

PRESENTATION of the General Superior

Pace e Bene!

I am glad to present you this new congregational bulletin. Some of the variations which you may find are due to the change of the drafting committee. The main responsible of the new drafting is Sr. Cecilia Subiabre, the Vicar general, who with the collaboration of all the sisters, engages to maintain faith to what is agreed in the General Chapter.

The chapter members in fact strongly solicited the circulation of the information between the General Council, the organisms and the singular community wishing that this valid instrument of communion comes out at least every six months. (Chapter Doc. P. 25) As I expressed already in a communication to the Provincial and Regional Superiors, it is necessary to reach the news from all the organisms to Sr. Cecilia. Each one must have the pleasure of reading the news of "Pace e Bene" with positive curiosity to feel the living part of the family. I ask you therefore to collaborate by sending the selected interesting news through the responsible of the province.

This new bulletin comes out as a new course of life at the starting of this New Year. A year which starts in the sign of peace brought by Christ, the Prince of peace. The peace that is not only the absence of conflicts and of tension, but the promotion of the integral development of the persons, all the people and all of their fundamental rights as told by the Pontiff, Benedict XVI, in his New Year Message.

We are cooperators of peace in the measure in which we leave ourselves to be enlightened by the light of Christ, that light capable of transforming all our life in loving response towards God and all His children.

The greatest challenge of today is to accept the Lord Jesus in ones own heart and to follow Him till the Redemptive Cross. This journey involves the serene acceptance of the difficulties and of the sufferings ; It is a journey of conformation to Christ, the sharing of the Redemptive Love that we must complete with greater commitment this year to celebrate well the centenary year of the denomination "of the Sacred Heart".

Let us wish that "Pace e Bene" continue to be an instrument of formation according to our charism, precious link among all the sisters of the congregation, means of communion and fruitful seed of fraternity.

In the name of the-council and all the sisters of the congregation, I express my heartfelt and grateful thanks towards Sr. Ermenegilda, Sr. Teresa Della Pietra and all sisters who have collaborated in the drafting of the bulletin in these years.

May Most Holy Mary, Queen of Peace, praised and invoked under this title, help us to welcome each reality with faith and with the sentiments of peace and hope in this New Year 2006.



IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEACE

1ST JANUARY 2006

AT THE BEGINNING
OF THE NEW YEAR BENEDICT XVI
INVITES ALL MEN AND
WOMEN OF GOODWILL
"TO A "START"
OF COURAGE AND OF CONFIDENCE
IN GOD
TO BECOME "LEAVEN" OF A HUMANITY
RENEWED IN LOVE!"

TO THE SOURCE OF LOVE

*... at once blood
and water came out from the pierced side.....*

St. John, in his Gospel, proclaims the Messiahship and the Divine filiation of Jesus through the discourse of self revelation. The manifestation of this divine truth is clear and complete only in the supreme glorification of Jesus on the cross. John is the eye witness at the foot of the cross, one of the signs more symbolic and significant of Jesus-Royal Messiah, he was describing in a concise form, but with intuitive eye of faith that goes as the event.

"Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out" (Jn. 19:32...)

The Gospel passage itself seems registered a fact of event. Jesus was dead when the soldier pierced there with a lance, like a completeness of a sentence follows in the letter till the end. Certainly, only few present the execution of the three condemned. They were thinking like that. But John the disciple who listened the events of the Calvary was penetrating the deepness of that mystery with the intuition of who knows to read the facts as it is. He in his narration of the episodes of Calvary describes the elevation on the cross like a regal investiture. Jesus sits on the throne of the cross and in height over the head is written, "Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews", proclamation that pilate did: "Here is your king".

A crucified king, a pierced king, a king to whom the power is revealed in love, the life giving love. It is the time in which the paschal lamb is getting ready as mentioned in John: 19:36. Jesus is the lamb prefigured in the Old Testament to which the blood poured on the wall saves the people and will leave them in

liberty and also the eschatological paschal lamb which signs in the winning post of the humanity, to the end of the world (Ap 14:1) is the real lamb immolated for the salvation of the world.

In fact the blood and water come out from the pierced side becomes a sign and by the power of the spirit give birth the sacrament of salvation, the paschal gift of Jesus to which really at the moment of death, "He bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (Jn. 19,30). From this moment people are invited to approach him the fountain of salvation. Remember the words of Jesus, "let everyone who is thirsty come to me". John in fact sees the fulfilment of the prophecy of Ezekiel in Jesus, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7,38).

In this context he finds space and significance of the word 'sete' that Jesus pronounced before his death. It is the key word. While earthly water he says, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty"(Jn: 4:13). Jesus in fact in the moment of supreme sacrifice quenches our thirst with the water of the spirit.

"The opening of the heart is to indicate the gift offered to all, how much of personal and intimate love Jesus has: the Holy Spirit; the space opened, emptied can be accessible to all now". (H. Baltassar)

This source of salvation and of grace is not opened from out as it is seemed. It is not the lance of the soldier pierced the heart of the Crucified. The text of John puts in evidence a significant verb (different from the translation of Volgata: Aperuit = he pierced His side); Percussit = runs from the open side (heart) word of strong biblical resonance which makes us go back again to the sign of Moses before the rock. Runs

from the rock (Christ) and there comes out water and all people drank it. (Ez.17,6)

It is the Father who from the profundity of the eternal life of his son, through the lacerated chest of Jesus opens the doors and makes it out, His spirit of life on the representing humanity under the cross. In the death of Jesus now the glorification has come. From this moment the spirit is given in the sign of baptismal water to the faithful who are born by water and spirit. (Jn. 3:5)

If water is the symbol of the spirit that in the baptism we are purified and given life, the blood that flows out from the pierced side of the Crucified is the life of Jesus himself, which is given totally to man. It is the interior life of Jesus as mentioned in the theological writings of I. De la Potterie:

"The blood of Christ represents the life of Christ... It is the evocation and the sign of the profound life of Christ. It is the visible sign of what is remained invisible: the conscience of Jesus. The blood that comes out of his pierced side helps us to penetrate into his intimacy... in the profound life of Jesus"

(From the mystery of Christ Crucified).

From the pierced side the blood and water came out but mixed, as to signify the completion of the Old Testament in the New. The blood is the life of Jesus; the water is the gift of the spirit. Jesus became the perfect through sufferings (Ref. Heb:2:10), by giving us the spirit is substituted to life giving spirit (Ref. 1Cor. 15:45). In this way we can enter into the relationship with god, son of the Son of God, participate in the divine nature.

They unite together with the blood and the spirit so that by means of the blood of our nature itself we become capable of receiving the Holy Spirit who is not of our nature

(Homily in Easter II)

This mystery is fulfilled every day in the Eucharist, the paschal sacrifice, where Jesus offers Himself as the body divided and given and the blood is shed, obtaining the gift of the Spirit from the Father to make us all one family, one body:

"Father, give the fulness of the Holy Spirit to us, we who nourish of the body and blood of your Son, so that we become one body and one spirit". (Eucharistic Prayer. III)

The heart pierced on Calvary remains always that fountain of life which invites all humanity to draw strength from it: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Is. 12:3).

From every altar flows that river of redemption de-

scribes in the Apocalypse: "The river of the water of life flows and it heals, restores to health, gives life" (Ez. 47:8-9; Ref. Ap. 22:1). Also when we celebrate the Eucharist every day, we are redressed of the redemption of Jesus and forming with Christ in one body, in one spirit, and can become to be a holy sacrifice, living and acceptable to God. In the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ becomes in fact the sacrifice of the members of his body. Our life, our sufferings, our prayer, the praise, the work are united to that of Christ and to his total offering, in this way they receive a new value.

"Christ willed to do his spiritual sacrifice of the church and is called to offer herself with the sacrifice of Christ. He teaches us that participating to the Eucharistic sacrifice, the fountain and the summit of the Christian unity, they offer themselves to God the divine victim. (Ecclesiae de Eucarestia, 13)

Crucified Jesus who is present on the altar offers the possibility of being united to that offering he himself has done on the cross. Sacrifice of cross and the Eucharistic sacrifice are one and the same reality. The holy mass is the sacrifice of Calvary. The separation between body and blood really took place on the cross, witnessed by the last drop of blood flew out from the pierced heart of the crucified is the presupposition of the form of Eucharistic banquet, sacrifice that actualize today, the paschal salvation offered by Jesus to the world. That is why the Christians are invited on the day of the Lord, to unite together to celebrate the memorial of this sacrifice, "From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace" (Jn. 1:16).

John the apostle who had leaned his head on the chest of Jesus during the Last Supper, testifies the events which took place in the final stage of Jesus. He could help us more than others to appreciate the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

The infinite love that he had discovered in the heart of Christ invites us again to contemplate that heart "Who loved us so much" by giving himself in sacrifice for us. (General Audience of Pope John Paul II in 1988)

"He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe that he tells the truth". (Jn. 19:35)

But this same mystery we must always see not as separated, but as co-ordinated and colligated with all the various mysteries of the hidden life of Jesus, a sublime mystery of redemption. There is in fact a line of ordered growth or development in the continuation of an undivided and inseparable sign of love from Nazareth to Calvary. It is because of this that we will meet again Mary on Calvary who waits for all as Mother awaking and praying near the cross of her dying Son as a collaborator of His salvific works, serving under Him and with Him, for the grace of Omnipotent God in the mystery of Redemption. (Cf. LG.56)

Walking with the Church



BENEDICT XVI

CLOSES THE EUCHARISTIC YEAR BY CANONIZING FIVE BLESSED

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 23, 2005, Benedict XVI

closed the Year of the Eucharist and the Synod of Bishops and celebrated World Mission Sunday by canonizing the first five saints of his pontificate.

Some 252 synodal fathers concelebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Square this morning, with the participation of tens of thousands of visitors and pilgrims.

Displayed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica were portraits of the newly canonized saints from Italy, Poland and Chile.

"The saint is he who is so fascinated by the beauty of God and by his perfect truth to be progressively transformed by it," the Pope said in his homily, delivered in Italian, Polish, Ukrainian and Spanish.

"Because of this beauty and truth, he is ready to renounce everything, even himself," the Holy Father said. "The love of God is enough, which he expresses in the humble and disinterested service to the neighbor, especially to those who cannot give back in return."

Those canonized were:

- Gaetano Catanoso (1879-1963) of Italy, priest of the Archdiocese of Reggio Calabria-Bova, and founder of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Veronica, Missionaries of the Holy Face; and

- Felice de Nicosia (1715-1787) of Italy, a Capuchin religious.

- Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga (1901-1952) of Chile, a Jesuit;

- Jozef Bilczewski (1860-1923) of Poland, archbishop of Lviv of the Latins;

- Zygmunt Gorazdowski (1845-1920) of Poland, diocesan priest of the Lviv Archdiocese;

The Holy Father called Gaetano Catanoso the "apostle of the Holy Face of Christ."

"Daily Mass and the frequent adoration of the Sacrament of the Altar were the soul of his priesthood," Benedict XVI said. "With ardent and untiring pastoral charity he dedicated himself to preaching, to catechesis, to the ministry of confessions, to the poor, to the sick, to the care of priestly vocations."

"Father Felice," continued the Pontiff, "helps us to discover the value of the little things that make our lives more precious, and he teaches us to grasp the meaning of family and of service to the brothers, showing that true and lasting joy, which every human being's heart desires, is the fruit of love."

Benedict XVI recalled the words Felice de Nicosia would repeat during good times or bad times: "Be it for the love of God."

Regarding Jozef Bilczewski, the Bishop of Rome said his "deep knowledge of theology, faith and Eucharistic devotion ... made him an example for priests and a witness for all the faithful."

The Holy Father noted that the archbishop devoted long hours each day to prayer and other pious practices, with "a particularly long time ... dedicated to Eucharistic adoration."

"Zygmunt Gorazdowski became famous for the devotion founded on the celebration and adoration of the Eucharist. Living Christ's offering urged him towards the sick, the poor and the needy," Benedict XVI said.

Prayer and action

Alberto Hurtado, said the Pope, is “a true contemplative in action. In love and in the total commitment to God’s will, he found the strength for the apostolate. He founded The Home of Christ for the most needy, and for those without a roof, offering them a family atmosphere full of human warmth.”

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, was present at the ceremony, as were the presidents of the country’s Senate and Chamber of Deputies. Also in attendance were more than 7,000 Chileans, who responded with songs and cheers every time the Pope mentioned the name of their country’s newly canonized saint.

Regarding the closing of the Year of the Eucharist, the Holy Father said: “How providential, in this perspective, is the fact that today the Church points out to all its members five new saints who, nourished by Christ the living bread, were converted to love and modeled their whole existence to this!”
“In different situations and with different charisms,” he said, “they loved the Lord with all their heart and the neighbor as themselves to thus become ‘an example to all believers.’”

THE CHURCH IS IN NEED OF COURAGEOUS AND CREATIVE CONSECRATED

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 12, 2005

(Zen to rg).- To present God to a world overwhelmed by hedonism, materialism and individualism, the Church needs the testimony of chastity, poverty and obedience of consecrated persons, says Benedict XVI.

The Pope expressed this conviction Saturday when meeting in Paul VI Hall with 8,000 religious and members of secular institutes and societies of apostolic life of the Rome Diocese.

“The Church has need of your testimony, she has need of a consecrated life that will address with courage and creativity the challenges of the present time,” the Holy Father told his listeners, after they were introduced by Cardinal Camillo Ruini, his vicar for Rome.

“In the face of the advance of hedonism, you are asked for the courageous testimony of chastity as expression of a heart that knows the beauty and the price of the love of God,” Benedict XVI told the men and women present.

“In the face of the thirst for money, your sober and available life at the service of the neediest is a reminder that God is the authentic wealth that does not perish,” he continued.

True destiny

Finally, “in the face of individualism and relativism, which lead persons to become the sole norm of themselves,” the fraternal life of the consecrated allows them to be coordinated and therefore to obey, said the Bishop of Rome.

Such a life, he said, “confirms that you place your fulfillment in God.”

So, the consecrated person “lives in time, but his heart is projected beyond time and witnesses to contemporary man -- often absorbed by the things of this world -- that his true destiny is God himself.”

According to the Pope, the secret for the life of the consecrated to become a “prophetic sign” of the Kingdom of heaven, is to love God with one’s whole heart, with one’s whole soul, and with one’s whole strength, rather than any other person or thing.

“Do not be afraid to presents yourselves, even visibly, as consecrated persons, and try with all means to manifest your belonging to Christ, the hidden treasure for which you left everything,” the Pontiff exhorted.

He suggested that the consecrated take up a motto of St. Benedict: “Prefer nothing, absolutely nothing to the love of Christ.”



With the Franciscan Family



*"Lord,
what do you want me to do?"*

FROM THE HOMILY OF THE
MINISTER GENERAL OF
THE ORDER OF THE FRIARS MINOR,
FR. JOSE RODRIGUEZ CARBALLO,
AT THE INITIATION OF THE PREPARATION
PROCESS OF THE
VIII CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDATION
OF THE ORDER
29TH OCTOBER 2005

From homily at the initiation of the preparation process of the VIII Centenary of the Foundation of the Order, 29th October 2005

Today, we Friars Minor begin the process which will lead us, during the coming years as we make a gracious memorial of the VIII Centenary of our foundation, to celebrate the gift of our vocation and to accept the grace of our origins. [...]. This first moment in our jubilee journey will be centred on discernment. In this context, the Lord of history invites us once again, through the Apostle, to examine everything and to hold on to what is good (cf. 1Thess 5,21), and asks us to recognise, read and interpret, in the light of the Gospel (cf. Lk 12,54-59), the signs of the times through which He questions us (cf. LgP 6). Thus, during this year, guided by the example of Francis, we pose this question once again: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (3Comp 6). As we pose this, as happened to Francis in the distant 1206, I hear the Lord ask us, as He did that day at Spoleto to the Poverello: Friars Minor, where are you going? Who can be more useful to you: the patron or the servant? And He repeats it again to us today as He did then to Francis: Go back over your steps (cf. 3Comp 6). At the time of his conversion, Francis himself became a question: "Lord, what do You want me to do?". He is the believer who seeks and prays: "Enlighten the darkness of my heart" (PrCr 1). He is the poor man who, like Mary, takes on an attitude of total availability in order to fulfil the will of the Lord promptly. Faced by the choice between serving the patron or the servant, Francis decided, in a radical and definitive manner 800 years ago, to follow the Lord according to the form of the Holy Gospel, which the Most High Himself had revealed to him (cf. Test 14). During this first stage of the Centenary of our foundation, let us make a memorial of the conversion of Francis through the proposal to travel once again the interior path of conversion which the Poverello made in order to live all that we promised in our profession with a new enthusiasm.

If we are decisive, and have an attitude of obedience, in asking ourselves: "Lord, what do You want me to do?", we also will feel the call of the Lord to choose between the patron and the servant, to go back over our steps, to begin again, to convert, to believe in the Gospel (cf. Mk 1,15). Yes, go back, convert: it is the invitation which constantly echoes in our heart. Go back, convert: it is the appeal which the Church puts before us when it invites us to "creative fidelity" (VC 37). Go back, convert: it is the urgency which the Pentecost Chapter of 2003 manifested to us clearly; the urgency to accept the spirit, to be born again, to return to the essentials, to conform our life to the radical demands of the Gospel (cf. LgP 2), to convert and, in this way for us also, to choose the patron definitively, leaving the servant aside for ever.

22nd June 1906

SECOND LETTER
WITH WHICH MOTHER ASSUNTA
DECLARES THE AWAITED PROMULGATION
OF THE NEW CONSTITUTIONS
AND ENTRUSTS TO EACH
ONE THE COMMITMENT
THAT THEY INVOLVE IN REFERENCE
TO THE NEW TITLE THAT WE TAKE.



In the grace of Origins

Dear Sisters
and Beloved Daughters in Christ,

Finally, after about a year of waiting, I have the pleasure of presenting our Constitutions, approved definitely on August 14, 1905. The reason for the delay is that we had to return twice to the Sacred Congregation for some clarifications before printing them. Everything is now clear for us as it will be for you. If you need some clarifications, simply let us know and we will be happy to help.

You already guessed that there are some radical changes, but they have all been made by the Reverend Examining Commission of twelve Eminent Cardinals. They introduced the changes and the Holy See approved them. We must bow our heads in love and respect, certain that they are God's will for us made known through the Hierarchy of the Church. May we find the duty to observe them, as promptly as possible, dear to our hearts. May the exact observance of these Statutes make us glow, because by forming the Code of our religious life, they are our second. Gospel.



As I have already said, it is a particular grace, having our Constitutions approved in these difficult times and the Sacred Congregation's gracious reception of our Congregation directly under its jurisdiction. So is the fact that we can call ourselves Daughters of the Sacred Heart another unique grace we have received. Oh, what an honor it is to have this title. How guilty we should be if our conduct does not harmonize with it: Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart! May our lives be a constant study to reproduce in us the virtues of this adorable Heart. Was He not the first Missionary to souls during His life on earth? If every Christian is obliged to take the Divine Redeemer as his model for life, His Missionaries then are obliged to do so in a very special way-if they want to be recognized in Him and blessed at the end of life's journey--the moment of His generous reward.

We must dedicate ourselves to those virtues that are outstanding in Him: humility, the basis and foundation of all virtues, without which the other virtues are nothing but an illusion; and charity. How very much Jesus recommends charity and how dear it makes us to His Sacred Heart. How tragic it would be if

charity does not reign among His Daughters! We would never be recognized by Him Who said: "This is my commandment, keep it and you will live forever." I can also add: Do you want to be happy even in this life? . . . Love one another, be compassionate, bear with one another; in other words, be charitable) A religious house where charity reigns is a foretaste of Paradise. What can I say of a religious house where charity ,_does not reign; except that it is a real courtyard of Hell. pray the good Lord) preserve us from such a tragedy, lacking the hearts of all His Missionaries shine with the infinite charity of His Heart His spirit of abnegation, an 4 His spirit of sacrifice as our Constitutions request of us. Each of our Houses shall then be a miniature Paradise for the 'Sacred Heart will truly reign as its Sovereign Lord) . . If at times He will have us experience the suffering of His crown of thorns, we will be courageous, we will accept it as a new token of His love, as a pledge of the reward He has prepared for us, His servants and faithful brides, in His Heavenly Kingdom.

I don't know what else to say, except to recommend myself to your prayers, that after I have encouraged you in the practice of virtue in my own little way, I don't have the misfortune of failing in the many duties of my office. Supported by your prayers and accompanied by the grace of God, may I be an example of perfect observance of our holy rules and thus merit to be with all of you, my beloved daughters, united for eternity thanking and praising the adorable Heart of Jesus in Paradise.

Your affectionate Mother,

*Sr. M. Assunta
of the Most Holy Trinity
Mother General'*

Gemona, June 22, 1905
Feast of the Sacred Heart

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

ACTIVITY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL (August - December 2005)

- * The General Council started its mandate at the end of the General Chapter with a meeting of the outgoing General Council at last of giving continuity to the service started in the preceding six years.

- * IN THE FIRST MEETING IT IS NOMINATED:
 - General Treasurer : The Councillor Sr. Paola Dotto
 - General Secretary : Sr. Augusta Visentin
 - Superior of the Province "Holy Family" of India temporarily till the celebration of the first chapter : Sr. Maddalena Moro
 - Superior of the community "Asisium": Sr. Chiramilia Lavatori
 - Superior of the community "Madonna delle Rose" of ViOLE di Assisi : Sr. Rosangela Bregani
 - The Principal of the Institute "Asisium" of Rome : Sr. Loredana Borsato

- * Subsequently it is confirmed the admission to the Perpetual Profession of:
SR. ROSA VEGA CONTRERAS, SR. BERNARDA MADRID GARCIA, SR. MERCEDES SAMANIEGO REBOLLEDO
of the Province of " St. Antonio" Latin America
SR. CARLOTA M. CABILI
of the Province of "Maria Immacolata" Rome.

- * It has been elaborated the definitive text of the Document of the 18th General Chapter to be sent to all the sisters.

- * With particular reflection and care they have been selected the theme of the Lexio Divina centred on the mystery of the heart of Christ Crucified.

- * In this centenary year of the denomination of the Sacred heart, the Council willed to reserve the particular moments to the common prayer, with the proposal of three vigil of prayer in significant date of the Congregation:
 - 23rd January 2006 - Death of Father Gregory
 - 21st April 2006 - Canonical Opening of the Institute
 - 23rd June 2006 - Solemnity of the Sacred Heart

- * After the necessary discernment, they have been pointed out the programmatic priority which will be the motive of reflection, personal and communitarian undertakings, above all in this Centenary year for the re appropriation of the charism as indicated in the Chapter Document:
 - To contemplate the mystery of Jesus Crucified, live it in the fraternity, proclaim it and witness it
 - to each man which is the message of his presence;
 - To cultivate a spirituality of communion towards a profound communion with Christ and among us in the communitarian, provincial and congregational level;
 - To renew the youth vocational ministry for the dynamic vitality of the congregation.

- * The prolonged reflection on the Chapter Document orientated the programming of six years 2005-2011; the elaborated programme has been sent to all the sisters because they may be a point of reference for the plans and community programming of the province and of a single community.
- * The renewal programme for the sisters who celebrate the jubilee of Religious life has been drawn up by keeping in mind the theme of this centenary year. A thoughtful gratitude elevates in this moment to the Lord and to the sisters who dedicated 50 and 25 years of their service of the kingdom of God.
- * The necessity of formation of the sisters of the young organisms solicited to send Sr. Teresa della Pietra in India in November for few months and Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon in Africa in December for one month. These sisters according to their particular competency offered fraternal collaboration as it is mentioned in the Chapter Document.
- * The drafting of the bulletin "Pace e Bene" has been entrusted to the commission under the guidance of Sr. Cecelia Subiabre, Vicar General.
- * After a proper discernment and sharing with the Provincial Superiors Sr. Luisangela, Sr. Rosaria, and Sr. Emanuela of the province Veneta, Rome and France, the Council decided the reopening of the Inter provincial Novitiate, according to the indications of the Chapter Document. The General Superior Sr. Emmapia with the unanimous consent of the Council decreed the opening of the Inter provincial Novitiate "Porziuncola" on 9th December at Viote of Assisi, the house recently renovated and nominated Sr. Eliadora Battiston as the Mistress of the Novices.
- * The General Superior, Sr. Emmapia presided over the election of the Province Veneta "S. Maria degli Angeli" in which it has been elected the new Council constituted by:

Sr. Luisangela Severin	Provincial Superior
Sr. Anna Maria Volpato	Provincial Vicar
Sr. Gina Tomadini	2nd Provincial Councillor
Sr. Chiara Ceron	3rd Provincial Councillor
Sr. Daniela Revelant	4th Provincial Councillor

- * The General Superior, Sr. Emmapia, the Vicar General, Sr. Cecilia Subiabre and the Councillors Sr. Paolo Dotto and Sr. Germana Tomat participated at the Provincial Chapter of the Province "M. Immacolata" which has taken place in Rome from 27th - 31st December 2005 in which it has been elected the new Provincial Council constituted by:

Sr. Ermenegilda Cavin	Provincial Superior
Sr. Marta Camerotto	Provincial Vicar
Sr. Rosaria Iacobucci	2nd Provincial Councillor
Sr. Daniela Boa	3rd Provincial Councillor
Sr. Renata Casagrande	4th Provincial Councillor



GROTTE DI CASTRO

THE VISIT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FRANCISCANS

From the periodical, "Life of the Diocese of Viterbo", we extract an article of the Parish Priest, Don Tancredi Muccioli, who manifested his joy and satisfaction in welcoming the visit of the General Council to Grotte di Castro.

On Sunday November 13, 2005 the community of Grotte di Castro had the joy of welcoming in a private visit, the sisters of the new General Council of the Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, elected in Rome in July: Sr. Emmapia Bottamedi-general superior; Councillors: Sr. Cecilia Subiabre (Chile) vicaress, Sr. Paola Dotto, Sr. Gracy Thuruthipallil (India), and Sr. Germana Tomat (Cyprus).

The Franciscan Sisters were founded in Gemona (Udine) in 1861 by the Duchess Laura Leroux de Bauffremont and Fr. Gregorio Fioravanti-ofm, a native of Grotte di Castro (1822). Besides Italy, they are in the United States, France, Switzerland, Cyprus, Luxemburg, Cameroon, India, Lebanon, Bolivia, Philippines, Rep. of Central Africa, Peru, Bulgaria, Albania, the Congo, Ecuador, Lithuania and the Czech republic.

The visit of the general superior and her council offers good hope for Grotte di Castro because the religious congregation has the desire, as we do also, to open a house here in their Founder's birth place. Fr. Angelo Maria Patrizi, the rector of the Sanctuary received the sisters as they paused in prayer before the stupendous image of our Lady of Suffrage. Then in a meeting with the pastor, they asked for information about the parish and the possibility of having some activity reserved for the Sisters.

The visit to the Father Gregory's house where he was born, in Via del Santuario could not be overlooked. An inspection was carried out also at the unit of the Pia Cordelli Work, a beautiful and large structure that could serve for various activities in the future after some changes.

Before returning to Rome, in our farewell greetings, we were left with the expectant hope of seeing them return as a more stable presence in Grotte di Castro.

Let us entrust this desire to the intercession of Father Gregory: that our illustrious and 'holy' fellow-citizen may obtain for us the presence of his daughters, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

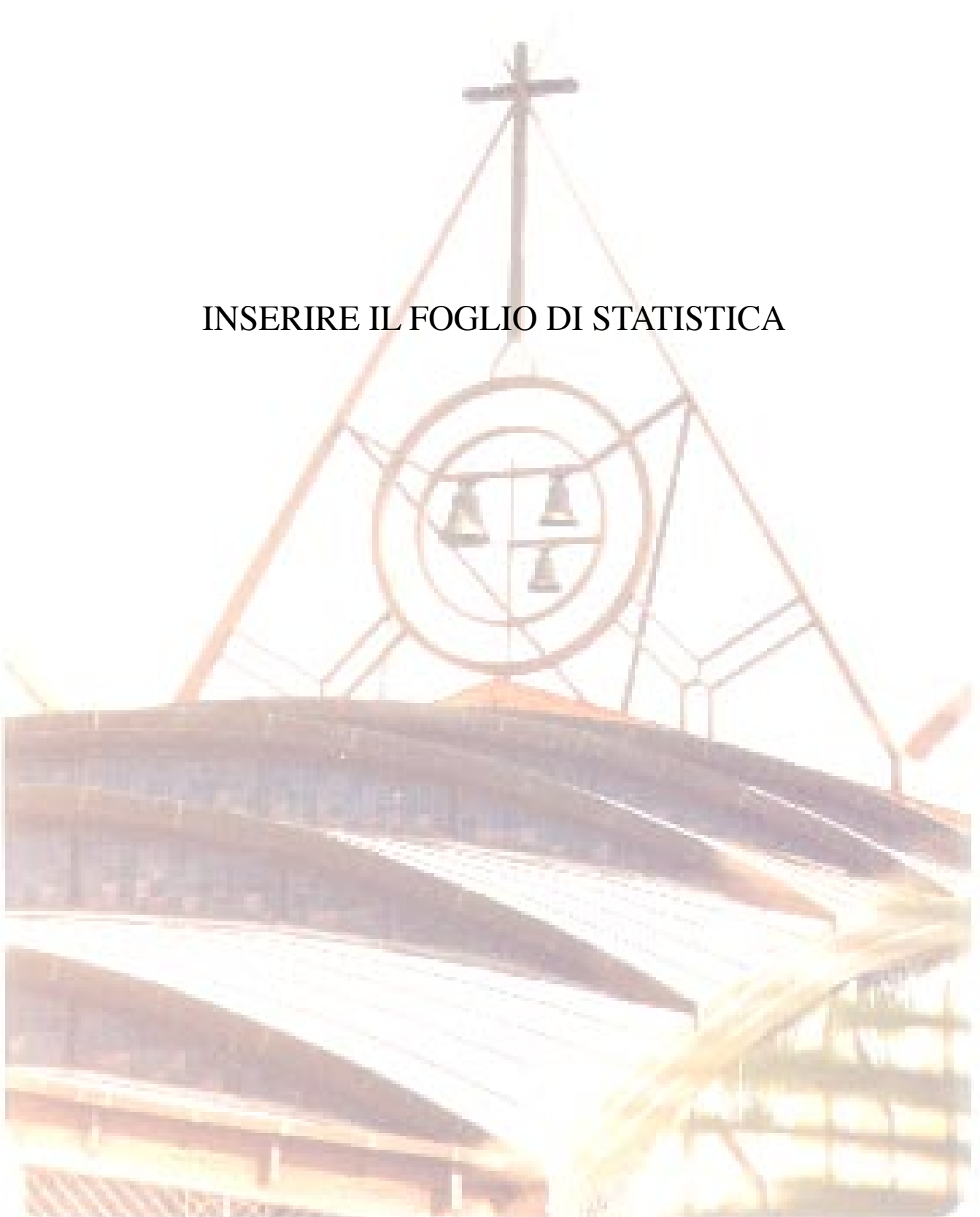
D. Tancredi Muccioli

Life in the Diocese of Viterbo

Let us praise the Lord
for our sisters who celebrate the Jubilee

80 °	Suor M. Afra Piccoli	Professione 14-12-1926	Prov Veneta
70°	Suor Maria D'Ambrosi	Professione 14-05-1936	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Santina Pavan	Professione 12-10-1936	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Armanda Trinca	Professione 12-10-1936	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Fabiola Marcuzzi	professione 12-10-1936	Prov Latinoam.
65°	Suor M. Cosmas Di Girolamo	Professione 27-03-1941	Prov Statunitense
	Suor M. Tullia Comai	Professione 26-06-1941	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Silvana Rosin	Professione 26-06-1941	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Vitalia Pozzobon	Professione 26-06-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Gemma Volpato	Professione 26-06-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Dorotea Gemin	Professione 26-06-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor Mary Kevin Dillon	Professione 07-07-1941	Prov Statunitense
	Suor M. Etorina Barison	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Francese
	Suor Rosalinda Gemin	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Fiorina Pozzebon	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Casimira Michielin	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Calista D'ambrosi	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Ausilia Zamboni	Professione 15-09-1941	Prov Veneta
60°	Suor M. Raphael Conlon	Professione 12-07-1946	Prov Statunitense
	Suor M. Gaudenzia Tommasini	Professione 12-08-1946	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Romana Tommasini	Professione 12-08-1946	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Isabella Pizzolon	Professione 05-10-1946	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Flora Ceron	Professione 05-10-1946	Prov Orientale
50°	Suor M. Antonina Turrina	Professione 04-02-1956	Prov Latinoamer.
	Suor M. Elisa Gazzola	Professione 04-02-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Carmelisa Vendrame	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Idalia Cavasin	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Licia Plazzotta	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Michelangela Visentin	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Claudia Graziotto	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Gregoria Morao	Professione 04-06-1956	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Agata Brunetti	Professione 19-09-1956	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Aurora Bearzi	Professione 04-10-1956	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Fides Lorenzon	Professione 04-10-1956	Prov Latinoamer.
	Suor M. Teresa Della Pietra	Professione 04-10-1956	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Silvia Magaton	Professione 04-10-1956	Prov Veneta
25°	Suor M. Silvia Aro Rojel	Professione 11-02-1981	Prov Latinoamer.
	Suor M. Marta Camerotto	Professione 20-06-1981	Prov Romana
	Suor M. Ada Dorgnach	Professione 20-06-1981	Prov Veneta
	Suor M. Elsamma Parapuram	Professione 07-12-1981	Prov Indiana
	Suor M. Ansamma Pullikkattil	Professione 07-12-1981	Prov Indiana

INSERIRE IL FOGLIO DI STATISTICA



From the house of Formation

NOVITIATE "HOLY FAMILY" - Carmel Nagar - INDIA

" Abide in me as I abide in you " (Jn.15:4)



St. Joseph Novitiate chapel was decorated in a special manner on 3rd September on the occasion of the initiation of the canonical year of four postulants namely Anjali, Usha, Sujatha and Kavitha. The ceremony was very simple but touching and joyful. During the celebration they received white sari as a symbol of purity, Rule and Constitution of our Congregation. Sr. Gracy, the General Councillor gave an inspiring message to the Novices. In her talk she mentioned specially about the deep relationship which they have to cultivate with Jesus through their prayer life. Finally she implored the Lord's blessings upon them and entrusted them to the Novice Mistress.

The presence of our sisters from neighbouring communities expressed their love and concern towards our Novices. Even if they are different in personality and culture, they placed themselves into the hands of God to become true missionaries of our Franciscan Family.

We wish them all the best with the words of St. Clare:

"What you hold, may you always hold. What you do, may you always do; and never abandon, go forward; but with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet, in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you".

With great joy
The sisters of the community of St. Joseph
Carmel Nagar - India

NOVITIATE "SS MARTIRI D'UGANDA" Nkoabang - CAMEROUN



*"Sell all what you possess
then come and follow me".* (Lc 18,22)

22nd" October 2005 will be an unforgettable date for us as we are greatly near to the Lord to see where to find Him to be more sure of our way to follow Him. The Lord has called us to make us His selected ones. With the look turned towards

Him we hope to satisfy the existence of our formation conforming us to Christ Crucified, in the silence, in the sacrifice, in the sincerity, in the sanctification and in the prayer. We thank Him for this selection. We express the same gratitude again to the superiors who have willed benevolently receiving us in the congregation, to our mistress and to all the sisters who have helped us from near and far, to our sisters who have sustained us, to our parents who offered us to God and helping us on our journey of faith from the childhood onwards. We request you to remember us in your prayers, so that we discern better the voice of God during our Novitiate which is an important stage of life for us. Lord make us diligent to you call.

The Novice *Berte*

INTERPROVINCIAL NOVITIATE - Viole in Assisi - ITALY

I WILL DO IT WILLINGLY

Today's liturgy proposes us the Baptism of the Lord Jesus and particularly a great day has come today in which our dreams, our desires are fulfilled in the way of following to Christ Jesus. We entrust ourselves to the Lord with the prayer of praise, to draw the strength from Him to confront this important step and all our undertaking of the Novitiate. In this very significant stage of our life, we feel that we are spiritually accompanied and helped by our sisters scattered all over the world. We feel united to all persons who sustain us in heart and we are welcomed with joy by Sr. Emmapia, the General Superior and her Council, three Provincial Superiors of the province to which we belong and many sisters who have come from different communities. It is a sign of communion and of belongingness to this religious family.

The rite of admission is followed in different moments:

- * Firstly, our deeply felt answer to the wishing and to the questions of the General Superior to be welcomed in the family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart as Novices.
- * Then the listening of the word of the Lord taken from the Gospel of St. John is significant for the period of the Novitiate: to hear, to see, to contemplate the word of life and then to proclaim it and the listening of a passage from the Testament of St. Clare on vocation and the commitment for the better understanding of her always.
- * We quote here a passage from the discourse of the General Superior, which is very significant for us: " Dear Mara, Federica and Julija, the religious life that you are going to embrace makes you always engaged to copy down the life of Jesus Christ, our Master, poor obedient and chaste. In this journey while you are fascinated by an ideal which realizes your vocation, you must certainly take it counted also the difficulties, all the useful means to train yourselves and to be a docile and humble instruments in the hands of the Lord. The predilicted glance of God awaits the radical response, the generosity and the trust of who consigns without reserve and at the same time this look helps you to become dedicated persons to a special service to Him in His Church. In you the Lord wants to continue the charism of our congregation, which you may know profoundly day by day with the study of the Rules and of the Constitutions ". Continuing the reflection on the Franciscan Spirit and on the response which St. Francis gave to the Crucifix: " I will do it willingly Lord", Sr. Emmapia invited us to imitate Him.
- * Receiving the habit. After this we received the habit of the Novice with heart felt joy. It is a confirmation of an interior step towards the vocational realization in the following of Christ and the distinctive sign of belongingness to the specific charism of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart

* Finally we received with joy the Constitutions with the commitment of studying it and to experiment it as a guide in the understanding and the practise of the evangelical life.

After the affectionate embrace of all those who present, we prepared ourselves for the Eucharistic Celebration in the parish. The baptism of the little Mark also was taking place on that day, the sacrament which gives greater prominence to our vocational moment. Thanks to the animation of Rev. Fr. Francesco, the Parish Priest, the choir, the liturgical group and above all the enthusiastic participation of our sisters. With everyone's co operation the celebration has become a solemn one. It is an occasion also to know many people and different realities which gave us a beautiful image and testimony of our family in her Franciscan and missionary dimensions. Let us give thanks

to the Lord for having called together in the Inter Provincial Novitiate and made us enjoy until now the gift of communion among us. We begin our Novitiate trusting and inspired by St. Francis saying: We will follow you willingly Lord!

Mara - Federica - Julija
novices



From the house of Formation

PROVINCE "S. MARIA DEGLI ANGELI" - Niem RCA



RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

OF SR. BLANDINE IRMA MARIA

11th September 2005 at Niem

The Religious Profession is an important commitment that imprints a decisive turning point in the spiritual life of one who is called by God. The same God who called Abraham, Moses and the Apostles, continues to call also now. He met Blandine and told her, "Follow me". This invitation did not remain without reply. Like Mary who did not have fear to tell her "yes" to the will of the Lord, saying, "Here I am", Blandine offers, abandons all her confidence as a humble servant into the hands of one whom she loved.

The moments of preparation:

These moments are various because it is necessary to have a good preparation more in spiritual than in material for the welcoming of this simple ceremony. Union is our strength: Here is Sr. M. Teresa Della Pietra from Italy and Sr. Giovanna Craighero from Cameroun and few other sisters were united to us to give us assistance. All were very happy to receive our little Blandine officially in our religious family.

It was particularly significant the dynamic spiritual preparation of our sisters during these days. All forms of prayers (morning and evening, adoration) they offered for the intentions of the Novice. We were sure that the great family of FMSC was awakened in the intense prayer to support the Novice spiritually. She was accompanied by Sr. Agostiniana in her formation. The Novice enjoyed the time of solitude in the monastery of the Clarist to experience the heart to heart relationship with Jesus. This step of preparation was a spiritual enrichment, giving priority to the prayer. It is in fact very significant to our lives to follow Christ who leads our journey towards our eternal banquet.

The Vigil of prayer:

This is the first time the parish of Sacred Heart of Niem lives an important moment after its existence- the consecration of one of her daughters. Since a few days onwards this small church was very busy- the choir, the altar boys, the dancers, the sisters, the parish priest, also the Novice and her parents- to prepare for the profession. A solemn adoration was prepared by the parish priest at 5 ° clock. There was an unexpected out pouring of rain .

The church was filled with people. All had the desire to accompany Blandine. After the Gospel reading everybody remained in silence in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

This meeting is characterised by the witness our sister on her journey in following the call of God from the beginning till today. She concluded in this way: "The Lord called me, in the midst of all the difficulties and trials, it is He who supported me till today. So my dear young people, if God calls you, don't be afraid to follow Him".

The Profession:

11th September at Niem:

The day was dawned with happiness everywhere. About 8.30 AM number of vehicles entered into the courtyard of the mission with priests and sisters. They were various missionaries coming from Bouar and the other missions to assist the ceremony and to witness to the sisters Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred heart with their spiritual and fraternal support. How good it is to live together as brothers and sisters united together! After a short presentation about the congregation, the mass was begun with the procession of the altar boys, of the dancers, the members of the Legion of Mary, the sisters, priests, the Main celebrant and Blandine accompanied by the parents.

The rite of the profession was very simple and marvellous. All followed the celebration with much attention. Sr. Blandine pronounced her vows with clarity without being emotional. She selected a young banana plant for the offertory as a symbol to identify her religious consecration with love towards God, her Creator. As a whole everything was in an atmosphere of joy and of prayer. In the afternoon there was a fraternal get together for the lunch All were united together in simplicity. After concluding the feast at Niem, the sisters had to continue their journey towards Maigaro where it was celebrated the vespers solemnly as the sign of thanksgiving.

How can you not praise the Lord our God? How can you not thank God for the gift Sr. Blandine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help?

Thank you Sr. Teresa, Sr. Giovanna, Sr. Beatrice, SR. Francesca for your fraternal presence in this feast. Thank you dear sisters of Maigaro and of Niem for having organised well this wonderful ceremony.

PRAISE TO YOU GOD OUR LORD

Sr. Teresa Della Pietra



From the house of Formation

PROVINCE “ M. IMMACOLATA” - Scutari - ALBANIA

RELIGIOUS PROFESSION of SR DILA and SR TOLINE AT SCUTARI

on 29 September 2005

HERE I AM IORD

Infront of a vast assembly of participants : numerous priests, the Provincial and some of his brothers, relations and friends, we responded with joyous consciousness to the Love which was calling us by saying, “ Here I am Lord”.



We were in the church of St. Francis where we were going daily during the period of our formation, but on that particular day it was seemed that the church also was happy. Our Provincial Superior Sr. Rosaria Iacobicci who had come from Rome to receive our vows in the name of the Superior General . Sr. Renalda, Provincial Conucillor and all the sisters of Albania were present there. Even if the sisters are less in number in Albania, we felt that all the sisters of our congregation were spiritually united with us. We felt that we are really accepted in a great family where all in somehow made them present in our heart.

Our joy and our emotions were profound because we were conscious of consecrating our life to the one who manifested His predilicted love through various signs .To receive our offering in the name of the Church, there was Most. Rev. Dode Gjergji, who with his joyous and generous presence made us happy. His words have been an encouragement for us when he told that our consecration to God is a deep sign in the world. He exhorted us to fight against the evil and to be messengers of good as Archangels as we celebrate their feast today. He praised our relatives who were attentive to a rite which they have never seen. We were very happy and were so much taken up by the circle of affection and attention . From our heart comes out a deep sentiments of gratitude towards all those who have accompanied us in the journey of formation till the consecration. In reality it is not a point of arrival, but the point of departure towards the actuation of the plan of God for each one of us. We ask all the sisters to continue to accompany us with their prayers.

*Sr M. Dila di Gesù Misericordioso e
Sr. M. Toline dell'Eucaristia*





From the house of Formation

PROVINCE "S. ANTONIO" - Santiago - CILE

FIRST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Sr. Marilu Tesci Alzamora of Holy Trinity

Sr. Marlene Paco Lima of Divine Mercy

Sr. Yanet Chuca Meza of Divine Master



Today, 27th December 2005 has been a day of great joy for each one of us.

The long awaited day has arrived. We are prepared with great commitment to take up this step; to offer our life to the Lord and to say our 'yes' like Mary, to put us at the disposition of our superiors. On that morning our heart was filled with joy, of emotions, of the gratitude to the Lord for the gift of His call, for having chosen us to be His spouses.

We are happy for what we have celebrated, but we want to ask the Lord to give us each day the docility and the grace to live our consecration in fidelity as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The ceremony was presided by the Minister Provincial, Rev. Fr. Rogelio Woulters ofm.

Our Provincial Superior and her Council, Sisters of our Congregation, friends and Lay Associates also were present.

We want to thank God for our superiors for the trust and confidence which they have showed us, for our Religious family, for the hospitality and the joyous testimony of each of our sister. We thank our mistresses of formation who have guided and helped us in this spiritual journey. During the time of formation we cultivated the sense of belonging, but on this day we experienced it very deeply in receiving the felicitations of our Superior General, Sr. Emmapia and her council, Provincial Superiors and of many sisters of our congregation and of our province, who have accompanied us with their prayers and affection

We want to be faithful to the Lord !

For this we ask you to remember us in your prayers, to respond with perseverance, enthusiasm and generosity

Sr Marilu, Sr Marlene, Sr Yanet



FROM OUR MISSIONARY WORLD

“S. MARIA DEGLI ANGELI” GEMONA

*Premio a Sr Chiarafrancesca,
assegnato
dal Circolo Culturale Laurenziano
di Buia (UD)*



The Congregation, remaining faithful to the spirit of littleness, translates Christ's prophetic mission of good news to the poor...

Following the example of St. Francis who began to follow Christ by bowing before the suffering lepers, the Franciscan sister exercises her ministry with that compassionate love which she draws from the heart of Christ and helps the suffering to understand the redemptive value of their loneliness and pain. (C.c. 73-74)

Animated by an ardent missionary zeal, encouraged by our Constitutions and supported by the mandate of the superiors, SR. CHIARA FRANCESCA is engaged herself fully for the Missions since years. She does this service through the missionary animation in the schools, in the meetings of the catechesis, in the parishes, to certain single individuals, through the adoption and carrying out of small projects. So much sacrifice is required certainly to do this service, making people sensible to insert in this chain of love.

This solidarity is transforming the lives of our poor brethren in grace and blessing, so that it helps many children to have the oppor-

tunity to grow in a dignified way, to be able to go to school, to make them better human beings and to improve their family conditions. The constant and precious generosity, the tenacious fidelity in the achievement of good from the part of Sr. Chiarafrancesca are being evaluated and they deserve the merit of recognition and approval. For this the cultural Laurentian Circle of Buia will be honoured together with other two persons by giving "Nadal Furlan" for the edition 2005. It is an award which she has obtained a praise worthy importance in the field of socio-cultural manifestations of the region also for her specific purpose which is to give again vigour and prestige to a more authentic culture of Friuli. In a society where the undisputed culture of superfluous dominates, there is the great hope and of good sign to receive help from various persons.

O Lord you who chose us as your collaborators in the breaking of bread, increase our responsibility, restore our soul more free, our heart more gratuitous and our life more essential.

Postioma (TV)



With deep feelings of gratitude and joy and in communion with the entire community of Postioma, we bless, praise and thank the Lord for these 100 years of the Sisters' presence serving in the maternal school.

The Superior general greeted those present saying: "To the Lord we attribute the good that the Sisters were able to achieve in this town, remembering that only through His means were they able to be testimonies of His presence, and to lead the education mission in the maternal school and to collaborate in the animation of the parish community.

Throughout these 100 years, each one of the many sisters sent to serve among you, tried to keep pace, and with Franciscan simplicity and modesty offered the 'best of herself' sharing with you the weariness and the conquests." So again, we wish to newly entrust our lives and our story to the Lord today. He is our Highest Good, true Good, All-Good. May He accept each of our personal and communal aspirations and grant us, if it is pleasing to Him, to continue to write together our sacred story for many years.

On Sunday October 23, 2005 the community of Postioma celebrated the occasion of the school's inception and the arrival of the Franciscan Missionaries of Gemona.

All the sisters who had served at Postioma over the years, and all the other congregations of consecrated religious who were born there in that town, were invited to the celebration.

From the entrance of the Sisters accompanied by the children, the celebration had been truly well prepared.

Many parents and religious and political authorities present for this ceremony, turned to all assembled with expressions of gratitude and praise for the good work accomplished by the parish community, thanking also for the gratuitous generosity and constancy of the Sisters and

for all the many who collaborated with them, because by their testimony and service they left a profound and tangible sign in each person.

Then at the maternal school two displays had been set up: one referred to the work carried out in the school with objects used in former times and the other was in regards to the presence of FMSC Sisters' in the various parts of the world.

Souvenir books containing many pictures that recount the story of the kindergarten of 1905 up to the present were distributed as a remembrance of this centennial.

The communal dinner followed in the Nursery school where a 'barn-shed' had been prepared. This moment was truly special because it provided the opportunity for sisters, people, priests, and relatives to be together, since the long distance at times prevents them from seeing them.

In the evening, the parents of the children directed the celebration with a comical but beautiful theatrical representation adding to the participation. It was really appreciated by everybody because the topic was about a child who goes to kindergarten, where he meets a sister, teacher the driver and pastor. A heavy and prolonged applause expressed the most sincere and spontaneous gratitude that everyone carried in their hearts.

"But the most lovely thing surely was the memories which were created among us parents, who "type of collaboration and moment of joy which is not easy to find in these years, when persons think only of themselves, without thinking of others that each one of us lives with the other and according to us was a great time for sharing with so many people who also felt the same happiness of being together. We are hoping that the warmth created from the Sisters by the teachers and by all the personnel can accompany us on a journey of community responsible for collaboration and human charity." Infinite thanks is extended for the stupendous day shared tighter...thanks for having had the possibility of knowing so many people and to having a new relationship in an important future for the " growth of our children."

ON OCTOBER 9TH:

FROM THE HEARTS OF THE SISTERS "COMES THE 'YES' TO OUR HEARTS WITH THE 'THANKS'

This Sunday rejoiced many persons made the of Postioma that the occasion of the 100 years of the Sisters' presence in the parish, wanted to come to thank the sisters who worked there by celebrating a Eucharist for all the living and deceased sisters. The Mass was presided by their pastor, Fr. Gianni Zampogna, with a choir. During the homily he gave expressions of praise and gratitude for the good accomplished by the sisters throughout the years. After Mass the provincial superior Sr. Luisangela Severin shared with everyone a warm and loving greeting of welcome in the motherhouse, where had their beginnings and were sent to be 'in mission'. She hoped that each person entering the environment would experience peace and serenity so they could leave feeling entirely refreshed. Sr. Biancamaria briefly described the significance of the Church and she remained available for those who desired an explanation of the recently opened Congregational Museum. Therefore there was an alternating between greetings and acknowledgments between the guests and sisters who wanted to visit the museum until 12:30pm. Then they visited the cemetery, stopping and praying at each of the graves, so they greeted the provincial superior present there and through her all the sisters, with a happy 'good-by' to Postioma on Oct. 23.

The solemn celebration of the 100th had been prepared with a vigil of an evening vocational prayer service led by the sisters in collaboration with the youth of the parish. The gift of 'remaining together' before the Lord had been truly enriching. Here are some of the comments:

"It was a truly a moment of reflection and sharing with the sisters. The students of my group were very impressed by the testimony given by the novice."

"...it left a sign, something very special to all who had participated. It was different and unique, short but intense."

"a simple prayer, interesting, a time of recollection and thanksgiving, in a familiar atmosphere. "Well organized, thought-out, pleasing and involving: a good start for a celebration showing itself even better."

per i 103 anni di Sr. AFRA

Buon Compleanno!



*A Happy Birthday Wish
for Sr. AFRA 's 103 Years*



Today December 2, 2005
the words from the liturgy:

"The Lord is my hope...

He is the light of the world",

are an invitation to recognize the 'great things' which the Lord has done in Sr. Afra and with her we praise, bless and thank the Giver of all good gifts.

From the early hours of the morning, expressions of amazement vibrated, of joy and sincerity, fraternal gladness on the lips of many sisters for the happy goal of our dear Sister, reached with lucidity, and still has a great desire for good in her heart, and always shows a stronger love for her religious family.

Many participated in the Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord for his innumerable blessings bestowed on her throughout her life. The celebrant expressed the wish that she continue to live serenely to please the Lord.

Many birthday expressions arrived for her through fax, the telephone, visits and flowers. All of this was made even more joyful with the refreshments shared with all the other elderly sisters and those who were able to be present.

In the afternoon, the newspaper reporter came to visit and with simple questions, she was happy to offer her particular message to the elderly persons so that they also might live each day of their lives with courage and happiness. We want to share the text:

"Gemona. Those who can not believe one can surpass a century, conserving a terrific memory and enjoying good health, continue to be self-sufficient, must come and see sister Afra, class of 1902, residing in the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Gemona. This religious celebrated 103 years yesterday, an age difficult in coherence, from the facts that she lived in the course of her long life spent in contact with the children of the maternal school.

Originally from Paese, a town in the Province of Treviso, the first born of 12 children, at 19 years entered

the convent of Vedelago. Sister remembers working there, even as a novice, and at the typography work of the convent. After she professed her vows, she began working in the maternal school and in 1932 she was sent to Rhodes. There, with some 20 other sisters, she provided a loving care for the little orphans for almost 18 years. At the end of the conflicts of the World War, as the Italians were expelled from Greece, she carried with her: "I love to be with children- sister recalls-they loved me so much;" a reciprocal kindness that she knew how to show them, so much so that today, the people of Rhodes continue to write, call or ask about her. Numerous cards and calls arrived for her yesterday at the convent. Sister had taught at Pontebba, Idria, Camino di Codroipo; then for 13 years at Artegna. After the earthquake of 1976, she was transferred to Vedelago and then since 1985 she definitively returned to Gemona. In spite of her age, Sr. Afra is still very active. Her day begins very early, taking care of her personal needs, without any help, she dresses herself, and makes her bed. After breakfast and morning Mass, she begins to work at her crochet-hooking. She is very good at making pretty little dolls. In the afternoon she rests on the chair in her room and reads, writes or continues to do her work. What is her secret of surpassing 100 years in such good health? "

To live serenely without becoming upset or angry: throwing behind your shoulders the displeasing things, and looking ahead."

Natalina De Pascale

PROVINCIA "ST FRANCIS" (USA)



*Like the Magi and all seekers,
we followed the STAR*

As our Holy Father Benedict XVI said at the 20th World Youth Day, in Cologne, Germany, August 2005, "Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to Him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on."

Now we are home. The stories live on in our minds and hearts as we integrate the experience and reflect on our reason for this trip. We were among the 70 women Religious forming part of the estimated 250,000 participants coming from the USA. We had been recruited as "volunteers" to form the work crew needed to be among the approximate 500,000 youth registered. "Yes", we lived as Jesus lived. He slept on the ground amidst the apostles. We slept on the floor.

Jesus conversed with people while waiting at the well for a drink and He gave nourishment. We talked with other pilgrim-volunteers being the "behind the scenes persons" while packing 25,000 lunches daily so they would reach the young people at distribution sites. Jesus was a spectacle--people sought Him out. Persons sought out the Sisters--our image was seen in newspapers, television, and on the film of many cameras.

"Yes" we were removed from our comforts, but secure in Him. We endured lack of sleep, a sparse diet, the weather conditions, and distance from our normal supports, but experienced an indescribable joy in Jesus.

"Yes" we believe in the Youth of our Church. Many were surprised to find Sisters available to whom they could ask questions. We found ourselves quoting what our beloved John Paul II had spoken to Youth about the basic question inside each person regarding his/her VOCATION: The question is not: "what to do?, but, what to be?, to whom do we entrust our life?"

By having lived this unique experience, we feel that they received a glimpse of "consecrated life" in its three elements: praying together, sharing common life, helping and serving each other. Our experience with the young people helped us to see that they are well prepared to face life for Jesus and the Church. We admire their enthusiasm, simplicity, and generosity in accepting the sacrifices needed for being His disciples. They gave us hope for the Church's future as they pledged to seek and to follow Jesus, their STAR.

We wish to express our gratitude to Sr. Anne James, our Provincial Superior, for permitting us to be involved in this universal Church experience.

*Sr. Clare Poothakuzhiyil and
Sr. Kathy Siegel*

Special events with our Lay Associates



Seven new Members made their commitment in September 2005. In keeping with their pledge to pray, to evangelize and to serve, a small number of our active members hosted a special event on November 25 for our Sisters in the Infirmary. A myriad of home-baked goodies was served by Paula Traver (daughter of a Gina Traver, L.A.) assisted by her classmates from St. Augustine School. After weeks of rehearsals, the Sisters sang a medley of hymns.

On December 11, our Lay Associates joined the Sisters in our pre-Christmas reunion. An Advent Liturgy was celebrated by Father Sean Taylor, OFM. His homily focused our attention on the spirit of Advent - that of allowing God to strip us of selfish attachments and to replace them with acts of self-giving



In following an American tradition to place small gifts under or near the "Christmas giving-tree", once again our Lay Associates displayed their love, generosity and magnitude of heart by bringing their gift-packages for the Sisters. Some of our Lay Associates, besides helping in the various activities, voluntarily come to our Infirmary regularly. They are very available, generous and extremely caring towards our Sisters. They come to read to the Sisters and keep them company often with their various talents; for example, playing the piano, teaching them songs and doing a bit of art work.

Our Lay Associates often express their appreciation for being called to be associated with our Franciscan and Sacred Heart spirituality. And, we in turn continually thank God for the gift that they are to us!



Sr. M. Petra Zanghi

A CELEBRATION OF FIDELITY IN MISSION



ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

*SR. GIOVANNINA GEMIN,
SR. PAUL GABRIEL LICAMELI,
SR. LAWRENCE MARIE HAYDEN
SR. MARIA POZZOBON*

celebrated their 60th anniversary of religious life. "We are overwhelmed by the magnitude of God's love for us, said Sr. Anne James and repeat how awesome are the ways in which the Lord fulfills his designs through each of these sister's vocations. We, who have shared with them their joys and sorrows, are pleased to pause in recognition, to heighten our appreciation of the various gifts and talents contributed by them over these decades to the young and the old, the sick and the healthy, and the rich and the poor alike.

On behalf of all those whose lives you've touched,
we thank you, sisters,
for sharing your Franciscan love, in joy and peace

AT SAINT JOHN'S FAIRVIEW, NJ. the Re-constructed old Convent becomes "home"...



A special ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the newly re-furbished convent was held October 5, 2005.

The Pastor, Rev. Michael Gubernat and Sr. Anne James were present for the dedication of the Chapel at 7:00pm.

Throughout the day the Sisters sponsored an 'open house' so the Mayor, County Legislator, civil authorities, parishioners, supporting guests could visit and enjoy creating new friendships.

According to the press release, the reporter cited from his interview with the

Sisters: "who have broken from the traditional roles of teachers in classrooms, these sisters have not forgotten their vow to live among the poor to meet the social demands of the local peoples, many of whom are immigrants from eastern Europe especially Croatia, and from the Latin America Hispanic countries, legal or not, employed or 'un', as well pledge to serve persons who are ill, in jail, or who are simply looking for someone to pray with.

Totally, this project was made possible through \$330,000 contributed in supplies and labor.

The Peekskill Franciscans are very pleased that Divine Providence has bestowed this gracious gift on us.



PROVINCIA "S. ELISABETTA" - CIPRO

INTERCONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS WOMEN

Larnaca, November 5th 2005

On Saturday, 5th November more than 40 sisters had the opportunity to experience a day of prayers. Fr. Pierre Greck guided the meeting. He enriched this meeting by giving social, religious and political news regarding the Holy Land. In the introduction of the topic on the Beatitude, the speaker made reference to Lumen Gentium, in which it is said, "The religious are called to give testimony that the world cannot be transformed and offered to God without the spirit of the Beatitudes".

To justify the choice of the topic, which would apparently seem obvious, Fr. Greck has defined the Beatitudes as the heart of the Gospel. Being associated with the religious atmosphere, I feel to note down that the sisters show a certain uneasiness about their personal and congregational future. It is appropriate to give taste to our life and to be the salt for all those who are approaching us and it becomes a necessity to study more deeply the application of the Beatitudes. They are not present just in one page of the Gospel, but they are always present throughout the Old and New Testament.

When talking about "BLESSED THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN SPIRIT" he says that the who has a poor soul confides only in God, he frees his heart from various attachments to become free to donate himself to other people and knows how to thank God for everything, with his heart favourably disposed towards God. In this Beatitude we can also find the values of simplicity and respect. Pride is seen as the worst of the inner richness. Another aspect is the listening which means putting ourselves in other people's positions, because a person will open to you only if you have confidence in her.

"HAPPY ARE THE PEACE MAKERS" is the second meditation point. He considers it as a strong virtue. He added: How much effort is needed to become a humble person! In our fraternity life the 3rd important point is to know how to use "Mercy". This leads to know how to forgive, accept another as he is with his limits.

In conclusion, Fr. Greck has underlined the fact that, if we consecrated don't know how to give "salt" to our days, what is the meaning of our consecration?

After that we had a liturgical celebration and a fraternal agape, meanwhile we had the occasion to exchange news about our different realities. A refreshing day! Refreshed in spirit and body.

God be blessed and thanked!

**A DREAM
FOR THE CHARITABLE
ASSISTANCE
TODAY**



During this summer we dedicated our service for few days in favour of the hosts of this house in which we know the environment a little bit, accomplishing a generous charitable work towards the elderly and sick who are forgotten by this society very often.

The sisters of the community of Larnaca offered a gift of immense richness by animating the feast of Christmas for the elderly and sick persons. Faithful to our charismatic spirituality we are engaged in transmitting "To be consecrated in fraternal communion through our work bringing the love of Christ at the heart of the people.

The time for the preparation was limited, but the unconditional love has given significance to our service. Our joy has been shared by Sr. Monica Hannoulli, the Provincial Superior; Sr Bernadetta Skorti, the Mistress of Formation, the sisters of the community, parents and friends.

Through songs, dances and theatrical representations we were successful to make resplendent the profound joy on the faces of the spectators. This free gift from us has been accepted by a long applause and expressions of joy which accompanied our witness of solidarity, communion and fraternal joy.

We left our premise of formation with the intention of increasing the spirit of our consecrated life by offering ourselves as "a tiny gift" to others. We returned to Limassol with the conviction that love redeems and saves!

Through "Pace e Bene" we want to express our thanks to the Lord who is present in the midst of us and we desire also to thank our sisters who through their dedication, out of love, accuracy, sacrifice, they are completing a plan of salvation in which everyone is involved. Their life is a prophetic witness in connection to the contemplation of the Christ Crucified, in particularly for us the young consecrated. Very often I used to think of their courage, trial of maturity, discernment of their proper call, marked by the message of Christ in the circle where our charism has its roots. It comes to my mind the words of our beloved Founder, Father Gregory: " Marvellous are the ways of the Lord and no one has the right to ask why in this way and not otherwise".

We young Juniors, don't know how it will be our future, but we are sure that God will continue to help us and we have to be responsible to His call.

Sr Krasimira Govedarska

AN EXPERIENCE IN LEBANON

In the premises of the Provincialate of Limassol, there is the Juniorate which at present counts three Bulgarian Juniors in Cyprus, one in Bulgaria, a Philippine in Larnaca and another in Lebanon. It is really a luck to have the youngsters in formation, but a great responsibility. We would like to bring to you some of their experiences through 'Pace e Bene'.

"HOW YOU WANT ME I WILL BE
WHERE YOU WANT ME I WILL GO"

I choose this refrain of a song which I have in my heart, to wish the sisters of Cyprus and the Juniors, the house where I am formed during my first years of formation and which I have to leave. I thank all for having received me with much love and I am fully aware of all the gestures of affection which I received.

On 22nd September 2005 I left for the mission of Menjez in Lebanon; I was bit worried about the language, for the new reality, for the diversity of culture. The divine providence touched me, or better to say 'chosen' unexpectedly----- I never thought that I would be sent in a mission land. Nevertheless, after all the fear and worry, the initial doubts, I accepted and I left with the desire of putting above all, all my will and my whole being into the hands of God.

When I look ahead on high, there has been a way to overcome the feeling for the fraternal family which I was leaving. I am integrated in the community of Menjez with calmness and serenity. It was clear and easy for me to understand that there was nothing different that of offering to the sisters, for the mission when I live with joy the reality of my call and of consecration.

The choice of following the Master till at the cross filled my being with peace and courage to face each reality. By working with the sisters I saw clearly the great value which they are carrying on, by spending all their physical strength in giving themselves, sacrificing themselves and by taking risk of their health for the good of the poor and abandoned souls, for the children of the missions, for the families and for the church of God. I think that my love also may be a particle in the divine plan of God for all those who approach specially in the scholastic environment. The children are in need of me, of my understanding, of the love of God. Looking into their eyes I discover that flame which has lighted the ideals of our founders and of our first sisters. By living with the sisters I understand the joy of 'service' as the mystery of the charism of the F.M.S.C.

I desire to continue to dedicate myself to this mission and ask the Lord to bless all of us together with the students and the professors of the school of St. Francis Of Assisi.

Suor Aurora Castardo

PROVINCIA "S. LUIGI IX" - FRANCIA

LITUANIA: A CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE



The joy and surprise have been the characteristic sentiments of the first conference on the consecrated life in Lithuania; the life that comes back to blossom after the communist war, when it was thought that the life of the Church of this country is almost vanished. In this country where the Church had been forced to be silent for a long time and the religious were compelled a life of the catacomb.

This conference has been an occasion to tell all who were there, how the mass media occupies so much space and influences the values so important in consecration to God.

The programme was prepared by the Conference of the Major Superiors of Lithuania and proposed to all the communities; it involved us all the religious men and women and it made us reflect and deepen the theological and ecclesial values of consecrated life. Even if our Major Superiors are not here in this country, we too were invited to collaborate actively, not only during the nine months of preparation, but during the same conference also.

The celebration of the 40th year of the Conciliar Decree, "Perfectae Caritatis" has been the gracious occasion; "Kaunas", the place where the only Catholic Seminary remained open in all over Soviet Union, during the period of communist domination. It was the suitable place to conduct this conference. It took place in the weekend of the feast of Christ the King on 18-09-2005.

Rev. Fr. Fabio Ciardi OMI guided the conference of two days. As an expert speaker of the consecrated life, with his ability he presented the history of the religious life in the Church and the value

of evangelical counsels, synthetically and clearly. Having a deep and strong experience of religious life, with enthusiasm and deep conviction he reminded all the real sense or meaning of consecration to God, made through the profession of three vows. The vows, he affirms, are not renunciation, they are means to love always more to become really free and to entrust oneself totally to the will of the Father. St. Francis did not choose the poverty, as St. Ignatius did not choose the obedience, the chose Jesus.

We must follow Christ and the vows are the means to direct our heart, our whole being to Him. The chastity preserves our heart and it directs to love the Lord with undivided heart; the poverty helps us to tell "My God and my All" because only an open and free heart can accept the other; obedience is my reasoning towards God and my sisters or to my brothers who help me in this journey.

The vows are the freedom of loving of a dynamic love. Our life must be the actualization of the "Canticle of Canticles".

With acuteness and exquisite sensibility towards the particular situation of consecrated life in Lithuania during the period of communist, when a few men religious survived the destructing waves of communism, they were forced to camouflage themselves with the workers, with the ecological operators.

Ciardi points out the importance of the fraternal life in the community. In this world when the individualism and social climbing or careerism characterize the modern man, we consecrated must become the example of true fraternity, that united by Christ and in His name.

The visible sign of this fraternity is to recognize that each man is the temple of the Holy Trinity. The fraternal life in community begins when I convert myself and with a look of faith I find in others this Trinitarian God. We must consider the brother as part of ourselves; we must take care of him; offer him a sincere friendship.

For us the conference has been a time of grace, a gift of the spirit. We had the joy of meeting a good number of committed sisters and brothers as we are, to proclaim the Kingdom; with them we shared the joy of our consecration and the hope for the future.

Together we looked the reality of this country and searched the answer to the problems with which the consecrated life in Lithuania at present confronts, one of these is the reconstruction of the fraternal life in the community. This first conference has revealed an event which no one has revealed on the face of consecrated life in our country and it has manifested the capacity of favouring a new communion among all the ecclesial

components. With them it is opened a new page for the consecrated life of Lithuania and for our community.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE IN LITHUANIA DURING THE COMMUNIST PERIOD

This small country which faces to the Baltic Sea has been under the Russian Communist domination for a long time.

In the year 1940 with the occupation of the Lithuania, the monasteries and all the churches are closed and nationalized. After the 2nd World War, the Soviet Government continued its destructive works on religious life.

In that period both the church and the monasteries were the centres of culture and of the transmission of the faith. With their closing and extraction in Siberia or the imprisonment and the torturing on the religious and priests, the Lithuania had to be a country without God, a country in which all acts of religious signs are forbidden and persecuted.

But the Divine Providence once again knew to accomplish His plan towards the joke of the hardness of man. Religious men and women dispersed here and there in search of new works at the service of the state. The religious priests were asked to give up the real religious truths.

In the community life of the religious no trace was remained. But, drawing always new courage, they were continuing to move secretly to proclaim the word of God, to witness Christ and His love to all those who were persecuted, taken as prisoners and deported to Siberia; lack of everything, but rich in faith.

Being forced to abandon the communitarian life and to live in small apartments, the religious were found again as workers in the fabrics, sweepers, engineers or the organizers in the parishes.

With an indescribable courage the sisters continued to prepare the boys to the first communion, worrying moreover their growth in faith.

In a certain period in which it was absolutely prohibited to work with the youngsters, the religious who with their untiring creativity planned out each day new methods to gather always more youngsters who grow strong in faith and active in the liturgy of the parish, especially to serve the mass and in the Eucharistic Adoration.

PROVINCIA "MARIA IMMACOLATA" - ROMA

ISOLE FILIPPINE

SUFFERING:

A WAY TO DISCOVER GOD'S PRESENCE A CALL TO SHARE HIS REDEMPTIVE LOVE

DECEMBER 2005:

DURING
THE MISERABLE
SITUATION
OF OUR BROTHERS
AFFECTED
BY DISASTROUS
FLOOD IN THE
PROVINCE QUEZON



It was the only stone house of the place

Indeed God has called us to share His redeeming love for His people. Last December amidst the miserable situation of our brothers and sisters living in areas affected by the tragic landslide in Quezon Province, God provoked in us a desire to manifest His love. We desired to somehow help some families who are victims of the calamity, to have some of them with us, to help them at least get away for some time from the atmosphere of that disastrous event. To have them at least to share the spirit of Christmas, as it was Christmas time and we felt God inviting us to share His love, to let others feel His presence with us. And truly God has sent us five children who are cousins through our OFM brothers: Airnira and her brother Akirin, who, during the landslide were covered by the mud and were saved by their father, Ma. Kaye with her brother Kevin and their cousin Melissa; these are the five who were sent to us to share with us some time and that make our Christmas special because of their presence.

Might it be coincidentally or purposely but one thing could be sure, God has wanted these children to feel His love despite the painful situation they have encountered. These children brought us also new hope in God for them, for we can see in them their trust in God. Their laughter and yells that echoed their simplicity, innocence and freedom as children, despite the sadness of the loss of their houses and everything, made us feel that trust in God. We felt and somehow tried to understand how painful the calamity for them was and it brought compassion in our hearts, compassion for them who are innocent victims of injustice and selfishness of others' self-interests.

For almost four days of their staying with us the children gained confidence and it had not just to end

there when they bade us goodbye but they hope that we go to visit their place. We felt the call of that particular mission and surely God has wanted us to care for them.

With His grace we are led to the families of the five children we met and we went to their place in Real, Quezon Province during the end of January. And much to our unexpected situation we are shocked to witness how devastating it was than we think of it.

Upon entering Quezon Province, we could see the disastrous effect of the calamity.

Almost all mountain ranges had a hint of erosion as we could see it from afar. Along the way we saw the logs scattered, mud and huge rocks that fell down from the mountain. Plenty livelihood was destroyed, many had lost their family, plenty children were orphaned and plenty died. We couldn't imagine how these things happened to them. This is not just natural; did God want them to suffer in that way? It is so sad to look at the nature lost in its beauty; how much sadness it feels to see these people suffering miserably? We cannot imagine how other people living luxuriously and these poor people suffered? Nature revenge because of the greed of some people and the poor have to suffer because of their fault and God looking and feeling with His people suffered so much with them with compassion.

When we arrived in their place at Brgy. Cawayan Real, we saw how difficult their situation was, they lost everything. What remained in them were just the memories... of their former home, beauty of their place, serenity of the river and its clear running water... all the memories of their experiences-Yet, they are so thankful that no one of their family was lost, at least in the three families of the children. We felt their gratitude that God has spared them all from the danger of death that even Almira was beneath it: in just a matter of a minute God had come in haste to save her and it proved that material thing is nothing over the life we have that makes us happy, in spite of nothingness. What are there now in their land are huge rocks and logs and we found some place to settle for our lunch with them. Surely it was sad for them to be in that place to be happy together in sharing what we had for it reminded them of the memories yet we can see in them the acceptance of the situation which makes them say that because of this event in their life we had known each other. Perhaps God has planned it in this way and we can see in their smiles how happy they were in sharing and being open to the need of one another despite their difficult situation. One cannot feel alone because of the care and concern they give to ease each other's affliction.



Five children received by us before the Holy Christmas:
Aldrin e Almira
(Two brothers remained under the mud
and saved by their father)
Maria Kaye e Kevin (fratelli) e Melissa.



They desired to have their lunch where their houses were
and in spite of their tears,
they asked us to sing "Our Father"

As we went home this is what remains in us: the pain of the city of the poor who lost everything, the children who are alone and in great suffering and the nature that needs to be taken care.. stories of God's love and comfort for His people and the experience of God's wonder in the life and experiences of each person we have encountered.

Community "Mary Immaculate"

PROVINCIA "S. ANTONIO" - CILE

*The Lord
has made us pilgrims:*

Thank you Lord!

To go to the roots of Franciscanism and to be able to walk through the narrow lane, between rolling rocks and for a long path way that is travelled by the saint of Assisi once upon a time has brought a group of pilgrims formed by the religious, professors, parents and ex-alunne of the High School Mother Cecilia Lazzeri of Santiago of Chili to make real the dream of a long awaited desire.

The plans of the Lord permitted them to fulfil this great challenge because in their southern

part, long back was born a holy man who had been canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on 23rd October in St. Peter's Square.

In this way St. Francis and St. Albert Hurtado transform them in motivations to guide this group of audacious or fearless pilgrims. At the dawn of 17th October they took their flight to the destination.

As soon as reaching Rome, the pilgrims have been received by the General Superior Sr. Emmapia and Sr. Cecilia, the Vicar General, with cordial love and affection; they had the moments of sharing and of fraternity with a group of sisters of the community of the General House ; they visited the Institute of Asisium.

The pilgrims then went to Assisi. To be able to visit the places of Franciscan spirituality was significant for them to climb a way to zigzag that each corner revealed the colours and images whose beauty and meaning filled them with wonder.

By admiring the paintings of the grotto in the basilica of St. Francis, they could penetrate in the significant events of the life of the saint. To



pray around to his tomb, to see his relics and to celebrate the Eucharist encircled the day with full of emotions.

The next day, the pilgrims visited the Basilica of St. Clare. In the convent of ST. Damian where they participated to the Eucharistic celebration in an atmosphere of deep silence and praying for different communities, schools parishes, and representing families there, thanking the Lord for all the graces they received.

One of the important moments lived by the pilgrims took place in St. Mary of the Angels, around the Porziuncola in receiving the plenary indulgence with great devotion. In a rainy day of autumn, the pilgrims came back to Rome.

In the splendid city of Rome the pilgrims did not feel so much cold. They met a great number of fellow countrymen; all were gathered there with the same purpose, to participate in the canonization ceremony of Fr. Albert Hurtado. In St. Peter's Square there was an atmosphere of great enthusiasm and at the same time the spiritual attention.

The pilgrims lived a various emotional moments. One of the important of such, without doubt, has been the audience with His Holiness Benedict XVI for those who came for the canonization ceremony. In this audience the Pope urged us to follow the example of our saints.

After having fulfilled this great dream, the pilgrims left Rome to visit other important places in Italy. In this way they got the opportunity to visit Florence, the small city of Orvieto, the Basilica of St. Antony of Paduva, where the pilgrims prayed for the Province of "St. Antony" that he may accept their daily work and for all the sisters who work in that far land. They continued their journey and reached at Venice.

God manifested them in different ways; it was necessary to thank Him. For this motive the pilgrims conducted a thanksgiving in a small chapel at Monte Berico. The thanked God for all the graces they received, for their families that the Lord had given them, for the unconditional support of the sisters who had received



Benedict XVI during the celebration in St. Peter's Square



There was an atmosphere of great enthusiasm and of spiritual silence at the same time





Atrio della Casa generalizia "Assisium"
... foto-ricordo con il Consiglio generale



Assisi: Basilica Superiore di S. Francesco

them in Italy and for all those who had full confidence to do this journey especially for Sr. Fides Lorenzon.

The time had come to return, to give back the receipt to God, to see God in each created thing, to discover the face of Christ not to possess the light, but to be the light.

*Del Collegio "Madre Cecilia"
Santiago - Cile*

*Espinoza - Valdes del "Lazzeri"
Maria Cristina, Enrichetta Lipari, Marta Meza Malig*



PERU' - AN EXPERIENCE OF 3500 METERS OF ALTITUDE

Every age has its own priority and each age has given us a degree of awareness and of sensitivity. When we are small, we are fundamentally egoist, we are not conscious of others. When we acquire experience, when the world with its diversity knocks at our door, then, we become aware that not we are the centre of everything. It is the moment in which we can modify the consequence of our life.

Exactly one year back I was planning to leave for a mission in Latin America. I am not a missionary, I am not a special person, I am only a girl of 29 years, like many others. I am a teacher of High School

(specialized in scientific studies) "Assisium" and I am recently married. I am timid, I have not done any experience similar to this. I spoke with Sr. Antonina, she smiled at me with great sweetness and said to me, "You will see that you will fall in love with Tambobamba".

I started my journey little nervously. Tambo was not even there in the geographical map. But the description of Sr. Antonina made me tranquil during my journey. I was convinced that I would be able to help who was less fortunate of me, but in reality from this journey I received much more of what I could give. The image of Tambobamba

remain fixed in my heart always. I recall every day the immense fortune God had gifted me. What a great potentiality I have in my heart, potentiality which I must not waste in the egoism in which very often our life contains, potentiality which I must make it fruitful at the starting of each day.

At Tambobamba the sisters received me like their daughter. I did not plan for anything in a reality which is quite different from mine. But I was observing everything, and there are moments in life in which it is necessary to look at others as ourselves. I observed the smile and the fantasy of the less fortunate children of ours and I understand that there is no richness like that in our hearts. I observed a poverty which I have never thought about. They don't have anything as their own, they don't have a future prospective.

I saw the sisters who carry out their daily works and responsibilities leaving all their personal interest and affection, with much fatigue and dedication. In the heart of heart I had an impression that the sisters and the missionaries are angels because the human beings cannot be so generous like this. On the contrary I could understand that the sisters are persons who have the courage of offering their lives to others with all the difficulties which it brings, with the problems and the inconveniences



"It will be for 3500 metres of altitude, but I feel God is almost very near..."



of life, the sufferings due to the long distance from the dear ones, leaving the proper culture, ones own weakness and frustrations like each one of us.

The sisters are human beings. I came to realize that it is possible to live with others and to live for others as I have the example before our eyes. We have to put aside our egoism.

I spent 29 years, but finally I realized what signifies to have a great faith in order to dedicate ones whole life. Each one us might have experienced through different moments in which our faith has been tested ; we could not find answer to many of our questions which came into our mind; we also searched for the answers, but this did not give us security.

When I left, for me it was one of these moments. But at Tambobamba I had sufficient life experience near the sisters, to speak with them, to live the reality of the actual self-giving to others, to live with the people and to feel the importance of human person and of his dignity to find answer to my questions.

One evening, while cracking jokes with the sisters I said, "It will be for 3500 metres of altitude, but I feel God is almost very near.....". It was really like that. I felt God is very near... in the air, in the intensity of the prayer of simple persons who search

for a hope, in seeing a sister who enjoys more of the happiness, in the uncontaminated nature which speaks of perfection, in silence. It is in this silence I rediscovered what signifies to be able to hear the voice in ones own heart , of ones own conscience, we who are in Rome, with all the traffic which is there, if we don't raise the volume of our cell phone, we are unable to hear who calls us.....

Thanks to all persons who have helped me to carry out a journey which has changed my life forever.

Silvia Piccaluga

THE SCHOOL OF SANTA CRUZ LA SIERRA



Our mission in the school is carried out in a normal and systematic way. The most beautiful novelty or newness is that we could do the construction of all the surroundings little by little with the help of God and with the generosity of many people and to render more interest in teaching (education) by making all students feel the ease or comfort in the school.

We have provided everything for the preparation of a biological, physical and chemical laboratory with necessary instruments for the practice of experiments as it exists in the public ministry education. A laboratory of Computer Science has been got ready as it is an efficacious means to learn various scholastic discipline.

We are thinking also to start a laboratory of cooking and confectionery , cutting and tailoring. These activities are very important because they render the able students to support them economically in the future, as there is social denial of the zone in which the school is find. At the end of the traditional " Franciscan week", we inaugurated a palestra (gymna-

sium) that is called "Colisco", a place useful for the emigrated people of Santa Cruz.

God showed us how much He loves the children and the youngsters of this sector of the city that this work is confirmed by His will, through events and times. We reached this zone without any economic means and now we have completed the works by the grace of Divine providence that is actualized through the person of goodwill and generous in helping us.

Let us thank the Lord for all this. On 26th November 2005 we celebrated the function of giving the Diploma for the first qualified. They were 84 in number. Let us wish that they may be a light to this society which is lacking of good principles and of values. The palestra on this occasion is transformed into a place of beautiful and welcoming , with surprise and wonder of the invited. The Superiors of the communities of Bolivia were present on this occasion.

Sr Francesca Bolognani

REGIONE APOSTOLICA

"SS. MARTIRI D'UGANDA - CAMEROUN

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE SACRED HEART



The closing of the year 2005 in the Apostolic Region "S. S Martiri d'Uganda has been marked by the presence of Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon. Even though she had many undertakings, she accepted to come in Africa to help us to have a profound study on the spirituality of the Sacred Heart. The consecration of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart is essentially apostolic and missionary. The proper virtues which identify us are : the humility, the joy, the peace, the tenderness and the hospitality first of all in our community and then in the places of apostolate.

The spirituality and the devotion to the heart of Christ Crucified are the center of the mission of the Church, because the Church is born from the heart

of Christ. More than a theory or a doctrine, it is a reality, a contemplation, a practical and a testimony which makes us to live according to the fundamental attitudes of our consecration and our mission.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart connects immediately to the baptism and the baptized is another Christ, he is incorporated to be one (Ref. Col 3:3).

By our consecration, the Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart is called to conform herself to Christ to become a living bread everyday in the bosom of the Church. Being available to the will of God and opened to the new calls of the spirit she becomes missionary of the love of Christ in the time and in the hope. Our gratitude to Sr. Emmapia, the General Superior and her Council, who have given permission to take the initiative to Sr. Giovanna Craighero, our Regional Superior, to Sr. Antonietta for her availability, readiness and love towards the congregation.



SUOR GEORGETTE BININGA

received the diploma in Social Assistance.

Sr. Georgette after a formation of two years in the state higher school ENAS received the diploma in Social Assistance. Her work consists in individualizing the problems and difficulties in the families and in particular the youngsters of every age, the sick and the widows and to give them advice or different suggestions and useful indications so that this people may find proper solutions to be able to live with great serenity.

PROVINCIA "HOLY FAMILY" - INDIA



TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

Predominantly in the Indian Culture and Hindu Religion where people consider themselves as originated from Indo - Aryan Culture, where consider Christian Religion as a Foreign Religion - Christmas and Christmas Celebrations brings an untelling consequences either good or bad . In spite of all the above facts which may endanger and risk one's own life in the name of faith in Christ Jesus, believing in the good tidings of joy and peace, our schools and hostels celebrated and shared the Joy of Christmas, the Peace of Christmas and the love of Christmas. In fact every year Christmas offers us an unusual opportunity to exhibit and narrate that 'the Word made flesh and dwelt amidst us' to the young and old alike. In all our schools - Assisi School Pamarru, St, Francis School Madhira both mediums St. Francis School Machilipatnam, St. Mary's School kalipatnam and Mumbai, and the various hostels in our province Jesus Christ was proclaimed and exalted through the celebration of the Christmas. Though children have come from different socio- economic , inter caste and interreligious back ground they exhibited Christmas Message of Sharing Peace - Sharing Love and imprinted in the hearts of the audience - who are their parents themselves.

Here we see the different moments of their exhibited talents.

In every School and Hostel sisters took keen interest in guiding the children and inculcating in them the Christ's message through solidarity with the poor by motivating them to share, re-establishing the Peace in this broken world of fighting through forgiveness and to spread the perfume of love in this world of cruelty and selfishness by loving each other.



In ogni scuola e orfanatrofio, le suore hanno prestato molto impegno a guidare i ragazzi, inculcando in essi il messaggio di Cristo, attraverso il valore della solidarietà con i poveri e motivandoli alla condivisione, perché si ristabilisca la pace in questo mondo diviso dalla guerra, si diffonda il profumo dell'amore in questo mondo di violenza ed egoismo attraverso il perdono e l'amore reciproco.

PASTORAL MINISTRY IN THE PRISON IN INDIA

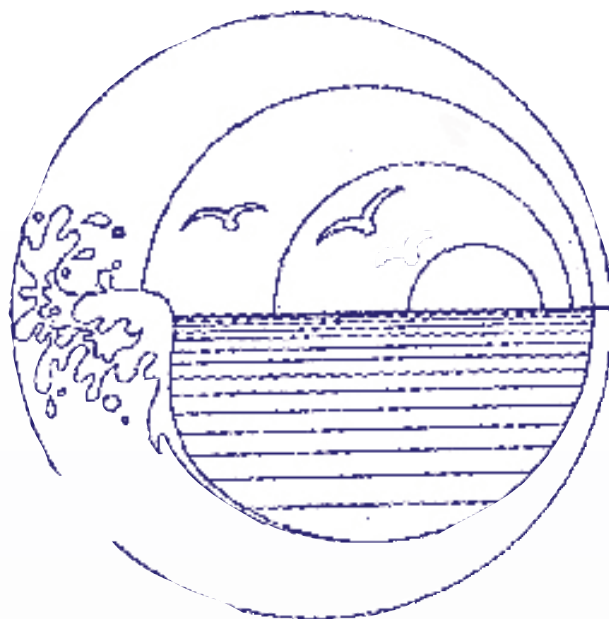
"I was in prison and you visited me" (Mt. 25: 36)

No one is a born prisoner. Understanding this fact that some of our sisters regularly visit the Prisoners. They listen their problems and sad events of their lives. They feel one with them in their less fortunate situation, feel empathy and show sympathy towards them. Sisters' kind listening prompt them too willingly listen their advise. Then there will be the reading of the Word of god and explanation according to the context of their life situations and cases. While in the prison all have the desire to change their lives for the better bt the situations of life make them go back to their old life. There was tidings of joy shared even in the Prison through an enactment of Jesus' Birth by our candidates in Machilipatnam as well as in Vijayawada by the novices from St. Joseph

Novitiate Carmel Nagar. Inspiring and comforting Christmas message given by the Priests and Carol songs touched their hearts and they were almost on tears. Sharing of the cake and sweets made an atmosphere of agape. At this context, it is nice to mention how the word of God touched a Hindu murderer and converted him to a real follower of Christ. The Word of God he memorized made him to accept his crime in the couit When his own parents asked the court not to free him, he accepted the pain with serenity and forgiveness and he feels that he deserves it as his penance. Though he always spend his time in prayer still he feels that he doesn't have sufficient time to pray. Many are influenced by his goodness.

*... allora saprò
la pazienza con cui m'attendevo,
e quando mi preparavi,
con amore, ... alle nozze! "*

D.M.Tuoldo



**Sr FRANCIS JOSEPHINE
dell'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE**

Helen E. Sparks

Nata a Albany - N.Y. il 12-05-1910
Morta a Peekskill il 20 marzo 2005

Sister Francis Josephine, nee Helen, born in Albany, NY, was the second of five children born to Josephine and Joseph Sparks. Her two brothers, William and Frederick and two sisters, Ann and Katherine predeceased her. Before deciding to enter the convent in 1930 Sister had been working in New York City. It was at that time that she met a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart who inspired her so greatly that she wanted to follow in her footsteps and follow Christ. And so on December 8, 1930 at the age of 20 Helen

found her way, to Mt. St. Francis in Peekskill, her permanent address for the next 74 years.

Sister loved to learn and to teach what she learned. She possessed a keen mind and a knowledgeability that was impressive. From the time of her profession until 1980 she dedicated her life to the field of education in elementary schools, high school and college. Having received an M.A. from Fordham University in Educational Psychology and Guidance and an M.S. in Philosophy also from Fordham she certainly was well qualified to share her expertise with students on all levels. Following nearly 50 years in the classroom she served in libraries in Glencliff, Garrison and the Fields Library in Peekskill. Sister also undertook the task as a CCD coordinator. As a final assignment Sr. Francis Josephine accepted her superior's request to be moderator of our Lay Associates program, a position very dear to her. She endeared herself in a very Franciscan manner to the hearts of the people she served because of her kindness and smiling presence.

It is well to note that Sister was an extremely caring person. She had strong family ties and cared lovingly for her mother, aunts and uncles in their need. There was a special love and concern that was quite noticeable, in her later years, when she was in contact with the Lay Associates. She loved them and they loved her and surely she leaves them with fond memories.

Sr. Francis Josephine is survived by nine loving nieces and nephews, a few of whom spent some time with her on the day that God called her to Himself. The wake for Sister was held at Mt. St. Francis and the Christian Burial Mass was offered on March 23. She was then laid to rest in the Sisters' cemetery.

Merciful Father, we commend our sister into your hands. We return to you the gift you have given us in her life among us and in the service of your people.. Welcome her into your kingdom.



**SR MARIA GESUALDA
DI MARIA IMMACOLATA**

Adelia Borsato

Nata a Paese - Treviso il 05-02-1916
Morta a Gemona il 27-03-2005

On this Easter morning (27th March), while the community of the Mother house was singing the morning praise: "This is the day that the Lord has made, Alleluia!", the soul of Sr. Gesualda Borsato was flying to heaven to celebrate the victory of the Risen Lord with all the saved ones.

Sr. Gesualda was born at Paese in Treviso on 5th February 1916 as the last of the twelve brothers. A large family and the difficult time of poverty and of hard work, to face the necessities of the house and the growth of the children with dignity, in this family atmosphere, the warmth of love of their parents, Pietro e Luigia, rich of faith, of abandonment in the Divine providence and of prayer is the cradle that made mature five vocations to the consecrated life among which Sr. Gesualda who at the age of 24 responds to the call of the Lord by entering among the fmsc in Gemona on 28th May 1940.

The next year on 26th June 1941, with the Vestition, she chooses to call her Sr. Gesualda of Mary: Jesus and Mary will be therefore the two shining lights whom she will do reference always and to whom she will consecrate her whole life in the

day of her religious profession on 12th August 1942.

From there starts the missionary itinerancy in the Franciscan style. They are different in communities where starts her attentive service with the children in the nursery school and in the parish: in Codroipo, Veduggio, Roma, Pradamano, Camino, Cavazzo and Ospedaletto, Sedegliano. At Treppo Grande and at Piano D' Arta she assumed the incharge of local superior to guide the community.

In 1980 she was found at Menezzani: There so much work was done in the wardrobe with 400 aged people and Sr. Gesualda dedicates herself for them with love and generosity. Even reaching after 72 years, she continued her service for other 12 years in the community of Veduggio, her last mission before joining to Gemona, our Mother house, where she found finally the deserving rest near to her own sister, Sr. Pierluigia, with her she passes her four years of serenity and of fraternal sharing. Here also she continues to be missionary through offering herself, of the physical suffering that the old age brings with her. At times she was worse and was about to leave us. But Our Lady wanted to lead her under the cross of Jesus in this Holy week; she too was united to the passion so that in this way she completes the Paschal mystery: in the mysterious Passover from death to resurrection, from Good Friday to the Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection, the day of life without setting. Dear Sr. Gesualda, you are now in the light of God, while you entrust us your precious witness of faith. Continue your mission from heaven by obtaining graces and blessings for your dear ones, for us your sisters, for many whom you loved and served in this life.



SUOR EMILIA DI GESÙ CROCIFISSO

Loide Buranzon

nata a Treb. Massanzago PD
il 13-02-1911

morta a Gemona il 30-04-2005

"You were buried with Christ in Baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God" (Col. 2:12). It was singing in this way in the paschal liturgy of this day, 30th April 2005, accompanying Sr. Emilia to complete the last passage of her earthly existence: from death to real life in God. Only faith helps and sustains in these most decisive moment of life... and Sr. Emilia had breathed the faith from the childhood itself in her own home deeply rooted in the Christian principles. In this home life that as a witness the niece, Mrs. Annamaria, was nourishing all daily of prayer and was forming the souls, to the full confidence in the "Divine Providence". She was born on 13th February 1911, the 2nd among the three children of Luigi and Ester.

The two holy parents are not late to take their little one for the baptism in the parish so that she can receive soon the gift of divine child and with the advice of the Parish Priest choose for her a name rarely remembered in the writings of St. Paul: Loide. Sr. Emilia used to read the passage very often from the writings of Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first

in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now I am sure lives in you". This faith preserved and matured in the heart of the family Buranzon made blossom two vocations to consecrated life. One is Loide who was in Gemona, with her religious profession which took place on 18th October 1938. and the other was her sister Eunice who entered among the sisters of Jesus Crucified and took the name of Sr. Cesaria.

After the profession Sr. Emilia came to join in the community of Vedelago, where she was alternating work and prayer in the joy of fraternal communion. Here she was prepared for her perpetual vows that took place on 18th October 1938. For long years and precisely till 1963 she had offered her service as stenographer till she was asked the transfer to Vivaro, then to Rauscedo.

In the spirit of sacrifice and of love, she accepts to change not only the place, but the duty also. She is in fact entrusted the service of a cook: always the central figure of our communities. It is here that Sr. Emilia experienced the Divine providence continuously. The generous people always reached in the right moment... and Sr. Emilia knows that it is the Lord who sends her when the kitchen cupboard is empty and there is no way to satisfy the children of the Nursery school and her sisters. Many years have passed and Sr. Emilia starts to feel the weakness due to the old age. Being sick she was taken to the Mother house in the year 1988. Here it was her last stage. The Lord is waiting to ask her a different mission: the gift of sufferings and of prayer. Sr. Emilia never turns back, but goes forward by offering herself to the will of the Lord... And today she reaches to the terminus of

her earthly existence, responds to the final call of God: In that way Sr. Emilia breathed her last serenely, lovingly assisted by the sisters of the Mother house, by her own sister Clara and her niece Annamaria and by the loving closeness of all her dear ones spiritually present.



SUOR DAMIANA DI CRISTO RE

Rita Merlo

nata a Cavasagra Vedelago (TV)

il 06-02-1907

morta a Gemona il 10-05-2005

Thank you Lord for Sr. Damiana and her long existence amidst us, thank you for the fruitful witness which you have given us through her : a life completely spent for the least in the society, the poorest brethren, "the chronic" of the house of Menegazzi (TV) where she came to know you and served you... Today on 10th May, Sr. Damiana could listen your invitation a seal of the evangelical promise : Come you that are blessed by my Father for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was naked and you gave me food, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you visited me"...

Not only visited, because Sr. Damiana lived with the old, she shared their poverty, she filled their solitude, she soothed their sufferings and alienation or marginalization. Surely her vocation has been a particular

one, everything is orientated to the old. Entrusting her life into the hands of God with the religious profession among the Franciscan Missionaries of the sacred Heart in Gemona, Sr. Damiana dedicated her best 44 years to the old people of Menegazzi. With her loving and serene presence she benefited also the persons. Some of the testimonies are: "We were coming to do the service often with full of problems, the anxiety, the bad mood, at that time to meet Sr. Damiana means to get back the peace, the serenity; a joy was entering into our heart, then we were carrying that with us in our families".

According to the spirit that characterises the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred heart, in the simplicity and humility of daily service, Sr. Damiana knew to win the hearts of all at the best. The authorities recognized the preciousness of her presence, of her performance and of her service also as superior and on 2nd June 1970 she has been conferred the honour of "Cavaliere della Repubblica" or "horseman of the Republic". Sr. Damiana was capable enough to do her own works till the advanced age of 88 years, when she was taken in the Infermeria (home for the aged) of Gemona in 1995, her mission was not yet over: she was engaged in doing small service of charity of which again she was capable till the last years she completed the chalice of her life with the personal contribution of sufferings and of offering of real infirmity. From the tree of life when the mature fruits of the will, of the faith, of the charity are plucked or collected, it is dutiful to discover the sap which has fed the plant: from the natural family whose roots were caused to collapse in a heartfelt reli-

giosity, the children of Domenico and Angela absorbed and cultivated the spirit of union, of generosity and Christian donation. This has been the fertile ground where sprouted and have been nourished the true vocations to consecrated life: Sr. Iolende (Sisters of Dorotee), Sr. Modesta and Sr. Damiana entered among the fmsc.

All of us, her sisters who were with her during her long earthly pilgrimage and we admired in her the example of a holy life, now we collect and keep the precious human and spiritual inheritance which Sr. Damiana has left for us.



Sr MARIA PIERINA

Iolanda Palombo

nata a S. Giovanni Incarico (FR)

il 07-07-1910

morta a Roma il 31-05-2005

Iolanda Palombo was born at Frosinone, St. John Incarico on 7th October of 1910 in a family rich of Christian values animated by genuine faith, simple and industrious (hard working); a family which is ready to donate to elected souls to the Lord. Sr. Maria Pierina and her father's sister, Sr. Maria Fortunata, who became the Mother General in the Institute of Marian Sisters. Iolanda, young, enthusiastic, generous, loved by God, opened to beautiful things, felt soon the strong fascination of great ideals cultivated secretly the desire of consecrating herself purely to

the Lord in the religious life. Strong-willed and determinates she finds the strength of leaving the family to which she was connected with deep love, at the age of 17 she enters in Institute of the sisters of Mary in the house of Via Giulia in Rome.

Accustomed to the sacrifice and to the prayer, she spends happily the period of first formation by drawing maximum fruits or benefits from the teachings that she received and after two years on 21st November 1929 she had the immense joy of consecrating herself totally to God with the profession and to begin her religious life in the institute with the name of Sr. Maria Pierina. Soon the obedience put her in a field of intense apostolic work, in the community that the institute opened at Rignano Flaminio: with full of enthusiasm and of generosity which is her characteristics, the young sister shares the joy of educating the Christian life to many children and the youngsters of the parish by giving without saving her energy and her beautiful gift of intelligence and of her heart to those people of the villages, simple and good, whom she loved with her whole heart, as a superior and as a simple sister for twenty years. Due to the richness of this first experience it was not difficult for her to accept the new obedience entrusted in her the community and the school of Frosinone in 1949. There, Sr. Maria Pierina spends almost fifty years, from the time of full energy till the old age. She is considered the main pillar of that religious house and of the educational works which she developed. With her goodness and understanding for the sisters, with the openness to the needs of the family of the students, with the untiring dedication in all

type of service be in community which has the activity of the school and of the parish, she knows to create all around her the true family atmosphere, simple and warmth of affection. Different times she has been elected as local superior and also as the General Councillor of the institute. Everything was a proof of the serene wisdom which was accompanied her life. With attentive promptness she moves towards the needs of the sisters and of all those who approach her. With her simple and spontaneous affability or friendliness, with her forbearing good heartedness and cordial merriment she knows how to approach each person.

The secret of a life so virtuous and donated fully not depends on her natural quality, but her great confidence in God, the optimism and the prayer that she cultivates with love and perseverance. Sustained by this supernatural spirit, Sr. Maria Pierina, accepts the divine will "the fusion" or emerging of her with our Institute 1968 and though not so young, adapts to the new reality with great respect. She was 88 years when she leaves Frosinone to be welcomed in the house which is dear to her "SS: Nome di Maria", destined now as the Home for the aged for the sisters of the province. In the new family she finds again the dear sisters after many years and the new sisters; with all she spends her last 7 years with great peace.

In the year 2004 she has the special grace to celebrate her 75th years of religious profession: It is the celebration of the faithfulness or fidelity in the long history of love between God and His beloved. In a real exultation the community celebrates her extraordinary Jubilee by showing our affection and gratitude which we have towards our loving sister.

But after this luminous stage, her physical strength begins to decline all the more, without extinguishing the amiable smile on her calm face. Very often she repeats, "The holy will of God be done", which is the motto of her spiritual life

With this humble attitude of abandoning she meets the Lord when He comes to call her to the eternal life on 31st May 2005.



Sr MARIA PASQUALINA
della Madonna di Lourdes
Maria Carbone

nata a S. Bartolomeo in Galdo (BN)
il 18.10.1912
morta a Roma, 08-08-2005

"I bless you Father lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden the these things from the wise and learned and have revealed them to the little ones." (Mt 24,4) Thank you Father because you have revealed the secrets of your heart to Sr. Maria Pasqualina, immersing her, small and humble, in the sweetness of your heart!

From her youth, Maria Carbone enjoyed an ardent love for our Lord and un-containable desire of being His completely in religious life, so much so that Pasqual had it difficult to retain her in the family until age 15. She entered the Institute of Marian Sisters, at Via Giulia on February 10, 1928 in Rome. There she attended with her enthusiastic happiness in initial formation that was preparing her for holy profession, which she pro-

nounced on May 14, 1931. Soon afterwards, obedience assigned her to the community of Rignano Flaminio where she spent her first 18 years of religious life, then Tollo for 13 years, Frosinone, Rome, Ostia for several years, and, then returned to Frosinone for 19 more years. She was humble, silent, fervent, loving prayer, always ready and joyful in any service, leaving behind her the wonderful witness of a life of 'total consecration', by her constantly turning to the Lord, whether in her apostolic activities or in her prayer life. She had a vivid sense of the supernatural meaning of things and facts and it was not difficult to accept with an open heart the "fusion" of her Institute with ours. She lived that delicate passage with admirable serenity and trust, demonstrating the greatest respect for her new Rule, Superiors and Sisters.

By 1988, more elderly and with more suffering, Sister was welcomed in the Provincial House, where she experienced for the first time the joy of living so closely with a larger number of sisters. Having retired to a more tranquil life, after prolonged intense activities, she never ceased repeating that her spirit was immersed in an ocean of happiness, for the graces of being able to live in union with the Lord, of adoring Him in the Eucharist and keeping Him company for long hours in the little Chapel, which was so close to her room.

At the dawn of August 8, 2005, while the sisters were still asleep, she noticed a strong uneasy discomfort. She herself called the sister nurse and assisted by the superior, in a short half an hour praying, I pass into eternal life, "without disturbing" as she had asked the Lord.



Sr M. PIAGELTRUDE
DI MARIA SPERANZA DEI CUORI
Nives Lucca
nata a Tizzano (UD)
il 19-04-1925
morta il 04-10-2005

Nives Lucca was born at Tizzano (Udine) on April 19, 1925. Her parents Giordano and De Lucia Geltrude, formed a family with deep faith and values. After 4 days, she was Baptized and received her Confirmation at age 13.

Her family and parish worked together in cultivating in her the early manifestation of the desire to be consecrated to God in religious life, so that at 19 years of age, Nives was ready to enter the convent. From the time of her entrance into our religious family on May 15, 1944, she was received in the motherhouse, St. Mary of the Angels, in Gemona. She attended her initial formation for two years under the wise and gentle guide of Sr. M. Angela Rebesco. Together with a good group of novices and postulants, she was full of enthusiasm and fervor as well as able to make the sacrifices and deprivations imposed on them by the tenor of convent life, and the sad consequences left by the war. On August 12, 1946 the novice, who in the investiture was given the name of Sr. M. Piageltrude of Mary, the Hope of Hearts, now had the joy of realizing her grand ideal of

holy profession, which made her a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. Immediately, as was the custom of the times, 'obedience' sent her to the St. Louis Province in France and then to Switzerland where she remained for almost 20 years: at Flers, Friburgo, Tracy le Mont, Attichy and then Paris. Sister was active and generous, placing her excellent ability of cooking at the service of the elderly guests of the Rest Home at Attichy; at the service of the poor unfortunate children, who had been welcomed in the small house at Tracy le Mont; at the service of so many people in Paris at the "Parish table meals." In 1967, she was called to be part of the Roman Province. She went to live in various communities: Lido dei Pini, Colonnata, Borgo Carso, and then to the Infirmary in Rome. Also there, Sister continued her "mission" in the kitchen, giving with love and skillfulness her humble precious assignment to the children and Sisters until 1999, when her physical strength began to fail and with so much pain she was obliged to take more rest. Then she engrossed herself in more silence and prayer, offering to God, instead of all her labors, her helplessness and soon afterwards, the physical sufferings of her illness. When the call to enter eternal life came, she was ready, comforted by the sacraments, prayer, and the affectionate attention of her superiors and sisters. With a serene transition, she left this earthly life forever on the feast of our seraphic Father St. Francis, to enter into the infinite joy of the Lord, on October 4, 2005.



Sr AGNESE DI GESÙ APPASSIONATO
Teresa Balzarin
nasce a Montecchio Maggiore (VI)
il 18-02-1920
muore il 06-10-2005

Sr. Agnese (Teresa Balzarin) was born at Montecchio Maggiore (VI) on February 18, 1920. From when she was a little girl, Teresa seem to learn from her father, Sebastiano and her mother, Agnese how to have a strong sense of duty, sacrifice and selflessness. Although orphaned by her mother's death, she cared for her siblings with great love. On October 1, 1939, attracted by the ideal of religious life, she was accepted by the Franciscan Sisters at Gemona. She was admitted to the novitiate on June 26, 1941 and made her profession of vows on August 12, 1942. Immediately the Lord called her to missionary life in the Orient. With enormous love she dedicated herself to the orphans of the mission at Rhodes. One can easily imagine this dedication, having herself remained an orphan at a tender age. Here she also cared for those wounded from the war, and was absorbed in all those simple daily ordinary chores that "become great" when done for the love of God. In 1963, we find her in Larnaca as an assistant nurse, helping to heal and give love to the elderly for some 10 years. From here, Sister went to Kormakiti for one year. Then she arrived in Limassol, at the pro-

vincial house, where she remained for 10 years. There she was busy with the parish, the garden and so many other services needed in a house that was attached to a very large school that required her generosity and dedication. In 1984, her 'obedience' sent her to Kormakiti, in the area occupied by the Turks. She spent the best of herself here, as testimony was given her at the funeral, both by the Maronite Pastor of that village and the Representative of the Marionies. Their words gave a true profile of Sr. Agnese: "Faith is the fruit of prayer and prayer transforms into charity". In this way Sr. Agnese made a gift of her life to these people as though they were her family and all remember her as a 'mother'. At Kormakiti she was identified as "iatrena" that is "doctor" for her ability as a nurse, but in particular, for her capacity to listen and welcome others. In 2001, pain and illness obligated her, despite her talents, to be withdrawn to the infirmary at Limassol. But she did not just sit and hold her hands; this was not her style! When her health permitted it, she kept busy in the vegetable and flower gardens because she loved nature so much. Although her health was declining suddenly she expressed the desire to leave by June to visit her only remaining brother Valentino and two nephews with whom she was very close. While in Italy, her health failed and she had to recuperate in the infirmary at the Motherhouse, in Gemona. Given the precarious physical situation, it was suggested to her to remain there; but she did not accept. She expressed a real desire to return to Cyprus, where her 'big family' was. When she returned from Italy, her condition worsened and on Sunday October 2nd, she suffered a stroke

to the brain and brought to the hospital.

A few days later, surrounded by her Sisters, and by the love of many persons aided by her, she departed to heaven on October 5, 2005. The provincial and local superior were present as she made her passage.

Her funeral, celebrated on October 7th the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, was an expression of the love and of the gift that Sr. Agnese knew how to lavish on so many whom she encountered during her long and laborious work spent in missionary life.



**SR MARCELLIANA
DI GESÙ SACRAMENTATO**

Margherita D'Alessi
nasce a Castagnole-Paese (TV)
il 10-01-1913
muore a Gemona il 17-10-2005

We are pilgrims and strangers in this world, our homeland is in the Heavens! says St. Francis. Sr. Marcelliana also to the centuary, Margherita D' Alessi, after a long earthly pilgrimage is entered in the abode of peace forever. It is here that she can bless and praise the Lord for the gift of life, for the joy of the natural family where she has ripenthe vocation and for the religious congregation in which she could realize her ideal of consecration as FMSC. With the religious profession which took place on 22-05-1933

Sr. Marcelliana made herself fit to the radical following of Christ according to the evangelical form of life proposed by St. Francis.

For faith Sr. Marcelliana like Abraham left without knowing where she was going and with great fortress and courage donated all her energy for the education and formation of children, in the community in which she was inserted. As a real Franciscan and with the spirit of minority she offered her dedicated service for the tuition to Cavaso-Caniezza, Treviso S. Maria Maggiore, S. Giuseppe and Udine. Then she was called by the obedience to Rome-Centocelle as the Assistant Mistress of the Aspirants and she contributed her various talents for their better formation. Her life entrusted to God was rendering always more intense communion with Him and she offered herself for the brethren. She was always available to accomplish with accuracy whatever work she was given. Receiving the mandate as the animator of the community in different places she worked hard to live her daily "yes" with maximum fidelity to be a real spiritual guide of the sisters whom she was entrusted. In fact it is written in her memory: "A perfect religious is a perfect sentinel before the Blessed Sacrament. What an efficacious apostolate in this example of Eucharistic life. Let us love, yes, let us love! We will understand Jesus and we will make Him known and appreciate Him!" It was evident in her the sense of beauty and she herself was trying to find it and to live it everywhere, but above all each person was recognized as "A loaf of living bread: God". The Lord Jesus is defined in the Gospel of John as: the way, the truth and the life" (Jn 14,6).

He is the only God who works wonders... the good, all good, the supreme good (FF261) In this way she was continuously repeating about her

"I am called to give myself, to be resplendent, to irradiate the goodness. He called me to follow Him; my life is His; the remaining is secondary".

Sr. Marcelliana who is already enjoying the Beatitudes in Heaven may obtain for all of us the grace of a life rooted in God and to be faithful to His Divine project, like Mary who in her generous "Fiat" was keeping everything in her heart.



**SR MARIATERESA CANSIANI
dell'Annunciazione**

nata a Paularo (UD) il 30-03-1946
morta a gemona il 25-10-2005

Today, 26 October, the word of God we listened in the Eucharistic celebration has admonished us: "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many will try to enter, but will not be able" (Lk: 13:24). Sr. Mariateresa had the courage to go along all the narrow pathway of sufferings and to pass through the narrow door of the death that leads to the life and to the peace. It has been difficult for her this passing, a person of genuine character and full of vitality, but she has undertaken it in the consciousness of being joined in a mysterious plan in which she was asked to offer herself com-

pletely. She has always kept hidden this concealed secret in her heart, with her usual smile, the sufferings that she was carrying within, at the same time the certainty of feeling into the hands of a good Lord who knows everything and who can everything.

Sr. Mariateresa was born at Paularo (Udine) on 30th March 1946 as the last among the five children of Mr. Pietro and Mrs. Giacomina Gortan. Her family is always visited by the "sister death", who has snatched away two of her dear sisters, one after another. At the same time she lost her father, when she had only 13 years old. This sufferings and the strong faith of her mother cleared the land fertile in which Sr. Mariateresa could mature her proper religious vocation under the guidance of Fr .Quintino Fabbro who accompanied her to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. In this way keeping under the special protection of Mary, Sr. Mariateresa chose the 25th March of 1966, the day of the

Annunciation to enter into the Novitiate Of Gemona, while on 12th Sept. 1968, she consecrated herself to the Lord with her religious profession together with other 12 youngsters and they have decided to give their lives to Christ.

From that moment, Sr. Mariateresa started her mission in the field of education, accompanying boys and girls of various ages to face their lives. She has been a teacher of technical education, at first in our school of Oasi, followed the period after the earthquake to Lignano, then from 1990 to Asisium- Rome . There with her full spirit and heart sshe was engaged to disclose the horizon of informational communication (Computer Science) to the students. Besides this, she was entrusted the delicate duty of Fiscal Office in General House, which she has done with love and competency till the end. Only two years before it was found out her sickness. For her it was the starting of the real Passover (suffering), concluded today on 25th October.

The door of Heaven unexpectedly opened and Sr. Mariateresa entered in the eternal life to meet Jesus and to attune there with that splendid voice of which the nature had gifted her, with which she had solemnised the liturgy here on earth, many times by singing the hymn of faith and love:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution.....?

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, Nor rulers ,nor things present,nor things to come, Nor powers, nor height, nor-depth, nor anything else in all creation,

Will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. (Rom: 8:35...)

Sr. Mariateresa, now that you have obtained the peace and joy finally ,remember all your dear ones and us , your sisters of the same vocation: she prays, so that other youngsters can take her place in our religious family as Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.





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