

Jpsm

Justice Peace & Solidarity in Mission

The Congregation of the Sisters of Good Shepherd
Province of Singapore–Malaysia

Strictly for the Congregation of the Good Shepherd Sisters @ their Lay Collaborators



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Remembering the Forgotten, Giving Hope

To Mission Partners of the Province,

— Well done! USD 320,000!
What a successful endeavour in response to the cries of the people in Congo. Read full report here and pages 1-3.

On March 31 we mourn the loss of a mission partner, Irene Fernandez. The endless streams of migrants who turned up at her house on the day of the funeral and those who packed the church are testimonies of the large number of people she had touched during her lifetime. Rightfully a tribute to her at the back cover.

One Billion Rising, International Women's Day, St. Mary Euphrasia's Feast Day are some of the other stories. Do enjoy them! †

GLORIA

Easter – a time to celebrate new life. This Easter we are blessed with the joy of celebrating the success of a special fundraising project – “Remembering the Forgotten, Giving Hope”.

— This joint project by Good Shepherd Convent Restful Waters, Singapore (RW), Good Shepherd Mission Development Office, Rome (MDO) and the Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office, New York (GSIJPO), began at the Feast of Epiphany with a humble target of US\$100,000, which was quickly revised upward to US\$200,000. Through the collective effort of family, friends, benefactors, volunteers and Good Shepherd mission partners across the Province, we managed to surpass the target with a total collection of US\$320,000!

Listening to Sr. Susan Chia's account of the living conditions in Kolwezi – the hunger and desperation of children having to eat sand to fill their stomachs, the rampant rape and abuse of women and children, and the punishing conditions of working in the mines – these injustices stirred our hearts with compassion. They called out to us with urgency to respond to the cries of the people in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The committee of RW resolved to spearhead a project to raise funds and create an awareness of the realities of life in DRC, especially the plight of the women and children. The MDO and GSIJPO were fully supportive of this initiative and provided us with much information required to enable RW to highlight the dire situation in DRC and the GS Sisters' plans to improve the lives of the people in Kolwezi. A collective approach was taken by RW with an aim

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Guests at the launch on 4 January 2014 at Restful Waters, Singapore



to multiply resources, to gather as many Good Shepherd people as possible to help tell the story of DRC so that far more people can hear the cries and reach out to the poor.

On 4 January 2014, close friends and family members were invited to the launch of “Remembering the Forgotten, Giving Hope”. Many at the launch were touched by the stories and personal accounts of Sr. Susan Chia and Sr. Margaret Lee. They could not imagine anyone eating sand to survive but the realities and truth coming out from Kolwezi cannot be ignored or forgotten.

Those present pledged their support for Kolwezi and were determined to ensure the projects planned would be successfully implemented and sustained. They were confident, especially when in-depth research and planning had been carried out and regularly reviewed by MDO and that capacity building sessions by GSJPO are ongoing for sisters, staff and volunteers.

The spirit of generosity of partners in mission was evident with many making immediate donations but more importantly, they went home to tell others of the story of Kolwezi. As the message began to spread through Mission Partners who attended the gathering and through the fundraising blog, we witnessed the multiplication effect taking place.

Jane Ng, who produced the launch music video ‘Do they know its Christmastime’ wrote, “I was first attracted to the Congo

project by curiosity. I wanted to know what was behind the invitation to spend a morning or afternoon at Restful Waters. Before I knew it, I was well and truly caught, simply because of my inability to say no to Susan's request to put photographs to music for the launch of the Congo project. I was delighted to use my new-found skills to create a video for the project. Selecting the photographs to accompany the lyrics was a profoundly moving experience and making the video was a simple labour of love.

Listening to Susan and Morene at the launch of the project touched me to the core. I was deeply moved by Susan's courage and faith, and her love for the people of Congo. I thought the idea of reaching out to the people of Congo through this project to compensate for Susan's cancelled trip was ingenious, even divinely inspired.

At the earliest opportunity, I shared with my family and friends the plight of the poor people of Congo. People who endure hardship and suffer exploitation to feed our reliance on computers and hand phones. I was so grateful and happy that many hearts were touched and responded generously.

This project has revealed to me how wondrous God's ways are. From the pain and suffering of one person, Susan, awareness and compassion were stirred for the pain and suffering of people in another continent, another hemisphere halfway across the world. Loving hearts opened wallets to give generously, and hope for a better life for the poor people

of Congo can become certainty. We are one human family after all, one flock belonging to the same Shepherd, and having been blessed abundantly by our Shepherd God, the least we could do when we heard of the plight of our brothers and sisters in Congo, was to share our blessings with them.”

The experiences and encounters over these few months have been one of solidarity, standing together to raise the dignity of the forgotten ones in DRC. It had been an encouraging journey that went beyond benefactors coming forth with donations, but of numerous personal stories of generosity, self-sacrifice and gratitude.

Such stories include a couple who immediately came the very next day after the launch with a very generous donation and stating that they see value in the project and want to give their full support to it.

Another sharing is of a lady from a humble background willingly sacrificing her shopping allowance to make a \$1,000 donation. A teenage student felt compassion so deep as to share his \$10 school allowance with the people in DRC.

A mother in Malaysia, whose young son had passed away, generously donated the sum of money that she had set aside intended for his education. She said that her son no longer needed the money now but she could still make a difference for other children by sharing it.

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The following are some reports filed by the different ministries in the Province of Singapore-Malaysia.

Marymount Convent School, Singapore

— “Every year during Lent, our pupils are encouraged to set aside some pocket money as part of almsgiving and donate the it to a local charity. This year, in addition to almsgiving, we wanted to raise awareness of the Good Shepherd Mission around the world and chose Kolwezi, Congo to benefit from it. We wanted our pupils to reflect on and live out the Good Shepherd values of “Gratitude” for all that they have been blessed with and “Compassion” for others. The pupils were told that no amount was “too little”.

The project was launched on 10 February 2014. It was still within the Chinese New Year period and we knew that many pupils had received “ang paws” from their relatives. We showed our pupils and staff slides on Kolwezi and highlighted the children’s plight. Many pupils “teared” on hearing about the lack of food and facilities for education. The pupils dropped in what they brought into the collection box during recess time at the canteen. We did one round of collection during the week. Some pupils spoke to their parents who also gave



Sr. Joan Lopez, Cecilia Lim, Anna Low, Sr. Susan Chia @ Sr. Lucy Chia, with the funds raised by pupils of Marymount Convent School

generously. One pupil in particular said that she received so much more than she needed, so she wanted to share. Some pupils dropped by every day to donate their spare pocket money. They were very enthusiastic about the drive and a few pupils volunteered to walk around with the collection box during their break time.

Through this drive, our pupils realised that they were very fortunate and were grateful that their parents had provided them with a comfortable life. They pledged to stop wasting food and water. They were sad to hear of children in Congo having to eat sand to stave off their hunger pangs and were amazed that they looked so happy even when they did not have proper school facilities. We hope to highlight more Good Shepherd Mission projects around the world in future so that we can spread the awareness of what the Good Shepherd Mission does throughout the world.”

Cecilia Lim

Principal

Marymount Convent School, Singapore

Good Shepherd Malaysia In Kuala Lumpur

— “In Kuala Lumpur, we watched a video clip where children waited in line for what was probably their only hot meal of the day, each child carefully carrying a bowl in both hands so as not to spill any of the precious porridge. The irony was that we, the Malaysians, were watching this clip in a room surrounded by food in excess. We were surely made doubly aware of the plight of these poor people who obviously need help, need funds urgently.”

Caroline Gunn

Lay Associate

Yes, and for this very reason mission partners and friends gathered in Madonna Heights, Kuala Lumpur in the afternoon of 15th February to witness the launch of a fund raising campaign for the community in Kolwezi. After the video clip presentation, a hi-tea was served. The delicious spread was prepared by many generous donors including the residents of the Teenage Centre and the Women’s Shelter. There were brisk sales of satay, tidbits, cookies, pickles, apple pies and cakes mostly from Rose Virginie Good Shepherd Centre, Ipoh at the launch too. Raffle numbers were available for sale and the first prize was a ladies’ watch worth about RM2,000.”

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Sr. Joan Lopez showing the pouch of coins which the residents of the Teenage Centre had saved up for Kolwezi



Sale of food at the launch in Kuala Lumpur

Good Shepherd Malaysia In Sabah

The children from Asrama Desa Pukak, a hostel for primary school children from rural villages in Sabah, Malaysia, made greeting cards to reach out to the children in Kolwezi. The cards were drawn by the children who also wrote messages of encouragement and friendship.



Good Shepherd Kindergartens, Malaysia

“When the Good Shepherd Kindergartens got on board the project, it was decided that the best way to spread the message and create awareness would be through a food and fun fair. It would coincide with Lent to create awareness among the children on the needs and suffering of others in the world. The children were shown the video and discussed poverty and sharing. Moral lessons and even assembly was used to expand on compassion, sharing and loving beyond borders.

Mariaville Kindergarten, Ipoh, held their food and fun fair on 12 April and Villamaria, Kuala Lumpur, on 26 April. On both days, we were blessed with clear skies that gave extra impetus to the activities of the day. The food stalls ranged from local delights to western fare and were sold out early.

The activities were popular with the children. These included T-shirt painting, lucky dip, games stalls, sand art and, the star attraction, a pony ride. The clown had sore arms from non-stop balloon sculpting and the ponies were dizzy from the rides and even helped trim the grass while waiting!

All the while, the video of the mission in Kolwezi played in a loop for people to find out more about why we were raising funds. The two days were deeply satisfying and the staff indeed did a



Fun at the fair

wonderful job of organising and running the show together with the enthusiastic mission partners.

The combined total raised by both kindergartens was RM48,548.00, far exceeding the initial target. It showed the generosity and spirit of caring that the Good Shepherd Kindergartens always aim to instill in the young. It proves that education based on values is not just a phase or an idea but has a far reaching impact on the young and their adulthood later on in life.”

Anne Emmanuel

Director of Good Shepherd Kindergartens @ Nurseries, Malaysia

The support of Good Shepherd Mission Partners in the Province had been overwhelming and was a testimony to the living out of justice and inclusion. The experience allowed us to see the good works carried out by the Good Shepherd Mission in Kolwezi and we learnt to stretch our hearts and minds to see beyond the boundaries, to recognise opportunities to help create new life beyond the pain and suffering brought about by war and oppression. +



One Billion Rising

— Rising For Justice! One Billion Rising is a global campaign to end violence against women, rise for justice and promote gender equality. There are 7 billion people on the planet. Half are women. One third of them are raped or beaten. It is a call for one billion women around the world to join together to dance in a show of collective strength. This year the campaign will take place on 14 February.

Malaysia

WHERE

Sekolah Menengah Hulu Kelang, Selangor

WHEN

24 January 2014

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

150 secondary students

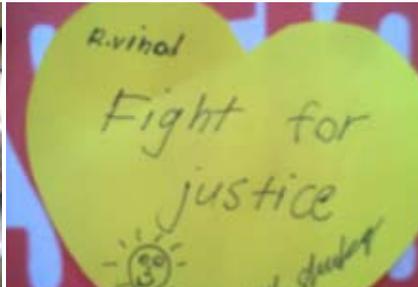
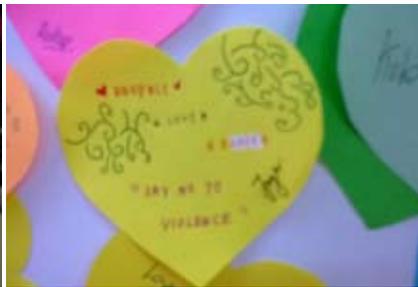
ACTIVITIES

- Screening of film "Rising" by Tony Stroebel
- Introduction to campaign
- Learning dance steps to "Break the Chain"
- Personal pledge by students to stop violence against women and girls
- White ribbons were distributed to students. Wearing a white ribbon symbolizes a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

TEAM

Sr. Kelly Ngai, Alona Aguila, Mag Chin, Jackie Sanders, Karen Tai and Gloria Bon

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Ipoh

At **Rose Virginie Good Shepherd Centre**, the staff introduced “One Billion Rising” to the unaccompanied refugee minors from 7 Feb. onwards. Various aspects of the rights of women and children were explained to them and the importance of standing up to all forms of injustices. They viewed the videos on the “One Billion Rising” event and saw how different parts of the world will be rising for justice. The children prepared messages to be distributed to as many people as possible. These messages speak of their own experiences of violence and their desire for these exploitations to stop. As the children are not able to be seen in public, we will have to be their voice. A one line brief of the exploitation faced by the children is included in every drawing.



Sabah

WHERE

- Maktab Nasional
- Sekolah Menengah St.Peter, Telipok
- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bahang, Penampang
- Ascot Academy
- Eastern College
- Parish and Diocese Youth Leaders from around Sabah
- Montfort Youth Training Centre, Kinarut (all boys vocational institute)
- Community at Gereja Kristus Raja, Tulid
- Asrama Desa Pukak

WHEN

10 Feb – 5 March 2014

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

Over a thousand

ACTIVITIES

- Talks on teenage dating
- Introducing of Break the Chain Dance
- Signing of pledge to end violence against women and girls

- In **Montfort Youth Training Centre**

the role of men as protectors of women, and not to become perpetrators of violence was highlighted, By reciting the Man Prayer by Eve Ensler and writing their pledges, the students stated their commitment in preventing violence and shared about men who have given them positive influence in their lives. It was a very inspiring experience.

- **The Community at Tulid** shared that

abuse of women is really happening among them and asked for guidance in taking the next step to get help.

- **The children in Asrama Desa Pukak**

danced alongside with their mothers.

TEAM

- Alamesra Youth PREP Centre
- Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO)



1 Jonathan Lim from SAWO, talking about violence in teenage dating

2 Students from the Montfort Youth Training Centre sticking their pledges up on a banner

3 Community in Mukim Tulid dancing together

4 Diocesan youth leaders from Sandakan, Keningau and Kota Kinabalu showing their support for the One Billion Rising Campaign

Even though we could not see immediate results from this campaign, we hope that we have at least sowed some seeds in the hearts of the over one thousand participants to never resort to violence toward women and girls. It was a very enriching experience for all of us sharing and campaigning against violence for One Billion Rising this year. †

International Women's Day Celebration



International Women's Day (IWD) was widely celebrated by the various ministries under Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (PKGS) in Sabah, Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. It was also an opportunity to encourage the residents to run a program for the women in the house focusing on empowerment and leadership among them.

SERI MURNI CRISIS CENTER (SMCC), SANDAKAN, SABAH

— In Sandakan, PKGS in collaboration with the Catholic Women's Apostolate (CWA) of St. Mary's Parish, Sandakan conducted a half-day programme, themed "Catholic Women: Precious and Loved" at St. Mary's Parish Hall on 16th March. Some 150 women and youth attended the event which kicked off immediately after the Bahasa Malaysia Mass.

The sessions were jointly facilitated by Sr. Barbara Lip and Sr. Appollonia Gumpu. The main focus of the programme was on affirming that all human beings, both women and men, are created in the image and

likeness of God, that the life and dignity of a human person is sacred and to be respected regardless of gender, race, economic status and others. One of the questions for reflection was, "How can I better respond to God in my being a woman, precious and loved?" The participants had an enriching time of sharing of their own experiences of struggles, challenges, joys and pain as women, mothers and/or wives.

Whilst the women's session was in progress, the children participated in the Children's Group Activity. The 19 children concluded the day's programme with a song presentation to appreciate and thank their mothers on this special occasion.

The Sandakan team had also reached out to a group of 19 migrant women and

youth on a separate session on 9th March with the same theme. It concluded with each receiving a gift of appreciation and a fellowship meal to celebrate together our recognition as women, who are precious and loved by our Creator God.

YOUTH-PREP CENTRE (YPC), SABAH

— In conjunction with IWD, YPC organised the Faith in Action programme from 7th to 9th March, which was held at Kg. Tampasak, Penampang. 17 youths from different locations, schools and colleges in Kota Kinabalu participated in the programme. The objectives of the Faith in Action programme are: to create an opportunity for youth to reflect on

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“Who is my neighbour?”, to instill community spirit among the youth in contributing to society especially to those in need; and to be aware of the presence of God among, around and in the people in need.

The key message imparted to the women in Kg. Tampasak was about the roles of women in the community, society and family in relation to social justice. The youths stayed with their foster mothers and joined the women in their daily routine such as fishing, weeding, gardening, going into the forest to look for wood and wild ginger.

During the 3-day programme, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the history and struggle of Kg. Tampasak, how they were displaced by the construction of the Babagon Dam, and how the mothers voiced out for their rights and the needs of the community. The awareness briefing was conducted by Ms. Winnie Johanis, a resident of Kg. Tampasak. Ms. Anne Lasimbang, the Executive Director of PACOS Trust, a community based organization dedicated towards supporting indigenous communities in Sabah, presented a session entitled, Social Justice and Women. The programme was instrumental in increasing the participants’ awareness on social justice, the social teaching of the church, issues faced by women, and the aspiration and hope of women.

TEENAGE CENTRE, KUALA LUMPUR

— In Kuala Lumpur, the IWD was celebrated for 2 days in the Teenage Centre. The first celebration took place on the actual day on 8 March 2014, with the theme as “Equality for Women is Progress for All.” In line with this theme, Sr. Kelly presented the message from the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, which amongst others, called for the recommitment of ourselves to “working harder for gender equality, together as women, men, youth and leaders of nations, communities, religion and

commerce.” Our girls reflected on the inspiring message and shared on what resonated most with them as well as what innate quality they recognised in themselves as a way of affirming and empowering of themselves.

The residents and staff took the opportunity to honour Ms. Alona Aguila in celebration of her birthday which fell on 9th March. Each one expressed their heartfelt thanks to her for the giving of herself to the mission far away from her home country Philippines. Alona has been a blessing to all those under her care and who have the privilege to work with her in the past six years of her service in the Good Shepherd Mission in Malaysia.

The second celebration took place on 12th March and joining in the celebration were Ms. Ruth Clarke and the HR Staff of Ritz Carlton Hotel. They provided the girls with baking lessons and shared their experiences of working in the hospitality industry. It was helpful and encouraging for the girls to be more aware of what it takes to pursue a career in the industry, namely patience, hard work and discipline.



ROSE VIRGINIE GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER (RVGSC), IPOH, PERAK

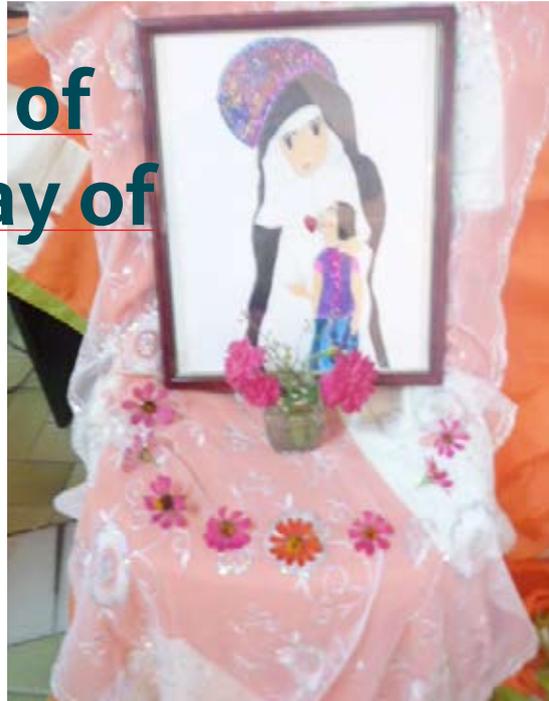
— The preparation for the celebration of IWD in RVGSC began about 2 weeks before the actual day. The purpose of the celebration was to create awareness about IWD among the children and residents, and to show them some of the achievements of successful women in the world. It was also an opportunity to encourage the residents to run a program for the women in the house, focusing on empowerment and leadership among the girls and ladies in the shelter to bring out the message of gender equality.

The children organised a party for the women in the shelter. They made collages and decorations, practised their song and dance, planned the games and the menu for the party.

On IWD, all the children and residents came together in celebration and appreciation of the gift of women. †

Celebration of the Feast Day of St. Mary Euphrasia

24 April 2014
Teenage Centre,
Kuala Lumpur



8

On this special day the staff and residents of the Teenage Centre in Kuala Lumpur celebrated the Feast Day of St. Mary Euphrasia (SME). The celebration began with the showing of a video of her life. Sr. Kelly highlighted that Rose Virginie's experience of loss of her loved ones during her childhood made her understand the feelings of loneliness and pain. It was these early experiences that gave her the zeal to reach out to women and girls in need of help.

After the sharing by Sr. Kelly the residents were introduced to the theme for the celebration, "To honour St. Mary Euphrasia through our talents." This is an opportunity to thank and honour her by showcasing their own talents.

The residents presented their unique talents like playing the guitar and the keyboard, reciting their own poems and singing. The day ended with a party where the girls enjoyed themselves dancing. Kentucky Fried Chicken was served for dinner.

Below are 2 poems composed by the residents

*She lives in France
She loves to dance
Her dancing is amazing.*

*Her kindness melts our hearts
She takes care of us
I know that she's taking a rest
But we will never forget her past.*

*She always know what to say
Instead of saying "hey"
By taking care of the child
She will stay for awhile.*

*She may sound like Mother Theresa
But no, she is St. Mary Euphrasia
Please don't ever forget this part
"Gratitude is the memory of the Heart"*

*Saint Mary Euphrasia
Is like my shining star
Even though that she's far
We will never break apart
Just like inside of my heart*

*Her heart is not like an ice
Because she is nice
She is loving, caring
Helping is her instinct*

*There's more about her
She's like a mother
Better than any other
That could make our lives better.*

*I know that she's not in front of our eyes
But, she save our lives
Time flies so fast
We will never forget her past †*

Mariaville Good Shepherd Kindergarten, Ipoh

Earth Day on 22 April

THEME

'Green Cities'

ACTIVITIES

- Sharing on Earth Day and the importance of protecting our Earth
- A skit on the dangers of chopping of trees and destroying forests
- A slide show presentation on pollution and recycling
- Singing of Earth Day Song



Foundress Day on 24 April

ACTIVITIES

- Lighting of candle in front of St. Mary Euphrasia's picture
- A power point presentation of her life followed by a sketch
- A presentation of prizes to winners of Foundress Day quiz
- Distribution of bookmarks as souvenirs
- Singing of Foundress Day Song †



Meeting with Domestic Workers

— The Domestic Workers Campaign Coalition of which Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd is a member met with Filipino domestic workers on 2 Sundays, 4th and 11th May at the premises of St John's. A similar meeting took place on 11th May in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Petaling Jaya.

The objective of these meetings was to inform the domestic workers of the proposed Employment Regulations

(Terms and Conditions of Employment) (Domestic Servant) 2014 and to get their feedback. They were also informed of the press statement made by the Coalition to demand the following:

- Recognize domestic work as work
- Classify domestic works as 'employees', not 'servants'
- Include domestic workers and civil society organisations in the legislative process
- Enact separate regulations to comprehensively address the specific vulnerabilities towards discrimination and violence faced by domestic workers
- Protect and uphold the fundamental human rights of local and foreign domestic workers.

The Coalition will meet the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 23 May to hear from its members their future plans in relation to the Domestic Workers Campaign and to help them in their efforts in advocating and promoting decent work, labour and human rights for domestic workers. †



A Tribute to Irene Fernandez

A Mission Partner



— Good Shepherd mourns the passing of a well-known human rights advocate, director and co-founder of Tenaganita, a Kuala Lumpur based nongovernmental organisation which promotes the rights of migrant workers, Irene Fernandez. She was the champion of the oppressed, always committed to the rights of the poor and

the underprivileged and the voice for victims of human trafficking, especially for women. She never failed to make timely and relevant comments, without fear or favour, when required on the plight of migrants and refugees. She died of heart failure on March 31, 2014, at age 67.

She went through a 13-year trial for writing a report that exposed the horrific conditions in immigration detention centers in Malaysia. She was convicted to a one-year imprisonment in 2003 but was released on bail, and appealed the decision to the High Court that eventually dropped the charges against her in 2008.

Fernandez had received numerous other awards, including the Amnesty International Award in 1998; the International PEN Award in 2000; the Jonathan Mann Award in 2004; and the Right Livelihood Award in 2005.

Irene shared her mission and passion with Good Shepherd in many ways. In 2006, she was a resource person at the Asia Pacific Justice Peace Workshop in Thailand and then in the following year in Kuala Lumpur. She continued to share her work with Good Shepherd locally and regionally showing us the path to a better world for the poor and oppressed. For all this we are ever grateful. †