

*“The grace of God has appeared
saving all” (Titus 2,11)*

*Let us welcome Jesus with faith in our heart and in our life
and Christmas shall bring us the peace
which opens us to hope and
to a renewed commitment
for a new world.*

*May the Son of God
whom the Virgin made
our brother in humanity
give to all of us,
Franciscan Missionaries
of the Sacred Heart,
love which is the fruit of faith,
service which is the fruit
of love, and peace,
which is the fruit of service.*



*May the new year of our Lord 2010,
which will also prepare us
to the celebration
of important congregational events,
be full of the blessing of the Lord
so that our history
continues to be
a wonderful event of salvation.*

*I express this wish also on behalf
of the sisters from the General Council..*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Suor Emma Pia Bottamedi
Superior general*



WALKING WITH THE CHURCH

Annus Sacerdotalis

19 Giugno 2009

11 Giugno 2010



*PONTIFF: CHURCH NEEDS
HOLY PRIESTS*

*OPEN YEARLONG CELEBRATION
OF PRIESTHOOD*

The greatest suffering of the Church is the sin of its priests, Benedict XVI said as he inaugurated the Year for Priests.

The Pope presided today at a celebration of vespers on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Basilica of St. Peter's, during which he launched a yearlong celebration of the priesthood. The theme for the priestly year is "Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests."

The year, convoked by the Pontiff, coincides with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, known as the Curé d'Ars. Bishop Guy Bagnard of Belley-Ars brought the relics of the French saint to Rome for the inauguration Mass.

The Year for Priests will conclude with an International Convention in Rome, to be held June 9-11, 2010.

The celebration began with the Holy Father venerating in silence the relics of St. John Mary Vianney.

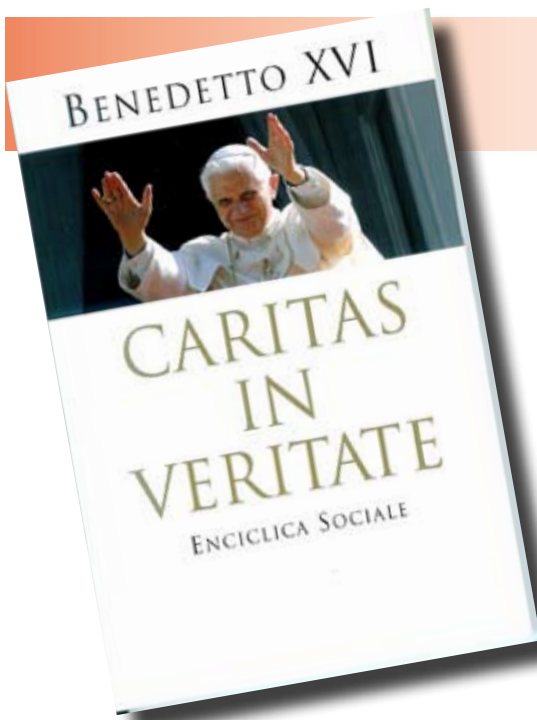
"The Church needs holy priests," the Pope said in his homily. "[It needs] ministers to help the faithful experience the merciful love of the Lord and to be convinced witnesses."

For this, he invited the faithful to pray "that the Lord inflame the heart of each priest" with the love of Jesus.

"How can one forget that nothing makes the Church -- the Body of Christ -- suffer more than the sins of its pastors, above all those that are 'wolves in sheep's clothing,' whether because they lead [the faithful] away with their private doctrine, or because they bind [the faithful] down with the ties of sin and death," he asked.

"The call to conversion and to take recourse to Divine Mercy also applies to us, dear priests," Benedict XVI said to the numerous priests and bishops present. "We should also appeal, humbly and incessantly, to the heart of Jesus so that he preserves us from the terrible risk of damaging those whom we should save."

For this, the Pope affirmed, "Our mission is indispensable for the Church and for the world, which demands complete fidelity to Christ and an incessant union with him; that is to say, it demands that we constantly seek the holiness of St. John Mary Vianney."



AN ENCYCLICAL LETTER THAT LOOKS INTO THE FUTURE ...

"THE REALIS OF CHRISTIAN WISDOM"

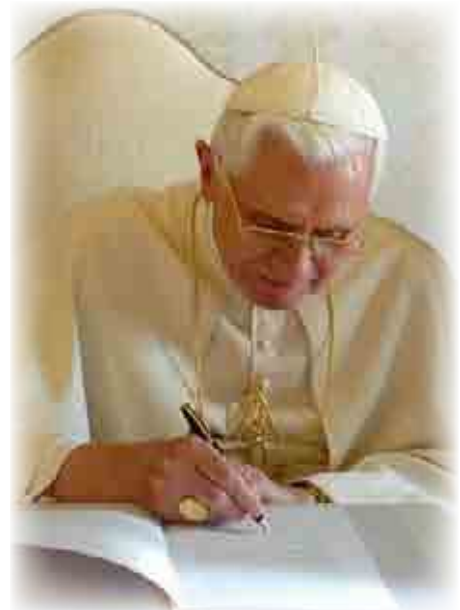
Benedict XVI's social Encyclical Letter "Caritas in Veritate", presented on July 7 at the Vatican, turns even the Church's social doctrine into the relationship between the Church and the World, since it deals with "the integral human development in charity and truth", widening to extremes the theme of development which was dealt with by Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio*, thus reminding us of its fortieth anniversary.

It is therefore an important and extensive Encyclical Letter, perfectly integrated in the pontificate of Benedict XVI, who has not only made of the two words charity and truth are, in his view, the heart of Christianity itself- but has also

the heart of his teachings -since they launched in the most radical way the theme "God in the world", that is: is Christianity merely useful or rather indispensable to the construction of a true human development?

It is indeed a courageous Encyclical Letter, since it removes any possible doubt as to the public role of the Christian faith and as to the fact that from it derives a consistent vision of life, which is competing with other visions. According to *Caritas in veritate*, the world must not only be accompanied in dialogue and through a charity without truth, but must also be saved by charity in truth. In order to achieve this result, the pope has on one hand "rehabilitated" Paul VI and on the other presented the theological viewpoint from which the Church must consider social facts.

In this Encyclical Letter, the subjects of globalization, respect for the environment and bioethics and its social centrality were treated systematically for the first time, after being only briefly hinted at in the previous Encyclical Letters. It is an Encyclical Letter that resolutely looks into the future with the courage of the realism of Christian wisdom. The North-South scheme is outdated, says Benedict XVI, and the responsibility for underdevelopment lies not only with a few but with many, including emerging countries and the elites of the poor ones; sometimes even humanitarian or international organizations seem to be more interested to thrive with their bureaucracies than in the development of the poor; sexual tourism is sustained not only by the countries from which the "customers" come, but also by the countries that host them; corruption is to be found in the whole chain of humanitarian aid; if it is true that Western countries are wrong to protect intellectual property excessively, especially as regards pharmaceuticals, it must also be said that in the cultures of backward countries there are superstitions and ancestral visions that block development; and so forth. It is an Encyclical Letter that condemns the ideologies of the past but also the new ones: from environmentalism to Third Worldism. However, it deals especially with one ideology, the ideology of technology, to which the entire chapter six is dedicated. After the collapse of political ideologies, the ideology of technology has been consolidating, and it is all the more dangerous as it feeds itself from a relativist culture, feeding it in turn.



SECOND SYNOD OF BISHOPS FOR AFRICA

*The Church in Africa
the service of reconciliation,
justice and peace:*

*“You are the salt of the earth...
You are the light of the world” (Mt 5:13-14)*



*THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IS THE "SPIRITUAL
LUNG" OF THE WORLD IN A CRISIS OF HOPE*

Africa is an immense spiritual “lung” for mankind, which is in want of faith and hope.

The new Episcopal Assembly dedicated to the African continent takes place fifteen years after the first one and its theme is: “The Church in Africa at the service of reconciliation, justice and peace: “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” (Mt 5: 13, 14)”.

In his homily, at the presence of 239 Synod fathers and 55 priests who cooperated with the Synod in various ways, the Pope described Africa as the “depository of a priceless treasure for the whole world: its profound sense of God”.

Among its riches, said Benedict XVI, the African continent does not count only material resources, which are often a cause of exploi-

tation, conflict and corruption, but also the “spiritual and cultural heritage, which humanity needs even more than raw materials”.

Indeed, he pointed out that “Africa constitutes an immense spiritual ‘lung’ for a humanity that



appears to be in a crisis of faith and hope”.

However, the Holy Father added that even this “lung” could become ill, in the first place because of that “dangerous pathology” which is already widespread in the Western world, in other words “practical materialism, combined with relativist and nihilistic thought”.

The other danger for Africa, added Benedict XVI, is “religious fundamentalism, combined with political and economic interests”.

He pointed out that “groups that relate to various religious affiliations are spreading on the African continent; they do so in the name of God but according to a logic opposed to divine logic, in other words, not by teaching and practicing love and respect for freedom but rather by intolerance and violence”.

The Pope then went on to reflect upon the reality of children, “who constitute a great and unfortunately often suffering part of the African population”, in a continent where the total rate of birth is the highest in the world.

In Africa, and in every other part of the planet, he added, the Church expresses her own motherhood especially to the smallest ones, even when they are not yet born.

Indeed, he explained, “the Church does not see them principally as recipients of assistance and even less of pietism or exploitation but rather as people in every sense, who through their own way of being show the main road by which to enter the Kingdom of God, the road, that is, of unconditional entrustment to his love”.

“With her work of evangelization and human advancement, the Church can certainly make a great



contribution in Africa to the whole of society” and “be a prophesy and a leaven of reconciliation between the different ethnic, linguistic and even religious groups, within single nations and throughout the continent”.

Indeed, reconciliation is the “stable basis on which to build peace” and the “indispensable condition for the authentic progress of people and of society”.



WALKING WITH THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

*IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF FATHER
LUCA DE ROSA*



The thought of this year's Paschal solemnity may bring back also the sad memory of our esteemed Fr Luca De Rosa, Postulator General of the Order of the Friars Minor, who, since 1995, after Fr J. Trepas Folguera's sudden death, was also in charge of our Cause.

Indeed, he left us during the paschal period, as if he meant to remind us his luminous witness of Life through his earthly "passage".

His health had been markedly declining for some time, and we know he was suffering a lot, but the passion with which he devoted himself to his work, the contagious enthusiasm with which he followed every cause, the accuracy with which he intervened whenever something had to be corrected, reordered or changed, had maybe deluded us into thinking that he could still stay for a long time with us. The Lord's plans, however, were different: apparently Fr Luca had guessed it and he let himself be led by the Spirit of the Lord with extreme serenity. He edified us for the spirit of detachment and confident abandonment that he betrayed at every moment, even though he did not interrupt his sensitive service, which he carried out with his usual zeal, "with the Franciscan culture of work" -as the Minister General described it- an attitude devoid of any anxiety, but always accurate, careful and diligent.

On March 25, on the 50th anniversary of his religious profession, in the homily that he pronounced full of emotion and gratitude to God, he seemed to have recovered his verve of nice Neapolitan, his joyous longing for company, his cheerful conversation, punctuated by quips with an evangelical taste, but also unfailingly brightened up by playful anecdotes.

However, the following day there was the announcement of an incurable disease, immediately followed by incurable complications, which subdued surprisingly quickly his strong constitution... and our Father Luca left us too a bit orphans. Somehow we all felt so when, on that fateful morning of 25 April 2009, as we were preparing to go and visit him at Naples hospital, we got the news of his sudden death, of his luminous

passing away, a demonstration of righteous faith, through which he joined the Saints in heaven.

It was certainly with great joy that the army of Saints and Blessed met him, especially those who obtained from the Church the official recognition of holiness and rightful public veneration just thanks to his untiring work. Indeed, during his 14 years as Postulator general of the OFM, father Luca accompanied 48 servants of God to beatification, and 37 blessed Franciscans to canonization!

He always showed a special affection for us, and he expressed it with a warm care, being present with sincere solidarity in every circumstance, since the first time we approached the Postulation of the Order in 1991, up to the end of





his earthly path: a fraternal bond, joyful, made of esteem and friendship, and of trusting mutual frankness.

Father Luca leaves us too a precious legacy, typical of a “true Friar Minor, a true disciple of St Francis!”, as Father José Rodríguez Carballo, the Minister General, stressed in front of the huge crowd of priests (around 120 of them), religious (over 300 of them) and faithful, who filled St Clare’s basilica in Naples during the funeral rites, on April 27.

It is really quite moving to catch, in the last interview that he gave a few weeks before his death, the longing for sanctity transpiring from his every word, to notice the spirit of simplicity and strength that animated his every speech, in the respectful and faithful search for the truth according to the Spirit of

the Lord, the first and only mover, or better still, maker of saints -as he liked to remind us-, the one who operates in the Church and whom we strive to discover with all our care in any cause that his love entrusts to “our little minds and to our poor brains”.

We could say a lot, quite a lot about Father Luca De Rosa! In the devout memory that we keep of him, we would only like to appropriate a special teaching of his, with which the Minister General, during the Holy Mass of the thirtieth day, defined his profile and that we now paraphrase, so as to partly repay our huge debt of gratitude: “Thanks, dearest brother Luca, who were a man of real Franciscan joy, with which you helped build fraternity everywhere. Not a simple consumer of fraternity, therefore, but a builder of fraternity, capable of laughing at himself, without ever taking himself too seriously, as well as capable of never restraining himself from giving a smile even in the moments of highest suffering, convinced that you were called to always be a witness of life, an example of faith in Christ crucified and risen, in a God who keeps His word, who overcomes every strength with his weakness... Thanks for being the witness of the incredible, the witness of hope, for passing among us as a word and instrument of life”.

And a thanks also from us all, our brother and friend Fr Luca! From Heaven, next to our numerous Saints, many of whom abide there even if they are unknown, please bless once again all of us, and keep following us with the same loving care with which you accompanied us during our path together down here.

HOLY AND BLESSED FRIARS MINOR

Our Sr Antonietta Pozzebon, whom we all know for her numerous writings and articles about the Congregation, has been cooperating for some years with the Friars Minor of the General Curia and the Pontifical University Antonianum for the publication of books of high cultural value. It is she who, on request from the Minister General, has mostly edited the interesting volume “HOLY AND BLESSED FRIARS MINOR”. We congratulate our sisters who, in the name of our Congregation, helps with her work keep alive and steadfast the fraternal and spiritual closeness to the Order of Friars Minor, to which we have always been associated.

Let us quote her for the presentation of the precious volume.

A few days after the death of our regretted Fr Luca De Rosa, postulator general of the Order of Friars Minor, since the 2009 General Chapter was drawing near, the volume “**HOLY AND BLESSED FRIARS MINOR**”, written by Fr Silvano Bracci and Sr Antonietta Pozzebon, was published by the Postulation general for the Cause of OFM Saints.

It is a precious instrument, the so-called “Sanctorale of the Order”, that should replace the old and well-known “Seraphic Aureola”. Our dear Fr Luca did his utmost for its preparation, but unfortunately he did not have the joy to see it printed.

The volume, despite its size, its elegant and refined “seriousness”, and the dignified and accurate typographical format, is in fact an easy-to-use, fresh and winning work, thanks to the anthological collection of contextual biographies, which come in the form of effective summaries for every one of



the Saints and Blessed belonging to the Order of Friars Minor in its eight-century-long history. Indeed, the publication of this work too was expected to celebrate the Eight Centennial of foundation of the Order! The aim of the initiative, right from the first project, clearly is making people know and love these Saints and Blessed, many of whom are unknown or improperly known, if not ignored, so as to excite in every reader, even among non-Franciscan ones, a generous adhesion to the call for holiness, following the fascinating example that each one of them has given us.

The book is also quite practical for the fundamental bibliographical collection at the end of the section dedicated to each person.

Unfortunately, to the regret of the editors and their co-operators, due to existing deadlines and other unforeseeable obstacles, not the least the troubles following Fr Luca's demise, the *Appendix* does not include the list of Venerables and Servants of God, which would have provided a more complete and satisfying picture of the great movement of sanctity related to the Order, nor the huge work of the Postulation General, which has been now entrusted to Fr Gianni Califano.

XXIX FRANCISCAN MARCH "Let your steps speak"

We would like to tell the experience that we lived during the 2009 Franciscan march, which had the following slogan: "Let your steps speak".

We started this itinerary, which was a new experience to us, with a lot of enthusiasm. On Saturday 25 July, we left Scai (a place near Rome, from the house of the Benedictine Sisters), where we had all gathered to start our march towards Assisi the next day.

During the whole march, we had different experiences: the effort of walking, the sun, the slopes, the uncomfortable places, the beauty of nature, sharing everything, and the merit to find day after day the presence of God through well-prepared catecheses and Masses.

Along the path, we shared the experience of faith and the Franciscan journey with young people. We passed all the sanctuaries in the Rieti valley: Leonessa, Rivodutri, Poggio Bustone, Fonte Colombo and Greccio; in this way, we lived again St Francis' experience in each place. On the morning of August 2nd, we left Spello: we felt quite tired, our feet were sore and we had blisters, but it was with joy that we approached Assisi, our destination. Once we

arrived in front of St Mary of the Angels Basilica, we were deeply moved and, with our hands joined, we kissed the ground and then went inside Porziuncola to receive the indulgency: it

was a unique moment for all of us.

On August 4th, the conclusive Mass was celebrated by the Minister general of the Friars Minor, Brother José Rodríguez Carballo, who in his homily talked about the Franciscan values based on daily labour, which we were able to experience during those days.

All the young people welcomed with great joy his call to always march in the manner of St Francis. The march has not ended. On the contrary, it starts now! Let us thank the Lord for this nice experience and hope that this march will be fruitful in our hearts, especially in the hearts of the young people.



THE GRACE OF THE ORIGINS



FROM THE MUSEUM OF “ST MARY OF THE ANGELS” MOTHER HOUSE
(Continuation...)

POPE PIUS IX

The duchess Laura Leroux de Bauffremont stayed in Rome from 1856 to 1859 with a view to founding an Institute of Passionist Sisters.

In that period, she made herself better known by the church authorities and by people from high society, distinguishing herself for her really noble manners and for her generous alms and works of charity. As wrote Father Gregory in his Historical Memoirs, “... Lady Laura was know by His Holiness Pius IX. Indeed, the Pontiff was always generously benevolent with her and granted her uncommon privileges”. In 1862, the Foundress went to Rome to be present at the canonization of the Saint Japanese Martyrs, hoping to meet the Pope. Father Gregory and six sisters travelled with her.

During her stay in Rome, Pius IX granted her two private audiences. In the first audience, on May 19, the Pope praised and blessed the new Institute of Tertiary Missionary Franciscans, and “granted it various spiritual privileges and material gifts”, reassuring and filling with joy the Founders, who thus felt that God certainly willed the existence of the budding institute.

Furthermore, on occasion of a visit to Saints John and Paul Church, the Pontiff went personally to villa Celi-montana, which had become the property of the Duchess before she approached Franciscan spirituality.

In the extraordinary visit to the Gothic Chapel that the Duchess, as a Passionist, had had built next to her villa on the Celio, Father Gregory went close to the Holy Father and kissed his hand. Pius IX then held for some time the hand of the humble Franciscan, looking at him benevolently and blessing him.

The Pope’s fatherly welcome remained impressed in the heart and memory of our Founder, and would sustain him “in the biggest and toughest trials”.

During the second private audience, there was another unforgettable episode: Sr Angela of the Angel remembered that Pius IX told the Founding Mother, almost in a whisper, but in a meaningful way: “I entrust these daughters to you”.

On 3 September 2000, John Paul II solemnly proclaimed Pius IX Blessed.

May he keep addressing to God the same supplication: “I entrust these daughters to you”, as well as the whole mankind (from the didactic panel)

Today we present the objects that, according to the tradition, remind of and document the Pontiff’s fatherly benevolence towards our Founders and the budding Institute.

PORTRAIT OF PIUS IX

Printing on canvas

He was pope from 1846 to 1878, a very long and controversial period, during which the Reign of Italy was made and the Papacy lost its temporal power (1870).



STAMPA

Portrays Pope Pius IX crossing the streets of Rome acclaimed by the people.

It is said that in this nice nineteenth-century printing, a girl is depicted who would then become a Franciscan Sister.



PARAMENT MADE UP OF: CHASUBLE, STOLE, MANIPLE, CHALICE VEIL, BURSE AND CIBORIUM CLOTH.



In 1862 the Foundress went to Rome, accompanied by Father Gregory and six sisters, for the canonization of the Japanese Martyrs. Here she met the Pope, who blessed the new Institute and granted it spiritual privileges and material gifts, among which this precious parament.

In 2003, an expert, Beatrice Bertone, described its features. "This parament is made up with ivory silk gros de Tour in golden lamé, embroidered with multi-coloured silk and gold of different kinds. With the exception of the burse, the embroidery was reproduced without changing its decorative characteristics, except for the rims and some golden effects. It is a widespread method for such operations, which reproduce the em-



broidery on new materials, often when the original cloth is worn out. In these objects, however, the original materials have been respected, since the integrations have been made using materials of the same quality. The embroidery reveals technical abilities and a stylistic affinity which are proper of conventual sisters, who preserved the activity of embroidery destined to the sacred in the nineteenth century ...The golden structures of the compositions that remain in the eighteenth-century conventual production, such as in this parament, contain grapes, ears of corn and lilies, which symbolize respectively the blood of Christ, the body of Christ and purity."

CHILD JESUS

A gift from the Pope to the Founders.

It dates back to the first half of the nineteenth century and features precious decorations in golden filigree.

"Every year, on the day of the Epiphany, this effigy was displayed to the veneration of the Sisters and the faithful in the Convent's church.

After the evening mass, Father Gregory and, after him, the Chaplains on duty, handed it for everyone to kiss". (Sr Eligia Capriz)





ZUCCHETTO (SKULL CAP) OF THE BLESSED PIUS IX

The declaration of authenticity is signed by Cardinal Benedict of the Princes Barberini, in March 1860.

A white cassock of the Pontiff is also kept in the museum warehouse

THE TWENTY-THREE JAPANESE SAINT FRANCISCAN MARTYRS.

Souvenir printing of the canonization which took place on the feast of Pentecost in the year 1862.



HOLY WATER STOUP

The solemn marble stoup, the work of Pietro Galli, was commissioned by the Duchess and given to the Pope in 1860.

On the back of the coat of arms, a dedication of the Foundress to the Pope Pius IX is engraved.

A frail girl defeats the evil only by touching the holy water
It is now situated in St Paul's Basilica, Rome

MARY IMMACULATE

First half of 19th century.

Gilded bronze

It is a souvenir of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate (1854)

It is a perfect imitation of the monument erected in the honour of the Immaculate Virgin in Piazza di Spagna, Rome.

According to the witness of Sr Eligia, this statuette was the object of a special veneration by Mother Teofila who, in difficult times, immersed herself in deep and intense prayer in front of this sacred image.



LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION



ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

August to November 2009

In this period of time, the General Council focused on the Provincial Chapters and on other activities regarding the life of the Congregation:

- On 1st August 2009, the Superior General, Sr Emmapia, accompanied by the Councillors Sr Gracy and Sr Germana, went to Cyprus for the **XII Provincial Chapter of "St Elizabeth" Oriental Province**. The theme of the Chapter, "*Sent by Jesus Christ Crucified and Risen, we bring the announcement of the Gospel to all*", guided the capitular sisters' reflection and discernment. On 6 August, the new Provincial Council was elected and is made up of:

Sr Bernadette Skorti	Provincial Superior
Sr Angelica Hahjihanni	Provincial Vicar
Sr Martina Volpato	2 nd Provincial Councillor
Sr Elsa Paola Pudhussery	3 rd Provincial Councillor
Sr Françoise Aletrari	4 th Provincial Councillor

Successively, the Provincial Council named:

Sr Antonia Piripitsi	Provincial Secretary
Sr Angelica Hahjihanni	Provincial Treasurer

- On 14 August, the Superior General, Sr Emmapia, and the Councillor Sr Germana went to the United States. There, they presided over the **XII Provincial Chapter of "St Francis" Province**, whose theme was: "*Following God's plan with courage and faith*". On 15 August, the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, during a simple celebration, there was the installation of the new Provincial Council, which was elected by direct vote last March. At the end of the Chapter, Sr Emmapia carried out the **Canonical Visit** of the communities in the Province, bringing to the sisters the joy of a fraternal encounter, in the personal and communal sharing of the experience of consecrated life and mission.
- On 16 September, the Superior General, Sr Emmapia, together with the Councillors Sr Gracy and Sr Germana, started her long trip to India. The goal of the trip was first of all presiding over the **II Chapter of "Holy Family" young Province**. The theme of the Chapter, "*Mission: passion for Christ and passion for mankind*", took up the 25 capitular sisters, who assessed the Province's achievements in the last three years and projected themselves into the new perspectives of the

mission, in answer to the urgent needs of evangelization and human promotion. On 21 September, after a time of Eucharistic adoration, the capitular sisters elected the new Provincial council, which is made up of:

Sr Maddalena Moro	Provincial Superior
Sr Selinamma Mookenthottathil	Provincial Vicar
Sr Rose Thomas Palamthattel	2 nd Provincial Councillor
Sr Monica Pullattukalayil	3 rd Provincial Councillor
Sr Vijaya Kurma	4 th Provincial Councillor.

Successively, the Provincial Council named

Sr Rose P. Thomas	as Provincial Secretary
Sr Ansamma Pullikattil	as Provincial Treasurer.

After the Chapter, the Superior General, Sr Emmapia, accompanied by the Councillor Sr Germana, performed the *Canonical Visit* of the communities in five Indian States, from the South-Western region of Kerala to the extreme North-East, Arunachal Pradesh, where lies our most recent community, which was opened last year. Through her presence and word she brought everywhere the encouragement to continue the evangelizing mission, addressed especially to poor children, faithful to our congregational charism.

- The General Council continued its activity by preparing the next meetings:
 - *the first formative and informative meeting of the Provincial and Regional Treasurers*, based on the theme “*Economy and administration*”, which will take place in the General House from 9 to 20 December 2009;
 - *the extended General Council*, made up of the General Council and of the Provincial and Regional Superiors, which will take place in the General House from 4 to 12 January 2010. Important subjects regarding the life of the Congregation will be examined, by sharing problems and perspectives also in view of the congregational events that will involve all the sisters starting from next year.
 - *the third meeting of the historic and formative Committee*, which will take place from 12 to 24 April 2010;
 - *the renewal course* for the sisters who celebrate the Jubilee of their religious life in 2009 and 2010, which is scheduled from 18 July to 1 August 2010.

- The General Council, relying faithfully on the vitality of the Congregation, thanks to the powerful intercession before the Lord of our patron Saints and our founders, Laura Leroux and Father Gregory, after the needed discernment,
 - *authorized the opening of a new community in “Holy Family” Indian Province, in Bhitbuna, Diocese of Simdega, State of Jharkhand*, where the presence of sisters has been requested for the first evangelization and the mission of education;
 - confirmed the *admission to the perpetual profession* of two sisters from “St Anthony” Latin American Province:
 - Sr Fabiola Cuaspud Maldonado De la Eucarestia*
 - Sr Gabriela Mamani Huanca De la Virgen del Perpetuo Socorro*;
 - confirmed the *appointment of Sr Silvana Bottan* as Teacher of the Pre-Novitiate in “Mary Immaculate” Roman Province;
 - *named Sr Marisa Vanin Superior of “St Mary of the Angels” community in Assisi*
 - granted the request for the transfer of Sr Maria Teresa Anacheril from “St Martyrs

SISTERS WHO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS LIFE 2009

75°

Suor Miriam Anthony Stadler	Prof 21-04-1934	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Fulgenzia Moletta	Prof 25-05-1934	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Irma Calzavara	Prof 02-10-1934	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"

70°

Suor Maristella Longhino	Prof 18-07-1939	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Valeriana Zanello	Prof 18-07-1939	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Augusta Pozzobon	Prof 18-07-1939	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Bernadette Zaleski	Prof 28-08-1939	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Natalina Muffato	Prof 02-09-1939	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Leonida Badova	Prof 02-09-1939	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Enrica Forgiarini	Prof 02-10-1939	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"

65°

Suor Maria Vit	Prof 04-06-1944	Prov. "S. Luigi IX"
Suor Angelicarosa De Monte	Prof 04-06-1944	Prov "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Linajoseph Sartoretto	Prof 04-06-1944	Prov "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Annaluisa Vanin	Prof 30-09-1944	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

60°

Suor Teresita Tonietto	Prof 17-05-1949	Prov "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Olimpia Squalizza	Prof 17-05-1949	Prov "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Helen Marie Cahill	Prof 11-07-1949	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Jeanne Gomond	Prof 22-08-1949	Prov. "S. Luigi IX"
Suor Agnesina Fossouliotou	Prof 22-08-1949	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Mariagrazia Stecca	Prof 22-08-1949	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Filomena Zito	Prof 12-09-1949	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

50°

Suor Cecilia Subiabre	Prof 03-03-1959	Prov. "S. Antonio"
Suor Bernadette Skorti	Prof 02-05-1959	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
Suor Anna Lissia	Prof 03-05-1959	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Pierpaola Koumettou	Prof 03-05-1959	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
Suor Camilla Berlato	Prof 03-05-1959	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Antonia Costa	Prof 03-05-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Julia Marie Kennedy	Prof 12-08-1959	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Antonia Maguire	Prof 12-08-1959	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Theresa Ann Kallimanis	Prof 12-08-1959	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Anne James Guerin	Prof 12-08-1959	Prov. "S. Francis"
Suor Rosamaria Porato	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "S. Antonio"
Suor Gilberta Maddalena	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Oliviera Venturin	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Arcangela Sartoretto	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Piera Zanon	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
Suor Antonietta Pozzebon	Prof 19-09-1959	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
Suor Antonella Antoniou	Prof 20-09-1959	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
Suor Enricangela Chisté	Prof 30-09-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Renata Casagrande	Prof 30-09-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Valeria Martinis	Prof 30-09-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Bernadetta Visentin	Prof 30-09-1959	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
Suor Rosaria Iacobucci	Prof 05-10-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Silvia Magagna	Prof 05-10-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
Suor Milena Santini	Prof 05-10-1959	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

25°

Suor Gladys Chavez	Prof 25-03-1984	Prov. "S. Antonio"
Suor Rose Thomas Palamthattel	Prof 01-07-1984	Prov. "Holy Family"
Suor Annamma Mathew Puthusseril	Prof 01-07-1984	Prov. "Holy Family"
Suor Fiorella Cappucci	Prof 09-12-1984	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

6 september 2009



Jubilee celebration in Asisium

As if they meant to make the resumption of their pastoral activity easier, the Asisium Sacred Heart community seized a good opportunity, offered by the “memorial” celebration of the Anniversary of religious life, which took place this year for three sisters of our General House. First of all, there were two sisters celebrating their Golden Jubilee: at the fore front, our generous Vicar General Sr Cecilia Subiabre, and then Sr M. Antonietta Pozzebon, the so-called “historian” and archivist of the Institute. After the Gold Wedding, we celebrated the so-called Ebony wedding, that is the stage of 65 years, that our very good wardrobe-keeper, Sr M. Angelica De Monte, reached with unimaginable self-assurance.

The chosen day was September 6, 2009: the date was agreed especially because we were certain that our Superior General, Sr Emmapia Bottamedi, would be there, as in this period she is continually serving away from the General House, owing to Provincial Chapters under way or canonical visits to be concluded. Another reason for choosing this date, as well as the evening hour, 6 p.m., was that the newly-elected bishop of our pastoral area, His Excellency Msgr Guerino di Tora, had kindly

accepted our invitation to preside the Eucharistic Celebration.

It is needless to say that we were very glad for the success of the celebration, a very special opportunity to cement the community’s union and understanding, and to show once again our familial love, our strong sense of belonging to our Institute, which in our view sets Asisium’s fraternity apart. It is worth noting the admirable effort by the sisters who were present in the community at a time, the end of August, which was quite uncertain

because of the movements and engagements of many persons. The inconvenience, however, was overcome thanks to the commitment of all the sisters, whatever their task, to make that day as serene as possible. During the Holy Mass, who was able to guess that the choir was made up by such a small number of people? Their songs, their music and their voices made even the coloured vaults of our church resonate with joy, exciting also the admiration of the priests and friends who were present at the ceremony. Indeed, there was a circle of four celebrating priests around the new Bishop, a presence that made the feast so solemn and at the same time so warm. Indeed, Msgr Di



Tora gave us a wonderful example of his Franciscan simplicity, combined with the wisdom, bursting with charity, that has always distinguished him in his activity and in his management of Diocesan Caritas in Rome.

The urging that the Bishop addressed to us was strong and incisive: to give substance to the title of poverty, of which our charism of Franciscan Missionaries too should be filled, by means of a special attention to the poor, to all those who suffer for lack of means or physical ailments, as well as to the victims of another treacherous kind of poverty, the absence or the loss of authentic values.

Once the Eucharistic Celebration was over, there was an explosion of clapping and cheering, the unmistakable snapping of cameras, and we went on celebrating in the community's refectory, which had been embellished thanks to meaningful displays of solidarity. At the presence of the bishop and the priests, of some relatives, former



pupils and friends, the guests of honour were able to relish again the beauty and reality of the affection that surrounds them, as well as the privilege of being part of a family such as ours, which simply and modestly knows how to give an aura of exceptionality even to the smallest occasion.

At the end of the dinner, the three guests of honour were invited to cut the first piece of the wonderful cake that had been prepared and felt really moved, happy and unable to express the full gratitude that their hearts could no longer contain. Fortunately, the Vicar General, Sr Cecilia, was able to read their feelings and voice their sincere gratefulness and thanked everybody for the joy of so much fraternal and spontaneous closeness; she especially thanked the people who, even with sacrifice, cooperated to make that day so nice, for their generosity.

For all this, glory and praise to the Lord!



For all this, glory and praise to the Lord!

from our Missionary World
Pace e Bene

**Province
“S. Mary
of the Angels”
Gemona**



This is the true story of a young man — whom we met in a meeting for operators in jails — who went to prison some years ago and then... Then listen from his living witness.

**“CONDEMNED BY THE COURT,
FREED BY JESUS”**

Towards darkness

My name is Petr and I come from the Czech Republic, from the town of Plzen, where I was born and grew up. When I was a child, my mother had me christened, but this is all I have received as regards faith; indeed, I lived in a country where faith not only was not popular, but where those who practised it could even be prosecuted and put to jail. My father, an out-and-out atheist, was against any Christian education. Sport was the top interest in my life: it was my hobby. I dedicated myself to Greco-Roman wrestling and to similar kinds of sports: gymnastics, swimming, body-building... When I came of age, I started supplementary military service in a hospital. I worked as a stretcher-bearer. I liked my job, but the pay was meagre. So, to get me an additional income, I started,



together with some friends, to work in discos as a bouncer. From time to time some loan-shark hired me to collect unpaid debt. One day I got a commission for a big amount of money: I had to collect one million crowns, about three hundred and thirty thousand Euro. The offer was very tempting and I accepted without thinking about the consequences that I could face. Indeed, soon afterwards, I ended up behind bars.



Behind bars, time stopped...

Since I was carrying a weapon, I was registered as a dangerous criminal. I was in preventive solitary confinement and, even before the trial, I faced a sentence that ranged from five to twelve years, in a cell which measured 4 meters by 2, shared with three inmates, a toilet bowl

and a washbasin with cold water. Back then, my only world was my bed. Time had stopped. Around me I could see only the bars, the cold and gray concrete floor, no green, no life. Everywhere I could only see broken lives, the sad game of false heroes and the indifference of the warders. Our movements outside the cell were directed by brisk orders from the guards: I started brooding over revenge and getting busy with occultism, a practice that is very popular in jail.

Then one day everything changed!

When I no longer knew what to do, the Lord started working in me. Jesus put on my path a priest, who was jailed during 17 years by the communist regime because he had helped people escape over the border. He gave me a Bible: the most precious treasure that I could get. I started reading the Word of God and little by little my eyes opened. After nearly two months I was moved to another cell where there were some Christian prisoners. These brothers offered me the opportunity to meet a sister who was carrying out her spiritual service in the jail: she belonged to John the Baptist Koinonia. It was May 15, 1997. That sister talked to me about a Jesus that was alive, a Jesus that was real, a Jesus that could change my life. I was like a bewildered child that saw his fantasies come true. But it was not fantasy, it was reality: that very Jesus whom they said was a tale invented to deceive the people, was in front of me and offered me His life. For the first time I prayed. It was 11.45 and Jesus came into my heart, which turned from stone to flesh. Day after day I gradually got free from my past. After 19 months I was released from solitary confinement and my term was reduced from eight to three years. Later, Jesus intervened during other trials so that I never went to jail again. When I was set free, I resumed my job as a stretcher-bearer and I started to call regularly on the community near the oasis of Plze, taking advantage of any opportunity to evangelize. I had been set free and I could do nothing but witness that only the Lord can change our life, mine and yours. Now I follow the Lord in virginity for the Kingdom of Heaven: I belong to Him.



Petr Šabek

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF

Sr Marzia Ceschia

in San Daniele del Friuli, 12 September 2009

In the August 2009 issue of “Living Community”, the parish bulletin of San Daniele del Friuli, the birthplace of our sister Marzia, there was a short article regarding the celebration of her Perpetual Vows, that would take place on September 6, bearing the title “An extraordinary event”. And indeed that September evening really was an extraordinary event!

A particular episode of religious life took place which is infrequent in our times, characterized by poor values and the distortion of the fundamental ethical principles. It is both a human and Christian adventure, which surpasses the ordinary accounts of events and anniversaries that have now become meaningless. In truth, the day immediately revealed connotations

proper to a special call and presented the profile of a special mandate, welcomed and shared resolutely, as the newly professed expressed with her resonant voice, making it echo elusively under the vaults of her majestic parish church, dedicated to St Michael Archangel! Undoubtedly none of the hundreds of people who filled the big temple would question this quality, since everybody could clearly perceive the exceptionality and the extraordinariness of the event.

The public celebration of the Perpetual Profession of religious Vows by our sister, who was granted permission to do it in the cathedral of her own town by her parish priest, Fr Marco, explicitly expressed the strength and significance of a true pastoral of vocational promotion. This was possible both because St Mary of the Angels’ religious province has been experiencing a dramatic fall in the number of candidates and thanks to the commitment of the parish collaborators in the preparation. A great deal of

the credit must go to Fr Marco himself, who had strived to strongly inform all his faithful, so that there was a warm participation, if not direct involvement, by various groups of young people, among which the catechists, the members of the choir, the confirmation candidates and the altar boys. Therefore, the solemn rite was given an exquisitely vocational and formative tone, as was proven also by the young people themselves, who came in large numbers because many had passed the word and spurred by their expressive and rare positive curiosity. During the ceremony, they all seemed to be under a sort of radiant spell, so that they turned out to be the most attentive portion of the audience.

The orderly and solemn execution undoubtedly struck all the population of San Daniele, as well as the numerous members of the clergy and even the sisters of the newly-professed, who attended silently and with emotion the regular progress of the exceptional sacred rite. There she was, our young sister, walking assuredly towards the altar! Although Sr Marzia’s slender figure seemed to disappear in the midst of the opening procession, made up of about two dozens priests, who concelebrated with His Excellency the former Archbishop of Udine Msgr Alfredo Battisti, and of our Superiors major, first among them





our Superior General Sr Emmapia Bottamedi, it remained rightly central, almost as if it had been given centripetal force. At every passage of the ritual, she was able to powerfully draw the attention and admiration of all those present. The air was almost tangibly full of inner vibrations, among the silence of the big crowd of faithful and the echoes of the beautiful hymns that were masterfully sung and played, and it seemed as if it formed a kind of mystical halo around the audience, a kind of ornament to the wedding that was taking place

before them.

The Bishop's homily was full of the pastoral vehemence which characterizes Msgr Battisti and based on the evangelizing passion that still animates the old Shepherd. Then there followed the central act to which the whole celebration was oriented: the taking of the Perpetual Vows. Sr Marzia, after answering with a firm voice to all the single questions that the Celebrant asked her, and after declaring resolutely her joyful will to radically adhere to Christ, whom she contemplated especially in the mystery of Incarnation, recited the beautiful formula of the Profession, pronouncing every word with a piercing stress, as if she wanted to make everybody grasp its depth and intimate spiritual meaning. The bystanders' emotion was very high: it seemed to be hovering over the audience in big waves of astonishment, in a tissue of silent questions, criss-crossed by the soundless meeting of gazes veiled by emotion. At one point, after she confirmed with the required emphasis her immutable choice of life, Sr Marzia, inflexible and trembling, went down towards her beloved parents and siblings, who stood apparently impassive: then, at the very tender and strong embrace of their adored daughter and sister, who now had become Christ's courageous bride, the mantle of love and pain that weighed on them dissolved. Suddenly, from the nave and the side aisles rose a very loud roar of cheers, a flow of congratulations, which for a while seemed to make the sister and her relatives shudder with bewilderment.

The markedly vocational tone of the event was also tangible during the reception which followed the Mass. Every face, especially those of the many young people who had stayed, still betrayed the wonder aroused by the experience they had just had, the perception that they were able to observe the sacredness of a rare privilege, which only the primacy of love for God could decipher. Their discreet coming and goings among the tables seemed driven by a secret question they carried within. Then, when they approached the "bride", their embrace seemed to be, for some of them, the confirmation of tacit instructions, the desire to find out the secret key that had opened a source of happiness in her. Meanwhile, Fr Marco, rightly pleased, told our Superior General about the sound and fertile ground of his people and the beauty of the flowers that blossomed there: however, it was necessary to watch their growth and guide the opening of their petals towards a purer light.

Later, Sr Emmapia, who had been struck by the intrinsic meaning of those words, passed her longing down to the sisters through the explicit urging: do not neglect the ground ploughed in San Daniele, launch a careful vocations ministry in this field, with faith and hope.



“Jubilate Deo”... A very pleasant visit!



A feisty and prolonged sound of the bells of the Mother House, a burst of applause, which ended with the choral chant “JUBILATE DEO”, marked the arrival of the new archbishop of Udine, His Right Rev. Excellency Msgr Andrea Bruno Mazzocato at “St Mary of the Angels”.

The Provincial Superior, addressing him the “WELCOME” speech, declared that, besides the feeling of joy, we felt honoured and privileged by this visit from our new Shepherd, a short time after his arrival in the Archdiocese.

Sr Luisangela, in the speech given during this first meeting, stressed the deep roots that unite the Mother Church of Aquileia to our Congregation. Indeed, she said that:

“In 1277, some nuns from the Benedictine-Cistercian convent of St Agnes gap, called by the Patriarch of Aquileia Raimondo Della Torre, came to found a monastery right here, in this Convent, and the Patriarch gave them the Rule of St Clare of Assisi (after only 20 years from St Clare’s death in 1253).

That community of Clarisse sisters prospered until 1810, the year in which Napoleon Bonaparte decreed the suppression of all monasteries.

Exactly 50 years later (1860), this monastery... was purchased by our Foundress, the Duchess Laura Leroux de Bauffremont, who enlarged it, adapting it to the needs of our religious family”.

Another aspect that Sr Luisangela pointed out is that of prayer and daily suffering, which from this community of old and sick sisters rise to God, every day, for the holiness of the Church. The Archbishop was invited to draw from this “prayer bank” for the needs of his ministry in this vast Archdiocese, which presents many necessities and difficulties.

After the feisty welcome in the Capitular Hall, we all moved to the Church for the Eucharistic Concelebration: indeed, there were His Excellency’s Secretary, Fr Gastone Candusso, the parish priest of Gemona, and Fr. Luigi

Bettin, the guardian of St Anthony’s Friars.

The Archbishop, in his simplicity and serenity, stressed in his homily the widow’s greatness of soul as compared to the haughtiness of the scribes and the Pharisees. The rich had given a part of their surplus and relished the taste and pride of being generous by pouring jingling donations, while the widow quietly gave her coins, her only means of subsistence.

Jesus pointed out the widow’s gesture to the apostles, saying that they too must give their own life.

“The main thing in life - went on His Excellency - is giving generously what we have, which, sometimes, owing to our suffering and tiredness, are only small coins. Given with simplicity, however, it is what the Lord likes and what becomes precious in the eyes of God.

Sometimes in the Church we make many programmes, projects, constructions, we make a lot of noise, and the temptation is to think that everything should provide good results. But two coins’ worth of prayer, made by those who make no noise, is worth more to support the Church. Keep throwing this treasure into the temple, because the Church needs this living heart. The offer of prayer, made with a purified heart, becomes wealth, and this is the most important part, like the Gospel says”.

The Eucharistic celebration was very involving and was enriched with songs that had been prepared for the occasion.

Then followed the dinner, which made it possible to share a moment of joy and fraternity, and brought this precious meeting to a nice conclusion.

His Excellency promised that he would find time to come and visit us again.

From this meeting and from the Shepherd’s words we could understand how he loves and appreciates consecrated Life and life in communion.

This event prompts us to increase our efforts at testimony wherever we are called to operate.

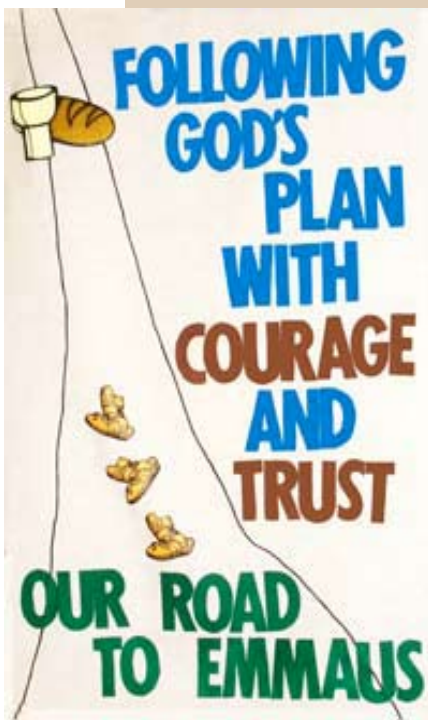
Sr Novella Gaier

**Province
“St Francis”
USA**



**XII Provincial Chapter
“St Francis”**

16 - 20 August 2009 - Peekskill



With courage and confidence, as the slogan says, the sisters of “St Francis” Province started their Chapter, which would show them the formative path for the next three years 2009-2012. All was codified in the new Deliberations.

The Superior General, Sr Emmapia, accompanied by the Councillor Sr Germana, presided over the capitular meetings.

On August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, after the Holy Mass, in the community’s nice church, there was a simple celebration of handing over to the newly elected sisters:

Sr Anne Matthew Carlone	Provincial Superior
Sr Antonia Maguire	Vicar and 1st Councillor
Sr Anna Maria Not	2nd Councillor
Sr Anne James Guerin	3rd Councillor
Sr Ellen Marie Mulloy	4th Councillor

The reality of the Province was made tangible and explicit by the serene and active participation of the capitular Delegates. This Province is ailed by the same problems as the European Provinces because of the lack of new candidates to religious life.

But the Lord does not abandon us, rather He wants to speak to us with a language that we must interpret in the light of Wisdom. Reading the signs of the times means making every event and new situation a





place where God wants to meet us and where we must be able to recognize Him. Not for nothing the whole Chapter works were punctuated by prayer, at the beginning and at the end of every session, centered on the passage of Emmaus' Disciples. The two Disciples recognized the Lord from His words and gestures; once they recognized Him, they were full of enthusiasm, changed their plans and went back to Jerusalem, full of courage.

The capitular sisters too left Peekskill with a lot of

confidence in their heart and the desire to bring to the sisters who had remained in the communities and to all the people they would meet the joyful evangelical message, passed on with the Franciscan style that everybody likes.

It all took place in the wonderful natural setting in which our Peekskill provincial seat is immersed. The big Hudson river, which flows a few steps away from the house, is a very limpid light blue among the hills' green, crossed by the famous elegant bridges that we must take to reach New York City and the two communities in the State of New Jersey.

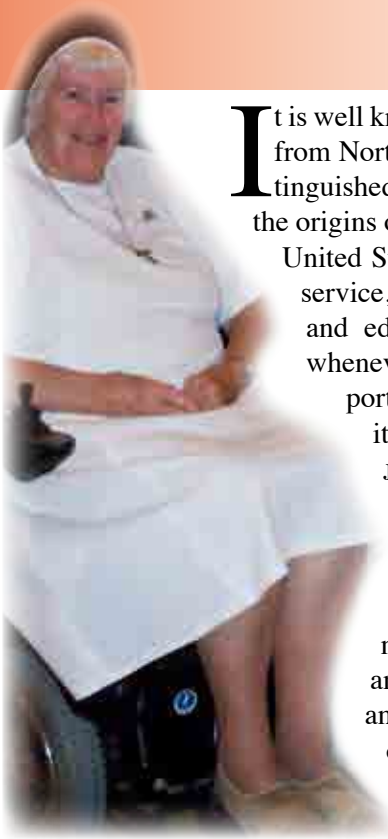
The Chapter was followed by the canonical visit of the four communities. In all these places the sisters are very busy with pastoral activities at the local parishes and schools, as well as with charitable works directed especially to the many immigrants from Central America, who lack everything.

The commitment with the associated laypeople that our sisters have been overseeing for many years, in cooperation, as regards formation, with the Franciscan Friars, is also quite meaningful.

It is worth mentioning the meeting with the oldest of the associated laypeople: a 107-year-old lady with a very clear mind, who wanted to sing for us a long hymn, accompanied by her arms' rhythmic movements.



A fantastic experience in a special apostolate...!



It is well known that our Sisters from North America have distinguished themselves since the origins of our Mission in the United States for a particular service, which we admire and edifies us profoundly whenever we have the opportunity to talk about it. It is the **SERVICE IN JAILS**, a work requiring incomparable dedication as well as the moral and spiritual accompaniment of many frail and unlucky brothers and sisters, who are obliged to pay for a long time the penalty for the mistakes they

have made through fault of their own, and sometimes through no fault, in awful places.

The originality of this ministry has been maintained almost uninterruptedly by various sisters in St Francis Province; among the latest to whom we owe our gratitude and solidarity, we would like to remember two sisters who are still serving: Sr Antonia Maguire, at Bedford Hills penitentiary, New York, and Sr Angelina Matero, at Sing Sing.

We are happy to share the nice testimony that was sent by Sr Antonia, who is now the Provincial Vicar of St Francis Province.

I am Sr. Antonia Maguire, and from many years exactly since 1978, called to assume the role, so to speak of ...” Catholic Chaplain” in the Bedford Hills Prison, in NY. Yes, I go to work in this Prison! The thought which comes back to me every morning is that I am able to spend my time behind the iron bars, closer to almost 400 women “condemned” for more various and painful mistakes in their life, and this facilitates me to get up. and to raise my Spirit to God to illumine me spontaneously and I get new smile for the day on my face.

For me to take part of the Correctional system of the State always makes new joy and honor. For the more in my formation at young age I had thought of finding me so happy, yes to consider great blessing of my life to be called to work in this place, where, I can give

my service of help to hundreds of persons who don’t know to have any esteem for them selves, and they can’t consider themselves worthy of any attention, of any solidarity.

For having said a” Yes “ almost casually ,to one of my friend who was asking me to spend a week end as volunteer in the prison, had become the most important Ministry in my life as FMSC. This is what I want to do in my life.

In this time, in which I am completing my 30 years of life experience in this Prison, the desire to dedicate to this beautiful apostolate is always in me more and more alive, gives me an increasing joy and peace, it gives me serene strength, even though it is a place of filth, of pain and sufferings. To assist to the changes of many young women lives, seeing the blooming flowers of their dignity and respect among many creatures signed by pain and of infinite solitude, becomes for me, every day, a reason of new courage and trust, to give and receive. It is beautiful, it is ineffable to communicate the joy of assisting many changes, and to see in those lives and faces destroyed to be illumined with a new hope, and how they accept their pain believing in their own recovery and fighting for the justice for them because there will be changes...My duty consists in searching to bring and donate a real compassion and love to those women who don’t have any hope, and wait for their final oblivion. Every day I find my self with the grace of God to be able to lift up pieces of fractured life, to reconstruct the lacerated personalities, violated, hurt, to inspire faith and courage with the heart of a Sister and of their friend. The smile I bring to them every times, tells them about the embrace of God, and His smile turned to their own individual person. So slowly and gradually I can see them coming out of their fear, from the terrible memories of violence, from their abandonment, infidelity received or caused.

This is why I LOVE MY WORK! because, here I am bringing little light to the life filled with darkness, little love for those marked by hatred and despair, a little of trust to those who knew only pain and shame in their life. I fight for Justice, I am able to go to the more hardened hearts. I can above all find help and the ways to progress my self in my promises of consecration to God. For all these and more, with humble heart but with truth, I feel I AM BLESSED BY THE LORD!

Sr. Antonia Maguire.



**Province
“St Elizabeth
d’Ungheria”**



**XII Chapter of
Oriental Province
“St Elizabeth”
2 - 8 August 2009 - Cyprus**

**“Sent by Christ crucified and risen, we carry
the announcement of the gospel to all”**

On 3 August, the Superior general Sr Emmapia Bottamedi, in her capacity as President, officially opened the XII Chapter of “St Elizabeth” Oriental Province. The General Councillors Sr Gracy Thuruttippallil and Sr Germana Tomat were also attending.

The chapter was celebrated on the Troodos mountain, where the atmosphere of silence is perfectly suited to the reflection on the important “Logos” of the chapter, so expressed:

“Sent by Christ crucified and risen, we bring the announcement of the gospel to all”

The meetings took place in the chapel, which was turned into the capitular hall and prepared with taste and creativity to express with signs the message that bore a strong charismatic and missionary content. We are still enjoying the festive atmosphere of the feast of Porziuncola and everything vibrates with Franciscan spirit. Yesterday we celebrated the anniversary of the birth of our Foundress, who certainly follows and inspires her daughters from heaven.

On the morning of August 3 the works started with the



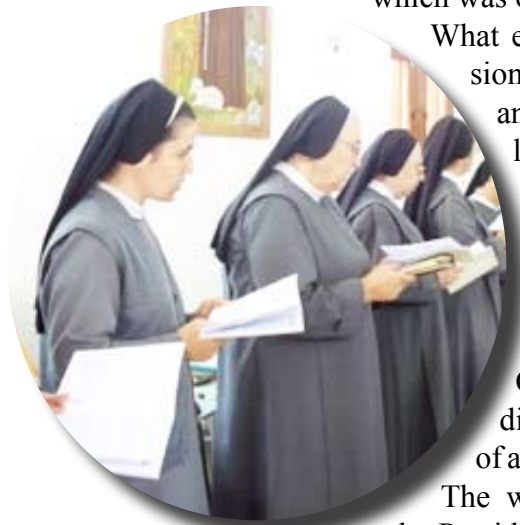
speech by the Superior General, a very realistic and encouraging speech, which instilled new vigour and enthusiasm. Then there were the reports of the Provincial Superior and the Provincial Treasurer, which were quite careful and expressed clearly the province's situation and at the same time showed gratefulness, a renewed confidence in the Divine Providence and an opening to God's plans.

On August 6, the feast day of the Transfiguration, the capitular sisters elected the new Provincial Council, which is made up of:

Sr Bernadette Skorti	Provincial Superior
Sr Angelica Hadjianni	Provincial Vicar
Sr Martina Volpato	2nd Councillor
Sr Elsapaola Pudussery	3rd Councillor
Sr Francoise Aletrari	4th Councillor



There followed a moment of fraternity to celebrate the newly-elected sisters. Thanks to an excellent preparation, the works went on smoothly with the analysis and approval of the work instrument, which was enriched with new hints and reflections.



What emerged particularly was the urgency to welcome the missionary mandate and live it as a true witness of Christ crucified and risen. It is He whom every one of us has chosen to follow, love and witness, by answering joyfully to His call.

It was pointed out that the first place for a true witness is the community environment in which we are called to live. From this place of fraternity, lived in true mutual love, every sister will be able to open up to the entire world, bringing Christ's Gospel to everyone.

On August 7, in the afternoon, once all the subjects had been discussed, the XII Provincial Chapter was closed with a vote of approval.

The words of the President once again expressed optimism, satisfaction for the good job done and the wish that the implementation would really take place and be fruitful.

To bring the works to a nice conclusion, on Saturday August 8, the capitular sisters and the sisters of the community went on pilgrimage to the Marian Orthodox monasteries (sanctuaries) of Kykkos and Trooditissa to thank the Virgin for her assistance and ask for her "perpetual help".



Gitnitza, thanks the fruits of the earth



Since we live in a region of good and fertile land, this celebration takes place every year, on the third Sunday of September, to celebrate and welcome the fruits of our work and the gifts that the land gives us. For all of this we must thank God and man, who earns his daily bread by the sweat of his brow.

The celebration is prepared by “Iosif Dobranov” Culture home, the Gitnitza municipality, “Our Lady of the Assumption” parish and all the young people and children, who are tireless, generous and very enthusiast.

The Saturday night programme is the highlight of the celebration, when various folk and music bands play, and artistic talents from the village make their show. Funny sketches about simple

people’s everyday life are performed, together with many dances, songs and games.

On the following day, during Sunday Mass, we thank God for all the gifts that we have received this year by working our land. We prepare the offers with the fruits from the land and the work of man, which are all gifts that we have received from his heavenly blessing: bread, grapes, fruits, wheat...

For all these gifts, let us praise God and ask Him to always bless us and give us good health and a fine weather, so that we can have a good harvest and our work can be fruitful and benefit everyone.

Maria Staneva
Gitnitza





Among the cedars of Libanon...

AUGUST 2, 2009: Father Ibrahim Sabah, ofm, met us in Menjez during a vocational meeting. He had remarked that in Menjez there was an urgent need to look after the families. So he decided to send us two brothers on mission during the summer holidays.

After their arrival the two brothers, helped by the sisters, got in touch with the young people who had taken part in the Franciscan march and with others, who had come in the village for the summer. Then they visited the neediest, poorest and most troubled families. They got a wonderful welcome...

Every family wanted to have them at their place. So they shared their daily life and the meagre lunch or dinner with many families. The brothers took advantage of that to spread the Word of God and give them useful advice.

There were also meetings with young people of different ages. The youngest too got their share of games and teaching.

A group of them went to a sanctuary dedicated to St Artemus, where they were able to pray, meditate and draw from that experience some positive conclusions that they could use as resolutions for their life.

The sisters said that the mission had been very positive for the people of Menjez, who never actually have the opportunity to receive spiritual support; however, what was missing were confessions.

An heartfelt thanks to Sr Piera Katsioloudi, who supported and helped us with great generosity.



September 29, 2009: Back to school: a new school year began! Every child was laden with many books. Some had fun, some joked, some laughed... but the fresh starters cried, and how they cried!!! They looked for their mom... They wanted to run away!



SEPTEMBER 30, 2009: A day dedicated to a vaccination campaign for all the villages. Sr Martina and her help, Rita, left very early in the morning and came back at about 8 p.m.



OCTOBER 3, 2009: as is customary here in Lebanon, we celebrated St Francis. We were all gathered in St Daniel's church, both Maronite and Orthodox Christians. The children took their parents with them and, of course, the teachers could not miss the event. Now the people of Menjez know it and they say: "It is the feast of the nuns", and they come. The chorus too rehearsed their songs very well with their music teacher Miss Clemence.

Since the feast fell on a Sunday, all the pupils gathered to pray their patron, St Francis, in front of the nice statue situated at the entrance of the school compound.



OCTOBER 16, 2009: Our initiative of "Youth Promotion" was launched by starting some extra-curricular activities, such as: music, sewing, embroidery, painting, knitting, etc. In this new school year we already have about thirty children in the music class. Let us hope they will persevere.



OCTOBER 19, 2009: In the past, when it rained, water dripped everywhere into the school. Thanks to the help that we received from CEI, we were able to build a new roof in order to salvage the damaged part. Today we blessed the new classroom, at the joy of all the oldest children, who stayed to pray: indeed, the classroom is intended for junior high school pupils.



**Province
“Mary
Immaculate”
Rome**



PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF

***Sr Maribel B. Yabora
Sr Lilibeth G. Labian
Sr Mirza B. Corral***

September 26, 2009, Philippiand



*“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself
take up his cross, and follow me.”(Mt. 16:14)*

There are many emotions and there should also be many points to emphasize, but we only wish to express the immense joy we have inside: belonging to Jesus Christ, having been called and being loved by Him.

With all our heart, with all what we are and the little that we possess, we have said “YES” forever, confident of His Grace, trusting in His faithful love. These are not easy words to be said, but they are words to be lived and implemented, being faithful to God’s plans for us, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Lord for the gift that we have received from Him! We would like to thank our religious family, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, especially the Sisters of the General Council and Provincial Council, who granted our request, and wish to be part of this family for all our life.

September 26 really was for us a day full of joy and emotion, a day that is difficult to describe. The celebration was simple, but profound and meaningful. Many people who took part in this moment of our consecrated life felt touched and motivated to reflect on their vocation and on the choices they had made.

Surely every one of us lived that day with awareness, sustained by the certainty that the Lord has taken the initiative first: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and



follow me”.

When, before the celebration, the Bishop asked us: “Where have you made your preparation and the spiritual exercises? Are you certain that you want to take the vows forever?”, our answer was immediate and we have said “yes”. His was certainly a challenge to make us think again, more deeply, about the decision we had made; however, we had thought about it and considered it not only then, but since the beginning of our path. Moreover, the thought comes back every single day.

We will never be able to say that we have already reached our goal! We are aware of our frailties and limitations, but we feel that if we answer His love call, God is with us: only He is the reason of our being, He is the only one who can lead us in this journey, because He is the way, the truth and the life.



*Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Forever*

On the places of the origins...

23-26 October 2009



In the last few days, the joy of the young juniors of Mary Immaculate province was great, since they had the opportunity to visit “our places”, those that are undoubtedly dearest to us, because they keep and tell the nicest memories of our congregational history.

Indeed, on 23 October, accompanied by their teacher, Sr Daniela Boa, they roamed the streets of Padua full of enthusiasm and gratitude, in a devout and joyful pilgrimage to St Anthony Basilica and Fr Leopoldo’s Sanctuary. Time went by quickly, and the halt in the famous city of our special Patron Saint could not be prolonged.

The following day they came to Gemona, to the Mother House, where our religious family was born. Here they experienced the warmth of a special welcome by the provincial Superior, Sr Luisangela, and by all the sisters, especially the old and sick, who were happy to meet them and to breathe and air of promising youth, while they gave our juniors the reach treasure of their example of faithfulness and fortitude. Unfortunately, the juniors could stay only one

day in Gemona, and therefore they had to make good use of every moment in order not to fail to visit all the many places that bear a special meaning for us. The visit to the graveyard was moving: walking among the tombs of so many sisters who preceded us, praying before Father Gregory’s tomb to ask for his fatherly intercession, so that we too are able to live the charisma that he passed on to us. The visit to St Anthony’s Sanctuary and to the cell where he stayed for some time in silence, humility and deep communion with God was also moving. This visit re-presented the challenge to live the virtues which characterize our identity as FMSH.

They certainly could not fail to deepen their knowledge of our history, which they did thanks to the visit to the museum set up into the Mother House, guided and enlightened by the explanations that Sr Teresa Della Pietra offered them lovingly and devoutly while, visibly thrilled, they walked from one room to the other. In this way she made the documents and objects that are displayed more familiar to them. To bring

the morning, which had already been so dense of emotions, to a nice conclusion, the young women shared lunch in the magnificent refectory, which they admired with the wonder and enchantment that is typical of those who cannot find words to express their deep feelings. Each one of the “pilgrims”, knowing she was in the place where our first sisters had lived and shared God’s Providence, felt the intimate and meaningful emotion typical of those who feel a supernatural presence. The afternoon went by quickly and they barely had the time to see the Oasis before leaving.



On the following day, October 25, they were given another beautiful gift: the visit of Venice, another important place for us, because it is right there that our founders met. They visited St Mark’s Basilica, where they attended the Holy Mass; then they took the “vaporetto” water bus to St Francis of the Vineyard, where they were first welcomed by the Franciscan Sisters of Christ, who had hosted our



Foundress and in whose small chapel she took the habit of Franciscan Tertiary, and later by the religious in the nearby convent of the Friars Minor, where our Founder lived and taught for several years. St Francis Church made them re-live what Fr Gregory narrates in his Memoirs: the meeting with our foundress, the long discussions with her to decide how to implement the inspiration that she had had: to found a Franciscan and missionary congregation.

The young women had also the opportunity to get acquainted with many sisters from some communities in the province of Treviso and enjoy their kind and thoughtful hospitality. At the end of the beautiful jour-

ney, their heart was full of indescribable feelings, deep gratefulness and true emotion.

The joy brought by this experience was condensed especially in the desire, which is also a commitment, to further deepen the knowledge of our origins, as well as to increasingly strengthen our love for God, and together with it, the love for our Institute, with a sincere spirit of belonging.

From our Missionary World
Pace e Bene

**Province
"St Anthony"**

"From the Heart of Christ..."



On 15, 16 and 17 October 2009, at Mother Cecilia Lazzeri high school in Santiago do Chile, the first FMSH Youth Congress was held, which welcomed almost 100 young people called from various Chilean high schools. The young people from the high schools in the South, Arriarán Barros and Felmer Niklitschek, after a long trip, were welcomed by a group of young people on

duty made up of the pupils of Mother Cecilia Lazzeri and St Mary of the Angels of Cisterna high schools in Santiago.

Under the slogan "*From the Heart of Jesus to your heart of young missionary*", inspired from our congregational charism of Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the young people experienced days of intense activity in order to gradually discover the objective

for which they had been invited, that is, knowing and exploiting the charismatic identity of the Congregation, so as to become active players in the missionary task of the Latin American Church.

The morning of 15 October was dedicated to getting to know one another and to the solemn inauguration which officially started the congress, at the presence of the Provincial Superior, Sr Inés Pavan, of the Provincial Council and of the Headmistresses of the Santiago high schools, Sr Antonina Turrina and Sr Attiliana Durigon, and Sr Marcela Uribe, from Racangua's "St Rose" technical high school.

The Provincial Superior, Sr Inés Pavan, guided the reflection upon our charism as FMSC, as she told the young people about the history of the birth and expansion of our Religious Family, trying to convey faithfully our charismatic identity to the pupils who live among the "pre-s" and "post-s" of the 21st century, and illustrating our history by means of anecdotes drawn from her personal experience. Later, Sr Inés invited the young people to follow an historical journey through the events of the Latin American province, showing them the toil and sacrifices that were experienced by our first sisters, who arrived in



Chile back in 1951. Then she shortly outlined the story of every high school in Chile. At every narration, there were the warm cheers of those who proudly represented their high school. In the same way, she presented the different missionary activities carried out in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Mexico, where our sisters work.

Once the presentation was over, the youngsters gathered with their respective tutors and together they suggested some activities to be developed in each school, in order to celebrate the thanksgiving for the 60 years of life of our Province and the 150th anniversary of the Congregation.

We would like to thank those who made this congress possible, first of all our Provincial Superior, Sr Inés Pavan and her Council, the Headmistresses of the high schools in Chile, the sisters who animated and organized this event, Sr Glasys Araneda, Sr Isaura Guerra and Sr Mercedes Samaniego, as well as the sisters who accompanied the delegations: Sr Maggaly Warthon, Sr Carmen Callisaya and Miss Claudia.

Teamwork gives its fruits every day; let us pray the Lord so that these fruits can last and that this can be the beginning of a fraternal path of work and sharing, in order to announce our charism in communion.



News from Ecuador

First graduation - school year 2008 – 2009

On 30 June, the pupils of the seventh grade said goodbye to their school, after studying there for 7 years. It was a very simple but meaningful ceremony, in which we stressed the values that they acquired, lived and will carry with them. The school's wish is that, after finishing their studies, they will be able to keep their efforts at being good men and women, trying to praise God at all times, recognizing that only He will be able to help them carry on with their human growth.

As a gesture of gratefulness, the parents offered to the school a plate bearing the names of the pupils, because they were the first class to finish their studies.

The fifteen pupils who ended their studies in our school greeted their friends and teachers with emotion and thanked for all what they had received.

Let us hope that in life they can be bearers of "peace and good" to all the people they will meet.



COURSES TAUGHT BY US

On 12 October 2009 the courses organized by SECAP (*Ecuadorean Service of professional qualification*) started. They are sponsored by the government through a special programme addressed to the most vulnerable sectors and are destined to adults. We could teach a basic computer course and a course of computerized book-keeping. The people who benefit from this programme get a certificate which is recognized by the Ministry of Education and this is very important for them, because our courses are recognized at the national level.

All this would have not been possible without the help of the non-profit Mission Tau Association, which set up a beautiful classroom equipped with new PCs and modern technology for the children and their parents.

Over 55 people are registered to the course and are divided into two groups: the first one starts at 1 p.m., the second one at 7 p.m. The parents are very grateful, since it is all free and it offers them the chance to aspire at a better job and orient their children towards the era of technology.





THE PRESENCE OF FRANCISCANS IN ECUADOR

We united to the Universal Church to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the approval of St Francis' rule. We feel proud of belonging to the big Franciscan Family! The fact that our school bears the name of "San Francisco di Asís" motivated the pupils and the teachers to carry out various activities in order to get money to buy a statue of St Francis. Thanks to the efforts and commitment of all the children,

on October 5 we were able to celebrate the Eucharist, which was presided by Fr Bolívar Padila OFM. He talked to the children, the parents and the teachers about St Francis' influence in the Church and his great love for God and the creation, stressing the value of fraternity among all human beings. The pupils took part actively by asking many interesting questions and making the Eucharistic celebration quite lively and fraternal. On that occasion, Fr Bolivar blessed the statue of St Francis and urged the children to try to imitate the life of this big saint.

News from...



“Carry the perfume of Christ everywhere in the manner of St Francis”

The community of Cusco (Peru), expressing actually the mandate that “Every sister is a promoter of vocations”, organized vocational meetings in different places of the mission in order to help many young people discover the plan that God has for each one of them.

Therefore, from 12 to 15 October 2009, Sr Daniela Chacón and Sr Yanet Chauca went to two schools in Yaurisque to set up vocational meetings for young people, helped by the local parish priest, Father Jerónimo Tito. Also from 18 to 29 November, our sisters organized days of reflection and prayer in the school and parish of Acomayo (three hours' drive from Cusco) to acquaint many young people with our charism as FMSC within the Church.



Gifra – Journey of Franciscan vocation

October was a special and meaningful month for Gifra (Franciscan Youth) in Cusco. For the first time in their history there was a meeting, which gathered over 80 young people from different parishes in San Francisco, La Recoleta and Virgen del Carmen, from different schools, as well as young people from Tambobamba; they started their journey

of belonging to the big Franciscan family.

The initiative was born after some meetings between the people in care of the groups, who established a common formation programme. Sr Daniela Chacón suggested to organize the meeting and this was accepted almost unanimously; it was established that the meeting would take place in our parish community of Cusco.

The aim of the meeting was making young people meet one another, acquaint them with Gifra and inviting them to belong to the Franciscan family.

We joyfully shared the formative path of the Pre-Gifra group, who during November 2009 prepared themselves, through retreats, to finally be part of Gifra fraternity in our parish. We accompany with our prayer the good resolutions of these young people, who are animated by the Franciscan charism and live it enthusiastically.

our integration in mexico continues

In conformity with our apostolic and missionary charism, the sisters participate directly in the missionary activity of the Church and in its pastoral ministry (Const. 56) in every mission. It is with this aim that our sisters in the budding mission in Mexico try to integrate into the Mexican Church

with the style proper to us, Franciscans. They have taken part in an activity that gathered many female and male religious communities under the guide of Msgr Rafael Romo and of the Vicar for Consecrated Life. It was the right occasion to give thanks for the gift of service, to pray and contemplate nature, to rest and discover the Mexican typical contagious joy, thus enriching our work as FMSC.





**Province
“Holy Family”
India**



**II Chapter of
Province
“Holy Family”
18 -28 September 2009**

The last provincial chapter was that of “Holy Family” Province, the youngest of the Congregation, as could be well seen from the age of the capitular sisters. They gathered in Vijayawada from nearby and faraway communities, animated by a youthful and joyful enthusiasm. At the presence of the Superior General, Sr Emmapia Bottamedi, and the Councillors General Sr Gracy Thuruthippallil and Sr Germana Tomat, the chapter began on 18 September with the title: **“Mission: Passion for Christ and Passion for mankind”**. On the third day, after the necessary prayer of adoration, the election of the Provincial Superior and Councillors was held, bearing the following result:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Sr Maddalena Moro | Provincial Superior |
| Sr Celinamma Mookenthottam | Provincial Vicar |
| Sr Rose Palamthattel | 2nd Councillor |
| Sr Monica Pullattukalayil | 3rd Councillor |
| Sr Vijaya Kurma | 4th Councillor |

The work tool presented many themes, which were widely debated during the 10-day-long gathering. The thread of the different themes was the one that had been chosen as the title or slogan. Right from the start, the Provincial Superior pointed out that “pas-



sion is lit up in a person as a result of a deep experience: the one drawn from the profound contemplation of Christ Crucified. The passion of Christ for mankind is expressed in the pierced Heart, and the deep benevolence, the redemptive love and the apostolic zeal for humanity are conveyed to us when we intensely take part in the passion of Christ”.

The work tool was based on the path that has been followed by the sisters of the Province in the last 3 years, as were the deliberations that outlined the formation path for the next 3 years. There was no lack of enthusiasm for the preparation of the Congregation’s great jubilee. Outside our house in Vijayawada, where the chapter took place, there was a special display of music and bright colours on the occasion of the yearly feast, Deepavali, which celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Once the chapter was over, the



Provincial Superior offered a pilgrimage to Kalipatnam, where many pilgrims have been flocking for some months out of devotion to the Sacred Heart, which is particularly honoured and adored there in the parish church. The joyful and lively company made the journey even more pleasing, mostly along roads that



run through rice paddies, which are interrupted here and there by many small lakes that are formed by turning the paddies into big water tanks, where fish and shellfish, especially delicious prawns, are bred.

The following day, when the sisters had returned to their communities, the Superior General, accompanied by the Councillor Sr Germana, started the canonical visit of the communities and of the numerous works, such as schools, hostels, hospitals, evangelization in the villages, etc.



SOLEMN PROFESSION...

Sr Valeria Ekka of Jesus Crucified
Sr Litty Mylador of Jesus Crucified
Sr Nayomi Gudapati of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus

October 2009, India



October 10, 2009 was the most beautiful day in our life, the day of our total adhesion to God; the day in which our dream has come true.

We, Sr Valeria Ekka, Sr Litty Mylador and Sr Nayomi Gudapati, remember with a lot of gratefulness our total donation to God. In order to share our great joy, our Superior General, Sr Emmapia Bottamedi, and the Councillor Sr Germana Tomat, as well as many sisters from the Province, were with us. Together with them, our relatives were also present to accompany us to the altar so that we could say our "YES" and give thanks to God.

One day Jesus called us without regard to our nullity, in order to make us totally his forever. We consider this gift as a special sign of his great love for each one of us. We welcome this gift with our heart full of gratitude and we declare all our love to Him, submitting ourselves gladly to His Will. We are eager to know Him increasingly better and to experience Him, love Him and make Him loved by the other brothers and sisters, and to serve Him faithfully in every person that will

need our service.

We are very grateful to our Superiors and to our sisters for helping us with our preparation for this day, so important for our life.

Although he was quite busy, our Bishop of Vijayawada was available to bless us in this ceremony so meaningful for our

life. We thank him and all those who took part in the joyful donation of ourselves to God.

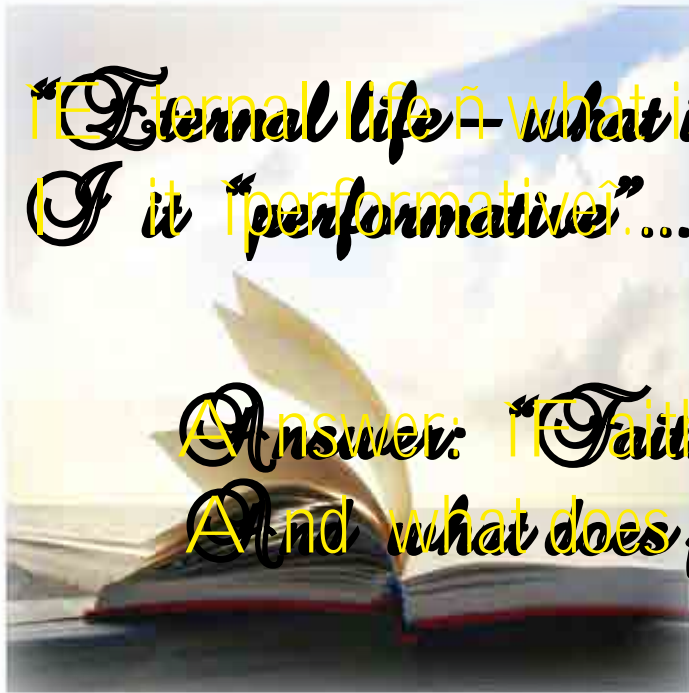
We wish to thank all the sisters who accompanied us with their prayers and expressed their joy through e-mails, phone calls and cards.

Thank you, dearest sisters!

It was a day full of joy, a day of renewal for all the sisters in our Province. May the Good Lord grant us the grace of persever-

ance and of an ever increasing holiness, and may He grant us the gift of seeing many other young women ready to follow Him, women who would be enthusiast and eager to devote themselves entirely to His service.





SR MIRIAM ANTHONY
Wilhelmina Stadler
 Born in Union City (NJ)
 on 29-03-1914
 Died in Peekskill
 on 31-05-2009

Sr Miriam Anthony (the little Wilhelmina) Stadler, the fourth daughter of Symore Wilhemina and Symore Joseph Stadler, was born on 29 March 1914 in Union City (New Jersey). She spent her childhood in Jersey City, where she attended public schools. She got a diploma at Ladycliff Academy High School in 1946 and she went on to study at Ladycliff University, where she got a degree in History in 1955.

Sr Miriam Anthony had two brothers, Joseph and Charles, and two sisters, Anne and Elise. Elise was the eldest and she was very fond of her. Wilhelmina felt the call to religious life two months after the death of her dearest friend. It was certainly a true call, since she spent almost 77 years at the service of the Lord. We do not know how or why we are called, but we must be ready to answer His call.

The sister's religious mission started in "All Saints" nursery school in Harlem, soon after her profession. She taught in different schools in New York City, New Jersey and in Philadelphia. In her last school years, she worked in "St Angels" library in Little Falls, New Jersey. As she enjoyed good health, she was always busy in the many parish activities. She went on even in her old age, helping the Associated Laywomen,

the third age group in Peekskill and the members of the Legion of Mary. She was very devout of the Divine Mercy. She could very often be seen praying the Divine Mercy chaplet or the Rosary. And she liked to travel so much! She went more than once to St Anne's Sanctuary in Beupre, Canada, and she hoped she would be able to travel to Rome. Her good feet allowed her to walk many



miles. In Peekskill too she made long walks around the house, although she was nearly 90. The sisters envied her continuous vigour and they wondered where she could find all that youthful strength.. Sr Miriam was generous and kind to all those who knocked at the door, keeping a spirit of prayer and devotion. O Lord, may Heaven's door be open for our sister Miriam Anthony and may she keep loving the Teacher to whom she is now united.

The vigil for our sister was celebrated in Mount St Francis on Tuesday, June 2nd, the funeral Mass was celebrated on June 3rd, followed by the burial in the sisters' graveyard.



**SR SANTINA PAVAN
DEL CUORE DI GESÙ**
Carolina Pavan
Born in Postiama (TV)
on 06-06-1916
Died in Gemona
on 17-06-2009

Since the day of her first profession, Sr Santina embraced, in faith, this divine promise, choosing to be called Sr Santina of the Heart of Jesus: it was back on 12 October 1936... And the love of the Heart of Jesus filled her with His treasures of grace and strength for all her life up to the most solemn day of the Sacred Heart, when she entered forever in the sanctuary of the Heart of Jesus, where she will be able to experience the "infinity" of the charity that she tasted here on earth.

Sr Santina (Carolina Pavan) was born in Postioma, in the Italian province of Treviso, on 6 June 1916 from mommy Candida Visentin and daddy Sante, from whom she took her name as a sister. Her vocation to religious life certainly blossomed at home, in her numerous family like they once used to be, where Christian values were put in the first place and children were grown up in a serene and good way.

After reaching the goal of her vocation in Gemona del Friuli, Sr Santina lived as a "missionary of the Sacred Heart"

in various missions, especially in Rhodes and then in France, where she offered her best energies in different services in the home for old and sick priests.

Only in 1995 did she come back to the Mother House, from where she had departed as a missionary about sixty years earlier. Here, generous as she was despite her age, she tirelessly continued to offer her services to the community, the eldest among old sisters, but still sufficiently vigorous to donate herself and make herself useful for the other sisters. She enjoyed small things and her loud laughs could be heard from afar.

Recently, she was transferred to the infirmary, and she had taken the habit of going downstairs to reach the corridor on the first floor... Indeed, every day, right after lunch, she could be found there, sat on "Sr Santina's bench" in front of the inner yard's fountain, with her eyes fixed on the big clock of the Church, as if she was attempting to perceive the flowing of time and prepare herself to the encounter with the Lord.

... And Jesus found her ready on 17 June: Sr Santina, lucid until the end, conscious that this was the time of passing, after the blessing by the confessor, left this world "hastily", having been invited to take part in the big celebration of the Sacred Heart in heaven





SR FULGENZA MOLETTA
DELL'AGONIA DI GESÙ
Born in Camino di
Codoipo(UD)
on 25-07-1910
Died in Roma
on 1-11-2009

Marianna was born in Camino al Tagliamento (province of Udine). The village, neglected by the big flows of traffic and development, features the settling and architectural characters that are typical of rural civilization and presents, still today, the intact countryside of the most authentic Friuli; an agricultural landscape with long lines of trees, rich in vegetation and waters. The small borough of Pieve di Rosa, next to the left bank of the Tagliamento river, has developed around St Mary's Church, where, on 28 July 1910, three days after her birth, Pio and Genoveffa presented their little daughter to the christening font.

A healthy family, founded on the most rooted and strong Christian tradition; in it, you have to grow quickly, learning a laborious life, maybe full of sacrifices, but serene. Marianna absorbed it in her shyness, and only in her last few years did she find the relaxation that made it possible for her to express the desire of communion and fraternity.

She entered Gemona at twenty-one, and in May 1934 she was already professed and sent to Carnia, in Paularo, as an aid in the nursery

school. However, she spent her life mostly as a wardrobe-keeper in big communities: Alberoni (Venice), the boarding school (Udine), Borgo Cavour and "Emiliani" orphanage in Treviso, the rest home in Paluzza, Lido dei Pini (Rome). Tireless and used to hard work, aware of her own responsibilities, she never backed out, undertaking her work-mission with a conscious dedication. The timetables of her activity did not even allow her to experience an adequate fraternal sharing, but she never missed common prayer, to which she took part punctually and devotedly.

At 89 she entered Saffi Avenue's infirmary, as her sight and hearing were impaired, which had disheartened and afflicted her for some time already. Despite this, she strived to follow the community life and its usual rhythms, sharing in the common joy. After breaking her thigh-bone, she was stuck in bed and slowly grew weaker, although her strong constitution was hardly resigned to surrender.

She died on the evening of November 1st, 2009, All Saints' Day, and she joined them in heaven for the eternal wedding.



SR CALISTA D'AMBROSI
DELL'ANNUNCIAZIONE
Irene D'Ambrosi
Born in Paese (TV)
on 18-12-1917
Died in Gemona
on 16-11-2009

So the Word of God made Itself heard in this 33rd Sunday, the last in ordinary time... a call to which Sr Calista too was listening from the altar of her bed, during the Holy Mass celebrated in the community. In this way, joining the voice of her sisters and while she received the Eucharist, she gave her conscious and alert answer to Jesus:

"In the night, o God, we shall stay awake, with our lamps nicely adorned... You shall come soon... And there will be daylight."

Indeed, that would be the last day of Sr Calista's long life. She was born in Paese (province of Treviso) on 18 December 1917. Her parents, Antonio and Santa Callegari, both Christians with solid roots, immediately asked for their baby, together with the name (Irene), the gift of Baptism, which was administered the day after her birth in the church of Paese.

She was raised in a Christian environment, and very soon the young girl was able to listen to and welcome the voice of the Lord who called her to consecrated life, a wish



that came true with her first profession, which took place in Gemona on 15 November 1941. Like Mary, Irene pronounced her “yes”, taking the name of Sr Calista of the Annunciation.

Consecrated among the FMSC, Sr Calista immediately made herself available for the project that God had on her: all her life would be offered to the poor, the sick and the old people. Her training as a nurse enabled her to be, for all the brothers who suffered, an angel of goodness and consolation. She was called to carry out her ministry first in the rest home in Paluzza and Borgo Cavour, and later, for a good thirty years, at Menegazzi.

She retired in the mother house when she was over eighty, and she spent the last part of her life in prayer and offer, leaving a telling testimony of serenity, certainly the fruit of her fidelity to her vocation, which she lived being aware that “*God loves a cheerful giver*” (2 Cor 9:7)...

And joy was also the characteristic of her last few days: she had a smile, almost an

invitation, for every sister that went near her bed. And then she repeated: “*I am ready, the Lord knows when he should come and take me, leave it to Him, according to his will!*”

And she was really ready when Jesus came to take her at the end of that Sunday, inviting his bride to the wedding banquet: Sr Calista passed away with her usual smile, conscious that she was going to meet the Lord, while the community, gathered for the evening prayer, was singing the Canticum of the Revelation... The voices, broadcasted through the infirmary loudspeakers, seemed like an invitation from heaven:

“*Alleluia, the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*” (Rev 19)

With Sr Calista’s death, our family in heaven grows, but it diminishes here on earth; that is why we ask our sister, who is now next to the Lord, to intercede for the gift of holy vocations, capable of living the mission with the spirit with which she committed herself to live. In her writings we can read:



**SR BLANDINA PASIN
DEL CUORE DI MARIA**

Ebe Antonia Pasin
Born in Villorba (TV)
on 19-12-1906
Died in Roma
on 24-10-2009

She was born in a family that was strongly rooted in Christian faith, one of the patriarchal families of the past: mommy, daddy, fourteen siblings, uncles, aunts and cousins. Sr Blandina loved to remember with satisfaction the games and tricks of the lively and joyful party, of which she had been the natural animator and leader. She was over one hundred and, in that unique dimension that goes beyond time, she mixed her own vicissitudes with characters, Saints and Popes that had peopled her history and had all become her contemporaries. Her catechistic and parish culture associated her sisters and friends to her parents, but also to Sr Francis, John Paul I, Armida Barelli and Father Gemelli. In the same way, the geographic boundaries had been dissolved and her superposed memories allowed her to freely sweep through the various “missions” in the world. Hers was certainly not a sedentary life: she guided communities as Superior more than once! It is impossible to gather in a

short biography her vicissitudes and transfers from one house to the other, in Italy and abroad: Artegna (Udine), Cavaso (Treviso), Solagna (Vicenza), Ampezzo (Udine), Roggiano (Varese), Porto Levante (Rovigo), and then Istanbul in Turkey, Rome, Manchester (UK), Latina, Sion (Switzerland), Montale (Ancona), Duronia (Campobasso), Marmore (Terni) e once again in Latina, in the various Boroughs. Dynamic and industrious, she knew how to cope with everything: teaching in nursery schools, embroidery, doorkeeping, caring for pupils after school-time, cooperation with parishes, catechesis, liturgical animation -it is well known that she loved to accompany the choir on the harmonium! And this lasted until 1995 when, aged 89, she entered the infir-

mary in Saffi Avenue, Rome! In Sr Blandina's memories, there especially emerges the figure of her mother, who was very religious and devout, of whom she remebered moments of prayer in solitude, her image kneeled or bent to kiss the ground during the hard days in the fields or at home. It is mainly to their mother that the two future nuns, Antonia and her sister, owed their religious vocation, which flourished in their youth. Antonia entered the novitiate of Gemona (Udine) when she was twenty and consecrated herself definitively in 1933, when, by giving her whole life, she took part into the extraordinary jubilee of the Holy Year of Redemption, called by Pope Pious XI in a fully anticlerical and masonic atmosphere, while Adolf Hitler was imposing the national so-

cialist regime in Germany. Her missionary enthusiasm had grown in the ranks of the Catholic Action movement, which had given her a clear Catholic, apostolic and Roman identity. She was always soundly proud of this and, as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, she further nourished the missionary passion that had animated her youth. She loved to remember that her choice had been motivated by St Francis' love for the poor, and in her "*going around the world*", Sr Blandina had really met a lot of poor, and she had served them. At the age of 103, as she already felt out of this world, she fervently desired to end her long life on earth in the love of God. She passed away in Viale Saffi, serenely, at the dawn of 24 October 2009.

N.B.

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