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Sr. Rani Punnaserril, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, with food packages for migrant workers (Provided photo)



by Michele Morek

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Writing this end-of-the-year blog is difficult, but delightful. How do I summarize a whole year of great columns?

And what a year it was.

The [columns section](#) of Global Sisters Report is the place where sisters and associates tell their own stories. They write about everything and anything. So many columns came in this year that we increased the number we ran each week; even now, there is still a two-month wait for the columns to be posted. Not that we are complaining! We are thrilled to have so many sisters who want to write for us. We salute you all, faithful regulars and new writers.

My only regret is that I could not mention all of you in this summary. I just had to look for major themes, new parts of the world, or special treats.

Often, sisters just reflect on "ordinary" aspects of religious life, like [getting up](#) in the morning, the [breviary](#) or their community [constitutions](#). In fact, we have a special panel of sisters that write on [the life](#) of religious sisters. This year, we said goodbye to the [third panel of writers](#) and welcomed a [new panel](#).



Sr. Vivien Echekwubelu, registered nurse and member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, in her protective gear on shift at a hospital in Baltimore, Maryland (Provided photo)

I don't have to tell you that the major theme of the year was COVID-19. Sisters reflected on the pandemic from all angles: a [sister doctor](#), a [sister nurse](#) and several [teachers](#) wrote; another sister described her unique experience of COVID-19 as "[novitiate](#)," and one told us about coping with the [disease](#) herself. We had a whole department of sisters reporting on the plight of refugees in India; there are too many to list, but examples are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Sr. Nancy Sylvester set a GSR record for her March 23 column, "[What did you learn from the coronavirus pandemic?](#)" By Dec. 15, it had a total of 67,905 pageviews. It is the most-read story of any kind in the history of Global Sisters Report!

GSR did [a special series](#) on homelessness this year, and several sisters contributed columns to that theme [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Really, our sisters keep us up on events all around the globe. Wildfires in [Australia](#), a mass shooting in a U.S. [city](#), weavers in [Mexico](#), Irish relationships with [Choctaw Nation](#), the Black Lives Matter [awakening](#) in the United States: Our sisters are top of it.

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An osprey is seen against the smoke-filled sky at sunrise near Kingscliff, New South Wales, Australia. (Bryan Ricketts)

From the [Amazon](#) basin to [Cambodia](#) and the [Cook Islands](#), from [Appalachia](#) to [Zimbabwe](#), our sisters really put the "global" in Global Sisters Report. This year, we met [aboriginal people](#) and the [Dalits](#) and the [Masai](#). We met the first African [sister](#) in a white community and a sister who donated a [kidney](#) to another sister.

Our writers are good about keeping us in touch with feast days or the liturgical season. They got us ready for the [Annunciation](#), [Lent](#), [Holy Thursday](#), the [Ascension](#) and everything before, after or in between. We got a study guide on [Fratelli Tutti](#), and we took a [pilgrimage](#) to El Salvador for the 40th anniversary of the deaths of the four churchwomen.

We played in an [orchestra](#), learned how to use [musicals](#) to deal with the pandemic and meditated on works of [art](#). Really! I could not make this stuff up. This is like attending a liberal arts college.

We hope Global Sisters Report gave you something to like about 2020, and we look forward to seeing what it brings in 2021.

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