



AMA UPDATE

Letter from the Director

March 2018-2019

Inside this issue

- Letter from the Director
- Welcome Serafina!
- Serafina's Worcester reflection
- Myra's England reflection
- Other news

St. Marie Eugenie Quote of the Month

“The earth has to be warmed and He is the sun of justice and holiness; let his rays shine on you.”



Dear AMAs, Sisters, and AMA Families!

It has been a privilege to journey with Myra this year and to welcome Serafina our newest AMA to Worcester, MA! Both of these young women bring much joy, enthusiasm and passion to their program sites, the people they serve, and to those they live with in New-castle and the Worcester Cana Community.

Myra has had many experiences since our last newsletter, visiting new places with various family members. Also, she has seen the seeds of a few ideas come to fruition at Kids' Kabin and beyond!

It took Serafina no time at all to get adjusted to life in the Woo— as we like to call it around here in the city! Although the snow has kept her away from a few sessions of ESL and Mentoring, she is keeping busy with garden planning already. She had our Girls with Dreams members Maria and Augustina starting seeds a few weeks back and they are already sprouting up on the windowsills at the Center!

I am looking forward to the months ahead to see what these talented young women are up to next! Stay tuned!

Wishing you a fruitful and happy Lent! -Sandy

Welcome to AMA Serafina!

My name is Serafina Bon Tempo I am currently serving in Worcester MA. I am one of six children from Milford MA (and I am Sandy's neighbor!) I graduated in May of 2018 from Wheaton College as a double major in International Relations with a concentration in the Middle East, as well as Italian Studies. I assist the Sisters in running their programs for the community. They include two mentoring programs for school aged children, an ESL program for adults, a knitting club and a community garden. I am also planning on continuing my AMA experience in the Philippines this fall.



Serafina Bon Tempo—Worcester, MA

I've been serving in Worcester for almost two months now. It seems like such a short time but I also feel as if I've been here for much longer. My work with the sisters has kept me busy and fills me with so much joy. Each one of our programs offers something different to the community as well as myself.



Serafina helping GWD Maria with planting seeds for the garden.

Our ESL program allows me to lead a classroom and examine the English language from the perspective of someone who has little understanding of it. Being in this position makes me realize the intricacies of the language. This enables me to appreciate how difficult it is for adult learners to tackle something foreign to them and how hard they have to work to understand the world they are living in. My students' dedication to their studies makes me work hard to provide them with a curriculum that stimulates and encourages them.

The mentoring programs we run allows me time to relax and

enjoy children being children. I look forward each week and each day to Girls' with Dreams, as well as Mentoring. Working with these children from all different backgrounds inspires me. One student I work with upon meeting her told me about her journey to America with her mother and sister. She described to me her walk from Central America to the United States. The way she told this story was as if this was a regular activity. It reminded me of the journey so many people around the world make every day, it is a regular activity, it's just something I have never experienced. Being with children who have had experiences I could never fathom makes me appreciate the privileged life I was born into, and motivates me to use that privilege to help those around me.

Knitting group is another highlight of my week. Every Friday I look forward to seeing the ladies, seeing what they knitted or crocheted and what they are currently working on. I enjoy listening to their conversations, seeing their perspective. I am the youngest in the group so they often ask me for my opinion as a young person. I'm not always in accordance with the ladies but I appreciate how they listen to me and respect my opinions. I love

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Playing Mexican Train at GWD

the tips they give me. They range from knitting tips, to where to eat in Worcester, and where to buy wedding dresses. I talk about our conversations to my family and friends all the time, relaying all that I learned.

This experience in a short amount of time has changed my life and has given me so much already. I'm excited to begin the garden and continue providing healthy foods to the neighborhood. I'm also eager to see what else this opportunity has to offer.



Serafina has become quite the knitter!



Myra Villas—Newcastle upon Tyne, England

This March, I went on a trip with my oldest brother Ray and my cousin Gabe. We crammed in a lot of activities and sights in a short week. Every day was so memorable, from skiing in the Alps to seeing Stonehenge in person. When I returned to Kids Kabin, I was delightfully surprised that some kids noticed I had even been gone. They happily welcomed me back and told me about what they did at Kids Kabin while I was away. It was rewarding to think about how I might be making a positive im-



Myra pictured with AMA Daryl and friend of the Assumption Marielle

impact on their lives, even if it was lasting for only a week. I felt rejuvenated and inspired by my trip, but I was definitely happy to see the kids again.

"I'm holding onto every day by always finding a reason to laugh, looking to learn something new, and spreading my gratitude for this once in a lifetime"

After six months of my AMA journey, I am more confident in my skills and feeling more at home in Newcastle. You can put a jigsaw in my hand or station me at a potter's wheel and I'd enjoy whipping up an original piece. I've covered a lot more ground in the North East on my bike rides and plan on seeing more when the weather warms up. I've also met my work goals that I set out in the beginning of the year, such as planning the Annual General Meeting, which was a huge success and a fun night for all the families involved; working with local young teens with disabilities by running art sessions with a nearby school; and increas-



Myra with Sr. Sylvia and Rugile in the garden.

ing Kids Kabin’s presence online through Facebook, LinkedIn, and the website blog.

As a community, it’s been great celebrating holidays and birthdays together, and sharing our cultures while we’re at it. For Christmas, Rugilė cooked a traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve meal with a dozen dishes. After the New Year, our community had a meal with the Sisters and the Pendower volunteers. I love hearing stories the Sisters tell at Friday morning breakfasts, no matter how many times they might have retold them.



Myra with friend Ray who assisted in a burger cooking session recently.

It’s so sad to think I’ll be leaving in a few short months just as I’m connecting with the staff, the Sisters, and my community. I’m starting to look ahead at what I will do after my AMA year, which makes me even more aware each day of the finite number of camping trips to take, bike rides to cycle, school sessions to run, meals to cook, Friday morning prayers to attend, and so much more. I’m holding onto every day by always finding a reason to laugh, looking to learn something new, and spreading my gratitude for this once in a lifetime experience.



U.S. Province Prepares for a Special Visit!

We are very excited to welcome our new Superior General Sr. Rekha and one of her General Councilors, Sr. Sandra to the U.S. Province this month and next. Sr. Rekha and Sr. Sandra will visit each of our four communities in Chaparral, NM, W. Philadelphia, PA, Lansdale, PA and Worcester, MA. The visit will end in mid-April with an assembly of all the Sisters of the U.S. Province in Lansdale, PA.

Please keep our new Superior General, her councilor, and our RA Sisters in your prayers during this special visit!





Sr. Rekha Chemattu
our new Superior General

Come and meet

and

Sr. Sandra Duran
our new General Councilor



Sunday, March 31, 2019
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Assumption Sisters
11 Old English Road . Worcester . 01609