the ground on the changes of constitutions and showed the statistical change of our congregation data. Lastly Sr. Rosemarie gave some announcements about construction process in Pocheon and introduced the book published by Sr. Maria Koh and handed out the leaflet of Chapter message as well as the book for each sister.



다음으로 총장과 총장사 선거가 있었습니다. 총장선거는 노트커 볼프 (Notker Wolf) 신 주석 이베스에서 주관하였고, 총장사 선거는 안젤라 총장수녀께서 주관하셨습니다.

총장: 세 마오로 수녀 (Mother Maoro Sye, OSB)
부총장(Viceres): 루멘 글로리아 뉘카 수녀 (Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca, OSB)
총장사(Councilors):
* 바나 마리아 도스카노 수녀 (Sr. Vanja Maria Toscano, OSB)
* 레지나 테쉬 수녀 (Sr. Regina Tesch, OSB)
* 카타리나 메티투 수녀 (Sr. Katharina Meitu, OSB)

마지막 선물이 끝난 다음 총회의 주제를 회고하기 위하여 우리는 7개의 문과를 통하여 어떻게 하면 우리의 직업을 오늘과 이 세상에서 적당하게 살 수 있을지 토론하였습니다.

- Sr. Maoro Seo, our new Prioress General to be visited Seoul priory house on Dec. 13 on her way to Italian embassy in Seoul to get the visa. Our community was happy to see her before she would go for Rome. Novitiate members sang songs with funny lyrics showing their joy to have a Mother General speaking Korean and Sr. Maria Gorretti improvised the traditional dance after festive dinner in the refectory. She would leave for Rome on Jan. 16



and be installed on Jan. 20.



- On the last day of year 2018, priory house liturgy committee offered us the year-end ceremony in the chapel. Some series of pictures reminded us what we might miss our appreciation of in the flow of so many incidents and events. It helped us having some reflective hours looking back year 2018.

