



## ANNUAL MEETING WESTERN SECTOR

The annual meeting of the sector of Western Canada took place September 19 - 23, 2017 at Ste-Croix in Edmonton. The sisters and the associates came from far and near for this assembly. They were happy to meet one another and especially to be able to welcome Sister Raymonde Maisonneuve for her first visit since her election as General Animator.

The first evening was a matter of supper and getting together again. The greetings and sounds of laughter rang out throughout the dining hall!

Wednesday morning was serious...the final reports of the mandates... In the afternoon, Sister Raymonde presented the orientation for the next six years and then offered the Acts of the Chapter to each one saying "Here is your itinerary for the next six years."

Throughout the days that followed, a teaching on contemplative dialogue was proposed and the group experienced this new approach on sharing. Finally, the question was: "For me, what signifies the expression "being on mission / being a missionary"? The dialogue was profound and touching. The sharing around the last question was used for the rite of sending of the sisters and associates for the year 2017-2018. A small lighted candle was presented to each one and placed on a platter as a sign indicating that we can be light and warmth for the world.

Saturday morning, in the chapel, we celebrated the life of Sister Annette Servant who died in Winnipeg, June 22, 2017. Several members of her family were present to celebrate this passage toward a life of fullness. Later, her ashes were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Saint Albert. Surely, Sister Antoinette journeyed with us all along with the appropriate music.

To bring closure to our community days, we celebrated the jubilees of Therese Mercier and Edith Boucher, 65 years and Therese Fortin, 60 years of religious life. The Gospel of the Samaritan Woman was the theme for this significant celebration.

After the banquet, well prepared by Albert Blanchette, our chef and his team, a celebration of gratitude noted the Team that served the community during the past seven years:

Thank You!

Therese Fortin, Therese Jasmin, and Lise Veillette !

After the thanks and the gifts, the evening came to a close with laughter and

song. What a wonderful community!  
Madeleine Landry, Associate



## PROTOCOL OF PALERMO - 17 YEARS LATER

We can consider this Protocol as the first universal instrument that addresses most aspects of HUMAN TRAFFICKING for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This Protocol from the United Nations was initiated to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking of persons, especially women and children.

This year, the Fifth Latin American Congress against Human Trafficking presented various themes considering the immensity of the challenge: "ACTING AGAINST INDIFFERENCE". In June, I had the opportunity to participate in this Congress in Lima, Peru.

There were keynote speakers to open and close the Congress and there was the possibility of choosing panels or workshops daily. This was a difficult selection because the topics were both interesting and educational. I want to share some of the topics presented: "Structural Causes of Trafficking", "Crime and Trafficking", "Experiences of Approaching and Recovering Victims and Survivors", "Networking to Combat Human Trafficking", etc.

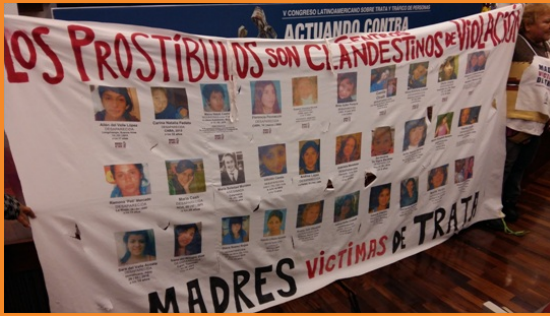
The normalization of sexual exploitation is growing in our society. More and more young people are accepting "work" without knowing the consequences entailed. We see this with the big sports events like FIFA, COPA and the Olympic Games. The growing number of children trafficked continues to grow and they are deceived by the false promises of fame that they receive.

It is so important to keep the population aware of the silent existence of this crime. Life is not merchandise. We need to seek new ways to do prevention. Continue to think about educational and health

interventions which will provide results. There's an urgency to improve the mechanisms of collaboration with humanitarian agencies with a direct link to grassroots social organizations. It is very important to work directly with the population, especially the vulnerable.

Seventeen years have passed since the Protocol of Palermo was initiated and, for many people working against HUMAN TRAFFICKING, it is paramount to continue "ACTING AGAINST INDIFFERENCE".

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