



## INDEX

In Communion with the Church	p. 2
Opening of the Jubilee of Mercy	p. 4
• In Central Africa	
• In Rome	
Pope Francis in the peripheries of the world	
• In Latin America	p. 6
• In United States of America	p. 8
• World Congress on Education	p. 10
• Letter to all consecrated persons: Contemplate	p. 12
In Communion with the Franciscan Family	
• Interreligious Dialogue in Istanbul	p. 13
Life of the Congregation	
■ Provincial Chapters	
• Saint Mary of the Angels Province	p. 15
• Saint Elizabeth Province	p. 16
• Saint Francis Province US	p. 18
• Holy Family Province INDIA	p. 19
■ Canonical Visit of the General Superior:	
• In the Province of Mary Immaculate (Philippines)	p. 21
• Canonical Visit in the Province of “Saint Mary of the Angels”	p. 23
■ Opening of the community “Madre Rosa Bonomi” Trento - Italy	p. 29
■ Congregational meeting for the young sisters	p. 31
Feast of the General Superior	
Celebrations:	
• 150 years of presence in the United States - 5 December 1865-2015	p. 38
• 100 years of presence in Paese	p. 43
• 50 years of presence in Luxemburg	p. 45
• First Religious Profession in Africa	p. 46
• First Religious Profession in Chile	p. 47
• Some Celebrations and Testimonies for the Years of Consecrated Life	p. 49
Living in God	p. 63

## ***In the Jubilee of Mercy, Bangui is “Spiritual Capital of the World”!***

The Jubilee of Mercy could also be called, as someone says, the “Jubilee of the peripheries.” In fact Pope Francis began this extraordinary Holy Year, in Africa and not in Rome. The first Holy Door to be opened was that of the cathedral of Bangui, capital of Central African Republic, the heart of Africa afflicted by a bloody civil war, fueled by hatred and violence.

Upon His arrival in Bangui Pope Francis said: “I come as a pilgrim of peace and present myself as an apostle of hope”, immediately giving a clear reason for this trip.



His words and His Presence were for all signs of true Hope and challenge for a real commitment of peace.



Before the opening of the Holy Door, the Pope recited a special prayer, highlighting the choice of Bangui as a symbol.

These are His words: “Bangui becomes the spiritual capital of the world. In this troubled land, are represented also all the countries in the world who go through experiences of cross and war. Bangui becomes the spiritual capital of prayer, mercy and peace. We ask for peace, mercy, reconciliation, forgiveness, love. Throughout the Central African Republic and to all countries that suffer from war we ask for peace. Together we ask for love and peace. With this prayer we begin the Holy Year.”

The words “love and peace” were handed down in the local language, asking the Assembly, as His custom, to repeat them aloud.



The Holy Father then opened the Holy Door and entered first in the Cathedral of Bangui, where He celebrated the Holy Eucharist.

During the liturgy, the Pope exchanged the sign of peace with the imam of Bangui and the local representative of the evangelicals; spontaneous and concrete gestures of His deep desire for peace.

We listen now the witness of our missionary sisters in Central African Republic

*“The Pope gave “the first place” to these people, that the world consider the*

*“last”. Thousands were crowded along the way that the Pope was passing; they were dancing, singing, stretching out their clothes on the ground so that the car with the Pope could touch them.... Tension, fear, distrust have disappeared, giving way to an overwhelming joy, a great explosion of faith in front of the Pope’s message: we are all brothers and sisters... .we must learn to live as true brethren in mercy and forgiveness, the only ways to peace. (From the report of the Apostolic Nuncio in Bangui)*

*The tensions are not over; the divisions and distrust are there. Peace, mercy and forgiveness are a journey to be made every day in all our relationships. They must live in our hearts, in our deepest desires, even in the smallest actions of service, of proximity, of openness and of solidarity: this is the message ..., and the hope of the Pope for Central Africa, for the world, for each of us ...”*

*The Missionary Sisters of Niem and Maigaro*



## The Holy Door open to the world ... for the world.

In the Gospel of St. John, chapter 10 Jesus calls Himself twice “the door”,  
*“Truly, truly, I say to you:” I am the door of the sheep.*



*Whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep”.* Salvation for Luke and Matthew is related to step through

the door: *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it..”*

In this Jubilee the faithful are called to meet the Salvation of the Lord through the Holy Door in this extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy that was opened not only in Rome at the Basilica of St. Peter, but all over the world. An Ocean of Mercy will invade every corner of the earth because Holy Doors will be opened in all the farther Cathedrals, in Shrines, in other established places not forgetting the peripheries so loved by Pope Francis. Nevertheless, most unthinkable is the unique Jubilee in the prisons wanted by Pope Francis as He

wrote in the letter on the Jubilee of mercy addressed to Msgr. Fisichella. He wrote, *“Every time they pass the door of their cells, turning the thoughts and prayers to the Father, this gesture can mean to them the passage of the Holy Door, because the mercy of God, capable of transforming hearts, is also able to transform bars in experience of freedom.”*

Pope Francis opened the jubilee with these words: *“Abandon all fears, the Mercy of God is for all, God is never tired to forgive.”* This great event is meant to be a strong awareness on the part of each one to forgive, to be forgiven and to allow the mercy of God to circulate in every human and religious context of fraternity and joy. It is a commitment to humble prayer, to sincere repentance of our weaknesses, of the evil always present in our lives, and a full availability to conversion and change of heart. It was certainly the Holy Spirit, light and guidance of the Church to offer to humanity that is disoriented, violent, indifferent and distant from God, this extraordinary Mercy.

It seems to feel that from humanity, perhaps not even aware of the great gift, rise confidently into the sky the shocking cry of misery that begs for mercy and forgiveness. In the certainty that God’s mercy is not our measure, the Mercy of God is



infinite. In n. 21 of the Bull, Pope says, *“If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is*



*not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction. This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness.. “*

*“This is the Gate of the Lord. Open to me the gates of righteousness “are the words of the rite of the opening of the Holy Door that Pope Francis has marked with a solemn voice in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on December 8, solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. That marked the official start of the Holy Extraordinary Year of Mercy. It was an expected moment, full of emotion*

*to see the Pope to push the heavy bronze door, and He had to push it with energy, perhaps remembering at that moment all the resistance of a world dominated by other purposes.*

*The Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter was opened, and gradually are opening the Holy Doors worldwide. Enter the*

*gate, the Pope said in His homily, is to discover the depth of the mercy of God who welcomes all and meets everyone personally. It is He who seeks us! Go through the door is also a powerful experience for us to meet this mystery of love and tenderness.*

*In the celebration was moving also the embrace of Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI, the pope emeritus, a historical moment: for the first time, in fact, two Popes, have crossed the Holy Door at the same jubilee one after another.*

*Passing through the Holy Door, we want to remember another historical door that, fifty years ago, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council*

*opened wide to the world, the door of the Council that has become, half a century after, the Door of Mercy open to all.*

*Enter the Holy Door is a gift, but asks*



*each of us to open the door of our heart, to give a concrete answer made of works of mercy, spiritual and corporal.*

*The Spirit, as Jesus promised, continues to lead His Church, His children, so that all humankind, through ways at times incomprehensible, should come to the merciful embrace of the Father.*

## **POPE FRANCIS in the peripheries of the world**

### **IN ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY (5 to 13 July 2015)**

This was the ninth international trip of the pontificate of Pope Francis involving three of the poorest and smallest countries in Latin America.

To understand this journey we have to listen to the words of the Pope who recalled how St. John Paul II called Latin America, namely the ‘continent of hope’, because it is waiting for new models of development that combine Christian tradition and civil progress, justice and fairness with reconciliation, development of science and technology with human wisdom. Fruitful suffering with joy hopeful”.



The theme of the trip was a common theme:  
**the joy of proclaiming the Gospel.**

Ecuador has had the motto

**‘Evangelizar con alegría’** (evangelize with joy),

Bolivia

**‘Con Francisco anunciamos la alegría del evangelio’**

(With Francis we announce the joy of the Gospel)



and Paraguay **‘Mensajero de la alegría y de la paz’**  
(Messenger of joy and peace).

The main stages of the trip were the visits to Marian shrines, that of Divine Mercy in Guayaquil and the Immaculate Conception in Caacupé, in Paraguay, where the Pope is very devoted. During the trip Pope Francis met various groups of people belonging to the most disadvantaged groups: the elderly in Ecuador, prisoners in Palmasola, in Bolivia and sick children at the pediatric hospital of Asuncion in Paraguay. He also visited the slum and marshy of Asuncion, the Banado Norte, and participated in the II World Meeting of popular movements in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The concluding event of the trip was the one with the young people in Costanera, along the river, on Sunday, July 12 in Paraguay, on the eve of departure to return to Rome.

*Our sisters in Bolivia have personally lived this experience. Let us listen to them.*

The visit of Pope Francis in our country has been a great joy and a grace of God. The joy and the grace to listen more attentively to His word and His message of hope.

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to experience His arrival in Santa Cruz,

where He remained longer among us, right here in this area where we live, Sister Gladys Chavez, Sr. Luz Marina Velasquez and Sister Ligia Alvaro.

In this meeting also two sisters of the community “San Francisco” in Cochabamba, attended with us, Sister Gregoria Suarez and Sister Maggaly Wharton, with a group of boys and laity of the parish Don Bosco.

In the morning, we participated with devotion at the Holy Mass celebrated by the Holy Father, and in the afternoon, we gathered in the gymnasium Don Bosco, along with all the priests, religious men and women. The Holy Father has given us a message of hope and encouragement to be true Christian witnesses. The Pope also visited the prison “Palmasola”, a significant and concrete gesture of God’s mercy.



**Testimony of Sister Gladys Chavez:**



*The Archbishop of Santa Cruz Mgr. Sergio Gualberti invited us to collaborate in the group of volunteers in the group of volunteers to prepare the visit of the Holy Father Francis; our answer was an enthusiastic “yes”, involving our young people of the youth group, to work with other young people from different dioceses.*

*Young people did their work with generosity, joy and availability, always faithful to the theme: “serve the Lord with gladness”.*

*I thank God for this experience of life, the Holy Father’s visit. All of us will bring in the heart with love His presence as shepherd and guide. He asks everyone to pray for him; this will be a reason to feel more His presence among us. Praise be the Lord!*

## **POPE FRANCIS IN THE US FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES**

The historic visit of the Holy Father touched all the American people and gave vitality to the Catholics of this country and to the communities of Christians.



In the course of preparations for the arrival of the Holy Father, we felt a lot of joy among the people, cooperation, respect and consideration towards His person and we are feeling proud by His visit as head of our Catholic Church.

Fears that circulated before a possible attack have dissolved at the arrival of the Holy Father and all became a celebration, enkindling in all the desire to see and greet Him. We followed the first days of His visit, at home, listening to the television every message that encouraged us more and more to follow His path and to listen to Him.

In our parish “Holy Redeemer”, we had the opportunity to be part of the group that participated in the festival and the last Holy Mass for families in Philadelphia.

On Saturday, September 26, early in the morning, we left for Philadelphia with the Neocatechumenal communities; on the way of the journey, we shared prayer and fraternal life. Upon our arrival, there were the missionary communities of volunteers that housed the pilgrims, and a communi-





ty of young missionaries belonging to the Neocatechumenal Way that are in vocational discernment. They welcomed us during our stay, providing everything we needed.

The meeting was particularly marked by the testimony of many families from different countries and cultures. They thanked Pope Francis for His presence, His love and His concern for the Christian family that has a great vocation with its moments of joys and difficulties. In turn, the Holy Father thanked and confirmed the need to ensure sound education to the children in the family, because the family is the cradle of Christian values and the future of a society renewed in Christ. The next day we prepared ourselves for the final meeting with the Holy Father. He concluded His visit to the United States with a Eucharistic Celebration for families in the same place where we celebrated the feast. To reach our destination, we participated in a procession along with other pilgrims who stayed at St. Charles Borromeo; our pilgrimage lasted eight hours, with prayers and songs of hope, love and desire to participate with more faith and strength to this extraordinary event.



The attendance of the people was more numerous than expected; many families had to stay out of the areas provided for the Holy Mass. The Pope once again focused His gaze on the family and invited to set aside the sterile divisions, and to realize that “the family is the domestic Church, where faith becomes life and life is growing in faith”. This was one of many certainties that the Pope invited to consider in the hope that His wish will come true.

For us, they were special moments of grace: to pray for and with the families gathered there has also urged us to make a reflection on our call, on our religious family. We believe it is necessary to overcome the barriers and maintain an atmosphere of deep faith, able to renew our life, service to the Church, to the families who are next to us and to our specific mission.

Sr Ana Ruth Ayma

## WORLD CONGRESS ON EDUCATION

*“Educating today and tomorrow. A passion that is renewed”*

The Congregation for Catholic Education has decided to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Second Vatican Council “Gravissimum educationis” and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” through this World Congress developed in four days, from 18 to 21 November 2015.

Many participants were in this Congress, more than seven thousand, including bishops,

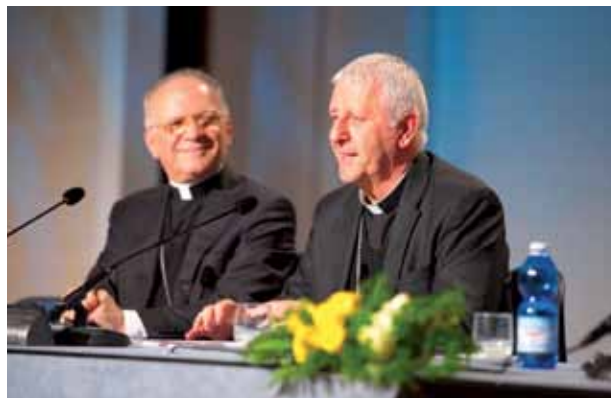


rectors of the university, jurists and representatives of Catholic educational institutions, scattered throughout the world. On behalf of our schools were present the General Councillor, Sister Bernarda Alvarez and the general Secretary, Sister Augusta Visentin.

Remarkable and fitting the occasion of this Congress, to review the organization of Catholic education, its skills, the new challenges, the quality of human values, the reality of presence

and acceptance in it, the proposals of faith and pastoral accompaniment and knowledge open to transcendent values.

The inaugural session began in the Aula Paolo VI, with the greetings from the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, His Em.Rev.ma, Cardinal Joseph Velsaldi and the presentation of the program of the Congress, by the Archbishop, Mons. Vincenzo Zani.



In the first session, the testimonies of personalities involved in the educational mission were presented. With a global view, a reflection was done on the contribution that Catholic Education from the past up today, and how it will be in the next 30 years, in the face of rapid changes, which require a renewal of educational proposals capable of transforming reality in a multicultural and multi-religious context.

At the Mariapolis Center of Castel Gandolfo there have been the most important conferences, in turn subdivided into three sessions: the university, the school and the legal issues in education.

Issues relating to the two documents of the Magisterium and the answers emerged from the Instrumentum Laboris “Educating today and tomorrow. A passion that is renewed”, concern on four basic pillars: The identity and mission of Catholic institutions, the subject of education, the formation of formators and educational perspectives.

Catholic institutions, in the face of new challenges, see the urgent need to redefine their identity, the renewal of our mission and a great alliance between parents and educators for

educational communities offering a rich sense of reality, open to God, to others and the world. Education is not only knowledge but also relational, affective, emotional and ethical experience: to know and let others know what we want to do, dare to transform society and serve the world. It is needed to be in constant dialogue to renew education; educational institutions are run by persons and teams inspired by the Gospel, formed in Christian pedagogy, linked to the educational project of the Catholic school.

It is necessary to respect the person of the students in their entirety, by developing a variety



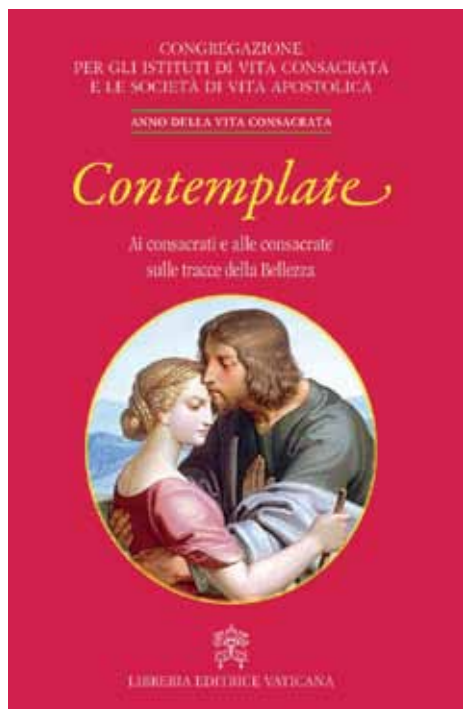
of skills who enrich the human person, creativity, imagination, the ability to take responsibility, the ability to love the world, cultivating justice and mercy.

Teacher formation is urgent: it requires a constant deepening of the commitment of the Catholic teacher, willing to accept and share the Gospel identity, the project of evangelization, where the Person of Christ is the center.

We can say that Catholic education comes at a very important moment in the personal history of each student; it will be as effective as more connected to this story, knowing how to build alliances, share responsibilities and build educating communities.

In conclusion, here are the words of Pope Francis: *“Education is not a profession, but an attitude, a way of being; to educate one must go out of oneself and be among young people, accompany them in the stages of their growth, journeying with them. Giving them hope, optimism for their journey in the world.”*

## Third Letter to all consecrated persons: “Contemplate”



The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has published the third Circular Letter in the Year of Consecrated Life: *Contemplate. The consecrated men and women on the trail of Beauty*.

It is an invitation to all consecrated persons to live the contemplative dimension in spite of the many things they have to do in their daily lives, in order to rediscover that vital relationship with God that allows them to see humanity and creation with His eyes as Pope Francis urges. *“The contemplative dimension becomes indispensable, among the most urgent and heavy commitments. And most mission calls us to go to the outskirts of existence, the more our heart feels the inner need to be united to that of Christ, full of mercy and love”* (Francis, morning meditation in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, May 22 2015).

At the beginning of the Jubilee year, the text reminds everyone to look at Jesus, Face of Mercy of the Father, and traces a way to go forward. “Every consecrated man

and woman is called to contemplate and bear witness to the face of God as the One who knows and understands our weaknesses (cf. Ps 102), to pour balm on the wounds of the human proximity, contradicting the cynicism of indifference “(Contemplate, 59).

The letter opens with a Prologue, which follow three parts identified by three verbs: “SEARCH”, “REMAIN”, “FORM”, and ends with an Epilogue and with passages from Pope Francis “for Reflection”.

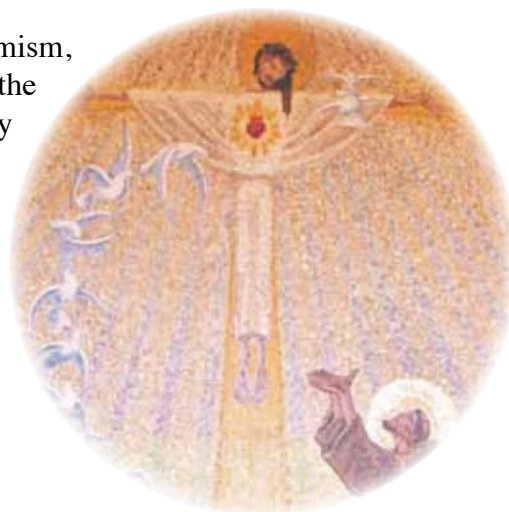
The latest issue of the document, entitled “Hail Woman dressed of the Sun”, invites all to appreciate the unique value of the contemplation of Mary, from the Annunciation to the Resurrection weaves the contemplation of the mystery that dwells in her. In that the consecrated person sees the mystical path (cf. Contemplate n. 74)

The letter ‘Contemplate’ begins with a reading of the Song of Songs in the allegorical and spiritual key. “In light of this Song consecrated life appears a vocation to love that thirsts for the living God, who illuminates the world in search of the hidden God, and who meets him in the faces of the brethren” (Contemplate 2).

It also states “He who loves is pervaded by a dynamism, experiences the paschal character of existence, accepts the risk of going out of oneself to reach the other - not only in an outdoor area, but also in the interior life - and discovers that their good is living in the other and welcomes him/her in oneself “. (Contemplate 2)

In a world that “lives not only a time of disenchantment, disagreement and indifference, but also of non-sense”, “the task given to the consecrated life” is to “bear witness that God is happiness. To lay on Him our eyes and heart allows us to live fully.”

(Contemplate 4)





## Ongoing Formation Course on ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE in ISTANBUL

In Istanbul (Turkey) was held this year the formation course on ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in the convent of Santa Maria in Draperis from 14 to 19 October 2015. The participants, in total 15 people, including friars and nuns, have come from various Franciscan realities: Italy, Cuba, Peru, Mexico.



*Sr Miriam Oyarzo of our community in Buyukada tells us about her experience after participating in this important course.*

The course was very interesting and intense. It offered an overview of what is “ecumenical and interreligious dialogue” in the Church and in the Franciscan tradition, with the aim: promoting unity and love among all religions, experiencing all that men have in common (see. *Nostra Aetate* 1).

This experience, which lasted 15 days, was very varied, included visits to places of worship such as churches and mosques, shrines and places of pilgrimage, but also conferences and dialogues with representatives of various religions.

Being able to “visit”, “see” and “hear” these places certainly helps to better understand the situation that exists in the Middle East, for me particularly important and significant.

This course not only helps to have knowledge and good experiences, but it helps us FMSC to realize how the world needs dialogue, peace and respect; It helps us to enhance our return on Turkish soil. We live in a world where, in the last time, have exploded more than a hundred wars. As we see every day in the news, there are terrorist attacks, and a crowd of refugees crossing borders, and we ask the question: what are we doing?

Our presence in Turkey, in Büyükada, talks about how in the world there is need of “new inspiration”, “new presences” who take to heart the global responsibility, which is expected by religions: PEACE!



During the course p. Rúben Tierrablanca, OFM, spoke of the anthropological Dialogue, Fr. Pierre Matabaro OFM on biblical foundations Dialogue and Br Gwenolé Jeusset, OFM on Francis of Assisi and the meeting of the other believer and convictions for an evangelical meeting. P. Eleuthère Baharanyi Makuta spoke on gratuity, fundamental attitude to the dialogue.

Cenap Mustafa Aydin, from the Institute Tiber in Rome, has been with us for a day of reflection on Islam and the religious phenomenon. In a fraternal dialogue, he has exposed what it means Muslim and Christian “dialogue”.



To know the religious phenomenon of the Eastern Churches, we visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and we met personally Patriarch Bartholomew I, who with love and generosity, he presented to us the path of ecumenical dialogue begun by his predecessor Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI. We had the unique opportunity of an interesting encounter with the Great Archimandrite Vissarion (Spyridon) Komzias, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Knowing the reality of Armenians, important presence in Turkey and enter in dialogue with a representative of the Patriarchate, has helped us understand the suffering and the great faith of this Church. It was particularly interesting in those days also dialogue with the representatives of the Jews and of the Protestant churches.

The heart of the course, for me, was the visit to the churches of Revelation. We visited 5 of 7 churches and it was a moment of great and spiritual pilgrimage... walk the roads of the early Christians, the places visited by Saint Paul and the land that welcomed St. John the Apostle and the Mother of Jesus, was really exciting.

The places visited: the churches of Revelation: Laodice, Ephesus, Izmir, Pergamum and Sardis. The visit to the “House of Mary” (Meryem Ana evi), the Basilica of St. John the Apostle, the necropolis of the “seven Sleepers”, the ancient Ephesus and the Basilica where was held the Fourth Council of Ephesus, the Acropolis and Asklepion in Pergamon.

I thank the superiors for this enriching and extraordinary experience, I thank my fraternity and I thank the Lord, because everything helps us to bear witness, makes us love this people, teaches us to live alongside with our Muslim brethren and to suffer with them.





## PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS

In this year of grace dedicated to Consecrated Life, the celebration of the Provincial Chapters continue

### *“Saint Mary of the Angels” Province - Gemona*

Each provincial chapter in addition to its legal structure is an important moment of communion among the sisters present involving all the sisters of the Province. It is also an opportunity to take into account the elements of the consecrated life according to the directives of the Church and our being Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, to give new life to the charism incarnated and lived in different realities.

Since July, Chapters in the provinces were celebrated.

The sisters of the Province “S. Mary of the Angels” for their Provincial Chapter XIV have focused their reflection on the theme: *“The evangelical poverty: hope, prophecy and promise of the Kingdom.”*

The Chapter members gathered on July 1 at the Mother House in Gemona del Friuli, starting this intense time of fraternity and discernment with the spiritual retreat led by Fr Luciano Bertazzo, OFM Conv. The Chapter was presided over by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto



and was attended by the Councillors Sr. Emmapia Bottamedi and Sr. Georgina Vilongiyil.

At this Chapter was also present the Superior of the Vice-province “SS. Uganda Martyrs (Cameroon): Sr. Beatrice Bifouma in order to continue the journey already begun in sharing with regard to the two communities of the province” Saint Mary of the Angels “of Maigarò and Niem in the Central Africa.

A significant moment was the presence of the Archbishop of Udine Mgr. Andrea Bruno



Mazzocato, who celebrated a Holy Mass for the Chapter members and then he shared some moments with them and with the sisters of the community of the Mother House.

On July 5 the new Provincial Council was elected, that will guide the province in the next three years.

Sr Anna Maria Volpato  
*Provincial superior,*

Sr Stefania Bandiera  
*1<sup>st</sup> Councillor and Vicar*

Sr Veridiana Scaini  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor*

Sister Marzia Ceschia  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Councillor*

Sr Luisangela Severin  
*4<sup>th</sup> Councillor*



May the Spirit of the Lord enlighten the steps of our sisters and accompany their mission in the Church at the service of the Province and the whole Congregation.

### ***“St. Elizabeth” Province - Limassol Cyprus***

The Province “S. Elizabeth” celebrated the XIV Provincial Chapter in Limassol (Cyprus) in the presence of the Superior General, Sr Paola Dotto and the Councillor Sr Georgina Vilongiyil.

The theme: *“Yeast of fraternity and peace in our time”* guided the reflection and the discernment of the Chapter members; it was developed according to the guidelines regarding the Congregational charism:



*“Pilgrim and prayful, today, for a new formation”*

*“Sisters and minor for new relationships”*

*“Witnesses to the prophecy of a new mission.”*

In the days before the celebration of the Chapter, Fr Massimo Fusarelli OFM accompanied the sisters in the work of preparing the instrumentum laboris.





On 22 July, the Chapter Assembly presided over by the Superior General, Sr Paola Dotto, has elected a new Provincial Council that will lead the province in the next three years. It consists of:

Sister Angelica Hadjihanni  
*Provincial superior*

Sister Elsapola Pudussery  
*1<sup>st</sup> Councilor and Vicar*

Sister Bernadette Skorti  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor*

Sister Antonia Piripitsi  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Councilor*

Sister Germana Tomat  
*4<sup>th</sup> Councilor.*



To our sisters engaged in a mission where the ecumenical and interreligious dialogue is particularly important, we wish to be more and more 'yeast of fraternity and peace', shining beacon of communion and love, especially among the poor and marginalized.



At the end of the Chapter the sisters joyfully welcomed the entry into the Pre-novitiate of Norfe Roa, a young Filipina, who had been already for some months with the sisters for a time of deeper vocational discernment.



## ***“St. Francis” Province Peekskill - United States***

The province “St. Francis” in the United States celebrated its XIII Provincial Chapter from 15 to 21 August. The Chapter event was held within the jubilee year, which recalls the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presence of our religious family in the North American land; it was presided over by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto and with the participation of the Councillor Sr. Tiziana Tonini.

The theme of the chapter is then echoed the motivational phrase of the Jubilee celebration:

*In gratitude  
a Blessed Past  
and a Future of Hope*



The Chapter members looked at their history and their present moment with honesty and passion, strong in faith that ensures the presence of the Lord and His Faithfulness in the daily journey and in all that He himself prepares.





Each gave her contribution with the active participation and the sharing of experiences and reflections. The moments spent together, both in the chapter hall as the times of prayer, strengthened the fraternal bonds, faith and hope in the future that is always guided by the Lord.

The election of the new Provincial Council had already taken place through the direct method on 14 March 2015 and is composed as follows:

Sr. Laura Morgan  
*Provincial Superior*

Sr. Rose Cecilia Bozzo  
*1<sup>st</sup> Councillor  
and Vicar Provincial*

Sr. Clare Poothakuzhiyil  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor*

Sr. Katherine Siegel 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Councillor*

Sr. Antonia Maguire 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Councillor*



### ***“Holy family” Province - Vijayawada - India***

From December 2014 to October 2015 they were held Chapters in all the Province and Vice-province of our religious family.

The last was the IV Chapter of the province “Holy Family” (India), which took place from 16 to 21 October 2015 on the theme: *“Fraternity lived in poverty and minority. A prophetic challenge to wake up the world today.”*

The important event was presided by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto and with the presence of the Councillors Sr. Tiziana Tonini and Sr. Georgina Vilongiyil.

The 34 Chapter members have found themselves in the provincial house a few days before the date scheduled for the beginning of the chapter, to live together a special time with a three-day of spiritual retreat.





In the pre-Chapter meetings, all the delegates discussed and reflected on what emerged from the work done in the communities and have outlined an instrument of work already very clear, thus facilitating interventions and the final deliberations. The climate, lively and spontaneous, offered the possibility of evaluating, deepening, of sharing regarding what the Province is experiencing and want needs to implement according to the Will of God and the charismatic elements of the Congregation.

On 19 October, the sisters delegates elected a new Council, as follows:

Sister Gracy Thuruthippallil  
*Provincial superior*

Sister Mini Joseph  
Varikkakuzhiyil  
*1<sup>st</sup> Councillor and Vicar*

Sister Lillykutty Attappattu  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Councillor*

Sister Maria Goretti Yelika  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Councillor*

Sister Maddalena Moro  
*4<sup>th</sup> Councillor*



We joyfully thank the Lord that always reveals the strength of His love and tenderness of His faithfulness, that impels us to “scrutinize the horizons” and to discern the “signs” to live with renewed enthusiasm and commitment our mission of evangelization with the Church, in the world, today.



## Canonical visit of the Superior General, Sister Paola in the Philippines

*...Let go and let God... Let God and let go...*

From August 31-September 13, 2015 the community of Quezon City, Boso-Boso and Calbayog in Philippines welcomed with joy our superior general Sr. Paola Dotto for the canonical visit.



The enthusiastic and energetic preparation to meet Sr. Paola Dotto , move our community to animate each one of us to enter in to the process of love and service where no one will give a command, but a spontaneous flow of service to support and help one another for the task assigned us.

The gift of presence of Sr. Paola Dotto superior general breathed on us once again the spirit of belongingness to the congregation where she shared the mission of our sisters in different

realities, even sisters we know, and her personal experience in varied realities of life she had encounter.

We experienced moments of closeness through the personal dialog given to every sister, to experience and feel the real friendship and sisterly concern of Sr. Paola Dotto. Thank you.



(Community of Quezon City and Boso-Boso)



Meaningful have been the moments of encouragement she expressed inviting us to grow as FMSC for mission and vocation in the church and in our religious family, letting God to guide the mission and vocation.

(Community of Calbayog)

“Let go and let God”. These were the words that Sr. Paola was telling especially when with a simple fall, her wrist was broken. The realities of what she had experience in the period of her canonical visit was not easy for her as there was a physical pain that she needed to carry on, that no one could take away from her. Even this moment become opportunity to all of us to discover, ...to let God... and let go... accept the reality that everything has its purpose and it is in the design of God.

In all our experiences written or not written we thank you for sharing a moment with us, a glimpse of love, and encouragement of hope, thank you for being with us.



(Group of youth in vocational discernment)



## CANONICAL VISIT OF SR. PAOLA TO THE COMMUNITIES OF THE PROVINCE "SAINT MARY OF THE ANGELS"

The Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto has visited the communities of the Province "S. Mary of the Angels" in two separate phases:

- From Nov. 10 to 27 the communities in the Friuli Venezia Giulia (except Mother House), the communities in Prague and Luxembourg.
- From December 15, 2015 to January 4, 2016 the community of Veneto, the new community in Drena (Trento), and the Mother House

*Let the sisters who have lived this significant event to express themselves!*

**Thoughts shared by the sisters of the small fraternities.**



*Community of Ampezzo (UD)*

The experience of being confirmed by the superiors, even within one's own problems, is considered a great grace to be preserved, and for which to thank God.



*Community of Savorgnano (UD)*

**Canonical Visit! A gift of grace that reveals that the sky begins with us.**

It is still alive, in the heart of each of us and in our small fraternity, the joy and happiness of the authentic encounter with Sr. Paola Dotto Superior general.

Of this canonical visit, all we liked the simple style, the ability to listen, the fraternal sharing and the word with which Sr. Paola has confirmed and illuminated us.



*Community of Cedarchis (UD)*

*The sisters of the community of Paluzza (UD) in prayer*





*Community of Rauscedo*



*Community of Sevegliano (UD)*



*Community Boarding School  
"Sacred Heart" in Udine*

We want to express our thanks to Sr. Paola for choosing to stay with us and have spoken with her heart paying attention to the evangelization of the sentiments, desires and affections, from which comes most of the concrete choices. All this is a precious service.



*Community of Arzene (PN)*

*The "Oasis" community of Gemona  
composed of devoted sisters  
education  
in Kindergarten,  
primary and secondary  
"S. Maria degli Angeli"*







*Subsequently, the Superior General, Sister. Paola, visited Luxembourg to meet the sisters who are dedicated to the nursery school and the pastoral the Italian community that has its place meeting in the crypt of the cathedral. The sisters have lived again with her the joy the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the presence of their community.*



### **From Prague**

We all know that the visit of the superiors in a community is always cause for joy. However, for us who live abroad, the visit of the Superior General Sister Paola Dotto, was also reason for great excitement, as well as an opportunity to know us better and experience the true fraternal love. Sister Paola has followed with interest the true routine of our days in the various pastoral activities (also documented by photos that she looked with pleasure). She herself, a morning wanted to participate in one of our initiatives that we have launched a number of years ago: to bring breakfast to the homeless – thirty persons – to whom Sister Paola, with her open smile and welcoming attitude, offered them some treats. Even today, they ask about the “nun dedicated to the social”.

Our community - that from the beginning of the arrival in Prague in 1997, addressed a special attention to our least brethren - for many years has been devoted more intensively and with great commitment to the weakest. This commitment is evident in the weekly visit to prisoners, the elderly, the disabled, and to support families in difficulty. Special attention is given to the “homeless” to whom we provide daily food and a hot drink that they receive with great joy and gratitude.

Sister Paola has encouraged us to continue on this missionary option that, in her opinion, it is in line with our charism. In her written message, Sister Paola puts it this way: “... your attention to the little ones and the poor, and to those you discover with many needs, may always be your Providence, as a clear presence of the Lord among you .... Continue to be witnesses of God’s face, of His warmth and tenderness. “

Thank you so much dear Sister Paola for the attention that you have reserved for each of us, for your testimony of simplicity and humility and for giving us special moments that we will keep in our hearts. We will accompany you every day with prayer.



Community of Prague



### Mother House in Gemona

At the Mother House, Sr. Paola has reserved the best time, as a great gift of Christmas: from 18 to 26 December. Nevertheless, let us read the notes with which Sr. Biancamaria Morao expressed “feeling and joy” of the whole community formed by 80 sisters:

“Blessed be the Father of Mercy! We give heartfelt thanks to Him for the singular gift of Visit of our Superior General in the Mother House!



We all enjoyed very much her presence in prayer, in individual encounter and in community meeting, during which Sister Paola expressed her joy to be in the Mother House, where you

can breathe - she added - the good spirit of the origins...

She urged us to have an open heart in receiving each other, to rededicate ourselves to walk always towards what is good, especially in this last period of the Year of Consecrated Life and in the Holy Year of Mercy.



After the Eucharist Community we could not miss the greeting with Father Celestino Dell’Osbel, superior of the community of Friars Minor and the Rector of the Shrine of St. Anthony in Gemona.



Finally, a long line of the sisters at the exit from the Refectory greeted Sr. Paola before the Vicar Provincial Sr. Stefania Bandiera accompanied her to Ospedaletto of Istrana to continue the commitment of the Canonical Visit.

**From the Community of Treviso (Saint Elizabeth)**

We waited the visit of our General Superior Sister Paola from 31 December to 1 January with joy and hope.

For many of us it was a meeting to know each other because previously we had only heard about her, we had read her letters and learned to love her from a distance.



*Community of Ospedaletto d'Istrana (TV)*



*Community of Castagnole (TV)*

The time devoted to each of us was spent in calmness, with confidence and understanding. We have shared goals and desires above all about the life of fraternity.



*Community of Stretti di Eraclea (VE)*



*Community of Postioma (TV)*



*Community of Vittorio Veneto (TV)*

It was nice to contribute in her mother's heart a bit of our joys and sufferings feeling that the way to God is sometimes tiring for all; retracing our activities, especially abroad, we could breathe the life of our congregation in mission and feel part of one big family.

*Thank you Sister Paola and may the Lord bless you and our Founders comfort you.*



*Community of Paese (TV)*



*the community of Treviso, few sisters go out to visit the sick in other rest house*





## Our presence in the land of Mother Rosa

After nearly two months of our arrival in Drena (TN), trying to know the people and the place, on Sunday, 18 November there was the official entry of our fraternity, composed by Sr. Daniela Revelant local superior, Sr. Ada Beghin and Sr. Barbara Pandolfi, in the parish communities belonging to the pastoral unit of Drena-Dro-Ceniga.

Our Provincial Superior, Sr Anna Maria Volpato, the sisters of the Provincial Council and other sisters were present who came to join us in this moment of joy and prayer.

The celebration was presided over by the Vicar for Consecrated Life, Father Saverio Biasi OFM, along with the parish priest, Fr Stephen Anzelini, and the dean, Don Walter Sommavilla.



Providence wanted our “entry” to happen on the day when the Church celebrates the World Mission Day of prayer and it was significant that the Gospel, in the XXIX Sunday of Ordinary Time, was inviting us to become servants on the example of Jesus. The true “greatness” is shown in humility of bending oneself towards the brother to serve him.

At the beginning of the celebration, Sister Anna Maria Volpato presented our charism of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, while, in his homily, Father Saverio Biasi explained the role of religious life in the Church connected also with the Word of God from the liturgy.

At the conclusion of the celebration, we went in procession to the new chapel on the ground floor of the house, bringing the presence of the Blessed Sacrament as a vital place where to draw spiritual strength to grow in real fraternity. The crucifix of San Damiano, donated by the

Pastoral Council of the three communities, was fixed in the wall.

The day then continued in a festive atmosphere, the group of Alpine had prepared lunch for all in the multipurpose room. Here we were able to greet many people who participated in this moment as a sign of welcome to us.

For us who have long waited for this day it was undoubtedly a very exciting moment when the joy has joined the great responsibility to those whom the Lord has entrusted to us in this new mission. Starting a new community brings in itself the beauty of something to build among ourselves and with the people. Many are the challenges: the commitment to listen and to recognize the priority needs, the humility to be close to the “little ones” and in





everyday life, the joy of so many new encounters filled of solidarity and sympathy, the responsibility to the expectations of the brethren, the patience to build fraternity among us to be most authentic sign outside.

Our grateful thoughts often went to our first sisters sent to missions near and far and called to live the charism in faithfulness despite the great sacrifices. We also thought of all the sisters who have gone before us as missionaries in these lands and of which many have brought us a precious and significant memory. Their testimony, along with that of the life of Mother Rosa Bonomi, to whom we named our fraternity, are for us a source of hope for the new path.

The mission of this new fraternity is mainly pastoral ministry close to the people and their needs. We are engaged in the spiritual ministry in a rest home, visiting the sick, and aid in the formation of catechists and youth animators. In the accompaniment of young people in the post-confirmation and in the needs, the parish asks us. At the beginning, it is our desire to know this reality trying to be every day humble witnesses of God's love.

With so many feelings in the heart we want to thank all those who are accompanying us with prayer and their offering and ask to continue to do so, so that inspired by the Word of God that in this day has accompanied us, we can be servants of these people following the example of our Seraphic Father Francis.





## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR YOUNG SISTERS in the YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE 6-14 September 2015

Sunday, September 6, 2015, we gathered around the Lord in prayer and began our congregational meeting for young sisters in the Year of Consecrated Life. With us, there were all the sisters of the General Council but, in particular, we were accompanied by the general councilors Sister Tiziana Tonini and Sister Bernarda Alvarez.

The next morning we left for Assisi, Santa Maria degli Angeli where we lived six days of spirituality in the places of our Franciscan roots. The overall theme was “*the beauty of living the Gospel and of following Christ*”. According to this theme, we were accompanied in reflecting and live together the joy of our consecration as FMSC, meditating on the provocations given by Pope Francis for the year of Consecrated Life:

- Look at the past with gratitude
- Live the present with passion
- Embrace the future with hope.

During these days, we have been guided in Franciscan places through a spiritual and concrete itinerary that made every step a time of grace in which to reflect and, in the light of the experience of Francis, evaluate our consecrated life.



Looking at the youth of the Seraphic Father we were asked to make grateful memory of our history and in the Cathedral Church of San Rufino we received the gift of renewing our baptismal vows.



In the Basilica of San Francesco, with the help of Sister Marzia Ceschia, we could reflect on the theme of holiness, as a common project that we write together in our daily life of a life offered in obedience, poverty and chastity.

At Rivotorto we addressed the issue of fraternity starting from how they were lived by Francis and Clare and, in the light of these two models, we question ourselves about the value of being sisters in our unique Charism. Fidelity and mission were the elements around which we re-read our experience in the morning experienced at the Portiuncula where a meditation of the Councillor Sister Bernarda Alvarez on the “person” helped us to look deep to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Every afternoon we had the opportunity to come into work groups and discuss about what had touched us. Then we brought back a summary to the big group. This was for us all a valuable opportunity for exchange and discussion of our experiences of young consecrated, a time in which to receive and give each other.

The day at La Verna has called us to look at Christ Crucified to conform ourselves to Him as FMSC, following Francis, perfect alter Christus.



The fraternity of Viole has hosted us on the day when Sister Tiziana has presented the criteria of identity of our charism of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. A path that from the identity of Jesus took us to look at our vocational and ecclesial identity, and then deepen that of belonging to our religious family. And to complete this journey we could not

miss the visit to Grotte di Castro, where we renewed our gratitude to Father Gregory, our Founder who welcomed the inspiration given to Laura Leroux and guided the first steps of our foundation, entrusting us with total confidence to Divine Providence.

This first formation time lived at Congregational level was a great gift, a time of sharing and unity among ourselves. Of this, we are grateful to the Lord, but also to those who wanted and realized and all the sisters who have accommodated us and accompanied us by prayer.





In the following days, the “Asisium” community welcomed us during the world meeting of young men and women religious, to mark the Year of Consecrated Life opened with a prayer vigil on Tuesday 15 September, in St Peter’s Square at 20.30. In the vigil His Eminence. João Braz Card. Prefect de Aviz, welcomed all the participants and by Mons. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM Archbishop Secretary CIVCSVA presided over this special moment of prayer.



This global meeting is part of the many initiatives of the Year for Consecrated Life, strongly desired by Pope Francis, fifty years after the promulgation of the conciliar Decree Perfectae Caritatis on the renewal of religious life, just to remember the event of the Second Vatican Council. At the beginning of the vigil there was the entrance procession with 50 consecrated men and women with lighted lamps, and immediately after the special prayer to entrust ourselves to the Mother of God, to be men and women consecrated able to “wake up the world” with trust in God.

The homily of Mons. José Carballo was very meaningful: these are the three words that have to help in the journey of following Christ in the consecrated life:

- Courageous, be strong! The Lord has been generous with you, looking at you with love, calling you to share his life and his mission. Be generous, courageous and strong in spirit.
- Stay, be faithful! Attention to small infidelity, because loyalty is not the virtue of our time, it is necessary, therefore, constantly re-ignite the fire of love in Christ, and revitalize our unconditional offering to the Lord.
- Bear fruit, awaken the world! Your love and your chastity must be fruitful; your love must be rooted in the humus, in the fertile soil of the Lord. Have a heart full of God and in it will enter all men and women you will meet in journey. Have a heart full of God and you will be living Gospel and give abundant fruit.

The following days had this schedule:

Wednesday Sept.16 **Listening to the call**

*He looked at Jesus as he walked, he said: “Behold the Lamb of God.”*

Thursday Sept.17 **In the heart of the fraternity**

*If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash the feet of one another.*



Friday Sept.18 **The hopes and fears of the world**

*So let your light shine before men*

Saturday Sept. 19 **In the Church communion**

*Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.*

Every morning in the Conference hall “Paolo VI”, there were some reflections followed by questions; in the afternoon, located in various places (churches, General Houses, ecc), there were workshops, with groups of sharing with men and women religious from different congregations, on the subject presented in the morning. Then followed, by the Eucharist Celebration. In the evening, there were different programs: Prayer of Adoration, itineraries for missionary experiences and contemplation of beauty; we have participated in the guided tour of the Sistine Chapel.

Thursday at 09:00, we had the joy of participating in the ‘Audience with Pope Francis.

The Pope entered into dialogue with us, young consecrated, through some questions prepared for this meeting.



The first thought of the Pope went to the Christian martyrs of Iraq and Syria:

*I should like to begin our conversation - said Pope Francis - by thanking the Lord: that his Church may make up in her Body what is lacking in Christ's Passion once again today; and by asking for the grace of the smallest everyday martyrdom, of that daily martyrdom, at the service of Jesus and our consecrated.*

Many others were the challenges of the Pope:

- the importance of calling to mind the Lord's call; the first meeting with Jesus, especially in the dark moments of life, remain faithful, to remember the wonder and the joy with which Jesus looked at us;
- To ask continuously what is the mission of the young consecrated in the Church today.
- Being culture of permanent, not temporary, because God sent His Son forever! To all and forever!
- Fraternal life is the life of giving and forgiving. No of gossip, which is not only sin but also terrorism, death of the consecrated life!
- The consecrated life must be prophetic, and therefore never stop dreaming.
- To evangelize is to witness to Jesus Christ I live. Thus, consecrated persons have the capacity to warm the hearts, have a warm heart of love!
- The sisters are witnesses of motherhood. The nun is the icon of the Mother Church and the Mother Mary. Icon of the tenderness of the Church. The sisters are brides of Christ, they take their strength from the Tabernacle: be women of worship.

Friday at 20:30 in St. Peter's Square there was an evening of music and testimony entitled “Wake up the world.”



Saturday morning, after the meeting in Paolo VI Hall, and the final message, we celebrated Holy Mass presided by His Eminence. Cardinal João Braz. De Aviz in the Vatican Basilica.



These days have been a great gift, days of grace in which to make grateful memory of the call to consecrated life, in which to feel a living part of the Church, in which to understand the beauty and the responsibility of our YES, pronounced in the Profession, and all the “YES “of our daily life.

The voices of various speakers helped us to listen to the voice of God, to recognize Jesus’ voice, the voice of his love for us, ask-

ing us to be a voice of hope and peace for the people we meet, to be faithful to our charism, to our religious family of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Our family is alive, it is beautiful, and just living the present with passion we can embrace the future with hope, entrusting to the heart of Christ our good dreams.





## FOR SR PAOLA: A MISSIONARY FEAST!



Fraternity is the soul of every mission: to feel that the Lord weaves bonds of communion calling us from all over the world, each with her own history and her own dreams, to spread the Gospel and the charism that has been given is one of the essential reasons for knowing we are one family. It is a gift of grace that we experience on several occasions and, in time of celebration, like 20 September last year, when we wanted to express our love and our gratitude to our Superior General Sr. Paola

Dotto. On that day, we celebrated with joy the gift of richness, diversity, colors and traditions that make so beautiful our Congregation. The occasion was made even more special by the presence of truly representing all the organizations of our Institute. In fact, beside the sisters of the Communities depending on the General Superior, the communities of the two Italian provinces Santa Maria degli Angeli and Maria Immacolata, with their provincial Superiors Sr. Anna Maria and Sr. Marta, was present also the joyful and international group of young sisters, participants in the World Congress of the young consecrated, held in Rome from 15 to 19 September.

The day opened with prayer and intercession for Sr. Paola, which culminated in the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Ruben Tierrablanca OFM, Superior of the Franciscan International fraternity in Istanbul, accompanied by the multilingual songs of the young sisters, in a simplicity but also of family warmth and universal breath. In the afternoon, after the festive dinner - other happy occasion of meeting among the sisters who work in distant places, enjoyed to tell their





stories, and shared their experiences - the theater of the Institute Asisium welcomed a wonderful time of fellowship. Even if with short time because of the commitment of the Congress, the young sisters of the various realities, helped by the Vicar General Sr. Tiziana and supported by the sisters of the entire General Council, prepared a presentation that could be summarized in three words: memory - gratitude - mission.

Recalling the past - in the imaginary dialogue between our founders Laura Leroux and Father Gregory – we looked at our story with a grateful meditation for the work of Divine Providence in difficult and joyful times. The story wanted to bring out the fundamental elements of our



spirituality as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to watch with passion the present and open up to a look full of faith and hope for the future. Ideally, Father Gregory and Laura Leroux invited to contemplate the vitality of all our missions, the shades of different worlds, each with its own charm have been recalled by the dances of the Philippines, Africa, India, by an emotional song to Saint Francis from the United States.

The collaboration of each sister with the preciousness of her language and culture and unity of belonging to the same plan of God, has helped to make us once more aware

that of Our family really can be said that:  
*it was made by the Lord  
 and it is marvelous in our eyes!*



The same idea what re-presented to us by Sr. Paola, ending the party, inviting us to trust and to realize the gifts that in this time the Lord distributes among us, so to become “fraternal yeast”, sign of the love that redeems, of the missionary heart of God , near and merciful - anywhere on earth - for all people.

## 150 years of presence in the United States 1865- 2015

*“In Gratitude ...for a Blessed Past... and a promised Future”*

With this slogan, the province “Saint Francis” in the United States celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first sisters in America. From December 5, 2014 to December 5, 2015, various activities have been organized to celebrate this important event for the Province and for the whole congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The closing celebration was held on December 5 with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by the Cardinal of New York, His Excellency Archbishop Timothy Dolan and concelebrated by many other priests.



For the important and unique occasion also the General Superior Sr. Paola Dotto, the General Council and 5 Provincial Superiors have joined the sisters of the Province Saint Francis not only spiritually but with their presence giving the event even more joy and solemnity.

The Eucharistic celebration was a great expression of gratitude to the Lord for all He has done in this reality in the 150 years of presence.



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, with his simplicity and his joy, truly Franciscan, involved the audience by making them part of the Work of the Lord accomplished with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

His homily focused on the explanation of the title of the Congregation: Franciscan - Missionaries –of the Sacred Heart, outlining with few sentences, almost like the brush strokes, the proper identity.

An identity that the first sisters had clearly and that they lived it out with faith, courage and generous love.



He also expressed his gratitude to the sisters for what they have done and for what they have been for the Archdiocese of New York and for the Church in America.

The songs of the choir of the parish “Holy Spirit” did not just echo the beautiful Church of sounds and words, but also moved feelings and emotions. The entrance song composed and arranged by Sr. Helen Marie, FMSC intended to express what was contained in the hearts of all:

*“On this day of jubilation, Lord we come with joyful hearts, to receive your many blessings which your loving grace imparts.  
O Lord, we come in humble adoration and we ask you now to bless all of us gathered in this holy place ...”*

The celebration continued then in the refectory of the Community, where various “awards of appreciation “ were given to our sisters from the religious and civil authorities.

Truly it can be said “A blessed story...” that still opens the heart, in Faith and Hope, to a Future always lived by the grace of the Lord and prepared and guided by Him!





Sr. Laura Morgan, Provincial Superior had organized other important moments for the Superior General, the Council and the Provincial Superiors present.



(With the Provincial Minister)

On 7 December it was very exciting to visit the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi in 31 West Street in Manhattan, where arrived the first three sisters:

Sister Gertrude, Sr. Pilgrim, Sr. Constance.

We were welcomed by the Minister Provincial of the OFM Province “Holy Name” and the superior of the community of Friars Minor who with true fraternity guided us to let us know the Church, environments and even their current activities.

In that parish our first three sisters, back in December 1865, were dedicated to the education of children in the school, to visit the families and the sick and always open to the various needs of those who were most in need of attention, of love, of experiencing the Presence of the Lord.



(In Front of the building that welcomed our first three missionaries)





Moving from room to room, now completely transformed by several renovations and changes, you could imagine, almost feel their presence there and, in faith, their joy of seeing us visiting the place of their first mission!!



The pilgrimage then continued in the Cathedral of New York dedicated to Saint Patrick. A Church that stands with all its Gothic structure and shows the magnitude of Faith in the Omnipotence of God and His Strength and Beauty.

Very beautiful was also the day dedicated to the visit of the two communities in the State of New Jersey. The Community dependent on the Superior general: “Our



Lady of Libera”, devoted specifically to be witness of fraternal life, prayer with the commitment to evangelization in the parish and among the poorest and open to welcome those who wish to have an experience for vocational discernment.



The Community “St. Joseph “ in the area of Fairview, which is part of Saint Francis Province, dedicated to serve and help especially the poorest immigrants in their difficult process of adaptation to the new reality.



On 9 December was instead dedicated entirely to our elderly and sick sisters.



Their testimony and their life of total self-giving to the Lord clearly manifested in the fragility of the human body but also in the liveliness of their look and emotion of the voice, donated all reason to praise the Lord and to reflect on our faithfulness and dedication.

For all that the Lord has made and continues to do, we give Him all praise, all glory and honor continuing, with faith, to entrust to Him the future journey of this first mission of our Religious Family.





## A community celebrates the 100th anniversary of the presence of the FMSC sisters at "Paese" (Treviso)

The Church of Paese (TV), on 11 October 2015, welcomed with joy and great celebration the many FMSC sisters arrived from Veneto, Friuli and from Rome to celebrate the 100 years of presence in the community.

The Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Volpato, many priests in Paese who have succeeded in their ministry, in addition to the Mayor, Francesco Pietrobon, along with other civil authorities were present at the celebration. In the Holy Mass, presided over by Bishop Mario Salviato,



diocesan vicar for the pastoral ministry, prayers and songs expressed their thanksgiving to the Lord for all the good work of our sisters in the kindergarten, as well as in the liturgical animation, catechesis, in the social work, visiting the sick. The service provided - as it was pointed out by the parish priest, Don Giuseppe Tosin, - by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart has always been done in silence, discretion and humility. Praise and thank-

sgiving were elevated to the Lord, in particular, for the faithfulness of His presence and for the call to the religious life of many young people who now work as missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Europe, Africa, America, and Asia.

The gratitude of the Christian community of Paese has been expressed with a large and warmth participation during the Mass, but also in the dinner, followed by a performance that recalled the experience of our sisters and their apostolic activity from the historic 15 May, 1915 up to nowadays.





Another original and unique event touched our sisters of the communities of the municipality of Paese. In the frame of the Festival of St. Martin, on 11 November, the Mayor, Mr Francesco Pietron, presented the Award of the City to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the presence of all the City Council, representatives of various civic and the Christian community from Paese, Castagnole and Postioma.



St. Martin giving his cloak to the poor

As representatives of all the sisters who since 1915 in Paese, from 1905 in Postioma, from 1924 in Castagnole witnessed the love of God by writing bright pages of patient and faithful work for the Kingdom of God in the spirit of St. Francis, our sisters thanked and praised the Lord for this public recognition.

The Mayor, in his address, stressed the value and the quality of service and presence. He handed the Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Volpato and the Superiors of the three communities, Sister Chiara Ceron, Sr Rosangela Bregani, Sr Natalina De Nobili, parchments of award and the cloak of St. Martin sign of love and attention to the other, the silver statue depicting the meeting of St. Martin with the suffering person.



All the people present expressed their gratitude for the benefit received, for having rediscovered the gift of the presence of 'their sisters'.



## 50 years of presence in LUXEMBOURG

The entire Italian community of Luxembourg is living in unity: followed, animated, accompanied and loved by many people, Luxembourg and Italian; it has its center in the crypt of the Cathedral and in the community of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

On October 4, the entire Italian community has gathered around our sisters, Sr. Luciana Cividini, Sr Anita Cavasin and Sr Anna Maria Borsato, participating with great joy to the feast prepared to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the presence of the community.



Have joined the sisters of the community, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Volpato, and the Sisters of the Provincial Council.



In his message the Archbishop Jean Claude Hollerich, addressing the sisters, emphasized that: *“Over the past fifty years your religious life, your commitment to the children, to the immigrants and, in particular, to all those who are in serious difficulty, as well as your service to the Italian community of the Crypt of the Cathedral have always been and continue to be a living witness to the*

*truth and beauty of the Gospel! We are all very grateful to your congregation for your presence among us. And for all this I want to thank God.”*

During the ceremony, other dignitaries stressed the educational mission carried out by our sisters in kindergarten, open to all, without distinction.

Praise and thanksgiving to the Lord had the climax in the Eucharistic celebration and continued in time of celebration organized by the group of young people with songs, greetings from the authorities, the presentation of the history of the Congregation and the journey of 50 years of life of the community. The grateful memory for the 50 year of presence of the community has helped also to look at the future, so that children can continue to discover, at the very beginning of their schooling, even the Gospel, prayer, the Church. Moreover, the Italian community of the Crypt the Cathedral can continue to be, with the presence of the sisters, the beating heart of life for many people, so the whole Church of Luxembourg will face together the challenges of today’s society.





## Religious Profession of Sr. Pascaline Yenmole Sr. and Juliette Fonyuy

*I have asked the Lord one thing. One thing will I seek: dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life (Ps. 27.4)*

Words only cannot express our inner joy when we offered our lives to God. On 11 August 2015, on the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, we, Sr. Pascaline Yenmole and Sr Juliette Fonyuy said our “yes” to God. It was a wonderful experience, a moment full of joy in our hearts to pronounce our First Vows as Religious.

The delegate of the General Superior, Sr. Beatrice Bifouma, Vice-provincial superior and her councillors welcomed us in the Congregation encouraging us to live in the true faith and love.

Bishop George Hkuo presided the Eucharistic Celebration held in the parish of the Immaculate Conception Tobin-Kumbo with other priests and a deacon.

The Bishop encouraged us with these words: *“Being consecrated means to be centered in Jesus Christ. There will be times when we may feel that we have no vocation or that our vocation is dying. At those moments we must never be discouraged because there are times like that in life”*



Our heartfelt gratitude to our Superior General, to our Vice-Provincial Superior, to our formators in our different stages, to our parents and to all those who helped us to answer God’s call.

*Sr. Pascaline  
Sr. Juliette*



**RELIGIOUS PROFESSION in “Santiago” Chile:  
Sister Paola Cabrera Cascamayta of Jesus the Good Shepherd  
Sister Sandra Araoz Aranivar of the Risen Jesus**



**The neo-professed sisters of the Latin American Province share their experience.**



On 17 October 2015, memorable date for me, in the day of my religious profession, that marked my life forever. Since early in the morning, in the environment of the Novitiate I felt a festive atmosphere and I was moved to repeat my “thanks” to God for the gift of life and religious vocation. Thanks to God the Father for the marvels accomplished in my life, thanks to Sister Fides Lorenzon, Provincial Superior and her

Council that allowed me to make my religious profession and to give my life to God in this beloved religious family of the FMSC. Thanks to the formators that accompanied and helped me to discover and love God, and so to respond to His call. Thanks to my parents, who always generously supported me. God gave me also the joy to have them with me in the Celebration.

The celebration touched deeply my heart. Monsignor Jorge Concha in his homily told us: *“we must now bear witness to the Lord Jesus, in Him we put our trust. The more we love Christ the Redeemer more joyous and generous will our consecration be.”*



When I pronounced my vows I thought in my heart that my self-giving must be forever, no matter what will happen, with the grace of God and the help of fraternal life, I will be able to overcome every difficulty remaining in the hands of God and accepting His willingness to be an instrument available to him. It was a special day surrounded by the sisters and my family.

“The joy comes from within and I cannot describe fully how happy I am”

Thank you my Lord!!

*Sr. Paola Cabrera Cascamayta*



October 17, 2015 was the most awaited moment of my life for the realization of the deepest desire that I had in my heart, that is to give myself to God on this day of my Religious Profession to answer His call. I feel inside me so much joy, which is more than an emotion that only God can give and it is hard to put into words. Really I am loved by God and He wants my happiness. I can say that I have not always understood,



so I need to give myself and love Jesus and be willing to live forever this my consecration through the evangelical counsels as a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. This joy was crowned with the presence of my parents together with all the Sisters who were present at this important time.

I want to thank Sister Fides Lorenzon, Provincial Superior and her Council for giving me the opportunity to consecrate my life to God and to be open to the will of the Lord to live the missionary life according to our charism.



I also want to express my gratitude to Sister Paola Dotto Superior General and her Council for the greeting we received, the Sisters and the communities that were present physically and spiritually and that with their presence motivate us to be faithful to the Lord, joyful for the life of consecration to serve Him and our brethren.

*Sr. Sandra Araoz Aranivar*





## Celebrations and testimonies in the Year of Consecrated Life



### Religious of “Triveneto” on Pilgrimage



In this Year of the consecrated life, in the day of the June 2, 2015 there was a pilgrimage organized by the Major Superiors for Triveneto (three regions in the Northeast of Italy), which was attended by over six hundred religious, (including many of our sisters of the Province “Saint Mary of Angels”). Religious and lay consecrated belonging to the various Dioceses of Triveneto. The first stage was in Gorizia in the Church of the Friars Minor Conventual, had as its theme: “to Gather on and to listen” and was introduced

by the Bishop of Treviso, Mgr. Gianfranco A. Gardin ..

It followed the intervention of the Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, Bishop Mgr. Jose R. Carballo, who offered strong reasons for reflection developing the theme: “Consecrated Life: rooted in the Gospel, to live the prophecy of the Kingdom and turn hope into the world.”

Challenging the insights given to live consecrated life that must:

- be centered in the Lord, concentrated on the essentials of its identity;
- be thirsty for God, thirsty for life in community;
- be ‘outgoing’, a consecrated “Samaritan” life that knows how to respond to missionary emergencies of the present moment;
- call and announce, that is attentive to its prophetic dimension and emphasizes the values of the Gospel.

The pilgrimage ended in the Basilica of Aquileia, the mother church from which it spread the faith in the northeast of Italy. In the Holy Mass celebrated by the Patriarch of Venice, Msgr. Francesco Moraglia, the consecrated men and women have been urged to be people who live and transmit the joy of believing and living for the Lord and for our brethren. With this attitude of gratitude and joy, enlivened by a climate of sharing and fraternal exchange, all returned to their homes, to their mission ... keeping in their hearts the hope of continuing the journey with enthusiasm, with evangelical radicality and confidence.





## The house of the “power of prayer”

*For the Year of Consecrated Life the “Catholic New York” visited our sisters in a Peekskill. This is what was reported. Spreading the Good News Still Mission of Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill*

*Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart gather together to recite the Rosary Oct. 9.*

The Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill put on their gray robes and traditional habits each morning, but most importantly, they put on their smiles—perhaps their greatest tool of evangelization.

The 33 sisters in Peekskill are of the congregation of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, as they are formally known. Their reputation is one of faith, optimism and joy.

“We consider evangelization as our priority, as accomplished through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, addressing the present needs of the people of God as we discover them. All of our ministries center around the needs of the Church and our ability to respond to them, always obedient to God’s will, with a spirit of self-sacrifice and total availability,” states the sisters’ mission, as written on their website.

Servant of God Father Gregorio Fioravanti and noblewoman Laura Leroux, Duchess of Beaufremont, founded the Peekskill Franciscans, as the congregation is commonly known. At first, there were only three sisters sent to America from Italy, Switzerland and Austria, by Father Fioravanti. They served at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Manhattan with migrants, orphans and



the poor. From those three brave sisters, the numbers grew.

In 1869, the sisters founded their provincial headquarters in Peekskill at Mount St. Francis, where the sisters live today. The sisters serve as missionaries in 20 countries around the world.

The sisters have been serving in New York for 150 years. A Mass to be offered at Mount St. Francis on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 11 a.m., will

close the anniversary year. Cardinal Dolan will be the principal celebrant.

The outwardly simple-looking Mount St. Francis offers a glorious view of the Hudson River, making visitors feel as if they are stepping into a different world when they arrive. With crisp, white walls and bright, vibrant paintings of the angels and saints in the Chapel of St. Margaret of Cortona, the sights keep one’s eyes and mind affixed firmly on what is most important—God.



All around are photographs and memorabilia of the sisters working throughout history, serving as mementos of all the good that the sisters have accomplished in New York and New Jersey.

Throughout the past 150 years, the sisters have ministered largely through teaching in elementary and high schools, and also serving as nurses at hospitals, in prison ministry, as social workers and much more. In all things, they spread the Good News, their main mission being one of evangelization.



Sister Laura Morgan, F.M.S.C., the order's provincial, said, "Our ministries today are limited, but our older sisters are amazing in that many of them do whatever they can do."

"They can't go out and teach anymore, so we try to have programs here," she explained. "They talk to people, they are here for them."

"The sisters make you feel that you are someone. That God loves you," said Luz Pesantez, a single mother who is an immigrant from South America and now lives in the area with her 8-year-old daughter, Amira.

"They have that instinct to help people, and they tell you how wonderful life is. It's contagious. They're very positive people," said Ms. Pesantez, who first met the sisters more than eight years ago when she started working in the sisters' kitchen as a dishwasher. Ms. Pesantez, 43, told CNY that being a single mother comes with its own challenges, but the sisters have always been there for both her and her daughter.



One sister in particular, Sister Francis Marie, F.M.S.C., who is 103, has had a great influence on Ms. Pesantez and her outlook on life. "Even if it is a rainy day, she is always positive. She makes you feel the same way," she said.

A spunky Sister Francis Marie told CNY, "I love spending my time praying, especially for the community. That's what helps to keep us going. We're still here, aren't we?"

The sisters are up early every day, with morning prayer at 7:10 a.m., the celebration of Mass at 7:30 a.m. and evening prayer at 5 p.m. Even when there is no scheduled prayer time, the sisters continue praying.

With verve and commitment like that, it's no wonder that Sister Laura refers to the veteran sisters as "The Powerhouses of Prayer."

"The sisters will tell us, 'I'm praying you home,'" she told CNY. She noted that hearing those words provides a great deal of peace and comfort. That sort of interaction is crucial since community life is so important to the order.

When asked about the importance of prayer, Sister Charlene, 93, said, "Pray. Isn't that what we're supposed to do? Prayer changes everything. We all have to ask God for his help."



## CELEBRATION in the Province “Saint Elizabeth” For the year of CONSECRATED LIFE

The island of Cyprus, where the consecrated Catholics are fifty, among religious men and women, friars and diocesan, of two different rites, met three times during the year dedicated to the Consecrated Life. In addition, throughout the year was made a community special prayer for that purpose, invoking God the Father to help us to live with passion the gift of our vocation and to ensure that we become authentic witnesses living and announcing the Gospel with joy. On the same theme, they were also monthly retreats, led by the Patriarchal Vicar Father



Jerzy Kraj, in the provincial house in Limassol and monthly Eucharistic Adoration.

The first inter-religious meeting took place on Feb. 2, 2015, the day dedicated to the consecrated life, for the celebration of a Mass in the Latin Church of the Holy Cross in Nicosia. Presided over the celebration, the Patriarchal Vicar, Father Jerzy Kraj, OFM, and concelebrated by several priests. There were nuns of almost all congregations that work in the island. The concelebrants entered in procession, holding a lighted candle, a sign of the

light that Christ emanates upon us, and as they entered, gave light to all those present.

Another very important and significant event was the interreligious meeting that took place on May 1 in Kormakiti, in the occupied part of Cyprus. It was the opportunity to have two meetings in one: one organized by the Union of religious, led by Father Marco Riva, Spiritual Assistant of the Union and Easter organized by the Maronite Archbishop, Msgr. Youssef Soueif. Fr. Marco Riva who came from Jerusalem





for the occasion gave the reflection and the theme presented was “Consecrated Life: a present of passion and a future of hope.” Fr. Riva through two biblical texts: Mt 13:44-46 and Lk. 15: 8-10, reminded us of two attitudes to assume today in our time: To go back to what is essential and the rediscovery of Christ as our only treasure.

Present were all the religious men and women in the island both Maronite and Latin. After the conference and sharing, Msgr. Youssef Soueif, presided over the Mass in the parish church of San George. After that we went for the fraternal meal prepared with love and dedication by some families residing in the village.



### *The gift of consecrated life in LEBANON*

In Menjez-Lebanon, consecrated life was celebrated in a very special way, on 24 October 2015 when all religious of the diocese gathered around Sr. Beatrice Skorti in her mission to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious life.



Present were the Bishop of Tripoli, Mgr. Georges Abou Jaoudi, the Provincial of the Carmelites Rev.do P. Makhoul Fahra with five of his brothers, two Franciscan Friars OFM, two cappuccins, two Fathers Lebanese Maronite Order, an Orthodox father, and other priests of the region of Akkar. Furthermore attended also all diocesan priests with the chief priest Fr Simon Tannous, the Mayor, members of the town hall and many relatives of the students even Muslims. The Sisters of the various

congregations were happy to be present: our Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament with their general Sr Mona Bejjani and four other sisters, two Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, two Antonine, three of the Sisters of Charity and two Sisters of Notre Dame des Dons (former trapiste).

Also present were the Provincial Superior, Sister Angelica and Hadjihanni two sisters of sr. Beatrice:, Sr Bernadette Skorti and Mrs. Katina, who wanted to represent the whole family. The day was spent with the Holy Mass, the fraternal meal, speeches and the academy prepared by teachers for the occasion.



The theater presentation was very significant, because they wanted to remember the first arrival in Menjez of Sr Beatrice along with Sr. Lorenza Girotto. It was a day of great joy, ecumenism and testimony that will remain forever in the history of Menjez.



### *The Year of Consecrated Life celebrated in Bulgaria*

In Bulgaria, the year of Consecrated Life began with the celebration of 13 and 14 March 2015 in Rakovski. According to the intention of the Holy Father, the 24 hours before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament were celebrated!

At 17.00 the parish priest, Fr Demetrio Dimitrov, exposed the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel of the Sisters and the people of the parish, in turn, was to stand before Jesus up to 03.00 am. Eucharistic adoration continued then in the Convent of the Friars Conventual, later in the parish of up Sekirovo Thus ended the Adoration of 24 hours, in the three parishes of Rakovski.



On April 25, however, a Holy Mass was celebrated in the Parish of Rakovski, participated by many consecrated persons of the diocese. The Mass was presided by Bishop. Georgi Jovcev. After the Gospel with lighted candles, we renewed the Holy Vows. In his homily, the Bishop stressed the role of consecrated persons in the diocese and in individual parishes and quoted the words of the Holy Father, where consecrated persons are, there is peace and joy.

Even with the children of Crest in 2015 the sisters wanted to give the message and the joy of consecrated life. In fact, the theme was: “Here I am Lord, I come.”

Throughout the month of June in the courtyard of the parish gathered many children and young people together with many people and so many consecrated persons and guests. With the many games, great time to be together, and excursions the children and youth were able to meet with the Holy Scriptures and learn about the life of Jesus expressed in a way fitted to them.



They met various communities of religious and religious who are present in Bulgaria having been invited for the occasion to present and represent the various congregations. The Crest was concluded with a Holy Mass where Fr. Demetrio Dimitrov, recommended to the children that the real Crest was not over, or rather it was going to start just after Mass, through their daily lives, in which they will show others, what they have learned and experienced!



## Lithuania: Tents Festival for religious life



For the year dedicated of the consecrated life, many activities have seen organized in the church of Lithuania. There have been meeting - opening in their respective dioceses, symposium of religious life of Lithuania only where we religious and with bishops we enjoyed together the joy of consecration, days of prayer in times of different festivities, pilgrimage of icon of Jesus Master in the various communities, prayer chain. The highlight of this year was the “Feast of the tents” of all congregations and religious orders



“present in Lithuania held Saturday, August 29 in Vilnius in the park” Bernardinai “. The purpose of this festival: let everyone know about the richness of the consecrated life, the variety of charisms and the great joy that brings the “yes” to the Lord in the day of our religious profession.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Telšiai, Bishop Linas Vodopjanovas OFM, responsible for religious life in Lithuania, with great dedication and in close collaboration with a team led and conducted expertly all the preparation. The festival began Friday night with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by the metropolitan Gintaras Grušas and three other bishops concelebrating, at the Cathedral of Vilnius and sending of all religious to go through the streets of the capital, two by two, praying silently for an hour.

The next morning we were in the park where every congregation prepared its tent, which on that day became like a monastery in miniature. There was a swarm of volunteers, friars, nuns who were quick to decorate, prepare and accommodate the hundreds of people who were visiting them. At hours 10: 30 Bishop Linas Vodopjanovas OFM, presiding the official opening prayer, so all reaches their place. From eleven in the morning until five in the evening was a relentless succession of people who came to the tents, challenged us, were interested in our congregation, to our charism, and asked us to pray for them, they shared to us the joy of being at this extraordinary and unique event. It was certainly a very special event to meet in the same place and at the same time and so many different religious. Thirty-three were the tents and as many congregations represented. Even our tent was very popular; this was a valuable opportunity to witness our joy of being Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Everyone could offer cakes that our friends of Kretinga have prepared for this occasion. Beautiful encounters: everyone was very interested and wanted to see, shake hands, talk, listen; adults, children, youth, families and a lot of joy that radiated everywhere.





At the same time and in different places of the park other activities took place: in the central stage were presented without interruption testimonies, prayers, hymns, liturgy of the hours, catechesis and many were the participants. There was also a tent reserved for prayer before the Icon and a team of religious welcomed people, spoke to them, taught them to pray, many were those who remained to pray. A little farther there was a place of encounter with a priest for a dialogue, advice, confession. How many people have been able to receive God's forgiveness on this occasion! In the nearby church of the Franciscans then throughout the day there was Eucharistic adoration. Wherever there was an air of celebration and joy, wherever you could feel the presence of God. And the bishops were among us, even wandering of what was happening, very familiarly they conversed with everyone, giving a word of hope, a smile.



Special occasions were offered to children participating in a special program at the museum of sacred art. Then we met in the Church of s. Francis for the celebration of Holy Mass already packed with faithful, the Cardinal of Vilnius, Mgr. Audrius Bačkis presided the Eucharist, four other bishops and numerous religious priests concelebrated and all the faithful came together in prayer and songs of praise and thanks. Then from there we went to the chapel of Our Lady of the dawn, raised the song of Salve Regina and put us all under her maternal protection.

#### PRAISE BE MY LORD

*The sisters of the community of Kretinga: sr. Beniamina, sr. Danutė, sr. Julija.*







## Significant moments of the Year of Consecrated Life in Albania



The Year dedicated to the Consecrated Life was greeted with deep joy even in Albania where the Union of Major Superiors is working at the national and local (Diocesan) level since 1998.

The Year of Consecrated Life was solemnly opened in Shkoder on 13 December 2014 in the Cathedral. Present were all the Bishops of Albania, the Apostolic Nuncio and all the men and women religious of Albanian language, including therefore those of Kosovo and Montenegro with their Bishop. It was a beautiful sign of unity!

Even our two communities came together for the occasion and attended the solemn Celebration of the Eucharist and the fraternal meal to which

each community contributed in a very simple way and that has been realized in a large hall of the Cathedral for the occasion unable to contain all religious.

The Transfiguration was the icon chosen for this year, the image to discover what we have to be in the world today.

To each diocese was handed an icon and a lamp that has been on in every Cathedral for the whole year as an invitation to respond to our charism to be light in the world, to be those who wake up the world, as Holy Father has urged us, and thus the Papal Nuncio repeated in his homily.

After this solemn opening we returned to our communities reflecting and with new vigor in our mission and in order to keep our commitment in mind we also enthroned in our chapel the logo with the image of our Father Gregory that he may accompany us to keep awoken the enthusiasm and passion for the Gospel.

We celebrated another significant moment in March 2015, when the Union of Major Superiors of Europe has chosen as the venue for their Assembly the city of Tirana.

The final works were done in Shkoder, the “Martyr City” that has most suffered the persecution of the atheist Communist regime. All religious were invited to participate.

On that occasion, we celebrated, during a Way of the Cross through the streets of the city, the Glory of God in





our martyrs, 39 witnesses of the faith, priests, religious and lay people who gave their lives suffering with joy inhuman tortures.

The pious exercise began in the cemetery where a simple monument commemorates the place of martyrdom of many of them. Their images supported by many religious welcomed the Major Superiors and all the participants. Msgr. Angelo Massafra OFM as President of the Episcopal Conference welcomed them and explained the heroism with

which they gave their lives to Christ, and then began the Via Crucis.

During the Way of the Cross, some very touching testimonies were read accompanied by silence, prayer and meditation.

The long procession of religious crossed the town giving their testimony of faith till to reach the place where the prisoners were subjected to endless interrogations, tortured and then locked in the cells. This place of torture today is a place of prayer and silence: it is the monastery of the Poor Clares, next to which there is also “The Museum of Torture”



To welcome us, were the Poor Clares who joined us in our prayer, our meditation, our commitment to continue to be the church that bears witness, also with the shedding of the blood, their adherence to Christ.

During Advent, we had a new opportunity to meet the religious in our town. The initiative “One night with Jesus in the Eucharist” found unanimous consent. The Community took turns at night to Eucharistic adoration in the church of St. Francis. At different time a male or female religious community worshiped. We have been chosen for a time right in the middle of the night, between 3 and 4 along with the Don Orione Fathers. The night ended with the Holy Mass, breakfast together and exchange greetings.



Now we are waiting to participate in the conclusion of the Year that will be in another diocese, that of Rreshen on 23 January, the date dear to us because it reminds us of the death of Father Gregory.



## The consecrated life: a gift to share and discover ...



In this year dedicated to the Consecrated Life, various activities have been organized for the consecrated men and consecrated in the various parts of the world.

In Mexico in the Archdiocese of Tijuana, where are our sisters, it was organized a day of recollection of vocation promotion on Religious Life for young people, arranged by some religious congregations.



The preparation took time and effort, together with the prayer for the young and the presence of religious who were true instruments of God for the discerning youth.

Of our community “Laura Leroux” of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart Sister Lucero Olmedo and Sister Laura Alvarez enthusiastically participated and also

collaborated on the Liturgy and the arrangement of the environment.

They were present in the classroom 61 girls, who were very willing to listen to the joyous proposal of Religious Life; several of them have asked to be accompanied by the sisters.

For the religious present remains a commitment to pray to the Lord, so that He may support every young person who has participated in this meeting and in the congregations to share their gifts and to feel the beauty of the vocation and the desire to live the religious life falling in love with Christ our Lord.





## Tijuana. A day with our Lay Associates

In the letter to all consecrated in this year dedicated to the Consecrated Life, Pope Francis is also directed to lay people with these words:

*“In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission. Some Religious Institutes have a long tradition in this regard, while the experience of others is more recent. Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a “charismatic family”, which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality.”*(Letter to the Consecrated III, 1)

Our sisters of Tijuana community “Laura Leroux” organized and experienced a day with their group of lay people to reflect together on some charismatic Franciscan elements.

The retreat was set in the context of the encyclical of Pope Francis “Laudato sii”.

All the Sisters of the community participated: Sister Antonina Turrina Superior of the community, Sr. Isaura Guerra, Sister Lucero Olmedo y Sister Laura Alvarez.

The reason for the recollection day was offered by Father Juan Ignacio Muro OFM and the opening prayer by Sister Antonina Turrina. The reflection of the central theme of the Encyclical “Laudato sii” was held by the same Father Juan Ignacio and then Sr. Isaura continued with the theme of “Canticle of Brother Sun”. After the lay Associates who share our charism, they sung their song of thanksgiving to God.

The reflection then continued in the church with a moment of personal worship and with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In the afternoon, the penitential liturgy was held at the Church of Saint Francis and was followed by a second reflection on the encyclical “Laudato sii”.

The recollection ended with the Holy Mass celebrated by Father Juan Ignacio Muro.

The Lay Associates thanked the Sisters and Father for this congregational experience in prayer and fellowship.





## HOLY FAMILY PROVINCE INDIA Celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life



*“May this year be an occasion for bearing vigorous and joyful witnesses before the world to the holiness and vitality present in so many of these called to follow Jesus in the consecrated life (Witnesses of Joy)”.*

Holy Family Province India tried to live and celebrate the year of consecrated Life meaningfully and effectively. The prayer of the year of the consecrated was daily prayed in all the communities. The hour of Eucharistic adoration and the rosary was kept with the intention that consecrated life everywhere may bring out the intended result to the holy mother Church. We deepened the topic by making study and reflection on the documents “Witnesses of Joy”, “Keep Watch” and “Rejoice” .

There were many seminars, long and short term courses on the topic of consecrated life conducted in the national and regional level by the Conference of Religious India (CRI), and Association of Franciscan Families in India (AFFI) and other institutes. Many of the sisters were given opportunities to take part in them and to get enriched and evaluated on our role as consecrated and its relevance today. Some communities had the celebration by distributing lamps to the parish families symbolizing our consecrated life. They lit it and prayed daily for us.





The sisters also prayed for each family in the parish. And also the sisters took an initiative to visit tribal families who lived in an interior forest gave food on a special occasion to 300 tribal people. They had never seen sisters until that day. We felt very happy about sharing the time and food with them.

There was an exhibition in Vjayawada in the diocesan level, in connection with the festival of Gunadala Matha(Our Lady of Lourdu) presented the charism of the Congregation. Many congregations competed to present the best. We made a simple and beautiful presentation of our charism and it was appreciated by all. Sr. Mercy Jacob, Sr. Nirmala Burdagunta and the novices worked on it.



The closing of the celebration in the Province was done on the Holy Family Feast day. We invited all our sisters and novices to come on



the provincial house on the day and we had an input section on the topic. Rev. Fr. Joseph SSP from the Pauline community Enikepadu gave us a very enriching message. Then we had the solemn Eucharistic celebration. After the fraternal agape we had many party games which entertained us and enriched our fraternal life.

Most of the sisters from the nearby communities participated in the programme.





**Sister Teobalda Londero of the Scourging at the Pillar**  
 Born: in Gemona del Friuli (PD) on 07.01.1934  
 Died: in Gemona on 09.07.2015

“Yes, with God’s help, I will be His in time and eternity!” Thus Sr. Teobalda wrote in her application for admission to religious profession, proving to have clear in the heart what required the following of Jesus from the day she left home and family forever at age 25 to enter among the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Rome (Centocelle): it was 13 May 1959. Rina Londero, so called as a girl, was born in Gemona, January 7, 1934 in the house of her parents (Giovanni and Marina Andreutti) built next to the convent. It was enough to cross the street and you were in front

of “Porta S. Chiara” that led to the Church of the Motherhouse ... A local vocation, one might say, born and raised in the shadow of Mount Chiampon. At the age of 27, on September 17, 1961 in the “feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis,” she celebrated her first religious profession, while on September 14, the day of “ ‘exaltation of the Holy Cross “, she made their perpetual profession. .. And the Cross of Jesus really has marked her life, in fact, already the following year of the Perpetual Profession Sr. Teobalda went to different physical suffering she endured with much patience for a lifetime. Nevertheless, she carried out her mission in different countries: B. Grappa (LT), Codroipo (UD), Cavazzo (UD), Alberoni (VE), Sevegliano (UD), Borgo Cavour (TV) and, finally, Ampezzo ( UD): anywhere she has been distinguished by her simple presence, but so friendly and joyful. In 2009, now in need of an environment that favored the physical care, she was transferred to Gemona in the Motherhouse. Here, however, she continued her life of the community and it was nice to see her turning around with her walker to the corridors

giving to everyone she met the greeting, a smile and a few words playfully. On July 9, the Lord has surprised her suddenly calling her to enjoy that Kingdom deserved with her persevering fidelity as she had promised the day of her Profession. From heaven she will continue, as always, to get closer to all with her support. May she obtain holy vocations for our religious family, to the continuity of that faithful and generous love suggested by the Gospel.



**Sr Giambattista Manente of the Sacred Hearts**  
 Born: in Vicenza on 14.01.1924  
 Died: in Gemona (UD) on 09.08.2015

“Thus says the Lord:” So I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. There she will sing as in the days of her youth ... (Os, 2.



Sr. Jean-Baptiste, on the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, listened again the words she heard from her youth: she was 16 years old when, in the freshness of a future all to dream, the Lord “drawn her” with the religious consecration among the FMSC in Gemona del Friuli. Here, at the Motherhouse, she has lived the journey of preparation for starting the Novitiate occurred August 12, 1942 and the religious profession that took place on Sept. 17, 1943. Certainly her vocation was born in a deeply Christian family, formed by the parents Virginio Manente and Amelia Lorenzetto, and in the context of a city, Vicenza, which gave the church many priestly and religious vocations. Right here Sr. Gianbattista was born on January 14, 1924 and February 3, 1924, she was baptized with the name of Miranda. During her religious life she was involved in education ministry in several kindergartens, in Rome for ten years and then in the Veneto and Friuli, in contact with children and engaging for their growth. A Cercivento (UD) she also offered the service of local superior of the community. But very soon she was affected by the disease of “Parkinson” that caused her to retreat into the mother house at the age of fifty years old. Here she lived another phase of her missionary life, open to accept the designs of God (sometimes so mysterious!), offering the daily reality of her physical pain and prayer ... Forty years of suffering endured for love even when she could no longer do anything except be helped by the sisters. Then an accidental fall was the beginning of a rapid decline. After returning from the Hospital of Tolmezzo, on August 9, 2015, she responded to the Bridegroom, inviting

her to the eternal wedding, having first seen her older sister, Arpalice, to whom she was so much closed: she came to visit her definitely accepting a divine inspiration, since shortly after she left for heaven. May the Lord, grant eternal rest to our sister Sr. Jean-Baptiste who had chosen as a model of her consecration the Sacred Hearts from whom she learned how to live her daily events and how to prepare herself to welcome sister death. May she beg Blessings from heaven for her beloved sister and all her loved ones and get the gift of holy vocations to the Church in our religious family.



**Sister Deodata Donati**  
 Born: in Sedegliano (UD)  
 on 12. 04. 1943  
 Died: in Gemona (UD)  
 on 28. 08. 2015

To the Heart of Jesus, a living expression of the love of the Father, Sr. Deodata had entrusted herself, when she consecrated to the service of the Lord. And on Friday, a day dedicated to the Heart of Jesus, He came to invite His faithful wife to the eternal wedding. Emilia Donati - Sr. Deodata, passed away at dawn on August 28, the day when the liturgy presents the Gospel of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. Among the wise, there was our sister Sr. Deodata, which made the oil supply with her good works,

so that her light was always on and could enlighten the way to the Lord, when He had come. Emilia of father Giuseppe and mother Gattesco Fausta, was born in Sedegliano (UD) 12-April-1943 from a big family, rich in faith. She made her Vows to the Lord at almost twenty and twenty-two years old, she began her missionary work in various places in Italy. Then she spent several years in Istanbul or Ankara, serving the Apostolic Nunciature, available, with the sisters, to follow the Nuncio on his apostolic journeys. It was not an easy task to live among Muslims, with the ban of wearing religious dress and where the presence of Christians was limited and not well accepted. Bulgaria has also enjoyed the tireless commitment of sr. Deodata to meet the needs of people, tried hard for a long time by the communist regime: this mission was not easy either! Here she enjoyed the concrete solidarity of many benefactors who, from Italy, contributed generously to make more peaceful the life of many people. For these good Samaritans she repeatedly expressed feelings of deep gratitude, saying that they worked with a lot of heart-to for those who lacked everything, even the most urgent needs for basic hygiene, for food, for education, for Christian formation. For this self-giving of our Sisters of Rakovski, was conferred the AWARD OF GOODNESS ‘, granted dall’UNCI (Union National Riders of Italy). In recent years, the suffering had put a strain on her tenacious will to continue to give herself; she suffered, however, with serenity and patience to the end. Grant her, Lord, the reward that your heart knows to offer and welcome her in your peace and joy forever: there





she reminds her loved ones and her sisters.

We like to share the prayer that our Sister recited, already in Ankara since 25/08/1995

THE NEW DAY Thanks!

*Lord, I adore you and I love you; you are the morning and evening, the beginning and the end of time.*

*I thank you for the rest of the night and the light of a new day. The body and soul are yours, yours is all that happens.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you are the way I will go today,*

*you are the truth that guides me, you are the life that I find.*

*Give me your love so I can find You again among people.*

*Give me patience and serenity ... and keep me in your love and your friendship.*

*Lord God, Father, I want to accept what you send me, success and failure, joy and pain.*

*I pray for all those who begin this new day with concern, with anguish and pain.*

*Accompany and Protect us. Take care of us. I thank you for the new day.*



**Sister Adelianna Sartor  
of the Good Shepherd**

Born: in Paese (TV)  
on 14.06.1931

Died: in Gemona (UD)  
on 10.09.2015

Jesus, if the embrace of a loved one brings so much joy, What will be when you, Jesus, will embrace me in eternity?

If just the thought that one day I'll see you, my heart is rejoicing What will be the moment when this will become reality? "(Diary, 2005) September 10, 2015, Sr. Adelianna Sartor entered into the eternal embrace of Jesus as she desired and wrote in her diary. She died as a small candle, consumed by love and by the desire for God, for whom she lived and died.

Indeed, even in her diary, she said: "Jesus, I long for you, in all my jobs, from morning to evening, at work and in prayer, when I take food and when I rest ... Nothing is more beautiful and desirable than to live in Your Presence. From morning to evening, all I want to do with love and for love. How I wish, my sweet Jesus, to live with you, through you and in you!"

Sr. Adelianna grew up in a deeply Christian family, and she could be nourished by the strong testimony of faith of her parents Angelo and Regina. In this atmosphere of faith, her vocation blossomed and that of her sister Sr. Olivia, both missionary among the FMSC. Sr. Olivia in Latin America (Chile), where she died in 2009 and Sr. Adelianna was sent to Cyprus, missionary without borders open to the whole world as she herself said: "The essential aspect of my mission is to contribute, from within, to a more intense" POWER OF LOVE "that cross the world".

To answer the call of the Lord she had at the age of 17 in Gemona on September 22, 1948, but, given her young age, she had to wait two years before starting her novitiate on 7 January 1950. On this occasion, she chose to change her first name, Antoinette, in Sr. Adelianna of the Good Shepherd. The following year (1951), she gave totally herself to the Lord through the religious profession. Then she left for the Middle East where, five years later, she celebrated her perpetual profession (Cyprus 1956) aware of what this total consecration meant:

"I come to You with confidence, Jesus, - she wrote - You know what is in my heart and my desire to belong to you! Jesus, I want that your life will throb in my life. Jesus, I want to live and die in your Holy Love. "

Educator in different preschools, both in Cyprus (among Christians, Orthodox and Muslims) and in Italy, she was able to convey to children and families her spirit always full of joy and creativity. With her marked talent for painting and art, she showed the sensitivity of her spirit and the love of her heart for all that she contemplated beautiful and religious around her.

The last community where she remained for 11 years had been Salzano, she was respected and loved by the people because of her simplicity and the spirit of Franciscan fraternity she spread around.

In 2011, retired at the motherhouse, she prepared herself to the supreme moment waiting for the call of the Lord. He felt now that Jesus could not delay ... the bridegroom was coming and she wrote: "I give you my last days of life. I give you my death ... May I die in your love: thanks Jesus! "

On September 10, she left this earth while the sisters, around her bed, were reciting the Magnificat of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, accompanying her soul to heaven, the goal desired and achieved.

*May Jesus the Good Shepherd hold her to His Heart fulfilling her desire for communion with Him. Listen to the prayer of supplication that definitely Sr. Adelianna addresses Him as before: "Jesus I trust myself to you, in your hands and in the hands of the Virgin Mary I place my soul ... Bless all my dear ones and grant holy vocations to my religious family so that your kingdom may extend over all the earth. "*



**Sr Maria OLIVA PIAN  
of the Holy Spirit**

Born: in Ponzano Veneto (TV)  
on 11. 11. 1927  
Died: in Gemona (UD)  
on 12. 09. 2015

Sister Maria Oliva, (Ada Orsola Pian), was the eldest of five brethren, two of whom are religious of our Congregation: Sister Daria and Sister Anna Maria. She was born on 11 November 1927 in Ponzano Veneto, Treviso. The seed of a religious vocation has found fertile ground in her, thanks to experience of faith and models of Christian life, which, day after day, she saw and assimilated into the family, the parish and the school environment. In her homeland, she attended the "Catholic Youth Movement", where she learned to discover the great ideals of life and motivation to serve others.

Still very young she warned of the dangers and the surprises of the war and, therefore, understood that life, so precious; it can be taken away in an instant. On 31 May 1943 she suffered the greatest pain of her life: the death of her beloved mother. Since then, she realized that we needed live intensely every day, because time is life and life should be lived fully. Thus, the ideals that she had assimilated gradually became integrated and unified in the face of a person: Christ ... Yes, it was worth to follow Him!

Imitating St. Francis, she decided to follow Jesus poor and humble, in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who had met through the small community of nuns in her parish of Postioma - Treviso.

In September 1945 she entered the novitiate «Santa Maria degli Angeli» in Gemona and on 20 August 1947, with a heart full of enthusiasm and joy, she consecrated herself to God through the religious Vows of Obedience, Poverty and Chastity. Since then the congregation had become her second family, where she felt accepted and where she has been trained to carry out her missionary vocation.

Sor María Oliva lived the first 25 years of religious life in Rome, where she completed her religious formation and university studies «in Literature», and for 22 years she completed her mission as a teacher of Italian, Latin, history and geography and religion, at the «Maria Immacolata» School in Centocelle - Rome. During this time, she did her delicate service for nine years as Provincial Secretary.

Her desire to go on a mission to live more radically the experience of proclaiming the Gospel to distant needy brethren was made on 11 February 1972 when she left for Chile. There she progressively enriched herself with the values of the culture and mission, giving with generosity the best of herself for 43 years; 29 of them in «Puerto Chico» as Superior, teacher and director of the college «Felmer Niklitschek» which has attracted so much admiration and affection.

During summer time, Sister Maria Oliva for many years participated in missions in secluded areas of the Archdiocese of «Puerto Montt» as Rolecha, El Manzano, and

in the islands of Hualaihué, Llançhil y Pichicolo. Many are the people who remember her for her sensitivity and closeness, but especially for the depth with which she transmitted the witness of her Christian life and the contents of faith.

Important was the opening of the first two missions outside of Chile: Caranavi and Cochabamba (Bolivia), during the period when she was Regional Superior between the years 1978 and 1984.

She has always cultivated the mind and spirit and valorized that style of holiness that is built day by day, the simple holiness, that it supposes a spirit of faith and a constant capacity of reading God's will in all circumstances of life.

On 28 October of 2014 she was affected by a stroke. After a month, Nov. 28 she returned to her community «Regina Mundi» recovering slowly. During this time all the Sisters of our family religious and educational community have accompanied her with their affection, but especially with the prayer that for intercession of our beloved Founder Father Gregory she could regain health. Doctors had shown that it was impossible to recover and that only a miracle could give her new life.

For nine years, she had not visited her family and she wanted to stay in Italy on her last journey. Moreover, it is so that recovery in the health, expressed the desire to go to Gemona to live her last days there. The July 7 she returned to her homeland.

No one could predict that, after the long journey, health would get worse until she encountered with the Heavenly Father precisely on September 12, her Feast Day and day when we celebrate the Holy Name of Mary.



**Sr. Beatrice De Luca of the Good Shepherd**

Born in Codroipo (Ud) on 6/10/1931

She died in Rome on 05/10/2015

Sr. Beatrice - Maria De Luca born in Codroipo (Ud) on 06.10.1931. In the poor Friuli of that time, Mary received, along with a little bread, a solid Christian faith, passed on from her parents by the example of life and prayer. A simple and daily faith lived out in the sacrifice of the hard agricultural work. She entered among the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, as a postulant, at 19 years old, in Gemona del Friuli and October 4, 1950 she made her First Religious Profession.

Her life went to fast stages: immediately after the Profession, she was sent by obedience to Cyprus - Limassol, the beautiful Aegean island, where the sisters for long were working hard. For five years,

the young Sister Beatrice worked with the girls in school, with spontaneous, free, attentive, provident, and maternal dedication.

In 1955, back in Italy, and for fifteen years the obedience sent her first to Cercivento, then in Gemona, then in Vigo Cavedine, following in Pradamano, finally Brugnetto, always busy with girls and women in the school work.

All these activities she had always a great vigilance for her religious life continued so that, although occupied in the various activities, the spirit of sacrifice and the spirit of prayer could never be less.

In 1970 she came to Rome Centocelle: she was engaged in the wardrobe and in the sacristy. For forty-five years of valuable service, she happy cooperated as the physical forces allow, making gradually the sacristy a "listening center" for many people. The clergy of the nearby parish of the Holy Family found in her a loving motherly touch, the poor of the area received a word of comfort and material help, especially in food and the suffering ... a prayer. Everyone recognized in her a confidant, careful, thoughtful person. "In many occasions - quotes a witness - her words have proved valuable advice warning. She perceived feelings and moods that were not revealed. She was

a special sister, close to the heart, even if in distant place. " Since the beginning of 2015 her physical condition gradually became heavier, until when, in August, she was rushed to the hospital for an embolism. The Lord tried her on the bed of pain - in intensive care - for 40 days were worthless attempts by doctors to stop the irrevocable path of disease that debilitate visibly her physique, so tried. She died peacefully on the morning of October 5, 2015. Sr. Beatrice is now watching us from heaven, from the closeness of God ... her soul is peaceful and calm as a weaned child with her mother (cf. ps.131,2). We thank the Lord for the witness of her simple, open, peaceful and hardworking life.



**Sr. Arduina Spaccialbelli of Jesus Crucified**

Born in Corinaldo (An) on 26/3/1932

She died in Rome on 13/10/2015





Born in Corinaldo on March 26, 1932 into a family firmly founded on the Christian faith, one of the patriarchal family of the past: mom, dad, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, Sr Arduina loved sometimes to evoke, games and tricks that the "Brigade" did lively and cheerful, where she was often the protagonist.

At the age of 19, in 1951, she left her beautiful hills and entered postulancy in Gemona. In 1954, at the end of her novitiate, she made her First Profession.

She spent the first years of her religious life in the community of Rauscedo (PN) and Ospedaletto di Istrana (TV) as a helper in the kitchen. Later we find her, at first in Borgo Carso (LT) and then again in Treviso Borgo Cavour occupied in the various community services, a task that she continued even after Rome, Piazza Pitagora (RM), and Asisisum. Sr Arduina was a simple woman, smart. She loved particularly the life of prayer and in the chapel often confided to her Heavenly Bridegroom offering Him the small joys, difficulties and intentions to become ever more conformed to Him who attracted her with His love. In fraternal life, her daily commitment was the community service, continuing effort to accept, day after day, the will of the Lord, given to her by obedience.

In 1986 she went to the infirmary in Viale A. Saffi, in Rome. She had health serious problems, but tried to continue to give her services that still were possible, striving to help in some way. For 29 years after her forces gradually declined. Unable to move independently, she participated with the same desire to Community acts of prayer and life, but gradually withdrew from the fraternity, accepting occasional visits in the room that the sisters offered. Already elderly, sometimes she agreed to share the fruit of her reflections in the practice of Lectio Divina, enjoying the spiritual rich-

ness of this precious moment. Her mental and physical situation worsened gradually beyond recovery. It led the last few months with evident effort, until it turned off, almost suddenly on the morning of October 13, 2015.

Her fidelity to the Lord, who searches the hearts of every person and captures the longing of every heart, is now her crown in heaven, close to Him whom she so loved.



**Sr. Lamberta Lucato  
of Saint Francis**

Born in Morgano (TV),  
on 04.10.1917

Died in Rome on 13.12.2015

Gina Lucato was born in Morgano Veneto, in the Diocese of Treviso, on 04/10/1917. She spent her childhood and adolescence, educated in the simple faith and a solid ground on which God, the homeland, the family are the pillars of life, the cornerstone of the wisdom of life, the strength, which supports in times of trial and suffering.

At seventeen, already quite mature according to the canons of the time, on September 4, she entered the convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Gemona, run quickly the various stages of formation and on 28 May 1937 made her first profession, becoming sr Lamberta of St. Francis.

She had a robust health and a sweet character with the people and the same time rigid herself; she had to deal with it, recognizing with humility her limits. The superiors thought to

direct her immediately in some communities where her manual skills could be of great help. She was sent as a cook in Codroipo, Fognano, MontePorzio, then she returned close to Mother House, her beloved cradle, in Ospedaletto di Gemona, following in Treviso, in Cavaso, Paese, Milan, Narni where stayed until the community was closed, then moved to Brugnetto, where she remained for thirteen years. In each place, she left a memory of sweetness, serenity, availability, listening: she was approaching all with tenderness, always with a smile on her face and a prayer for every suffering she took from the various confidences.

From there, always as a cook, she arrived in Rome, in Centocelle, then again the obedience sent her to B.go Bainsizza, then back to Brugnetto, Monteporzio, and finally back to Rome, the community «Mary Immaculate». In large communities, already elderly, she helped in the kitchen, laundry, small variety of tasks, taking care of the various services necessary to the common living. Already in the Provincial House Sr. Lamberta accused some physical discomfort, unidentified fatigue.

Her last stage (2011) was the home of the infirmary of Viale A. Saffi, where, physically in pain, she helped in the wardrobe, as the strength would allow her. The fragility of the person, as the years went on irremediably aggravated her physical condition and forced her to immobility. At first, she was bedridden, then slowly she lost the capacity to speak, but not cognition and communication, with simple gestures and glances, with abandonment to the loving sisters of the community, until 13 December 2015, at 98 years, with a smile and heart, she abandoned herself totally to the Lord.

May Jesus, whom she loved so much, welcome her in His arms and give her peace in his love.