

Happy Easter!



*Let us celebrate with
a glorious hymn the
triumph of the risen Lord!
All the earth be glad
overflowed by such a
splendour.*

*May our heart rejoice,
full of the living
Spirit of Jesus.*

*He who is life may fill us
and gift us of new fit.
So our witness will be joyful
and we will sing alleluia*

because of hoping and thanking God.

*This Easter wish may resound
as a joyful announce ment in our communities
and in every part of the earth.*

SR EMMAPIA AND SISTERS OF THE COUNCIL

WALKING WITH THE CHURCH

Benedict XVI's apostolic journey to Turkey has three objectives: one pastoral, another ecumenical and a third that includes the fostering of dialogue with Islam



As with all his apostolic visits, the Pope is going to Turkey in order to confirm the Catholic community in the faith. That small community includes various rites: Latin, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Catholic and Chaldean. The Holy Father will preside at two Eucharistic celebrations with the country's Catholic faithful.

The first will take place on Wednesday at the national Marian shrine of Meyem Ana Evi, that is, the house of Jesus' Mother Mary, in Ephesus, the city in which the council of 431 proclaimed her divine maternity.

The second Mass will be celebrated in Istanbul on Friday, the last day of the visit, at the Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit.

Full unity

The Pope is going to Istanbul in response to an invitation of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, presented at the start of his pontificate.

With this visit, Benedict XVI confirms that one of his priorities is the search for full Christian unity, as he stated on April 20, 2005, in his homily delivered in the Sistine Chapel, the day after his election.

On Wednesday, the Pontiff will take part in a meeting of prayer and dialogue with the Orthodox patriarch.

The highlight of the visit to the ecumenical patriarch will be Thursday, the liturgical memorial of the Apostle Andrew, brother of St. Peter.

Benedict XVI's participation in the Divine Liturgy will be followed by a joint brief prayer and the presentation of a stone tablet in memory of the last three Pontiffs who visited the patriarchate (John XXIII, as apostolic delegate, and Paul VI and John Paul II as popes).

The event will end with the reading and signing of a joint statement between Benedict XVI and Bartholomew I. On the same day, Benedict XVI will visit Patriarch Mesrob II Mutafyan, at the headquarters of the Armenian Apostolic Patriarchate. The latter is not in full communion with Rome, though in recent decades there have been important steps toward rapprochement.

The Holy Father also will receive the Syrian Orthodox archbishop and some leaders of the Protestant communities.

Mosque visit

Finally, this papal trip to a secular, predominantly Muslim country seeks to foster interreligious dialogue. Notable, in this connection, will be the Pope's visit on Tuesday to the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938), founder and first president of the modern republic of Turkey.

Then, after meeting with government leaders, Benedict XVI will deliver an anticipated address to the country's president of religious affairs, perhaps on questions linked to dialogue and coexistence between Muslims and Christians.

To show his esteem for the followers of Islam, the Holy Father requested a visit Thursday afternoon, to the Blue Mosque, the largest in Istanbul.

The importance of interreligious dialogue will be underlined later the same day by the Pope during a visit to the Grand Rabbi of Turkey.

WALKING WITH THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Living according to the Gospel...

As a sign and a new fraternal urge to feel strongly united in the preparation of the eight centennial of the approval of the Rule of St. Francis, we announce also the new document issued by the same Conference of the Franciscan Family, which is entitled

and written by the 6 Minister Generals of the groups which make up the Conference on 29 November 2006, feast of all Franciscan Saints

Here are some excerpts

“The Franciscan Family (First, Second and Third Order, in their variety and different forms, with secular institutions and other movements who refer to St. Francis) prepares to celebrate in 2009 a particular historic event: to recall in our memory the origin of the Franciscan charism. Indeed, 8 centuries before the year 2009 St. Francis, with a dozen men, appeared before the pope Innocent III to ask him to recognize and approve his project of evangelic life. Seventeen years later (1226), Francis so described in his Testament what happened then: «And when God gave me brothers, no one showed me what I should do, but the Most high revealed to me that I should live according to the form of the holy gospel. I had it written in few words and simply, and the lord Pope confirmed it for me ». Although the text concerned first of all the group of friars, it was open to all the states of Christian life [...] One thing is clear in it: at the heart of vocation lies a life according to the Gospel.

When we read the rules, taking into consideration all the writings of St. Francis, we can see that living the Gospel does not only involve taking seriously the requirements of a fraternal life, lived in radical poverty, renunciation of



property and money, resort to collecting alms, but it is above all the vision of authority that Francis presents: masters that become servants, the mutual washing of feet, welcoming his invitation to become “minors”, little, submitted to all creatures, brothers to all men. Here lies for

Francis the heart of the evangelical message [...] Indeed, this “good and joyful gospel” brings us first of all the revelation of the mystery of God-Trinity who, out of his holy love, has opened us the access to his life of communion and becomes the first goal of all our searches and all our steps. Moreover, he gives us also the knowledge of ourselves, who are image and likeness of God and his Christ; the call to “penance”, conversion to the Gospel, which never ends but must be started over and over again. The love for one’s neighbour [...], a love that must be real, effective, made of humble service, marked by “maternal” attention, excluding all kinds of domination. This makes possible the creation of a true “fraternity”, as Francis called the first group of brothers.

[...] The celebration of the eight centennial of the approval of the original Rule, the “proto-rule”, involves us directly, through the call to live radically the message of Jesus, its promises and requirements, that Francis and his companions understood and followed. It is always relevant for all times and states of life. The Franciscan Family as a whole [...] refers explicitly to Francis’ evangelical inspiration and acknowledges his spiritual writings as the foundations for the legislation [...]

The inspiration that Francis and his friars have



“And when God gave me brothers, no one showed me what I should do, but the Most high revealed to me that” .

given keeps animating the Church and touches all Christians and “all men of good will”. Therefore, this centennial concerns them all.

For the Centenary we are all immediately urged to give thanks for the gift that God has bestowed upon us and his Church, by calling the Christians, by intercession of Francis and his companions, to welcome the totality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order to live a new life.

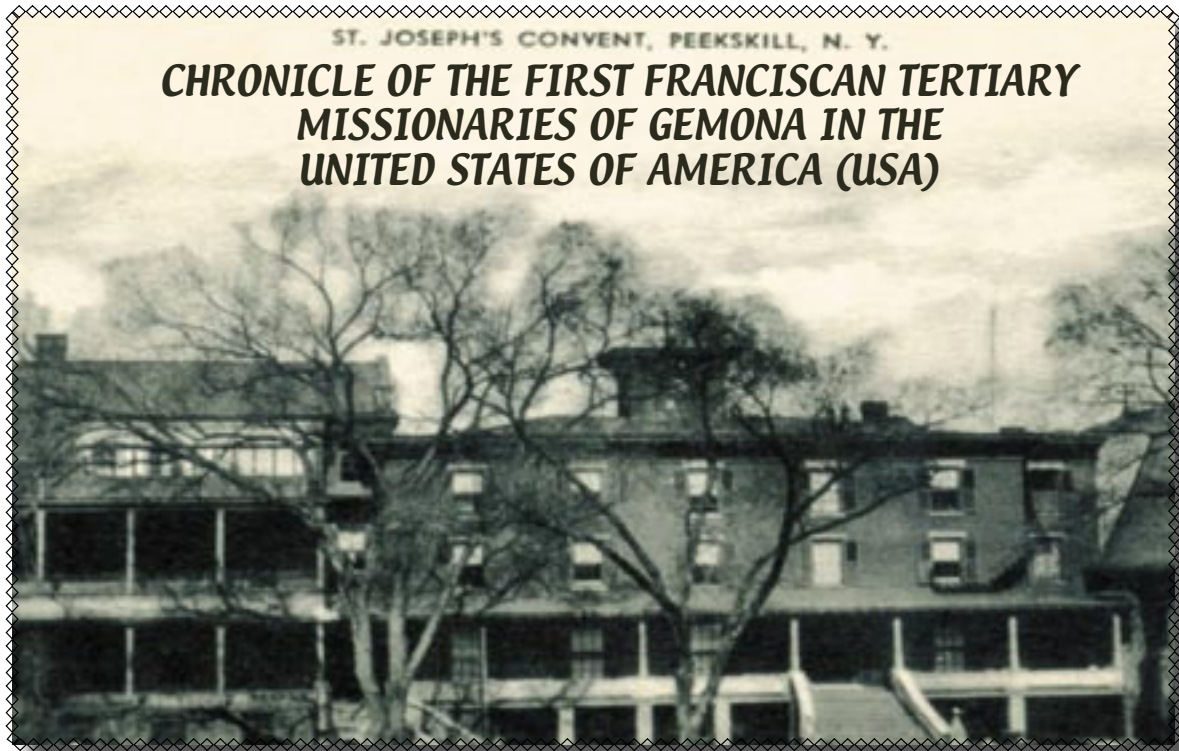
This call to the grace of the origins has never ceased to resound [...], enlarging and enriching the Franciscan spiritual current in the course of the centuries with a variety of contributions, like a river of life.

[...] Today, at the turn of the third millennium, Francis’ message is offered to us as a stimulus, an encouragement, like bread for our journey.

This double movement, consisting on one hand in giving thanks in order to

call to live the Gospel and on the other in the purification of memory by recognizing the shadows of our family, must lead us to meet the challenge of refoundation. The experience from eight centuries had taught us that, like Francis, we must always resume our path of evangelical penance, which means conversion, that must be enacted by means of real gestures in order to embody with our daily life, as individuals and as a community, something of the novelty and youth of the Gospel [...].”

The grace of the origins



CHAPTER II

They visited the sick and the prisoners

Now that the missionaries had been provided with black clothes and there were English-speaking postulants, they could easily devote themselves to visiting the sick and the prisoners. Every time the Franciscan Sisters were asked to visit an invalid, they never refused. Whichever was the religion of the sick person, they were ready to assist him or her. In fact, if one was not catholic, they strived to make him embrace their religion. They were never held back by the disgust or fear caused by the revolting or infectious diseases, as Evangelical

charity is quite different from human prudence, and the Religious gladly sacrifice themselves out of love for their neighbour. During such visits, edifying facts often happened, but for the sake of brevity it is not possible to enumerate them; I shall write only about a couple of them. One day a sister was asked to visit a sick woman; she immediately went with a companion. When they entered the room, they found a young lady lying on a sofa. From her ghastly paleness it was clear that she was suffering, yet they thought that

they had not been called for her. The lady told them to sit down and, when she was alone with them, started to talk in such terms: I have to die, and I will die soon. My soul must go to the warm place (so hell is familiarly called by Americans) and there will no longer be any means of salvation for me! But you, Sisters, can't you do anything to save my soul? Please, do something! I'll give you this watch, and she took off her neck her golden watch and showed it to the nuns, begging them to take it, saying that she was ready to give them any-

thing on condition that they would do their outmost to save her soul. The missionaries looked at each other thinking that the woman had lost her wits. One of them interrupted her and said: How do you know that you will have to die so soon? We all must die, and therefore it is good to be ready. But we know neither the day nor the hour. The lady answered: life is quite short for me and I will soon have to die; the nun replied: How can you say that? Then the sick woman told the nuns that the day before she had called five of the most famous doctors in town. She had fixed an appointment with each one of them at different hours so that they would not meet and she had asked a trusted person to inquire about her sickness. The answers had been: "The sickness has reached such an advanced stage that the lady will survive, at the most, four weeks... we will try, but there is no hope of recovery... It is unnecessary to torment her with medicines, because in two or three weeks she will no longer be... She is so exhausted that she could pass away any day now... We must try to cheer her up, because she has just a few days to live..."

Now, you tell me, Sisters, if I can have any hope of recovery with such answers. The sisters did their best to soothe her, so that she got over her profound dejection. When the woman had taken heart and got to know the nuns better, she told them briefly about her life, so that they could commit themselves to save her soul. She was just over twenty, born from catholic parents.

She had been baptized and had observed catholic faith until her First Communion, then she had no longer gone to confession nor received Holy Communion. She had married, but then had abandoned her husband and lived freely among Protestants. Then, she had indulged in all sorts of pleasures and passed the days idolizing herself. The Nuns, with a lot of charity, let her know the state of her soul and suggested the means to regain the grace of God. They visited her every day and in a short time they prepared her for the general confession, then they called a priest who

had forgotten all other prayers and the Nuns taught her the act of contrition, which she repeated frequently. The moment of her death was very moving. The nuns arrived a few minutes before and, although she could barely speak, she smiled to them and beckoned to them to come nearer. The room was full of protestant ladies and gentlemen; the nuns suggested her several short prayers, which she said devoutly, and, kneeling beside that bed of both pain and consolation, they said the prayers for the dying. The sick woman forced her voice as much as she could in order to be



heard by those who surrounded her and asked them to forgive her for the scandal that she had caused and, showing that thoughts at the point of death are out of the ordinary, she ordered people to kneel down and pray. Among those present no one refused to kneel down; and as soon as they learned the reply in the Litanies, they repeated it together with the nuns. The lady expired happily in the arms of the sisters, who had obtained salvation to her soul not for a watch or for money, but for God's sake. On another occasion, the sisters were called to instruct a young man, who wanted to prepare for his

administered her the last Sacraments. The conversion of that soul is certainly due to the fact that the woman said three Hail Marys every single day, although she indulged in every pleasure. After the death of her mother, she had been saying these three Hail Marys because she meant to ask for the blessing that her mother used to give her when she was alive. She

first confession. The young man, born in San Francisco, California, had come to New York for business and to visit his aunt. He had travelled by sea with a catholic friend and, during the journey, they had both fallen ill, but his friend, who had a weaker constitution, was soon at the point of death. Realizing this, he gladly resigned to God's Will and, being very virtu-

ous, he suffered for God's sake. The other was quite the opposite. Although he was a catholic too, because he had been baptized, he knew neither God nor religion. His parents, though they were catholic, had undertaken to educate him in every science except religion. And this young man, who thought he had been nobly educated, did not even know that he had a soul. The virtuous dying man, far from worrying about his body, did his utmost to save his friend's soul. When he was near the end, he made him the guardian of his last will; he left various memories and handed him his prayer book and told him: I am dying and I will not arrive at the port, but you will. So, please, for God's sake, promise me to get instructed in the true Religion and to observe it faithfully. So I will die gladly and I give you my word that I will pray for you in Paradise.

The young man promised him that if he reached New York, he would immediately call the nuns to be instructed and then he would observe Christian faith correctly. The sick man died in his friend's arms, and leaving this rough world, he went to enjoy the immense glory of Heaven. The other, grieved for the loss and weakened by the sickness, arrived in New York so exhausted that he could barely stand up. But how lucky he had been, for his friend's death became life for his soul! Keeping his promise, the morning after his arrival, he asked his aunt, who gave him hospitality, to call some nuns in order to teach him catechism. The Franciscan nuns gladly undertook the task, and though the young man was sickly, he was one of their best pupils. He promised that, if he could see his motherland again, he would do his best to teach faith to his rela-

tives and live as a good Christian. After going to confession and taking his First Communion, he went back to his native country, where he died a saintly death soon afterwards and went to reach his friend, who was waiting for him in Heaven. When they visit prisoners, the Franciscan Sisters are always welcome. Although the guards are protestant, they have got permission to be left alone with women. Then, they instruct and comfort them, encouraging them to be patient and do gladly their time. They also visit the jail infirmary and sick people regard them as angels of peace. The warders are very happy that the nuns visit the prisoners because, they say, even many days later, they talk of nothing else but the nuns and what they have been told by them, especially the women. Otherwise, they are restless and swear without end, say a lot of bad



things and promise that if they were freed, they would do worse still, taking thus revenge on those who have punished them. One day a prisoner asked a nun why she had become a religious; the latter gave her several answers, among which: To serve the Lord more faithfully. The inmate added: do as much as you please for God's sake, but you won't be able to do as much as I did for the devil. I made eight people die, and you would be frightened if I told you all my other crimes. A religious asked a prisoner how long he had not gone to confession. He said: Well, I think

that I cannot hide you the truth: I went to confession a few times when I was a child, but then I haven't gone to confession for twenty-nine years. So she asked him if he had made his First Communion. No, he replied, I don't even know what this is. I sometimes saw people getting near the Altar, they said they went to Holy Communion, but I don't know what they were taking. She started to explain to him the adorable mystery of the Last Supper and he was amazed. When he considered the immense love of Jesus Christ, he exclaimed: How good God is! I

want to get instructed so as to be able to take Holy Communion. Then he said: Sister, I don't weep easily, but I couldn't help, the other day, when I was reading in a book that Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light". Oh, Sister, I thought about that and I started to cry. Both for the sick and the prisoners, the Franciscan nuns are an heavenly blessing for their souls and a great relief for their bodies.

CHAPTER III

Acceptance of Novices: great crowd and emotion at the ceremony of taking the veil

The chapel that the Franciscan Nuns had in their first little house was too small for a solemn ceremony such as the taking of the veil of the first American sisters to be celebrated in it. Therefore, the Clergy decided that it should take place in St. Francis Church, next to the Sisters' house. The Archbishop presided the ceremony and did a beautiful homily that showed the happiness of monastic life. The parents of the three young women that were about to receive the religious habit had made them beautiful white dresses, as if they were going to get married. Wreathed with flowers, with a lily in their hand, the young women entered St. Francis Church, accompanied by three young girls dressed in white. The crowd that was waiting for them was deeply moved when they watched them step towards the Altar so hilariously to make the sacrifice of their own will in order to live under obedience; give up all earthly pleasures to embrace Seraphic poverty; change their noble garments for the rough habit of the Tertiaries. After the candidates took Holy Communion, the Archbishop blessed the habits and handed them to the Minister so that they could be worn by the aspirants. They had their hair cut and received the veil from the prelate, then they prostrated themselves and were

covered in a black cloth. The crowd could no longer contain themselves and the crying was so high that it was almost heard by the Archbishop. But, as a true Ministry of the Saviour who comforted the women of Jerusalem, he turned to the attendance and said: "Do not weep for these daughters, weep instead for yourselves. Indeed, with their vow of chastity they give up a human wedding, but they marry the King of Heaven. By abandoning any earthly possession, they embrace Evangelical poverty for which Jesus Christ himself shall be their reward forever. Some of you may call them fool, but those should beware not to be deemed fool one day, when there shall no longer be any remedy. The Holy Mass ended with the Hymn of thanksgiving and the new brides of Jesus joined their dear sisters in the humble house of the Franciscan nuns.

In the afternoon, the Archbishop, accompanied by the clergy, went to visit the nuns. He rejoiced with them for the heavenly nuptials and the apostolic life that they would lead. He praised their parents for the luck they had to give their daughters back to Jesus Christ. From then on, the Franciscan nuns have had ceremonies of taking the veil every single year, always public and solemn and with great crowds.

By abandoning any earthly possession, they embrace Evangelical poverty for which Jesus Christ himself shall be their reward forever

The Crucifix came back

*From the Monastery of "St. Clare"
to "S. Mary of Angels Convent"*



We Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, in March 2005, received an extraordinary and precious gift : a Crucifix , which was owned by the Poor Clare nuns of the ancient monastery of St. Clare, here in Gemona.

This crucifix is an important witness of a great past, rich of events that show clearly the work of Divine Providence.

We know that in the same place, where the foundress willed to place our institute, it was situated before st Clare Monastery, which later was suppressed by Napoleon in 1810.

What we know about it goes buck to year 1277, when some Benedictine nuns moved out from *st. Agnes Monastery* to the house situated in Cella steet, which were given as heritage by noble ones of Gemona. Here the sisters began a new blooming community, replacing the Benedictine rule to the claretian rule. The first enclosed group was called Damianite which afterward became Poor Clare's.

Along centuries many young ladies, even from nobles of Friuli, joined the Monastery in Gemona. We remember three members from Vintani family, well known in Gemona. Namely we recall: sr. Virginia (deceased in 1772), sr M. Gabriella, sr Luigia, who professed religious vows in 1800. As we know by a handwritten document of our archive sr Virginia in 49 years of monastic life gave a great witness of much prayer, silence and detachment from her own.

Her presence in front of the holy Sacrament was so intense that she was named the handmaid of Holy Sacrament.

She suffered much, with many sicknesses, but only God knows about them. Though she used to be good, lastly she was complaining in her illness not to be capable to

do anything fine.

In 1745, in fact, they started the reformation of religious life, according to the will of Patriarch of Aquileia, therefore the community of st. Clare went back to the early minoritic rule...since then the sisters reached oneness of heart and soul. Just in this time of strong spiritual renewal, year 1810, came the Napoleonic storm, which destroyed with rules of suppression churches and religious orders.

Even st Clare Monastery had the same destiny in the month of April of the same year. Its end was very sad: sisters were disbanded; the goods of the monastery were included in the domain. The precious things and the sacred objects were sold out. The building was put into sale and the chapel was destroyed. Building was bought in 1811 by Giuseppe Luccardi which used it as spinning mill and textile lab.

One of the 14 sisters staying in the monastery at that moment of suppression was sr. Luigia Vintani , who went back to her family, bringing with her the Crucifix to save it from being lost.

Even as a lay sr. Luigia was dressing with a white cup on head. She was living in a very retired style, yet she was gathering the poor young ladies to teach them how to sew and to live as good Christians.

Sr. Luigia died in 1867, with the consolation to witness the rebirth of a new religious community at the same place the monastery of st. Clare .They were the Franciscan Missionaries of the S. Heart (1861).

The crucifix of the poor Clare's was carefully kept by Vintani family.

Every ownership's change has been noted in the testament and the last person to be given it was mrs. Angelina Vintani, mother of Alberto Scarpa, last heir of the much venerated cross.

He remembers that his mother was telling stories about I world war, when the all family had to leaving everything to go as refugees in different Italian cities.

Mrs. Angelina, then, was in charge of taking care of the crucifix, which together with a carved case was the most precious objects to be saved.

In accordance with a program of recovering and

resetting of our historical patrimony, thanks to the cooperation of Dr. Tito Cancian and of the journalist Grazia Levi, we were able to find out

the descendants of Vintani family.

Besides we contacted mr. Alberto who sent us a picture and without difficulty finally was even able to donate the precious silver crucifix to the FMSC

of Mother House St Mary of the Angels.

It was really amazing! Now that crucifix join the precious portrait of the "Mater Admirabilis", owned by the Poor Clare's and donated to us by Comuzzi family in 1937.

As sr. Eligia Capriz used to say:" Our Lady who keeps in her harms the little Jesus, cannot stay without her Son hanging on the Cross".

Sister Ernesta Bilibio

The precious silver crucifix to the FMSC of Mother House "St Mary of the Angels".



*"Mater Admirabilis"
Museo - Casa Madre - Gemona*

SACRED INDULGENCES

A TREASURE SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN

We would like to rediscover together a good thing that belongs to us as a “perpetual” gift from the Church, of which we maybe not recourse out of forgetfulness ar: the Indulgences.

The Rescript dated 7 February 1968, sent by the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, upon request from the Superior general, regarding the granting of a series of indulgences, is still fully valid and deserves all our attention and gratitude.

From this document we learn that the Church has granted us, with a time limit or perpetually (in perpetuum), on the usual prescribed conditions (confession, communion, prayers for the Holy Father), the possibility to gain the plenary indulgence in various circumstances and distinctly.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

To the **WHOLE INSTITUTE**, on the feasts of:

- Pentecost,
- the Holy Trinity,
- Corpus Domini,
- the Sacred Heart,
- the Immaculate Conception,
- the Holy Name of Mary,
- Saint Francis of Assisi,
- Saint Anthony of Padua,
- Saint Elizabeth of Hungary,
- on the occasion of the General Chapter.

To the **INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES** on the occasion of:

- the feast of the Patron Saint of the House,
- the feast of the Saint or Blessed of whom a relic is kept,
- August 2nd (‘Porziuncola’), in one’s own chapel - oratory,
- at the end of the usual canonical visit.

To each **INDIVIDUAL SISTER**, on:

the day of entry into Novitiate

“ of the first Profession

“ of perpetual Profession

the 25th, 50th, 60th and 75th anniversary of the first Profession.

While memory urges us to renew our gratitude to our Saint Mother Church for such precious supernatural gifts, in order to give a new impulse to our practice of the indulgences that we have gained and as a simple memorandum, let us read together over again the essentials of the indulgences, taking into consideration some indispensable tools: the A.C. Doctrine of indulgences by Paul VI; Jubilee and indulgence by J. M. Gervais and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in light of the new Enchiridion indulgentiarum.

MEMORANDUM



1. WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF INDULGENCES?

The doctrine and the use of indulgences, which have been effective in the catholic church for many centuries, have a solid foundation in the divine revelation. The doctrine of indulgences arises from the fact that the Church accepts from the Bible the idea that the forgiveness of a sin does not necessarily cancel its punishment and the Church is a united communion in which the members mutually influence each other as regards grace but also offence.

Born in a Christian environment, the doctrine draws from the belief in the possibility to cancel a precise part of the consequences of a sin (called temporal punishment) by the sinner who has sincerely confessed his/her offence and has been forgiven through the sacrament of confession. As a consequence of the protestant reform, which rejected this doctrine on the grounds that it did not have a biblical foundation, it remained a distinctly catholic use. The doctrine, which was updated by Paul VI in the apostolic constitution *Indulgentiarum doctrina* of 1st January 1967, repropounded the traditional practice of the indulgences, which has been simplified and restored to its true spiritual meaning.

2. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS DOCTRINE OF INDULGENCES?

It is based essentially on three truths of faith: the debt payment (even after sacramental confession) of temporal punishment due to the sin, to be expiated here on earth or in purgatory; an inexhaustible treasury, whose dispenser is the Church; a reversibility (trasferability), thanks to the communion of saints or supernatural solidarity that are peculiar to the Mystical Body of Christ. This “treasury of the church”, that is the merits acquired by Christ and the saints, can be applied both to the benefit of the living and of the dead, whatever Martin Luther and his followers say...

3. WHAT DOES INDULGENCE MEAN?

THE INDULGENCE IS the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful, duly disposed and on certain conditions, acquires through the Church”. It derives from the Latin word *indulgo*, which recalls pardon and mercy; when it was used by the State, it could indicate an act of clemency; *indulgence*, on the contrary, indicates the total gift of divine mercy. The first act forgives totally or partially the punishment for a certain category of convicts while the second remits “before God the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful, duly disposed and on certain conditions, acquires through the Church”. The indulgence requires a personal repentance and a deep conversion.





4. WHAT INDULGENCES REALLY ARE?

They are a kind of very powerful additive that completes the great “cleaning” performed by the sacrament of Penance, a precious supplement made of works of mercy, charity and penance.

To explain the gift of indulgences, pope Luciani, in his pastoral simplicity, observed: “If it is true that we are a unique, big family and that, like in every true family, there is a mutual exchange and reversibility of property, for what reason the poorest among us should not benefit from the richest, that is of Christ, Our Lady and the Saints? If it is true –and it really is- that their merits make up a “treasury”, an immense patrimony, which is managed mostly by the one who has received the keys of the Kingdom, the Pope, why cannot he allow us to draw from that treasury with greater abundance?”.

This is the gift of indulgence: it cancels the negative effects of a sin that has been sincerely confessed, with the honest intention not to repeat it, and helps the sinner to strengthen morally and change his/her life by gradually removing the evil that is inside, which he/she will have to repudiate completely.

5. WHAT IS THEIR FOUNDATION?

For many centuries they have been a doctrine of faith, based on which a Catholic professes that the Church, by virtue of the keys that Christ has entrusted her, administers the treasury (made up of the expiations and merits of Christ and of the prayers and good works of the Virgin Mary and the Saints), which is much more precious than any other and inexhaustible: “it is the same power to grant indulgences that Christ gave his Church... which used this divine power since the earliest ages (Council of Trento).

6. HOW CAN THEY BE GAINED?

First of all, the gain depends on the spirit that animates the faithful: indeed, the Church intends to meet her children not only in order to help them satisfy the punishments owed because of their sins, but also and above all to encourage them to a greater fervour in charity, whose prominence is confirmed by indulgences. Indeed, these cannot be gained without a sincere conversion (metanoia) and the union to God, besides the accomplishment of the prescribed works.

To sum up: they are gained through a radical detachment from the affection for sin; they stimulate the exercise of supernatural virtues; they enable us to live a strong ecclesiastical moment, in that they imply not only a living participation to the communion of saints, but also a hierarchical participation with the Holy Father and all the bishops.

The usual prayers prescribed to gain the indulgency are the Our Father and the Creed, as well as a “pious” visit, that is not made out of mere curiosity, to a church (it may be also the visit one makes while one attends Holy Mass).

7. ON WHICH CONDITIONS ARE THEY GAINED?

The first access is Baptism, which incorporates each faithful into the Church and makes one participant in one's mission. Moreover, the faithful must be in the grace of God (confessed or intending to receive the sacrament as soon as possible). The act of contrition can use any approved formula. It would be good to renew each morning the intention to gain the different indulgences of the "hidden treasury".

The prayers or the acts imposed by the Church must be made entirely –even if performed separately- and personally. They must be morally good (for example, prayers without distraction, works of charity without second ends, etc.).

8. TO WHOM ARE INDULGENCIES APPLICABLE?

With Paul VI's reform, all indulgencies are applicable also to the deceased (previously only those granted by the Pope). This is an opportunity that apparently has not been welcomed properly (see Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 1479).

This practice is useful also for the living: Paul VI wrote: "When the faithful offer indulgences in suffrage for the deceased, they cultivate charity in an excellent manner and, when they think about heavenly things, they learn to value and better order earthly ones".

9. HOW CAN THE INDULGENCE BE?

The indulgence can be partial or plenary (granted only by papal power), depending on whether it frees partially or totally from the temporal punishment due to sins.

Apart from the usual requisites, three conditions are required for plenary indulgence: sacramental confession (on one of the 20 days that precede or follow it), Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions, as a sign of affection and communion (an Our Father and a Hail Mary). The plenary indulgence can be gained even every day, on the usual conditions, through one of the following pious practices: 1. half-an-hour adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; 2. the Way of the Cross; 3. praying the Rosary or the hymn Akathistos; 4. reading the Sacred Scripture for at least half an hour.

The parzial indulgence is connected to the pious use of objects, the saying of common prayers and many traditional practices...

10. WHAT IS THE UPDATING OF INDULGENCIES?

It is a disciplinary measure that was enacted by the Second Vatican Council in order to avoid abuses and distortions in their use and application.

This updating had two goals: a pastoral and an ecumenical one.

- pastoral: to promote among the faithful a more solid knowledge, a deeper understanding and a more fruitful use of the sacred indulgences;
- ecumenical: to make this doctrine and ecclesiastical discipline more understandable and acceptable to non-Catholics.

Sister Antonietta Pozzebon

Life of the Congregation

Activity of the General Council

November 2006 - February 2007

The General Council, in taking care of the life of the Congregation, has focused on some initiatives programmed and the exigent of the our life in various organisms ar of each sister particulary.

- 1) It confirmed the admission to perpetual Profession for
Sr Gloria Aranguiz Salas
Sr Zulma Ayma Quispe
Sr Gladys Araneda Saldias of “St. Anthony” Latin American province

Sr Aurora Castardo of “St. Elizabeth” Oriental province.
- 2) Together with the Provincial Superiors of the two Italian provinces, Sr Luisangela Severin and Sr Ermenegilda Cavasin, as well as with the sisters of St. Mary of the Angels community of Assisi, it examined the community project and shared reflections and proposals, so that it is above all:
 - a community of welcome for youth coming to Assisi in search of their vocation, either in group or individually;
 - a meeting point of vocational animators from the two Italian provinces;
 - a place where the sisters of the Congregation can stay for a spiritual and physical recovery.
- 3) Together with the Provincial Superiors concerned and the Interprovincial Novitiate Mistress, Sr Eliodora Battiston, it checked the formative programme and the participation to the course of the “School for Novices” in Assisi, which is attended by our three novices.
- 4) The scheduling of meetings for 2007 was made according to the provisions of the 2005 Capitular Document:
 - a) meeting of the historic-formative Commission in the General House, 19 to 31 January 2007;
 - b) meeting of the Mistress formation es of from the various Organizations in Assisi, 15 to 25 April 2007;
 - c) meeting of the young sisters perpetual vows, 1 June to 31 August;

5) Sr Cecilia Subriabe, the Vicar general, was entrusted with the task to coordinate the meeting of the formator sisters and with the responsibility to supervise the formation of the young junior sisters living in the houses which depend on the General Council.

6) In reply to the request of the Regional Superior, Sr Giovanna Craighero, Sr Gianna Maria Solari was asked to go to Cameroun from December 2006 to February 2007 in order to help the young sisters to learn Italian and French languages, and Sr Teresa Della Pietra to go from February to March 2007 in order to cooperate with initial and permanent formation.

7) At the end of the meeting of the historic-formative Commission, it was suggested that more emphasis should be given to our Founders in our prayer, by remembering particularly the 90th anniversary of the death of our Foundress, Laura Leroux, on 3rd April, and the 185th anniversary of the birth of Father Gregorio, on 24 April, according to the indications sent to the communities. Each community will certainly celebrate with a particular thanksgiving to the Lord the 146th anniversary of the canonical opening of the Institute on 21 April.

8) It was confirmed the nomination of Sr Angelica Hadjianni as Pre-Novitiate Mistress in “St. Elizabeth” Oriental Province.

9) As a consequence of appropriate agreements with the Provincial Superiors, it was decided that:

Sr Gianna Maria Solari would be transferred from the Oriental Province to the Venetian Province;

Sr Gregoria Suarez from the French Province to the Latin American Province;

Sr Ines Portugal from the Latin American Province to the French Province;

Sr Teresina Mookenthottathil from the Roman Province to the Indian Province.

10) Preparations were started for the Extended General Council that will be celebrated in India in the month of December 2007.

11) The Superior General started the canonical visit prescribed by the Canon Law and by the Constitutions, by visiting the communities which depend from the General Council and, subsequently, the communities of the French Province.

Jubilarians

Year 2007

75°	Suor Regina Angela	Professione 28 -03-1932	Prov. Statunitense
70°	Suor Lamberta Lucato	Professione 28-05-1937	Prov. Romana
	Suor Cristina Tamburi	Professione 12-09-1937	Prov. Romana
	Suor Annarosa Mattiussi	Professione 14-10-1937	Prov. Veneta
65°	Suor Gianpaola Cavasin	Professione 12-08-1942	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Bellarmina Pigozzo	Professione 16-09-1942	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Annalena Bettiol	Professione 16-09-1942	Prov. Veneta
60°	Suor Paul Gabriel Licameli	Professione 14-07-1947	Prov. Statunitense
	Suor Lawrence Hayden	Professione 14-07-1947	Prov. Statunitense
	Suor Anna Brustolini	Professione 20-08-1947	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Marioliva Pian	Professione 20-08-1947	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Corinna Bandiera	Professione 20-08-1947	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Giovannina Gemin	Professione 20-08-1947	Prov. Statunitense
	Suor Letizia Onesti	Professione 12-09-1947	Prov. Romana
	Suor Clotilde Todesco	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Romana
	Suor Tullia Ferino	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Maria Pozzobon	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Statunitense
	Suor Silvestra Gortan	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Battistina Bettio	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Francese
	Suor Giannina Ferracin	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Veneta
Suor Angelantonia Nasato	Professione 06-10-1947	Prov. Veneta	
50°	Suor Cleofa Ceccato	Professione 11-02-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Vittoriana Gasparini	Professione 11-02-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Francesca Bresolin	Professione 11-02-1957	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Carla Cavasin	Professione 22-06-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Adreana Verona	Professione 22-06-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Aureliana Tonello	Professione 22-06-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Mercedes De Maso	Professione 29-06-1957	Prov. Romana
	Suor Lorenza Girotto	Professione 29-06-1957	Prov. Orientale
	Suor Francesca Bolognani	Professione 29-06-1957	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Radia Matar	Professione 19-09-1957	Prov. Orientale
	Suor Patric Frantjia	Professione 19-09-1957	Prov. Orientale
	Suor Josephine Vrahimi	Professione 19-09-1957	Prov. Orientale
	Suor Veronica Hadji	Professione 19-09-1957	Prov. Orientale
	Suor Linarosa Miele	Professione 05-10-1957	Prov. Romana
	Suor Gabriella Scapinello	Professione 05-10-1957	Prov. Veneta
	Suor Annamaria Visentin	Professione 05-10-1957	Prov. Francese
Suor Rosita Sartor	Professione 05-10-1957	Prov. Veneta	
25°	Suor Alicia Gallardo	Professione 11-02-1982	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Lucila Mayorga	Professione 11-02-1982	Prov. Latinoamericana
	Suor Otilia Olavarria	Professione 03-10-1982	Prov. Latinoamericana



**CHARISM
AT THE HEART OF LIFE
AND ACTION**



The year 2007 began with a very significant congregational meeting, which attracted to the General House some sisters coming from all the institutions to reflect upon the theme:

“To live and serve in communion according to the origins”.

The thorough study of the charism that we undertook several years ago and that was re-proposed during the 2005 General Chapter involved us strongly and prompted us to find ways to better acquaint the whole Congregation with the increasingly detailed and complete reflections that have been made.

The teaching of the Church, even through the influential intervention of pope Benedict XVI, keeps recommending a return to the sources, to the Word of God and to the Charism of the Founders, and urges us to be creatively faithful to our charism, a fidelity that is not only turned to the past but also oriented to the present and anticipating the future.

This kind of fidelity involves a verification of one's own identity, that is re-reading the charism in the light of the ecclesial and cultural background of the time and places where we live.

That is what we try to do in our Chapters, where we try to collectively discern God's will by recovering the charism and making it up-to-date, both at a general level and in the different institutions.

Our last general Chapter too paid a special attention to this task. In the preparatory stage, with the contribution of all the sisters, we noticed that there was a need to deepen our charism even further and relay it in a unitary way to the whole Congregation. To that end, it was decided that a “non-residential team” would be set up, made of sisters who would commit themselves to study and reflect upon it and then would promote it in their own institutions.

Subsequently, since we deemed that a deeper examination and the “unitary transmission of the charism” would be of significant importance, we asked the Provincial and Regional Superiors to nominate a sister with good cooperation skills, who would commit herself to carry on the delicate and demanding task both at the congregational and local level.

The sisters nominated by the various Provincial and Regional Councils make up the “historic-formative committee”:

- Sr M. Teresa Della Pietra
- Sr M. Petra Zanghi
- Sr M. Beatrice Skorti
- Sr M. Armelle Costa
- Sr M. Tiziana Tonini
- Sr M. Fides Lorenzon
- Sr M. Georgette Bininga
- Sr M. Annamma Kumpalathu
- Sr M. Ernesta Bilibio.

The first meeting, which took place from 19 to 31 January 2007, was an event of grace that led the sisters of the committee and the members of the General Council to reflect upon the charismatic values of our early stages and of tradition. To that regard, the contribution offered by influential and qualified experts, according to a fixed schedule, was enlightening:

- Don Giancarlo Rocca presented the “historic methodology criteria in the study of charism”;
- Father Giuseppe Buffon talked about “criteria for a critical evaluation of congregational documents”;
- Father Luca De Rosa explained beatification proceedings and dwelled especially on the path for Fr Gregorio’s cause;
- Sr Antonietta Pozzebon presented the original documents of the first 50 years of our Congregation, explaining their aim and the chronology of the legislation.

The moment of grace that we lived together will certainly extend its effects to the whole Congregation. It is an invitation to an humble search for the essentials of the charismatic values; it is a “return to the sources”, which is called “the grace of the origins” by the Minister General OFM; it is an important moment for all the sisters of the Congregation, who are urged to live the “creative fidelity” that the Church requires from us and is also expressed in the document *Consacrated Life* (no. 37). The initial charism or, better, “the original charism of the Institute” is the foundation on which the whole life of the Congregation lies. Every effort to renew it can only be a return to it. The charism is something that is alive and grows and develops as a living reality.

Even our charism, transplanted and cultivated on new grounds (America, Africa, Asia and elsewhere) has released a new vitality. It has plowed those new grounds and generated shoots of new life, as we could see time and time again. In this way the initial inspiration, revived with faith and boldness, becomes capable of new yields of life.

However, there must be a constantly open confrontation between the original charism and the sisters who must be its embodiment in different places.

The same Spirit who talked to our founders Laura Leroux and Fr Gregorio Fioravanti keeps talking to the heart of each one of us, of each sister in the Congregation. It is important then that everybody is offered the chance to catch the voice of the Spirit, so that each one of us can authentically embody the charism that she has been given and faithfully make it up-to-date in life circumstances.

Through our beloved founders, let us entrust this do-good project to the Divine Providence; may the Word of God be “a lamp to our feet, a light to our path”.

A really special fraternity....

Saint Mary of the Angels-Assisi, 4 to 7 january 2007....

The path that we walk every day is always a meeting of glances and what we see together with others is always richer, deeper, newer than what we are able to see on our own...

This simple thought arises as we go back to the nice days that we spent together with the juniors that are now present in our two Italian Provinces, in the suggestive setting of Assisi ... Here the Presence of the Lord and St. Francis's clear and faithful spirit could be felt in our heart, and they revealed themselves in shades that were certainly new and in a joyous simplicity, made of little things that become extraordinary because they are shared. There were 17 of us young juniors from different countries: Philippines, Chile, Peru, Lithuania, Albania, India and Italy. Sr. Jessy (India) and sr. Marie Pierre (Cameroon) have taken part in a seminar organize by the MO.RE.FRA. It was prepared for young sisters of perpetual vows of different congregations. They experienced truly fraternal life in those days in Assisi. Meeting with st Mary of the Angels Community has been an occasion of joy and most of all a Grace.

Our sisters so are writing to us: In a climate of warm fraternity we met together for lunch.

Everything was prepared how in great occasion. There were even the novices. We shared the joy of being together r even looking at each other, because it was difficult to communicate because of the English language. It seemed to us the experience of the early friars when they meet with st. Francis, coming from far missions.

We laughed, remembered things and sang together.

It was an intense emotion to greet each other by singing " Sì lo giurai". We felt a deep communion, which even if far away , in diverse places, makes us to reach the same goal.

Each Sister has communicated to the others a particular modulation, Beautiful, True and Good of the Voice of God.

It was a time of sharing that was really fraternal and lived intensely by each one of us, because, right from the start, there arose an atmosphere of communion, of wonder at the variety of our personal histo-



ries and at the uniqueness of our call to be part of our family of Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

It has been a moment of friendship, of spontaneous and reciprocal gift, of listening. We had the opportunity to tell each other about ourselves, to compare ourselves, to dream in a loud voice by expressing what we wish in our heart for us, for our fraternities and for the whole Congregation. There emerged the love that we have for our Institute, in which we feel like Sisters because of the same charism that animates us, like Daughters of the Father who reveals the unfathomable richness of our Vocation, like Mothers called to give light to the Redemptive Truth of Christ in every person that we meet.

It was a time of thorough analysis, guided by the precious reflections made by Father Franco Carollo, who helped us understand the prophetic value of our vows, but also their particular anthropologic dimension: the Evangelical Counsels can really tell today's mankind –through the authenticity of our testimony- the fullness, the joy, and the balance of a life that places God as the Only Absolute Good.

It was a time of gratitude to the Lord and our Superiors, who offered us this wonderful opportunity, thus enabling us to strengthen ourselves in Hope and Confidence, in order to walk fraternally and wholeheartedly united also to our Sisters who are furthest away, with responsibility and enthusiasm, welcoming Providence and the Appropriate Action of God in every step of our history.

We all hope that we can live again similar moments; while looking forward to them, each one of us will commit herself to live with creative responsibility.

Thanks with all our heart to those who have planned, welcomed and made this meeting possible...



Always be lovers of your souls and the souls of your sisters, and always be eager to observe what you have promised the Lord.

May the Lord always be with you and may you always be with Him.

Saint Clare

A pleasant surprise shared

In the second week of November 2006, we lived a totally new, surprising, wonderful and extraordinary experience.

Although they had let us know, none of us was expecting to experience a really indescribable joy, that is savouring almost plastically the enthusiasm and simplicity of a big group of people, mostly elderly, who had come to Italy **from New York** for a special trip, half pilgrimage and half tourism. It was a huge number of **people who sympathize with the Franciscan spirit, some of them members of the institution *Associated Laypeople***, or who are anyway really close to our sisters of St. Francis North American Province. Indeed, their guide, who fully shared their joy and amazement at each novelty, was no less than the Provincial Superior, **Sr Anne James, accompanied by Sr Mary Cosmas, Sr Charleene and Sr Ellen Marie**, who in turn were supervised by a priest, **reverend Msgr. Brennan**, who was also caught by this joyous fervour.

It was a pity that their passage was really quick, almost as their coach should only brush the soil where the happy group was supposed to stay!

Their stay in Rome which was unfortunately too short, ended with a visit to the General House. The Superior General, Sr. Emmapia gave them a warm welcome in the name of the General Council and the sisters of the community rejoicing in this extraordinary visit. Their arrival brought to the whole Assisium a wind of youthful euphoria and blessed surprise. It was very moving for all of us to see that group sincerely enthusiast, animated by hearty amazement and fraternal gratitude for every little gesture of normal courtesy. It was us who should have thanked and blessed, not them! Both parties were relieved not so much by the food than by the emotion, the joyful interest for each corner that they could quickly visit, and they immortalized their passage through some mandatory photographs in front of Father Gregory's monument. So they left us, to continue their journey and to visit some other places which are unavoidable such as Florence, Assisi, Venice, Milan, Gemona, our Mother House. The group of pilgrims in fact had above all a spiritual purpose to return to the roots of Christianity, by visiting Rome and the Vatican, with the hope of being able to wish the Holy Father; to visit the important





the sisters and of the founders has been very fraternal and cordial. Even after 140 years the same atmosphere of prayer, of peace, of fraternity demonstrated by our first sisters who mailed their letters from “the little paradise of the St. Mary of the Angels”. Wishes has been accompanied by offering the gift of a photo of the Mother of Perpetual Help to each one. After the dinner they were taken to the museum which conserves our affectionate memories of the life of another century, from the Foundation (1861) to the earthquake (1976).

places of franciscanism, mainly

Assisi, the places of St. Francis and St. Clare, important places of our congregation, to reach Gemona in order to know there the sisters of FMSC, the Mother House and the new Museum that is conserved and many other sweet remembrance of our origins after the devastating earthquake of 1976. The meeting with the community of St. Mary of the Angels has been a moment of joy, of feast and of special grace; our sisters write in this way: “In an atmosphere of authentic and warm fraternity we met together for dinner. Everything has been prepared in a grand manner together with the sisters of the Novitiate.

Let us recall the past with the gaze of hope aimed at the future because also today we trust in the Divine Providence who tests, but never abandons His daughters....This consoling surety is confirmed by the Word of God in the Eucharistic Liturgy that concludes the visit and reaffirmed the witness given by our Congregation when there was only four years after the Foundation it had sent three young missionaries in a far, unknown world . From that little seed is born the mission of Peekskill, St. Francis Province. So, now it is the time to put our trust in God because it is always and only He who gives us life and hope. The Holy Mass concludes with high praise of compliments to the choir given by Bishop Brennan who says, “as if it was composed by the angels”.

We communicated the happiness of being together with our looks, if it was not possible to do it in English, with the same anxiety that the first friars had when they were meeting St. Francis, returning from the far mission lands. We laughed recalled and sang. It has been a strong emotion when we wished each other with the words of the song, “Si lo giurai” : We deeply felt that communion of spirit, even if far, leads us always the destined way to reach the same destination.”.The guests have been received joyously by the sisters in the Mother House and they were taken to the grand refectory, where they had the dinner together with the sisters. This has been appreciated very much. At the decorated table together with the guests, there were present also the first three missionaries : Sr. Gerltrude, Sr. Costanza and Sr. Pellegrina who left from this Mother House to America in November 1865 in order to start our first mission. The welcome given by Sr. Luisingela, the Provincial Superior on behalf of all



From our missionary world



Province "S. Mary of the Angels"

"Do not look for who is living among Dead! (Lk 24,5)

These words can be also ours on the occasion of the burial of our dear sister Sr Luciana. In fact there we felt life beating endlessly, because who loves and gives generously, bears much fruit. It was clear during her burial: there were many people who shared with her a part of journey. They were students or ex-alumni, their parents, friends and many sisters. Many signs of solidarity and sympathy reached the community of St. Mary of the Angels (Gemona-Italy), yet always the same the refrain: **sr .Luciana a very reserved person, kind, always available, a lover of justice, severe and loving, caring for all, but most especially for the most needy.** From the prayer and witnesses read during the celebration and from some letter which we received, we want to extract some flashes giving us a portrait of sr.Luciana:

** The pupils of class 3rd media "b" remarked her luminosity, kindness, her care and concern that each one could learn mathematics, but much more they could learn how to live well. They end telling." now we know where to meet, to find her...We lift up our eyes and she is there busy In doing something for her brethren. She will be always with us, bye prof!*

Federica a former students in the lyceum of languages share to us some remembrances of he experience with sr Luciana: "...Maybe it was the passion to stay with your students, to

teach, which always impressed us. Personally I noticed in you, sr Luciana, the real model of a teacher, that doesn't point out difficulties of the student, but knows how to reinforce and empower the student according to his capabilities...I

thank you, sr Luciana for your suggestion, for your patience and goodness you had to all of us.. Thanks also for your availability to repeat more and more the Explanations till all of us understand.



**.Teacher Mara Mann is a colleague of sr Luciana. She prays so. Even on behalf of the other teachers:"Dear sr Luciana you have lived a limpid life of sister and of teacher, showing a coherence which was a mirror of your personality : strict, but careful to justice, concrete type, but sensible to others and of few words. For you it was enough to speak by eyes*

We entrust you, dear sister to the Lord, sure that you loved, served him, knowing that everything was done in his name and offered to him. And so

in order to thank the Lord for the gift of your precious witness, we your colleagues will not forget it... How much love for her students how much attention for all most specially the needy ones! Her availability was always free, she never expected anything in c change". Instead she was able to accept willingly disappointment, even the lacking of gratitude on the part of her student.

How much care in her job !_She was for me an example of a good teacher, but I learned a lot of other things staying with her. I always will

be proud of having been his pupil till now. I 'll miss her a lot."

We can close this reflection with the letter of st. Paul to Colossians: He use to repeat this to those who were closer to him: anything you do in words an works, may be done in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col.3,17)

Teachers of high school with some others formerly employed her in order to remember concretely, sr Luciana collected the amount of 600€ to help a family in paying the tuition fee of the school.



*"Anything you do in words an works,
may be done in the name of the Lord Jesus"*

From our missionary world



Province "St. Elizabeth"

PERPETUAL CONSECRATION of SR BORYANA AND SR SVETLA

19 november 2006 - Rakovski, Bulgaria



The charisma of the Congregation, which sends us throughout the world to announce the redemptive love of Christ, makes us to look at Bulgaria. There with much commitment our sisters are discerning the divine project for all the sisters of St. Elizabeth Province.

It's difficult to understand which is our role in the local church, in the social setting. They ask us to sow, to suffer and to hope waiting the fruits. With this missionary expectation we had the joy to celebrate an occasion very special of our presence in Bulgaria.

The beginning of our mission there in prayer and in action, cannot be forgotten. Every event is very precious, because it has two values: the hard work of the sisters who sow the seed of hope and the fruit of young vocations, coming from the graft in Christ.

On November 19, 2006, in "Sacred Heart" parish at Rakovski, Sr Boryana Gagova and Sr Svetla Zakova, professed for ever their consecration to God, embracing the walk in newness of life, through the evangelical councils of poverty, obedience and chastity.

The two sisters were accompanied by many people: children, youth, parents and friends of the Congregation through the local communities.

The feast was celebrated in silent prayer, in fra-

ternity and gratitude by those who are witnessing the good work done by the FMSC with generous sacrifice.

The value of consecration and service has been stressed by the celebrant, Bishop Gheorghii Iovcev, who said to be opened to the action of the Holy Spirit in order to incarnate more and more Jesus Christ in life, in the Church and in the Congregation. We must be a luminous sign of God.

The feast made us to experience more belonging to the same religious family, by the fraternal presence of Sr Emmapia, Superior General, Sr Gracy, general councillor, Sr Monica, Provincial Superior and Sr Bernardette, our formator.

Sr Boryana and Sr Svetla, trepidous and grateful for this decisive step, have confirmed their belonging to God by telling YES for ever in the hands of the Superior General: Sr Emmapia received with immense joy the two sisters, who are already at work to renew the presence of our Congregation in Bulgaria.

Even the parents were able to donate freely their daughters generously, so that they may spread faith in the risen Lord.

We felt a great emotion and almost dismay facing that crowd, which with fraternal simplicity has wished the new spouses to be perseverant in the new path, just started.

The recreation program has been prepared by

young peoples: They spontaneously by songs and sketches helped us to praise the Lord for his wonders and to experience Franciscan joy. Our thanks are for God, who makes a covenant

so wonderful! He invites us to take away our sandals in this land of martyrs, who by their blood grew up hope and faith. For each sister who accepted to be missionary in

“The goodness award to the FRANCISCAN OF THE SACRED HEART”

This is the title of an article that was published by the daily MESSAGGERO DI UDINE on December 3th, 2006. The prizegiving took place on Saturday 2nd December in Udine (Italy). The goodness of heart and help offered to the feeblest and neediest was rewarded. The initiative came from UNCI, the National Union of Italy’s Knights. The grounds: **“For the assistance offered in Rakovski, Bulgaria: the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart play an active role in the civil, cultural and religious recovery of the population, in a territory that is particularly poor”.**



The reward was given to Sr Deodata Donati, in her capacity as the Superior of the Rakovski Community. It consisted in a sculpture, which was made for the occasion, featuring an open hand holding a wing, as well as a Diploma and an important financial help.

The president and his wife have visited our Sisters in Bulgaria twice and have donated, among other things, a “Plexotherapy” machine to the local hospital.

The ceremony was attended by civilian, military and religious authorities representing the Region, and there was also a priest from Rakovski, who is attending the Academy in Rome.

During the award ceremony it was really encouraging to learn that there are many groups of volunteers, people who dedicate their time and energy to those who suffer or are in need.



60th anniversary of Religious life Sr Flora

On 28th October 2006 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Sr Flora Ceron’s profession in an atmosphere of great joy and gratitude. Gratitude first of all to the Lord, for having donated us Sr Flora and for the long life that He has given her to love Him and serve Him in our Saint Elisabeth Province. Gratitude also to Sr Flora, not only for her presence among us but above all for the good example of prayer, simplicity and love that she continuously set for us.

“Sr Flora, today, in front of God, you still offer yourself!

After sixty years of consecrated life, your vocation is still alive, vibrant, all turned to the Lord who has taken you for Himself and only for Himself, as His wife, forever. Truly, what is consecrated life if not an icon to the beauty of God? An eternal beauty, which does not decay, does not disappear, does not darken like human beauty. Holiness and beauty: the beauty of God in our life. Together with God we understand the reality of all that has been created. Together with God we are able to make use of every thing and, at the same time, abandon it and offer it to Him. What helps us do that is the spirit of poverty, detachment, acceptance, which is prompted by love.”

together with God we understand the reality of all that has been created. Together with God we are able to make use of every thing and, at the same time, abandon it and offer it to Him. What helps us do that is the spirit of poverty, detachment, acceptance, which is prompted by love.”

From our missionary world



Province "S. Louis IX"



EVENT EVENT IS CROSSED BY PATH WHICH LEADS TO GOD

The young ladies of our *foyer* in Paris, members of a prayer group, had a pilgrimage to Assisi to know better how to live the franciscan charisma. They had a joyful visit in spirit of simplicity throughout the Franciscan places. For some days they shared the life of our sisters in St. Mary of the Angels.

The young ladies, who are studying in the university of Paris and lodging in our foyer, were accompanied by sr Armelle, directress of the structure, they find in our community st Mary of Angels warm welcome, availability, simplicity, enthusiasm and joy.

The days past there were filled with prayer. They celebrated Eucharist in the Basilica of St. Mary of Angels, nearby the little church of Porziuncola and in the Basilica of st Francis.

They were able to know better the life of our Seraphic Father and in a special way were touched by the sanctuary of S. Damiano, where with devotion in front of the crucifix have given Thanks to the Lord for the good desires they have in the heart.

Our guide, sr. Floriana, has deepened the knowledge of the Franciscan charisma. During the visit to the hermitage of Carceri, the young ladies were amazed of the beauty of nature and of the Franciscan poverty of the place. They praised the Lord for all

creatures.

One of the most important moments was the meeting with the novices of FMSC staying in formation house at Violo of Assisi guided by sr Eliodora.

The ladies appreciated so much witness of the novices about their call and answer to God. They saw really the work of grace!

Let us praise all together the Lord! We want to thank, too, people who facilitated this pilgrimage, our superiors who helped us a lot for the organization, our sisters who according to their preparation cooperated in visiting Assisi and Rome. In particular our thanks to sr Floriana for guiding us and to sr Emiliana for the special cooking enriched with much love. May the lord guide these ladies to follow in his path to serve him.

Sr Armelle Costa



From our missionary world

Province "Mary Immaculate"

Pace e Bene



The sisters of the Centocelle infirmary at the papal audience

The sisters of the Centocelle infirmary, with the cooperation of UNITALSI, were received in audience by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on February 11.

We welcomed them when they came back so happy...: "An indescribable joy! An incomparable celebration! An immense emotion! These were the words uttered by Sr Armanda, Sr Mariarosa, Sr Clotilde, Sr Annamaria, Sr Chiara Crescenzi, Sr Emilia, Sr Chiara Brondino, Sr

Lamberta and Sr Cristina. Accompanied by as many sisters, they went to St. Peter. The celebration, the meeting with the Pope and his handshake brought a boost of emotion and faith which reached a level that has rarely been experienced in other circumstances. "-Tired? -Not at all, not a moment of weariness!", they answered, immensely grateful to those who had arranged such an unexpected event for them.



We transplant a "GREST" in Albania



In the within of the acquaintances consolidated in the service of young's welcome to Assisi, we have offered the opportunity of a missionary experience to a group of young people between the 24 and 32 years, in the mission of Dushaj- Albania.

The activity has been prepared with 4 encounter in the course of the year: in July, in the last one, we have specified all the practical details for the development of the experience and defined the assignments for the organization, the travel, the assurance and the necessary material.

From 26 August to the 6 september the sisters of the fraternity of Dushaj have entrusted us the task to animate the children of the village of Lekbibaj, that is an hour from the mission, in order to give back they a little smile and serenity, since, hidden between mountains with their families, they have assisted to several episodes of violence. Two of the young girl, a doctor and a druggist, have been dedicated, with sr. Mary, to the medical visits for the people that reached numerous from mountains, where any sanitary attendance does not exist. The ten most intense days are flies in a flash. It is not lacked the prayer and the reflection on the Christian service and the mission. To eight hundred years from the mandate that S. Francesco received to S. Damiano, the icon of the Cruci-

fix has introduced to us well in the topic. The encounter of the young people with the community of Dushaj has been beautiful. They have appreciated the fraternal welcome and the ability to collaborate: they have been able to interweave with each nun an enriching and able relation to place of the questions on the choices of the life. To the sisters and all who has believed in this small experience of increase missionary, thanks.



Sr. Floriana Saltarelli

From our missionary world

Province "Saint Anthony"

Pace e Bene



Those who love God bring the world in their heart

Answering the evangelical call, the "Regina Mundi" formation community of Santiago, Chile, accepted the challenge launched by the "San Pedro" Parish of Angelmó-Puerto Montt, to start a mission in the small village called "Ilque", a Christian community that had not been visited by missionaries for six years.

Therefore, on Saturday 13 January, our trip began. There were: Sr Roxana, Sr Gloria, Sr Gladys, the novices Carmen, Zarina, Mónica and the postulant Carolina. We arrived in the city of Puerto Montt, where Sr Fides and the community were waiting for us to share the Eucharist in the City Cathedral, an excellent start for the task that Jesus had entrusted to us! In the afternoon, the parishioners and Father Marcelo took us to our mission, where we stayed from 15 to 20 January.

The Lord showed us a wonderful landscape! A nice Chapel, all made of "alerce" wood, near the seashore, built 150 years ago and dedicated to our Seraphic Father Saint Francis! Considering this gift, we could only say: "*We adore you O Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all the churches of the world, and we bless you, because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*".

The small village school became our home; we used a classroom as our bedroom and a hall as our logistics centre, where we prepared our material.

The welcome and affection of the people amazed us right from the start. People had been looking for an opportunity to hear about God and we felt happy that we had been given this wonderful task...

Talk about Him!... Everything contributed to make our emotion rise at the prospect of starting our

journey visiting families, which was the main part of our mission, amid chants and prayers from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Among all the animation activities that we performed, one of the nicest was meeting the children and youth; they were enthusiast to learn religious and recreational songs, animate the liturgy with the guitar and share with us the simplicity of fraternity. It all ended with the Eucharist, where the priests Fr Marcelo and Fr Francesco did the catechesis and listened to their impressions.

Each family we visited donated us something new: hopes, ideals, dreams, joys and pains that we will never delete from our memory. The act of sharing with them has opened for us a new horizon and taught us what love is, like welcoming our brother without discrimination, for example. Every person we met made us understand the love that exists in each human being within our fraternity and all the people that surround us.

The simplicity of this village and the generous

welcome by the people were expressed through the fruits of the soil that we were given, the sharing, the pride for their traditions, the charity of the youth, children, elderly and parents. With their smiles, hugs and gestures they made us understand the desire to be welcomed and listened to. All of this is priceless, and will always remain inside us.

The conclusion of the 2007 mission was celebrated with a solemn Eucharist, with the traditional procession with the images of Our Lady and Saint Francis, accompanied by the Band, among tunes and accordion, songs and cheers. In the end, we said goodbye with the promise to come back the following year.

We would like to thank immensely Sr Inés Pavan, our Provincial Superior, for giving us this opportunity which enriched our consecrated life, and especially for the path of formation implemented by the novices and the postulant, through experiences that will mark their heart, the loving and benign presence of Jesus, who calls every man and

woman in real life. Thanks also to all the people who opened us their doors, thus finding in us Jesus, the harbinger of Life and Hope, and to those who did not open their doors... We pray for everyone: may they have peace and a job... and also for all those we could not reach because the places where they lived were too far away.

To all: PEACE AND GOOD.



PERPETUAL CONSECRATION

of SR LILIA SUCNO

3 January 2007 - Cusco, Perú

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul for you, Oh God"

With this sentence I wanted to start a new path of love together with Christ. I have been looking for the moment in which I pronounced with emotion my: Here I am, O Lord, to live in Obedience, Poverty and Chastity, to do only your will. I said "YES" definitively to my Religious family, a "YES" that urges me to give myself into the arms of the Father every single day without reservations.

One fine morning, on 3 January 2007, in the "Virgen del Carmen" Parish of Cusco, I definitively consecrated myself to God by taking my Perpetual Vows.

The solemn Eucharist was presided by Msgr. Domingo Berni, Bishop of Chuquibambilla, and was concelebrated by Father Héctor Salimberni, an Agostinian priest, and Father Germán, the parish priest. The presence of the Provincial Superior Sr Inés Pavan Turcato as well as of the sisters from the Cusco, Tambobamba and Lima communities, my parents, friends and parishioners, made the celebration more solemn.

I feel that God has looked upon my lowliness, but also upon my gifts and talents, and so he has chosen me to be his collaborator in his wonderful work. I felt his grace during all my life and above all in this special moment. I felt his Love and gift through my sisters who, with so much love, dedication and sacrifice, prepared every single detail so that the bride of Christ could surrender herself fully to his Will.



I could see the joyful face of God in the people who accompanied me and who, with so much affection, felt the presence of true Love. In this new journey, I fully confide in God and in his Most Blessed Mother. They will be always with me, as they have been so far. I am starting a new path that requires fidelity to the mission, openness and self-donation to the community and the people that I will meet. I gave my thanks to God for the gift of my vocation; thanks to St. Francis, whom I met during a retreat while I was walking my first few steps towards my vocation; thanks to my parents and brothers, who have always supported me with their prayers; many thanks to my Religious Family, because they welcomed me with love; thanks to Sr Inés Pavan and to the Council members, who helped me fulfil my desire, and thanks to my sisters in Tambobamba, Lima and Cusco, who accompanied me with their love.

I trust in the prayers of all these people in order to be always faithful to Christ.

Sr Maria Lilia Sucno Torres Huamán
Of the Holy Mother of God.



Local Superiors Day

Santiago 8 to 12 January 2007

The local Superiors of the different communities of the four countries that make up our Latin American Province: Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

We started on Monday, January 8, with the theme “Human Relations and tutoring for the youth”, presented by the psychologist Ms Analicia González, who started her speech by offering us an overview of the present challenges, the problems related to globalization and the breakdown in the transmission of values.

Ms Analicia stressed the importance that the Superior should embody the virtues and values of the Congregation, so that she can project herself around and generate respect and admiration.

In the second part of our day, Father José María Arnaiz s.m, spoke about the theme: “Role of the Local Superior: Leadership and Authority”. He reflected upon the requirements and challenges that a Superior must deal with today.

1. The Superior in the community:

He presented a short Decalogue on the service of the Superior today, based on the Gospel of Matthew (11:29)

“Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves”

2. Good things have no price:

A group leader is quite important in this time of re-foundation of Religious Life; there is a need of superiors with certain characteristics, with a continuous dynamism that stimulates the group to be the fire, salt and light of the world.

3. Like olive buds around your table:

At present, the word “animation” is frequently used. It means: giving life, breath, spirit; it means protecting our ecosystem of Religious life. Each religious is called to let herself be animated as well as to be an animator, but this is what Superiors are called to above all.

A congregation sustains itself on the vitality of the local fraternities. It is here that sisters grow and bear fruit. The fraternity is our ecosystem and it is necessary to create around us an environment where people can grow, live and attract others.

The animators, or Superiors, must take care of this ecosystem where the members can be revitalized and live in a healthier community. The



community exists when we live concretely and with vitality, paying attention to the various elements that are part of it.

The highpoints of community life and the places where we express our religious life are “the tables”, which are different from each other and where “olive buds” grow. The tables must be prepared, cured, embellished and require our attention: some make our communication and dialogue easier. Important acts take place around them: peace treaties, the signature of contracts, the writing of books...

The tables of a religious community are:

- the table for Eucharist
- the community hall table
- the refectory table
- the kitchen table
- the table in one's room or place of work
- the gaming table
- the poor's table

They must all draw inspiration from the Table for Eucharist. All these tables are complementary and we learn to live and to be religious at every one of them.

The religious of a community are “olive buds around the table” of the Lord and of the poor.

It is important that around our tables there is an empty chair, for the Virgin Mary; we must be ready to invite her and have her always with us, we must be able to listen to her when she talks to us and be careful to catch her loving glance.



From our missionary world



*Region Apostolic
S. Martyrs of Uganda*

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, PATRONESS
OF CHILDREN OF NGOUND
(GARI-COMBO)**

On december 29 2006 it was opened in the dispensary of Ngoundi (Gari-Gombo) the maternity ward. The solemn celebration took place at the presence of civil and religious authority. Even several benefactor were present,; they who supported the construction of this maternity structure, most especially we want remember Mr and Mrs. Agresti.

So thanks to God's will and to the generosity of many persons, many problems of health will be solved, for instance we think of the many cases of midwifery complications, infections in pregnancy, sicknesses of childhood, all problems due to lacking of medication before and after birth.
Praise the Lord!



Sr Dorothee NGANO



THE “FATHER” ANSWERS...

A beautiful testimony from Cameroun: Salomé’s healing

Salomé Refolo is a young mother from Cameroun: she is 25 and has 4 children, aged from 1 to 10. Last January, it was about mid-month, she came at our dispensary in Nkoabang in desperate conditions: she looked totally paralyzed. She could not walk, nor sit, nor feed herself, her vision and hearing were severely impaired, even the speech was quite diminished, while the fever would not recede. All cures that had been attempted so far were useless. Her husband, Roberto, with whom Salomé is not officially wed, though, is unemployed. The patient’s state of extreme destitution was evident. Sr M. Teresa, who is in charge of the dispensary, and the rest of the community committed her to Father Gregorio. Salomé and her relatives were told about that and invited to join faithfully the nuns’ prayers. Meanwhile, the tests that the woman immediately underwent ruled out the presence of HIV or an AIDS infection, but they revealed the seriousness of her state. Indeed, the X-ray examination and the CAT which, at the general surprise, were performed for free by the central hospital of the chief town, showed that she had a tumor in the spinal chord, in the lumbar region. She must be operated urgently, because the risk of permanent paralysis was high, confirmed the neurosurgeon. Her family, however, could absolutely not sustain the cost and, feeling distressingly helpless, the sick woman went back to the Mission dispensary.

While both parts were looking for some solution, they kept praying and decided to start a novena all together: the nuns, the relatives and the guests of the dispensary, first of all Salomé, who adopted the sisters’ big faith in Fr. Gregorio. Al-

*“May your
joy be
a joy full
of
faithful-
ness
to the
graces
which
you have
received”
P. Gregoria*



though she received all possible treatments, she felt no relief. But she was serene. In the night of the third day, between January 20 and 21, on the aching part where she had placed the image of the Servant of God with a relic, she felt a strange

warmth, which increased and at first did not let her rest, but then suddenly allowed her to sleep quietly. Later, when she woke up, she felt that the pain was gradually lifting and could sit on her bed. After a few days she could walk some steps and feel a general wellness. So, there was another novena, but this time to give thanks: in the night of January 28, Salomé felt repeatedly as if a hand was massaging her back and a very strong pain. In the morning, however, she could make all movements without pain: she could walk, talk, hear and move swiftly. She felt fine and resumed her usual domestic chores. A choral, endless thanks to God, who had shown His goodness through our Servant of God, accompanied the following months, previous to the check up fixed by the physician in charge, Dr Thierry, a Muslim. Salomé went to the check up on 3 June 2005 and, surprisingly, nothing was found, everything had disappeared. Even

the radiologist was amazed and said it was quite strange, all the more so that –as he now confessed to our Sr M. Teresa- they had not expected that the planned operation would have a positive outcome. On June 22, Dr Thierry, speaking as a man of science, declared that he was in front of a case that could not be easily explained scientifically and that could have been solved only by a supernatural intervention. Father Gregorio's presence was tangible.

The grace was confirmed in the following months: as the head of the family had meanwhile received some job offers, the young couple, Salomé and Roberto, committed themselves to start a new path of Christian formation and responsibility. They married at a registry office and, on 4 February 2006, at the Mission church in Nkoabang, when they celebrated their religious wedding, they were happy and full of gratitude.

GRAZIE di CUORE!

I am pervaded with a feeling of sincere gratitude towards the Lord and to the Superiors after my short experience in Cameroun, where I have been sent to teach the Italian language and to strengthen the knowledge of French language to the young sisters in formation who belong to three African Countries such as Cameroun, Congo and Central Africa.

I see again the serene, joyous and pleasant faces of each sister I met and I would like to tell them that “I received so much, more than what I have been called to offer”.

Sr. Gianna Maria Solari.



From our missionary world

Pace e Bene



Province "Holy Family"



***Lordship Most. Rev. Gorantla Johannes,
the Bishop of Kurnool- India***

The unexpected demise of His Lordship Most Rev. Gorantla Johannes, the Bishop of Kurnool diocese, led thousands of people into tears.

On 20th January 2007 while he was in the presence of the Lord in his private chapel, his prayer was ascending to the Lord like a smoke of incense, his soul too was taken up to heaven.

His Lordship in his fifty five years of age after the completion of his thirty years of his priesthood and thirteen years of episcopate service as an eminent Bishop, today no more with us but beyond the horizon, rendering glory to the Lord and enjoying the fruits of his good works he ventured throughout the Kurnool diocese.

He was a young, spiritual and dynamic Bishop with full of life, vision and mission, conviction and dedication. He was a good Pastor with spiritual insight and a true shepherd who worked hard till the last moment of his life. Bishop Johannes has been hailed as one of the most eloquent Bishop for the Church of India in general and for the Church of Andhra in particular. His life has been a source of inspiration and guidance for priests and religious. He was a good spiritual guide, theologian and professor. His life has been poured out mainly for the poor, discriminated and uneducated mass in the villages in order to lift them up to the status of a dignified Christian persons. Prayer was the source of all his ventures. He had an admirable devotion and love to our Blessed Mother Mary.

For us the Congregation of FMSC, his demise is really a loss and in particular for our Holy Family Province. We had over thirty years of good association with him. He was a well-wisher of our Congregation and he had tremendous confidence on our apostolate in his diocese. He always waited patiently for our positive reply to his invitation. In fact our sisters hold important responsibilities and render their service in his diocese as teachers, wardens, administrator at Anantapur as well as at Oravakal and also work in the retreat centre as spiritual guide and help.

While the Indian Church, in a special way the Andhra Church mourns for the loss of a dynamic and true shepherd, let us pray that His soul may rest in peace and may intercede powerfully for the Diocese of Kurnool.



*"Come, come the cride of Christ and receive
the crown which the Lord has prepared
for you from eternity"*



SR M. ALFONSINA RAIMONDI
of the Sacred Cross
Concetta Raimondi
Born a Montedorisio (CH)
il 25.05.1914
Died a Roma, 20-10-2006

Concetta Raimondi was born in Montedorisio (Italy) on 25 May 1914, firstborn to Nicola and Adelaide Di Giacomo. She was christened a few days later, on 11 June 1914, in St. John the Baptist parish church. She was raised with three brothers

in a family that kept intact the robust faith of simple people. When she was 8 she received the Sacrament of Confirmation (2 March 1922). At home, she gradually matured her vocation. She led an exemplary Christian life, which was apparent when she frequently took the Most Blessed Sacrament and lovingly visited the church.

When she was thirty-three, she asked to enter the congregation of Marian Sisters and, the following year, she was admitted to Novitiate. The sisters who lived with her remember her generosity, spirit of sacrifice, friendliness, readiness and spontaneity. She was of a lively and caring nature and her presence did not go unnoticed, while her brief absences left a void.

In 1948 she pronounced the holy vows for the first time and, on 12 september 1954, she consecrated herself to the Lord for good.

Excepting the 10 years she lived in the Ostia House (1954-1965), she spent her entire life in the Viale Saffi House, as a portress. She had become something of



an institution in the neighbourhood, so much so that everybody knew her and she knew everybody. Simple, spontaneous, lively, she easily built a family atmosphere. We could say that the task of portress had modelled her, and she took it in her heart and attitude. She could get along and feel at ease with anybody and made all the people she welcomed feel at ease. Those who lived with her perceived her fraternal style and her friendliness. Her presence could not pass unnoticed... she attracted people's attention, a noisy presence, we would say... and on top of that she was nice, resourceful and, although inadvertently, kind-heartedly authoritarian.

Without losing her spirit, she reached the age of 92, but she was already physically tried. She passed away in the nearby "Fatebenefratelli" hospital of Rome and her face, marked by the strain of passing away, recovered its serenity in death in the early afternoon of 20 November 2006.

We remember her with affection and, while we pray for her, we ask her to be our portress at Heaven's door, when we arrive there.



SR MARIA BENIZIA PIGOZZO
dell'Addolorata
Bruna Pigozzo
Born a Noale - Venezia
il 25.01.1919
Died a Peekskill, il 01-01-
2007

Sister Benizia, nee Bruna Emilia Pigozzo was one of nine children born to Marie and Giovanni Pigozzo. She was the third child born in Noale, Italy on January 25, 1919. Sister entered the congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Italy in 1937 at the age of 18 and remained there until 1939 at which time she came to Mt. St. Francis in Peekskill. On April 22, 1948 she became a citizen of the United States.

In 1942 she was assigned to Ladycliff College where she was a cook for the sisters and the students, preparing meals with love and devotion. She also spent many years in Philadelphia before returning to Peekskill in 1971. It was then that she was assigned to the Sisters Infirmary where she served diligently and lovingly as a cheerful infirmarian. She was always appreciative, kind and thought-

ful of all her Sisters ready to assist them at any time, putting their needs before her own. In her spare time she would be seen with a crocheting needle in her hand whipping out baby sets and blankets by the dozens. One would wonder how her fingers could move so rapidly! Besides crocheting she was an expert in sewing and creating her own patterns. In the evening before retiring for the night she could be seen with her English dictionary learning new and unusual words. Though English was not her mother tongue she mastered the language.

In January of 2006 her health began failing and Sister had to retire, though reluctantly. Despite her failing health she was present every Thursday evening at the Holy Hour - so great was her love for the Blessed Sacrament.

Sr. Benizia is survived by five sisters, two of whom are religious and one brother. Her sister, Sr. Bellarina is a member of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and another sister, Sr. Silvina is a member of the Sisters of St. Dorothy. She is survived also by nieces and nephews as well as 42 grand nieces and nephews.





SR M. BIANCA DE LIBERALI
del Santo Volto

Giustina De Liberali
nata a Albaredo (TV)
il 01.05.1914

morta a Gemona, 01-02-2007

Giustina De Liberali was born in Vedelago on May 1st, 1914 and entered true life on February 1st, 2007. Her life is comprised between these two dates: 93 years, 73 of which lived in our religious Family. From father Raimondo and mother Angela she learned the love for prayer, reserve and sacrifice, which helped her mature the desire to dedicate herself totally to the Lord.

She entered the Convent when she was 18 and when she was 20, Giustina consecrated herself to the Lord, with the name of Sr Bianca of the Sacred Face.

Immediately after the Profession, Sr Bianca was sent by obedience to Treppo Carnico in the professional school and then to Treviso-Santa Maria Maggiore, Cavaso del Tomba, Castagnole, Tricesimo, Ospedaletto d'Istrana, to Fontane in order to teach afternoon classes and help in the nursery school, and finally to the rest home of Buia, as the Superior. She donated her

best energies everywhere.

The sisters who have lived with her described her as a nun with a good Franciscan spirit, serene, meek, rich in charity to everybody.

Her humble and modest manners made her rather shy and reserved, but those who lived beside her knew how to see in her the meekness and optimism that infused serenity and hope, so that people gladly asked her for some piece of advice, some encouragement and some help and still remember her with pleasure and gratitude.

Always available, with a smile on her face, Sr Bianca was able to live intensely her Consecration; she was a testimony of the evangelical message that requires us to give ourselves generously, she made every event of her daily life seem extraordinary, through love, suffering and sacrifice.

Today Jesus, with His infinite sweetness, invited her: "Come aside to rest a little!", to stay with Him, so that He could reveal to her the loving face of the Father and give her the delight to enjoy His divine presence forever. Sr Bianca promptly answered her total "Here I am!" and went up to the Lord on tiptoe, just like she lived.

Dearest Sr Bianca, now we think of you immersed in contemplation of the Lord, whom you loved so much on earth. From your abode of light and peace, please look with kindness to our congregation, to all the people who are dear to you and especially to your missionary nephews, who, although they are far away, are united with us in prayer and memory.

Please implore holy vocations for the Church and peace to the world. May you live happily in the House of Jesus, your soul's loved One.

*"As a deer longs
for flowing streams, so
my soul longs for you,
O God..*

*My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.*

*When shall
I come and behold
the face of God?"
(Psalm 42)*





SR ORSOLA PAGNAN
del Cuore Immacolato di Maria
Iolanda Pagnan
Born a Barcon di Vedelago
(TV)
il 06.03.1910
Died a Roma, 14-02-2007

Iolanda Pagnan was born in Barcon di Vedelago (Treviso, Italy) on 6 March 1910. Hers was a patriarchal family. Her father, Bortolo, was left a widower after the birth of his first son and remarried with Paolina: 12 children in all, five of whom were consecrated to the Lord: Fr Giacinto, Fr Edoardo, both Carmelites, Sr Orsola (Iolanda) and Sr Guglielma FMSH and Sr Virginia, who died as a novice in the odour of sanctity, among the Dorotea Sisters in Venice.

In the then poor Italian province of Veneto, a solid catholic faith permeated life, spent in the daily sacrifice of hard agricultural work, a simple, daily, family faith, passed on by parents through the example of charitable gestures and prayer.

The children had come quickly one after the other, too many of them for the meagre resources available, but their parents' industriousness did not leave them without bread; in fact, their parents took special care also for other people, for their

poorer neighbours, that Paolina supported like they were her own children. Life was marked by farm work, the church, the children, the house, the poor, the evening rosary in the family... It is here that Iolanda learnt to listen to the Lord and to answer His call. She entered the FMSH as a postulant when she was 19, in the nearby village of Vedelago and on 20 May 1932 she was welcomed into novitiate in Gemona. Her life proceeded quite fast, as was the rule back then! Soon after profession, on 5 May 1933, she was destined by obedience to Rhodes, the beautiful Aegean island, where the sisters had been working actively for a long time. For 15 years the young Sr Orsola took care of the orphanage children, with a spontaneous and gratuitous devotion, always careful, helpful, maternal.

On the day of her perpetual Profession, the magazine "Sacra Rodus" said about her: "the vows were pronounced freely



and willingly, but Sr Orsola added so many smiles and so much joy. Maybe that is because her mission of maternal love makes her like this life so much or because the rule of her Institute is perfectly suited to her spirit and feelings, but I also believe it is because she really is a beautiful soul, like a special and delicate flower that God wanted to transplant in a protected and cured flowerbed" (Sacra Rodus 1938). With their lives during world war II, the sisters in Rhodes showed their ability to work hard and act heroically; thanks to their privations and industrious ability, the children were not left without the necessities of life. And not only the children: Sr Orsola and Sr Alice deprived themselves even of the pullovers they wore to give them to the freezing soldiers who were wanted by the enemy!

In 1948, the war obliged the sisters to make a sudden and hasty departure. They returned to Italy with the children they could not leave with anyone. Reluctantly, they left them in Brindisi, in another Institute. Sr Orsola brought them all in her heart and acted as their mother for a second time when, once grown up, they came looking for her to be oriented in life and helped by her simple but resourceful charity. In 1948, in Centocelle, near Rome, she was put in charge of the boarding school girls that the pre-tubercular Authority had long entrusted to the sisters. Simultaneously, she started to follow the aspirants to religious life and this remained her mission until 1958. We remember

To the other side

her lively industriousness, her simple traits, her little tricks, her attentions: with her life was simple, serene, laborious. She knew how to choose the right moments and ways to make herself heard... she seemed naive, but she was subtle and sharp! So, at this rate, she was called to serve as an authority from 1958 to 1964.

In Centocelle, the building of the church began and, along with it, what we could define "the stone age". Indeed, there was a talk about building until 1975. With a one-year only interval, when she was a portress at Lido dei Pini, Sr Orsola supervised different works until 1975, since she had been elected Provincial Superior (1965): the church, the renovation of the terrace and the sisters' building, the facing of the house with red bricks, the repairing of different rooms, the building of new classrooms, the playgrounds... a series of ac-

tivities, in cooperation with the then General Council.

All this activity did not affect her religious maternal concern that the spirit would fail the sisters! In a report, she wrote: "In our province there emerges quite distinctly the desire of a profound renewal in the spirit of Franciscan tradition, which will open for us the path to the new in the true evangelical meaning... It is consoling –she went on- to meet many sisters who are busy in the effort to live intensely their inner life and, at the same time, seriously commit themselves in the different apostolic activities with a spirit of sacrifice".

At the end of her mandate, she was sent to St. Elizabeth, in Pitagora Square, where she devoted herself to welcome those who, for different reasons, decided to attend school. Her simple ability to empathize and listen made her the confi-

dent and friend of many people, young and old, from any social class. She had again governing responsibilities as Provincial Councillor until 1978.

There followed twenty years of precious service, during which she was happy to cooperate as much as her physical strength would let her, with humility, allowing others to help her as she gradually lost her self-dependency, until she asked herself to be put to rest in the infirmary in Saffi Avenue.

It is there that she has spent her life from 1998, preparing herself for the encounter in prayer, with clearness of mind. Last November, she had a crisis that debilitated her definitively, but she still resisted, although she declined visibly. She passed away serenely in the morning of 14 February 2007.

We thank the Lord for her simple, welcoming, serene and laborious life.



*"Who shall separate us from
the love of Christ? tribulation,
or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"*

*As it is written,
For thy sake we are killed
all the day long;
we are accounted
as sheep for the slaughter"
(Rm 8,35-36)*