

Yap

Tarcisia Sablan, SSND

S. Tarcisia Sablan is ministering at St. Mary's School in Yap, Extended Mission of the Guam Region.

I thank God each day for the gift of my vocation. My short story is just one of the many instances in my life when I felt deeply alive and authentically an SSND. I felt most a School Sister of Notre Dame during the short visit of our two General Councilors when they came to Yap as part of their official visitation to the Guam Region this past month, September 2004.

Yap is one of the many islands in the Western Caroline Islands and School Sisters of Notre Dame have been ministering at the only Catholic School the past nineteen plus years. My awareness of this most auspicious visit did not fully have an impact on me until a few days later when our two General Councilors left Yap for Guam. I was once again transported to the "holy ground" of Rome, Bavaria, Lourdes, Stadtamhof/Regenburg and a few others, where in my wildest dreams I could not have set foot if I were not a School Sister of Notre Dame. However, because I belong to an International community, I had the privilege and opportunity to set foot where our congregation came to birth. Yes, as a School Sister of Notre Dame from the tiny island of Guam I feel a special connection with four thousand plus holy, hard-working and giving women of the Church. And in true fellowship with them whether they are in South America, Africa, Europe, Asia or North America, they are MY sisters. They are MY Sisters because we all claim the same Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, Mother Caroline Friess and other founding Mothers and Sisters whose hearts were strong in faith, farseeing in vision and courageous in action.

The other women who are very special for me are, Mother Fidelis Krieter, Mother Georgianne Segner, Mary Margaret Johanning, Mother Antonice Muraski, Sister Cecile Marie Crisostomo and Sister Therese Becker. Their vision, their hopes and dreams for our Congregational life and the women before them, will continue to be lived out and become inspiration and challenge for ourselves and others.

Thank you Sister Catherine Sarther and Johanna Schrockseis for extending your "magic wand" to our island transforming our typhoon-struck places into magical possibilities and hopes. You have put us on the SSND world map and added another lifeline to our corporate claim of SSND heritage and charism.

Danke Shoen**Kamaga** Thank You** Si Yu'os Ma'ase** Hosachigchig**
Klrisouchapur