

PACE e BENE

Year LXXXVIII n° 1/2011



...for

150

years in the footsteps of Providence

Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart

*Towards the **XIX** General Chapter*



*From the gratitude of the memory
to the commitment of prophecy*

1

With the living power of the Spirit
that arose Jesus from death
and brought him to the fullness of life,
we too, in the strength of the same spirit of resurrection, of the living spirit,
we prepare ourselves to celebrate,
next July 2011, our **XIX** general Chapter.

We entrust ourselves to the Father, so He can operate in us the wonder
of the resurrection,

We allow ourselves to be filled with New Life,
So he can make of us instruments of his renewing action,
of his wonderful change of life
in love.

Only in this way we can welcome
actively and docilely
the new challenge of commitment and courage, in minority...
For it is only love that urges us, enlightens us, so we can overcome the
difficulties of today life.

Jesus Christ teaches us this,
from the Cross, pointing out the wound of His Heart,
He shows us the essence of God: love!

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



FROM THE CHURCH

AND WITH THE CHURCH

1. SPECIAL YOUCAT:...AN ORIGINAL CATECHISM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

2

“Some persons tell me that the catechism does not interest today’s youth, but I do not believe this affirmation and I am sure I am right. Young people want to know what life truly consists of.” So the Holy Father Benedict XVI introduced the new text which is meant to accompany the itinerary of faith of young people, European and non-European, beginning with this year’s WYD, which will take place in Madrid. Indeed, it is a special, fresh and lively text, almost daring right from its cover, of a light yellow, interrupted only by the white of the title, which shows up against the background of many small multiform crosses.

The loss of touch with faith, which is due also to the laziness or omission of adults, who are unable to show all its strength and beauty, may be and indeed is a shortcut for young people. And yet, what is against the trend today is not the trivial lack of faith of those who do not wish to question themselves neither the hysterical atheism of those who are angry with the Church on principle; on the contrary, it is often the search of those who reflect on life’s big questions and are not content with easy or deceitful answers. It is in this category that the Pope places the complex and delicate world of the youth, which he trusts enormously.

The new volume -according to the archbishop of Vienna, Christoph Schönborn, the main “expert” promoter of the work- aims at helping them in their itinerary of faith, so that they get to know well what they believe and must believe in. To this end, the new Catechism deals also with the problem of the different cultures to which the recipients belong, so that all the young people in the world can understand its contents, since a special care is devoted to translate the texts well, according to cultural environments and real life conditions. This is possible today, it is said, because today’s youth live a culture which is much more global than it was for past generations.

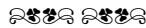
The work is published at a time which is quite delicate for the Catholic Church, whose supreme guide himself, the Holy Father, does not intend to pass over in silence the huge problems that afflict it. Despite this, it appears to meet young people’s expectations, since it has a lot to communicate and to tell to their heart, also through its style, footnotes, information provided and the way it looks.

Therefore, Youcat will be able to appeal to our youth -that is what those of us who deal with education in general wish too- rightly because it shows how, despite the fact that the Church does not enjoy a good image in public opinion, its protagonists do not lack the courage to display and proclaim the great joy of faith. This catechism, therefore, goes well beyond the immediate usefulness that the young pilgrim may have during the next GMG; it is and remains not only a valid instrument for the whole ample spectrum of youth catechesis, but



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

also a book devised for young people, to be read, consulted and discussed by them, a volume that the youth can handle at ease, a special tool which is suited to stimulate their reflection on faith, and later accompany them along the path that it has disclosed.



2. BENEDICT XVI TALKS TO US...

“Passionate pursuers and witnesses of God””.

That is how the Holy Father Benedict XVI, at the end of November 2010, during a summit meeting (USG and UISG), identified us as members of religious Institutes and Church entities of consecrated life. And while he thanked all the consecrated people for what they do “in the Church and with the Church on behalf of evangelization”, with reference to the apostolate they carry out through “multiple pastoral activities in the parishes, in the shrines and the centers of worship, for the catechesis and Christian formation of children, of young people and of adults, in the field of education, in the multiple social works, in the missions “ad gentes,” in often difficult circumstances”, he talked to us with truly enlightening words, full of encouraging confidence. We quote some passages that we deem are quite topical for us:

“You are seekers of God by vocation. To this pursuit you consecrate the most precious energies of your life. You pass from secondary things to those that are essential, to what is truly important; you seek the definitive, you seek God, keeping your gaze fixed upon him”.



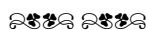
3

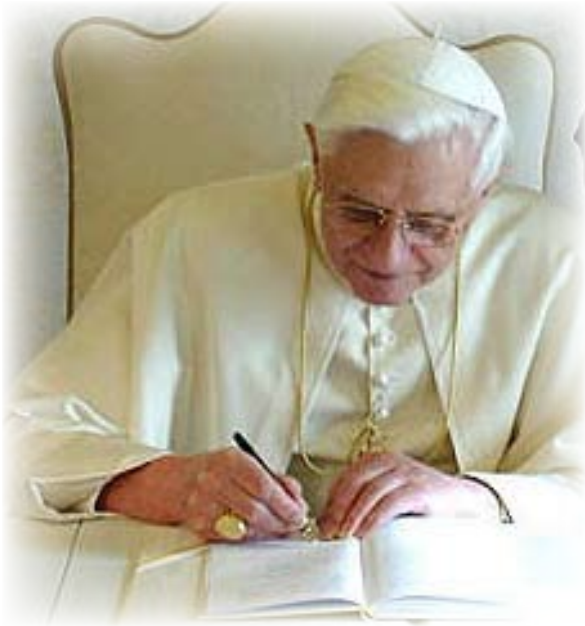
“You seek God in the confreres whom have been given to you, with whom you share the same life and mission... The Gospel lived daily is the element that gives beauty to the consecrated life and presents you before the world as a trustworthy alternative. Contemporary society needs and the Church expects you to be a living Gospel”.

And he went on: “Another fundamental aspect of the consecrated life that I would like to stress is fraternity. The witness of your consecration passes through it. Fraternal life is one of the aspects greatly sought by young people when they draw near to your life; it is an important prophetic element that you offer to a fundamentally individualistic society”.

A last element that I would like to highlight -he added- is mission. Mission is the Church’s mode of being and, in it, of the consecrated life itself; it is part of your identity; it moves you to bring the Gospel to everyone, without limits. Mission, supported by a powerful experience of God, by a robust formation and by a fraternal life in community, is a key for understanding and revitalizing consecrated life”.

He then concluded by expressly addressing the Superiors, through the following short but intense exhortation: “You who exercise the service of authority, and who have the task of leadership and planning for the future of your religious institutes, remember that an important part of the spiritual animation and government is the common pursuit of means to promote communion, mutual communication, warmth and truth in reciprocal relations”.





3. THE WORD OF GOD...IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

With an eye to the populations who still do not know the Gospel (mission ad gentes) and one to the secularized post-Christian peoples, Benedict XVI, on last 10 November, had the apostolic exhortation *Verbum Domini* (The Word of the Lord) published, exactly two years after the Synod of Bishops dedicated to “The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church”.

“Rediscovering the centrality of God’s word” in one’s life and in the life of the Church and “the urgency and the beauty” of announcing it for the salvation of mankind as “convinced and credible witnesses of the Risen Lord”: this is, in short, Benedict

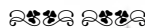
XVI’s message in the post-synodal apostolic exhortation “*verbum Domini*”, which collects the reflections and proposals that emerged during the above-mentioned Synod of Bishops of October 2008 on “The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church”.

Even after reading only a few passages, we too can immediately understand that the exhortation is a passionate call that the Pope addresses to the shepherds, to us, members of the consecrated life, and to lay-people, so that we all become “increasingly familiar with the sacred Scriptures”, and never forget “that all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on the word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated and meditated upon in the Church”.

4

According to some analysts, the big volume (nearly 200 pages) is the most important document of the Church on the Sacred Scriptures after the *Dei Verbum* by the Second Vatican Council. It is possible to perceive the firm, simple and profound hand of the theologian Ratzinger, who did not issue a bureaucratic document, but rather a true meditation book, an instrument that could renew the life of Christians based on an increased familiarity with, knowledge, reading and prayer of the Bible. In some passages there are even suggestions on how to enact this meditation (*lectio divina*, 290-300), how to prepare a homily (207-213) and how to enhance the importance of silence (230-235).

This precious document, therefore, is also offered to all of us as a useful instrument to renew our life as individuals and as a community, as well as to rediscover the dimension of a common commitment in the mission to non-Christians and to the secularized post-Christian world





UNITED TO THE FRANCISCAN ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR



*The FMSC sisters are aggregated since the origins
to the Order of Friar Minor,
and sharing the spirituality,
they participate of the same spiritual benefits*

1. FRANCISCANS AT THE FOREFRONT IN THE PROMOTION OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

5



At the Antonianum Pontifical University in Rome, March 3rd was specially dedicated to the memory of Msgr Luigi Padovese, the Capuchin apostolic vicar who was killed in Anatolia in 2010, as we certainly remember.

It was all about fulfilling a dream that the Franciscan “martyr” himself had expressed and partly already implemented, that is setting up a chair of “Spirituality and dialogue” at the Institute for Spirituality of the above-mentioned University, where Fr Padovese had taught for many years. This inauguration provided the opportunity to carry on an interesting meeting-debate on the dialogue between religions, which is quite topical. The president of the Vatican dicastery which was set up for that very purpose immediately brought up the subject, as he started his speech by strongly pointing out that: “We are ‘condemned’ to inter-religious dialogue because there is no other course than the one marked out by the Council”, which is upheld by the Holy Father too, as he calls us to listen to other people’s beliefs, “without putting aside ours”.

And Fr Raffaele Della Torre, Superior of the Lombard Capuchin Province to which Fr Padovese belonged, stressed that never before in Europe, which is increasingly becoming an Areopagus of cultures, as well as in the whole world, has “dialogue turned out to be the decisive factor to which our attention must be pointed, both at the level of research and of pastoral care”.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

Fr José Rodríguez Carballo, the Minister General OFM and Great Chancellor of the Franciscan University, reiterated the substance, by observing how the relationship between spirituality and inter-religious dialogue, which is quite topical, has always characterized the history of Franciscanism after all". He wished that the meaningful figure of our confrere Padovese, indelible for the deepness of his studies and his availability to fraternal dialogue "may find many generous followers in both fields, who may offer their witness and formation in a style of authentic welcome.

Other speakers too followed the same line, by agreeing with Msgr Padovese's idea that "the adhesion to Christ never mortifies the humanity of those who meet Him; rather, differences show that what matters in our relationship with Christ is that one places oneself at his service with one's whole being, without hiding behind hasty postured stances, but willing to uphold at all costs the strength and beauty of the Gospel".



6

Everybody's thoughts then went back to Msgr Padovese, who was defined as a "Man of dialogue", rightly because of his truly heroic commitment to a task that he considered primary and fundamental in every Christian environment, all the more so in a Franciscan one. It seems that he is still repeating this to us through his incisive words: "We need to build friendly relationships in our daily life, in which the beauty of Christian faith and the desire to build together the future of the Church may emerge".



2. AN ORIGINAL CALL BY OUR MAJOR SUPERIORS.... SO THAT WE MAY ALL BECOME "YOUNG"!

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Peace and all Good to you !

In 1984, Pope John Paul II gave start to the celebration of World Youth Day (WYD), which is celebrated annually on Passion Sunday (also known as Palm Sunday) in all the Dioceses of the world.

Every three years, WYD is celebrated at an international level with the participation of the youth from all over the globe in one of the biggest cities of the world. The last gathering took place in 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Madrid, Spain is the city set to host the next World Youth Day in 2011.

World Youth Day always draws a great number of young people from Franciscan youth (SFO/You-Fra), young friars from both the First Order and the Third Order Regular, young religious sisters from various Congregations and Franciscan Institutes and, together with them, many other youth who are connected in different ways to our Franciscan Family.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

For this reason, the Conference of Franciscan Family wishes for the first time on the occasion of WYD in Madrid that all Franciscan youth (lay and secular, male and female religious), as representatives of the Franciscan Family, participate together in all common gatherings of WYD. They are also to participate especially in those gatherings that specifically belong to the Franciscan Family, in order to both share and bear witness to the Charism of our common Seraphic Father, St. Francis.

Since all this requires a suitable organization way in advance, we entrust the Presidency of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS) with the responsibility to coordinate this event through the Commission of Franciscan Youth and the Conference of Assistants General of SFO-You-Fra. In order to carry out this service, they can count on the invaluable collaboration of a Commission of the Franciscan Family of Spain, purposely formed for both the preparation and programming of this event during WYD.

We invite you, therefore, to begin the necessary preparations in your respective countries, Orders, Congregations, and Institutions, so that we may have a common, numerous, and well organized participation. More specific information will follow suit from the organizers.

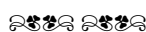
While we express both our hope and joy as we draw closer to this event and thank all of you for your commitment to this event, we also implore the blessing of the Lord and the intercession of our heavenly patrons St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and St. Ludovic.

Fraternally,

7

			
Frati Minori José R. Carballo	Frati Cappuccini Mauro Jöhri	Frati Conventuali Marco Tasca	TOR Michael J. Higgins
57 anni. Originario della Provincia francescana di Santiago di Compostela (Spagna), dal 2003 guida i 15 mila frati minori presenti in 113 Paesi.	63 anni. Originario della Provincia francescana Svizzera, dal 2006 guida gli 11 mila frati cappuccini presenti in 103 Paesi.	53 anni. Originario della Provincia francescana di Padova, dal 2007 guida i circa 5 mila frati minori conventuali presenti in 60 Paesi.	47 anni. Originario della Provincia francescana di Loretto (Usa), dal 2007 guida i circa 1000 religiosi del Terz'ordine regolare, presenti in 16 Paesi.

*Signatures of
Ministers General OFM, OFMConv, OFMCap,
TOR; the President CFI-CFF (Fr. James F. Puglisi);
the Minister General SFO (Encarnación del Pozo)*



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

3. . CLARE... AND HER LUMINOUS NIGHT OF APRIL 16, 1211

(Assisi, 16 april 2011)

For those who were in Assisi in the evening of April 16, 2011, surely it was unforgettable the moment in which, during the Evening Prayer I, was opened the VIII centenary of consecration of saint Clare, and so of the Foundation of the Poor Clares.

The Celebration, started in Saint Rufino Cathedral, place where 800 years ago the bishop of the city gave to the very young Clare a small branch of olive, and from where, from her house near the Cathedral, the following day she escaped towards Saint Mary of the Angels in order to consecrate herself to the Lord through Saint Francis. The celebration went on with a very touching peregrination (journey) until the basilica of Portiuncula, with a short stop in the basilica of saint Clare where her body is kept



The solemn celebration wanted to commemorate the ‘luminous night’ of Palm Sunday 1211 (according to some 1212), in which the young noble woman of Assisi escaped from her paternal house to reach in secret the small church of Portiuncula (Assisi) where Saint Francis and his companions were staying. She was moved only by the desire to follow his evangelical ideal. Beside him with the cutting of the hair, she was starting a life of penance and of consecration unusual for that time.

The starting of saint Clare’s conversion, according to the sources we have, is expressed by this event. The penitential time of the young lady of Assisi will continue at first in the Monastery of the Benedictine nuns of san Paolo delle Abbadesse and in the Church of sant’Angelo di Panzo , to end her brief journey in the Church of san Damiano of Assisi.

Here Saint Clare will welcome soon many other young ones of the place, moved by the same desire and almost soon the religious movement involved women of different social state of the whole European continent.

The originality of the evangelical intuition of Saint Clare is known, she has been the first woman of middle age to draw a rule for women. So it is a movement of an extraordinary importance for the life of the Church and the world.

With the inspired words of the Minister General Fr. José Rodriguez Carballo, let us praise the Lord “for the gift of Clare, a woman free and in love, for her courageous choice with which she broke with a certain lifestyle and started a new journey in true freedom, that, under the guidance of Francis, as he was the “column” and “only consolation after God” she reached the completion after “a long martyrdom of grave infirmity” (Leg. Cl. 44), “destroyed the temple of flesh” she left this world in “good company” to be rewarded with the eternal laurel in the blessed life (cf. Leg.Ch. 46).

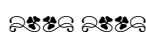


... For years in the footsteps of Providence

With Clare, a woman free and in love, Clare Christian woman, as Saint Francis called her, with Clare, new woman, as Celano calls her, strong of her passion and enthusiasm, “with fast run and light step” (2 LAg 12), we too, let us follow the footsteps of Christ, without allowing ourselves to fall into melancholy” (3 LAg 11). Let us look at her, “handmaid of Christ” (3 LAg 2), Mother of so many daughters, Sister and Teacher for all of us, let us receive the great heritage, she has left to us, with grateful and available heart, to become truly free persons, in love with our Lord Jesus Christ; let us treasure the heritage, to become every day more true “Christians”, looking ourselves, as she did, in the Mirror so as to be transformed in mirror for others.



- **Clare**, Christian woman, plead for us from the Lord the gift of faith in Him who can transform us and that He may be the source of our joy, of our hope, of our discipleship and of our witnessing in the world.
- **Clare**, new woman, plead for us from Him, who is our Way, the gift of true conversion and of believing to the Gospel, so as to be able to follow Jesus Christ with a profound evangelical life and so to become new persons.
- **Clare**, little plant of Francis, plead for us from your Bridegroom the gift to be persons freed from any form of idolatry and slavery, so as to live out, according to our vocation, the passion for Christ and for humanity, as Francis and you did.
- **Clare**, mother and sister, with the blessed Francis, look constantly after your brothers and sisters so that, in creative fidelity, all of us may be, in every moment and event, disciples of Jesus, missionaries, witnesses and bearers of the Gospel all over the world. Amen.





WITH FAMILY

SPIRIT

Never as in this time where we are living, with the special grace of the jubilee anniversary, we have felt deeply the joy, the need and the grace of being able to experience and to understand every reality in the family spirit. The desire to form ourselves always better in the point of view of this spirit is already a sign of openness and availability to the sense of belonging that sustains and motivates every relationship in a family.

Everything, if we want, can help us to build true relationships according to the fraternity spirit that characterizes us and it can enlighten us to make every event, occasion, a place and a means of encounter, a milieu of sharing, an instrument of reflection, reciprocal recognition as persons and as group.

Here, in this small section of family that Pace e Bene, we want to assume together the aim of making alive the connections, the words can provoke, to make our communication a sincere encounter among us, to rediscover the common need of sharing. Actually to communicate is an exchange of relationships, is a way of building bridges, or, concretely, it is a sharing of life in an exchange of knowledge, it is a participation of the common need of help. It is to nourish with love and fidelity that "family spirit", the only one, as St. Francis said – to assure the inseparable union with God and the dedication to the other.

10



1. ON SHARING

Through the newsletter "Pace e bene" I desire to express my thanksgiving to the Lord for the many gift received during this time of the Congregational Jubilee.

The instrument used by God to make us known the historical richness of our Congregation is our sister Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon. Gifted of particular literary intelligence and, especially, of love for our Congregation, Sr. Antonietta offers us, a very rich production of documents. In these last years, with true passion, she could gather what remained hidden in the civil and ecclesiastic archives, to expand more the abundant "congregational archive". Everything is well catalogued and disposed in perfect order in the shields of the historical office, to facilitate the consultation of this material so precious and interesting.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

Sr. Antonietta with generosity is giving most of her time to make that documentation more available and usable. And so in these last years she was able to elaborate other volumes and small book to make us more familiar with our historical patrimony.

She elaborated in small volumes the life of our first general superiors: Mother Margherita Lidner, Mother Elena Elleboudt, Mother Angela Dell'Angelo, Mother Assunta Mènard.

The aim is to make us more familiar with our historical patrimony through the knowledge of those sisters, whom we feel very close to us especially for what they transmit to us, even if they lived long time ago.

Those biographies are interesting and useful because they allow us to understand the uniqueness and the originality of the journey that, through the life of these sisters, gives us the limpidity of the charism and tradition of the first years of our Congregation.

Another work is the volume of the documented biography of Sr. M. Rosa Bonomi: “Amiable perfume of Rose”, written by the said sister; the volume deepens and make complete the brief profile”



Nothingelse than love” printed some years ago and all of us know it. In this new work is well defined the witnessing of Sr. Rosa Bonomi, in particular her longing to witness always the loving presence of God and His fatherly Providence, close to us even in the sad events. The life of Sr. M. Rosa is an example, that each one of us can follow, of true missionary Franciscan who lives the charismatic ideal in simplicity, availability and humility.

11

A new treasure given to us in this Jubilee Year is the collection of letters, elaborated by the general superiors mentioned above. In them we can find the genuine spirit of origin and the generous availability of our

first sisters who, with the strength of the charism at the beginning, give us edifying examples of heroism and of holiness.

On behalf of the sisters of the Council I give thanks to sr. Antonietta never weary to dig in our history, with passion, sacrifice and competence in order to offer us edifying pages of holiness.

I wish that all of us may read with love and interest these sources and draw new strength for a true renewal in the charismatic spirit.



Sr. Emmapia Bottamedi



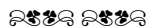
SOLLICITATION

We exhort warmly, all the sisters and the persons we know, to communicate opportunely any sign of expression of devotion toward the servant of God, Fr. Gregory Fioravanti, our Founder. We know that many of us recognize in him a model of life and so he is a true protector and we enjoy material and spiritual benefits received from his intercession.

It is necessary, to show concretely our devotion, to send news regarding the invocation of Father Gregory and the possible grace received even if a small one or considered insignificant. It is important to show that our devotion and witness of faith are not fading but they are becoming stronger and they do not depend on the gift received but on our attitude and our effective devotion. Therefore let us commit ourselves to inform Sister Antonietta Vice postulator for the process of the telling the benefit received. This is the address where to send the information: Sr Antonietta Pozzebon, Casa Generalizia,

Via di Grottarossa 301 – 00189 ROMA
Tel. 06 33250107 – 06 3325831
E-mail: ufficio.storico@fmisc.it

Superior general and counselors



2. EVERYTHING WITH A ‘THANKS’!’

(February 2011)

Every time I think of my recent trip in India, of my staying from December 2010 to January 2011, in the midst of the sisters of Holy Family province, I have a lot of feelings, sentiments, some seem to be stronger than others, but the one that excels is: Gratitude!

With this word I could already express all that I lived out in this very particular experience.: from the surprise when it was announced to me, to the anxiety of the departure towards a country always seen with a particular charm, to all the two months spent there, especially in Andhra Pradesh, until the conclusion of a lived personal event that, in spite of the intensity of memories, it seemed to me a dream.

Seen and living once again everything, the inner gaze is attracted by the fast sequence of sounds and imagines, but, even if so full of emotions, it cannot find any word to express but “Thanks!” It is the word I repeat constantly to myself, remembering how at the beginning, the responsibility of being free to plan the program and the contents to be given to the Indian sisters, instead of making me tranquil because of the trust given to me by the Major Superiors, it gave perplexity and confusion, as I felt my incapability.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



I can feel that word deeply in me every time I consider the whole Indian experience that was live in a sense of littleness but with a strong and enduring attitude of trust and hope.

With the duty to give to the Lord my constant gratitude I want here to express my Thanks to my General Superior and to all the counselors for allowing themselves to be interpreters of God's will for me, asking and entrusting to me a task I could have never thought, even if sometimes I was received invitations over ocean. Their sincere support, without so many

words, has been a help since the beginning, and it was revealed in the many expressions of love and closeness even from a far.

To say 'Thanks' to sr. Maddalena, the superior of the Province I was going to know, seems obvious. But I want to repeat it in these pages because I could never do or think anything without her person, proposal and invitation. With her sobriety and right measure that characterize her, she guided, accompanied and appreciated every moment, I can say, of the day spent with the sisters, always giving me her attention, goodness, patience with edifying virtues.

Like her, all the sisters had toward me the same attitude, from the youngest among the young ones, to the adults among the old ones. To each one of them I need to repeat a rosary of "thanks"! Asking myself with wonder how I could go on working so fast, overcoming the difficulties caused by my nature, and even from external factors, the answer is because of Them! Yes, because their welcome, their gentleness, enthusiasm, satisfaction, interest, listening. and their sincere desire to know, to understand, to participate gave wings to my uncertainty, erased all tiredness, gave new life to every fatigue.

13

Sure I would have liked and hoped to share better and to give more contents but their goodness and joyful gratitude let me to come back with the sensation that I did my duty in the best way possible.

From whom but them, I received the strength that signed and followed every day since early in the morning?

It is true: I could not know and visit India, nor even to become aware of the single reality in which our many sisters of the communities in that nation are working. I do not regret anything because I can truly say without doubt that I knew the primary characteristics of the Indian people and through all of them and each one of them, in their way of sharing, giving and receiving, that gave us the joy and fraternal simplicity.

For all of this and for what the words cannot express I repeat once more THANKS!



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

3. FROM THE SECRET DRAWER OF DESIRES....

(April 2011)



It was a very special pilgrimage done by the general Council, accompanied by Sister Antonietta, last March 28 - 31. It was long time, especially from the part of sister Emmapia, that there was a hidden but real desire at the door of their conscience. Afterwards, with all the celebrations done in the different places in the world, that dream started to become stronger until it was well defined and became more real.

Yes, there was no better initiative in the last part of the service of authority given by the Lord to our Major sisters, than that of visiting together, as a sign of collective, filial, affectionate expression of homage and devotion, the dear memorable places of our Foundress, Laura Leroux, but also of the Founder Fr. Gregory Fioravanti, servant of God.

And so after some agreements, appointments and trials to assure an available lodging fitted to the needs of the duties and time of the interested sisters, this special pilgrimage started, as a celebration to be lived intimately but with the strength and the beauty of the visited places

14

In the afternoon of Monday, March 28 we started our program, adjusting ourselves to the practical conveniences and availability, after arriving in the place for our overnight staying - a former diocesan seminary transformed in hotel, built at few meters from the sea in a hill with spring air, perfume and colors - and finding Nice at the end. And then here we are in Cimiez, next to the church and to the convent of friars minor, monuments of high Franciscan historical profile, erected on a high suggestive hill of Nice, of an indescribable fascination due to the enchanted view.



Actually we were in the place where our Founder stayed for one month, who on the same day but 137 years earlier, March 28, 1864, was asking hospitality to his brothers, longing to meet the Foundress who was living at that time in Nice, too. (cfr. chap. XVII Historical Memoirs). We were welcomed, after a moment of prayer, in the wonderful church, by father Sergio Macario, who was already in touched with sr. Antonietta.

We were able to visit the ancient convent, already property of the government, that was not resto-

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

red, and so keeping the same structure and poverty of that time, in a very Franciscan way. We felt the emotion of one another, especially when we reached the part of the convent not open to visitors, that was surely habited by Fr. Gregory.

After having enjoyed the enchanted vision and the view between sea and sky and the beautiful garden of the convent, now a public place, with its flowerbeds covered of colored tulips, we went down to the valley, grateful to the Lord who was clearly accompanying us giving a marvellous and unexpected fulfilment of our dream.



The following day, March 29, we wanted to dedicate it entirely to the memory of our Foundress, spending all the time in the Principality of Monaco, in Monte Carlo. Obviously the first visitation was reserved for the cemetery, even aware that we could not fulfil the desire of praying over the tomb of our Laura as it was confirmed by the documents held by sr. Antonietta.

What emotion to be along the path in the midst of the tombs, almost imagining the tombstone or the sepulchre that could have kept “her name”! Afterwards to stop in prayer and with strong emotion before the small chapel that could have been hers. A feeling of her particular presence was given to us through our encounter with a distinct lady in whom, after a brief, casual and providential exchange of words, we could recognize a sign of divine benevolence maybe obtained to us by the Foundress.

Actually this lady, a widow and alone, of Italian origin and well-off, wanted to accompany us almost the whole day, giving unexpected ways and expressions of her generous availability. In this way we were facilitated not only on planning our time but especially on having the possibility to move with a security we could not have if we were alone, in spite of the zeal of Sister Antonietta for guiding us.

In fact we were able to walk alone the street of the Principality, so beautifully taken care, wondering at the creativity of the beauty as they were well decorated with multi-colored gardens, and very artistic and rich building.



15



The wonder and the enchantment made us awake, almost insensible to our tiredness. Even if we carried the regret that we could not see directly - only in the reproduction held by sr. Antonietta - the place where our Foundress died, that is Terminus hotel, in which she spent the last period of her earthly life, we were satisfied and convinced that we used well our time. The building was destroyed because of town planning scheme. The warmth of the climate, the beauty of the landsca-

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

pe and even the journey coming back Monaco - Nice, as in the morning, gave joy to us elevating the spirit in communion with God, the author of every good.



The following day, March 30, was also lived out with memories and gratitude. Almost with the sensation of walking on the steps of fr. Gregory, we prepared ourselves to journey along the street of the big city of Nice, to search for the place of the house where should have been stayed the Foundress and where fr. Gregory went to meet her. Fortunately sr. Antonietta was carrying proper indications and maps, but the research was difficult all the same; all anxieties faded away when we found what we were searching for, Leotardi Street. We were able to understand easily, through the words of fr.

Gregory, that in the place, among the few buildings of ancient style, there must have been a “villa” or “maison” or a house bought or rent by Laura, hoping not to be reached by any pursuer who wanted to solve the debts she had with them. We walked alone the small street in silence in order the record in the film the precise name Rue Leotardi, and afterwards we allowed our thoughts to imagine the difficult and painful situation lived out by both our founders.

But all of this was still and always a “walking on the steps of Divine Providence!”

16

We felt that in the whole time we spent in Nice - Monaco, moving from one corner to another of the city, on going up and down of the buses, asking information, praying in the many beautiful and deserted churches and at the end on the gentle, enjoying encounters with the sellers of the grocery store where we provided for our food. How many Italians we found! And all, without distinction, were happy to meet a group of sisters appearing for the people of Nice like coming from heaven....



Therefore we give thanks to the Lord also for this particular experience, a way to make our jubilee a time of grace and of conversion... of gratitude and of joy... A joy that we want to share now, in these few words, with all the sisters, whom we felt present and very close to us.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

4. A SPECIAL 25 APRIL IN THE GENERALATE HOUSE....

(Generalate House, 25 April 2011)

Truly the Monday of the Octave of Easter was proposed as a beautiful day this year and not, because of the national festivity remembering Italy liberated from the enemy.

For the three communities of the generalate house 'Asisium' and for many sisters coming from the Roman province, that Monday offered a happy occasion to live, intensely, in the spirit of the Risen Lord, the communion of hearts and minds we all felt.

By the General Council, in fact, the day was considered and chosen as a date able to satisfy the need to feast no less than three anniversaries: the extraordinary 150th anniversary of the canonical opening of the Institute (April 21, 1861), the devout memory of the birth anniversary of our Founder, fr. Gregory (April 24, 1822) and the joyful, cordial feast day of our Superior general, sr. Emmapia Bottamedi (April 17).



17

To all who came to the Asisium that day it seemed natural, and maybe surprising, to get the joyful atmosphere and pleasant conversations, seen in the face who met us. Among the numerous guests, mostly many co-sisters, the first to notice that atmosphere was the most Rev. Fr. Agostino Montan, a Josephin religious and actual responsible of the Religious Congregations in the Vicariate in Rome, who accepted the invitation to preside the Solemn Eucharistic celebration foreseen for that occasion.

It was indeed an intense moment, full of gratitude and praises to God for the three commemorative events. Besides the presiding priest, were concelebrating: fr Ersilio, ex Comboni, but for many years already in the Parish, fr. Antonio, vocationist father, vicar of the same parish, and fr. Alessandro, ex student of Asisium. During the whole rite there was a serene, peaceful, joyful atmosphere, with some moments of emotions, maybe provoked also by the so many colored and perfumed flowers, so artistically prepared and by the beautiful choir of sisters' voices who were singing with ardor and ability trying to express the vibrant enthusiasm radiating all around. The words of the presider - especially in



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

some moments - expressed the deep meaning of the ceremony already manifested in words and actions by all: to surrender fully our life to God in a touching, renewed offering so that He can make of it a fruitful instrument of salvation for many brethren.

After the touching Eucharistic celebration, participated also by some friends and collaborators, the time and space for eating, followed. It was introduced by a song prayer entrusted to our young sisters. The lunch was consumed with simple and Franciscan joy, the guests share with one another in joyful gratitude, simple observations, joyful memories in order to make the moment of eating full of vivaciousness sharing.



In the afternoon the feast was made beautiful by a special gift: the sisters could enjoy an original representation, done by our young sisters, Juniores and students who tried to interpret with mimic and dances an elaborated text in an elegant and almost lyric style.

The author - already responsible of the process for the beatification of our Founder and

for many years committed to the historical research of the Institute - guided the people present to enter an unusual and especial meditation, all full or molded by the providential presence of God. And so in this way it was proposed a synthetic but efficacious report of our history. The text was read alternately by different sisters, who, two by two, made known the content of the story.

18



The refined presentation presented in power point artistic images, in the joyful and admirable sequence of the historical view, and the representation of the young actresses, attentive to translate, in the best way possible, the hidden and difficult meaning of the text, caught the attention of the people present, who remained in silence and still, almost amazed of the original stage direction.

Many of the people confessed later that they were touched by the images which recalled unforgettable events, dramas, experiences, people, encounters, joys and difficulties.



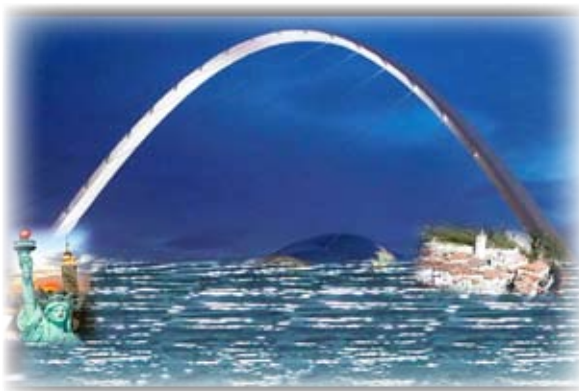


At the end of the elaborated composition, that closed with a touching thanksgiving to God, to our Founders to all our sisters of the past and of today, the Superior general Sr. Emmapia desired to speak and she expressed on behalf of all the sisters, the joy, the admiration and the gratitude for the unexpected and fitted occasion to discover and contemplate the divine goodness even in the most dark and hidden meanders of our congregational history.

To the glory of God she wanted to address a particular thanks to the entire Asisium Community and in a special way to sr. Antonietta, who got the difficult task of the representation, with the writing of the text, so much appreciated for the meaning and with the elaboration of the commentary through the projection of the beautiful images; than the superior general gave her attention to the good actresses, juniores and students, always alive and creative in their capacity to harmonize diversity of culture and of costumes they carry with them; she also gave words of praise to sr. Angelica, who gave her time and fatigue in order to provide the fitted costumes and equipment for the scenes.

19

The final wish of our dearest sr Emmapia was silently shared by all: each one in this day, April 25, going back, with emotion and surprise, founded herself more happy and convinced of the belonging spirit of our beautiful fmsc Institute, and in some way, more persuaded to praise God who allowed her to meditate once more on a history of grace, more ready to welcome from Him the present, more free and full of trust to face the future He is preparing, in the security that everything is for her good and the good of our beloved religious family.



SISTERS WHO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE IN 2011

75°

	PROFESSION	PROVINCE
1. Sr Armanda Trinca	12-10-1936	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

70°

1. Sr M. Vitalia Pozzobon	26-06-1941	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
2. Sr M. Silvana Rosin	26-06-1941	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
3. Sr Mary Kevin Dillon	07-07-1941	Prov. "St. Francis"
4. Sr M. Rosalinda Gemin	15-09-1941	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
5. Sr M. Casimira Michielin	15-09-1941	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"

20

65°

1. Sr M. Raphael Conlon	12-07-1946	Prov. "St. Francis"
2. Sr M. Romana Tommasini	12-08-1946	Prov. S. Maria d. Angeli"
3. Sr M. Gaudenzia Tommasini	12-08-1946	Prov. S. Maria d. Angeli"
4. Sr M. Flora Ceron	05-10-1946	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
5. Sr M. Isabella Pizzolon	05-10-1946	Prov. S. Maria d. Angeli"

60°

1. Sr M. Francescagnese Pittino	10-01-1951	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
2. Sr M. Teresina Zanitti	10-01-1951	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
3. Sr M. Adelfiana Sartor	10-01-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
4. Sr M. Evangelina Berlato	10-01-1951	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
5. Sr M. Annapia Favaro	07-05-1951	Prov. "S. Antonio"
6. Sr M. Libera Miotto	07-05-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
7. Sr M. Pierantonio Favaro	07-05-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
8. Sr M. Elena Preo	07-05-1951	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
9. Sr M. Eleonor Singer	07-07-1951	Prov. "St. Francis"
10. Sr M. Enrichetta Grassi	10-09-1951	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
11. Sr M. Albarosa Borghese	10-09-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

12. Sr M. Attiliana Durigon	10-09-1951	Prov. "S. Antonio"
13. Sr Mariangela Moretti	10-09-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
14. Sr M. Franceschina Confortin	10-09-1951	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
15. Sr M. Luisa Modesto	12-12-1951	Prov. "S. Luigi IX"

50°

1. Sr M. Rosaria Padula	11-02-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
2. Sr Maria Angela Manzi	11-02-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
3. Sr M. Bernarda Alvarez	04-03-1961	Prov. "S. Antonio"
4. Sr M. Agustina Bustamante	04-03-1961	Prov. "S. Antonio"
5. Sr M. Eugenia Berardinello	03-05-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
6. Sr M. Savina Franceschini	03-05-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
7. Sr M. Pia Pellizon	03-05-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
8. Sr M. Martina Volpato	03-05-1961	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
9. Sr M. Emmanuelle Piccolo	07-06-1961	Prov. "S. Luigi IX"
10. Sr M. Angelene Matero	14-08-1961	Prov. "St. Francis"
11. Sr M. Peter Nolan	14-08-1961	Prov. "S. Francis"
12. Sr M. Luciana Ermacora	14-09-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
13. Sr M. Clara Mussato	14-09-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
14. Sr Carlamaria Bandiera	14-09-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
15. Sr M. Teobalda Londero	17-09-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
16. Sr M. Fulvia Stefanato	17-09-1961	Prov. "S. Antonio"
17. Sr M. Lauretana Bigelli	17-09-1961	Prov. "S. Maria d. Angeli"
18. Sr M. Giandomenica Marconato	17-09-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
19. Sr M. Stefania Serra	28-12-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
20. Sr M. Agnese Careddu	28-12-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
21. Sr M. Leandra Desideri	28-12-1961	Prov. "M. Immacolata"

25°

1. Sr M. Antonia Piripitsi	02-02-1986	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"
2. Sr M. Paola Aita	06-04-1986	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
3. Sr M. Selinamma Mookenthottathil	29-06-1986	Prov. "Holy Family"
4. Sr M. Ansamma Kadamthottu	29-06-1986	Prov. "Holy Family"
5. Sr Mary Madappallil	29-06-1986	Prov. "M. Immacolata"
6. Sr M. Yiannoulla Petri	14-09-1986	Prov. "S. Elisabetta"



IN THE MEMORY LIVES

GRATEFULNESS AND BLESSING

Gratefulness is always the sweet fruit of our heart's memory. No memory quivers out of gratefulness to the Lord stronger than the one He willed to give us through the pain of the cross by which he put us to the test: last summer tragic accident. The intensity of the drama we experienced finds its full correspondence in the exhortative power which is contained in well-known and always topical passages full of faith, which are frequently to be found in the texts that our Father Gregory left us.

We wish to unite other memories to that special one, with expressions of gratefulness that are apparently simpler, but no less laden with the Lord's blessing. These are some accounts which are more or less directly traced back to our Founder, Father Gregory from Grotte di Castro, which remind circumstances or situations in which the presence of the Servant of God became almost tangible. It is with joy that we share these reports, as a sign of fraternal communion and gratefulness to those who offered us the opportunity to extend a common wealth, thus becoming mouthpieces for the whole religious Family.



1. THE MEMORY OF SR CECILIA SUBIABRE ACCOMPANIES US IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR

This is the first bulletin issued after the terrible accident which occurred on August 21, 2010 in Cameroun to our Sr Cecilia Subiabre, Vicar General, Sr Fabrizia Zanettin, Regional Superior, Sr Mary Lukose, regional councillor and treasurer, and Sr Silvy Assoana.

Six months after the tragic day that suddenly took away Sr Cecilia, the memory remains intact and sharp. Fr. Gregory would say that we are not allowed to ask why and look for answers to such a tragic death, to such a painful event! Why should someone die like this?

The Lord permitted that the start of the Jubilee Year should be marked by the cross, a cross that all the sisters of the Congregation had to know and accept. Why? The answer comes from our history, which we are re-examining today in order not to forget anything of what is so precious for our life.

When, still fully distressed because of the terrible news, we were faced with the need to communicate it to all the sisters and to all those who had known Sr Cecilia, Fr Gregory's words: "...nobody has the right to ask why in this way and not otherwise" came clearly to mind. This is the deep meaning of our Jubilee, this is the thread that must mark the path of the Jubilee as well as the whole path of

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



our own life and of the life of our Congregation. Let us hope that the flowing of time does not dim or weakens the intensity of the message that God wished to send us.

God's providence cannot always be understood and "...in any case – says Fr Gregory – it may be noticed that God tries but does not abandon the Institute, which is enough to comfort me..."

The Lord knows why he wishes or permits some things, which we may deem to be negative; they keep bearing witness to the Lord's "unfathomable and mysterious ways": let us never forget that He has saved us by means of the cross.

Let us reappropriate the treasure of faith of our tradition, which we have received and which we must responsibly keep. How many expressions of deep faith can we find in the lives of our Founders, especially in Fr Gregory, and in the life of so many our sisters!

Let us read again, with our heart, the writings of Fr Gregory, the life of our first Superiors general, as well as the simple life of so many of our holy sisters and other texts about our enthralling history: they are living witnesses of God's action, a spiritual treasure that must enlighten our path and the necessary discernment to welcome and live His Holy Will.

We must recognize that on August 21 God manifested himself to us in a unique, incomprehensible way, although true and real; .. but why in that way? In order to tell us what must be the true meaning of our 150th anniversary. It is faith which provides an answer to our questions, since "God will make this better known – still says Fr Gregory - if instead of going ahead, we will follow with docility the steps of Divine Providence". Therefore, let us stop, let us not proceed unless we follow in His footsteps, that is let us keep trying to be conformed to Christ Crucified as required by our spiritual identity.

Maybe we have lost sight of the objective of our consecrated life and go about wandering, searching...

We must ask ourselves the question and give a serious and well-thought answer. Providence is the strong call that God mysteriously wished to offer us.

The tragic event of Sr Cecilia's death is for all of us a call to recognize in all these personal and congregational events the signs of the divine presence which forestalls, accompanies and stimulates us so that His Will be accomplished today and always. A Will of love and salvation which follows His ways, not ours, His thoughts and dispositions, and not ours.

May Sr Cecilia and all the sisters who are already in the Father's house support us in our itinerary of faith and availability to God's Will, through their protection and intercession.

Sr Emmapia Bottamedi

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

2. MEMORY BECOMES THANKSGIVING

From these pages I wish to express, together with the sisters of the Council, a sincere thanks to the Provincial Superiors and to all the sisters of the Congregation for their heartfelt and evident sharing of the pain that has struck us for the accident that happened in Cameroun last August. Together we have prayed, suffered and accepted the painful event as the Will of God.

Their sharing through phone calls or other means has been for us a sign of the true and living family spirit that unites us all.

We felt specially close to our sisters of the African Apostolic Region, who were so hardly tried, and to the sisters of the Latin American Province, who were especially tried by the painful loss of Sr Cecilia Subiabre.

In particular, we feel the need and duty to thank the Provincial superiors of the Venetian and French Provinces. Catching the disorientation that suddenly seized the sisters in Cameroun, they immediately offered their help and their availability to welcome and care for the wounded sisters. Indeed, Sr Fabrizia Zanettin was in very serious conditions and was transported to a hospital in Paris where she underwent two difficult operations, assisted by the sisters of the French Province. Sr Mary Lukose was urgently operated in a clinic in Yaoundé and later, after a first period of convalescence, she was transported to Gemona pending a second, delicate operation to the spinal chord, which was carried out a few days ago with a positive outcome. The forth sister involved in the accident, Sr Silvy Assoana, because of the serious shock that she received, remained under observation in a hospital in Yaoundé for a couple of weeks.

Sr Eliodora Battiston and Sr Teresina Adakkaparayil, from the Venetian Province, answered generously to the request that was made to them and went to Cameroun soon after the accident in order to cooperate with the local sisters, especially with Sr Béatrice Bifouma who, as Regional Vicar, had to manage the Apostolic Region.

On 7 March Sr Fabrizia Zanettin, after a sufficient period of recovery, went back to Cameroun together with Sr Eliodora Battiston, who was available to welcome a new request to go back to Africa.

In this short article we are unable to express adequately our thanks to the Lord and our gratitude to all of you, sisters of the Congregation, who always show a fraternal participation in all that is related to the life of the Congregation.

The Sisters of the General Council

THE HEART'S MEMORY

We would like to thank all our religious family for the prayers and support that helped us through the big trial that the Lord sent us on August 21, 2010. We all have a big debt of love and gratitude towards the unforgettable Sr Cecilia Subiabre, because she shed her blood offering her life on our paths in Africa. She is an example for us and we consider her as one of our protectors. Dearest Superior and sisters, your fraternal solidarity has supported us all, especially the two of us, Sr Mary and Sr Fabrizia, the two survivors, who have felt your closeness. Now, by saying thank you, we would like to ask you to still remember Sr Mary in your prayers, because she will undergo another surgery in February.

**Sr Fabrizia Zanettin and Sr Mary L. Chamakala
from Gemona del Friuli, 1st January 2011**

3. GEMONA REACHED BY SPECIAL VISITORS, OUR “FRIENDS FROM GROTTA DI CASTRO”.

(September 2010)



Led by the parish priest Fr Tancredi Muccioli, the group of visitors coming from Grotte di Castro arrived in Gemona on 16 September 2010: it was the last stage of a trip which was animated by various interests (historical, artistic and environmental), but especially by the desire to know Gemona, the place where their native villager, Fr Gregorio Fioravanti, our founder, lived most of his life as a Friar Minor, a Provincial Superior and the spiritual Director and Assistant of our budding Institute of Franciscan Missionary Sisters.

After a first feisty exchange of greetings between sisters and visitors, we started the “special pilgrimage” with St Anthony of Padua Sanctuary.

Although the building has been rebuilt lately, it houses precious mementos of the stay of the saint in the first decades of 13th Century and of his apostolate, marked by miraculous interventions.

Inside the new Sanctuary there is a precious testimony of the Holy Performer of miracles’ great devotion to the Holy Virgin, to whom he wanted to dedicate a chapel, which was the occasion for one of his most famous miracles.

After a quick visit to the Sanctuary and the Museum below, a look at the Convent, where our Fr Gregory too had lived, and fraternal greetings with the Franciscan Friars Minor in the person of the Guardian Fr Luigi Bettin, we left the place to go to “St Mary of the Angels” Convent. Fr Tancredi, as a sign of ecclesial fraternity, concelebrated the Holy Mass here with the Vicar of Gemona Parish, Fr Federico Grosso, at the presence of all the pious pilgrims and the sisters.

The celebration of the Holy Mass was the opportunity to witness a simple and strong faith, and to express gratitude and affection for the presence of our small community in Grotte di Castro parish.

After the Eucharist, concluded with the popular chant to Our Lady of Help, the special protectress of Grotte di Castro, there was an exchange of gifts. Fr Tancredi gave Fr Federico and the Provincial Superior a picture featuring a photograph of Fr Gregory and the image of Our Lady of Help in the foreground, and the landscape of Grotte on the background. Sr Luisangela gave everybody a small Rosary with the image of Fr Gregory, as a sign of communion and prayer. There was also a nice and moving moment in which various people from Grotte freely expressed their feelings of love and devotion to their native villager, even through simple, almost ingenuous expressions, but a clear sign of their bond with the Servant of God: “We love Fr Gregory”, or “I live in the same street, I live next to his house, ...”, etc..



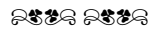
Next followed the visit to our convent and to the museum, where many mementos recall the events of our congregational history and many feelings of common piety are renewed, especially through the veneration of the Virgin, which in Grotte di Castro is above all a devotion to Our Lady of Help, with recurring solemn celebrations.

In the afternoon, the attention was focused on the

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

monuments of medieval Gemonia and on its cathedral, which extols the craft of the great 13th century “masters of stone”, with their Roman Gothic style.

Apart from the pieces of knowledge that were shared, there remained a vivid memory of a new simple and hearty friendship



4. SOME SISTERS' JOY TO BE IN GROTTE DI CASTRO

ON A DAY OF ABSOLUTE “MEMORY”.

(January 2011)



The opportunity that the Superior General and her Council offered to us to participate in the commemoration of Fr Gregory's death in Grotte di Castro was a gift of Providence. On Sunday morning, during our trip to Grotte, we spontaneously linked up with Gemonia and called to mind the last few hours of our beloved Founder's life: his last Mass, his attack, the Last Sacraments

26

accompanied by all the sisters of the community, the last blessing to the Institute and to the Sisters, contained in the answer he gave in a loud voice: “Oh yes, all of them!”... and then, always with our thought, we paid a quick visit to his tomb for a prayer: “Oh Lord let your light shine and glorify your servant...”.

Accompanied by these thoughts we arrived in Grotte di Castro and were welcomed with fraternal affection by the sisters of our community, which is now well known by the people. There was even a light snowfall, which brightened the day by making the landscape even more suggestive.

The parish Eucharistic celebration was scheduled at 10.30 and the special tribute to the 117th anniversary of Fr Gregory's death was commemorated by Sr Emmapia through a short speech: “Remembering the birth into eternal life of the Servant of God and our founder Fr Gregory Fioravanti, here in Grotte di Castro, is for us an event of grace which is doubly meaningful, since this year 2011 is also the Jubilee Year for the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Institute.

Fr Gregory is present among us in the communion of saints and is certainly rejoicing at watching this celebration in his beloved native village. We all feel love and devotion to our Father and Founder, but, in this Jubilee Year, we wish above all to commit ourselves to seek sincerely evangelical fidelity and radicalism, following his bright example... We really hope that Fr Gregory's holiness is recognized by the Church. A Consultor, examining the documents that we presented for the cause for beatification, said: “Gregory chose to belong to the most rare category of “quiet” saints, who prefer to play their role for the glory of God “in a low voice”, in the secret of their humbleness”. We, his spiritual daughters, ask that you pray too so that the heroic virtues of your fellow villager be recognized, and so that the



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



example of this our father and teacher, humble and great in spirit and outstanding in his actions may shine in the Church”.

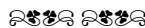
The event that gave the celebration more prominence was the Christening of Gregorio, a three-months-old baby. The celebration made us joyful and grateful to the Lord for the happy coincidence, so much so that the parish priest, Fr Tancredi, read a meaningful text of call-and-answer drawn on the pattern of the Gospel: Jesus called his first disciples, who left their nets and followed him, and called Gregorio to faith and his parents presented him to the Church, He called Fr

Gregory to the new life in heaven and he answered: “here I am!”

The celebrating mood was shared by all those who attended and went on later, during the gathering in the parish hall with the priests, the Council and the young women of our international juniorate.

The gratitude and deep interest that the people from Grotte have for Fr Gregory showed also when a group of them asked to meet Grotte’s parish priest and the General Council on that afternoon, Sunday 23 January. They wanted to have more information and details on Fr Gregory and his Congregation. The meeting went on for a long time with interesting discussions and ended with the promise of a future meeting with Sr Antonietta Pozzebon, the Congregation’s historian and vice-postulator of Fr Gregory’s cause for beatification.

May the Lord keep doing wonders for us to support our hope and our desire to give Him back, for His glory, the gifts that He has in store for this Jubilee Year



5. THE DAY OF OUR FOUNDER’S BIRTH INTO ETERNAL LIFE IS EXPERIENCED AGAIN IN THE MOTHER HOUSE

On Sunday 23 January 2011, right from the first lights of dawn, you could see that a nice sunny day was about to enlighten the memory and solemnity of the birth into eternal life of the Servant of God, Fr Gregory Fioravanti, our beloved Founder.

The morning prayer was preceded by a short reflection during which the Provincial Superior, Sr Luisangela Severin, outlined the figure of Father Gregory, a simple and humble person, rich in faith and in trust in God; in him, we admire the extraordinary ability of someone who is patient, able to mediate and work with a limitless generosity, not in view of a human success but at the service of God.

At 9 a.m. the Holy Mass was celebrated in the Mother House church, with all sisters attending, including the sick ones, who were accompanied there in their wheelchairs. Next to the altar was the image of Father Gregory, this year together with the Jubilee lamp, thanks to an artistic ornament prepared with flowers and decorations. The Celebrant, Fr Fabio Piasentin, OFM Provincial Definitor, in his homily, taking the first Lecture from the Prophet



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

Isaiah: “They rejoice before you...”, as a starting point, stated that “Celebrating the birth into eternal life of our Founder is a great joy, because we are able to remember his examples, which are the spiritual legacy that he bequeathed us...”.

At 11 am the solemn Holy Mass was celebrated in St Anthony’s Sanctuary and presided by Fr Luigi Bettin, the guardian of the Sanctuary, together with other confreres and with Gemona’s parish priest, Gastone Candusso. Gemona’s parish choir and the choir of the Mother House animated the chants of the Eucharistic liturgy: the soprano, Ms Bruna Dametto, moved all the assembly with her solos, she was able to convey the thanksgiving to the Lord, which was vibrating in the heart of all participants.

The altar was adorned with magnificent white and orange roses, which also spread their perfume in front of Father Gregory’s portrait and the crucifix of St Damian, which were enlightened by the Jubilee lamp. The Celebrant went several times near the Crucifix and the Father’s portrait to incense them. This too was a moving moment and maybe... even a prophetic one, as it anticipated an event that we, Franciscan missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, are eagerly expecting.

In his homily, Fr Luigi, taking from Isaiah’s words: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...”, said that Fr Gregory is a big light of everyday holiness for us: small things, made with love and dedication, can change this our society which does not live Christianity. He remarked that this year, the anniversary of his death falls on Sunday, the day of the Lord, the day of light as we remember Jesus’ Resurrection.

He declared that Fr Gregory was an outstanding brother because... “he started a Congregation of Sisters in the place where St Anthony had stayed, in the shadow of his Sanctuary; he was a son of Francis of Assisi’s, who, in the difficult years of the first period, was able to support God’s plan for the good of the world through his pains and privations.

28

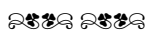


Indeed, from his writings emerges the joy that he felt and expressed when, for the first time, he was able to send his Sisters to missions in the United States and in the Middle East, but also the torment of having to bury 30 young lives within a few years...”.

It is worth to point out that, during lunch, Gemona’s parish priest, addressing the sisters, said that while we were all waiting for a miracle so that the Church may proclaim him a saint, he had already performed a miracle on that very day, and it was the miracle of making us live a moment in full unity: laypeople, priests, seminarians, sisters and friars, all gathered together

to meditate and rejoice in Franciscan simplicity and serenity, still feeling his presence among us.

In the afternoon the solemn Vespers were celebrated and we remembered again the transit of our beloved Fr Gregory, an invitation to us all to live with a strong faith and generous fidelity every moment of our life.



6. GROTTE DI CASTRO AND THE FELLOW VILLAGER FATHER GREGORY

(Grotte, 3 April 2011)

The request of some people of Grotte di Castro - as it was said in the preview pages -, particularly sensitive and motivated to know better their fellow villager, our founder and servant of God, Father Gregory Fioravanti, was partially satisfied on Sunday April 3, 2011 in the afternoon.

On that date, by the parish priest Father Tancredi and by the superior sister Margherita was scheduled a meeting with sister Antonietta Pozzebon and a group of persons, who desired to be helped on knowing bet-



ter and deepening more the personality of their fellow villager they are slowly discovering with enthusiasm and joy, and of whom they are so proud, especially after the arrival of the sisters on our town. Actually, their aim is to express their gratitude to God, who offers them with the encounter of this humble and holy Franciscan friar, the opportunity and the instrument to come close to Him and to learn from him to contemplate humbly His true Face of a merciful Father.

From that time it grew the desire of these people to welcome and to reflect seriously about the gift of God through his faithful follower Father Gregory Fioravanti, in order to have a model for their personal and Chri-

stian life and so to become promoters and efficacious channels to spread the knowledge and the example of the servant of God to beneficiate all the people of Grotte. And so all can start or continue with more conviction and courage a journey of true faith.

On April 3, twelve people, men and women, were gathered around sister Antonietta. They were happy to be in the hall of the parish, in a simple and edifying attitude of listening and of acceptance. They were sad only because many persons were absent since they attended a funeral of one fellow villager.

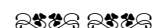


29

They spent there some hours, always very attentive and interested to listen to what sister Antonietta was sharing about the person of fr. Gregory. He was presented by a happy and touching power point presentation with the title: An original journey of holiness.

After listening the narration of all the events of his life in the cultural and ambient context of his birth, the people found themselves at the end fully satisfied and full of wonder as they discovered in Father Gregory a very rich and attractive personality, they could never thought.

They were so much enthusiastic and grateful that they would not like to end the meeting, but they promised to have another one as soon as possible in order to be able to exchange more opinions, proposals and impressions, so as to deepen more the knowledge and devotion towards the servant of God and to make of Grotte, his birthplace, a true model of Christian life to benefit spiritually many other people of Grotte.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



CALLED TO CELEBRATE GOD'S FIDELITY...

We like to remember in this way the nice anniversaries that the Lord offered us even in these last few months in order to strengthen our faith in Him, the faithful God, the beloved Spouse who united us to himself with an indissoluble bond of mercy. Every single time that we celebrate joyfully a sister's call, an anniversary, the more or less direct memory of a day and rite of profession or renewal of the Vows, an anniversary of consecrated life... a question always echoes in our heart, modulated in a thousand secret forms, which is somehow expressed by the old saying 'For whom the bell tolls?' 'The bell tolls also for thee!'

In this spirit of fraternal sharing, of collective awareness, and of happy gratitude not only to the only God of our life as consecrated, but also to the sisters who often give us the opportunity to reawaken, to retake our life into our own hands, so to speak, while we unite with them because of a thousand reasons to celebrate, we are determined to resume our path next to them, humble and sincere, in order to better rediscover the face of God in our life and celebrate his Presence.

With this aim, we remember with joy the group of Sisters who celebrated their Jubilee in summer 2010 and other young sisters, who, professed their perpetual Vows.



1. RENEWAL COURSE

(8 July-1 August 2010)



The 2010 Jubilee was truly an extraordinary event, at least for us who experienced it... During the Renewal Course it was nice to gather all together after so many years of religious life, to think about and re-taking possession of the enthusiasm which accompanied our first steps as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

A spontaneous heartfelt thanks goes to our Superiors, who prepared this much appreciated gift for us.

During the first week, in the General House, in the light of the slogan "How to be a prophecy of communion in the world, today, on the example of Francis", a leitmotiv that accompanied us for the entire course (with the wonderful break for the visit to Grotte di Castro, to the Sanctuary of Our

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

Lady of Help and to Bolsena, places rich in memories for our Congregation) our teachers were: first, Rev. Fr. **GIACOMO BINI OFM**, who instilled in us a joyful confidence through his enlightened and enlightening teachings, which are the fruit of his experience; then our Sr **ANTONIETTA POZZEBON**, who prepared for each one of us a precious and moving instrument of reflection on Poverty at the service of communion, thanks to a Power Point presentation, by showing and interpreting many historic and legislative documents of the Congregation, many of which are still unpublished or little



known; then Sr **CECILIA SUBIABRE**, our beloved and regretted Vicar General, who told us about the project on Sharing our Charism with lay-people, a subject which was very dear to her, and for which she spent part of her best energies; and finally, Sr **EMMAPIA BOTTAMEDI**, the Superior General, who brought us all around the Congregation by showing the photographs that she had shot herself during her visits to the various Communities.

31

The course of Spiritual Exercises which



was held at the Sanctuary of La Verna by Rev. Fr. **VITTORIO BELLE OFM** too was for everybody a time and a privileged gesture of divine benevolence through our Superiors. The starting points for reflection were numerous, and they led us to look inside and



around ourselves, so as to be witnesses of the Love that the world is thirsting for, but that it refuses and fears because it does not know It.

In a world that is thorn by divisions and contrasts, careerism and bullying, exasperated



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



individualism, we must, in our Franciscan Minority, build up fraternities based on serene, peaceful and joyful relationships. Our “beautiful” life, fully and consciously lived, must be the living memory of Jesus’ way of being and acting.

We must set the gifts that God has given us free in order to be sincere and refer everything to Him, since “religious life is like an eternity laboratory: it is needed to feed history with eternity”(O. Clément).

32

“Your word is a lamp to my feet”... This is the means that guides us: his conscience becomes experience and turns out to be overwhelming... That was the case for St Francis, who had fed and lived on it. To his children, He left nothing else but the Gospel...





Our stay at the Sanctuary of La Verna, for the whole duration of the week-long exercises, placed us in the context of an intense and tangible spirituality: it was as if we could meet the Seraphic Father at every step, when he spoke to the Lord, when he dictated the Rule for his followers to Brother Leo, when during an indescribable ecstasy the Lord gave him all His Love and all His Pain... Here we were able to acquire new strength and reconsider our personal prayer by attending the Franciscan Community's Liturgical Prayer, sung and accompanied by the organ in a sublime way. Our spaces and moments, guided in fraternal sharing by Fr Bellé, were full of serenity and confidence, of

great joy and gratitude.

Finally, the conclusion in Rome exceeded all our expectations... The 1st August celebration was simple and solemn at the same time and really meaningful, surrounded as we were by the sisters that had gathered to sing with us our thanks to the Lord for all the gifts that we had received. Our joy was interpreted by the offertorial dance and by the light of the lamp that had been given us at the end of the ceremony of renewal of our Holy Vows, as well as by the very special and allegorical flowery decoration (G clef, cithar and sailboat): all those were for us a sign of great attention and fraternal attention.

We remember and carry in our heart everything with gratefulness, praising the Lord for living in this family of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, which this year celebrates the 150th anniversary of its foundation. Always: Praise be to Thee, my Lord...



2. "YES FOREVER TO YOU, LORD OF SOME YOUNG SISTERS

"Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love!"

These are the words of the Song of Songs that express the deepest meaning of the gesture that some of our sisters made in the last few months of 2010, although in different communities and social and cultural environments, in the name of one ideal: the total dedication to Christ in the Church.

Let us remember these young women by mentioning them in order of date of Perpetual Vows:

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

Sr M. ELKA STANEVA,
Sr M. DILA VASIA,
Sr M. ANABEL MALABANAN,
Sr MIRIAM OYARZO
Sr M. FRANCESCA FIORIN,
Sr M. GABRIELA MAMANI,
Sr M. FABIOLA CUASPUD,

in Gitnitza (Bulgaria)
in Laç Vau Dejes (Scutari-Albania),
in Limassol (Cipro)
in Roma-Casa generalizia,
in Ospedaletto (Trevise),
in Tijuana (Messico),
in Quito (Ecuador),

on 25 September;
on 2 October;
on 3 October;
on 10 October;
on 30 October;
on 7 November;
on 14 November.



Helped by their respective religious and parish communities, supervised with special care by their direct Superiors, and supported also by the closeness of many young people, who in all the different situations -as we can infer from their chronicles- have answered satisfactorily to the call to reflect together upon the meaning of their life, they all lived intensely the special celebration day: in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Albania, Messico and Ecuador.

We were all with them, participating, physically or not, to the solemn celebrations, during which every young sister who was celebrating her Profession was at the center of attention, and could reflect once again on the meaning of total consecration to God, on the bond of matrimony that we contracted with Christ one day too, which is not something isolated o marginal in the Church.

No doubt, although with different words and idioms, by

taking part in the joyous liturgical rite, we heard with emotion, as if it was addressed to us too, the celebrant's wish that our newly professed sisters might think about and feel strongly the significance, through the uttering of the Perpetual Vows, of their entry in the heart of the Church, inside its mission, with a precise identity, that of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

What we too asked the Lord for each one of them certainly converged in a vow that might be expressed as follows: "May they become living images of the Church-Bride in her search for a perfect union with her Spouse. May the soul of each one of them resound with the voice of the Spir-who, in the much solemn moment of their radical perpetual consecration, pronounced for all our seven young sisters the words of the Psalm: "Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house; Then the King will desire your beau-



Sr Anabel Malabanan, Cipro

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



Sr Miriam Oyarzo, Roma

ty.”

Finally, maybe echoing every attending person’s thoughts, we would like to remember these young women with admiration and prayer, considering the precise context in which they consecrated themselves forever to the Lord.



Sr Dila Vasia, Albania

that, nowadays, individual autonomy and independence are capriciously extolled? That freedom is considered as the refusal of any definitive bond?

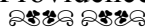
That the person is degraded to a bundle of instincts?

With such or similar thoughts, then, our prayer turned into a warm supplication, so that everyday the newly Professed may allow the Lord to “set them as a seal on his heart, as a seal on his arm”, that is (on his heart) that they offer themselves



Sr Francesca Fiorin, Ospedaletto (TV)

totally, completely and forever to Jesus Christ for His Glory; that they lean totally on Him (on his arm), that is at His disposal in obedience, chastity and seraphic poverty for every kind of “Here I am!” that He will ask from them, as a sign and prophetic answer to the gift that they have received. It is the wish that we gladly repeat for these sisters, considering it quite appropriate to the spirit of our Congregational Jubilee, which we are all living “in the footsteps of Providence”.



Sr Gabriela Mamani, Messico



Sr Fabiola Cuaspu, Ecuador

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



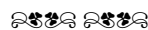
EDUCATIONAL MISSION

“The Congregation of FMSC, faithful to the inspiration of its charism and to the mission that it carries out in the Church, considers school as a privileged place of evangelization in which every member is helped to become aware of his dignity as a child of God and to gradually commit himself to give a free and personal answer to Christian vocation.

The educating community of the FMSC undertakes to create a vital environment which is permeated by the Franciscan evangelical spirit of freedom, peace and love” in any circumstances, as the two meetings that were held testify. (PEfmsH. 2008).

36

We would like to let you know some chronicles that we received about moments of school and cultural life by some of our educational institutions. It is nice to infer from them that this year everything is characterized by the spirit of the Jubilee for the 150th anniversary of our religious congregation, as proof that even our educational environments reveal easily and serenely a family atmosphere, and sometimes manage to express or witness also that particular sense of belonging, which is the quest for an identity that young people are so attached to, but that they often mistake for the superficiality or vanity which characterize them.



1. FROM ASISIUM SCHOOL CELEBRATION

(Rome, 4 October 2010)

Here, a new school year began and we were all present, ready to celebrate it, in the morning of October 4, together with the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

St Francis, on the day that was dedicated to him, was, as always, on top of the slope that our children cover hastily every day to get to school. In the eyes of those who receive his blessing every day when they pass by, that bronze statue acquires a special sweetness and light, that only the heart can perceive. The children feel the joy



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

and the sense of protection that St Francis gives them and this tenderness was the sensation that we were aware of in every corner of our Institute as October 4 was drawing near.

The preparations for the celebration that we relished to live all together were, as always, an opportunity for reflection for all those who had attended the school in the past few days: the children, in their daily activities, and the parents, who, intrigued by their children's strange ferment, shared their waiting.

Under the guidance and with the help from the teachers and sisters of the Institute, the children prepared songs for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Notes and voices cheered up the school halls as well as the church during the rehearsals.

All the teachers, apart from carrying out their normal teaching activity, gave their contribution to the success of the day, each one with his own inclination.

In the preceding days, it was amusing to see the continuous coming and going of scores which were passed from hand to hand, while the melodies that they bore were hummed by the children even at home.

Immediately after the arrival at school, the Holy Mass was celebrated with "simplicity and joy", which are maybe the terms which best describe the spirit and activities of our Institute.

All the enthusiasm and liveliness of the preceding days took shape during the celebration: the children followed in joyful silence the words spoken by Fr Simone, who always manages to capture their attention. The sisters and teachers apparently were not watching over them, but were simply attending the ceremony and a special emotional warmth was perceived by the parents who were in the Church. It was as if St Francis was really there, invoked by the words of the song at the Entrance:

".....What I was looking for I found it here, but by saying "yes" to you, I found back my freedom...", which gave a meaning to our presence in the Church.

All the children were able to enrol in the open air games organized for the day: the volleyball tournament, tug-of-war, basketball, capture the flag and soccer kept them busy after a merry and rich snack in the school garden. The high school and junior high school pupils, divided according to their age, competed in the various sports and the teachers, who for one day had put their marks aside, alternated as referees and in watching the champions who would emerge as winners at the end of the celebration day.

The attending parents watched amused bands of children who alternated competitive enthusiasm and the joy of spending a free morning outdoors.

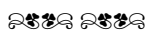
At the end of the games, a basket full of trophies was carried by Sr Loredana on the skating ring, where the teachers rewarded the winners among the cheers of their school friends.

The parents, teachers, pupils and sisters who took part lined all up in front of the field: smiling, merry and amused, ready to go back to their respective occupations. So the day ended.

Many photographs were taken, but maybe those that were shot at the end of the day best represent the spirit of our Institute. The seriousness with which the daily teaching and formation responsibility are dealt with is supported by a joyful and proactive spirit, as well as a special enthusiasm during the leisure times that are often organized. Therefore, the teachers and sisters of the Institute always play the role of educators, but are available with friendliness and familiarity, thus creating a bond with the pupils and their families. .

St Francis certainly liked the "simplicity and joy" of that day, the cheerfulness and festive mood of our children, and the gift of love that they receive every day.

(written by a parent)



2. A LESSON OF LIFE THAT YOU CANNOT LEARN IN ANY CLASSROOM.

ROME- MARY IMMACULATE

(Rome- Mary Immaculate, 14-16 November 2010)



Our “Mary Immaculate” School takes part in some projects that are made by various cultural agencies.

Lately, from 14 to 16 November, it took part in one of the “Journeys of Memory” supervised by the town councillorship and by the Department of Education and School Services of the Town of Rome, having for destination: KRAKOW - BIRKENAU - AUSCHWITZ.

It was a visit-pilgrimage that cannot be described through common words, since the impact with a reality that is quite different from our expectations was quite strong... I had read se-

veral books and witnesses on concentration camps, but harsh reality makes every imagination pale... We were accompanied to Auschwitz by two “survivors” who, with tears in their eyes due to emotion, tried to describe the tragedy that had taken place there as well as their own, when they had ended up in that death factory, among gas chambers and crematories... I personally wondered how a whole nation could have possibly let themselves be morally subjugated by a madman... and, above all, how the “camp guardians” could not even have for their fellow men the feelings of compassion and sickness that we all experience when confronted with the suffering of an animal.

38

Helpless people, unable to ask “why?”, least of all to rebel, who daily witnessed the disappearance of their dear ones, who were not even able to stand up, who were obliged, in order to survive amid unheard-of pains, to empty their hearts and minds, who were reduced to transparent skeletons: such were the prisoners in Auschwitz and in the other concentration camps, which worked from 1938 to 1944.

We could see how far man can go when he excludes God from his own life, and which atrocities and brutalities he is capable of! In the evening, after dinner, we were able to talk with the precious and irreplaceable “witnesses” and asked them all the questions that had come to our perplexed and incredulous minds during the visit... I was surprised to find out that the two survivors came from the island of Rhodes, where, as they were still children, they had been obliged to break any civil and social contact by racial laws.

Alberto Israel (Albertico for friends!) had attended nursery school at our Sisters’ school (he remembered Mother Sofia quite well) and had started elementary school at our Brothers’ Christian Schools... When he talked about his childhood, he spoke of a happy time, in which he had not experienced any discrimination, exclusion or marginalization, but he had lived serenely surrounded by the affection of his family and teachers. He had words of deep gratitude for them, remembering the help that they received by the Religious when the Jews were not allowed anymore to do any job to make a living...

Albertico confided to us that he had tried to kill himself many times and that he had asked himself why God had kept him alive. But now he has understood that every moment is precious and that God keeps loving him because, through his dramatic testimony, he can prevent similar tragedies from being repeated. I am really grateful to the Lord for this experience.



(A young student at Mary Immaculate’s)

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

3. SCHOOL DAY, FROM SAINT MARY SCHOOL(LIMASSOL),

(21 November 2010).

Today, November 21, there is a festive atmosphere in St Mary School. We celebrate the presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a traditional celebration day for all the students. This year, however, the day gets a special tone, as it has been decided to start the celebration of the 150th anniversary of foundation of our Congregation on this feast day, thus involving all the students that are a living testimony of our project.

The Holy Mass was celebrated in the morning, and it meant to be a praise and thanksgiving to God for 150 years of life of our religious family. The theater was prepared to welcome the community, the teaching staff and the high school students, 90% of which are Orthodox.



During offertory, the class representatives laid flowers at the feet of the icon of the Virgin Mary. In his homily, Fr Umberto Barato spoke of today's celebration with the following words:

“The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Catholic Church liturgical memory of devotional origin, which is also celebrated by the Orthodox Church as the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, which is reminiscent of the presentation of Mary in the Temple of Jerusalem. It is celebrated every year on 21 November by both Churches.

The date of the celebration, November 21, derives from the same date of consecration of St Mary Nova Basilica in Jerusalem, which was built by Justinian I for the bishop Elijah. The first celebration of the Presentation is traced back to the calendar of Basil II of Byzantium, a XI century emperor.

Today's feast reminds us of the most remarkable and certainly unique event in the childhood of the

Most Holy Virgin Mary: her Presentation in the Temple by Joachim and Hannah and her consecration to God. The fact is told us by the Apocrypha and especially by the Protoevangelium of James, which for its first part dates back to the 2nd century. Subsequent writings embellished the narration with a thousand details, beautiful but fanciful, which were immediately pray to poets, painters and hagiographers. The Church ac-



cepted only the fact of the Presentation in the Temple.”

At the end of the Holy Mass there was a party for all the teachers, who gather together on this occasion to greet each other and spend merrily some moments together.

After that, every class, separately, offered a wonderful historic presentation entitled: “Without a staff, without a bag” on our origins, which provided the opportunity to make a historic trip into the past and admire the works of Divine Providence.

The photographs, that had been kept closed and forgotten into albums, now took life onscreen, thanks to the ability of Sr Antonia Piripitsi and Sr Lyubka Schishkova, as well as of some teachers and students.

While the photographs of our history, our missionary activities and our life were being displayed, the voices of teachers and students alternated to give life to our wonderful work. The background music

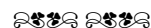
... For years in the footsteps of Providence



made the presentation even more moving.

The audience was quite interested and was able to imagine what had really been our much tormented, but also fruitful history in 150 years of life under the guidance of Divine Providence.

This school year, in the 150th anniversary of our foundation, will certainly offer other good opportunities to arise anew a keen interest in and appreciation of our educational mission.



4. INAUGURATION OF 'PROJECT CRIB', FROM ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

(S. Maria degli Angeli (Gemona), 4 dicembre 2010)

Today, October 4, is a big celebration day at St Mary of the Angels school because of the inauguration of the "Project Crib 2010" with the title "PEACE AND GOOD"!

In these last few days many people have worked assiduously so that everything may be ready for the big day: not only the children, teachers and sisters, but also many other tireless friends of the school, guided by the Principal, Gianluca Macovez, the author of the project!

40

The "Project Crib 2010" is entitled "PEACE AND GOOD" and is dedicated to Sr Cecilia Subiabre, Vicar General of the Franciscan Sisters, who died in mission land last summer.



The big crib, built up in the school's wide hall, through the colours of the rainbow and of the flag of peace, reminds of the cribs prepared by the classes of the junior high school, named "Peace", and the elementary school, called "Good". Many small statues of the project and some cribs from the Franciscan Sisters' missions are placed in the middle.

In the school's great hall, which was filled to the brim by authorities, teachers, pupils, parents, friends, etc. the 2010 edition of "Project Crib" was inaugurated. The Principal outlined the project to the audience, reminding the important figure of Sr Cecilia, who had always been close to our school and had always supported us with her advice and prayers.

Among the authorities who brought their greetings and best wishes, were Sr Anna Maria, Provincial Vicar, the town mayor Paolo Urbani, the parish priest, Msgr Gastone Candusso and the representative Angelo Compagnon.

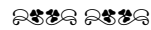


In particular, Sr Anna Maria thanked the Principal for dedicating this edition of "Project Crib" to Sr Cecilia.

The mayor thanked the sisters for their presence in the local community, mentioning the celebration of the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Congregation right in Gemona.

The celebration was cheered up by the songs from the elementary school pupils, directed by their teacher Ms Linda.

After the ceremony, everybody was able to visit the Crib in the school hall and give his contribution to the school activities by purchasing the original Christmas objects at the small market.



5. THE SCHOOL AS A DOMESTIC FAMILY: FROM ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

(S. Mary of the Angels, Gemone - 11 December 2010)

As has been the case for many years, this year too, on Saturday 11 December 2010, in Gemona, in the Sanctuary dedicated to St Anthony, the solemn Holy Mass for Christmas was celebrated for all the pupils and teachers of “St Mary of the Angels” Institute. The guardian, Fr Luigi Bettin, together with his confrere Fr Oreste Marcato, welcomed us with benevolence and assisted Msgr Gastone Candusso, Gemona’s parish priest, who presided the celebration.

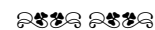


Almost all the children from the nursery, elementary and junior high school, with their families, their teachers and the Franciscan Sisters, attended this nice celebration, offering a moving sight in the temple of the popular Thaumaturgist Saint. This is even more remarkable if we consider that the chosen day was a holiday: despite this, everybody thought it was his duty to come, gathering harmoniously for the meeting, so much so that the wide room of the Sanctuary was full.

The children cheered up the celebration with their songs, accompanied by the voices of a numerous group of altar boys.

Fr Gastone, our parish priest, in his homily, addressed the children with words of great joy, and he also gave a reason why we should all renew our commitment for the imminent feast of Christmas. He wished, or better asked that every one of us, adult and children, become like ANGELS, that is messengers of peace and bearers of the good news, enthusiast announcers of the magic of Jesus Child, who, driven only by pure love, comes among men to tell them how much he loves them.

41



6 . A SMALL PERFUMED FLOWER , THAT BLOOMS IN HEAVEN

*(Elementary School, Asisium,
March 2011)*



On March 26 Saturday, in the primary school, we had a moment of great emotion around the three of Alice. It is a magnolia that the parents of the students, classroom, IA donated in memory of Alice Moscatelli, a girl of six years old, who died suddenly on January 24, 2011 because of a cerebral aneurism.

Two months after we gave the last greeting to Alice in the parish of Saint Giuliano, we were still deeply touched, almost on feasting, all in circle in the garden of the school to recite the morning prayer and offering it to this small student of Asisium. The parents, solicitous to arrive on time, went early to the gasoline station to inflate the 60 balloons. At the moment to give them to the children there was a

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

contagious joy among the classmates of Alice, while the parents and the teachers, once again, had tearing eyes.

While singing the song “Su ali d’aquila”, the balloons tied to the wrists of the children, were freed and they flew higher and higher on the sky...maybe to fulfill our desire, that is to reach Alice. Our thoughts and our hearts were flying with them.

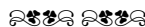
We followed them with our eyes until they disappeared, after forming a heart in the sky. Many were the expressions and the feelings of the children. Only when all the balloons disappeared completely, we went back to our classroom with the joy as if we were celebrating a birthday, because this is what we felt with the balloons and in this way we want to celebrate the birth to heaven of Alice. We went on our day drawing this moment and listening the song of Renato Rascel “Where will the balloons go?”.



The parents of Alice, were able to see the video, prepared by one of the parents present to the prayer, and they sent this message: “....we saw the images of Saturday morning and we are so much touched by the affection of all. Alice surely was there with you, happy to see the balloons flying on the sky. We would like to thank you sister Agnese, your co-sisters, the parents and all the children for the great love you have shown to us.”.

42

*Composition done by Alice in the month of September
It seems a presage of what happened:
The flower was draw detached
completely from the earth and the two balloons
could be the gift of her two kidneys .*



7. THE COLLEGE ASISIUM PREPARES NEW CICERONI

(Asisium, March 2011)



We give thanks to our school, that gave us this possibility, to the persons who cared the project and had trust in us, to our professors who prepared us and followed us in every moment giving us the instruments to reach a good and fitted preparation. We, the students of the College Asisium (Rome), on March 26, 27 had the possibility to be the guides on behalf of Fai in the study house of Luigi Pirandello. Collaboration, solidarity, enthusiasm, joy and great concentration were constantly present to us and helped us to organize the work and to do it learning new things and enjoying ourselves.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

*The **FAI** – Fondo Ambiente Italiano (Found Italian Ambient): It was born from the initiative of a College teacher, deeply close to our Institute and always enthusiastic of the various initiatives that the school proposes to the different levels.*

And so for two years the students of the Secondary School of I grade and the Scientific College “Asisium” are supporting the FAI initiatives through a symbolic enrolment and they participate to particular formative proposals.

*The **FAI** is an association that promotes respect, protection and development of the landscape. To do this it is committed to awaken and to form the citizens, big and small, in taking care and in giving value to the cultural patrimony with particular attention to the goods, handled by the Foundation.*

To the students and the teachers, the FAI, that works with the Teaching Ministry, of the University and of Research, proposes various stimulus for the knowledge of art, nature and ambience.

To help the students to a deeper knowledge and to a true responsibility in the care of our cultural patrimony, we have inserted in the educative project of the Institute, the active participation to some initiatives among those that “Apprendisti Ciceroni” (apprentices Ciceroni).

This wonderful experience was also the occasion to know each other better in a different context from that of the school. We helped each other in difficult moments and it was beautiful to trust one another. In times of confusion we had always the professors next to us, as points of reference, who with great patience, consoled us giving us trust and making us feel we could do it. To live a personal experience with Fai gave us the opportunity to meet many people, to overcome our fears and the embarrassment to speak in public, moreover made us feel an active part of the spreading process and protection of Italian culture. The satisfaction filled our hearts at the end when we went home, tired but happy to have been useful and to have received so many appreciations, together with the pride of being able to fulfill the expectations toward us.

All of us will remember those moments with joy, satisfaction and especially with a great desire to have again that wonderful experience, which helped us to overcome our limits and to use at their best our capacities.

The occasion made us grown and we are happy that it was given to us.

On behalf of the college classmates

Daniela Strazzullo III liceo

How did the FAI delegation reply after the experience

Dear Dean,

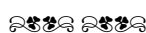
I would like to thank you on behalf of FAI and myself for the help your wonderful students gave to us in the occasion of the opening of the Study of Luigi Pirandello. The great success was reached through these youth very well prepared, who welcome the people with joy, showing great seriousness and maturity. I want to congratulate also with the professors Maria Principia Betrò and Manuela Cundari for their work as they were able to guide and prepare the youth in a wonderful way.

Wish to meet you soon, I extend my cordial greeting.

Caterina Boratto

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Object: FAI springtime day



8. WITH YOUNG CANDIDATES TO CONFIRMATION

(Saint Mary of the Angels Assisi, March 2011)

“Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel” (I Cor 9,16)



For a daughter of Saint Francis, nothing negative ever happens that does not carry something good, if we are able to read the hidden message of the Lord that makes sweet what it can appear bitter.

The sentence of saint Paul seems direct to me, as I feel always the fear to launch myself in activities because of difficulties and personal limits.

However with the help of God I was able to make, during this pastoral year, a beautiful formative journey with 16 youth who were preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and, at the same time, I tasted the great value for us to announce Jesus Christ to our brethren.

During the year many have been the strong experiences of reflection, but the deepest ones have been those in preparation of the solemnity of Mary Immaculate and of Christmas.

Before receiving the Sacrament, the youth lived, with alive participation, the time of recollection, with the meaningful reflection: “I will go back to my Father and I will feast with Him”.

44

In the penitential celebration, in a special way, they had the opportunity to experience the embrace of the heavenly Father, who welcomes His children to His Family, renewing completely their heart.

During the solemn rite of Confirmation, I could notice light and joy in their eyes. They were deeply touched and happy and I also felt renewed interiorly by the light and strength of the Holy Spirit poured over each one of them.

The Bishop, msg. Domenico Sorrentino, in his convinced and enthusiastic homely, gave some duties to the young ones: “Write in your book - he said - in the book of your life, the wonders the Lord has done in you; do not forget that you were filled of His Presence since your birth and it is not by chance that you are here. He wanted it because He loves each one of you, He cares for your life, for you in every moment. Above all, my dear ones, - he exhorted - sing of His Love, sing, with your life before his greatness and immensity, sing how great is His love for us.

Let us praise the Lord for these youth, asking Him to guide them and to give to them courage and fidelity to continue to walk towards Him in the Church, with their families and their dear ones.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



MISSIONARY VOICES AND PRESENCE

As fmsc sisters we are inserted in a primary and distinct way in the “missionary Church”, of which we are assuming the specific aim given by God: to go and announce the Gospel to all people. God as He is love is “missionary”, He is searching constantly to reach people giving all of Himself; He is doing it in the “sending” church, in us who are “sent”, with the duty to imitate and incarnate the same action of unconditional service. In the effort to fulfill this duty, we are aware that maybe, never as in this time, to be a missionary church means to believe strongly that “Christ” is the absolute “answer” to all existential, political and economic human problems, that means moreover, that we have to live authentically the gospel of Christ we want to proclaim.

All of us, in a way or another, are aware that the saving message we want to proclaim can question the operative structures of our time, can ask to fight against them. However our possible duty to all of us is to assume the sufferings and the problems of the world, that is to shout the gospel with the responsibility to take part of the culture, the problems and the sufferings of the lay society that surrounds us. If it is true that we are missionary as we live out in our own realities the new spiritual and social life inaugurated by Christ, we cannot take for granted the fact that the Gospel is already known. We have a personal daily mission: to contribute the community, the parish, the organism we are working in, may be welcome places, able to listen to fears and hopes, questions and expectations, able to give a courageous witness and credible proclamation that Christ is our salvation, life and way.

We are challenged everywhere to be truly at the service of the people, aware that they must be reached where they are: in their work, affection, education, sufferings. Our missionary voices can be heard if we have the courage to give our collaboration, to cooperate in the services in the places we are living in: in this way our presence and our voices can be truly “missionary”... as the following sharing will tell us.

45

1. FROM BOLIVIA...A WITNESS OF TWO VOICES **a) sr. Fulvia Stefanato... flashes of a fire always burning**

“I do not know why – writes the missionary sister – but this evening I would like to give time to myself, with a break on my journey, as a dear person was used to say.

Thinking back of the 20 years lived in Bolivia (Cochabamba) I can see myself when mgr. René Fernandez, archbishop of Cochabamba, asked me to be part of the leading group of Cuschieri Hospital, already friend and attendee of our community. He accompanied me many times in the upland to share with me as a precious gift his great love for the poor of those places. In 1992 the administrative office of the Hospital was held by the president mgr. Angelo Gelmi, with whom I worked for a long time.

For two years I could work also next to the Jail for women and I took part of the leading group of CBR (Religious Conference of Bolivia). Afterward, Mgr. Tito Solari, new Archbishop of Cochabamba

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

asked me to be part of the board group of the seminary “Saint Louis” and later he convinced me to assume the Presidency of the group of FAPIZ foundation, born to take care of the blind people, especially the children. I cannot deny that I am so much touched every time I am in the midst of those little ones who stretch out their hands to ask help.

This commitment with FAPIZ gives me a lot of worries and my mind cannot find peace on thinking to think of this responsibility, of the difficulty to make more efficacious the attention and the care of the blind children and youth.



I went to the uplands the first time on 1991 with doctor Hugo Barriga, of Loreto Dispensary. He is also a living expression of love and generosity for the poor. On that occasion I could see how the people were living up there, that is in the community called “Great Challa”. I found there an ex- salesian nun who cordially welcomed me and with whom I agreed to offer a medical dental service as no one was sent there for health care. That’s how, after speaking with doctor. Hugo, who sustains me in everything, we have started our “sweet Via Crucis”.

I started from the rural group of “Great Challa”: many sick people came. We cured them with so much attention and affection that the news was spread very fast and other communities invited me saying: “sister, come to us too!” From that time it is difficult to narrated all the dangers and risks we had to face on that altitude of 4.500 meters and even more than 5.000 m.; every kind of difficulties, with mortal danger by mother nature but the Good God was always our guide, and nothing happened to us.

46

Going from one community to another, sharing adventures and impressions, we were able to assist 14 communities.

It is enough to think that from 1991, the medical dental equip cured 3.400 sick people and cured the teeth of 900 people. For the most grievous cases, we were sustained by Cuschieri Hospital. The experience gave me the opportunity to know the reality of life of these brethren, of their children forced to walk for hours on difficult and dangerous paths to reach their school, where they arrived so tired and weak that they can only sleep in the classroom.



With the help of divine Providence, that is always with open hands on my journey, I thought to take care concretely of those children. To fulfill this desire, in the midst of many sacrifices but enthusiasm too, I was helped by many people, and so able to build chapels, schools, counseling centers, nursery schools and other things that could help numerous communities in the uplands (Carpani, Chacuela, Numumayani, Escalera, Titigallo, Posota, Challuma, Pongo, Wuitipina).

I give thanks to God for all He has given me through these brethren, and I thank all the sisters who sustained me and many other collaborators, who share their passion for those poor rural communities, far and forgotten by all.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

b) Doctor Hugo Barriga.... necessary wood to keep the fire burning

After having worked in Los Yungas, in Corque and in the region of Oruro, on 1990 I was in Cochabamba, at the service of the medical dispensary “Josè Antonio Harman” in the Parish “La Recoleta”. It was on that time, during a meeting in the “Cuschieri” Hospital, that I had the casual fortune to meet Hermana Fulvia, who invited me to give my service as a doctor in the “Loreto” dispensary. From that time my life has changed as a person and as a doctor, discovering how many doors were opened before me. With sr. Fulvia Stefanato, responsible of the medical Dispensary, and together with Mrs Elvira Pimienta, a nurse, and Betty Ledesma, secretary, we constituted a special equip, totally committed to alleviate the sufferings of the uplands’ brethren.

We have started to cure the people of the village of the Great Challa, and becoming so much famous that we were requested by other 14 communities. As “Health Campaign”, so we like to called ourselves, we were able to cure 200 people a day, with so many sacrifices and difficulties, in a small room of 3 square meters and without proper equipment. We were happy, satisfied to receive as recompense a “thank you!” or “May God reward you!”



47

In my mind I treasure many memories, extraordinary, unforgettable events and examples, as that of mister Crispin Delgado, who, one night, desperate because of the great pain, he decided to kill himself with the poison of rats. I have so many things to share but I cannot keep silence on telling that event which provoked me and challenged me to give totally myself to help those brethren.

Another example, among many I witnessed, is that of the little Bautista Cruz, a child of three years old, who had a very big tummy. It was useless to explain to the parents the necessity to admit him to the hospital, they could not understand. And so it happened that few days later I saw the father arriving and holding in their characteristic cloth (aguayo), all wet, the little Bautista, almost without life. He was brought to the hospital “Albina Patino” but he could not be operated because he was affected of scarlet fever; however it was possible to diagnose the Megacolon he was suffering for. On that situation there was a true angel in the person of the American lady Mary Keit, a doctor who committed herself to cure the child in her country.

I would like to remember also another experience I had with the youth of the college “Saint Francis” directed by our FMSC sisters, happy to fulfill a dream that seemed impossible.

Actually it was given a beautiful lesson of life through the care of those youth cleaning a room or preparing a snack or answering other requests: returning from these experiences they were full of joy, wet as small chickens, but happy more than ever.

I could never end telling my experiences about God’s presence: as for example the case of a girl in a village Tita Gallo, so much malnourished because of family poverty. We were able to find an American family which adopted her, taking care of her and assuring a normal growth, as I knew later with joy.

How can I remember the special service given for more than 20 years to so many poor and alone brethren?

I would like to name all those who, grateful and amazed of our work, were giving us new strength

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



with their simple visits and supporting our efforts: they were, for example Hermana Ines (Sister Ines Pavan) or Maria Rose, Pauline, or Saverie, Sister Rosaria as well as Mgr. Angel Gelmi who was a true father for me and my family, a great example to follow and imitate.

All my thanks, allow me to repeat, is for sister Fulvia, who gave me the opportunity to make of my life and my profession a long act of love for my poorest brethren!”



2. ANIMATORS... IN ANIMATION

(Gemona, August 2010)

While most of the people in our Industrialized Countries were planning to spend weeks of vacation in the beach or on mountain, August 3, a small group of volunteers met in Gemona, in the Mother-house, for a day of reflection and of planning of the next service to be done in the mission of Centralfrica of Maigaro and of Niem.

48

It is really meaningful to see in our austere capitular hall, normally used by the sisters, a group of committed lay people, discussing on the way to handle our educational and medical mission in Africa, working side by side of the missionary sisters working there, with respect and attention of the culture so much different than ours.

Main objective is the formation of the local people to make them able to assume their own responsibilities of the real problem that are threatening the life of so many people, especially children and women.

The six doctors who were present made the proposal to assure one of their presence so as to give support, encouragement and some short formative courses for the prevention of the common sicknesses as well as for the use of the instruments to diagnose the same sicknesses in a proper time to start the right treatment. It is also urgent to continue the work of maintenance for the building constructed with so many sacrifices (school, hospital, house for the volunteers ecc...)

Our untiring volunteers, Eugenio and Francesco, as delegates of the numerous group of Maigaro and Niem friends, suggested some proposals and offered themselves for the next departure for the “maintenance sector” .

Miss Augusta Carpené, retired nun, follows with interest and understandable anxiety, all the suggestions and proposals: her support has been full and generous:



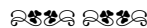
... For years in the footsteps of Providence

she left with the 4 missionary sisters on August 18 and she is living her first missionary experience in the Hospital of Maigaro , happy to give herself (for 3 months) to alleviate those sufferings. Last September 29, the doctors Cristofoli Ugazio and Bulgheroni arrived there too. On November will go doctor Busato and his wife, Ardit.

Sure, problems and difficulties are many but they do not weaken the good will of those people, voted to the cause of the poorest and abandoned people, part already of our beautiful missionary family.

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of these brethren; even for Moira Gerace, a young from Genova, who coordinates with competence and affection the most urgent and difficult consignment of health material necessary to the mission, giving her help with generosity and joy. Yes, we must affirm that, as our strength is less, strong is the fervor of our lay brethren who are giving us good examples of availability of time, talents and a big heart for the mission.

Thank you, lay brothers and sisters!



3. TAU ONLUS... IN MUSIC

Treviso, October 24, 2010

“ [...]The month of October, with the celebration of the World Mission Sunday, offers the occasion to renew the commitment of announcing the Gospel and to give a new missionary spirit to the pastoral activities...”

Following this desire, Sunday October 24, 2010, World Mission Sunday, in the Church of Saint Agnes, in Borgo Cavour (Treviso), a musical concert was held, organized by “Tau Onlus Mission”, our Lay Franciscan Missionary Association, that since 2006 supports our mission through initiatives of missionary animation and development projects.



Through a sequence of images, words, music, the authors accompanied us in a journey in the lands of Africa and India, to meet the eyes of the poor and marginalized children and to receive all their richness. This is facilitated by the sharing of Sabrina Vivan (Tau Mission President), who touches us deeply thinking of her story as a young pilot who became a missionary volunteer through a journey of faith, that was more deep especially in the most difficult moments of her life. Afterward we listen to the sharing of Emanuela Sanna.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



She is the President of the new-born Onlus “Make a change”, and she just came back from a visit in India, in particular to our mission in Kalipatnam.

The objective of the missionary animation prepared was part of the “Kalipatnam Project”. Actually many of the video and images were dedicated to the Indian children, as all the offerings given in that time (through a charitable activity) were also for them.

The words and the images were more clear through the music always fascinating especially when it is willingly prepared and chosen to elevate the spirit and to taste the inner joy the word cannot transmit. To the songs of Lorenza Basan were alternate other pieces, well selected of the Sacred Music of 1600. They were accompanied magnificently by some professionals: Maria Zalloni e Francesca Cenedese (Soprano), Michele Geremia (Organ), Sara Zalloni (Violoncello), Massimo Simonetto (Violin).

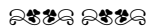
The offered pieces helped us to meditate the images and provoked great emotion.

Two dances of three Indian sisters with their proper fineness and sensibility helped to keep and to intensify the atmosphere of deep meditation. It was truly a pleasant experience especially thinking that everything could help the realization of a Hostel to welcome the poor girls of India.



50

Let us give praise to the divine providence that continues to walk on our paths even through the generous and free collaboration of many people.



4. THE INDELIBLE MARK OF A BRAVE MISSIONARY



As usual, in Asisium, every Sunday we are participating to the Eucharistic Celebration and sometimes with particular signs for some events or liturgical moments.

Sunday August 8, 2010 with the presence of our Superior general, all the counselors and the community, we raised our voices to praise and thank the Lord for the gift and the example of Miss Giulia Durigon, in our midst.

In fact, Giulia, a lay person not so young, but with a youthful spirit, has transformed her life in a long experience of mission, not for ambition or personal notoriety but in order to render more serene the life of so many brethren less fortunate than her.

She spent more than 25 years in mission lands, with our missionary sisters in Africa and in Latin America.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



The memories of Cameroun and Bolivia, are so much alive in the mind and heart of this very generous person, who gave us always and everywhere a great witness of self- denial and selfless love. The vocation of Giulia was simply a gift! It is impossible to recall or describe the quality of commitment she had in collaborating with our apostolic activities, in the health care, in the education, in the charitable assistance, always available to renounce herself in order to give her time, her energy, her life to those people signed by the stigmata of abandonment, poverty, ignorance.

She was near to the sisters in every initiative, on sharing fully their service, always attentive to be present with her practical and intelligent suggestions but with discretion and maturity; open to every necessity of help but without searching to be the center of attention, Giulia was able to answer fully to her vocation and also to assume the anxieties, the problems, the joys and sufferings of the sisters she worked with, becoming a true example of a “lay associated”.

Let us give her our Thanks for the gift of her service, so much edifying for those who worked with her daily. No one will forget the quality of her presence: a simple woman, authentic, strong, exemplary for her serenity and trust, her tact and wisdom she used always in accordance with the religious community.

51

The voice of... Giulia!

“First of all I give thanks to God for the gift of a good health that made me available to the mission. I give thanks also to the Franciscan Sisters, who welcomed me as one member of their family and gave me the possibility to have this beautiful missionary experience for 25 years. During these years of missionary activity, I surely matured a mentality more open to others. The direct experience with other cultures opens the horizons, enriches, makes you change the priority of values. What was important becomes in the second place.

The situations of extreme poverty you encounter in the places of mission, make you aware that we are living in the comfort, often we are complaining because we do not have what we like: the unnecessary!! All we are throwing away is for these people what they need to live. This makes us reflect about our fortune that we have simple for being born in a country instead of another. Then it is a duty for those who have received more to give more.

I give thanks again to the Community of the FMSC sisters who welcome and support me in all these years. Thanks!”.

Treviso, March 21, 2011

GIULIA DURIGON



... For years in the footsteps of Providence

5. A GIFT OF THE PROVIDENCE FOR THE HOLY FAMILY PROVINCE... DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR...

(Wijaywada, March 2011)

The arrival of Sister Antonietta Pozzebon in India, just after the celebration of the jubilee year, it was for our province Holy Family, a great gift of Divine Providence. We welcomed her truly as a gift and we consider her in this way as we experience the beauty and the value of such a gift. All the sisters of the Province, none exempted, understood this, as they could attend some of the seminars organized in different times, by groups, according to the duties and the possibilities. All the sisters attended the meetings with great interest and enthusiasm, happy when they could have other opportunities to listen to her in small groups in their communities.



Sister Antonietta has lead us into the Grace of Origins, making alive and interesting the whole reality of our sacred history, as she uses to say – demonstrating the reason why – from the providential encounter of our Founders up to today of our presence and missionary action.

52

The sisters express always great joy, admiration and wonder to have the possibility to know, even in the small details the birth, the establishment and the development of our Congregation. Sister Antonietta proceeded with order in her presentation, offering at first the historical part through the visual presentation and the comment to the documents, and also through the content of the symposium. Afterwards she entertained us with clear and useful presentations in powerpoint about our own spiritual identity, from the charism to the spirituality.

Assured a sufficient understanding of those concepts, we considered other aspects, proper of our life of Franciscan and missionary religious life: the spirit of Franciscan poverty, the denomination of Sacred Heart with the distinction between devotion and devotions, the spirituality with all the Franciscan references. We enjoyed also the presentation of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary as an example for us for her attitude in all the stages of her life. We were happy to know the different realities of our

Religious Family especially following the ways of Divine providence present everywhere...



From all the sisters of the Province, group by group, we got together the particular appreciation and admiration for the wide and deep knowledge of sister Antonietta, her preparation in all the aspects of the program she presented us; for every question or doubt offered to her, she had a prompt, clear and enriching answer as she felt the responsibility to give the best of herself also in this.

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

The sisters, in reality, were impressed of her, how, in spite of her fragile and delicate physical structure, she tried to adjust herself with simplicity to the food, to the climate, to the lifestyle. Often we noticed the tenacity of her perseverance and strong willingness in the long hours of “lessons” – as we are used to call the formative sessions – without showing her fatigue; we understood it in her face, in her voice, but her ardor and her love for the Congregation were so strong as well her desire to share them with us, that she forgot herself, even if at the end of the day, signs of tiredness were clearly seen.

Moreover the sisters were also edified by her simplicity, humility and genuineness, being able to recognize in her, a true gift to our Religious family.



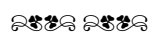
We want to express to her, even if through these few words, our thanksgiving for all she has been to us and for all she has done for us. We desire to assure her that everything she has shared, truly helps us

to live with deeper authenticity our being FMSC and so to dispose ourselves in a joyful and responsible spirit in this jubilee time...to continue to “tell”, to remember the wonders, with which Divine Providence has guided our Religious Family in this long journey of 150 years.

53



We want also to express again our deep gratitude to our General Superior and her Council for this special gift to have the presence of Sr. Antonietta in our Province and to enrich all of us with her example of courage and sacrifice as well as to share her knowledge about our Congregation.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



PLANET YOUTH

54

We too, although we normally regard young people as “hope”, today perceive them also as “a big challenge” not only for us, but for the future of the Church itself as well. And we are sometimes scared or unable to organize ourselves to face the problem that they are deemed to be.

The quick and tumultuous cultural and social changes, the rise in terms of numbers, the consolidation of a long period of youth before taking part in adults’ responsibilities, the lack of jobs and, in some countries, permanent conditions of underdevelopment, the pressures of the consumer society... everything contributes to profile planet youth as a world of waiting, often of disenchantment and boredom, even of anguish and marginalization. The estrangement from the Church, or at least a certain amount of mistrust towards it, lingers in many as an underlying attitude. It is often affected by the lack of spiritual and moral support from families, but also by the weakness of catechesis and the thoughtlessness of the formation received. On the other hand, in many of them there is a strong and impetuous quest for a meaning, for solidarity, social commitment, even religious experience... Hence some consequences affecting catechesis. The service of faith perceives first of all the light and shade of young people and their condition, like they really show up in the different regions and life environments.

The heart of catechesis is the explicit proposal by Jesus Christ to the young man in the Gospel, a proposal meant and tailored for all young people, while understanding carefully their problems. Indeed, in the Gospel they appear to be direct conversation partners of Christ, who reveals to them their “special wealth” and simultaneously urges them to grow as individuals and as a community, which is of fundamental importance for the future of society and of the Church. Therefore, young people must not be considered only as recipients of catechesis, but rather as “active subjects, protagonists of evangelization and authors of the renewal of society”. Here lies the border or the leap from youth pastoral to vocational pastoral, which obliges us to think of a special evangelical proposal, to be addressed not to all young people, but only to those who show signs of being motivated, that is young people who question themselves about a possible vocation to priesthood or a consecration to virginity for the Kingdom.

Although we have still much to think about, provide and implement in this delicate and urgent area, we share joyfully the enthusiasm and generous effort which has emerged from some experiences that are recounted in the following lines.



1. ON THE SIDELINES OF A SPECIAL EVENT...

(Ospedaletto - Treviso, October 2010)

It is no use going round it: when speaking about Franciscan Sisters, the first thing that comes to my mind is the question that has been haunting me forever...: what was the pedagogic program behind Sr Leonia Gheno’s habit to call me tenderly “paiasso vestìo” (clown in full dress) when she cared for me at Ospedaletto’s nursery school?

... For years in the footsteps of Providence



I have not been able to understand it yet and sometimes I doubt there was any: the fact is, with all due respect, I have always been a little perplexed at some of their uses and ways.

From the above you may infer that my first thought -when I was asked to read a passage of Friday 29 October prayer vigil in preparation to Sr Francesca Fiorin's final Profession - was curiosity, kind of: let's see what they are up to.

When I saw the big white drape stretched in front of the apse of our nice parish church, my doubts only increased: I like ancient rites and I miss the Vespers

sung in Latin, certainly not movie projections in the church...

But I should not judge by appearances; indeed, while I was trying to assimilate the text I had been given, I started to grasp that, this time, the ceremony would be different than usual, in every way.

Then, when Sr Francesca came in carrying her lit lamp, an expression of joy and serenity on her face, I had something like a revelation: I no longer saw in her one of those figures clad in a bizarre way that still populate my nursery school memories, but a person who had had the privilege to receive a special call, but, above all, who had had the courage to answer with a "yes" that was final and unconditional. At the risk of saying a banality, I must admit that I was really struck: here was the image of happiness that cannot be judged by the deceitful form of material things, but rather finds its foundation in the concrete substance of the spirit!

55

Therefore, this is the memory I would like to keep, the expression of bliss that I saw on her face: something that transcends the world's lowly things and reassures us about the existence of a superior dimension. Thanks, Sr Francesca! From that Friday, the doubt about my dear Sr Leonia's pedagogical program has still accompanied me, but it will never be again the image that I used to associate to the Franciscan Sisters.

Paolo Bacchion

On the same wavelength, we can find other voices, just whispered:

"It was really an event that had been much anticipated and prepared with love, the one given us by Sr Francesca Fiorin, on the occasion of her Perpetual Profession as a Franciscan sister.

The evening formative meeting, which took place on Wednesday 27 October and was directed by Msgr Livio Buso on the theme: "Yes to a call into the Family" was quite interesting and effective. It was followed, on Friday 29, by a well-attended Prayer Vigil. Every moment testified to the care with which it had been prepared in order to have the anticipated effect... voices, images, silences, music: the atmosphere was really pleasant.

The most beautiful and moving moment was when Sr Francesca, in the dim light, crossed the central nave carrying a lamp, accompanied by chants and by the sacred dance of four dancers: the surprise and emotion among the attending persons was truly indescribable"

"Spirituality, emotion and communication, these are the sensa-

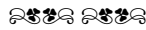


... For years in the footsteps of Providence

tions that I felt during the vigil for Sr Francesca Fiorin.

Dealing with so deep and difficult a theme, especially when the message must reach also those who, like me, have not yet come to terms with spirituality.

Moments like these help meditate and understand. I am probably no nearer to God than I was before, but, at least, this extraordinary event helped me open my horizons and better grasp the meaning of a “Yes forever”.



2. A QUITE UNUSUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY ...

(Assisi, January 2011)

“On our way back, our “luggage” was much heavier than when we left...!”

56



These words, written by Alice, makes us guess the beauty of the experience in Assisi from December 30, 2010 to January 2, 2011, by a group of young women and men, who were joyfully welcomed in St Mary of the Angels community to live an alternative New Year's day.

We would like to share with you some reflections made during these days in Assisi:

“I had never started a new year at Mass, I had never spent New Year's Eve at a party organized by friars and nuns; and, what is more, I had never thought that it was possible to spend some days in such an original way. Instead, the start of the year turned up to be quite special. The wish I have for all of us who were in Assisi is that the words that we have listened to on that occasion are not erased by the flowing of days in this year 2011 but, on the contrary, that they trace deeper and deeper furrows in each one of us. With our good will, sure, but especially with the help coming from Heaven!”.

Alessia

“When some years ago I accepted for the first time the challenge to go to Assisi right for the feast of Assumption, which coincides with my birthday, and not only for artistic reasons as had been the case up to that moment, I was deeply struck by the experience of the Holy Knight who had left everything and who had fascinated me since I was a small girl.

It was a particular moment for me, one of those road strips in which you need to hear that yes, the

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

route that you are covering is the right one, even against everything that the people you know say and do, even against the friends you considered as such, but that suddenly throw your way of being into your face.

After those three days in Assisi, in the place where Francis had lived, on the example of Francis, who had put himself into question by looking for the motivations for his steps and choices of life in himself and in others -and who, I like to think, placed himself in front of the crucifix in St Damian and maybe shouted "what do you want from me?", maybe angry at himself and at the world and looking for a sign that told him he was not alone and not always a fish out of water, but only a young man on his way and that there were not only wrong people around him- I came back renewed with a nice tau around my neck.



Many years later, however, I felt inside myself that many things had changed and I really wanted to throw away the whole cruel year that we recently left behind with the same fury that I had in my heart years ago. It is strange how the doubt re-emerges, the sensation of being abandoned, even when you are relatively worriless.

These were for me the months of refusal, the search without an answer, the confutation of dogmas and rites, up to the complete humanization of He Who I felt had abandoned me.

It took Assisi and Francis to stir me up again, like after a serious bout of flu, when the symptoms could leave latent remainders that are later expelled, all at once, like that, until we are really free again.

A process of deep interior turmoil, which once again resulted in an answer, an answer I had not been far away from, after all.

It is wonderful to rediscover Him, Jesus Christ, inside other people, things, sensations, nature and small gestures, and feel Him closer because we know that we can see His reflexion in people, in those who love us, in those who are close to us and do not throw us away because we are the way we are but find out our talents and bring them out, recognize our gifts and open their hands to welcome what we want to give.

Thanks to all my journey companions in this lively experience, to Francis, who manages to hit the

mark every time, to the wonderful CSC group and to the girls that I met en route, to the sisters of the small and splendid St Mary of the Angels community for their superb, genuine, sweet and generous welcome, to Sr Marzia, Sr Francesca, Sr Mara and Sr Miriam for their presence, character and liveliness and finally thanks also to the Magi and to that star, which led me to Cologne a little more than five years ago and that led me to Luca, who now welcomes patiently even my intemperance...".

Enrica Manes





I am happy because in Assisi I felt the presence of St Francis and St Clare... I was afraid that, after this summer's nice experience, they would not make their presence be felt in my heart. "No kidding, right" I warned them... "Cause I'm coming to visit you and it wouldn't be nice if you didn't turn up!"

I felt their presence like a strong inner emotion together with a great peace in my heart... especially next to their tombs in St Francis and St Clare churches.

I am happy that I made friends with these two Saints because their life experience was useful to direct my own life... and this is to witness that the Communion of Saints really exists and can be experienced!

Then... if I need to open my heart to Jesus and ask something of Him... isn't it better if I have someone to help? I'll make myself clear... if I need some particular help I can certainly ask the Lord for it... but if I send St Francis forward on my behalf, that's still better... He knows well how

to talk to the good Lord, since he is in a special Communion with Him!

Anyway, On my way back, my "luggage" was much heavier than when I left...

I brought home a prayer that I heard from a boy: "I prayed St Francis to help me be always a good boy" ...

What about me?

I brought home the memory of keeping the Host in my hand before eating it, as was suggested by the celebrant, so as to live the moment of Communion more intensely...

58

I brought home the celebration with the Franciscans where we danced and celebrated the new year by singing to Jesus...

I brought home the certainty that God does not want to change my desires but only widen my horizons...

I brought home a hug of peace instead of the usual handshake...

I brought home the promise of a friend of mine to pray for me...

I brought home the celebrations and the attentions that I received on my birthday...

I brought home the air of Assisi, which seems not to be of "this world" ...

I brought home a special episode: we were given bookmarks, each one with a particular sentence. We were instructed to pick one up haphazardly from a basket in order to let the Spirit work. Indeed this was the case: my sentence spoke of "happiness in offering oneself" and my boyfriend's one of "joy of donation". I think that these are not casual coincidences but "providential facts".

In all this it is moving to feel that the Lord keeps tirelessly courting my heart as if He had nothing else to do, as if to conquer me was the most important thing for Him".

Alice Semeia

"Would you believe me if I told you that there is an alternative New Year's Eve party?? No?!? Well, sure there is. I lived it and it was a wonderful experience. I am going to tell you how this "alternative New Year" works.

On 30 December 2010, there were about a dozen of us, young people, who left for Assisi, accompanied



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



by Sr Mara, Sr Francesca and Brother Esterino. In Assisi, Sr Marzia, Sr Miriam, Sr Tiziana and Sr Rosangela were waiting for us. Indeed, a very good team of sisters, who should be thanked one by one for the experience and their availability. What does my, or better our, alternative New Year's Eve party consist in? Try to imagine the square in front of St Mary of the Angels Basilica filled with young people. I swear it was quite a show. It was a very nice vigil on the theme "from generation to generation", which was coined for this 2011 New Year's day.

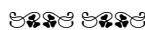
After the vigil, we let ourselves go to the joy of jumping and dancing together, and then we listened to a special witness, that of a young woman, just 18, who had died from cancer.

Her name was Chiara -Clare- and later the nickname Luce -Light- was added.

The words that remained most engraved in me were: "If you want it, Jesus, then I want it too". After that moving testimony, we went to the basilica and after attending mass we went to celebrate with the communities who took us in.

Well, that is it. It was a wonderful and at the same time very deep New Year's eve. Frankly, I found it fantastic because it was something different. I wish everybody had such an experience at least once. I think that if they invited me again I would accept immediately without hesitation. I recommend it".

Elisabetta Zumello



3. NEW ITINERARY

(Rakovski - Bulgaria , beginning of 2011)

All the celebrations of this Jubilee Year leave a special mark on us, which is expressed by an attitude of joy and thanksgiving.

The new year 2011 surprised us with a message of renewing force which tends to form a man that is entirely new. On our part, the opening to novelty was immediate, so that we were induced to let it know to the heart of those who are close, especially to the young people of our mission.

The itinerary that we tried to outline, in cooperation with the Franciscan Fathers Conventual in Rakovski, aims at providing the 30 young people available to the proposal with different activities of service and fraternal sharing based on the Word of God, spaces of personal and group prayer, meditations and night vigils, personalized accompaniment and discernment, moments of fraternal agape and merriment, or, in other words: a help to be happy by staying together. First of all, we like to be able to state that the proposal, with its different shades of meaning, was immediately welcomed with enthusiasm by young people, bearing in mind that its goal is



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



to help young people appropriate faith and live it in its different aspects.

On January 22, we gathered like true friends in the Conventual Friars' convent on two occasions -the start of the program of the Youth itinerary 2011 and Fr Jarek's name day. It is possible to have a sensible contact with Jesus, to put our hands on the marks of His loving presence; during Holy Mass, He is especially close to us and offers Himself to each one of us. Young people live the moment of celebration with great sensitivity and talk together with Him during the Vespers. The males' voice is always explosive. And the faith professed in the Bulgarian Church is reassuring.

The gratitude towards Fr Jarek on occasion of his name day was expressed as a big prayer even during the convivial and fraternal moment, in the hall that had been prepared amid songs, games and dances. Later, all the young people got involved in an animated debate. We can state that such

an experience was quite meaningful, because it taught us to live in the presence of the Lord. Finally, we realized that we had found nothing new, but it was us that were new.

With this discovery, we continued our path of faith, wishing to know the One who loves us increasingly better.

60

The second stage was on 5 and 6 February, always in the Conventual Brothers' convent, which had by then become a familiar place for us. "Too good to be true". This was sometimes the young people's feeling, because the two days were full of special confidence and enthusiasm for rediscovering the love of God. The afternoon of February 5 opened with a nice tableful: a fraternal meal with Fr Eugenio, the superior, and Fr Jarek, the coordinator of the youth pastoral. Not much is needed for young people to increase their spontaneity.

Then we gathered to start the itinerary which revolved around the theme: "My life in the heart of God". Fr Jarek always manages to get young people involved through a simple and clear language, which becomes operational.

In the church too, the young people in front of the altar repeated incessantly: Lord, you know that I love you! During the evening adoration, in the darkness of the church, everyone uttered the prayer of praise: I trust in God. My hope lies in God. And there was an adoring stillness... The community's promise to live the law of Love now and forever turned our life into Light. A young woman presented at the altar the Light of Christ, from which everybody lit their own one. No one put the candle on the floor, on the contrary, they kept the flame of life lit and listened to the Word of God in adoring silence.

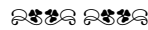
Next, tears ran down some cheeks as Fr Jarek passed among the rows and gave the blessing with Jesus Eucharist to each one of us.

The beautiful sunny day on February 6 brought us together for the Morning Prayer, with new strengths and desires. After the Sunday Mass, Fr Eugenio made us travel through the Bible and find all the meaningful moments of the showing of God's love towards His People.

When the moment came to leave, renewed, rebuilt



in Love and recreated by the force of the Spirit, we expressed our gratitude to God because he had visited us with His Love in the Son. The next meeting is fixed for March... we would nearly like to stay... Lord, you know that I love you!



4. EVEN A SIMPLE VISIT... MAY GIVE YOUR DAY A NEW MEANING

(Rome, 27 February 2011)

On Sunday 27 February, a numerous group of the Catholic Action from Mary Immaculate Institute, parents included, visited the General House of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The visit was due to the numerous requests, both from the pupils and their parents, who were anxious to see their sisters' "headquarters".



The morning hours were spent according to plan and they practically flew off: after a merry snack, the pupils admired the beauty of the park surrounding the building and then they eagerly flung themselves into the activities prepared for them by the Educators.

The parents, instead, lovingly "escorted" by the superior of the community, Sr Chiaremlia Lavatori, had the opportunity to visit all the rooms of the house and of the school, accompanied by the headmistress, Sr Loredana.

However, the greatest gift, which was much appreciated, according to their comments, was the company of Sr Antonietta Pozzebon, a scholar and the historian of the Congregation. After explaining the meaning of the missionary exhibition set up for the opening of this year's Jubilee, she offered the group of adults, educators and parents, a unique opportunity: visiting the historic archive.

61

In the small room, moved and amazed, they enjoyed listening to the explanations they had been expecting about some important historic passages in the life of the Congregation. The emotion was almost palpable when Sr Antonietta placed under their enchanted eyes some manuscripts from our Founders, dating back to the very first years of the foundation. No one dared leaf through the wonderful booklets of Fr Gregory's Historic Memoirs, but there was a strong involvement and endless questions. Then, stuck by the interest, Sr Antonietta, to their surprise, offered them several books that she had written, so that everybody could exhaust and satisfy his legitimate curiosity. It is needless to say that those books were accepted with joy, not only, but many people did not leave the room until they were autographed!!!

The result? A morning was not enough!
"We will come back and will have to come back for a whole day!" they kept repeating. Thanks to all the Sisters of Asisium community and especially to Sr Chiaremlia, who simply made us all feel "at home".
Carmela



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



NOTES

1. AGAIN SOME ECHOES... AT THE EDGE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Prof. Gianluca Macovez, dean, from Gemona

“To participate in Rome to the celebration for the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart was a great honor and a strong emotion.

To meet many religious sisters with whom I shared fatigue, hopes, some success and many difficulties was an injection of trust in the future. To experience that the human relationships were not broken by the distance and that all, with our own differences, have the same aim strengthens the desire to sew the good without the pretention of having easy harvest or personal recognition, but hoping to be of help to others.

62

In the daily work there are some moments of discouragement and so to witness the sisters coming from different provinces was a true support.

To hear their passion for others, the narration of the courage for some choices, the trust in Divine providence, knowing that they were never alone: all this was a Lesson that I have carried in me to Gemona and that, humbly, we will try to live out.

Thank you for allowing me to share a moment so important and I wish that you continue to sew the good in the world.

Prof. Giuliana Ceschini, from Stravino

Most Rev. Mother,

I desire to express even on writing my wishes for this 2011 year, very fruitful for your Congregation that celebrates an important Jubilee, to which I unite myself in prayer.

I assure also the prayer of my community that in this week will gather to pray and adore the Blessed Sacrament, as a preparation for the Patron Feast... I include a check as my contribution also to make known the person and the work of my great fellow villager, mother Rosa, who surely will obtain blessings from God for all of you.

Good work and cordially I greet you...

Doct. Adelio Marziantonio, from Grotte di Castro

Most Rev. Mother General,

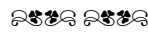
I wanted to be with you to celebrate the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Institute, but it is not possible. I thank you courtesy for your invitation as well as for the book “Un altro francescanesimo” that I am reading and I find very interesting: congratulations to sister Pozzebon e Father. Buffon. The authors have done an analytic, complete, deeply documented work of your history; it is a book necessary and indispensable for other historians who want to know the historical development of the FMSC. The sisters were of great material and moral help for the numerous families of our emigrants in USA.

They have the merit to elevated culturally the children of Italians, through a Christian Schooling, which

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

foundations were in a healthy morality.

Renewing my wishes to all of you, I give you thanks for having given to our town a meaningful and valid presence of the community; I had the opportunity to notice how the days of Sr. Margherita and her co-sisters are full of activities, mostly, religious but also for helping many needed persons.



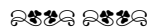
2. LAY ASSOCIATES MONT ST. FRANCIS

(USA Settembre 2010)

Ogni anno, durante l'autunno, le nostre Laiche associate celebrano due particolari cerimonie: La giornata dell'affidamento e La giornata del Ritiro. Il Padre Gregorio Noel, OFM Cap, ci ha dato l'onore di guidarci in queste due celebrazioni. Quasi mettendoci in gara tra loro, per vivere gioiosamente il Vangelo in uno stato di conversione continua, le Associate cercano di lasciarsi plasmare dal nostro Carisma nello Spirito di San Francesco.

Durante la cerimonia del 26 Settembre 2010, Sr. Anne Mathew, la Superiora provinciale, con gioia ha accolto altri quattro nuovi membri, che si sono inserite nel gruppo già consolidato. Essi rispondono a i nomi di: Mary Nacarlo, June, Mary Ramos e Margherita Ward.

Diamo lode a Dio anche di questo suo nuovo dono.



3. MONT ST. FRANCIS IN FESTOSA SEMPLICITÀ

63

Is there anything more sublime than the voices of children? The youth Choir Members of Assumption participated in the Vesper Evening Prayer of the Sisters and enhanced the community prayer by singing the Lord's praises. Afterward, it was the delight of the community to host their supper and later to play BINGO with Sr. Angelene and Sr. Kathy until their parents arrived. It was a great job and the Sisters await their return visit soon.



... For years in the footsteps of Providence



LIVING... IN GOD



Sr M. CECILIA SUBIABRE
OF THE EUCHARISTIC JESUS
Yolanda Subiabre

64

✱ Pta. Arenas (CHILE), 13 - 10 - 1939

† Kribi (CAMEROON), 21- 08 - 2010

Sr. Cecilia Subiabre was born in Punta Arenas (Chile) on October 13, 1939, but soon she went to live in Puerto Montt, where she spent her childhood and adolescence. She completed her last years of primary education in our school Josefa Tellez, and there she came to know the FMSC sisters.

When she was still very young she felt the call to religious and missionary life which she gradually strengthened by doing the first experiences of prayer and fraternal life.

She began her year of novitiate

in the formation house “Regina Mundi “ in Puerto Chico, on March 1, 1958, and she made her first religious profession on March 3, 1959 and the Perpetual Profession on May 4, 1964 in Puerto Montt.

During the 51 years of religious life she has held a variety of services and missions that the Congregation entrusted to her especially in the field of education, pastoral ministry and in the service of authority, areas in which she was particularly capable.

For many years, Sr. Cecilia worked in our schools in Chile as a teacher and director: In the school of Arriarán Barros in Puerto Montt for 12 years, in Felmer Niklitschek school, in Puerto Varas for three years, in Santa María de los Ángeles school in Santiago for one year and in Madre Cecilia Lazzeri High School she worked hard for 19 years.

Sr. Cecilia has done her educational services in the different activities of the Latin-American Province with much love, dedication and simplicity and spontaneity in her relationships with others, the quality people appreciated and enjoyed her presence among the teaching and non

teaching staff, pupils, and parents.

In the pastoral field with sensitivity and creativity she could offer young people challenging ways of self overcoming. She was meeting young people of the parish in large and small groups, and in many school camps with the Scouts, whom, in particular, she used to invite to contemplate the nature, the wonders of God and trained young people in service to others.

In the field of the service of authority however, Sr. Cecilia, has done her best, with generosity, enthusiasm and sacrifice. She has been the Local Superior in different communities, and Provincial councilor and Vicar, Director of Juniors and Provincial Superior. From the young age, in the year 1969, she attended the Special General Chapter to make aware to the chapter delegates of the reality of the Latin American Church and the Congregation in Chile. In 1981 she was elected as General Councilor for six years and in 2005, as Vicar General.

In this delicate service she came to know many sisters, she visited many communities in all our Provinces in the Apostolic Region. With her love as an ed-

... For years in the footsteps of Providence

ucator she was able to find the opportunity to transmit also in Italy, to the teachers of the Institute of Asisium and “S. Maria degli Angeli” the importance of a formation based on Christian-Franciscan values expressed in our Congregational education project.

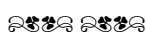
The last communities she reached for a meeting of formation to the sisters, was that of the African Apostolic Region. We recall that on August 21, a few kilometers from the town of Kribi, the car in which our four sisters: Sr. Cecilia, Fabrizia Zanettin Sr, Sr Mary Lukose, Sr Sylvie Assoana were travelling, crashed out on the road; it was there that Sr. Cecilia left us to reach her “Passover”; at the time of her death there were beside her: Sr. Giselle Bella and Mgr Joseph Befe Ateba, Bishop of Kribi, who gave her the last Holy Sacrament.

For a sister of the FMSC the whole world is her home country- as she liked to repeat - animated by missionary zeal.

Her service as Vicar General has given her the opportunity to convey her enthusiasm in every meeting, in every conference in both inside and outside of the congregation.

We express our gratitude to Sr. Cecilia for her testimony, for her precious service and for all that God has done through her. The memory of her will always remain alive in our history, in our memories and in our hearts.

You, Sr. Cecilia, from heaven, you will follow us with your smile and you will intercede for each one of us, your sisters, many graces and blessings.



SR M. GIANPAOLA CAVASIN
OF THE AGONY OF JESUS
Margherita Cavin

✿ Cavasagra (TV), 04 - 10 - 1921
† Gemona, 08 - 11 - 2010

Sr. Gianpaola Cavin, reached the Lord of her life on November 8, 2010, at the close of the day. For a long time she was invoking God to come and pick her up, she was ready to reach the divine spouse, whom she has consecrated 68 years

Margherita (this was her baptismal name) was born at Cavasagra - Treviso on October 4, 1921.

From the family of father Giacomo and mother Graziosa were born 13 children. From this large family she received a solid Christian education, the serenity and joy of giving oneself; in fact, as soon as she professed, in 1942, in the difficult times of war, she was sent by obedience in Greece, where she performed her service with tireless generosity on the island of Zante.

Back in Italy in 1945, she worked in various communities as a nursery school teacher, she also held the office of Superior.

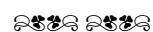
She donated herself to the orphans, staying in Rome, - Centocelle with true love and with all her energies at the point that at

the end of her life, not fully lucid, she was worried that the children had to eat. Even Buia, Ampezzo and Solan are among those communities that have benefited from her selfgiving.

Sr. Gianpaola left a stronger example at Piano d'Arta, where, in the twenty years of stay in that reality, she tried to reach out to anyone in need, whether it was a word of comfort, advice, of real help. A focus of attention she had for the young priest Fr. Ivo Dereani; with the help of sensitive people she provided him necessary things. She used to think also what it was useful for the decoration of the church and to provide everything was needed for the good of the population.

Who was, in fact, Sr. Gianpaola? She has left an example of a true religious, serene, lover of prayer and of her Congregation. She is a witness of a convinced self-giving, generous, happy to have been chosen by the Lord for His service. She used to repeat many times, with humility, to the sisters to correct her with fraternal admonition, if they find anything lacking in her behavior toward others.

Dear Sr. Gianpaola, from the place of the radiant light and of true peace, continue to love your religious Family. Implore from the good God holy vocations to the Church and every blessing for your loved ones you have shown so much love and from whom you have been reciprocated with frequent visits. Among the grandchildren, we have some nuns, our co-sisters, a Capuchin friar and a priest. God be your joy and your reward for always.





SR M. MICHELA VANZO
OF THE OUR LADY OF HELP
Antida Vanzo

✿ Solagna (VI), 08 - 10 - 1926
† Gemona, 31-12 - 2010

The very last day of 2010, Sr. Michael Vanzo left this earth to join the great number of our Sisters who, before God, continue to praise Him without end and to intercede for our religious Family that with His grace, celebrates its 150 years of life and divine blessings.

Antide Vanzo - this was her baptismal name - entered in the Year that never ends.

She was born in Solagna (VI) on 8-10-1926 of father Leone and mother Lucia, parents of eight children. Her family was well-grounded in faith, hard-working, honored, that it has given to the Lord two priests and a third was dead while cleric.

His brothers and sisters have already reached the Father's house.

Sr. Michela, from her young age has replaced the mother, in times of need, on delivering the mail in the locality.

She joined the convent in 1952 and in October 1954 she was already a professed sister. He had a joyful character, was friendly with people and very caring with

the little ones: in fact she dedicated all her life, in kindergarten, catechesis, she went to visit the sick or people in need of a presence and a comforting word and encouragement.

Several times she served as Superior of the Community. Several are the places that enjoyed of her busy and quiet activities. We can remember Manzano, Corderoipo, Salzano, Paese, Sevegliano, Castagnole.

During her second presence in Paese she has been subjected to major surgery that sapped a little her usual cheerfulness.

Then transferred to Treviso, Borgo Cavour, an environment most fitted to her poor health, gradually she took back her energy and she was made available to render some services to the guests and for the care of the chapel.

In 2006 Sr. Michela was accepted in the Mother House, where she spent her last years with the Sisters of the infirmary, living the days in prayer and doing some work.

Now, dearest, Sr. Michela, you have joined the Lord of your life. While he gives you the reward for the good you have accomplished, intercede the grace for your Congregation that you loved.

During this jubilee year obtain for all of the Sisters of our religious Family a renewed fervor in the service of God and neighbor and a loving fidelity to the plan that the Lord has for us today. Sr. Michela, live happily next to the Bridegroom, to whom you have devoted your whole life.



SR M. BERNADETTE STIVES
OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

✿ Linden (NJ-USA), 29 - 05 - 1930
† Peekskill, 31 - 12 - 2010

Bernadette was the third child (and surviving twin) of Stanley and Sophia Stives. She attended St. Elizabeth Elementary School and graduated from Linden High School in 1948.

Her deep love and respect for her faith and her family were evident as she wrote: "I come from a large family of six brothers and one sister. I spend my vacation at home with my family and am most grateful for the love and care they bestow upon me.

We share over and over the memories, love and laughter we knew as children and we continue to create more and more joyful memories as the years come and go."

Her vocation story was expressed in her own words: "It was at the beginning of my eighth grade at St. Elizabeth's when I realized that I wanted to enter the convent. As a daily attendant at Mass during my eighth grade and high school years, I felt, through prayer, it

was truly the Lord speaking to me.

On my own, I would never have left home or arrived at Mount St. Francis. There was a more powerful strength leading me. My parents were instrumental in helping me to arrive in Peekskill. Their best friend, Mrs. Anne Cotton, had a sister in our FMSC Congregation – Sister Francis Josephine. Upon meeting Sister, I was taken for a day to visit Mt. St. Francis. There I also saw the children in St. Joseph's Home and was totally fascinated by the care the Sisters provided for them; and that was the beginning of our love story."

"After I was professed on July 7, 1951, I spent eleven years with the children as their Group Mother in the Joseph P. Kennedy Home in the Bronx. Those were blessed years as I did my best to create a happy and safe environment for them. Their visits to me, after they left the Home and their messages of thanks prove that those years were blessed years indeed!

"The next forty-plus years were spent as Food Service Director at Ladycliff College, as librarian at Franciscan High in Mohegan Lake, Sacred Heart School in Highland Falls, St. Patrick School in Yorktown Heights and in St. Joseph School in West New York, NJ."

Up until her death, Sister resided at Mount St. Francis where she was treasurer for the local community, sacristan and librarian. Her many talents

included crocheting and sewing which she enjoyed sharing selflessly with her community.

Baking for special occasions and doing puzzles were also among the gifts and pastimes that she loved to share with others. Her care for the community library with its extraordinary collection of books and video tapes was exceptional. Our lasting memory of Sister Bernadette, though small in stature, will be her giant smile and laughing eyes whenever anyone greeted her, especially during the last months of the illness that claimed her life but never her spirit. Sister Bernadette left us with a wonderful legacy of how to live a prayerful life and, most importantly, how to die.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 AM on January 3 followed by interment in the Sisters' cemetery. May God Bless You, Sr. Bernadette, and welcome you home!

"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory." (Isaiah 60:19).



**SR M. COSMAS DI GIACOMO
OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER**
Carmela Di Giacomo

✿ Philadelphia (USA), 14 - 09 - 1918
† Peekskill, 02 - 01 - 2011

Carmela was born to Frank and Maria Di Girolamo on September 17, 1918. She was the seventh child with four brothers and four sisters. She went to grammar schools in Philadelphia and graduated from Hallahan High School before her entrance at Mount St. Francis on March 19, 1939. She professed her first vows in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on March 27, 1941 and received her Bachelor Degree at Ladycliff College in 1963.

Sister Cosmas loved the children entrusted to her care and ministered in many places in her 71 years as a Franciscan Sister: in the Boys' House of St. Joseph's Home in Peekskill; All Saints' Day Nursery and Our Lady Queens of Martyrs in NYC; and in St. Teresa's in Tarrytown. Sister also spent many years in New Jersey: St. Joseph's, West New York; St. Leo's in Elmwood Park; St. Bonaventure's in Paterson; Holy Angels in Little

Falls; St. Anthony's in Butler and Mt. Carmel in Boonton; and served in two Philadelphia missions- St. Mary Magdalen di Pazzi and in Mater Dolorosa.

Until coming home to the Provincial House in January of 2010 because of illness, she was retired and assisting on the staff of St. Joseph School and residing at the convent there in West New York

When we remember Sister Mary Cosmas, we think of her great love for her family, friends and community. She was known for her simplicity and child-like humor and ability to make people laugh, whether it be as "Baby Snooks" in our productions at Ladycliff at the end of summer school or her famous stories of the "Horse" or her "Dog"

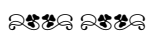
68

Sister Cosmas was always found making rosaries or working on her crafts which she so generously donated to the various fundraisers. Sister was always ready to pack her suitcase whether it be to serve the Sisters in Ventnor as "chief cook" or to accompany the Rosary Society and Senior Groups on their many excursions. She loved cooking, crocheting and sewing; and kept up a constant correspondence with her many friends and relatives. Many persons expressed that her letters were filled with words of encouragement, consolation and support and her promise of offering prayers for their intentions. The ever-present question on her lips was: "Is the mail in yet?" Nothing was too much for Sister and her contagious joy-

ful spirit. She loved to laugh and make people happy. She made every convent where she lived a "home sweet home" and welcomed all with a huge hug. She passed into her eternal reward on January 2, 2011 at Mount St. Francis at the age of 92.

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at 10AM on Saturday, January 8, followed by interment in the Sisters' cemetery at Mount St. Francis. May the Lord whom she loved and served so faithfully welcome her into His eternal embrace.

"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory." (Isaiah 60:19).



SR M. CESARIA FEDALTO
OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT
Agnese Fedalto

✿ S. Lorenzo (VE), 19 -10 -1927
† Roma, 11 - 01 - 2011

Behind the window of the gatehouse, Cesaria- Sr. Agnes was a figure of reference for all those who have passed the Institute "Mary Immaculate" (Rome-Cen-

tocelle) from 1963 to 2000. Her sixth sense, the clear perception of the environment and.... the natural feminine curiosity do not let anyone to pass unnoticed, despite the severe form of myopia that she brought with her from an early age. Some of her blunders, accidental or not, she used to laugh and, with all venetian politeness and joke she could sometimes turn them into theatrical improvisations, during the evening feast in the fraternity.

Agnes was born on October 19, 1927. Being brought, two weeks later, to the baptismal font of the Collegiate Church of St. Lorenzo in Mestre, at the age of seven she had received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Cesare and Pierina, with this their second child, gave further consistence to the dream of a great family, they wanted unite on the foundation of faith and values of the most authentic Christian tradition. Followed by other seven children, to which the intelligent hard work and initiative of their parents never left anything lacking what was necessary.

The sight problem of Agnes must have raised worries in family and provoked a great solidarity towards her, especially after the death of the eldest only twelve years of age. Sr. Cesaria will keep a very close relationship with the brothers and their families, remembering the important anniversaries, and worrying about their problems.

At the age of twenty-two, Agnes decided to devote herself to the Lord. Accepted as a postulant in Gemonia in 1950, she followed in the autumn session of the same year, the diploma of vocational

training, industrial technology at the school “Antonio Cantore” Gemona. Subsequently she was admitted to the canonical year of novitiate and in September 1951 she was already a professed sister. The curriculum that she followed suggested that the superiors wanted her to start the tasks of educational assistance ;in fact she was an assistant for four years of college boarding school in St. Heart of Udine, and again for four years, helping in the Kindergarten of Borgo Cavour in Treviso.

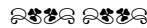
Transferred to the Province of “Mary Immaculate” (RM) in 1959, she was helping the children of permanent colony Mater Amabilis “Lido dei Pini until 1963. Until this point it seemed to be reserved for her the four-year pace, but from now on has come a change that gave a definitive turning point to her duties in the Community: From 1963 to 2001 she was responsible in the switchboard in Centocelle, slightly less than forty years, with the only interruption of a period care, in Gemona first, then to Montale, between 1980 to 1981.

Her duty made her feel integrated into the community and school: she knew everyone and all were interested in her ; she knew to keep serene relationships and provided to the poor who came to her.

She was happy and never lamented of her office, finding it rather suited to her visual limit. However, the tall structure little by little had difficulty in bone structure too burdened by the physical and it went with age weighting in recent years walking with difficulty, using the stick and added to this other ailments that made

it impossible to continue with the office in the switchboard

From Infirmary, she went for walks every day in courtyard to feel the fresh air of the surroundings ... then the sudden ending in ten minutes put an end to her earthly existence and entrusted herself to the mercy of the Father.



SR BATTISTA LORENZETTO
OF THE IMMACULATE
Virginia Lorenzetto

✻ Paese (TV), 02 - 11 - 1916
† Gemona, 20 - 03 - 2011

On Second Sunday of Lent, we contemplate the Christ transfigured on Mount Tabor.

It is He who has called our Sister, Sr. Battista Lorenzetto, to contemplate His face full of light, a reflection of His heart full of love.

Virginia, Sr. Battista from her young age has heard the voice of the Lord calling her to His service. Papa Dominico and Mama Maria, persons of great faith, have educated their children according to Christian values, so they allowed to grow in two the desire to devote themselves to-

tally to the Lord in the priesthood and in religious life, and they gave them willingly to the Lord, the son ,Fr. Luigi, Missionary of the Consolate and Sr. Battista, who at the age of 21 has left her large family to enter the convent “S. Maria degli Angeli “.

Our sister, out of her 94 years, offered 71 years to God as a FMSC in various places and in different services.

In 1946, in fact, she was sent by obedience in the Province “S. Louis IX “, where she stayed until 2000 doing her apostolate in France and Switzerland.

Our Sisters of the French province, who have shared with her the mission, have witnessed her constant availability and charity, in the various places where she lent her services are listed below: “Initially Sr. Baptist worked in the Seminary in Flers, in Sées and Chappelle at Sées, France.

Then she was sent to Sion, in Switzerland, in a home for alcoholics: here she had a highly valuable and delicate service, that only she could take on human form, respectful and Christian, continuing the task as Superior, already started in the previous community.

Called-back in France, she had done firstly many services in the parish of Boécourt: nursing home, catechesis and sacristan, and then took care of retired Priests of the Diocese of Le Mans, in the Provincial House.

Back in Switzerland, she continued, in Fontaines, the nursing home service , visiting the sick and lonely people. A Zion she met and rescue Italian immigrants, among them a young,

Alcide Pravato of Paese that, hit by a dam, was cared lovingly by Sr. Baptist for 25 years until she handed over him to God the Father.

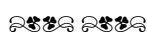
The last activity in the French provinces - as reported by our sisters - at Fribourg, in Switzerland, was always among the emigrants, where she brought comfort, help, and good humor, both outside and, above all within the community, rendering a service prayer, reception and kitchen work. “

In 2000, re-entered in Mother House, she was in need of treatment and rest, she lived in prayer with the other sisters of the infirmary, and in some activities of embroidery and painting, to cheer the Community. She has been visited several times by her loved ones, especially a granddaughter.

70

The sisters in France and we remember her as a person of prayer, generous, courageous, warm, serene, a person of few words, but actually, she was able to take each service with courtesy and responsibility.

Dearest Sister, now that you've reached the Lord of your life, continue to look at your Congregation with that sweet smile that characterized you; intercede graces for all of us, so that we continue to pursue the journey of 150 years according to the will of God. Invoke grace for all your loved ones. May your soul rest in peace!



Sr M. CONCETTA RONDINELLI
THE JESUS AND MARY
Rosa Rondinelli

✽ Tursi (MT), 02 - 12 - 1916

† Rome, 20 - 03 - 2011

Rosa Rondinelli, sr. Maria Concetta of Jesus and Mary was born in Lucania, Tursi, in the province of Matera, from Filippo and Padula Immacolata, on December 2, 1916.

She was baptized on 31st December in the Cathedral of Tursi, and at the age of eight she received the sacrament of Confirmation and it is a wonder that the document of confirmation attested that this child was a good devotee.

She entered postulancy in 1946 in Rome, and in 1954, at the end of the formation, she made her perpetual profession. She spent the first years of religious life in the community of Rignano Flaminio (RM) and Colleparado (FR) as an assistant of kindergarten. Then we find her at first in Chiauci (IS) and then Tollo (CH) engaged in various community services, a task that continued also in Ostia (RM), in Borghi of Latina, in Brugnetto (AN) and in Colonnata (FI).

Sr. Concetta was a simple and intelligent woman, she loved

community life and offered the contribution of her experiential wisdom that even if she did not study much, but she knew the reality-life and the sacrifices for the sisters. Her daily task was to serve the community in a constant effort of accepting day after day, the Will of God made meaningful by obedience. Her participation was serene, convinced and participation

In 1986 she was in Rome - Viale A. Saffi, in the nursing home, due to health problems sufficiently serious, but she applied herself to services that were still possible, trying to somehow to be of help; but the following 25 years recorded the gradual decline of her strength.

Unable to move independently, with the same desire to participate in prayer and community life and the meetings of ongoing formation, she was glad to be with the fraternity at any time of joy and pain.

Already old, she was committed of sharing the fruits of her reflections in the practice of lectio divina, enjoying the spiritual richness of this precious moment. She was interested in the life of the province and followed her adventures with evident care.

Her fidelity to the Lord is now her crown in heaven, next to the One who has undoubtedly loved.





SR FRANCA FRANZATO
OF JESUS
Rina Franzato

✿ Zianigo (Mirano VE), 31 - 10 - 1913
† Gemona, 21 - 03 - 2011

At the dawn on Monday, March 21, with the beginning of spring, our Sr. Franca Franzato entered in true life: she responded, as throughout her long life: "Here, I am Lord! Rina Franzato (this was her baptismal name), was offered to the Lord by Mom Elisa and Dad Ermenegildo at the young age. Among the eight children, two sisters were donated to the Lord's service: one to the Sisters Mantellate, who died of cancer at a young age, and another among Dorothy's sisters.

Rina was born in Zianigo, Mirano (VE) on October 31, 1913 and since adolescence she carried in her heart a great desire to dedicate herself entirely to Jesus, and in 1930 as an aspirant she entered in Vedelago. In 1933 she was transferred to Gemona, in the Convent "St. Mary of the Angels where she began her formative journey to offer then totally her life to the Lord with her religious profession in 1935.

Then she was transferred to the mission in Limassol in Cyprus. Here she distinguished herself soon for her special gift to learn languages and was praised by school authorities for her method of teaching the Greek.

For fifteen years she gave her best energies to teaching, and then made herself available to lend her valuable help in various ways in Larnaca and in Kormakiti. Here she assisted elderly and sick persons with her proven sensitivity, so as to obtain also some conversions. During this time she held the position of Superior in two communities.

In 1969, returning to Rome - Asisium, she was elected as General Councillor from 1969 to 1975.

Then, with diligence and great good will, that characterized her, she held the service as Secretary in the Asisium School (1976-78), then as Treasurer in the school (1978-1998). She learned the use of computer at the age of 80, and it became a useful instrument in her service and with which she worked very peacefully.

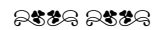
In 2003 she came back to the Mother House where she spent time in prayer, reading newspapers, listening to the Vatican radio then reporting a few important facts to the Community.

The most important appointment, however, was that before the Blessed Sacrament: in addition to communal prayer, she dedicated an hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon every day; she was the burning lamp before her Lord, to whom she entrusted the Church, the Congregation, and all her dear ones and all those who need the help of the good God. She has been a serene person, exemplary for the whole Community, by peaceful dialogue and optimism.

In recent years she has enjoyed frequent visits of her different nephews and nieces, who were very fond of her, they too loved her with such tenderness and care.

So sudden was the culmination of the long life of Sr. Franca and she wanted to crown it with the incessant invocation: "Come Lord Jesus!"

Now, dear Sr. Franca, on contemplating the face of the Lord of your life, continue to implore the Father for the Church, the Congregation that you loved so much, and all your dear ones. Ask the good God holy vocations and for our religious family that celebrates 150 years of its Foundation, the fidelity to the plan that God has predestined for us from the beginning. Enjoy the peace without end in the Father's House.



SR M. TERESA APPETITI
OF JESUS AND MARY
Alba Appetiti

✿ Roma, 02 - 12 - 1925
† Roma, 26 - 03 - 2011

She did not have an easy life Alba!. Left as an orphan soon by the premature death of her parents, Gaetano and Bianca Colasanti, she spent twelve years in the Institute of the Franciscan Third Order of the Blessed Angelina in Rome, the city where she was born. In the letter of presentation to the postulancy at the age of twenty-one, by the director sister, described her as a young girl caring and loyal to her companions, with special educational attitudes, so as to be able, even without having made special studies, to teach in the first elementary grades "keeping children with progress and discipline."

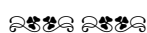
After some years of the initial formation, in 1948 she made her 1st Religious Profession and, in 1954, the perpetual profession, for that she wanted to be well prepared, firm in her vocational decision and free in commitment of study. During the years of temporary vows, in fact, as an adult, she devoted herself with good will to a diligent preparation that enabled her to achieve, both the Diploma of the Preparatory School and she passed the teaching's diplom exam .

For forty years, her main was teaching in the elementary grades, where she showed the best competency of herself. Then alternated her stay in Rome- Viale Saffi, Ostia, Rome-Asisium again to Rome-Viale Saffi and Asisium. Here, already advanced in age and with various health problems, she reluctantly concluded her job as a teacher.

72

Transferred to the community of Viale Saffi, she became part of the infirmary of the province "Maria Immacolata", she remained there in poor condition since 2002 and gradually declined to the final. During the sufferings of her last years, sr. Teresa slowly read again the story of her life in the evangelical perspective, giving back everything to its proper dimension, more gentle and peaceful with herself and with the surrounding reality.

She found quick-witted the good attitudes of those who made her feel accepted and protected, and she abandoned herself, finally, with gratitude to the care of the sisters. In this way she passed away with serenity, on March 26, 2011



Sr M. TOMASINA TOSO
OF THE HEART OF JESUS
Maria Toso

✿ Codroipo, 14 - 11 - 1919
† Gemona, 25 - 04 - 2011

In the festive atmosphere of Easter, while the sky shines the light of the Risen Lord and the earth sings hymns of joy on the day when we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Foundation and the birth of our venerable Father Gregory, Sister Tomasina sings in heaven "Alleluia" to the Lord of her life.

Maria Toso was born in Codroipo on November 14, 1919 and was baptized on the same day. This particular testifies the Christian zeal of the parents, who passed on their daughter a solid Christian education.

At the age of 19 she responded generously to the call of the Lord, who chose her for His service.

From 1938 to 1940 she received her religious and cultural formation for the apostolate.

Already in 1940 she was in Idria, for the training, with M. Ermanna Madussi, an expert teacher for the kindergarten.

In the period 1941 to 51 she exercised her apostolate in Colonnata suburbs of Florence, an environment of workers, where she was heartily welcomed and appreciated.

From 1951 to 56 she was in Cercivento, a city in Carnia, on the mountains, among ordinary, good people with the well-known "Sior Santul", the parish priest.

She was then nominated as the Director of Formation in the new No-

vitiante of the Roman Province, in Centocelle, where she carried out this sensitive and valuable service until 1963.

Then she exercised the service of Authority as Provincial Superior in the province "St. Mary of the Angels."

During the General Chapter 1969 she was elected as Superior General, a task that demands great spirit of faith, generosity, wisdom and foresight. It was the period during when at the light of the Council, it was asked the beginning of the "Renewal" of the Religious Life. In this service Sr. Tomasina revealed her zeal and deep love for the religious Family, for the Mission, for the cultural growth of the Sisters dedicated to the work of formation. After the earthquake in 1976 she helped the Provincial Treasurer in Udine, until 1984, the year when she was elected again to the responsibility as Provincial Superior, and she committed herself to follow the completion of the reconstruction of the Mother House.

From 1989 to 2007, in Borgo Cavour-TV, she continued her service as Treasurer and she distinguished herself as a person of great warmth of reception in the hours devoted in the switchboard.

Due to health reasons, in 2007, she was brought to the Mother House, where she continued to offer her help to the Treasurer, according to her possibility.

Sr. Tomasina distinguished herself as a person very human, of firm faith, with serious style, reserved and dignified. The entire congregation is grateful to her and regrets this loss.

We are certain, dearest Sr. Tomasina, that from heaven you will continue to watch over and pray for the Congregation that you loved so much. Implore from the Lord of the harvest holy vocations, to continue the charism that he has entrusted to our Founders. May your soul Rest in peace with the Lord.



"Marvelous are the ways
of Divine Providence,
and no one has the right
to ask why in this
way and not otherwise"
(P. Gregorio)

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY OF THE SACRED HEART
House generalizia "ASISIUM" via Grottarossa, 301 - 00189 Rome
tel. 06 3325831 - 06 33258321 - fax 06 33258320
www.francescane.org