



Editorial

The life of the congregation, is distinctly marked by the celebrations of the XIX General Chapter and the 150th anniversary of its foundation. The publication of our periodical “Pace e Bene” comes to our communities with a considerable delay. We apologize, but we recognize the importance and usefulness of this tool of communication and communion of our religious family.

The wonderful initiatives carried out by the Provinces and Vice Province with creativity and enthusiasm a clear expression of love for our religious family will be collected in another volume. It records all the efforts made, to commemorate the sign of praise and gratitude for the 150th Jubilee of our congregation, aimed to bring out even more vividly, the beauty of its charisma incarnated in our various cultures and realities.

The participation in the Chapters of the Provinces and vice- Province has also enriched us with the knowledge of each mission and allowed us to take in constructive dialogue during the meetings of the Chapter, the renewed impetus given to the journey of faith “in the footsteps of Providence.”

On this journey we feel comforted and supported by the wise teachings of the Church and the encouragement offered by the brothers of the Franciscan Family, particularly the Minister General of the OFM, P. José Rodríguez Carballo. This encourages in us the sense of belonging and of sharing the Franciscan and ecclesial spirit.

Along with the celebration of the closing of the congregational Jubilee, a short meeting was held at the General House with the young sisters of perpetual profession. We reaffirmed our confidence and hope in the vitality of the Institute, verifying that the ‘grace of the origins’, received and experienced by our Founders Laura Leroux and P. Gregory, had been rolled down to us, thanks to the courageous fidelity of so many sisters. This continues even today to vivify our experience of life and mission.

For all this we bless the Lord.

To all of you with affection “ have a fruitful journey “ in the Year of Faith!

*Sister Paola Dotto
Superior General*

Rome, 30 November 2012

*The Year of Faith begins,
to believe and bear witness
in a globalized world*



The Year of Faith is a year of meditation declared by the Catholic Church from 11 October 2012 to 24 November 2013, it is dedicated to intensify “the reflection on faith in order to help all believers in Christ to become more aware and to strengthen their commitment to the Gospel, especially at this time of profound change that humanity is going through”.

With the letter ‘**Porta Fidei**’ Benedict XVI declared the Year of Faith. The main ecclesial event, that will accompany the first phase of the Year of Faith, is the celebration of the 13th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with the theme “*The new evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith.*”

The Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, summed up in a conference, presenting the objectives of the Year of Faith “*to support the faith of many believers who in their daily struggle do not cease to entrust with conviction and courage their existence to Lord Jesus*”.

Benedict XVI in Porta Fidei, the letter that proclaims the Year of faith, writes: “*We desire that this Year generates in every believer the aspiration to profess their faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope. It will be also a good opportunity to intensify the celebration of the faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist, which is the ‘summit to which the activity of the Church leans towards and the source from which all its power flows’*”.

According to the Pope the renewal of the Church takes place and also passes through the life witness offered by the lives of believers. Benedict XVI writes: “*At the same time we hope that*



the testimony of the life of believers grow in its credibility. Rediscovering the contents of the faith professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, and reflecting on the same act by which they believe, is a commitment that every believer must make his own, especially in this Year. (...) By faith, over the centuries, men and women of all ages, whose names are written in the book of life, have confessed the beauty of following the Lord Jesus wherever they were called to give witness of their being Christian “ .



*What proposal of life ...
for the year of faith?*

The Year of Faith has been declared by the Holy Father to remind Christians of the meaning of life: to turn their gaze to the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has given us new life.

Today the world is facing a big identity crisis and we baptized are not excluded.

To look to God means to rediscover the path of Faith that we have lost.



The Pope speaks of re-learning the Faith.

Yes, the purpose of this year of grace is to turn with new vigour to the mysteries of our being believers and members of the Catholic Church. Many do not believe that others have weakened their faith, it is because we all moved away from the Truth, the Way and the Life that is Jesus. We can go only a short distance alone, but as a Church, as a community of the baptized, we can truly grow in faith, hope and charity.

We will give a new image, its true image, to our community and to our city.

In this context, the Pope invites us to live and to deepen the truth of faith, supported by the teachings of the Second Vatican council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In the *Year of faith* our communities should focus on the essentials: a relationship with Jesus that gives access to the Trinitarian Communion and enables participation in the divine life.

Like any deep loving relationship the gift of faith requests the language of gratitude, rather than that of pure duty, the decision to devote time to the knowledge and contemplation rather than proliferation of initiatives, silence rather than multiplication of words, the irresistible communication of an experience of fullness that spread in the society, rather than the anxious search for consensus.

In a word: *testimony rather than activism.*

*50th anniversary
of the Second
Vatican Council*



On October 11th we celebrated **the fiftieth year of the opening of the Second Vatican Council**. As a missionary congregation, the messages of Vatican II, must be assimilated and developed retracing at least some of the key documents issued by Vatican II: 1. The correct and complete responsibility of a missionary (Ad Gentes) 2. the role of the laity (Apostolicam Actuositatem) 3. teaching the Word of God (Dei Verbum) 4. commitment in the world, in order, to regulate the earthly reality to the kingdom of God (Gaudium et Spes).

We would like to share a few brief reflections, offered to us through the channels of modern communication.

The first reflection refers to **the very image of God**, what kind of relationship we have with Him, if we have the ability to talk about the meaning of salvation. Already in the first exhortation - Gaudet Mater Ecclesia - Holy father John XXIII, indicated a new approach, based on a precise image of God. He said: "As for the present time, the Spouse of Christ prefers to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of rigor and thinking that it is necessary to meet the needs of today, by exposing the value of his teaching rather than condemning."

...It means that the Gospel of Grace and Mercy understood clearly is not only: "let us love each other" but has its own requirements. The example of Jesus meeting the "rich young man" is a clear explanation, however, the initial approach has been changed: the look of love which the Lord pours out on man is complete and unconditional and it demands a process of self emptying of oneself in the discipleship. The Gospel of Grace is the supremacy of grace of our personal commitment.

Another deep reflection comes from **the reading of reality**. Pope John XXIII, invites us to have courage and steadfastness to oppose the "prophets of doom" in another word, looking at our time as a time of degradation, prefigure of the apocalypse. The troubles are there (just look at the gap between rich and poor as it widens). But at the same time however we must discover and enhance the opportunities that our time is offering and that we did not have in the past. We need to discern.... Yes, but being part of the Church and making ourselves available to build it Is this our concern? This is the crucial point.

Finally **to be a part of the church with responsibility and without delegations**, means to be "people of God" knowing how to build bridges, and not walls in the community. A renewed ecclesial spirituality knows how to be



inclusive and not exclusive, seeking communion with all men of good will. With concrete, charitable activities, the believer does not move as a single, but as a community, seeking convergence with everyone, he pays no attention to the labels and shapes: what has to be saved and be promoted is the integral promotion of human dignity. Mary, Mother of the Church is our model of collaboration with the Spirit, to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of God. Only Mary can guide us to rediscover the greatness of our common call to holiness, to carry out our duty to the end, in the place where we are.

USA: Feeling part of the church ...



The sisters of St. Francis province remind us to be attentive, sensitive and ready to animate and support the Church in its constant fight against its opponents. In Peeskill at our province headquarters in Mount Saint Francis, it is usual to pray every day to end the practice of abortion ...In this way, with the annual appeal that millions of Americans accept with enthusiasm and realism, to unite on 25th January for the "**The annual March for Life in Washington!**", for the sisters it becomes a public and courageous protest that every faithful Christian and believer cannot refrain from demonstrating to support life in every way.

Here also our Sister Kathy Siegel, along with students from the Assumption School and other young adults from neighboring parishes, wanted to commit themselves to give direct testimony that life is a gift, and as such, it should be supported and defended at any cost, not alone, but together, as a community, through prayer, information and struggle.

The experience of Sister Kathy therefore does not remain isolated, but comes alive every day thanks to all the sisters, who do not offer the sacrifice of marching for demonstration, but to keep alive the issue by joining the Church, making one's own the desire for salvation. Our Sisters of America, are inspiring us with their edifying initiative that the Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon to get the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary in stopping this national or maybe we can say this worldly scourge.



*We too ... were present at the
1st European Congress of SFO and the
Franciscan Youth*



Last summer, from the 9th to 15th July 2012, the *First European Congress of the Secular Franciscan Order and the Franciscan Youth (SFO-YouFra)* was celebrated, in Lisieux (France). This was the first time that there had been a meeting of all the brothers and sisters of the national fraternity of SFO and Franciscan Youth from all over Europe with their spiritual assistants, including two of our young sisters: **Sister Lirie Brahaj, Albanian and**

Sister Danute Anceryte, from Lithuania. The purpose of this great event was to offer the participants (150 brotherhood, 25 countries) the opportunity to get to know one another and understand the different realities that exist between the SFO and the Franciscan European Youth fraternity. A long period of time was allowed for the exchange of experiences as well as for reflection on secular and Franciscan identity, lived in different countries of Europe, in order to respond to the challenges that the old continent is facing. The choice of Lisieux was as a response of the desire of the Franciscan Youth of Europe: to imitate the evangelical dynamism of Therese of Lisieux, the little flower and the patroness of the missions and to discover the similarities between her doctrine, the youngest Doctor of the Church and the teachings of the little poor man of Assisi, the Seraphic Father Francis.

The theme chosen for the congress, was addressed to the SFO and the Franciscan Youth, to be ready with the nets. (Quoted from Lc 5.4) **“Duc in altum”!** (“Put out into deep”). The conference was presided by Encarnación del Pozo, SFO Minister General. The specific aim of working together with concrete and consistent initiatives, in accordance with the call of Pope Benedict XVI for **the Year of Faith**: to be open to the new evangelization. The other topics too were elaborated by eminent speakers, the first of which Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, who spoke about **“The Challenges for the Church in Europe.”** Unforgettable were the evening gatherings with festive dances animated by young people and Friars of different countries: It all favored the climate of Congress making it very fraternal and joyful. The two sisters, Sr Lirie and Sr Danute, thanked their provincial superiors and all the sisters, for the great gift of being able to understand better, a part of this complex world of

Franciscans and for having shared with so many generous brethren the anxieties and joys, hopes and fears, always with the confidence to help to sew a new missionary impulse in every Christian.



*The 23rd International Congress
Mariology*



The 23rd International Marian Congress was held in the Auditorium of the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome from 4th to 9th September 2012 under the directions of the Order of Friars Minor. The Congress was presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for the Canonization of Saints.

More than 350 scholars and experts of Mariology from various parts of the world, most of them belonging to the National Marian Societies, came together to discuss a topic of great interest: **“Mariology since Vatican II, Assimilation, Evaluation and Prospective”.**

The Congress began on September 4th, in the afternoon, in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore; On the occasion, Cardinal Amato held the official opening address, explaining the theological training and commitment within the Marian studies and the authentic Marian devotion.

Later the general reports of the representatives of the National Marian society, which provoked an evaluation on the contemporary Mariology starting with the authoritative contribution given by the Bishops of Rome to the correct understanding of LG.

The relationships between Mariology and the other theological disciplines were also examined and the ecumenical challenges and multicultural progress of Marian studies were illustrated. The highlight of the Congress was experienced on the morning of Saturday, September 8, with the audience granted by Pope Benedict XVI in Castel Gandolfo.

The Holy Father, during his address to those present, said, referring to Chapter VIII of



Lumen Gentium, **“the councilor text has not exhausted all the problems related to the figure of the Mother of God, but the hermeneutic horizon is essential for every further reflection at a theological, spiritual and pastoral level.”** The closing of the Congress took place on, Sunday 9th September, in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Via Merulana, with the Holy Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture.



Seraphic Holiness

The Saints have incarnated the Word that is read, listened, pondered and assimilated. We are also called to be "holy" in the ordinariness of our being and our work." St. Francis of Assisi - writes Thomas of Celano - on hearing that the disciples of

Christ must possess neither gold, nor silver, nor money, nor purse, nor bread, nor staff, have neither shoes nor two tunics ... rejoicing in the Holy Spirit, he said, This is what I ask, this is what I desire with all my heart!". The Holy Spirit animates the Saints to give their life to the Gospel. The Saints with their lives, bore witness to the world and to the Church of the everlasting fruitfulness of the Gospel of Christ.

1. Blessed P. Gabriele M. Allegra

Acireale (Catania), Sept. 29. 2012

We join willingly in the joy and celebration for our new Blessed brother, Gabriele Allegra, and we look at him as a lover of the Word, from which is drawn new vigor and passion for evangelization.

The beatification of this Franciscan minor, took place on September 29 in Acireale (Catania), in the diocese where he had received his vocation to Franciscan life. His relic was brought to the altar by the doctor who had been miraculously healed by Fr. Allegra, and has already converted to Catholicism.

The figure of Fr. Gabriele Allegra is remembered for **the three great 'loves' of his life: the Church, the Order of Friars Minor and the apostolic commitment of evangelization in China**, where during his thirty years of missionary life, he translated the Bible into the Chinese language and Pope John Paul II indicated him as **"a man of dialogue between Christ and China."**

The life of Gabriele Maria Allegra, apostle of the Word, is a life woven between the work of translation and publication of the Bible in Chinese, and the witness of a life inspired and experienced in the love of Christ. Fr. Gabriele Maria Allegra used to say that a good life is a dream of youth realized in later life.

To get an idea of what Father Allegra's work has meant in the China of today, it is enough to mention what some great personalities have said. Bishop Yupin, the Archbishop of Nanchino, on the occasion of the publication of the last volume, said: **"The translation of the Bible is the greatest work accomplished by the Catholic Church in China. The history of China, from now on, may be divided into two periods: before and after the version of the Bible made by the Franciscans."**

Yet he was "a humble man, ready to wash the floors in place of any seminarian, a holy man, who spent his free time in silence before the tabernacle, a man of strong faith that sustained him in his "titanic work" to translate the Bible into the Chinese language." In this way card. Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, remembered the figure of the blessed Fr. Gabriele Maria Allegra. The Cardinal also highlighted his "Eucharistic soul", which led him to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Allegra not only founded the Franciscan Biblical Study, but also in a prophetic way founded "a Sociological Study to spread the social doctrine of the Church. He was a dynamic apostle of the Gospel, as a preacher, confessor, spiritual director, and writer."



2. The Franciscan Blessed Martyrs of Prague Prague, 12 October 2012

Between Friday, October 12 and Sunday 14 there were the biggest celebrations for the beatification of fourteen Franciscan friars from all over Europe who lived in the convent of St. Mary of the Snow in Prague. The event has profoundly united us with the Order of Franciscan Minor, to whom of course we feel close, but also to our Sisters in the mission of Prague, who experienced this extraordinary event directly.



These 'brothers' are therefore the first to be beatified in the Year of Faith: 14 Franciscan friars massacred in the seventeenth century by Protestants. Among them there were four Italians. This beatification assumes, therefore, a very significant character. They were martyrs for the Faith who had shed their blood in the convent of Santa Maria della Neve in Prague in the hands of an angry mob formed by Hussiti, Calvinists, and Lutherans. It was 15, February 1611 when this massacre was carried out.

Their martyrdom took place in fact in the struggle between Catholics and Protestants. Two years before Rudolf II, King and Emperor of Bohemia, with the "Letter of Majesty" had granted religious freedom to non-Catholic confessions present in Bohemia; so tensions further increased, and the struggle between the various groups deteriorated alarmingly. The situation degenerated in Prague in early February 1611, becoming tragic on February 15, when a crowd formed by Hussites, Calvinists, Lutherans and other Catholics broke in to the Franciscan monastery in Prague and in 4 hours massacred 14 monks - after that they had stripped them naked - guilty of just being catholic.

The cause of beatification, interrupted during the communist regime, took its course until the signing of the decree of beatification by Pope Benedict XVI.



Santa Marianne Cope
Franciscan of the United States
 Rome, 21 October 2012

Here's another wonderful figure of seraphic holiness: Marianne Cope, also known as the Blessed Marianne of Molokai (January 23, 1838 - August 9, 1918), canonized on Sunday, October 21, 2012, in St. Peter's basilica with 6 other saints. With her beatification in 2005, thanks to the resolution taken by the new Pope Benedict XVI, a new procedure of the rite of beatification was initiated, celebrated by the pope himself and normally in Rome. This new saint is dear to us not only because she is a Franciscan tertiary nun like us, but for her human side. Her institute was always linked to our sisters in Peekskill, so much so that it has already been months that, some religious of her congregation are guests in our province house.



Barbara Cope, born in Germany, two years after she emigrated with her family to the United States of America, like so many other Italians, spent her youth in Utica, in the State of New York. At the age of 24, she entered the Institute of the Sisters of the Third Order Franciscan of Syracuse and became Sister Marianna, in 1862. She devoted herself to the apostolate of the Congregation, that is the education of the children of German immigrants in the original language of her parents. For her intellectual talents and for her generous dedication she played important tasks in her congregation, including the care of the poor who were very dear to her, in the two hospitals of St. Isabella of Utica and St. Joseph of Syracuse (1869). Elected for two terms as Provincial Superior, in 1883 there was a request from the Bishop of Honolulu to send sister nurses to the abandoned lepers of Hawaii. The situation was critical, as many as 50 religious communities had refused the request, but Father Damien de Veuster pointed out the need to be helped by nuns. Mother Marianne chose six sisters among the 25 who volunteered and she went first remaining in Honolulu and then on to Molokai. Father Damien de Veuster, having also become a victim of leprosy, died in 1889 attended by her, and from then on all the organizational work came to her.

In order to save the mission of Molokai, she resigned from her Provincial ship. She remained in the service of lepers for almost 30 years until her death, heroically devoting herself to improve all the charitable services in favour of the sick, that Mother "Marianne of Molokai" as she was called, knew one by one. Her desire was to arrive at giving them human dignity, no longer should they feel marginalized and useless. Everyone heralded her as a "unique religious, all exemplary, extraordinary heart." She died in Molokai 9 August 1918 at the age of 80 and her holiness kept flowering thereafter.



The year 2012 was really special and every day was lived out with attention and affectionate leaning towards one or other of the provinces, following the appropriate celebration of the chapters that were gradually celebrated. More specifically the province Mary Immaculate opened the chapters, so to speak and they were concluded by the Holy Family province. It was nice to follow as far as possible even from afar, each Chapter, that proved to be a time of fraternal gathering, exchange of experiences, mutual enrichment, etc..., also of setting up beautifully the faithful practical screening of the XIX General Chapter, the natural explanation of values, contents and proposals that came out from it, trying to translate concretely in full harmony of spirit.

In fact with profound gratitude we admire the divine benevolence, which once again has accompanied us during the development of these important events canonically foreseen, being realized with the presence and activities of the sisters of different cultures and origins. This affirms in faith and joy the sense of family and, at the same time, are shown the same common charism that if understood and taken with purity of faith and love, can be lived and expressed in different forms.

Now, while we'll see in a nutshell, the implementation of the eight chapters, we give praise to the Holy Spirit, uniting ourselves in invocation of Him, so that His light, may make us lovingly aware that the real chapters begin now. In their fulfillment we are all equally responsible, and this will continue to accompany us in the new journey which is opened to us from his love.



Family spirit

Province Maria Immacolata - Rome

XIV Capitolo Provinciale

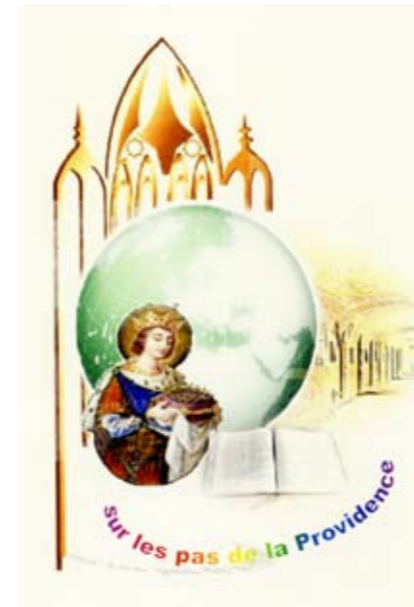
27 -31 December 2011



Sr. Marta Camerotto	Provincial Superior
Sr. Claudia Graziotto	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Silvana Bottan	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Antonia Costa	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Clarita Pesce	4 th Councilor



*The courage of a story
that animates the present
... in the challenge of a
new evangelization*



*From the gratitude of the memo-
ry to the prophetic commitment
in faith of an authentic spiritual*



Family spirit

Louis IX Province - France

XIV Provincial Chapter

26 April to 2 May 2012



Sr. Armelle Costa	Provincial Superior
Sr. Emmanuelle Piccolo	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Beniamina Borsato	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Alice Karothu Narothu	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Irene Foscolu	4 th Councilor

St. Anthony Province - Chile

XIII Provincial Chapter

15-26 January 2012



*From the gratitude of memory to
the commitment of a prophetic
fraternity*



Sr. Fides Lorenzon	Provincial Superior
Sr. Bernarda Alvarez	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Marcela Uribe	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Gregoria Suárez	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Elena Bilibio	4 th Councilor

Vice province S. Martyrs of Uganda - Cameroon

VI Vice-provincial Chapter

12 to 18 June 2012



Sr. Beatrice Bifouma	Vice provinciale
Sr. Giovanna Craighero	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Mary Lukose	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Francisca Beeko	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Silvia Aro	4 th Councilor



*From the gratitude of the memory
to the common commitment
of a renewed Faith*



Family spirit

Province of St. Maria degli Angeli - Gemona

XIII Provincial Chapter

June 30 to July 5 - 2012



Sr. Annamaria Volpato	Provincial Superior
Sr. Daniela Revelant	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Luisangela Severin	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Marina Fusi	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Stefania Bandiera	4 ^a Consigliera



*After 150 years of life
our sacred story continues
in a renewed journey of faith*



Family spirit

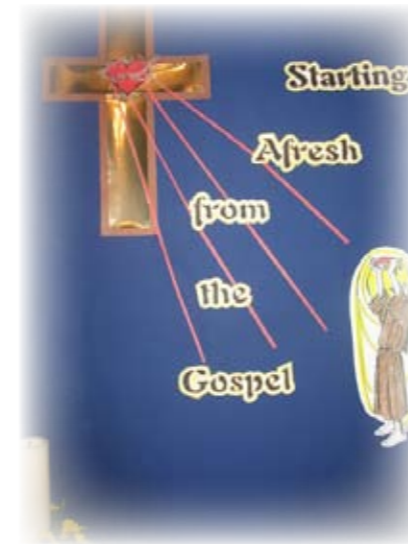
Province St. Francis- USA

XII Provincial Chapter

August 14 to 22 -2012



Sr. Anne Matthew	Provincial Superior
Sr. Anna James Guerin	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Anna Maria Not	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Ellen Marie Molloy	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Rose Cecilia Bozzo	4 th Councilor



*"Let's start from the Gospel.
In the footsteps of Providence
...for an authentic journey
of conformation to Christ."*

Province of St. Elizabeth of Hungary - Cyprus

XIII Provincial Chapter

30 July to 5 August 2012



*In a renewed journey of faith
with courage let us face
the challenges of today to be an
authentic prophetic sign*



Sr. Bernadette Skorti	Provincial Superior
Sr. Angelica Hadjihanni	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Germana Tomat	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Françoise Aletrari	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Antonia Piripitsi	4 th Councilor

Holy Family Province - Vijayawada

III Provincial Chapter

16 to 21 October 2012



Sr. Gracy Thuruthippallil	Provincial Superior
Sr. Rose Palamthattel	1 st Councilor and Vicar
Sr. Maddalena Moro	2 nd Councilor
Sr. Sahya Rani Gnanapragasam	3 rd Councilor
Sr. Maria Goretti Yelikai	4 th Councilor



3rd Provincial Chapter 2012
Holy Family Province, India

*Franciscan Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart in ardent mysticism
and prophecy for the formation of
a new humanity*



**International Meeting of Young sisters
in the General ate
for the closing celebration of the Jubilee**

While reflecting on the solemn celebration for the closing of the 150th year of the foundation of our religious family to be held in Rome, at our General House, the Superior General, Sr. Paola Dotto, thoughtfully communicated with the Superiors of the various organisms the idea of organizing a meeting for that date with the younger sisters from all the countries where we are present.

The Superior General, Sr. Paola Dotto, also expressed the primary reason to consider appropriate such a meeting in order to make our commitment more alive and meaningful and to thank the Lord, whose work of benevolence has always been attributed to our congregation, along with the objective of increasing the spirit of fraternal communion and of the feeling of belongingness to the same religious family.

The primary aspiration was that this meeting, should be an occasion, a very good opportunity, to make acquaintance and listen to each other, a moment of deep formation for many young sisters.

Later on, more precise informations regarding the closing event scheduled for May 19, 2012 were given. It was to be implemented by a group of young sisters of not more than ten years of perpetual professed, and possibly representatives of each of the countries where we work. Everything was announced with great hope that it would be very fruitful and good. The aim was to promote among young people the joy of being together, to inculcate in them the art of listening and to strengthen their desire of sharing and mutual support in order to grow together in the spirit of openness that looks to the future with the courage of Hope, and with the fervor to remain faithful to the grace of our origins, as we continue to travel our due journey "in the footsteps of Divine Providence", as it was done by all the sisters who have gone before us.

The beauty and effectiveness of the meeting, carried out as scheduled on May 19, 2012, were expressed in the comments of some of the young sisters, who actively participated in the celebration.

"We were moved and delighted during the whole period of our conference, which was accompanied by our Superior General, Sister Paola Dotto, and sisters of the Council. We were introduced to listen and meditate the Word of God, and inviting us to start our reflections from the Word of God to share in simplicity our experiences, our insights, our expectations, and our dreams for a hopeful future."



"*Remain in my love*" (Jn 15:9) was the key phrase of this meeting. As we were reminded by Fr. Massimo Fusarelli OFM, who spoke on the first and the last day of the conference, 'to remain' is not a passive attitude but dynamic, which will allow us to get through the moments of disappointment, of tiredness that can be experienced in the community and also in the same congregation. It 's only in the certainty that there is a love that precedes us, forms us and has a new gift to offer in every season of life that make our step fast and steady. The reflection was very incisive that "the fruit of remaining in love is the ability to live, to accept with confidence the weakness and to give back the love that has touched us, allowing it to reach the people we meet and share with them the adventure of one's life".

The meeting of the young sisters, as planned, was the most significant moment of the closing celebration of the 150th year of the foundation, celebrated in the entire Institute in the course of the year 2010 to 2011.

Saturday May 19th, was the memorable day of the meeting of our founders and the first six sisters with Pope Pius IX in 1862. The Minister General of the Friars Minor, p. Jose Rodriguez Carballo, who presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration, reminded us of the value of fraternity as the specific charisma to be experienced and to be handed over in the mission of education.

The unanimous praise and thanksgiving to God the Father were expressed in different voices, languages and with different musical instruments, in an atmosphere of internationality, which seemed to give even more vigor to the communion of prayer. The Eucharistic celebration was truly beautiful, elated with warm participation, almost tangible in the intimate communication of joy and gratitude to God from the Institute of the FMSC, to the immense crowd of enthusiastic spectators, to the large number of priests and to the young students. It was these students that the minister General congratulated for having behaved so impeccably during the long ceremony.



The party continued till late in the evening with a Theatre performance "*Willed by a greater Love*", put on by the students of the Asisium, Mary Immaculate Centocelle, including the choir group of the same school, and the students of Gassman public school, teachers and former teachers of Asisium, and of course by many of our young sisters. At each stage of the representation greatly appreciated, a consistent message was sent out, the messa-



Family spirit



ge that “love begets love, that love is balm for the wounds and restores harmony” to the beat of your heart, “as a young woman stated later.

All of the young sisters, from whatever may be their origin, leapt with enthusiasm and a strong sense of gratitude primarily for the joy of having met many peers, each a bearer of experience and vitality which was unknown to others yet very valuable, and also, for the gift of the presence of the Superior General and her council through out their meeting.

These expressions of gratitude and joy naturally arrived at the respective Provincial Superiors and sisters of the same organism: every young sister, in fact, was aware of having had a privileged experience, from which they perceived all the commitment of responsibility and gratitude at the thought of how many sisters had worked during their absence to replace them, so that they could move away and peacefully live this experience which was offered to them. On returning to their mission countries, they all want to repeat, through these pages, their sincere thanks, assuring that they will remain close in prayer and commitment together, so that the precious opportunity of this meeting, knowing one another and being able to share their experiences, all by the benevolence of God, can bear good fruit for the benefit of each and every sister of the Congregation, through whom we echo the call of the Gospel “We remain united in His love.”

From a distance ... the echo of a young sister who participated in the international meeting

“I infinitely thank our superiors for allowing me to participate in this meeting, which for me, is unforgettable. I have also had the opportunity to get to know Rome, our general house Asisium, the city of Assisi and Grotte di Castro, but in particular being able to share experiences and affection with all the sisters. My desire to learn and share has been satisfied, too, because I breathed trust and affection, finding everywhere a fraternal environment. I breathed this atmosphere, especially in the words of Sr. Paola Dotto, our Superior General, I carry it with me, and it will certainly accompany me as an important lesson for my life which will in turn help me to live my religious life and mission.

The moments of sharing experiences from other sisters from their different situations and services were very interesting: The richness of them were found again in the synthesis of the most beautiful show “Willed ... by a greater love”, during which each sister represented their culture dancing with typical costumes of their country. The central theme of the meeting: “Abide in my love” offered us clearly a real track to follow, an effort to live our life henceforth with commitment, with continuous enthusiasm, so that our communities are driven by the true joy of each of us, in order to be able to love all people and to love one another. “



Family spirit



“In the Word of God we find the motivations for our life of faith!”

The renewal Course for the jubilarians of 50 and 25 years of religious life in this Institute of FMSC was conducted with the clear aim to provide the participants the best means to introduce oneself in the Year of the faith, announced by the Holy Father. For two weeks, the 45 sisters from almost all or at least representatives from all continents where our religious family is present, said that they had lived an exciting experience. The first week, they were guests in our Generalate, where they were welcomed with kindness and with fraternal love, which is always recognized as a primary virtue and essential gift of the Asisium. They were guided with reflection and insight seemingly different but in reality with the same goal: to assume one's own life with renewed and authentic faith and to make it a clear witnesses of the one who lives in our heart.



As was planned in the program, a Pauline sister, Sr. Elena Bosetti, Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd developed the theme: the route taken by Francis and Clare, as companions of the Word of God. The liveliness and competence of the speaker made every explanation enjoyable and accessible. Little by little the Word of God was presented for confrontation with a simple yet genuine commitment.

A Franciscan Friar Minor, Fr. Antonino Clemente, OFM, professor of philosophy at Antonianum, then took over the assembly with the topic ‘the poor as an authentic sign of the incarnation of the Word of God’. Thanks to the choice of life made by the

Franciscans who express it every day in their charitable work for many brothers who are marginalized, repudiated and humiliated. The preacher was able to answer many hypotheses and questions that were provoked step by step during the session. It was also very interesting the combination or the transmission of ideas about the life lived in our own community, where listening to the Word of God is a practical exercise, an unbeatable instrument to quench the thirst of the spirit. The sisters were happy, grateful, and also touched by the testimony of simplicity and poverty of the simple friar.

The following day the General Council accompanied the jubilarians in their meditation. It was fraternal sharing, free and sincere, rooted in the experience of daily life, in the presentation of the various common problems, at times specific ones so as to give a full picture of positive elements emerging from the reflection of those who are guided by the Word of God. The counselors alternated themselves with good disposition on guiding and answering the requests of the as-





Family spirit



sembly, and experienced a new dimension of spirit of fraternity.

On the fourth day the sisters were entertained by Sr. M. Antonietta Pozzebon with a technique different from the previous one: she was entrusted the task to present the congregational history in the dimension of faith and she did it through a suggestive journey. She started with a synthetic presentation of the theological virtue in the sense of doctrine, then the reflection took on Franciscan perspective and then she presented the history of our journey of faith, from its origins to the present day. The development of the theme was followed by the power point

presentation with elaborated texts and fitting images, prepared with extreme care. It enriched and allowed the sisters, to learn, to know and to discover the hidden richness of our family with deep reflection. The sisters enjoyed the exciting image of the vine and the branches from which they draw nourishment and life: afterwards the jubilarians were given time to rest, before leaving for Grotte di Castro, the home town of the founder, the Servant of God, Father Gregory Fioravanti. For many of them, a dream was becoming a reality, for others it was a chance to visit once again a place which is very dear to them and to breathe the joyful air that was blowing at the time of our origins

This brief pilgrimage to Grotte seemed like a balm for many jubilarians, who with joy made themselves ready for the spiritual retreat that was scheduled at Verna. In this shrine, from July 15 to 22, Fr. Tarcisio Colombotti, OFM a preacher of the retreat made himself available in guiding them. There were five days, as the sisters say, of paradise, of silence, of listening and prayer, liturgical life with the community of Franciscan friars; an immersion in the beautiful and wild nature so dear to our Father S. Francis. The retreat preacher guided the sisters on the paths of this desert to touch the intimacy of Francis with God; the conversion and prayer, spiritual responsibility and the revision of life in gratitude etc..., so that they may arrive transfigured on the day of great celebration.

Sunday 22nd marked the final stages that unfolded the magnificent celebration of the Jubilee, a long inefable celebration, the solemn celebration of the morning radiated everywhere and filled the atmosphere with hymns and prayers, a new experience of fraternal entertainment.

Revived by the gift that God had given to each of them, they headed home, motivated to give reason for their hope with a new vigor, which gave wings to their spirit, and at the same time from the heart of all sisters arose the same intense prayers of praise, thanksgiving and blessing of joy!

And all of us, bless the Lord with them!



Family spirit

In the Grace of Origins



“Holy Father, we give you thanks for all the wonders you have done for us!”

The Community of Assumption of **Puerto Montt**, captured the happy occasion of the celebrations for the **150th anniversary of the congregation**, to celebrate the conclusion of another important event, **the 60th anniversary of the arrival in Chile of the first 5 missionaries**. In fact it was long ago, in 1951, that they arrived in the southern city of Puerto Montt.

There seemed to be a very valid reason to organize a three-day celebration, in which the whole educational community, including families and friends strengthened their bond of affection and solidarity with our sisters. They all expressed great gratitude and appreciation congratulating the sisters and finally asking to continue the courageous mission in their midst.

With the spirit filled with gratitude to God, on 10 November 2011, in the Cathedral of Puerto Montt this three-day celebration of the double anniversary, the 150 anniversary of the Institute and the 60 year of the presence of Latin American Mission began. During the solemn Eucharistic celebration, presided by Monsignor Cristian Caro Cordero and celebrated by other 9 priests. The director and superior of the

community, Sister Mary Fides Lorenzon spoke, presenting a brief historical journey of the Congregation, up to the foundation of its first mission in Chile

The moment of the presentation of gifts provoked in them some excitement for the meaningful symbols that were offered: like the typical boat from the south of the country with the invitation of Holy Father “do not be afraid for God is with us and follows us, invites us to “put into the deep”, praising Him for all that his providence has given us in the last 60 years in our southern land.

The festive day ended with **an artistic beautiful and pleasing play**, fittingly prepared by the students and teachers of the ‘Arriaran Barros’.

The successive play from the theatre group of the same school, symbolizing the gratitude to Divine Providence, present in our history aroused so much joy.



Professor John Besazza, who prepared it, using the image of the original costumes, instilled a special atmosphere, helping the public to read every new experience in the perspective suggested by the hymn to Providence’, sung by the parent’s choir.



Family spirit

Even primary school children made their beautiful appearance, wearing the costumes worn in the different countries of our sisters FMSC. Very impressive it was the moment when some girls appeared dressed with the habit the sisters wore at the beginning at their arrival in Chile. The next day, in order to remember the two important events and to continue to praise the Lord, the sisters of the community of Puerto Varas also organized something. The invitation in fact was sent to all people with responsibility or employees of the educational ministry of the **community of "Regina Mundi"** and of the community, of "Assumption" for the afternoon of the following day, November 12, 2011, to have a look at the show "agape fraternity in diversity



“ It was a very pleasant time both for the successful outcome of the wonderful show and especially for the friendly and cheerful atmosphere, which was created by the large group of people present.

In this presentation too, there was a series of songs chosen, including the last one performed by the sisters to thank the Providence. The atmosphere that was created in this lowly meeting, permitted sr. Fides, to briefly discuss the history of the mission. In the final greeting she, then expressed her satisfaction and gratitude for such a sincere exchange, and she wanted to give to all participants a souvenir: a diary that had been prepared specially 'to remember' the Divine Grace that was the protagonist of everything from the Origins.



Family spirit

Continuing Formation ...

Without interruption!



The initiative, pondered by the Provincial Superior, Sister Fides Lorenzon, to bring together the directors and vice-directors of our schools of Chile, was held at the provincial house in Santiago on 4 and 5 of August 2011.

Sister Fides Lorenzon organized the meeting with the aim of bringing an awareness of the educational concept that our schools try to follow as closely as possible, and thereby support teachers who are working to the same guidelines.

Through the analysis of the documents neatly collected, and of all the material of Educational Training, of individuals, of functions and their exercises in both academic and administrative levels, everyone took note of the situation. Thus, being aware of the differences, it was possible to make an objective analysis of each school, with the primary purpose to get for all of our schools in Chile the so-called **CERTIFICATION**. Sister Victorina Colla director Felmer Niklitschik Puerto Varas was called to explain a little about the advantages of that certification. At first the sister simply explained the deep meaning of the mission of education, and was encouraged for the same scope, and she was careful, however, to explain what was beneficial or necessary to get this certificate, and moreover to reap the practical benefits in an educational field. It would, in short be a process based on self-assessment and external opinion aimed at improving the academic quality and institutional responsibility of the school. She repeated that a certified institution can offer many positive factors to those who have the responsibility of the work, as well as to those who benefit from it.

Wisdom in precious drops of light:

what does Vocation Promotion mean?



On Saturday, September 22, 2012, a group of sisters, representing the communities of the Province, "Mary Immaculate", gathered with the intention of sharing some opinions about the pastoral care of vocations and the method which they adopt, shared with fraternal confidence.

The question raised as soon as the small group of sisters began to exchange their ideas, was the key question for all: "What is vocation promotion?" The answers are

focused on the witness we give of the joy that should be 'normal or granted', in all our encounters with anyone, even when it is unexpected. Yes, because today more than ever we need to persuade ourselves that we are all called to give "reason for the hope that is in us," to witness the beauty of the consecrated life!

From the etymology of the word "pastoral" it follows that the action is of feeding, of nourishing, it



Family spirit

is the concern of the shepherd who takes care of his flock and leads the sheep to the pastures, so the “vocation promotion” is taking care of others, primarily those who are close to us, and give witness of our faith in Jesus Christ crucified and risen.

There is an urgency that each of us may be open with humility and sincerity, *to evaluate with courage* two important aspects:

1. to verify personally one’s faith and calling as a provocation to conversion. It is important to recall the story of our call and our response in the past and now.
2. to consider the richness of our own vocation within the charisma and the desire to transmit it to others.

From the evaluation two challenges are collected at the end: -

- Living with faith and passion the discipleship
- Living the Gospel in fraternity.

The first place, then, for the pastoral care of vocations, is now clear, it is *our own community!*

Mother Rosa still speaks...



The inimitable Giuliana Ceschin, a creative entertainer and animator of all initiatives that take place in Stravino, had been planning for a long time a visit the Mother House of the FMSC Sisters, in Gemona. In recent years, having made contact with the sisters, thanks to the meetings with Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon, and to the editing and publishing of the new book “Amiable perfume of Rose”, the desire to visit the mother house resurfaced with greater force, because of the sincere zeal of good Giuliana. Already in the little village everyone was saying that it was a sacred duty to fulfill that desire: “to know Gemona,

especially knowing the place where the fellow villager Mother Rosa Bonomi their ‘Saint’ lived for many years.”

So as word was passed, the triangle Stravino, Rome, Gemona was connected and 150 years of the foundation and 70 years from the death (1941) of our revered nun, the project was finally realized. In short then, as in Gemona Sr. Antonietta and Sr. Chiarfrancesca tried to put up an unexpected small exhibition in honor of Mother Rosa and her devotees villagers, many of them coming from her family, the bus of Stravino friends was already on the highway.

“Several factors - recounted the Stravino news - have combined to bring us to the FMSC Sisters in Gemona, in particular the 70th anniversary of the death of Mother Rosa and her reputation for holiness, but the most decisive factor was the determination and the irresistible love of ANGELINA who, even if on the threshold of ninety, was decisive in leading to the tomb of her holy cousin, mother Rosa, her devoted fellow villagers, and especially the relatives, that is the second and third cousins of the beloved aunt Rosa.

Therefore the group of 36 people arrived in Gemona, all lively despite their age and their journey which



Family spirit



started very early from Stravino. At Gemona, they enjoyed a great experience, memorable and rich in content, everything went very well because, for the occasion, it seemed that Sister Maria Rosa Bonomi was BACK with us again, and she edited as the director with her unique style, which made everything beautiful and natural, just as in the book: ‘AMABILE PROFUMO DI ROSA’.

Let us listen to the reports from the people of Stravino:

“Once in the mother house, Elena Amabile gave to the sisters, a basket of apples from Trentino and a bouquet: simple gifts, in harmony with the exquisite, wonderful kindness

of the whole community of FMSC, which gave us a ‘very warm welcome, from the exit of the highway, where waiting for us Sister Chiarfrancesca and our dear Sister Antonietta, who came from Rome especially for us, along with Sister Eleanora called Sr Shumi!

At the monastery, after a moment of rest, we participated in the Holy Mass celebrated by our new parish priest of Stravino, who is already touched by the fame of holiness of the Mother Bonomi. On the altar was placed the little Child Jesus in wax, which belonged to Sr Rosa, then entrusted it to Sr. Antonietta, and now handed over by Angelina to the Provincial Superior, as a gift from the relatives to the Mother House.

And then ... we were divided into two groups, led by Sr. Antonietta and Sr Chiarfrancesca, to visit the Convent. We were amazed at the sheer size of the building that was rebuilt after the earthquake, the beauty of the rooms and in a special way the Chapter Hall, the restored Refectory, that preserves the original wooden furniture and the panels with the exposure of the whole life of Mother Rosa, prepared for our arrival. No one was expecting to see, in these times, so many sisters together, and great was the excitement in discovering that several sisters in their nineties had known our fellow villager Mother Rosa and they talked about her with fresh and glowing joy.

During the visit to the Museum of the Congregation we were touched by seeing the little personal things that had belonged to Sister Rosa Bonomi and were jealously preserved in a glass case, which today is enriched by a new important relic: the baby Jesus in wax which returned back to Gemona after a hundred years, having comforted and healed many people at Padergnone.

And what can we say about the delicious meal, made with passion and skill, served with grace and consumed together in that solemn refectory of neo-Gothic style: the Franciscan sisters and the people of Stravino?

And the gift – a souvenir of the beautiful image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help? And then the visit to Gemona, to the sanctuary of St. Anthony of Padua, to the impressive façade of the Cathedral miraculously spared from the earthquake, and then, a surprise - the family tomb of the FMSC, with the remains of our beloved sister; the return trip seemed like a flight of 750 km between Heaven and Earth:

**THANKS TO ALL!
THANKS TO THE SISTERS,
THANKS TO GOD!”.**





Family spirit

At the Asisium... "dulcis in fundo"

The old saying fits very well with the days spent at the generalate house 'Asisium', on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012.

Seldom indeed do we witness the transformation of an ordinary school environment into an elegant dining room for a large group of people engaged in construction, from a contractor to a painter, from a surveyor to a plasterer, from an architect to an electrician, and so on....

At the Asisium however, after following for over three years the style and pace of the work of dozens of workers who had to alternate themselves to make the necessary radical restoration work required by the building, it seemed the most logical thing. In reality, it was a bold endeavor, long, patient, sometimes exhausting for all parties, primarily for our superiors, as well as by those in charge of the work to which they were assigned, not to mention all that faced by the entire community, the religious, the educators, teachers, students and parents.

However, in front of the magnificent outcome we admired, firstly the development of the renewed and beautiful structure of the building, and then, the amazing magnificence presented by the theatre, the work that perhaps demonstrated the highest efficiency also the passion and seriousness with which all the work was carried out.

For this reason the idea of a nice, large table to be set in the workplace already familiar to all employers and employees of SNIE was readily welcomed and with so much enthusiasm many had lent a hand to get things ready in time for this occasion.

The dinner was organized by the sisters and by the construction workers, as the invitation was sent to all those who in any way or another had helped to achieve the restoration of the house. Everyone provided what was needed for lunch. It was almost like a fun contest among them, a pleasant surprise to discover new competencies, and a youthful ardor in the work of preparation: for example the site supervisor, Mr. Alfred took care of the purchase of the lamb, the gardeners and other workers offered themselves for the barbecue; there were those who provided wine and bread, entrusting to the sisters what else was necessary.

The lunch hour turned out to be a real, spontaneous expression of joy for the entire fifty guests, a more evident proof of the familiarity and natural simplicity created between workers and sisters, between employers and employees. It was a true manifestation of joy and serenity to observe how each dish tasted good, but not just to savour the delicacy, but to acknowledge that the real experience was to be together, feel comfortable, feeling so happy



Family spirit

around a table with many diners some little known by the sisters but feeling as if they were at home, ready to share simple and genuine jokes.

We cannot forget, in fact, expressions such as: "We worked very hard at the Asisium but as if it was our home, we felt like a family." Or: "When we came to work here we seemed to get into an oasis of peace," and then they turned to us "You have always treated us with respect and love." An engineer then said: "Today, working in this world, we are never told that we have done a job well, instead we receive only negative words and, aggression..

Sisters instead, you're different, you have a different way of thinking, you have not pretended that the work was well done, you have been able to grasp the difficulty of this or that job, you said what a beautiful job you have done, see that you have done well. The way you have treated us, filled our hearts and made us happier than the money that we have received, thanks always, dear sisters, for your wealth of spirit and humanity! "

Before the dinner was over, the contractor Luciano Sperandio spoke, who with the authority of a man of integrity, stating: "We have to thank the Sisters for the work they have given us, but most of all for what they have been to us, by their example and their life of faith, the spirit of cooperation and hospitality towards us, the constant kindness ..", and shortly thereafter he added: "In a few days the Pope begins the year of faith, we laity too must always have the courage to bear witness to what we believe in, both as Christians and as Muslims, because we all have to give reason for what we believe and hope, without fear. "

In an atmosphere of understandable emotion, the Superior General, Sister Paola Dotto tried to answer, she said thank you on behalf of all of us, sisters; she particularly commended the way, the style, the punctuality, the tenacity with which all carried out their work without wasting time ... She also underlined the sense of respect shown by all and always, to the students of the school, so that many observed that they really had not realized that there was work in progress...

A small gift was given to all present (the books: On the footsteps of providence, A soul and a work,

a keychain and a beautiful photographic reproduction of the house) and were intended to express gratitude by all of us and the joy for the 'experience; feelings that were probably made in a certain way evident by the beautiful photos of the group of which no one had tried to hide from view or miss it. At the end of the work for all this, with a joy so sweet and longed, we can repeat again our praise to God!





We are in Kinshasa



With great enthusiasm our Sisters of Cameroon allow us to partake in the new experience of grace that they are living, that is the establishment of a small community in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) in Kinshasa**, the capital and largest city (7,500,000 inhabitants) in the country.

It was a distant dream, matured and blended in alternate moments, supported and then postponed, but always remained as a strong desire and above all in the prayer of the sisters. The Lord had already signaled the direction towards that great

country giving a gift of some Congolese sisters: to us it was saying be confident in Him, and to persevere united in prayer for discernment as much as possible according to his will. In the meantime, He, through the persevering and significant presence of some sisters of the Congo Democratic as effective members of our religious family, gave us the opportunity to share the reasons and occasions for mutual understanding, in view of a mutual good. And then that dream, matured gradually, until, in the recent Chapter of the Vice Province 'SS. Martyrs of Uganda' the decision came to implement it.

So it was in the last days of September, the Vice Provincial Superior Sister Beatrice Bifouma accompanied these two sisters. Sister Francisca Beeko and Sister Lucie Bosila who were chosen to start the new community. There is no doubt that they would see this clearly in the benevolent gesture of divine Providence, and think with devotion of the paternal intervention of the founder, they felt so close: in fact they agreed with the Major Superiors to honor his memory by naming the new community with his name **'FATHER GREGORY'** and at the same time by entrusting the community the protection of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**.

The day was fixed for the official opening on 29 September, 2012. It was a solemn day indeed. The modest house, which had long been provided as a small "pied à terre" or basic meeting point for young Congolese during their family visits, spent that day in the presence of the major personalities of the Church in Kinshasa. Early in the morning, the Auxiliary Bishop of Kinshasa, His Eminence Msgr. Edouard Kisonga Ndinga, the person responsible for Consecrated Life, accompanied by the secretary and by an altar boy crossed the threshold of this humble home.



It 's easy to imagine with what emotion the sisters followed the rite of blessing of the house, small and unadorned, but very clean; how they looked at the prelate, majestic in his golden vestments of the celebration, passing from one room to another giving his full blessing with a plentiful spray of holy water.

After the blessing of the small altar, the bishop gave the Decree of opening issued by the Archbishop of Kinshasa, His Excellency Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya.

Sister Beatrice, immediately having the Decree placed in to her hands by the Bishop himself, of course accompanied by the authorization letter of our Superior General and Council, rejoiced with emotion as she opened it watched by the sisters.

The anxiety on their faces was replaced by joy.

Our wish for all of this can only be translated into prayer, with which we willingly join the Sisters of the entire Vice-province and in particular those involved in the new community. May the Lord help to make the new institution a centre of attraction and radiation of his love for the salvation of many souls, and at the same time to the community may 'Father Gregory' give the grace to reflect that same love with the holiness of life.



Called by love

First Profession



“Have the courage to dare with God! Try it! Do not be afraid of him! Have the courage to risk with faith! Have the courage to risk with goodness! Have the courage to risk with a pure heart! Commit yourselves to God, then you will see that it is precisely by doing so, that your life will become broad and light, not boring but filled with infinite surprises, for God’s infinite goodness is never depleted”.
(Benedict XVI - Feast of the Immaculate 2005)

And many sisters have dared ... many before and after us, then, have staked their future on the faithfulness of God, they just believed! with them we too thank the Lord, as we remember, relive, and participate, their joy.



SR NEELIMA DAKKUMADAGULA E SR SUNITHA PENTAMALA,

August 10, 2011, Carmel Nagar (India)

SR BLESSING LUKONG E SR SOLANGE GALABE,

June 13, 2011, Nkoabang (Cameroun)

On August 10, 2011, the eve of the liturgical feast of St. Clare of Assisi, in Novitiate of Carmel Nagar (India) the two young novices, Neelima Dakkumadagula and Sunitha Pentamala, made their First Profession. The rite of the Profession was completed as part of a Mass, for its presidency the sisters were honored to have His Excellency Most Rev. Prakash Mallavara-pu, the Bishop of Vijayawada, accompanied by several priests, and well wishers of our sisters.

During the Eucharist celebration, with a rite which was very impressive in its simplicity, the group of sisters found themselves spontaneously sharing their joy and emotions of the moment they were experiencing especially the two young sisters.

As a delegate of the Superior General, the General Councilor Sr. M. Ansamma Pullikattil, received the vows, which the two candidates pronounced clearly and loudly, to the emotion of their parents, and



the relatives present, who also renewed the offering of their respective daughters to God. The sisters who were present also had the feeling of witnessing the act of Anna when she offered her son Samuel to God, and intensified their prayer for the two sisters not only to remain faithful, but also to deepen more and more their love for their spouse.

The two Newly professed, Sr.M. Neelima and Sr. M. Sunitha, happy and moved, as they wanted to express their gratitude along with the newly professed sisters of Africa, Sr. M.Blessing Lukong and Sr. M. Solange Galabe. Their Hymn of thanksgiving sung by them with their beautiful, graceful and melodious voices, and the very expressive words of the song itself, all praise the Lord who continues to call many souls to his generous service.



SR GLADYS RODRIGUEZ, SR CLARA ESCOBAR

E SR MARIA LUCERO OLMEDO

September 24, 2011 - Santiago Chile

Heaven rejoices once again telling us not to be afraid, and it does so with a marvelous sign, calling three other young girls to become part of our religious family.

For us the day of our first religious profession signified an important step in our religious family of the FMSC and in the Church.

This time the candidates Gladys Rodriguez, Clara Escobar and Maria Lucero Olmedo, pronounced for the first time their religious vows, according to our holy Rule and Constitutions. It was a very special day for them, and they did not hesitate to declare their deep joy and sincere gratitude first to God for the gift of their vocation. Exactly on this subject they directed their reflection and then pleased to share the basic concept, persuaded that such a gift should be considered as 'a permanent service and donation to the brethren', and also that the call of God had been nourished and supported by the Eucharist, the sacrament par excellence and a sure sign of communion with the whole Church.

The three newly professed, almost wanted to say in advance that difficulties of course would also be a part of their journey and this seemed to confirm that God is always present in the journey, indeed, he accompanies and guides us with the light of his Spirit': for this they requested the prayers for all their loved ones, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and especially for the sisters, to help them so that they persevere and are faithful to the grace received.

Without emotion they concluded their brief reflection, expressing a big THANKS to God, to many people, whom they were happy to remember with gratitude.

- Sister M. Ines Pavan, Provincial Superior and her Council, who graciously accepted them in the Institute, and encouraged them to express their faith.
- Sister M. Roxana Zapata, who accompanied them with patience and love during this delicate period of training.
- All the sisters of the province St. Anthony, especially for the gift of their testimony which had



greatly enlightened and influenced their journey until now.

- Their families, that through the acceptance of their choice of life, manifested their highly exemplary faith, and thus they occupy first place in the list of the people to whom they feel gratitude and affection. In fact the family was a guarantee, a strong support to all the three newly professed sisters to pronounce their "YES" to the Lord. And this, affirm the sisters, they cannot forget !



***SR REGULAR MODUFE,
SR ELIZABETH E SR LINDA MUFURA***
August 23, 2012, Bamenda
(Cameroun)



During the summer, shortly after the conclusion of the scheduled appointments, meetings and conferences in Europe, particularly in Rome, our three young sisters from Cameroun Regular Modufe, Elizabeth Beri and Linda Mufura were busy with their final preparations, to make their long awaited first commitment in the most appropriate way. The date of their enthusiastic dedication to God, was scheduled for Thursday, August 23, and a venue for this celebration was selected in the north area of Cameroon, Bamenda, in the beautiful church of the Missionaries of St. Luigi Monti, with whom our sisters collaborate, and which is also near to their community, dedicated to the most Holy Trinity.

Unimaginable for us was the great festivity with which the whole district took part in the beautiful and touching celebration, especially the families of the three young candidates, who were also proud to be a direct part of this event, the centre of celebration on such an important day. On the other side obviously, were the three young sisters, sr. Linda, sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Regular, who experienced the emotions, especially during their solemn entry in to the vast church, already densely packed, with all the faithful seated, including the choir group. It cannot have been easy even for them to concentrate as they would have liked, with such an excited crowd that wanted to see them, greet them, and nevertheless, they were well into the spirit of their culture. They were amazed and almost surprised to be at the centre of all the interweaving sound of singing and dancing, and to be at the core of the celebration, unique among the many participants. The environment around them, in the meantime, was pervaded by a sense of harmony and intimacy, thanks to the rhythm of the songs and especially the lovely group of dancing girls unfurled their dance with light meaningful movements.

The presence of a good number of local priests and missionaries, first among all, the Missionaries of St. Luigi Monti, made the Eucharistic celebration even more solemn, and well attended. More so for the sisters at the most important moment of the vows, the accompaniment of many priests created a sense of special consolation, as the offering of themselves passed through the consecrated hands of them and then ascended to the Heart of God more pure and decisive.

For us all, the thought of these three newly professed sisters, raised our sense of gratitude to the Lord who continues to bless us demonstrating that the field where we labor always enjoy a good crop, thus ensuring our family the care and concern of the loving Father.

As for us, we have to congratulate our newly professed sisters for achieving their magnificent goal, and join them in their thanksgiving and praise to the Lord, entrusting them to Immaculate Mary, so that she may accompany them in this new way of life.



SR MARTA LUCATELLI

October 7, 2012, Rome

SR NILMANI BARA E SR TARA BARA

October 15, 2012, Carmel Nagar (India)

So many people surrounded Marta Lucatelli on Sunday afternoon of October 7. The church of Mary Immaculate didn't have an inch free, everyone was anxious, her parishioners, relatives and her natural family members and religious, everyone wanted to accompany the young Marta who was very sure of her choice. Each one in different ways, had accompanied this brave young girl and was now happy with the commitment she was about to publicly make. During the Eucharistic celebration, Marta knelt in front of the Superior General Sr. M. Paola Dotto, in whose hands she made her commitment to live the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.



It was a really exciting moment when Marta, with the enthusiasm of her youthfulness, with the knowledge that the offering of herself is a free offering without any return, with the purity of a spousal abandonment to Him who she loved and had chosen, with a beautiful and clear voice made her promise. The whole Church, the Mystical Body of the Lord was made visible in its diversity and complementarities of the charism, all those who were present, were moved and touched, by the rite of religious profession. Fr. Agostino Montan, the director of the Office for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Rome, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. The homily began with the words, Gaudet Mater Ecclesia... for the gift of Martha, bloomed in the life of the parish, grown in the faith of the family, and in the community of FMSC. After putting on the religious habit, a symbol of her identity as a consecrated FMSC, Sr. M. Marta of the Crucified, she laid down her consecration in the sacrificial offering of Jesus accompanied by the emotion of the public. Her heart vibrated with an ineffable eloquence of gratitude and exultation: "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God" for what happened in my life. Rejoice because God has consecrated me to Him, now I belong to him, and I can say to him: "Yes, Lord, I really want this." Her parents, excited, wanted to express publicly their gratitude: "We are here today, Lord, to thank you! Thank you .. for the many gifts given to our family Particularly thank you for Marta, who has chosen you in her life and today, with great joy, but also with great apprehension, we entrust her into your hands. "



Like Marta, a few days later, in India, Sr. M. Nilmani and Sr. M. Tara felt undoubtedly the same emotion, and proceeded to the altar, almost angelic figures in their white saris, which they were about to leave in order to wear the distinctive habit for their first consecration to the Lord .

In short, we want to ensure our affectionate remembrance of these two newly professed sisters, who pronounced their vows on October 13 in the Novitiate house at Carmel Nagar, not far from the provincial house Vijayawada.

Perpetual Profession

*“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me “
(Mk 8, 34)*



The plan of God to overcome evil and death is to die on the cross, is to give life, showing in this way the love of God for man! If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. These words of Jesus struck Francis of Assisi, from the very beginning of his conversion, he heard them in the church of St. Nicholas and they were also included in the first Rule, as the inspiration word of his charisma. It 's the Word of “sequela Christi”, the way to follow Christ on the way of the Cross. It 's the Word that lays down the conditions to follow him, to be a true disciple of a demanding Master, asking you to deny yourself to go after him, but he has made it his own this word first, by taking the cross and dying for us.



Sr M. DANUTE ANCERUTE,
Kretinga, 8 May, 2011

On 8 May 2011, the sisters and the parish community of Kretinga participated in an atmosphere of silent contemplation and devotion to the Perpetual Profession of Sr. Danute Anceryte.

The ceremony assumed a special beauty both for the participation of many young students from the Franciscan High School, where our sisters render their service, and even more for the joy of having Bishop Jonas Boruta bishop of Telsiai as President of the Eucharistic celebration, along with other Franciscan and diocesan priests. In his homily the celebrant addressed all the faithful, relatives of sister Danute, friends, students, and several sisters also from Paris, like the Provincial Superior of St. Louis Province, Sr. Elizabeth and sr. Armelle. He offered a beautiful reflection on the gift of the call, the ineffable mystery of the call of God which asks each Christian, but especially the consecrated, to be loved, to be helped, to follow their commitment of giving of oneself



without any reserve to every human being. There was an intense silence, indicating the attention of all participants, and this certainly helped to infuse a celestial experience at that time and in that place.

It was a really beautiful and touching ceremony, especially when the sister with a steady voice pronounced her vow of obedience, poverty and chastity for life. It was also great for showing the beauty of ecclesial communion, and thus strengthened the conviction of how effective even the most humble apostolic service, can be

when it responds and is supported by the Franciscan fraternal spirit. Perhaps this is what Sister M. Danute, also wanted to say with deep emotion, at the end of the celebration. She said that she felt close to all the loved ones, even if they were physically distant. She also pointed out her prayer was just like a big hug of joy and gratitude which had entered all her loved ones, all those who have accompanied her during these years of her integration into the life of Franciscan Missionary, and all the sisters of her Institute, from the Major Superior to the last member. She also remembered other religious, especially the Poor Clares, with whom she spent her last unforgettable retreat in preparation for the perpetual profession.



Sr M. TOLINE PODJA E Sr M. VICTORIA SIMORA
Rome, 13 November 2011

Sunday, November 13th, was a great day for Sr. Toline and Sr. Victoria! After having accepted the invitation of Jesus on the way of the evangelical counsels, they pronounced their definitive ‘yes’ and were united deeply to God forever, with the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Love and faithfulness of the Lord deserves this response of faith and this total self-giving that makes our life of Franciscan missionaries of St. Heart, his property, in the joy of belonging to Him in a unique and exclusive manner.

The Superior General, Sr. Paola Dotto, presided over the solemn rite of religious profession. The general council, a representation from all other communities of the province “M. Immaculate” and also a representative from the Generalate community were present.

The event took on a special significance being the celebration of the 150 years of its foundation in the light of which, the two sisters understood even more so to take the path traced by our founders and our first sisters at the beginning of our story and to keep it alive even to this day. It is the history of holiness that encourages and animates the present and projects it into the space of our creative freedom and the providence of God.

Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, who presided the Eucharistic celebration in his homily pointed out: “God has faith in us, He entrust us a great wealth, he does not calculate, he does not measure ... he is driven by strong love and has tremendous confidence in us ... Our whole life is a sign of these gifts. we are not to give something to God, it is he who has an exceptional unheard wealth and it is kept in our hands and with his providence, and tenderness he accompanies us in our journey ... Sr. Toline and Sr. Victoria ... do not be afraid of God .. You have made a cosy space for God’s gift, multiply it by your self donation, by giving yourselves to the poor ... they will save you.”

In the unfolding of the ceremony, there echoed the precise and unambiguous questions and their response



Calls...

as a part of the ritual of the perpetual vows: it was the most intense moment in which we felt to accompany our Sr. Toline and Sr. Victoria, with great affection and emotion who in clear voices, pronounced with firmness: "Yes, I do."

During the Eucharistic celebration, we presented to the Lord along with our lives that of the two newly professed, asking for us the grace to renew every morning, the willingness and courage to continue to build the Church in the same way as the last 150 years. In his infinite love He accepted our poverty and, in His holy sacrifice, transformed it into the Body and Blood of salvation. The rite of profession concluded with a long loud applause of those present and the fraternal embrace as a sign of permanent acceptance of sr. Toline and sr. Victoria to the Congregation of FMSC.



Sr MARILÙ TECSI
Cusco (Perù), November 13, 2011

On the other side of the planet, on the same day November 13, 2011, another younger sister, Sr. Marilù Tesci consecrated herself to God forever. She, too was particularly moved by the thought of having been



chosen by God, to be his Bride from among thousands of other girls of her age! Let us listen to the experience of this joy as she expressed in her own words:

"Today, November 13. I am particularly happy, because on this day I confirmed my Yes to the call that the Lord one day addressed to me, by inviting me to be the bride of his son, Jesus! Yes, today I feel I have achieved my dream, I feel the joy that I have definitely given myself to God, who in his great goodness never abandoned me, but made me feel strong. His closeness and always his living presence is experienced among my sisters, in my pastoral ministry, as well as in all the expressions of solidarity shown to me by all my loved ones.

With the privilege of making my perpetual profession today when my province is celebrating the closing ceremony of the Jubilee, the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our religious family, I feel even more the need to witness my total fidelity to God, following the example of My first heroic sisters. On this occasion, however, I feel even more motivated to carry out the plan of God, without being discouraged by the difficulties of life and to keep me in the light of the Risen Lord, always available to Him wherever He wants to send me, persevering in peace and in goodness, making use of the gifts that he has given me.

I would like to emphasize once again that it was very meaningful to have the grace to profess my fidelity to God for ever in this very special time of the grace of my religious family: the anniversary of 150 years of life!.

Calls...

For all this and the journey completed, first of all I give thanks to God, but I also want to thank all my sisters, particularly all those who have followed me with love and patience during these many years of my training. I am also grateful for the gift of this day, many sisters have contributed to its success, as well as for the celebration of the Eucharist, very beautiful, organized with flavor and finesse, that all turned out to be a love song to the goodness of God. I keep in my heart the names of all the people to whom I owe my utmost gratitude and appreciation, they are too numerous in number to mention, so I prefer to keep in my heart the memory of each of them,



priests, sisters, friends, because each one of you allowed me to enrich my poverty with your example and took me along with you in the footsteps of Christ.



Sr M. BARBARA PANDOLFI
Gemonna, May 13, 2012

The sisters of the Mother House are the witnesses of the Perpetual Profession of Sr. M. Barbara Pandolfi. The young sister already has been noted for the enthusiasm with which she takes care of the elderly, following them, not only by ensuring the appropriate help for the right use of medicines or to provide other appropriate relief, but to uplift the spirit, thanks to her way of being jovial, humorous and approachable, and thus entertain for a while the sick and the elderly sisters.

Her lively personality, expresses herself in part, looking back at the milestone reached by her in May 2012, on making her perpetual vows. Let us participate with joy and join her thanksgiving, by listening to some of her personal reflections on this particular occasion:

"I have come to this stage with the certainty that really" strong is His love for us, "and, as the psalmist prays, His faithfulness endures and overcomes all our hesitations and our resistance.

A faithfulness that manifests itself in the life of Paul, Saul falls wrapped in a light, a light that makes him blind first, emptying himself and then leaving him in dark, in order to make him a new man capable of seeing with new eyes, capable of announcing Jesus the Son ...

And it is precisely from this daily encounter with Jesus, the bread of eternal life, that we find the strength to renew our yes, humble and courageous as that of Mary, of whom on this day we remember.



Calls...



I am grateful to God for making it possible to celebrate the profession of my fidelity to Him 'forever', here in the Chapel of the Mother House and during this 150th anniversary of its foundation, grateful because I am certain that many sisters are accompanying me in my journey with their prayers and offerings, sisters whom I have met and now they are from heaven accompanying me, sisters who are near and far, and also the sisters of my present community Paluzza-Cedarchis, who due to the service that is required of them, could not be here with me on this special occasion.

Thanks is the word that is left in my heart, for the trust and the presence of many, but above all a special thanks to God who continues to manifest in my life the power of His Love ... Let "everyone" be capable of meeting His face of mercy, knowing His redemptive love through the life of Franciscan missionaries of the Sacred Heart!



Sr M. BLANCA HERRERA Ecuador, 27 October 2012

Today, 27 October, 2012, with faith and hope I answered His call with a generous and definitive "YES", thus consecrating me totally and unreservedly to Him. With the excitement that still fills my heart, I cannot remain without thinking that this generous "Yes" of today is a big challenge, because it will be a "Yes" each day and for life.

This event of the special Mercy of God with His children I experienced, with immense joy. It was special because I could share this "total giving of myself to God without any reserve" with the people whom I respect very much: the sisters of my congregation, with my family, with the teachers and the people with whom I work in two schools in Ecuador. I enjoyed this because it was my desire to share with them this special moment of my consecration, by seeing my joy, I turn to be a credible witness for them of the infinite love that God has for all his children, and so they themselves could believe in the God of love, God of life and of mercy, who calls us, who loves us and invites us to follow him in a special way during this Year of Faith.

Bishop Danilo Echeverría in his homily said that the consecration of a sister is like the consecration of the bread and wine ... it remains the same in the sight of all, but, by the consecration it becomes the body and blood of Christ, and likewise it happens with our consecration.



Calls...



He also reminded us of the evangelical counsels in simple terms, saying that the sister who makes her vows, automatically radiates a joy and peace which will always increase as she matures in her vocation. For this she asked to those present, to pray for the perseverance of her vocation, that she may feel accompanied on this journey.

Sr M. INNAMMA PASALA India, 17 November 2012



November 17, the feast of our Patron Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, was a very significant day in my life because on this day I made my vows, I said my "Yes" to the Lord forever. The entire Congregation and sisters of the Holy Family Province shared my joy and gratitude and raised a song of praise with me to the One who has called me to His love. My father and many of my loved ones were present to witness this great event in my life. The Eucharist celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. John Raju, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Vijayawada. I was happy to see my brother, Rev. Fr. Bala Raju among the priests who

concelebrated. As I walked towards the altar in procession, accompanied by the melodious songs of the choir, along with many of our sisters, novices, my loved ones, the formatters and friends, I felt the presence of my mother who has left us for heaven, join us in the procession and gave me her blessing from above. It was really blissful to present my vows in the hands of the Superior General Rev. Sr. Paola Dotto, in the presence of the Vicar General Sr. Roxanna Zapata, and the councilors Sr. Ansamma Pullikattil and Sr. Tiziana Tonini. I promised the Lord to live forever in this congregation, by the giving of myself totally for His glory. In his homily, Rev. Fr. John Raju stated that the vocation to religious life is a special privilege given to a few people to share the life and love of Jesus by following more closely. I greatly appreciated the Magnanimity of Sister Paola Dotto and Sr. Gracy Thuruthippallil who were very close to me that day, even though they were with very heavy hearts for having received the same day, the news of the critical situation of Sr. Jancy Palatty. I am very grateful to my religious family, for giving me many opportunities to grow in the love of God, and for helping me to make a firm decision to commit myself totally to the Lord. I thank all the sisters who were present that day and prayed for me in a special way. Thank you all.



The meeting of the girls



of our different Hostels

Today's girl child is tomorrow's mother who gives the first lessons to the child. We live in an era where we hear much talk about empowering women. Especially in the modern culture where women are more and more exploited and degraded as mere commodities, it is the duty of every woman to be aware of their noble role in the molding of humanity. Education for women is the first move towards empowerment of women. Our spirit as a Congregation, the FMSC looks forward to a society where the women enjoy a true identity. So we venture to educate the girls, especially the poor. In our eight hostels all over the country we educate more than 1000 girls from the poor and marginalized sections of the society.



To give them an exposure and opportunities to measure out their talent and caliber, we conduct inter hostel meetings in any one place. This year the event was hosted by St. Francis High school Madhira. Students from seven hostels gathered there on 14th and 15th of January 2012, travelling all the way from near and far.

In the morning at 9. A.M. we had the inaugural function where the host Laura Hostel did a beautiful welcome dance. Sr. Elsamma Parappuram addressed the gathering, highlighting the role of women in the society and the need to empower women in every aspect. She pointed out the equality of God's creation of man and woman.



Blessed Virgin Mary was an ordinary woman who God chose to be the Mother of Christ, the Mother of the Redeemer. Sr. Elsamma drew their attention to the great women of our time, to motivate them to be heroic and committed like them. It was indeed a very refreshing message in a language and style understood by the children. She challenged them to come out from themselves and to dig out the dormant or suppressed potentialities in each one. Sr. Maddalena Moro the Provincial Superior lit the Sports torch and declared the opening of the sports meet 2012. Children participated in various games and sports events with a true spirit of competition.

In the evening of the same day we had a wonderful time with our founders and early sisters. The children from different hostels enacted various scenes from the origins of our congregation taking from our sources; 'The Memory Story' It was indeed an experience of re-living the moments of our origins. Yes! It was really a fantastic experience the children tried the best to depict the events. Congratulations to the sisters who took the utmost care to bring out such an effective presentation.

On the second day we had a bible quiz competition for the teams of students from different hostels. Their performance was excellent. In the evening prizes were distributed to the winners. All went back to their own places full of joy and enthusiasm



MADHIRA, SPECIAL CENTRE FOR CULTURAL DISCERNMENT

The Khammam district science fair was held in St. Francis High school Madhira on 30th November and 1st December 2011. It was a unique experience, not only for the school but for the entire Madhira town, which for the first time witnessed the presence of very eminent personalities from both the educational and social state of life.

The young genius from numerous Schools from all over the district of Khammam, came prepared to exhibit their talent and expertises in front of the enthusiastic students and the encouraging public. More than ten thousand students from different schools along with their teachers visited this historic event.



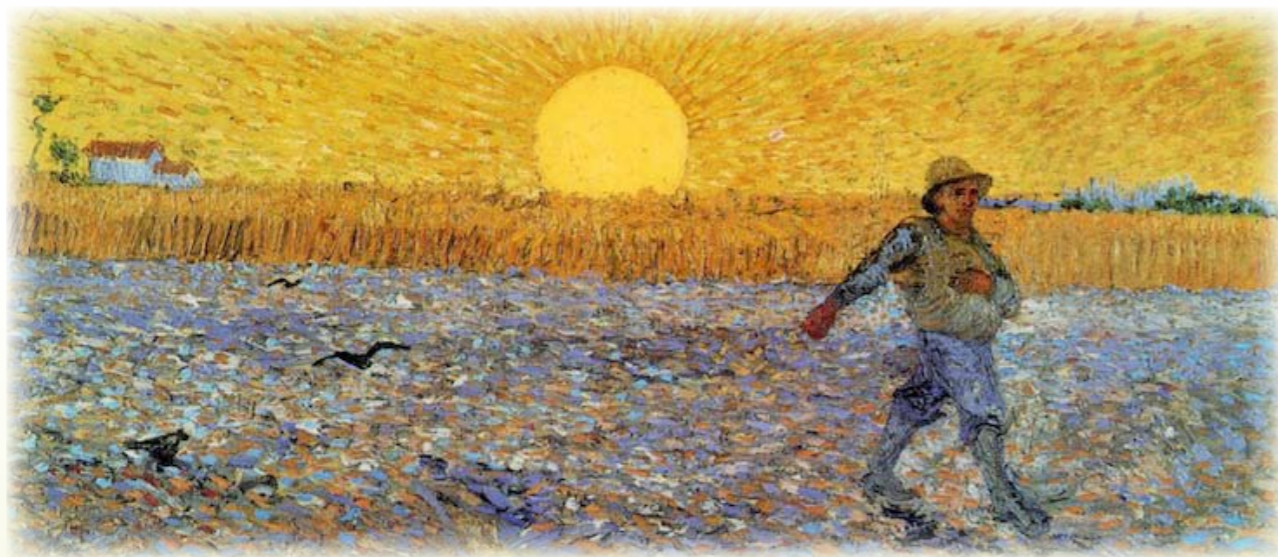
Educational mission



The School had to make an elaborate arrangement to host such an event. The teachers and the management worked night and day. Thus everything was done well with care and accuracy. The young scientists really merited great appreciation for their fantastic presentation of models in various scientific themes. As a whole it was a programme meticulously planned to promote the growth and development of the young ones.

The seed sowed with love ... flourishes forever..

no matter who enjoys the fruits



HIGHLIGHTS – ST. JOSEPH’S HOME...

Hundreds of children were cared for through the years from when the first little girl was admitted in 1879 until the home closed in 1979. One hundred years of memories as Reunions continue! Former residents of St. Joseph’s Home marked a special date on April 30, 2011. They took time during the Spring Festival for renewing their friendships and remembering the fun and family atmosphere created in the groups by the sisters in Peekskill. Several young men expressed sincere gratitude for Sr. Leonida’s care given when she was in charge of the “BABY BOYS UNIT”.



Educational mission



Before leaving the reunion, they gathered in the Chapel to pray in thanksgiving for the guidance and instruction given to them over the years from the “old and not so old sisters who ran the Home”. Comments heard: from 1951 – “Sometimes we had to go to the farm and pick apples; the team who filled the most baskets got extra peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for snacks”. In 1961 from another: “I loved helping in the clothes room. It was under the direction of Sr. Yolanda .

My job was to bring the laundry up to the groups. It was a responsibility that I enjoyed which made me feel important and useful to others”. In 1971- “I was never made to feel different’ because the Sisters treated us all the same; I didn’t know black, brown or white, we respected each other.” And also was heard: “I was taught to speak courteously and use good English – not ‘street talk’ .” WOW!



At the end of the day all joined hands in a circle and concluded with “Amazing Grace”.

AT LADYCLIFF

THE TIME OF CELEBRATION CONTINUES!



The alumni of the university organized the annual meeting of the official Club of West Point. It was amazing that a school that had been closed since 1980 could gather so many people. Those who had graduated at the faculty were so faithful to share memories of the days of their high school. The Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart as well as the Franciscan Sisters of Peace were invited to remember, their unique role in building those memories. Among the many guests were Mr. John Mills and his wife and Father Gavin Reilly, OFM Cap.



Young Bulgarians



... the rediscovery of pilgrimage

with the goal to discover:

- the beauty of meeting Jesus;*
- the testimony of the great Apostle Paul;*
- the value of Christian testimony today.*

Accompanied by sr. Krasimira, they spent three days near Istanbul, at Boukdere, as guests of the Conventual Friars Minors, where they experienced for the first time the reality of co-existence of Muslims and Catholics, when, for example, during the Holy Mass they were touched by the fact that while they were in silence and prayer at the consecration of the body and blood of Christ, from the neighboring tower, the call to prayer to the Muslim brethren was spread.

Visiting the metropolis, they often find themselves on reflections, led by Fr. Jarek, a conventual Friar Minor, and Sr. Krasimira, about the tangible contrast, of the presence of such places of worship which were Catholic, and now Muslim, first among all this is, the Aya Sofya, which is in front of the famous Blue Mosque



It is surprising to know how our missionary sisters in Bulgaria have found the practice of pilgrimage, or, as we would say today, the devotional tourism, the key to quench the thirst for new knowledge, to discover, to confront themselves with the many young people that approach them. It is a slow but promising rebirth of new life: in fact fortunately, in recent years, thanks to their significant presence, the sisters put their trust in those young people who seem to feel the call of faith handed down by their loved ones, the adults and elderly in their families, who have maintained their strong faith, at times even secretly during the communist regime.

Here they are, on a journey with a group of 13 boys to Turkey in the first days of April 2011,

On April 3, they spent time in the Christine suburbs, thus also reaching the places once familiar to our missionaries, like the churches of St. Anthony and St. Mary Draperis, behind which is still visible the housing complex of the Friars Minor and our sisters, with the remains of the great hostel of "S. Elizabeth". While for the youth the places can be simple environments of curiosity, it is certainly not so for the sister, who had in mind the memories and stories passed to her from one or other of the older sisters.

In the following month of May 2011, on 13-15, some of our young collaborators went with the Sisters of Gitniza to a seminar at Hisar (Bulgaria), invited by Catholic youth of the Diocese of Plovdiv, to reflect on the theme 'Work and study: a means of sanctification.'

Those days were highly educational and very interesting for the sisters who assisted them, sr. Lorenza and sr. Krasimira. Thanks to the presence of expert speakers on issues regarding youth, including the importance of the integral formation of



young people, in order to render them capable of maturing in themselves an authentic witnesses of Christian life in the church and in the world.

The young people of Gitniza, supported by their parish priest as well as the sisters, actively participated in the seminar, with the full consensus of the same diocesan bishop, SE. Archbishop Georgi Yovchev, who spoke at the conference.

The following summer, 2012, from August 28 to September 7, our young Bulgarians, more numerous than usual, were in Rome, accompanied by Fr. Jarek and sr. Krasimira, and from the Asisium

Sr. Elka. It was a pilgrimage, oriented to take the youth on a spiritual journey to the roots of the Catholic Church on the paradigm of the Creed, which, they recited significantly at each break with enthusiasm and emotion, capturing all the inherent apostolic strength. The Eucharist was celebrated in the holy places and every time it became an occasion to deepen the Word of God that the friar presented specifically for young people, helped by the sisters who collaborated with him by preparing with great effect the appropriate symbols, such as:

- The Cross, a symbol of hospitality and discipleship*
- The Stone, a symbol of strength*
- The Light, the symbol of novelty and sonship*
- The Anointing, a symbol of belonging*
- The Rosary, 'chain' of prayer*
- The Bread broken, a symbol of fraternity*
- The Tau, symbol of those who are saved*
- The mandate, symbol of witness*

The opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of Don Francesco Angelucci, at Nettuno, a missionary priest for 10 years from their Diocese, was greatly appreciated by the group, Plovdiv.

It is difficult to describe his joy in meeting with the youth, who,



from his sharing experienced and received his zeal and extra ordinary enthusiasm as an apostle.

This is expressed in the testimony given at the end of the pilgrimage by a girl: *I leave from Rome as a daughter of the Apostolic Church, founded on the apostle Peter. I'll be back in Bulgaria as a missionary of the Apostle Paul, who does not know the boundaries of his mission. I'm sure to be sanctified by the holy Church flowing from the side of Christ born of Mary.*

Logically to radiate even more this state of mind, are the Pope's words,



World youth



spoken in the Bulgarian language during the audience on Wednesday. Listening to it, the young people exploded with joy, repeating over and over again, moved and trembling, those words, in a kind of competition of the memory: *“I greet with affection the young people of the Diocese of Sofia-Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and hope that they will be brave witnesses of Christ in the environment in which they live. I willingly bless you and your loved ones.”* The rich experience of Rome, crowned with a pleasant visit to the General House, which remained in the heart of every young participant, with the hope that soon it will bear fruit with a stronger faith in Christ.



World youth



The unforgettable experience of the World Youth Day Madrid 2011

FROM ALBANIA..!

This year's World Youth Day (WYD), had as its direct spectators a fairly consistent number of our sisters.

The two young Albanians, Sr. Lirie Brahaj and Sr. Dila Vasia, were the first, to share with us their exciting experience at the meeting (20 August 2011), which they attended in Madrid together with the Holy father Pope Benedict XVI and the thousands of young peers, gathered around the Vicar of Christ with every opportunity to show Him all the love from all parts of the earth. For the two sisters the WYD was defined an explosion of faith and celebration, which profoundly touched the spirit, so as to return literally .. “transformed”, wanting only to grow in love for God and sow enthusiasm in the joy of following Him.



To their short but intense testimony, we add the following:

FROM SANTIAGO - CHILE...!

To start a journey from Santiago in the company of enthusiastic friends, in order to follow an unimaginable route across Europe along with the other thousands of youth who would join at different phase of journey, could be described it as a unique unrepeatable experience.

It is confirmed by the description of our young sisters who want to successfully convey the intensity of the joy they lived there with the direct experience of being a part of the Church in this World Youth Day (WYD), that took place



in Madrid last summer. They made the effort to translate their special experience, considering it a privilege, that they wanted to transmit to the audience so that someone may decide to dedicate their life to the church.

Yes, because as they say, even if the means of communication are truly amazing today, it is very difficult to fully share the experience. No television viewing, no narration however effective, can reach the reality experienced there and allow others to make that experience their own.

We are reminded of it by the Latin American sisters who, although engaged in a wide range of services, after returning from the long devotional pilgrimage of WYD, which they accomplished in a penitential style, found themselves at the end with a loaded joy and a serenity that is beyond compare. They hope that each youngster can to face life with courage and enthusiasm with the certainty



that it can be obtained only through a pure heart and a strong spirit.

In conclusion the summary of this long journey, as they say is “no words, empty thoughts”. That is why they prefer to narrate it with their inner richness, of this new spiritual movement discovered by all of them at the end of this meeting..

The beauty of places like Madrid, Rome, Assisi, etc.. passes before astonished eyes and delights souls, but no memory dissolves the common desire to arouse interest in peers, in communicating the fruitfulness acquired in those geographical journeys. Therefore to them it is important to transmit all the wonder and greatness of what they experienced during the WYD: in the joy of

gratitude and in the sincere desire to share with each reader at least some of the treasure of grace and of newness undeservedly received. Confidently they share it with radiant joy.

1. We learned to work as a team .. to lighten the economic cost of the long and demanding event... but also to educate ourselves to be open with each other in a more sincere and free way, to approach each other without a shadow of interest or bias.
2. We have learned to value better all the people who are close to us: used to being in our ‘protected’ School environment it seems normal to take for granted all the support, without difficulty, given to us, but as we are now far, we understand the value and necessity to educate ourselves with the gratitude that we owe them, to thank them again without any self interest, in complete detachment and generosity.
3. We understood and valued the sense of diversity in each group, as can be seen in the gathering of World Youth Day, an initiative which is never conditioned by language, age, culture, or origin ... World Youth Day is open to all, in fact it does not limit itself, but requires only a common finding: “be rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith”;
4. We have learned to grow as Christians! The structure of WYD, arranged with time for meeting, with the Pope, bishops, priests, etc..., With its oasis of common prayer, sharing of sacrifice, difficulty, etc.. has been a long, real sign of faith, that help us to consult the spirit which allows us to be more open to acceptance and service ..;
5. We have learned to grow as a Franciscan! In Assisi we discovered the heart of Francis, we are familiar with his history, by his very existence, with his dramatic and dynamic adventure, insatiable, unless when stripped of everything, he truly wore the habit of a life put on by Christ! Although much remains to know it seems to us to exclaim, today more than ever that we feel proud and excited to be a part of the great Franciscan family ... even more proud and enthusiastic today of them, the FMSC!



FROM KRETINGA, IN LITHUANIA

Two sisters, Sr. Beniamina Borsato and Sr. Danute, returning to the community after twenty days (6-25 August 2011) spent on a pilgrimage experiencing the World Youth Day, retracing the steps of hundreds of young people from all over the world, also confirm the inability to transmit the value and significance of the experience.

A voyage on a bus from Lithuania to Spain, with few breaks planned, was not easy, but it certainly gave the opportunity to meet others,

to meet people with whom relationships could be established, and also cherished, to get to know and to appreciate some of the beautiful cities. No doubt, it wasn't at all pleasant even for sisters accustomed to sacrifice to spend 4 nights on a bus, sitting uncomfortably, but on the other hand, a trip that also allowed pleasant stops, like the one that offered the opportunity of greeting the sisters on a mission in Prague or to visit others briefly, like Lyon, Ars and then, on the return, Lourdes, Bruxelles and Wroclaw in Poland.

The sisters also remember how it was hard, but at the same time enabled them and the group to deepen their knowledge, to build dialogue, to exchange gifts, needs, to show concern and feelings of affection with patience, even with unknown people and to spend nice friendly moments amusing themselves with games.



Yes, the ‘lucky’ sisters do not hide the joy that they felt along the entire journey of devotion and feel happy to have made a real pilgrimage, at times in silence, or in singing, praying, and celebrating daily the Holy Mass.

It is comforting to capture in the memory of sr. Beniamina and sr. Danute their humble but proud realization that in some occasions they were able to be instrument or mediators of peace, as well as to have been able to admire the true works of peace operated by guests or friends.



Regarding the organization of the trip, the sisters expressed satisfaction that their group in Spain, Corugna, in the diocese of St. James of Compostela, had been guest of a Franciscan monastery; the sisters instead were hosted in families, like other 26 comrades: even this experience, however, is remembered with joy and gratitude, for having had the opportunity to get a bit ‘in the culture of the people, experience the life of the Church, and also to understand what relationships of true harmony are often established in the families



World youth

In summary, the experience remained enriching throughout its course, reaching the height of satisfaction on August 12, the day they all met in St. James, cathedral, with the young people from Austria, Germany, France and Spain.

In Madrid, the destination city of the pilgrimage, we had an unforgettable memory: it was all a fervour of meditation in reserved secluded spots, catechesis in a low voice, whispered confessions of faith and devotion. Very nice it was to see the meeting of all the Lithuanians, enthusiastic about their reserved time, meeting with joy around their respective bishops and to be guided by them, towards the direction of the upcoming feast.

They were in fact to reach the last milestone, the meeting with the Holy Father at the airport "Cuatro Vientos". It was another unspeakable moment with intense emotion. The night vigil was very special and also filled with emotion, even with all the problems caused by the intolerable temperature, but the incalculable assembly of young people got through it with joy, singing and dancing. It was a party, which then exploded, with the celebration of the Eucharist in a blaze of light .. Exploded? Yes, from an impressive silence to an unique prayer, all who were present with the hymn of adoration, of silent prayer and melodious songs, supplication, and sighs .. prayed in all languages, which like a wreath of flowers made a single angelic melody .. It was simply amazing, and it seemed to be out of this world, just like that of mount Tabor, where the Apostles did not want to go back down again.

The two sisters, sharing their experience, still happy and moved, full of gratitude, they also seemed to be full of holy longing, of those who have experienced heavenly things ..

FROM CYPRUS...!

"A unique and unforgettable experience." With these words, Sister Antonia Piripitsi sums up the whole series of extraordinary moments experienced together with young Cypriots who accompanied her to the World Youth Day in July. Her story flows quickly with the waves of enthusiasm and gratitude for what she has experienced, observed, learned and communicated.

For more than two weeks, indifferent to the very hot days of August, her large group of 45 people walked the most varied streets in Spain, from their first stop in Villarobledo (diocese of Albacete) to the most awaited, wonderful place, (16-21) Madrid, the heart of World Youth Day.



The sister emphasizes the meetings organized with tactic and intelligence among young people from different backgrounds, able to promote linguistic understanding and mutual positive relationships, thanks of course to the spirit that moves the goal of all: that is to experience the sense of being the Church and enjoy the universal fraternity actually when it is rooted in Christ the Redeemer of all. The Cyprus group had the good fortune



World youth



of being joined to that of Spain and that of East Timor, getting to know each other very soon, as is typical of young people. The first stage in the diocese of Albacete, for example, gave them the opportunity to meet on the last day (August 14) of this phase with peers from 24 countries.

We can only imagine how the many songs and folklore shows quickly broke down barriers and miscomprehension. Another important element was the style of catechesis, where all groups were neatly oriented, with guides chosen for their role and competence, which, in their case, was Msgr. Youssef Soueif, a

Maronite Archbishop. In their enthusiasm, their relaxed approach and fun, young people were able to emphasize, therefore, the admirable practical organization and programming of each stage and any foreseeable difficulties.

Extraordinary, was the arrival in Madrid, a city that appeared very proud with the arrival of the Holy Father, who was smiling and blessing everyone from the giant posters that depicted Him in some of his most significant acts. The party seemed to break out literally in every street, in the center, in the outer suburbs: everywhere the youth of the Pope launched an unmistakable messages of joy, vitality, hope, because they themselves were the novelty personified, they were the new life!

After the rite of the Via Crucis, on the 19 of August with the Holy Father, already present in their midst the words and reflections touched all young people and brought them to tears. The climax was the meeting with Benedict XVI, on August 20th in the large open airfield. For the night prayer with Holy Father a violent storm, an unstoppable elements of nature put a strain on the infinite assembly of the devotees, almost two million, who far from being bothered by the heat, storm and water, seemed to sing with their bodies soaked the most solemn hymn that had ever sung to the Most High God. The extraordinary sensation, almost magical, a kind of mysterious atmosphere of brotherhood, understanding, closeness each group confessed to have experienced: That call... new... strange... yet noticeable that everyone felt to move towards something unclear, something beyond - as a sister try to convey - an element of indefinable sensation.

The word which transcends time and places no doubt, can be explained only through our life witness. In order to preserve the strength and freshness of the extreme appeal that Jesus left as his legacy "That all may be one"! could be understood only with the personal encounter with Him. For us it remains, an echo "His cry of love" became our common commitment to support this privileged youth who had experienced the World Youth Day, that the contact with the normality of life does not erase from them the warmth and persuasive voice they had felt and that had thrilled their spirit.





In Tijuana ... toward a family ministry

The missionary activity is ... intimately united with human nature and its aspirations. In fact, the Church, by the very fact that it proclaims Christ reveals to men the real truth about their condition and their whole calling, since Christ is the source and model of the new humanity. Christ and the Church, with the preaching of the Gospel, transcends every peculiarity of race and nationality, so that no one and nowhere can be considered foreign. Christ is the way and the truth, that the preaching of the Gospel to all unfolds, and makes them understand the words spoken by him: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). ... Now no one for himself and his forces can break free from sin and rise up, no one is able to free himself from his weaknesses, his solitude or his servitude all stand in need of Christ as an example, a teacher, a liberator, a Saviour, as the one who gives life. And in human history, from the point of view of time, the Gospel has always been a leaven of freedom and progress, and is always presented as a leaven of brotherhood, humility and peace. Not without cause Christ is hailed by the faithful as "the expected of the nations and their Savior."

(From the Conciliar Decree, Ad Gentes, 8)



By mutual agreement, the sisters of the community 'Laura Leroux,' Sister Antonina Turrina, Sister Isaura Guerra and Sister Clara Escobar, spent a few days of their summer vacation 2011, to fulfill a desire that had matured over time: a mission for the poorest families in the parish "Conversion of St. Paul. As others had already experienced, they were welcomed with open arms by the parish priest, Don Francesco.

After having studied together the theme "The Family", with the help of a lay associate and with two other

young people already involved in the youth ministry, they decided to take advantage of the ten days available to go and visit the families of that parish, located in the area known as "El Lago". It must be said that this village or colony is populated by people of lower class, simple and modest but friendly people. They demonstrated this while opening their doors willingly and greeting us in a friendly, manner. In fact, they were able to visit all families and not only were they greeting with joy, but the families also accepted their proposal and joined them to listen to the Bible passage, reflecting on it and then receiving with faith the blessing that the sisters asked God for every family member.

During the same period, the sisters were also able to organize some groups for the parish activities in order to lend a helping hand and try to be a model of participation in the life of the parish. The sisters were already expert in this field and they used the same method that had already succeeded elsewhere with their little children: they tried to repeat the so-called 'holiday with Jesus', which aimed to help



children to recollect for a while in prayer, in silence, learn to listen, etc.; Even in the free time dedicated to games, sports, crafts, manual work and some little sketches and entertainment etc.. the little children learned to experience 'Jesus among them', "Jesus in their midst", as they happily repeated.

The afternoons were dedicated to youth meetings with the specific themes set by the missionary that often accompanied the sisters, and is also the animator of the youth ministry in the parish. It 'was very nice, because at every meeting, growing attendance and enriching reflections were noted.

Even the evening hours were used for the mission: it was the time to meet the adults

who, though tired due to work, showed themselves grateful to have the opportunity and were interested to join the sisters to reflect and pray together. Some of them even showed interest in sharing their family problems, work, toil ...etc. It was a matter of satisfaction for the sisters to discover in their own way the importance of family, the need to keep them together, to work for it so that the true values could prevail, and keep always at the center of their family the motto "Jesus in the midst."

Before the appointed days ended, the missionary group arranged an afternoon to put together all that they had done, in order to evaluate it together with confidence and serenity, so as to be able to improve the next chance to 'do mission'. At the close of this experience, they presented to everyone some group games, in which each family was able to be involved. For the animators obviously this exercise gave a way to understand where and how to intervene to help the members to feel good with the other members of the family, to work together so that everything could be done in harmony and peace. .



In conclusion, the sisters themselves found themselves united for a fraternal exchange, but above all to thank the Lord for this 'lived experience' with the certainty that it is they who received more than that they give, having learned a lot from these people so poor and considered ignorant, they have grasped what it means and the value of the virtue of availability, mutual generosity and honesty, the ability to give and receive help without being overcome by lust interest or petty calculations to see if it is convenient or not, as often happens in wealthy and educated families.





Ministry among the brothers in prison ..

The FMSC as flashes of light in the darkness of despair

We would like to share with joy the result of the fruitful work that our missionary sisters have done and are doing in Prague. They are trying to accomplish it with generosity and creativity, thus always they can make a living witness of the paternal benevolence of God to the brothers closed behind the bars in pain and loneliness. We do this by reporting some parts of an article that comes directly from one of the inmates, a journalist from Merano, unjustly sentenced, Mr. Thomas Sigmund:

“On 31 January 2011, I was arrested by the Criminal Police of the Czech Republic, in Prague .. and then imprisoned me in the State prison ... On June 29, after I was acquitted from the serious charges as inconsistent, I was released from the prison. ..

Prague is for many years now my second home, I know it well, as I know the people of the country but I was not aware of any criminal proceedings even dating back to 1961 that were still applied, but definable as post-Stalinist mold...

People accused of a crime are arrested even without the existence of proof. Only after the arrest the judicial authorities of the country begins with the investigation ... The behavior of the Czech police, in my opinion, is a relic of the communist era, which not only violates the principles of the rule of law, but also human rights.

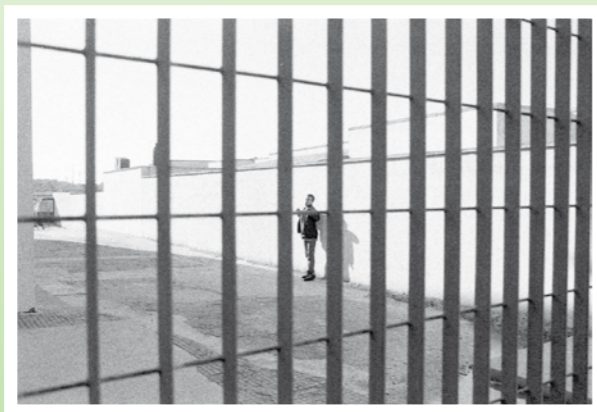
... The conditions of detention are particularly harsh.

... The prisoners are

locked in their cells for 23 hours. Once a day they are entitled to one hour of fresh air in a small courtyard or in an outdoor that are only 2 x 3 metres. The preventive prisoners are entitled to a package of food that relatives or friends can send to the prison institute. This, however, is limited to a single package of 5 kg every three months. Due to the lack of social workers there are very few opportunities for employment or recreational activities for the inmates.

... Under these deplorable and humiliating conditions, for the prisoners in the state prison of the Prague-Pankrac; is more than a ray of light, the human and spiritual assistance offered especially by sisters Clare Alberta Gheno, Anna Rosa Cavallin and Emanuela Antonello.

I made the acquaintance of the three sisters after two months of incarceration when, at the end of the police investigation against me, my prison conditions



were mitigated. For me, an Italian citizen, it was obviously a surprise to meet in a prison in the Czech Republic some Italian sisters.

Today I am very grateful for their regular visits every Friday at the prison. They brought a great comfort and support to me in this sad and miserable building. We prayed together with the fellow inmates in my department, we sang songs or just talked.

With their cheerful simplicity and their joyful life, they were able to get me out of the deep depression I had suffered during my incarceration.

Concerns about my future, the duration of this condition experienced on my own skin, a sense of helplessness, uncertainty that a person can feel in a city far away from your family and hometown in Italy, were always dissolved after the visit of the three sisters.

In this system both limiting and offensive to human dignity, in which the individual is totally cut off from the outside world, it is a miracle the spark of humanity represented by the visits of Italian nuns ... especially when you consider that these visits require a considerable organizational effort by the prison administration.

The guards would come to take the prisoners from their cells and to leave them with the sisters in the small cell on the ground floor, which was used as a chapel for the occasion. When the allotted time was over the detainees had to leave to go back to their departments always accompanied by the guard. I never considered this normal in an institution managed according to strict military guidelines.

I managed to survive the horror of the Prague state prison with the help and the proximity of

the three sisters of the Franciscan order, and I can truly say that this experience brought me back to my Catholic faith.

I was also helped by my mother from her home in Italy, she took every possible step to be closer to me. In one of the many letters she wrote to me, she sent me a prayer. She wrote that every night at 21, 00, the time in which even in the prisons of Prague the lights go off and the prisoners day ends she would recite a psalm. After receiving this letter I recited this psalm to myself at the same time as my mother. It was Psalm 91.1-2: “Those who live in the shelter of the Almighty, rest in the shadow of the Omnipotent. I say to the Lord: Thou art my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust. “ This psalm, which I still recite, gave me strength like the prayers of the three Italian nuns.

A few days before the last day of trial on June 29, I had another visit from them. I did not know if I would be released, but the three sisters knew. It was safe. They told me that June 29 is a solemn feast in honor of Saints Peter and Paul, the two apostles who were closest to Jesus Christ. I would have definitely been released, they said. And they were right. That day I was restored to freedom.

This experience has changed my life. The building and deprivation were not the cause of these changes but the bright and positive outlook that I had in this humanly cold building,. Meetings with sisters Clare, Anna and Emanuela, but also with other kind-hearted people I met in this building, now give me the confidence that this time, after all, had given a deeper meaning for to my life “(Thomas Sigmund, Merano-Prague)





The enchanting charm of Africa is recognized



in those who follow a single track: to be witnesses of hope

The province of S. Mary of the Angels has almost assured an extraordinary relationship with Africa and with the mission founded on the continent through the wonderful group of volunteers.

This movement was born and developed with the cooperation of the lay volunteers, showing us that the availability for the mission is very fertile even in those who have not made a public profession of belonging to the group of missionaries.

The two witness of the volunteers taken from the periodical of the province give us the proof of this service.

1. The Onlus Zanetti Foundation, with whom a collaboration had already been initiated with the “blood bank project” of Maigaro, organized for the scholastic year 2011-2012, a series of eight meetings for reflections using direct evidence of images and documents of humanitarian aid given to Africa. It so happened that at the Auditorium of Villa Zanetti Villorba (Treviso) some meetings were held, open to all Secondary Schools, Second Grade, the directors and teachers at all levels of the school and all those who were interested in the topic humanitarian aid: the attendance turned out to be positive, especially from the part of the students.

On 3 April 2012 some of our sisters were given the opportunity to attend. Sr. Giulia Mazzon head of the Hospital of Maigaro was in Italy at that time (Central African Republic) I was able to win the attention of the audience (teachers and pupils) dealing with the theme “Maigarò: a story between the beauty and poverty.”

The unfolding presentation of the life of the hospital in Maigaro, a miracle of solidarity, that the Sister described with a passion typical of her style and that had involved a couple of volunteers (Renzo Cristofoli, a microbiologist, a specialist



in medical laboratory in tropical countries and Flora TEOT, a teacher and volunteer with her husband, Renzo), who endorsed the assembly with their testimony, which aroused a surprising interest. In the meeting the “Project Blood Bank” was also widely described in detail (sponsored by Zanetti), designed by the speakers to improve the chances of survival of the population, in an area where the poor living conditions, the infectious diseases and the extreme malnutrition are the basis of high rates of maternal and infant mortality.

“The project for transfusion activities in favor of malnourished children, is bringing good results, said Dr. Renzo Cristofoli. Speaking on behalf of the entire staff of Zanetti Onlus Foundation, doctor Teresa Calabrigo, while thanking the speakers, said: The development of this project maintained by us is very positive and functional it is a real ‘blood bank’. It is great news that encourages us to continue with greater enthusiasm the work that we undertook for the underprivileged children.



2. On 18 April 2012, the Sisters of the Mother House - Gemona enjoyed a visit from two volunteers of Massa Carrara: Lucia Giromini and Deborah Baker, accompanied by our zealous volunteer Eugenio Gastaldon.

Lucia (midwife) and Deborah (photographer and handyman) spent in November-December 2011, a voluntary period in our mission in Maigaro, pledging to give the best of themselves to be useful in their specific skills.

And behold, they too became the ‘victims of the disease’: “the pain of Africa” hit them with the smile of many poor children, the suffering of so many extremely poor people ..

Their dream for the future? To be able to return! And the enthusiasm with which they respond seems to confirm this.

On 21 April, Lucia communicated something more, as a special guarantee of what she has already made her own; she sent us the following message through Email:

“Dear Sisters

I am writing to thank you for the fraternal welcome and the help that you have given to me and to all of us since we have started this adventure of friendship and collaboration.

Coming to Gemona was very important for me: I have got to know you personally, I came into your house like a sister, and my heart felt welcomed and blessed by you.

The fraternal community that unites us in Maigaro, to Sister Julia, and to all “our” children in whatever village, has filled me with the warmth and so to you I say: ‘Be blessed by the Father who loves you as His favorite brides, like precious flowers of his field, shining like stars in the firmament.’

In the world grows the echo of your love, and I, very very small, I can give my witness to that. Thank with all of my heart to you all, Sr. Chiarfrancesca, Sr. Dinamaria, Sr. Luisangela and all the other sisters, beautiful women (nuns) who love their many children, including me.

I felt at home, almost not wanting to go back anymore. Hope to hear from you soon and to embrace you before or after Maigaró.

A sincere and affectionate greeting to all in Gemona with the joy and the peace in my heart. In Africa, as in many parts of the world, your big heart beats. Devoutly Lucia Giromini “.



Sr. M. OLIMPIA SQUALIZZA
OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
Irma Squalizza

* Savorgnano del Torre 11 - 11 - 1927
† Gemona, 24 - 05 - 2011

On 24 May, the day in which we celebrate the memory of the Virgin Mary under the title "Help of Christians", our Sr. Olimpia Squalizza was lifted up from her long-suffering and accompanied by our

Heavenly mother the true rescuer to her Son as faithful bride. Irma Qualizza (Sr Olimpia). She was born in Savorgnano del Torre on November 16, 1927, and lived in the religious family of the FMSC for 62 years. At the age of Twenty, in fact, she left her family to dedicate exclusively to the service of the Lord. Certainly from her father Victor and mother Alice she learned the principles of being a good Christian, as well as the fineness of spirit and kindness that distinguished her. Throughout her life she used well her diploma in sewing. Many Communities as well as many girls were the lucky recipients of her work. Many girls, now they are mothers and grandmothers, remember her with pleasure. Among the villages that have enjoyed her talent, her dedication and serene presence are: Pradamano, Annone Veneto, Manzano, S. Martino di Terzo, Codroipo, Comeglians, Paluzza Ampezzo, Udine, and Convitto (the boarding house) of S. Heart Udine.

She was a religious, a lover of the Virgin Mary, to whom she constantly resorted and stored in her motherly heart all her needs and the needs of each person who confided in her.

During the thirteen years of her service at convitto S. Cuore on Sunday afternoons when she had no specific commitments, Sr. Olimpia used to visit the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Grace... and, gladly, when the opportunity presented itself, also visited the Shrine of Castelmonte to pray "to the virgin of Mont". Sr. Olympia deeply loved the congregation and the Sisters of the Community: it was a clear sign of it, her constant availability toward the Sisters who required her help both in sewing as well as in other special services and enjoyed in doing services to help the Sisters of the Community under all circumstances. This sister always maintained a good relationship with her family, was interested and wanted the good of all.



Sr. M. TEODOSIA CONTE
OF THE DIVINE LOVE
Valeria Conte

* Vedelago, 17 - 04 - 1926
† Gemona, 29 - 05 - 2011

At the dawn of the Sixth Sunday of Easter, the Lord suddenly called another soul, from the mother house, to enjoy the reward of the faithful brides: Sister Teodosia Conte. The night before, she was pretty well, and was happy

to share the wonderful evening, organized to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation. She watched with enthusiasm the representation given by the choral group Sammardenchia, and exclaimed several times: "With these melodies I seem to be already in heaven."

Valeria Conte - her baptismal name - was born at Vedelago on 17/04/1926.

At the age of 17, she entered the congregation of FMSC at Gemona, and two years later was already a professed nun. She received the Diploma of Teachers training course from Rome, Piazza Pitagora, and was given the responsibility of following the aspirants to religious life in Gemona and in the meantime she dedicated herself to teach in the elementary school too.

In 1960, she was given responsibility as the formator of the Novitiate in "S. Mary of the Angels," and for 15 years she continued this delicate, valuable service. In 1963 she was elected as Provincial Councilor.

From 1975 to 2003 she spent her energies in the generous service as superior in Treviso, in the two homes for the elderly at Menegazzi as well as at Borgo Cavour, as a treasurer. At convitto S. Cuore in Udine Sr. Teodosia kept intact her dedication and her willingness to strive for every need, especially when it was for the sisters: With her edifying life when she became sick and weak, she was called to our mother house in Gemona where she spent her last years lending her service in the infirmary and guided and supported the transitory sisters in prayer with her Franciscan simplicity.

She spent her last years in Gemona, in the mother-house as a spiritual guide for the Sisters of the Infirmary. With what spirit

was Sr. Teodosia working? We can evaluate her personality, her serenity, serving the Lord with joy and enthusiasm, almost contagious in inviting and persuading the young people to serve the Lord: She was tireless in this. To the young candidates, who were called to the Lord's service, she inculcated in them the love of prayer and sacrifice. With the girls of "convitto" as well as with their parents she was very friendly and welcoming. Sister Teodosia was filled with love for each and every one, she had a big heart, always open and welcoming. Her smile and her words had a joyful, comforting and unforgettable effect.

Her thoughts and prayers often influenced the young sisters who were in her "formation." Many are the sisters trained by her, she called them her daughters, her little ones and entrusted them to the Lord.



Sr. M. NATALINA MUFFATO
OF THE ROSARIO SAINT
Gemma Muffato

* Salzano, 13 - 05 - 1910
† Peekskill, 24 - 11 - 2011

Sister Natalina (Gemma Lucia) Muffato, FMSC died at Mt. St. Francis at the age of 101 on Thanksgiving morning, November 24, 2011. She was born in Salzano, Italy on May 13, 1910, the first of 5 children who predeceased

her: Teresa, Angela, Romana (Sr. Serafina, FMSC) and Luigi. Her first contact with the Franciscan Sisters was in the parish kindergarten. Afterwards, she worked on the family farm but kept in contact with the Franciscan Sisters who worked in her parish.

She first felt the call to religious life at the age of 25. On October 2, 1937, she entered the Novitiate in Gemona. professed her First Vows on September 2, 1939 and her vow of obedience brought her to the United States as a missionary where she arrived in New York City on November 17, 1939. Sister Natalina came directly to Peekskill where Mother Charles, the Provincial Superior, received her with open arms and assigned her to work in the Boys' Home in St. Joseph's Home where she cared for the children. Subsequently her assignments guided her to assist in the Sisters' Infirmary of St. Paul's Convent in Philadelphia where she prepared meals for the Sisters and the Preschool, and at Ladycliff College as a housemother for the college girls who boarded there. When the college closed in 1980, she was assigned to Queen of Angels Convent which was the retired Sisters' Residence.

Later Sister was asked to serve on the staff of Mt. St. Francis where she assisted in the Sisters' dining room. Sr. Natalina enjoyed gardening and was very proud of her plants and flowers which often adorned the altars in our Chapels. In her "free time" Sister made aprons for the Festival and Gift Shop and collected clothing for distribution to the poor. Sister reflected to all who knew her a wonderful example of a true follower of St. Francis: her love of poverty and simplicity,

her devotion to our Eucharistic Lord, her love of Mary through recitation of the Rosary and in her own words on the occasion of her 100th birthday: "I can only thank God for all the graces and blessings I have received all these years." One of God's special people always humble and unassuming, her whole life was spent thinking and reaching out to others, in many different and helpful ways.

May the Lord Whom she loved and served so faithfully welcome her into His Home with open arms.



Sr. M. ANNA BRUSTOLINI
OF ANNUNCIATION
Luigia Brustolini

* Grumes (Trento), 18 - 03 - 1926
† Gemona, 16 - 02 - 2012

It is very difficult to include in a short space what Sr. Anna Brustolini has been and has done in her earthly life, which began almost 86 years ago.

Luigia Brustolini, such was her baptismal name, was born in Grumes (TN), 18 March, 1926, the third of six children, five sisters and a brother.

The parents, Dad Emilio and Anna Eccli, deeply Christian, marked the first part of a life of faith and prayer for all of their children.

The parish priest, Don Severi-

no Tovazzi, an expert catechist, true shepherd of souls and a psychologist, was interested in the seed of a vocation that was noted in her and he himself, with the consent of the parents, accompanied the young Louise, at the age of 15 to the convent at Gemona, among the FMSC: it was September 17, the day of the Stigmata of St. Francis.

She was not immediately admitted to the novitiate, because she was too young, so she was placed in the boarding school and attended the training for the teachers of the primary section; in 1945 in Rome, in the Institute of S. Elizabeth, where she graduated as a teacher.

Having made her religious profession in August 1947, Sr. Anna was sent to Rome to teach in an elementary school.

In 1951 she was chosen by the Superior General, Mother Cecilia Lazzeri, and sent along with four other sisters, to open a mission in Chile

After a very adventurous mission journey, they arrived at Santiago on, March 7.

With great sacrifices, known only to God, on March 17 Sr. Anna began her school activities in Porto Montt, as a teacher and director of the School "Arrian Barros," and here she remained until March 1958.

For health reasons she then transferred to Santiago, where, in the school that will be dedicated to "M. Cecilia Lazzeri," she gradually began her activities, first in elementary school and then in high school. She soon received great trust, appreciation and cooperation from the parents.

Her zeal contributed to the

completion of a course of study that enabled the school to be recognized by the civil authorities.

In March 1970, Sr. Anna was transferred back to Porto Montt, as director and teacher at the Diocesan School: "Josefa Tellez" where she remained until 1973.

Obedience then sent her to the Generalate in "Asisium", Rome, as a teacher in the primary school and as a Superior, and then, as a secretary of the school, and finally, due to her age, given the duty as the receptionist in the school at "Asisium."

For health reasons in 2008, she was accompanied to the Mother House in Gemona.

Here she revealed herself even better as a person of faith, of prayer, of such charity, especially for sisters in need of care.

Her upstanding, active character led her to act always with care, with precision, with honesty, and with love.

It was tiring the last period in which her health deteriorated which reduced her activeness and so was discouraged and purified. The various reorganizations, awards and certificates of appreciation from the authorities, sisters and superiors from Chile in recent years reveal her spirit of unconditional service.



**Sr M. SILVESTRA GORTAN
OF ST. FRANCIS
Aurelia Gortan**

✽ Paularo (UD), 13 - 02 - 1923
† Gemona, 01 - 04 - 2012

Sr. Silvestra wanted to follow in the footsteps of Christ, with strong and deep faith, imitating him in his suffering and pain and ended her earthly journey exactly during the sacred days of the Holy Week, to celebrate with him the eternal Passover.

In fact, on the morning of 4 April, Holy Wednesday at dawn, Sr. Silvestra, Aurelia Gortan, such was her baptism name, was called by the divine Bridegroom to participate in His redemptive mystery in heaven.

She was born at Paularo (UD) on 13 February 1923 and returned to the Father's house at 89 years, 65 of which she lived as a sister of FMSC in our congregation.

She learnt many things from her father James and mother Catherine in particular to love the Lord, to live by faith and prayer and to give her self generously and faithfully in obedience for all that was asked of her and these virtues were witnessed in the various communities in which she was sent, especially in the community of S. Elizabeth at Piazza Pitagora, Rome and Cyprus over 40 years.

Many sisters from Cyprus remember her self-offering and



retain grateful memories of her, manifested at every celebration or during special circumstances through greetings, telephone calls or by sending small gifts which were much appreciated by Our sister.

Sr. Silvestra also had a very dear memory of Cyprus in fact her regret was not being able to continue her service in the mission due to health reasons.

Sr. Silvestra was a simple and humble religious, she loved prayer and considered it indispensable to spend her days with a continuous offering of love to the Lord. She got up early to fulfill her obligations to the Lord, to whom she had consecrated her life after many vicissitudes during the Second World War.

Back at the Mother House in 1999 from Cyprus, she kept herself busy with work and prayer among the sisters in the infirmary. She was very much devoted to our Lady and always had the rosary in her hands to continue her conversation with the Mother of the Lord. During her last period, she was no longer able to speak due to ailments and she expressed herself just with her gaze fixed on the rosary and on the crucifix hanging on the wall in front of her bed.



**Sr THERESA CHARLES GRANT
OF THE HOLY CROSS
Margherita Grant**

✽ New York (USA), 14 - 12 - 1915
† Peekskill, 24 - 05 - 2012

Sister Theresa Charles (Margaret) Grant, FMSC died on May 24, 2012 at Mount St. Francis at the age of 96. Sister was born in New York City on December 14, 1915 just eleven days before Christmas. In Sister's own words: "Each day is a gift and Christmas is the time of special gift giving and receiving" and so, her parents received the gift of their third child. After the death of her brother and older sister, Helen was devoted to her loving sister, Frances, who also predeceased her.

Although her childhood was difficult because of seeing early deaths and the War raging through Europe, Margaret enjoyed happy days where she learned acceptance, determination, and self-sacrifice. It was from her mother, who sought to see God's will through many difficulties, and taught her daughters to do the same that Margaret learned to be gentle, trusting woman that she was, yet became a staunch advocate of justice in all things- a true Franciscan and loyal American. Sister always "felt greatly blessed to have a happy home and to go to Catholic schools where the education was superb and

the teachers were excellent." Sometime after graduation from business school and after caring for her sister, as Sister herself said: "I knew that Our Lord was nourishing in my heart a strong desire for Religious life. I prayed to know where He desired me to fulfill that vocation. While it seemed accidental, I knew it was the way God planned it. Meeting the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for the first time at our convent at Loretta Rest in Cold Spring and hearing one Sister express her gratitude to another for a small favor with the simple words: 'Thank you, Sister and may God bless you' - I knew God's answer."

At the age of twenty-one, she entered the Franciscan community and made her novitiate in Peekskill; She graduated from Ladycliff College and later received her MA from Villanova University. She was given opportunities to visit other universities and laboratories through grants provided by the National Science Foundation for week-end and summer courses. Sister put the knowledge gained through these experiences in her ministry of teaching in St. Joseph's School in West New York; St. Anthony's School in Butler, NJ; in Sacred Heart School and Ladycliff Academy in Highland Falls, NY; in St. Maria Goretti High School in Philadelphia; and in Franciscan High School in Mohegan Lake, NY. She remained Director of Ladycliff Academy and Franciscan High School Alumnae. Sr. Theresa Charles was remembered fondly by her students who were so grateful for the formation received through her guidance; and expressed these sentiments even upon hearing of her death.

Sister also ministered as a member of the Sisters' staff of our Infirmary and later as Coordinator and Directress of Nursing. She was a Superior for 4 years of Queen of Angels Convent, a residence for our retired Sisters. Among the varied ways Sister spent her leisure time were: reading, sewing, solving puzzles, cooking and finding stars with the telescope she herself made. Many happy hours of volunteering were spent as a member of Bethany Group, a prayer group of men and women who spent Friday evenings in Bedford Hill. Sister was very faithful to this ministry which was very beneficial to the women with whom Sister prayed; it resulted in approximately 15 years that about 200 women, being released from prison, not one woman returned on a new charge. In her later years at Mt. St. Francis, Sr. Theresa Charles was a faithful volunteer at the Hudson Valley Hospital Center, in Peekskill, where she is remembered by both patients and staff for her many kindnesses. Our dear Sister Theresa Charles, who would have celebrated her 75th anniversary as a Franciscan Sister this year, will celebrate it in heaven, while on earth her community and the Sisters whom she loved and respected will remember her kindness.. Sister was always there to lend a helping hand, a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on, or cry on, for anyone who came to her at any time. There isn't anyone who is unable to remember with emotion how good Sr. Theresa was to everyone, always. Her generous spirit will be truly missed at Mt. St. Francis house.



**SR PETER MARIE BUTTACAVOLI
OF THE SACRED HEARTS
OF JESUS AND MARIA
Joanna Buttacavoli**

✽ Philadelphia, 29 - 03 - 1932
† Peekskill, 01 - 06 - 2012

Sister Peter Marie Buttacavoli (Joanna) died in Skyview Health Care Center, Croton, NY. Joanna was born March 29, 1932 in Philadelphia, PA. Her father, Peter had come from Sicily, Italy and met his dear wife Assunta-'Sue.' They settled around the corner from the Franciscan Sisters' home on 10th Street. When Joanna was 9 years old, her parents gave her a baby sister, Tina, whom she loved and cherished becoming her best friend. She graduated from Hallahan High School, Phila., Class of 1950, and three months later entered the convent at Mount St. Francis Sept. 8, 1950 at the age of 18. She made her first profession of vows Peekskill on September 2, 1952 and was immediately sent to Sacred Heart School, Highland Falls, then to our Lady of Loretta, Cold Spring, Assumption Peekskill. Then in Sept. 1960 she was sent to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia where she spent the next 18 years in the field of education at Holy Rosary, in Germantown, from 1960 to '64; at St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi on 730 Montrose St. and then to Mater Dolorosa Frankford from 1965-'68. Sr. Peter Marie often tutored students here for high school scholarships. Sister went back to St. Mary Magdalen again from 1968

to 1978, as principal, with the help of the assistant pastor and the Holy Name Society she was able to establish the first and only student-run television studio in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Sr. Peter Marie also served as Regional Supervisor of Catholic Elementary Schools.

Sister returned to Mount St. Francis in 1979 due to illness and eventually became semi-retired; yet sister enjoyed serving as a Staff member at the Motherhouse, assisting with driving, being a purchasing agent and office helper.

Her leisure activities were playing the piano and organ. Sister loved the older Sisters and often took them for walk in the country-yards and later to buy ice cream for them. She was prayer leader in the Sisters' Infirmary. She loved sports especially baseball and football and while tending the famous Motherhouse "switchboard" often was observed listening to the Notre Dame games...she was a great fan and cheerleader!

As a true Franciscan, Sister loved music and flowers. Her favorite devotions were to St. Peter, the impetuous, rock foundation of the Church, and to St. John Neuman of whom she had the privilege of being present for his canonization in Rome. Sister truly loved her Sisters in community and prayed often for their needs and intentions.

With many complicated illnesses, Sister Peter Marie came to the Sisters' Infirmary in 1979 where she met her initial contact with the compassionate face of Christ in those who suffered around her. She would participate in all her community activities and duties until the day the Good Shepherd drew her to her new Home. For the 33 years she learned to make the most of her incapacities. De-

spite her infirmities, she travelled to Rome, Lourdes, Hawaii, and Alaska. She confided to one of her companions while in the baths at Our Lady's Shine in France: "I asked Mary to intercede to her Son to give me acceptance of my illnesses, not cures." Such was her willingness to be united with her Lord and Savior. Sister was celebrating her 60th anniversary year of consecrated life when the Lord called her to himself.



**SR M. BERNADETTE ZALESKI
DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE
Helen Zaleski**

✽ Edgewater (USA), 24 - 10 - 1919
† Peekskill, 02 - 08 - 2012

Sr. Bernadette Zaleski of the Immaculate Conception formerly known as Sister Bernadette de Lourdes died very peacefully at the Sisters Infirmary Peekskill, New York on 2 August 2012. Helen Zaleski the child of Chester and Bolesaura Zaleski was born on October 23 1919 in Edgewater New Jersey and attended schools there and In Cliffside park. She was the youngest of three siblings who pre-deceased her. Helen entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart just before her 18th birthday In 1937 and made her perpetual vows in 1944. Sr. Bernadette received her BA degree from Ladycliff college and Master from Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

Sister's teaching career over the next 60 years took her to many schools in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and finally to retirement to Peekskill where she spent the last 12 years in the Infirmary as the result of a stroke after surgery. Sister ministered in the Guardian (Assumption School) in Peekskill. Our lady of Loretto school in Cold Spring, in the baby's department of St. Joseph's Home, in the Sacred Heart School in Highland Falls, In Immaculate heart school in Croton, in Ladycliff Academy and Ladycliff College, in Immaculate Conception School in Irgington. Sister Bernadette previous to her illness was in residence at St. Francis Convent in Mohegan Lake and was on the staff of Mt. St. Francis.

Sister spent many happy years in Philadelphia at St. Rita's and St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi. In New Jersey her ministry brought her to St. Joseph of the Palisades Schools and to St. James in Totowa. Because of her goodness and serene character she found many friends and well wishers where ever she went.

From the good memories of her, former students: "this woman in gray with the winning smile, contagious laughter and with a warm tender touch." She left a lasting memory in children who were entrusted to her care. She liked both the Polish food and music and did wonderful embroidery and crochet work. She remembers an edifying event while she was in a convent in Warsaw, she became friends with a couple who were waiting for their first child. The parents were worried because they did not know how to dress their child and everything was lacking in the

country. But shortly before the birth of the child, two large boxes arrived from America in which there was everything necessary for their little one and more. Then the child was born and the parents gave her the name Bernadette, and now this little girl is a beautiful lady.

The Lord, whom Sr Bernadette loved and served faithfully, receive her in his house where there will be no more suffering!



**SR M. ALBAROSA BORGHESE
OF ST. FRANCESCO
Maria Borghese**

✽ Pradamano (UD), 02 - 11 - 1926
† Gemona, 31 - 10 - 2012

Sr. Albarosa Borghese went on tiptoe at the dawn of October 31, at the end of Community Holy Mass.

She who loved the beauty of God reflected on the flowers in the variety of their colors, was called to heaven to contemplate directly the splendor of Christ's face, "the most pure Flower of Virgin Mary" (as sung in a liturgical hymn) and to participate in the joy of the "Communion of Saints."

Today, November 2, she celebrates her first birthday in Heaven, together with all her loved ones and all those who now live in the peace of God. In fact, Sr. Albarosa was born, 86 years ago (1926), in Pradamano (UD) to a



couple Valentino and Gemma De Sabbata. In her family, with solid Christian roots, she gained the vocation to religious life as a desire for total self-giving to Jesus the Bridegroom.

She wrote in her request for the profession:

My desire to be the bride of Jesus is great and I look forward to the time in which I will be his own, forever and will be faithful to his promise that I will do on that holy day! “

And the desire was fulfilled in Gemona Mother House on September 10, 1951 in the full bloom of her 25 years. From that day on her life was truly a “gift” total and faithful to Jesus that Sr. Albarosa saw and served in the brethren with humility, simplicity and great generosity in the spirit of St. Francis, that she had chosen as her protector.

Her mission was carried out in a wide variety of services: assistant to the prison in Treviso, assisting in kindergarten Cavasagra (TV), assistant in our school, “S. Mary of the Angels”, helping in the infirmary of Alberoni and in Gemona in our mother house, in charge of laundry for almost thirty years.

The mark of her life was, the spirit of sacrifice and love for the sake of her sisters. Her days began very early in the morning, the light of the laundry was on before dawn, at four! ... Where did she find the strength for this charity? No doubt in prayer in which she was always ready to draw from the Heart of Jesus crucified the love she needed in her daily service.

Thus she lived her religious life, day after day, year after year, delivering herself to Jesus. And Je-

sus came to pick her up at dawn to show the beauty of the dawn that will never end and that will shine forever as her name “Albarosa.”



**SR MARIA ROSA CARLESSO
OF DIVINE LOVE**
Angiola Carlesso

✿ Zero Branco, 20 - 09 - 1921
† Roma, 09 - 11 - 2012

Brought to the baptismal font, a few days after birth, she was given the name of Angiola Domenica Carlesso, Just 9 years old she received the sacrament of confirmation. She started her postulancy in Gemona in July 1938, a note of kindness sets her apart, despite the severity of the rules in the convent of the time. By her profession of vows, she embraced the life of consecration knowing it's beauty and taking it in the depths of her soul, with devotion and love.

She was a student in Udine, then in Rome from 1940 to 1945, She graduated in Literature and immediately dedicated herself to teaching in the school of St. Maria degli Angeli, in Gemona, from 1953 to 1963 and was also the director of the boarding house.

In 1963 she was sent to Rome, to Centocelle, where she combined the mission of ‘teaching with internal commitments of the province and of the Congregation, first as provincial treasurer and after Councilor and General Treasurer at ‘Asisium until 1987. From 1972 she assumed the important

task as the Legal Representative of the Congregation, a task that she performed until 2008.

Reserved and precise in carrying out her tasks, She was severe and demanding with the pupils and cheerful and fraternal in the community, to the point that she was one of the entertainer in the dining room on feast days ..

In the early years, this witty and playful side of her character emerged only in ‘private’ and other times she played the role of a demanding director-teacher: Later she often emerged in various occasions, such as the one in which, by now elderly, for the illustrious signatures of ‘Legal Representative’ she invented pretexts of small payments from the part of applicants then organized her coffee-parties at the coffee machine. Her lively conversation was rich of anecdotes and cheerful memories She loved being involved in the talks, and her sense of belonging to the religious family made her enjoy every congregational event, with the desire to know the development of every mission and the life of every missionary sister..

Well capable of hiding her suffering, silently offering it to the Father for the many intentions that are required by her sisters, she never complained. From her face shone sometimes the lines of her suffering, yet always, even in recent times, despite all her weakness and almost to the end, in the morning she wanted to join sisters in church to join in prayer, in a peaceful dialogue with the One who had for a long time been her only true interlocutor (person of contact): Jesus . Being fragile, in that body reduced to the extreme, with her inability to read and communicate with ease, she passed away on 9 November, 2012 with the single word of gratitude that she was able to pronounce shortly before her death: “Thanks to all.”