



INDEX

IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

- Our Founder Fr Gregory Fioravanti is VENERABLE in the CHURCH p. 2
- In Feast for our FOUNDER, VENERABLE p. 5
- MISSION FESTIVAL p. 14

JOURNEYING WITH THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

- 800 year OFM in France p. 16

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Events

- Chapter of the Province "MARIA IMMACOLATA" p. 18
- "Santa Maria degli Angeli" School - Gemona p. 21
- 25 years of presence in Cusco-Peru p. 23
- First Religious Profession in Kribi - Cameroun p. 25
- Perpetual Profession in Bamenda p. 26
- Perpetual Profession in Roma p. 27
- The Chapel of the Juniorate welcomes Jesus in the Eucharist p. 30
- A special dedication to Sr Antonia Macguire (USA) p. 31

FMSC IN MISSION

With the prayer

- Missionaries in everyday life p. 32
- At the school of prayer p. 33

With the youth

- Retreat with youth preparing for Confirmation p. 35
- Feast of St. Francis with the Franciscan group in USA p. 36
- Transmit and testify the Beauty of Mission p. 38
- Called by name p. 40

In the education

- Inter-cultural Exchange: "a strange company" p. 41
- A day out for St Clare Hostel Children p. 42
- From your seed, a forest ... p. 44
- The routes of the Bethany Center at the Asisium Institute p. 46

In the charitable assistance

- A different home for the aged p. 48
- Free medical camp and prayer service p. 49
- The joy of being with our "grandparents" p. 50
- Running ... for the Day of the "poor" p. 51

With the lay associates

- Celebration of the Promises of the Lay Associates p. 52
- The Lay Associates in Limassol begin their journey p. 54

CONGRESS

- Youth - Faith - Illness - Conference A.I.Pa.S. p. 57
- Interreligious dialog in Istanbul p. 58
- Vocational and Ministry and Consecrated Life p. 60

LIVING WITH GOD

p. 62

Our Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti ofm, is VENERABLE in the CHURCH

On 8 November 2017, the Holy Father Pope Francis received in audience His Eminence Rev. Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B., Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. During the meeting, the Supreme Pontiff authorized the same Congregation to promulgate the relevant Decrees:



- the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Gregorio Fioravanti (Lodovico), a professed priest of the Order of Friars Minor, Founder of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart; born in Grotte di Castro (Italy) on 24 April 1822 and died in Gemona (Italy) on 23 January 1894.

With joy, let us retrace the Process of the Cause

The introduction of the Cause of canonization for our Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti ofm was deliberated during the **XV General Chapter of 1987**.

With the agreement of the Superior General and her Council, His Excellency Rev. Alfredo Battisti, archbishop of Udine, in whose territory died the pious religious, approved (on 25 April 1888) the appointment of **father Germano Cerafogli**, ofm, as Postulator of the Cause, and soon the first planned documentations were started.

On December 23, 1989, the Father Postulator, presenting the results of his first research, asked the Archbishop for an opinion, hoping to open the process in the diocese at least on April 21, 1989, commemorative day of the 128th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute.

On 20 January 1990, S. E. Archbishop Monsignor Battisti, in order to have support, addressed the Brothers of the Venetian Episcopal Conference, with a prayer to accept the supplication of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, founded by Rev. Father Gregory.

On 22 January 1990, the Superior General Sr Ines Pavan, after the meeting with the Rev. Minister General of the Order, Fr. John Vaugh, confirms the appointment of the Most Reverend Father Giovanni Folguera, as the postulator general of the Order ofm, to whom the continuation of the Cause is entrusted.

On 2 February 1990 the introduction of the Cause of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God, Father Gregory Fioravanti was opened.



Cathedral of Gemona 27 October 1990

On April 26, 1990, the new Postulator, Father Folguera, after agreeing with the General Council of the Institute, appointed as his vice postulator Sister M. Antonietta Pozzebon, to whom he granted all the opportune and necessary faculties to exercise the task that is due to her.

On 2 June, after having carried out the proper investigations and carefully examined the appropriate documents, the postulator sent the material collected to the Em. Cardinal Angelo Felici, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Saints, in order to obtain the Nulla Osta from the Holy See. On 1 August 1990, the Prelate communicated the positive reply.

On September 17, 1990, Sister Ines communicated to the Sisters with a circular letter the beginning of the canonization process of the Founding Father, announcing that the solemn opening ceremony would be celebrated in Gemona on 27th October.

In the meantime, with an archiepiscopal decree by Archbishop Battisti, the historic Commission, coordinated by Sister M. Antonietta Pozzebon, and the diocesan Tribunal led by the Chancellor, Monsignor Pierluigi Mazzocato were nominated and approved.



A study day on 29 October 1994

On October 27, during the official opening ceremony of the Cause, celebrated in Gemona in the ancient Cathedral of Maria Assunta, there was an exciting manifestation of piety and devotion. The echo of the solemn inauguration of the Cause remained for a long time in the town of Gemona, where on 29 October 1994 a study day was organized around the Founder and his work as an integral and humble Franciscan. Distinguished scholars were present, Filiberto Agostini, Don Giancarlo Rocca, Paolo Romanato, Fr. Giuseppe Buffon, led by Professor Senator Gabriele De Rosa. Presenting Sister Antonietta's biographical work "Pleasing to God", around the figure of the Founder, Professor De Rosa appreciated the bewitching draft of the content with its broad, accurate historical cultural context, and thus gave to the day an intense and deep aura, of moral and cultural relief for all the numerous participants.



Closing of the diocesan process 1 July 1995

Another magnificent deadline to honor our candidate was on July 1, 1995, with the solemn celebration of the closing of the diocesan process *super vita et virtutibus*, still in the splendid monumental medieval Cathedral. Afterwards the documentation collected (research, meetings, studies, comparisons made, etc.), in support of the same cause, was carried out in Rome at the offices of the Congregation of Saints.



Celebration of the closing of the process

After delivering the material to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, the postulator became Father Luca De Rosa, ofm who followed the cause until 2009. Father Gianni Califano took over and he is still the current postulator.

The juridical validity of the work was recognized by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on **January 26, 1996**. With the preparation of the Positio on December 2, 1997, the Congress of Historical Consultors was held. Then on January 16, 2015 the Congress of the Theological Consultors was held. The Cardinals and Bishops in the Ordinary Session of November 7, 2017, presided over by Cardinal Angelo Amato, recognized that the Servant of God exercised the theological, cardinal and annexed virtues in a heroic degree. On November 8, the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis authorized the promulgation of the decree and thus our Founder has become “venerable” in the Church.



**November 21st 2017
The General Superior
Sr. Paola Dotto, her
Council and Sr. Antonietta
meet Fr. Gianni Califano
after the recognition
of the heroic virtues
of Fr. Gregory**

In Feast for our FOUNDER, VENERABLE!

At the ANNOUNCEMENT of the VENERABILITY of our Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti from Grotte Castro, ofm, a contagious joy has exploded in the communities of our Religious Family, with the people who know us and are close to us, with our collaborators and in apostolic missions. All at various levels, provincial and community, have felt the need and the joy of offering Eucharistic Celebrations and prayers of Thanksgiving and of Praise to the Lord.

Even in the Generalate House, Solemn Vespers were prepared and placed on the Congregational site.

Surely, in one way or another, we have been united before the Lord to express our joy, our thanksgiving, our emotion. Some Organisms or communities have immediately managed to organize special moments of prayer, others will be organized according to significant dates and concrete possibilities.

In all of us have been born a strong desire to make known the figure of our beloved Father Founder, to spread his virtues, his Faith, his Hope, his generous and selfless Love, his great capacity to seek and live in the “ways” that Divine Providence was tracing along the path of his life and of the Religious Family entrusted to his spiritual and also material care.

From the various communities of our Religious Family, from the most remote and hidden corners of the earth, where the Lord has called us to bring His Redemptive Love.. a song of praise continues to rise to the Lord and makes us one voice, one heart in the profound joy of being Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the Church and for the world.



Merry bells ring at GROTTE DI CASTRO



Great joy in our town of Grotte di Castro, as the news arrived that our “Father GREGORY FIORAVANTI” has been proclaimed “VENERABLE”. With the parish priest Don Tancredi we decided to ring the bells of the Churches. While the parish priest was ringing those of the parish church (St. Peter), we went to play those of the shrine “Nostra Signora del Suffragio” and we heard a beautiful concert. The bells seem more joyful of those of St. Peter in the Vatican!!! Immediately the pious women came to ask us: “why are all these bells ringing? Who died?”

Along the way, meeting people, everyone asked us the reason for so much “sound”. We, full of enthusiasm and joy, announced the news to everyone and so we did in the following days.

The parish priest in all the Holy Masses (including the pre-holiday) gave the good news and we prepared in each church the photo of our Founder decorated in a special way to attract the attention even of the most distracted people. Everyone was happy to hear the good news; someone gave us money to buy flowers and candles to put before the Venerable Father Gregory. Some have asked us to have the “holy pictures” of his image to pray, so they hope he will soon be made blessed.



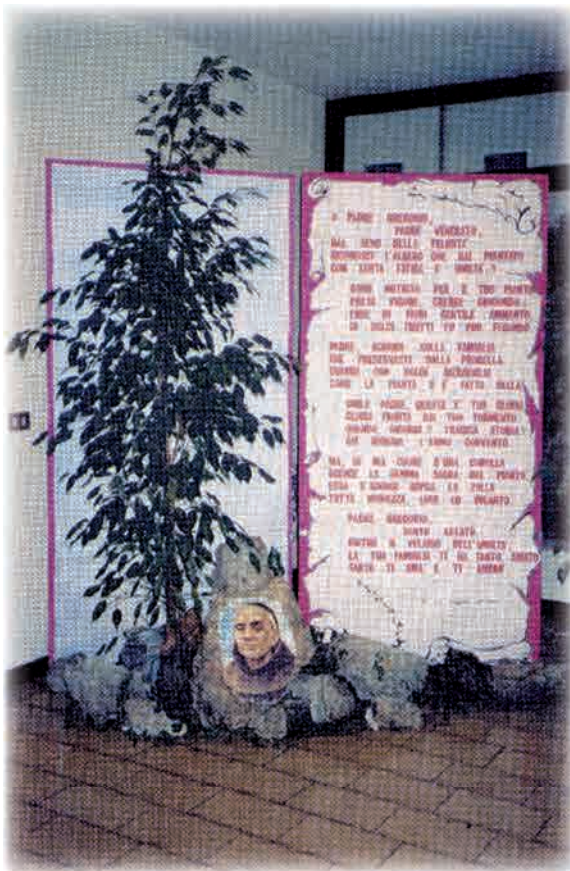
We Sisters are proud to be here in his birthplace and we try in the simplest way to be witnesses of his example as a father and a teacher. We thank the Lord for everything and we pray that the Church in a short time may proclaim him blessed.

The sisters of the community of Grotte di Castro



Sharing the joy of the sisters in the Mother House in Gemona

Fr. Gregory Fioravanti Founder fmsc Venerable



A prayer to Father Gregory
received from the sisters
of the Middle East

Or Father Gregory,
Venerated Father,
from the bosom of happiness
can you recognize the tree
you have planted with so much
effort and humility?
So much fed by your crying
It took vigour, grew merry:
With kind flowers,
And fruitful of sweet fruit.
Father smiles on the family
that you preserved from destruction.
Look with sweet wonder
how the plant has become beautiful!
The convent was going to be ruined.
But if in the heart of a corolla
The sacred gem of weeping descends
it rises above the clod
all vagueness, light and charm.
Father Gregory, Holy Concealed,
behind the veil of humility,
your family has loved you so much,
loves you so much
and he will love you forever.

Journey towards holiness from the seed to the leaves, to the fruit

9 November 2017: It was a special day for the whole religious family. In various corners of the motherhouse, we placed the image of our Founder, Fr. Gregory, that the Church, today through Pope Francis, declared Venerable.

We have shown to the Lord our joy and gratitude for the Venerable Founder of whom, not only we can admire the heroic virtues, but also imitate the witness of his holy life with a significant journey of faith in Divine Providence.

In fact, precisely with this unshakable abandonment to Divine Providence, the Venerable Father Gregory has guided the birth and the history of our religious family even in the most difficult moments. He lived everything for the glory of God following the inscrutable and always unknown designs of the Lord that were manifested through the daily journey.

It was also a good occasion to ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Venerable Father Gregory and Our Lady of Perpetual Help “who always succors”, the gift of Holy Vocations for our religious family, whom he loved so much, sustained and accompanied, not only when he was still on earth, but also now from heaven.

We were waiting for this announcement on November 7th ... the wait was long, endless, every second moment we asked ourselves: Still nothing? ... And yet our Founder is Holy!

Then, on the 9th, the Superior General announced the event and when it was communicated to the Sisters, a clap of hands that did not end came spontaneously ... Too much joy, tears of happiness bathed our eyes: Our Father is Venerable!!!

There was certainly no doubt in our hearts that Fr. Gregory lived the heroic virtues, but we always need to await the confirmation of the Holy Church.

It was exciting to see, next to the name of Father Gregory, also that of Pope John Paul I, who was also declared Venerable.

We consider the Venerable Father Gregory already holy, but we know that there are various steps in the canonical process in order to publicly recognize the sanctity of the person:

first phase of the process: the title of “servant of God” is recognized to the person under examination, by the Bishop of the diocese to which the examined member belonged.

Second phase of the process: the title of “venerable” is recognized, approved by the Pope.

Third phase of the Process: The “Venerable”, once such, can proceed towards the beatification and subsequent sanctification after the recognition by the Congregation of the causes of the saints of at least **one miracle**, of any kind, achieved through to the actions of the candidate in question.



It is nice to underline that on the same day several people have called in Gemona to congratulate or to have precise news.

But we love to remember this fact: a person, employed at the hospital of Treviso, recently sick with cancer, received the news from a friend that Father Gregory is Venerable and that now only the miracle is expected. She immediately thought that the expected miracle had to be hers and immediately called Gemona to ask for an image of Father Gregory with the prayer and asked the sisters to help her praying for her recovery.

Faith can do everything and this is the beautiful opportunity to ask the Lord to make it grow in us by helping our brothers and sisters, especially those who are most in need to turn their eyes and pray towards heaven where some can help us.

JOURNEY TOWARDS HOLINESS does not happen suddenly: the seed, sown on the earth, must accept to die to give life to the plant, which, in turn, needs to grow letting itself to be pruned, watered, illuminated, sometimes even learn to regain strength after the storms sustained in one's existence. Only at the end, we will see the fruits ripened along the seasons of life. They are fruits that are equivalent to the heroic virtues manifested in the life of our Venerable Founder the Servant of God Fr Gregory, who gave himself to the end.



Here is the article published in Catholic New York Newspaper a few days after receiving the news of the venerability of our beloved Founder

11/22/17



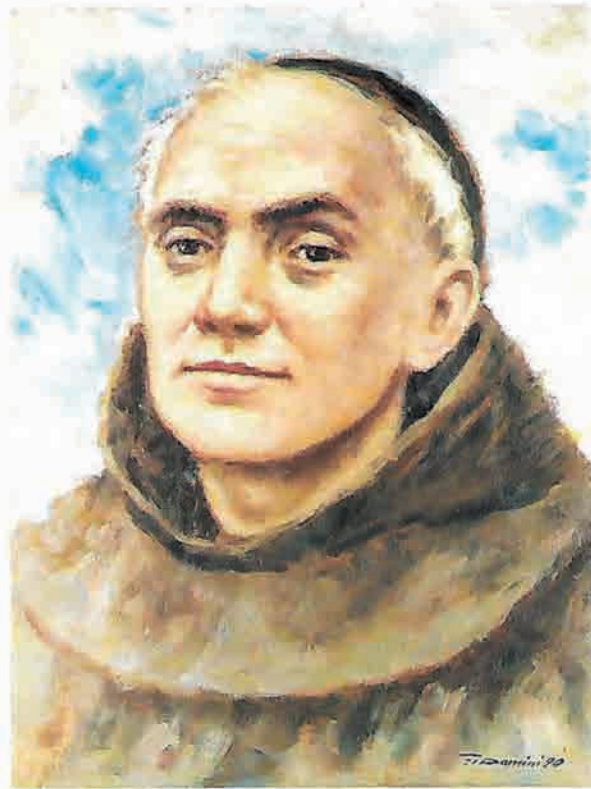
Peekskill Franciscan Sisters Thankful Founder Moves Toward Sainthood

By CHRISTIE L. CHICOIN

There was reverent rejoicing in the motherhouse chapel of the Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill when the provincial superior announced Pope Francis had recognized the heroic virtue of Servant of God Franciscan Father Gregorio Fioravanti, O.F.M., the Italian founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, advancing him on the path to sainthood and distinguishing him with the designation of "Venerable."

The Vatican announced the pope's decision Nov. 9, along with the news that he had declared Pope John Paul I "Venerable" and had advanced four other sainthood causes as well as the martyrdom of an Italian sister and a priest in Hungary.

“We were happy,” said Sister Laura Morgan, F.M.S.C., who as provincial superior since 2015 had the honor of relaying the news to the other women religious as the congregation convened for Evening Prayer at the provincial house known as Mount St. Francis on South Street.



**The God's servant
Fr. GREGORY FIORAVANTI O.F.M.**

Sister Laura had just received a call from order's general superior in Rome. Like their sisters around the globe, the Peekskill Franciscan Sisters have been faithfully praying through the intercession of their founder for years. “To know that they thought there was enough evidence for that cause was great,” Sister Laura said.

Sister Laura, 66, a New Jersey native who entered the order at age 19, believes the acknowledgment could propel the congregation in a purposeful way.

“The exceptional thing that Father Gregory did is that he picked up somebody else's beginnings and carried them through where they wouldn't have been carried through,” Sister Laura said. Without him, the order would not exist, she said, adding he could see “this was something God wanted.”

Sister Laura was referring to the congregation's beginning with a young French woman, Laura Leroux, wife of the Duke of Bauffremont who, according to the order's history, was eager to found a convent.

Mrs. Leroux approached Father Fioravanti and asked for his assistance to establish a Religious Franciscan and Missionary Institute of women.

The order was canonically founded in Gemona del Friuli, Italy, on April 21, 1861.

Though the beginning was promising and gave great hope, soon Father Fioravanti found himself to be the only one responsible for it, “because of the departure of the Duchess” in 1863.

“They sent the first missionary sisters out, to New York City, in 1865,” Sister Laura said. “So we are actually the first mission of the congregation.”

Sister Laura explained that “the O.F.M.'s (Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as the Franciscans) down at 31st Street (St. Francis of Assisi parish in Manhattan) were looking for sisters to teach the children of the German immigrants. We weren't German, but they sent a German sister, an Italian sister and a Swiss sister, and they lived with the friars on 31st Street for two years until they came up to Peekskill and found what's now our motherhouse.

“They always look at us as the first mission,” Sister Laura continued, adding she and the other Peekskill sisters think it would be “really nice if a sister from the first mission got the miracle.”

And that is precisely what they have been praying for since one of their own, Sister Katherine Siegel,

F.M.S.C., 72, was diagnosed with stage IV melanoma in October. Sister Katherine said her cancer is inoperable. “All they can do is give me a little time,” she said simply and with a gentle laugh.

“I’m just very humbled of all the prayers that are being offered up for me, and that the congregation has taken this on through emails to the rest of the congregation—700 sisters in my congregation praying for me. We’re in 22 countries,” Sister Katherine said. “Plus, other kinds of people praying for me.

“It’s very fortifying in your faith. I know we’re all destined for eternity,” Sister Katherine said, but she is mindful of what she can do on earth, in particular, pray and attend Mass. “As for myself, I’m still independent, which is remarkable.

“I just ask for the cure to my body, through his intercession, that I may continue God’s mission here, whatever it may be.

“Now I believe this is my mission,” Sister Katherine continued, “to pray for Father Gregory’s intercession for a miracle.”

“I believe he’s a saint already, but he needs to be canonized,” she said.

A native of Yonkers who was raised in Westchester County, Sister Katherine, a former public school teacher’s aide and disciplinarian, entered the order in 2002 after receiving a calling while praying after school in the adoration chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Port Chester. She made final vows in 2008.

“Whoa!” was Sister Katherine’s reaction, she said, upon learning the news Father Gregory had been declared Venerable when Sister Laura informed her before she announced it to the other sisters at Evening Prayer.

“To me, I just put him on a pedestal,” Sister Katherine said of Father Gregory. “He cheered for us so much, in the beginning of our history. He gave up everything to be with the sisters and walk with the sisters.

“Father Gregory is also walking with me today, through this.”



Feast among the sisters in India For Fr. Gregory, Venerable

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.... Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn 20:21-22).

Down through the centuries the Church has never ceased growing and bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth, in response to Christ himself, who gave the Holy Spirit, the indispensable strength for men to carry out the task of evangelization.

Yes, the Church gives thanks to the Holy Spirit for Fr. Gregory, our Founder, since it is the Spirit who inspired him with the desire to devote himself unreservedly to the will of God to form a religious family (FMSC) which was entrusted to him by the Foundress Laura Leroux.



Fr. Gregory displayed a particular form of holiness in his ministry; he was at once a priest, religious and missionary. With these three qualities, he revealed the face of Christ, showing the path of salvation, teaching the Gospel and working tirelessly for development.

The recognition of the heroic virtues of Fr. Gregory was celebrated in Holy family Province, India, on 11th November 2017. The celebration by Fr. Ayres Fernandes, the general Secretary for CCBI Liturgical commission, in India, was a thanksgiving mass as a response of our thanks and praise to God for raising Fr. Gregory to the level of “venerable”. The presence of our sisters from all the communities added color to the celebration.

The Eucharistic celebration began with a candle procession and approaching towards the altar these candles were placed in front of the photo of Fr Gregory, which was beautifully decorated and kept at the side of the altar.

The brief introduction read by one of our sisters gave a clear picture about the celebration of the day. After the Mass, we had fraternal fellowship meal and thanking the Lord once again, we concluded the day.

A person declared as “Venerable and later Blessed” is not



a statement about perfection. It does not mean that the person was without imperfection, blindness, deafness or sin. Rather, it means that a person lived his or her life with God, relying totally on God's infinite mercy, going forward with God's strength and power, believing in the impossible, loving one's enemies and persecutors, forgiving in the midst of evil and violence, hoping beyond all hope, and leaving the world a better place. All of us are called to holiness. It is not reserved for a small number of exceptional persons. It is for everyone; it is the Lord who brings us to holiness, when we are willing to collaborate in the salvation of the world for the glory of God, despite our sin and our sometimes unruly temperament.

It is our responsibility to take up the torch of Fr. Gregory.

His witness is an appeal to each one of us,
so that we can know him and through his sacrifice,
we will grow in our desire to love God, the source of all true love
and in our desire to make a real offering of our lives.

Venerable Fr. Gregory, Pray for us!.



MISSION FESTIVAL in BRESCIA MISSION IS POSSIBLE!

From 12 to 15 October in Brescia the first Festival of the Mission took place. A unique and truly extraordinary event. The city suddenly saw streets and squares filled with priests, men and women religious, missionaries, young people from various parts of Italy and the world.

From Thursday evening to Sunday, there have been more than 30 events, including round tables, concerts, theatrical performances and shows, to which must be added the 22 exhibitions related to the Festival and the meetings in the “Spazio Autori” (space for authors). Over 80 guests involved, some arrived from abroad: religious men and women, three cardinals and several bishops, but also eminent persons of international cooperation, writers, journalists, scholars and artists.



For the public, the participation in such a Festival in the first time was an extraordinary experience. About 15 thousand people were present in the indoor events, including the many who visited the exhibitions organized in various places in the city and in the province.

From our Congregation, Sr. Tiziana Tonini and Sr. Gregoria Suarez of the General Council, Sr. Ermellina Callegaris as representative of Mission Tau Onlus, Sr. Stefania Bandiera, provincial vicar, Sr. Lissy Joseph and Sr. Francesca Fiorin, of the Province of “Santa Maria degli Angeli”, Sr Mini Alex from the Community of Grotte di Castro, participated full three days, in this great event. The sisters of the community of Drena



and a group of young people from the oratory, accompanied by Sr Barbara Pandolfi also were there present for a day.



The Festival of the Mission was really an opportunity to meet with various faces of the mission (sending to distant lands, welcoming those who escape from harsh situations, mission on social networks of today's world), testimonies, prayer and sharing.

We have heard the voice and heart of women and men fully convinced that the true meaning of life is to give oneself, following the example of Jesus. We have received the testimony of those who have chosen to share faith and home; the time to learn to be ever more hospitable and courageous in facing challenges (collaborative projects among members belonging to different Congregations and between laity and religious). We have prayed that the desire to proclaim the Good News and a life founded on charity will remain alive and active in all.

“Listen to the Word of God announced by the poor” - this is the advice given by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, archbishop of Manila - “before going out, however, we must recognize in us the primary presence of God, only then we can also welcome the voice of the poor “.



A brief reflection on our Franciscan gathering.

In the month of May, with Sister Armelle we decided to celebrate the closing of the Jubilee of 800 years since the arrival of the Franciscans in France. We chose the date, Sunday October 1, 2017 and, as a place, the parish of St. Aldric, our priest, Father Hervé Marie Cotten, was fully involved in this celebration.



To celebrate this day, we needed a Franciscan brother, not having them at Le Mans, we called brother Didier Brionne, from Rennes, who willingly agreed to come. Our parish priest asked him to give the homily and a conference on the theme: “to be a Franciscan today”.

This is how our day has passed:



The Holy Eucharist was concelebrated at 11.00 by several priests. The choir, led by Xavier with the guitar and by a group of young and old, was excellent. Friar Didier preached on the biblical texts of the Mass, however, referring to Saint Francis. Especially he quoted St. Francis advice to Friar Leo that can be taken as an advice today for all of us: *“In whatever way you think, you will best please our Lord God and follow in his footsteps and in poverty, take that way, with the Lord God’s blessing and my obedience”*.

At the time of the Offertory, while we sang the Canticle of Creation, three Franciscan sisters brought their Constitutions, a layman of the Secular Franciscan fraternity, their life project and the lay associates of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the text of their commitment. It was a beautiful and joyful ceremony where all the parishioners and the whole Franciscan family gathered.

At 12:30 pm, all shared the meal arranged in the community of Franciscan Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart, close to the church. The Sisters and Lay Associates had prepared the tables beautifully for 70 guests. Everyone was responsible for bringing something and shared. What a joy in sharing! We closed our celebration by cutting a big, beautiful and delicious cake with the phrase "Vive St François". People would have liked to stay at the table a little longer, but we had prepared a show on the life of St. Francis in church and we had to rush arrange everything and welcome all the people to this show.



At 3.00 pm, there was an exhibition on the life of St. Francis and of the Franciscan family. The role of St. Francis, was played by a newly baptized woman. She in fact, put her whole heart to make her presentation effective. With this small program, we wished to convey a message to all and I think the goal has been achieved. This show ended with the canticle of the creatures where everyone was invited to dance.



At 4.30 pm, Brother Didier gave a conference at the parish hall. Father resumed the history of the Franciscan family, including the three Orders. There was a good presence of the people and around 6:45 pm, we shared a friendship snack and left with a strong feeling of fraternity.

We give thanks for this beautiful day, in which we religious, laity of the Secular Franciscan fraternity and laity of the lay association of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and all the sisters who worked hard and animated the day in a true Franciscan spirit.

Monique Templon (Franciscan Tertiary)

Chapter of the Province "MARIA IMMACOLATA" - ROME

WE ARE MISSION - Let us witness to the Redemptive Love with passion.

*"... what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
and what our hands have touched ...
... we also announce it to you,
so that you too may be
in communion with us.
These things we write to you
so that our joy may be perfect"
1 Jn. 1.4*



The XVI Provincial Chapter of the Province "Maria Immacolata" was begun right in the very atmosphere of Christmas and precisely on the day of the feast of St. John, the Apostle. Motivated by the Eucharistic celebration of the day, the sisters, participating in the Chapter, entered the event. The inspiring words of the Prologue of the first letter of St. John, and the logo icon "We are Mission. Let us witness to the Redemptive Love with passion" that had already stimulated the pre-chapter reflection and the assembly of December 16th, seemed echoing in the whole atmosphere. The first day was dedicated to the meditations guided by Sister Elisa Kidanè, a Comboni religious, of Eritrean origin, a convinced and enthusiastic missionary, a religious who speaks from the abundance of her heart, which is inflamed by missionary fire. She introduced the participants in the theme of the prologue analyzing the words, to hear, to contemplate, and to announce.

"Listening": In the world of ours, where it has become so difficult to listen, it is a duty for us missionaries to listen, to be open, free and attentive to the humanity.

"Contemplate": in a society running fast, no more time to stop, we are invited to take the challenge, to stop, to look at Christ and in Him to find our brothers and sisters.

"Announce": in our society where announcements are continuous and do not have time to listen, we are called to announce and we will be able to do it effectively only if it comes from the heart; heart which contemplated what we have heard.

Here is our mission, given to us by Jesus, and precisely at first delivered to a woman "Go and announce the great news".



To proclaim, to witness so as to be in communion and so that our joy will be full.

Sister Elisa was very concrete, even touching the wounds, the hard realities of our life in the communities. She encouraged us to have a positive attitude, to work out to the demolition of the walls that at times separate us, and to have the ability to look beyond. It is important to contemplate the beauty and richness of diversity: what unites us is the charism; we must grow in the “citizenship of our charism”: it is there that we must meet and grow in respect for cultures. At the end of the day, Sr. Elisa presented the Gospel passage of the wedding at Cana (Jn 2: 1-12). For Jesus it was the beginning of His public ministry and for us the beginning of the Provincial Chapter.

On December 28, 2017, the XVI Provincial Chapter was officially opened with the greeting of the Mother General Sr. Paola Dotto. In the official opening, she greeted us all with the words: *“... a few months after the closing of the XX General Chapter, here we are, to resume the journey with the different Congregational realities, living and celebrating this event so important and significant, to begin to concretize the solicitations entrusted to us by the chapter assembly”*.

You, each of you, have had the “privilege” of having been chosen here, to put you in Listening to the Spirit and in Him sharing and welcoming what the Father has thought and expects from our Family...”



“... We must not think - continued Sr. Paola - to put in the place of sensational things, the challenge is daily life. Knowing how to read with the eyes of faith, the presence of the Spirit who causes changes in those who trust. Accepting the originality and intuitions, sometimes even the limits, of those who live next to us. Even through what may seem useless, with a patient waiting, we can discover the creative presence that does great things, overturning our plans and our programs. On these ways of acting by the Spirit, we have a timely example in our Founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti, recently declared venerable. He was a friar who had studied, with long experience of government, common sense and a lot of prayer, but the most consistent virtues are heroic patience, fortitude, humble dependence and obedience, constructive silence, abandonment in letting God do. He lived his missionary life by accepting and witnessing to the Gospel, infusing the missionary ardor to the sisters, bearing witness to Jesus and his Gospel, and for this reason he is called “apostolic missionary”.

The following days of the chapter are spent in listening to the reports of the Provincial Superior Sr Marta Camerotto, of the provincial procurator, Sr Antonia Costa and of the head of the Missions Sr Clarita Pesce. Then we proceeded to reflect on the instrument of work that specifically requires the careful and participatory commitment and collaboration of all the chapter members.

On December 30th in the afternoon, after an hour of adoration, the new Provincial Superior Sr. Cristiana Basso is elected. On the following day morning, the Assistant provincial and the other three councilors were elected. The members of the provincial team are the following :

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sr. Cristiana Basso | Provincial superior |
| Sr. Lilibeth Labian | 1 st Councilor and Assistant |
| Sr Marta Camerotto | 2 nd Councilor |
| Sr. Cristina Bottan | 3 rd Councilor |
| Sr. Josie Enaje | 4 th Councilor |

We entrust the New Council and the whole Province to the protection of “Mary Immaculate”, of our Venerable Father Gregory, so that they may accompany each one to discern and always choose the “ways of his missionary project” for this portion of our Religious Family.



“Santa Maria degli Angeli” School - Gemona: A smile 150 years long

On November 18, 2017, the Sanctuary of St. Anthony (Gemona) was literally packed with children and young people from the educating community of “Santa Maria degli Angeli” and families. Present, together with many sisters, also the sisters of the General and Provincial Council, as well as various local, provincial and regional civil authorities.

With the Eucharistic concelebrated presided over by the parish priest of Gemona, Monsignor Valentino Costante, the ‘**memorable day**’ of the 150th anniversary celebration of our School “S. Maria degli Angeli” was started. The school was born in 1867, just seven years after the foundation of the Institute of the FMSC. Indeed the institute survived in between fatigue and difficulties of all kinds due to the tormented times of the then Italian Unity that suppressed the religious Orders and took possession of the assets. With firm determination, Sr. M. Elena had satisfied the request for the educational needs of their children, from the people of Gemona and the neighbouring regions by starting the school.



With reason, the pupils already sang with great enthusiasm at the beginning of the celebration: *“Wonderful are the ways of Providence. God as a Father guides and sustains all with love and wisdom”*.

The Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Volpato, gave the announcement and the motivation for the convocation:

“Today we solemnly celebrate the 150 years of life, history and grace of the school “ Santa Maria degli

Angeli” and the memory of this marvelous stage we reached, makes our hearts spring out with songs of praise, joy and blessing to the Lord. I would like to express in the words of Archbishop Mons. Trevisanato, on the day of the canonical opening of our religious family: “From the Lord this has been done and is marvelous in our eyes!”...

The homily transformed into a dialogue between Mons. Valentino and the students remained at the bottom of the heart of all, the two important words to ‘live’:

Heredity: The past is history that enriches the present;

Planning: the future is built in the present with a vision to look forward.

At the end, the beautiful souvenir was presented with the blessing of Pope Francis, as another spiritual force felt as a guarantee of continuity of the presence of God in our educational mission. The Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto said in her speech of thanksgiving, *“this mission of education is indeed necessary, indispensable for a future hope in the whole territory.*

Her final greeting to all was cause for joy.

She said, *“I hope that this school of ours, dedicated to Mary, will continue to be for the community of Gemona and other surrounding areas, a privileged place of affectionate and joyous welcome, especially for those in difficulty and place of evangelization for a free and personal response to the human and Christian vocation”*.

After the significant moment of thanksgiving to the Lord in the Shrine of St. Anthony, the educating Community, the civil authorities and the General and Provincial Council met at the entrance of the school building in front of an exhibition concerning “the history of the School”.

The panels were connected with a Franciscan cord, adorned with bunches of ivy to indicate the Franciscan spirit of simplicity and joy and to show the strength and vigour that allowed the school to go forward always with courage, even in the difficulties encountered on its journey.

The Dean Prof. Gianluca Mavecovez presented with great clarity the whole path of the beginnings,

provoking in the present, great admiration for the courage shown by the sisters in an age that was not at all easy.

He also emphasized the current commitment that the school makes as a model for human and social educational presence of great value.

Really the School “S. Maria degli Angeli”, in its historical journey from the beginning until today has generated “a smile 150 years long!”

At the end of the presentation together with all, in the teacher’s room, we shared a moment of fraternity.



On November 22nd, at the invitation of FIDAE Nazionale (Italian Federation for Catholic Schools), Sr. Miranda Sforza, in the name of the Provincial Superior, presented herself at Augustinianum (Rome) to collect the “BENEMERENZA” award assigned to the school “S. Maria degli Angeli” which celebrates 150 years of educational mission.



25 years of presence in Cusco-Peru



On December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of America, was the 25th anniversary of our presence of FMSC in the “Our Lady of Carmel Parish” located in Cusco, Peru.

The celebration of this anniversary took place on the 16th and 17th of December, with various pastoral, recreational and religious activities with the people of the parish. Our celebrations began on the 16th with a recreational afternoon for all the children of the parish with different games.

This was followed by a walk with children, parents and parishioners along the streets surrounding our parish. We all held a torch in our hands, singing and praying, praised the Lord for the wonderful works He completed in our lives during these 25 years. All returned to the house of the sisters, the celebration continued with the sharing of the history of this mission with all the people present.



In the years 1989 and 1990 the Archbishop of Cusco, became aware of the presence of our sisters in Tambobamba - Apurimac requested the provincial superior of that time, Sr Fides Lorenzon to open a mission in the city of Cusco among young populations of General Ollanta.

The authorization was given on March 21, 1991 by the Superior General Sr Ines Pavan and her Council. The new mission is entrusted to the protection of “St. Elizabeth of Hungary”, patron saint of the Third Order of St. Francis.

The house built for the sisters was inaugurated on December 12, 1992 and, led by their superior, Sr. Mirella Venturin, the sisters began their parish and welfare activities to the people in and around.

The celebrations of the 25th anniversary were held on December 17th with the Eucharistic celebration presided by the metropolitan archbishop of Cusco, Monsignor Richar Daniel Alarcon Urrutia, and concelebrated by priests of the Deanery.

Sr. Elena Bilibio was present from Santiago (Chile), as a representative of the provincial superior Sr Fides Lorenzon, and sisters from the two communities of Peru (Tambobamba and Lima), parents and relatives of our Sisters of Cusco and people representing the various parish groups participated in the Celebration.



After the celebration of the Eucharist, everyone was invited to share a fraternal meal, during which the greetings of the Provincial Superior and other communities were read.

The parents of the Cusquenas sisters, expressed their gratitude in a speech remembering the 25 years of our presence in this mission. Even the young people who have been helped and guided by our sisters and who today already have their family have expressed their gratitude for the values received from our missionary spirituality.



At the end, the Sisters of the Cusco community expressed their thanks to the Provincial Superior, to all the nearby and distant Sisters who supported them with their presence, prayer and affection.

We praise and thank the Lord, and we ask him to shower his abundant blessings, the gift of new and persevering vocations for the Church and our religious family.

First Religious Profession in Kribi - Cameroun

“This is the day the Lord has done for us: a day of celebration and joy”.

On 11 August 2017, the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, the Lord, in his goodness, gave us four young sisters.

Sr M. Juliette Gisèle of Jesus,

Sr M. Angel of the Beatitudes,

**Sr M. Christina of divine
grace**

**Sr M. Felicia of Divine
Providence.**



They consecrated themselves to God in following Christ according to the charism of our Religious Family of Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, by making their First Profession in the Cathedral of

St. Joseph in Kribi, during the Mass presided over by Mons Damase Zinga Atangana, Bishop of the Diocese of Kribi.



In his homily, the Bishop recalled the fundamental principles of Consecrated Life, exhorting not to profane what is sacred, to live fully and consciously the commitments made with the three religious Vows. Then he urged us to center always our lives on the essential: Christ.

Our four young sisters were full of enthusiasm and showed with their attitude, their smiles, their determination that they are confident and happy to follow Christ Jesus as Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, in the Church.

To the Lord, the source of every Vocation and faithful to His Promises, let us give all praise, honor and blessing to Him, the Good, every Good, the Supreme Good!

Perpetual profession of Sister M. Amandine of Divine Love

Njimafor -Bamenda 17th November 2017

“O God, I will exalt you with all my heart ...” (Psalm 9: 2)

On this day that I have said my definite “yes” to the Lord, I thank him for his unconditional love, his goodness, his fidelity and his mercy; for the gift of life and vocation in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.



The solemn celebration of the Eucharist had as main celebrant the bishop of Kumbo: Mgr. George Nkuo together with other priests of other parishes. Many people attended the Holy Eucharist and prayed for me on this day. The sisters of our Vice-Province, our postulants, novices and sisters other Congregations; my family, relatives and the relatives of our sisters, the faithful who came from my native place and other places, parishes and the faithful of Njimafor.

In his homily, among other things, the bishop highlighted some very important aspects of my life further: I, Amandine, have to live the vows concretely in my everyday life; I must not scandalize with my defects the people who meet me in my way. He said that I must not be afraid, life will not be easy, but I must put my trust in the Lord who called me.

He also said that perpetual vows do not mean the end, but the beginning of another journey where the Lord must be at the center of my life. He continued that I must take my strength in nothing but totally in my relationship with the Lord. These words gave me courage. I understood more that the main task of me is to respond to God’s love and have a strong intimate relationship with him.

I thank and am grateful to our Mother General: The Most Reverend Sister Paola Dotto, to her council, to our Vice Provincial: Reverend Sis-





ter Beatrice Bifouma, to her council and to my formators in postulancy, novitiate and juniorate.

I also thank all the Sisters of the Congregation and all the people who helped me on my journey to give my life to the Lord for his service. Please continue to pray for me.

May Saint Elizabeth of Hungary our patron intercede for us.
Suor Marie Amandine Sidt Ache dell'Amore Divino.



Perpetual Profession of Sr Marta Lucatelli

“Remain in my love (...) so that my joy may be in you and may your joy be complete”. Jn 15.9.11

YES, I WANT!

Friday, December 8th, the solemnity of the “Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary”, I, Sister Marta Lucatelli of the Crucified Love, in the celebration of my Perpetual Profession, I pronounced my “Yes”. I have been sustained by the strength of Mary’s “Yes” to the proposal of the Angel to become the Mother of the Son of God.

This is my answer to God’s call, to His project for me: Yes, I want it! I want to embrace with my total self, whole heart, the life that He has wished for me in our religious family of FMSC, and persevere in it until my death.

I take this step with full consciousness, that my will is firm, but also I am aware that my weak human will can do nothing without His grace. I always feel supported, sustained, and in fact reassured by his Word: “My grace is enough for you” (2 Cor, 12.9).

The celebration presided over by the bishop Monsignor Giuseppe Marciante took place in the Church of our Provincial House, Mary Immaculate. Many people: sisters from various communities, relatives, parishioners, pupils and teachers, friends and priests from surrounding parishes who, together with the deacons, they concelebrated, participated in this great event.



The Rite of Religious Profession, begun after the reading of the Gospel and continued after the homily of the Bishop, was the central moment of the celebration. In fact, the heart of what we celebrated is nothing but a celebration of love, a life given out of love, in response to the great love of the Lord.

The Bishop questioned myself about my readiness to follow Christ in living the three evangelical counsels, the life of prayer and penance, fraternal life, the totality of the gift in the witness of the Redemptive Love of the Heart of Christ Crucified. I answered, “Yes, I want it” to all the questions and then the litany prayer of all saints followed. At this time, when the whole assembly joined to the singing of invocation of the saints. All the strong emotions I experienced until that moment, turned into peace. I really felt the grace of God in my littleness meant in the gesture of prostration. With this inner strength received from the Lord, I have pronounced my perpetual profession into the hands of the Superior General Sister Paola Dotto. As a seal of my belonging to the Congregation, I signed the document form my part, then the Superior General and finally the Bishop. With a happy heart, I received the solemn blessing from the Bishop. I also received the Bible and the Crucifix from the bishop, with the invitation to “proclaim with my life His Redemptive Love for all and faithfully fulfill the service that the Congregation entrusts to me according to the specific charism, in the name of the Church “.

At the end, Sister Paola gave a definitive welcome to the religious Family with these very meaningful words: “*Dearest Sister Marta Lucatelli, now you are definitely part of our Family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and from now on everything will be in common among us.*” She expressed this belongingness with the fraternal embrace, another very meaningful gesture.

The beauty of the celebration has found its climax in the Eucharist. Intimately united to Jesus who became our Food, I have offered Him in gratitude all my intentions, expressed and not expressed and of the whole community present around me, with profound sentiments of the heart which seems to be expanded to His loving embrace.

I am deeply grateful to God and to all my sisters for the solemnity and the lived experience of the celebration, “*a moment of strong religious experience for all*” (Dir 80). I feel deeply grateful to the melodious singing of the choir formed by sisters from different communities and of the choir of my native parish S. Maria Madre della Misericordia, which indeed is an expression of ecclesial communion that lead everyone to a deeper experience of God.

To make this celebration remarkable, we have made an intense preparation on the previous days in different ways involving various categories of people.





On November 29th a significant presentation of my original testimony, titled “His/My Project” was made, including we, the younger sisters, with the students and teachers of our Institute Mary Immaculate. It was a presentation, which demonstrated, how the religious vocation is a particular way of following to the specific project of God. Another important moment of preparation I lived, was the vigil prayer organized in my native parish, St. Mary Mother of Mercy.

Involving the parishioners on Monday, December 4, we conducted an intense moment of Eucharistic adoration, with the reflection of the Gospel of the Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38). It was indeed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gifts I have received in my life from his goodness. These were intense moments, which help us to discover and hold on to the beauty of life given out of Love.

I feel I am greatly indebted in particular, the superiors at various levels and my formators, for being precious guides, and all the sisters companions of life and journey. I remember and feel grateful to all our elderly and sick sisters, and the sisters who have preceded us to eternal joy, for their constant and humble prayer that I feel supported and sustained in my journey.

To the glory of God!



The Chapel of the Juniorate welcomes Jesus in the Eucharist

On 28th October 2017, the small community of the juniorate of the general house, reopened on 11th October, received the precious gift of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist in their small chapel.



Responding to the invitation, the sisters of the community gathered at the entrance of the Juniorate, beginning a Eucharistic song, awaiting the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto. After a few moments she began to descend from the chapel of the Generalate, holding the small ciborium with the Most holy Eucharist in her hands, while two juniors brought the candles to both sides. All those who were present, continued the singing, moved in procession towards the small chapel of the Juniorate. Sr. Paola deposited Jesus, the Eucharist in the Tabernacle, while the lamp was lit, indicating the almighty presence of Jesus.

After reading the Gospel “Jn.6: 26” on the Bread of Life, Sr. Paola offered some simple but profound reflections, to recall the great grace of having the Eucharistic Lord in the tabernacle.

She invited the members to remember constantly this Presence and to grow in the good habit of visiting Him often. *“He is always with us, waiting for us, to listen to us ... let us not leave him alone”*. Sr. Paola then entrusted the junior formator, Sr. Bernarda Alvarez and the junior sisters to Mother Mary, so that she may help the little community to walk with her towards her beloved Son. The intercessory prayers followed and then we thanked the Lord to have come to dwell in the new tabernacle. We invoked Him to remain always with us to protect us, inspire us, listen to us, guide us, teach us to love and love one another.

With an appropriate song, the tabernacle was closed and the assembly passed into the study room, where everyone shared the joy of this happy event with a pleasant refreshment.



A SPECIAL DEDICATION...

Monday, December 18th was a gift of a beautiful and meaningful day for many people, but especially for the Peekskill Franciscan Sisters.

On Monday, December 18th, Cardinal Timothy Dolan celebrated an Advent Mass for the population at Taconic Correctional Facility in Bedford Hills, NY.

Attending this Liturgy were about 80 incarcerated women, along with state and local dignitaries, 22 priests and deacons, and invited guests, including Sr. Anne James. The Cardinal spoke on Advent as a time of waiting, comparing it to what the women experience daily during their incarceration.

They wait for everything: doors to be open and shut, visits, letters, packages, lawyers, and their release, but no one waits alone. As people wait together, they gain strength, and, as followers of Jesus, we wait together and prepare for His coming among us.



Following Communion, Sr. Laura was asked to present a reflection on the life and ministry of Sr. Antonia, summed up in what Antonia brought to all to whom she met: “Love, love changes everything”.

After Mass, the Cardinal blessed the Catholic Chapel at the prison and named it the **Sister Antonia Maguire Chapel**.

Sister Antonia was the first female Catholic Chaplain in Prison Ministry in the state of New York, where she gave 42 years to her beloved prison ministry. Her love and compassion for her “men and women in green” continues to inspire our incarcerated brothers and sisters to

believe in themselves and grow close to their God who loves them.

Deacon Cliff Calanni, the new Catholic chaplain at Taconic, believes that Sr. Antonia’s spirit is still doing time at the prison as she intercedes for the needs of the women whom she served so well.



Missionaries in everyday life

The day begins at dawn with a personal prayer: there are many brothers and sisters, who ask for prayer, and we cannot “deceive” them; it is a great commitment and a great responsibility! The community prayer follows with daily adoration, praises and Holy Mass in the Basilica “Santa Maria degli Angeli”; so we join, presenting the whole Church to the Lord, the anxieties, the hopes and the sufferings of every person. The working day sometimes opens with a surprise like a few days ago: an unexpected young Sardinian woman arrives, looking for a home, a work ... she asks us for a few nights of hospitality, we are able to please her, we do it willingly.



With great joy and surprise just after 3 days of search, she could inform us of the success of a job interview; she got a job and even a room to stay. The Lord has granted her with

the joy of having found a single room where she will live and can make the enrollment at the University of Perugia (no obligation to attend)! For us it is a miracle of divine Providence!



We also experienced the intervention of Divine Providence for another young woman, who could not stay at night where she works as a caretaker. From time to time, she asks us if possible to sleep a few hours in serenity, safe and feeling protected. Our doors are opened for such people. She is very happy.

We feel as missionaries when we take Jesus the Eucharistic Lord to our sick elderly, when we listen to them, we give them a smile and give them the assurance

that we are always remembering them and “we are there” for them.

We are missionaries, when we offer daily listening and supporting to those who are alone and ask our help to solve problems of primary necessity, (I think of a single woman with a declared cancer). When we make casual encounters along the way, we offer serene attention, concerned listening to the

disoriented people, immigrants, and the people who are in need of a serene and welcoming look and a fraternal and genuine support; in this way we are really accomplishing the mission entrusted to us. We are very happy to attend with patience the daily visits of young couples and single women who share with us on the painful situations of their daily life.



Above all, when we realize the urgent need to present them to the Lord in prayer, we feel the joy of a missionary. The Lord continues to “visit us” daily ... to him we ask always to grant us an open and attentive heart to recognize Him, to serve Him and to love Him through them!!

At the school of prayer

Spiritual Retreat TOV **(Taller de Oracion y vida - Prayer and life workshops)**

On the weekend of 29 September-1 October, Sr. Dila and Sr Cristiana participated in the Carmel “San Giuseppe” Nenshat-Albania, to the spiritual retreat for the Guides of the Laboratories of Prayer and Life founded by Fr. Ignazio Larrañaga, Cappuccin friar. It is an annual event for those who lead a 5-month workshop, from January to May and ends with the Desert experience. We share this simple but interesting experience.

“Here, I will attract her to me. I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart there” Hosea 2:14

Every day we feel strengthened by the call of God, who calls us, draws us to Himself with ever-new love, but in these days of spiritual retreat, He has given us a special invitation, unique to each one. Every day “we have come out of our desert land “ to meet Him in silence, in solitude, in intimacy and quench our thirst at the inexhaustible source of His Word, of the Eucharist and of fraternal sharing.



Sr. Simonetta, a Franciscan Missionary of the Child Jesus, has organized us the retreat in an oasis of prayer, a structure recently born in Albania. The prayer house of St. Joseph of the Discalced Carmelite PPs is situated next to the Monastery of the Carmelite sisters, high up on a barren mountain, but attractive in its structure. It really dominates a wide valley where our gaze is lost on the horizon, while the spirit, far from the normality of life, feels naturally elevated and united to God.

We are only few Guides in Albania, but we live in sincere harmony and the presence of each other is an inspiration, comfort, and mutual strength. This year the theme, “From suffering to peace towards a liberation” is very stimulating. We made a journey, almost a pilgrimage in our inner being, inspired and greatly facilitated by Fr. Ignatius and gently guided by Sr. Simonetta.

Meditations lead us to touch our frailties, teach us to read our fears, stimulate us to recognize our inner illnesses, but we do not fear because we feel taken by the hand to get up, wake up and courageously abandon ourselves totally in the arms of the Father.

“I accept everything with love: your will be done. In your hands Father I commend my spirit, in silence and in peace “.

This exercise is always welcomed, during the workshops, it is one of the most liberating moments during which we also experienced fatigue, we saw tears of grief falling down, but at the end, the courage to have put everything in the hands of the Father has transformed the fatigue into freedom and profound peace.

During the sharing, we felt not only as Guides of the Laboratories, but also as mothers who read the present reality of the society in which we live and suffer.

We suffer because we see that we are not able to change many things, but we want to continue to be close to the people of our time, walk beside them, support them, give them hope, and awaken the deep sense of God dormant in their heart.

Analyzing the problem of depression, we felt very strongly the teaching of Fr. Ignatius and stimulating the methodology he indicated.

The society in which we live, in this transition is a moving away from an absolutist management to a democratic regime, from an agricultural to an industrial culture, from a serene and relaxed life in the villages, to a mass concentration in the suburbs of the cities. As a consequence to all these, the life of a united family poor and simple, is replaced by fragmented, unhappy existence. We assist almost unarmed in a transition that is still long and painful. Families, young people, children are the victims. The generation conflict is strong and depression is now a common evil.

We will follow the methodology that Fr. Ignatius suggested in his book “From suffering to peace” now is also translated into the Albanian language.

Besides the meditations and sharing, we spent a lot of time on the so-called “strong times” during which we found ourselves face to face with God, meditating on the suggested biblical texts, in absolute silence we let Him speak to our hearts.

Yes, he spoke to us, and we talked to him declaring all our love for Him that we want to be in His love for the whole life. We are very grateful for the journey of these days of retreat. We feel stronger and serene and are ready to descend from the mountain. To find Him in the sorrowful faces of our brothers and sisters and to make a journey of freedom with them to reach the profound peace of the heart, to which one arrives only by returning to the source of pure water, which is Christ.



The guides of the laboratories of prayer in Albania

Retreat with youth preparing for Confirmation

On June 23-24, to the young people were given two days of retreat. Twenty-three youngsters of our parish participated in the retreat led by the parish priest Don Tancredi Muccioli and accompanied by Sr. Mini Alex of our community. Everything took place in a very simple way but in an atmosphere of recollection and silence. Our young people rarely have the chance to have a similar experience.

One of the strong moments they experienced is their visit to the community of Nomadelfia; a community of families living together with the aim of building a new civilization founded on the Gospel.

The youth were deeply touched by the testimony of some residents in this community.

The video, which was shown to us, was very touching, and helped to learn more about the history and the climate of this ecclesial reality. The best moment was that when we share in the table in the various family groups. It was an opportunity to get to know people and talk to them. They sang, praised and thanked the Lord. Each group has shared different experiences.



We hope that these young people who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, may truly understand the great gift that is bestowed upon them, and may they live their young life joyfully by believing in the power of the Holy Spirit and experiencing His strength all through their lives.

Feast of St. Francis with the Franciscan group

*“It was wonderful for us to see that
our seraphic father Saint Francis lives among us”*

This year third of October was an extraordinary day for us and for our parish “Our Lady of Libera” (USA). The young Franciscan group of the parish has dramatized the transitus of St. Francis, the last moments of the saint: how he welcomed sister death to let him enter the presence of God the Father.

Different scenes from the last moments were presented such as: the meeting and the blessing of St. Clare and her sisters, the last journey and blessing of the city of Assisi, the prayer together with his friars, the final blessing, sharing with them the blessed bread, etc. Finally, gladly and joyfully he embraced sister death.



People have been impressed and surprised to see how this great saint has passed from this world to heaven. We have concluded this great event with the final hymn to our Blessed Mother and a blessing. A short procession followed carrying a small statue of St. Francis.

The parents were amazed and surprised to see their children been part of this great event. Some people even expressed their desire to see their children in religious habit forever.

Then we all had a small agape prepared by the parents out of their generosity. We spent our time sharing and talking especially about the life of St. Francis. We are grateful to have the presence and the blessings of Fr. Carlo our parish priest on this occasion.

On October 4th, we had the opportunity to participate in a special Holy Mass in our central parish “Saint Mary”, where





we witnessed the profound joy of our youth when they received the blessed Tau from Fr. Carlo, as an official sign of membership in the Franciscan youth group of the parish. Father also enlightened their minds and hearts with the reflection on Franciscan virtues and the importance of living these virtues in today's society.



TRANSMIT AND TESTIFY THE BEAUTY OF MISSION

The Universal Church for the month of October, dedicated to the missions, has pushed us once more to live and witness that the mission is the heart of the Christian faith. The Holy Father Francis, welcoming the proposals of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, indicated an extraordinary missionary Month in October 2019, in order to awaken more awareness of the “mission ad gentes” and to resume, with new impulse, the missionary transformation of life and pastoral care.



In our reality the mission in Bulgaria, reopened 25 years ago after the communist regime, has made its journey of faith, enthusiasm and suffering! Initially, the sisters in the mission immediately got busy, approaching the people and especially the youth to convey to them the values of faith and to awaken the Christian sense, lost during the time of suppression. Over time, the sisters were also recognized by the gov-





ernment and began to teach languages in the elementary and kinder garden schools. The first vocations were born from the sign of the presence and witness of the sisters.

Today, by reading these signs of providence, we have to continue with trust in the Lord and passion for the mission. We want to share this simple memory with the sisters of the province and of the Congregation and also the experience of the missionary month 2017.

We have lived various moments of meeting and organized prayer with the various parish groups with the aim of presenting the congregational missionary spirit. These groups gather people of different age and life situations as children, young people, catechists, disabled people, those belonging to the “Faith and Light” center, the people who attend the weekly table of the poor in the convent, and the elderly ladies who meet every day and offer their time to make various hand-knit garments.

It was nice to quickly visit the various continents where we are present through videos and the photo exhibitions! A climate of dialogue has been created, of knowledge of the various cultures, of openness and solidarity. In front of the Crucifix of San Damiano in our chapel, every child, youth and adult, received a small cross, sign of special mission, taking the decision to make a spiritual adoption for a person or a mission far or near.

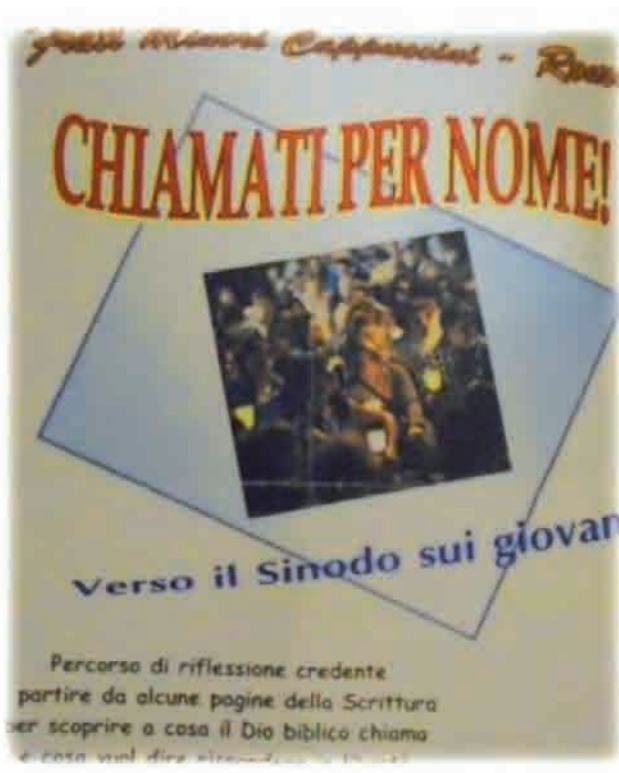
We hope to follow with joy, with perfect joy and fidelity, “Jesus, the first and greatest evangelizer” in the daily mission!

The sisters of the mission in Bulgaria

CALLED BY NAME

***"He was in the world, and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.
But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name".
(Jn 1: 10-12)***

During the meeting with the youth of the parish of St. Felix of Cantalice led by Fr. Marco OFMCapp., where we have participated, we Sr. Ma. Victoria Simora and Sr. Marta Lucatelli, the theme of the Christian vocation has been introduced to us to deepen the identity as children of God that every baptized person is called to live by entering into the Trinitarian love.



The meeting took place on Sunday, 29th October, in the convent of the Capuchin Friars Minor "St. Francis of Assisi", in Frascati.

The day saw moments of meditation offered by Father Marco and moments of personal reflection on the suggested ideas.

Starting from the passage of the prologue of the Gospel of St. John: "He came among his people, but his people did not accept him. But to those who accepted him, he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1,11-12), Fr. Marco illustrated to us the dynamics of the Trinitarian love to which we are shared through the Son who assumed our nature, recovering the original relationship with God lost through sin.

This recovered relationship helps us to open ourselves to the other overcoming tendency to be close in one 'self', discovering that by loving the Other and the other people, actually you love yourself.

Looking at the vocation of Abraham, Fr. Marco made us reflecting on how in the moment of crisis it is easy to think only to ourselves forgetting that we are called to the relationship with God. For this reason, it is important to find the criteria of discernment to live oriented towards the Father with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The youth were led to understand that only in this perspective we can understand and respond to God's call.

For us, it was an opportunity to verify and confirm our vocation and the opportunity to witness to the free and joyful response to the love of God.

In Franciscan simplicity, we have listened to and accepted the research questions of the profound meaning of life in its various forms.

Together with our sisters, we bring in our hearts the prayer for the journey of faith of these young people.

Sr. Victoria e Sr. Marta

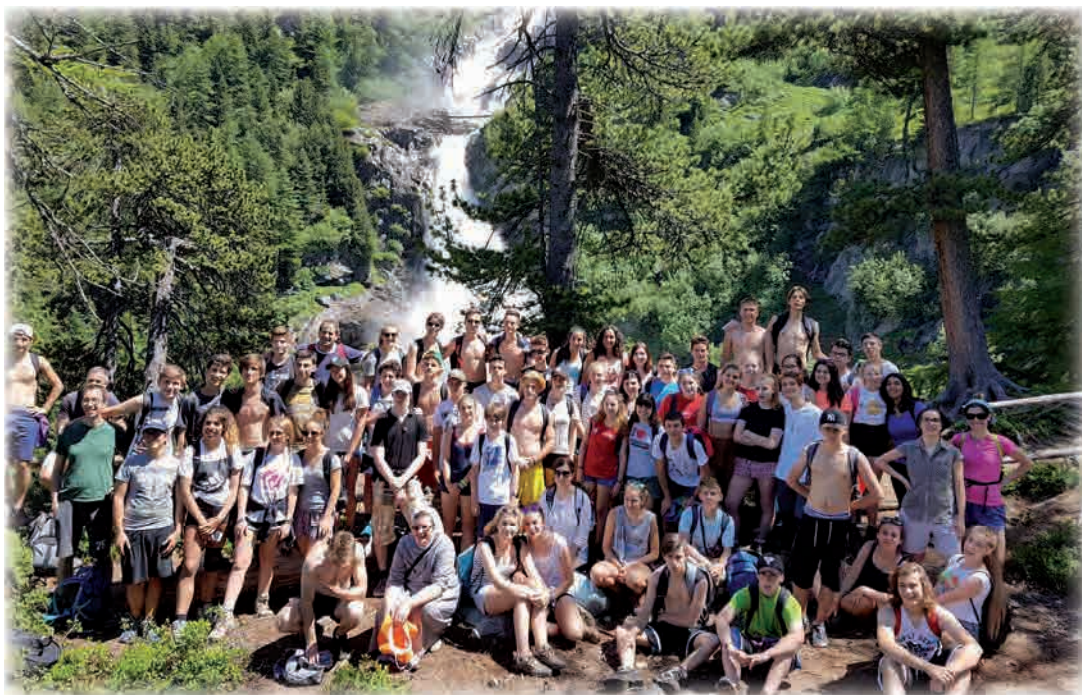
Inter-cultural Exchange: “a strange company”

During the school year 2016/2017 the community of the Franciscan high school in Kretinga had the opportunity to make friends with the pupils of Liceo Leopardi in Lecco (IT). The interchange initiative promoted by the Principal, Giuseppe Meroni, an active member of the Communion and Liberation movement, has found an answer to Kretinga. And so, after exchanges of telephone and correspondence, the project takes shape: a delegation of the same high school reaches our school and proposes to six students and two teachers to participate in the annual meeting that takes place in Thuile, in Val d’Aosta in the first half of June. Sister Julija Lukauskaitė and an English teacher accompany the group, which welcomed by the families, also had the joy of visiting the city of Milan with its marvelous cathedral. What a great grace to spend five days in Val D’Aosta, among peers of different cultures and backgrounds, but all strongly clinging to Christ and willing to share the Christian experience, strengthen their faith and renew their commitment to follow Christ.



The camping theme was called: “A strange company”;

Its purpose was to get out of one’s own safety to go to meet the other in his diversity and richness. The days are marked by the prayer of praise and vespers, the Eucharistic celebration, the outputs in the mountains, personal and group reflections, and social games. All were happy singing and dancing.



A different and enriching pedagogy, a different way of dealing with the theme of faith and the challenges it involves. An opportunity for young people and for me too, to live the experience of God in contact with a nature that alone invites to contemplation, praise and thanksgiving.

Special thanks go to my superiors who allowed me to live this period of grace and sharing.

Suor M. Julija Lukauskaitė



A DAY OUT for St CLARE Hostel CHILDREN BHITBUNA, INDIA

November 4th was the day of great joy for the children of St. Clare hostel as they went for a day of picnic to Gumla . All the sisters of the community also joined with them.

A Picnic for the children at Bhitbuna is quite different from the picnic of the children in other places. It is something, which they cherish in their lifetime since they have very rare opportunities to move beyond their villages. They are mostly the poor children from the different villages brought together in our hostel. We give them the formation to grow as effective persons.



A one day outing was organized for them to visit the neighbouring district named Gumla. They started the journey in a bus along with the sisters. The first visit was to the church at Karuntaleda, where three missionaries were martyred. The witness of faith through their services for the development of the poor and proclamation of the word of God, stood as obstacles for the selfish people.

They were brutally killed. The people consider this place as a pilgrim center.

The children were very enthusiastic to know more things.

The parish priest was very kind to take us around to the rooms of the martyrs, their tombs etc. He explained in detail about the martyrdom and we could see how the children were very eager to know the things and to pray devoutly. There we had our breakfast and proceeded our journey.

From Karundaleda we went to the seminary of OCD fathers, there we had our Holy Mass. Then we visited the cathedral of Gumla diocese. Children were excited to see the cathedral, newly built, a beautiful church. Next, our visit was to a tribal museum. It represented the tribal culture of the various tribes in the area and was worth seeing. They were very happy about everything.



One of our sister's family offered their lunch. They considered it as an honour to show their hospitality. We visited our community in Gumla also the sisters and children were happy. On our way back, we prayed together, sang and danced, enjoyed a lot. As a whole, the trip was a wonderful experience for the children. We are sure they will cherish this occasion in their life.



FROM YOUR SEED, A FOREST...

Last October, on the occasion of the feast of St. Francis, the Sisters of the Institute Asisium of Rome and Simone Bosio the teacher of religion of the primary school proposed to a group of volunteer parents a unique experience. He planned to tell our children the story of the saint of Assisi transforming ourselves as actors in a free interpretation of the musical “Forza venite gente” by Paulicelli.



It seemed impossible to succeed in this undertaking, cutting here and there time after our work and hours of evening sleep to the dear sisters in order to try every scene.



And instead, day after day, we ourselves entered the life of St. Francis, in his history, in the history of his city, the habits of the time, in the context of social, cultural and religious relations of the rich city of Assisi in the 1200s.

We turned ourselves as tailors, set designers, choreographers and dancers. Many of us have had to interpret more roles, change clothes and not only...

Meanwhile time passed and the desire to be together and know each other better grew, as the need for dialogue with St. Francis and St. Clare grew.



And so our practise turned into a para- liturgical experience, a moment of prayer that allowed us to meet the real director of this unique and special moment: “He” who moved the heart of St. Francis and who today has asked us to transmit these things to our children, “He” whom the Saint called “My God and My All”. It was an amazement for all that happened: the children and the boys danced, sang and cried with us, along with so enthusiastic teachers to “break the lines.” The Lord allowed us to tell our children much more than a story, something that no book, no research and no trip done together

could have transmitted with the same intensity and radicality.

I chose as the title of this short article “from your seed, a forest ...” because at every reply I was waiting for the words of this piece of music (scene in which Divine Providence sends St. Francis without any possession and without fear on the streets of the world) to turn the gaze from Saint Francis to the armchairs of the theater occupied by so many children to look like a stretch of small trees.”.



For me, today, mother of children who have the privilege and the grace to attend this Institute, a former student and daughter of a former student, these words mean much, much more than you can imagine.

It means that Saint Francis is alive more than ever today in my life, in the life of those children sitting on the armchairs of the theater, in their families and that for 800 years the seed thrown by that small and humble man gives us into the hands of the Lord to do of our life a unique masterpiece.

Federica Bosio (a mother)

Take care of the family to take care of children and teenagers. The routes of the Bethany Center at the Asisium Institute.

“The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. Saint John Paul II shed light on this when he said, “Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love.

That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit”.

The family is thus not unrelated to God’s very being.”

Amoris Laetitia, chap. 1

A school is truly Catholic when it takes care not only of the students but of the person in his/her three components: body, mind, soul.

A school is truly missionary when it manages to reach the lives of the people it deals with, reducing distances and “getting close”.

This is why the Istitute Asisium of Rome has supported the series of meetings “The children look at us: what do they see?” of the Bethany Formation Center. Monthly meetings open to all parents of the school: from infancy to college in order to be good parents and even before to be an effective couple, able to have a project shared between spouses and shared with the school. In fact, the “educational co-responsibility project” (Decree of the President of the Republic 21 November 2007, n.235) is signed by the parents, not the students: too often, however, there is a distance between the school project and the family project. Education (and not just teaching) affects everyone: teachers, students, parents and ... the family. School cannot only start from work in the classroom; if you do



not start a healthy collaboration with the parents, the scholastic institution hardly ever arrives to the students.

Those who are called to respond to the educational challenge launched by the Catholic school will not only be the learners, therefore, but the whole family. Difficult challenge when the social environment is disrupted and the family itself is liquid, disoriented.

The Church is the first to take the step and to guide, ready to listen to the needs of its people: the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* was written by Pope Francis starting from the two extraordinary and ordinary Synods on the family, which took place in Vatican in 2014 and 2015. An exhortation also fruit of attentive listening to the needs of the family of the 21st century and in continuity with the *Familiaris Consortio*. In its paths, the Bethany Formation Center takes as its reference map the *Amoris Laetitia* without forgetting the whole Magisterium and the Holy Scriptures, in particular the book of Genesis. If the man and the woman do not listen to the God the Father's desire, they will not know their identity; if they do not return to the original project of God, they will risk getting lost.

This applies not only in the married couple but also in the parental couple: if one is not "united in doing good" (in Hebrew: ezer) the children will be divided in themselves, confused and with an unclear direction. The passage from chaos to the cosmos is the image of Genesis that God offers to every person but also to every couple. The educational effectiveness goes from that pact: first of all the pact of the couple and secondly between school and family.

The meetings "The children look at us: what do they see?" are not addressed only to Catholic parents, starting from the principle that "*Christ, who is the new Adam, just revealing the mystery of the Father and his love also fully reveals 'man to himself and manifests his highest vocation'*" (*Gaudium et Spes* n.22). Christ is not only for Christians but for all people. All parents, as individuals and especially as a couple, are challenged by the voice of Christ, without distinction, to return to the beginning (in Hebrew: bereshit).

Many couples were helped by the Bethany Center, through the integration between Christian anthropology and family counseling; in fact all the couples of the team were trained at the Italian School of Family Consultants of the "La Famiglia" Consultorio in Rome. The path of Bethany is therefore a balanced encounter between reason and faith; a reason open to faith and reasonable faith, following the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI.

For 12 years, Bethany has proposed a four-stage itinerary for couples in formation and couples in difficulty and in recent years has spread to Roman parishes and other dioceses. The founders are Claudio Gentili, editor of the magazine "La Società", an expert on scholastic policies and university professor, and his wife Laura Viscardi, theologian and iconographer; their latest book, "Complici nel bene", is published by the San Paolo editions. Since November 2017, thanks to the availability of the Sisters of the Congregation in the person of Sister Augusta Visentin, family pastoral care has also begun at the Asisium Institute, where the parents' response has been positive. After the lectio divina follows a psycho-spiritual laboratory in which individuals and couples can compare themselves on the proposed themes, thus becoming active participants and not simple listeners. The couple dialogue ("the first child of the couple is the couple!" is one of Bethany's slogans) becomes an important condition for the alliance in the education of children. The educational effectiveness is also the result of that affection between the spouses whose children can feed: the children are at the center but the couple is the center.

Alessandro Pucci
Teacher at the Asisium Institute

A different home for the aged

“One can get the idea that in France faith in Christ concerns only people over eighty” I think to myself while opening the door of the “maison Bernard” in Tracy le Mont (France). A bright, welcoming and clean environment that reminds you of your home. The attendant, using the secret code, opens a second door, then a third and finally the sisters of the community of Carlepont arrive in the dining room that in a few minutes turn into a chapel. The parish priest, Père Guy ‘Marie Tavignon, here celebrates Mass once a month.

It is the first time I am in this environment, careful and fascinated I observe what is happening around me. The gentleman next to me, seated in a comfortable chair, sleeps so deeply that he does not even realize that the sister moves him to make room for the relatives who came to participate in the Eucharistic sacrifice. A distinguished lady sitting next to him gently caresses his hand and, as if to apologize, says to me that I am new: “he is my husband, I am eighty years old. I had to bring him here because I could not follow him at home alone “. I am deeply moved. At the end of the Holy Mass, the man woke up and, having recognized his wife next to him, gave her a big smile.

Alzheimer’s circle of people is composed of men and women who were once businessmen, secretaries of important companies, mothers, grandparents who in the post-war period emigrated from their countries to build a better life in France. Everyone is now imprisoned in the memories of their past, all in need of a caress, a word, a smile. I was deeply moved at the time of the Communion when the priest gently touched the cheek of a lady to help her to swallow the Host and she, with a radiant smile and now without teeth, clenched the priest’s face in her hands: “it is the embrace to the leper of the 21st century “, I told myself.



A nurse gently speaks to me and says: “Sometimes we wonder if it is worthwhile to celebrate Mass among these sick of Alzheimer”. And while she speaks it seems that an invisible hand plays chess and the people, as pawns of the game, move continuously changing the structure under our eyes. Actually, the answer had already been found in previous gestures.

I praise you, Lord, and bless you for the experience you gave me to live with the sisters of the Carlepont community during the last summer.

Sr Julija Lukauskaitė

FREE MEDICAL CAMP AND PRAYER SERVICE

In the month of November, a three day free medical camp and prayer service was organized in Tripurantakam Parish by Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettukatil, Dn. Rajesh Chatragadda with the assistance of Parish Council. Sr. Dr. Rosanis and her team belonging to the Congregation of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Sacred Heart, Holy Family Province, willingly accepted our request



to conduct free medical camp and prayer service for three days. Dr. Sr. Rosanis who is working in St. Francis Hospital in Kalipatnam, West Godavari, came along with Sr. Haritha and a lay associate Mr. Rajesh for a three day camp. The Medical Camp was inaugurated by local S.I., T. Tyagaraj and M.P.P. Neelam Chennama. It was arranged in three main centres of the parish. (Endurivaripale, Lellapale, Tripurantakam) The whole parish and the vicinity of the Par-

ish benefited a lot from the medical services. Approximately 250 people attended the camp. Besides medical services, she also conducted powerful healing prayer services by which many were moved in spirit.

The whole parish was very appreciative of the kind gesture and great service of Dr. Sr. Rosanis and her team. Tripurantakam parish is greatly indebted to Dr. Sr. Rosanis and her team for their generous heart and tireless service.

By Dr. Rajesh



The joy of being with our “grandparents”

Open to all our activities in the parish, we are committed also to go to the three home for the aged that are located in Latera, Onano and Grotte.

It is a wonderful experience to be able to spend time with the elderly, see how with such joy and happiness they await us every week. We welcome these opportunities as a very beautiful and meaningful mission: our going to visit them, stay with them and listen to their complaints, their physical pains, their emotional sufferings and their many memories. They always tell us that we are their grandchildren and that our smile, our caress, are enough to make life reborn in them.



Some of them approach us as soon as we enter their meeting room and come to greet us, to talk to us about what they carry in their hearts and to ask us to pray.

We are very happy to share our talents with them. After our prayer together and the recitation of the rosary, Sr. Annagrazia is very good at making “our grandparents” to sing and dance, both with religious songs and popular songs that awaken in their memories, enthusiasm and joy and then also the grandparents who they were asleep, they wake up and sing with all their strength. Someone also begins crying remembering the time of their youth. So a caress and a hug, bring back the smile!

We are very happy with our special mission among our “grandparents” with the opportunity to give them consolation and the joy of accepting their old age.



*The sisters of the community
Grotte di Castro*

Running ... for the Day of the “poor”

Solidarity with the homeless

All the parish communities and many organizations in the world have responded generously to the invitation of Pope Francis who wanted to dedicate a day of the poor to make everyone aware of this reality.

The population of the city of Kretinga was urged by the words of Pope Francis who invites “not to close our eyes before God who looks at us and before the neighbour who challenges us ... especially to the forgotten and excluded brothers and sisters”. Then it has mobilized and with enthusiasm and generosity has joined the initiative that the principal of the Franciscan high school friar Alvydas Virbalis OFM and the Franciscan friars for the second time, have organized “the charity race” in support of the homeless. The whole civil and parish community felt involved.

It was the first Sunday of October, a wonderful sunny day and, after having participated to the Holy Mass, we find ourselves in the main square of the city where everything was ready and there were many volunteers waiting for us.

We say well “await us”, because this year we also sisters wanted to participate. ... to be honest, we sisters did not run but turned the race into a joyful march. Along the way, we stopped to exchange greetings, smiles with the people we met on the way and who were happy to see us also supportive and happy nuns. It was an excellent opportunity to witness joy and sharing and make “the culture of encounter” our own.

The sisters of the community of Kretinga.



CELEBRATION of the PROMISES of the LAY ASSOCIATE

The lay associates of the Province of St. Louis IX continue their journey with fidelity and commitment. A group of 11 people have already made their final promises and another group of 13 people are committed with the annual promises. Four persons of this last group will make their promises later. In June they had the joy and the grace of a day of retreat at the Benedictine monks' Abbey of Solesmes (June 17th). On the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, June 23rd they presented their promises to the Lord.

Let us listen to their words, some of the reflections and emotions of what they have experienced.

The promises:

- *A step in the journey of discovery and deepening of Franciscan spirituality;*
- *a commitment to continue on this path, drawing strength from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from the spirituality of St. Francis, from the fraternal love of the FMSC sisters and lay associates in the heart of the Church;*
- *an awareness and acceptance of the reality of God's love personally and for everyone; His presence at my side and His gifts;*
- *the desire to try to respond to this free love, despite my littleness, with trust, simplicity, benevolence, joy, hope; and with the prayer of praise;*
- *an invitation to love life, and my brothers and sisters. In a sense, a sending on a mission, to help sow God's love in the world.*

What was memorable for me during the day of retreat:

- The constancy, the silent strength of those who rely on God, who agree to give him everything.

- Fortitude and peace which are manifested by these men immersed in prayer, imbued with the Word of God.

- The depth and simplicity of the intervention of a monk and Sr Marie-Armelle, a transcription

of an experience rooted in the relationship with God, coloured with human anecdotes illustrating the presence and action of God in our lives, revealing the importance of our listening, our look, our openness to the divine life to which we are invited to participate.

- Confession, which took on another dimension, that of a dialogue in truth under the loving gaze of the Father. I rarely lived constructively, positively, having a momentum to start better, with God's



grace, to help me fight against human weakness, convinced that God welcomes me willingly with my lack, and not with my masks.

The celebration of promises

• *I experienced them as “a new baptism in the love of God”, a revelation heard during the retreat and which resounded strongly in me.*

• *Emotion of a new beginning, preceded by a period of maturation in fraternity, and aimed towards the future mission.*

• *Receiving the Tau - sign of blessing, peace, liberation - accompanied by this word : “Remember that it is not you who carries the cross, it is the cross that carries you ...”I would like to say “Thank you, Lord!” And at the same time “I believe Lord, but increase my faith in you”.*

Claire



Sr Armelle ... during these three rich years of teaching at the school of Saint Francis, you kindly listened to me and motivated me. After praying, I decided to make my promise of lay associate and I thank you deeply and sincerely.

The retreat to the Abbey of Solesmes, which culminated before the celebration of the promises, allowed us to strengthen the fraternal bonds that now unite us. Yes, in fact, Jesus gives us to experience, to live in reality this Fraternity to which He calls every woman and every man. Surely, the time of the retreat made me personally aware of the new family in which I was preparing to commit myself.

Life in Jesus is not always a long and peaceful river! But ... Jesus is there I know it, I feel it ...

Emotion and peace mingled when I made my first annual promise, accompanied by my little Sara. ...

Lord, we are before you to say how great you are, how precious your Love is!

Rowan

The retreat for us was a memorable day in communion with our Patron Saint Francis: the sharing of the meal, the conference of Father Philippe and the sacrament of reconciliation. The ceremony in the chapel will remain a great moment for us,



now we are definitely members of lay associates in your community for a lifetime. Surely a heavy but generous commitment for those in poverty, despair, illness and much more.

We will try to comfort them in the best possible way. With all our greatest gratitude and fraternal affection, we will never forget all that has been given to us.

Paulette e Charles

What I remember of all the teachings given by Sister Armelle is a better knowledge on one side of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and, on the other, of the life of St. Francis. A fraternal life in the community and in the parish, this is what marked these meetings helped by the lessons and the retreat in Solesmes. If I had any difficulty in accepting this moment of retreat, the conviviality and the dialogue among brothers and sisters were the strength of this day. On the celebration of the promises ... once again the solidarity and the fraternal attitude of all without forgetting the beautiful moment of celebration of course.

Alain



The Lay Associates in Limassol begin their journey

The first meeting of the LFMSC (Lay Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart) took place on July 9th, 2017 in Limassol; 19 people were present.

We started the meeting at 4 pm in our chapel. Sister Roly Kaithakulath welcomed everyone, starting with a biblical phrase: *“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*



She went on to explain that *“The Lord has a plan for us and is very personal. God calls us by name and I believe that you have felt an inspiration in you to know, to learn and to be a follower of Christ through the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. The grace of God is given to us to shape our life as He wants ... The life we have received is a gift from God. A gift offered to us freely, to share it with others ...*

There is only one caste, the caste of humanity, a



religion, the religion of love, one commandment, the commandment of sincerity. One God, a language that is the language of the heart, because God is Love”.

After the introduction we invoked the Holy Spirit to guide our meeting, fill the heart of every participant and make us humble and simple instruments of peace in the hands of the Lord. Sr. Gracy Puthiyadath told the story of the origin of our foundation, and explained to them what LFMSC means. After the presentation of the Congregation by Sister Gracy, Sr. Svetla Zekova shared with the group the experience that the sisters live in Bulgaria with the laity who are

always close to the sisters and help them in their activities.

It followed a brief pause of silence and personal prayer. To the words of the song: *lead kindly light ...* each of us approached the altar with the lit candle, as a symbol of our readiness to be the light of the world. Then we went to the community room where we saw a video that presented the whole history of our Congregation and the various world missions from the beginning to the present day. We have exchanged the impressions that this meeting has aroused in each one, and spontaneously the desire and decision to continue and form the LFMSC group came out.

Following is the sharing of a girl’s experience:

“Thank you so much to all sisters specially to our spiritual adviser sister Roly for giving this opportunity inviting us to know more about St. Francis of Assisi. Thank you all, Lay Franciscan Missionaries of Sacred Heart. We are happy and willing to be part of your mission specially in doing some apostolic works. It is a great opportunity for us to begin follow what God wants from us. That not only to build a church outside but build a church inside our heart by loving one another and helping to those who are in needed most. Thank you and God bless you all”



The second meeting took place in Troodos on August 15th.

Sr Roly led the meeting using the encyclical of the Holy Father Francis “Laudato Si”, and she said to the participants:

We sing the song of love and brotherhood that is nature. The ways of God are wonderful and nobody can understand them deeply, but we can personally feel it with our hearts and see it with our spiritual eyes.

Today we are in contact with all creation, heaven is our roof, the stones and the ground are our resting place and we have God's presence all around us and the Word of God in the center of us. The purpose of the gathering is to reflect in the faith on the encyclical of Pope Francis, Laudato si. The title is taken from the first line of the Encyclical, "Laudato si, mi Signore," or "praise to you, my Lord." In the words of this beautiful song, St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Sr Roly then invited everyone to go into the woods and reflect on the presence of God among the plants, the trees, the wind, the heat, the sun, etc.

The reflections arising from this experience have been wonderful and profound.

The meeting ended with the Holy Mass celebrated by the Rev. Father Enrique Bermejo.

The third meeting was held in Limassol on 1st October.



Sr Angelica Hadjihanni, Provincial Superior, Sr. Veronica Hadjijoseph, local superior, and all the sisters of the community welcomed the members in our chapel and Sr Roly Kai-thakulath explained to them the program of the day.

Sr. Aurora Castardo, with great joy, accepted the invitation to come to Limassol and speak to the laity about St. Francis of Assisi. Then we had the celebration of the transitus of St. Francis with the community. Sr Aurora did a great job to make the day beautiful by preparing not only the chapel for the occasion, but

also for the celebration with video clips and explanation. Everyone enjoyed praying for a better Christian life.

To conclude, the provincial Superior gave everyone present the rosary and the blessing of St. Francis.

A special thanks to everyone for their help and support. We hope to continue to serve the Lord with our faith and in love for all creatures.

Sr Roly, Sr Gracy, Sr Svetla



Youth - Faith - Illness - Conference A.I.Pa.S.

The XXXIII National Conference A.I.Pa.S. (Italian Association of Health Pastoral Care) was held in Assisi from 9th to 12th October 2017.

The Congress, which normally takes place annually, was aimed at those who, like chaplains or volunteers, come into deep contact with the world of suffering within medical field. The Association has always had as its objective, the formation of those in charge of this service to help them to grow in themselves and in faith, and then make them to be able to find an equilibrium between their being and knowing.

On the line of Pope Francis who desires a Church able to listen to the young, the focus was on them. For this reason, the theme was “Youth, faith and sickness. Difficulties and pastoral resources.”

From the Diocese of Trento participated Silvia, in charge of the chaplain of the Hospital of Arco, and Bro. Ezio ofm cap, chaplain of the S. Chiara Hospital in Trento. Besides them the program was attended by Sr. Barbara and other three youth animators, Paola, Michaela and Francesca. who are part of a youth ministry project. The young volunteers of this group make visits to the sick people and spend time with them in easing their suffering. Conferences began with the question of how young people experience the faith in the midst of the challenges of life in our time and especially when it is threatened by illness and the fear of death. Yes, because suffering will affect everyone’s life, there is no life without pain; unfortunately at times it does not spare even those who are young.

A great biblical scholar Rosanna Virgili has guided us through the pages of the Gospel describing, how even today in our journey in life we cross Canaanite women who plead, widows of Naim who cry, the leaders of the Synagogue who beseech. Much pain should correspond to much love following

the example of Jesus, the Son of God incarnated to touch, with His life, the suffering life of every person.

She told us that young people, who embark on a personal path of social voluntary service, have to face the ‘challenge’ to be always open and welcome to any persons and suffering. Thus requires



to return to the biblical roots of Christianity. “God is a doctor, indeed this is the first adjective assigned to God after the liberation from ‘Egypt, the healing work of the Lord is not a’ performance ‘ but a true covenant, which presupposes an act of fidelity, on the basis of which He takes care of you ».



The testimonies we have heard, have described to us, how the belief in Someone who never abandons us, even when He seems silent, can make the days, the months, the years lived in the “night” as a time of grace. Faith in the hour of trial is decisive, enlightening and helps to make sense, even to suffering in its most varied expressions.

The intervention of Fr Michele Falabretti, head of the National Youth Pastoral Service, expressed how the Youth Synod would promulgate a “manual” in which we will find all the answers to the problems and doubts of the young. It is indeed a way to stand beside them; listening, sharing, getting rid of the “ready-made” answers that are no longer enough. In addition, he said that suffering is one of the central themes in the experience of growth of the young people, who sometimes find themselves living in situations of psychological and spiritual fragility, subjected to the elements of growth.

Today, many young people choose to give their time and energy to those in difficulty but when they experience situations of illness and death, they reveal their great need for guidance. Therefore, it is important to have someone who can accompany them in discovering these difficulties and living through them.

Interreligious dialog in Istanbul: a strong formative experience

From 12 to 28 October 2017, an ongoing formation course on interreligious and ecumenical dialogue was held, organized by the Friars Minor of the international fraternity “Santa Maria in Draperis”. There were about thirty participants in the course; most of them were Friars Minor. Three of our sisters, Sr. Zita Gutang and sr. Miriam Oyarzo, who work in the mission in Turkey and Sr. Dila Vasia from Albania and six lay people from different places, were part of the group. The composition of the group was international: Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Brazzaville, Mexico, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Italy, Albania, Malta, France ...: and we found day after day, this internationality turned out to be a real treasure.



The formation course proposed to the participants was described using the “mosaic” metaphor; through moments of prayer, lectures in the classroom, direct testimonies, visits to different places. More over a complete picture was created of the challenges and the frontiers of dialogue and the ways in which this takes into concrete form.

During various discourses on these days, the anthropological and biblical foundations of dialogue have been proposed in general terms; the dimensions of inter-religious dialogue (especially with Islam and Judaism) and of ecumenical dialogue were presented.

An icon guided our days: that of Francis of Assisi, brother and minor, capable of building relationships that are always fraternal and respectful, to the point of coming to meet the same Sultan of Egypt in Damietta.

Some days have been dedicated to pilgrimages to Anatolia, in the footsteps of St. Paul, and to Cappadocia, in the footsteps of St. Gregory Nazianzen and St. Basil the Great. A direct contact with the places of Christian origins has helped us to revive the awareness of our history and of the courage of the first witnesses of Christ. Together with this, it was also highlighted the fact that from the beginning, as the bishop of Iskenderun, Mgr. Paolo Bizzeti who accompanied us told that “Christianity was born plural”.

Many were the strong events of these days and it is not possible to write down everything in these few lines. However, we cannot fail to mention at least some of them. The meeting with the ecumenical patriarch Bartholomew I, the Eucharist celebrated in the church of an Orthodox monastery (in the

so-called “sanctuary”, behind the iconostasis, an act of great hospitality towards us Catholics), a Symposium to celebrate the five hundred years of the Lutheran reform, an ecumenical prayer in the style of Taizé, in the presence of a Muslim community in prayer in a mosque, the presence of the Alevita community in prayer, an interreligious prayer with the brotherhood of the Dervishes, the testimony of some Christian refugees from Iraq.

All of these were very moving experiences.

In a sharing within the group of participants, a recurring word was “Grace”. Indeed, the course was a gift that enriched me personally, to go forward in “meeting diversity”. Someone said, “After these days we will not have a diploma in the dialogue, but we have a changed heart and a more open mind”. These days have helped me to know the diversity, to go to what is central. Where there is what is central, there is communion; a communion realized according to the Franciscan charism of minority and service.

Really, the dialogue is in our “Franciscan chromosomes” and without doubt, this course helps in an existential way to deepen our vocation to encounter with the other whether it belongs to another Christian denomination or that professes a faith different from that in the Lord Jesus! Thank you for giving me this precious opportunity.



Sr Dila Vasia



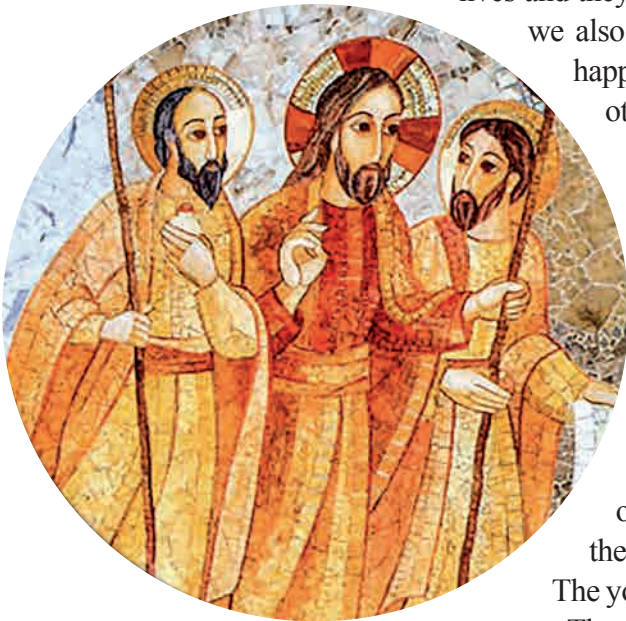
Vocational Ministry and consecrated life horizons and hopes “Come and see” (Jn 1:39)

The superior General Sr Paola Dotto and three of the sisters from the gen. council participated in a seminar held on the theme “vocation ministry and Consecrated life: horizons and Hopes from 1st to 3rd December 2017.

It was organized by the Congregation for the Consecrated life and Society for Apostolic Life, in view of the forth-coming synod of the young people in October 2018. A gathering of about 800 men and women religious, belonging to different charismatic, cultural and apostolic back ground; all with the same preoccupation, that is, how to give a true faith formation to the future church? How our pastoral ministry become effective channels to direct the young people to choose their right vocation.

The opening greeting was with the message of Pope Francis, read out in the assembly as he was away in his visits to Bangladesh and Myanmar. The absorbed concern of the holy father over the present situation, the demands of the Gospel, the great responsibility of the religious to have a true pastoral conviction; our role in reaching out and relating with the young people of today who lost their orientation to various aspects life.

The reflections, discussions and the sharing of the entire programme were focused on the Gospel words “Come and See” from St. John. Jesus invited the disciple “come and see”. They went and stayed with Him. Their experience was so strong that they stayed longer with him. It brought out a change in their



lives and they motivate others to have that same experience. Today we also invite the young in different ways. Unfortunately it happens that they do not stay longer neither they encourage others to have the experience. It is an alarming fact that they go more and more away from religious life and even from faith.

At this point, the various discourses in the conference, of eminent and expertise resource persons, invited the religious to introspect on our being and doing as consecrated and make needed changes an effort to renew if required. Our witness of faith and love in the fraternities and in our apostolates, our way of living the vows etc. should be evaluated and see if they attract and encourage the young to this way of life.

The young people are good, generous, having concern on the poor. They have a longing for something real and true: they no longer believe in words, they need true-life witnesses.

All the discourses expressed on the necessity to integrate the vocational ministry with the pastoral ministry that is, to begin with the families. The life testimonies shared by various persons evidenced the need to begin our vocational ministry right from the families. The logo chosen for the entire program was Jesus walking with the disciples to Emmaus. Today we are asked to make a walk with the young people. Encounter them in their daily realities of life, accompany them in love, instruct and enlighten them to the truth- Jesus. It certainly will make a change in their lives and they will transmit this experience to others, “We have found the Messiah”.

The sharing in the groups divided according the regions were very enriching. Different groups brought out their guidelines for the synod for the Youth in October 2018. The entire programme was very inspiring; an invitation to all to take challenging, steps to pastoral and vocational ministry.



Living in God

*"Heaven is the goal and the aim
of our existence
(Pope Francis)"*



**Sr. M. Libera Miotto
of the Good Shepherd**

*Born in Vedelago (TV)
on 24.09.1930
Died in Gemona
on 25.06.2017*

When Imelda Miotto, at the age of 19, decided to respond to the Lord's call, she named herself Sr. Libera as the name of her holy parents (father Liberale and mother Libera Tommasini, that Sr. Libera could not know as she died young). She also chose to rely on the Good Shepherd. She was sweet, good and humble

according to the Gospel and in the arms of Jesus certainly she found peace, joy and security.

Sr. Libera was born in Vedelago on 24 September 1930 and baptized four days later, on 28 September. Always frail in health, but ready to face life with her simple and genuine faith! As a sister, after her teaching qualification, she went to different communities, dedicating herself to nursery school children in Friuli (Treppo Grande, Ravveo, Basaldella Faedis, Paluzza) and in Trentino (Andalo).

The mission with children and families is always so demanding and her health has not held up for long (especially after a serious accident). In fact, already at the age of 40 she had to retire to the mother house. Here she was able to express her particular talent, that of an embroiderer. For years, she has dedicated herself with real passion, especially in the manufacture of garments for liturgical use: tablecloths for the altar, vestments and ser-

vices for Mass. She lived the most difficult mission in these last years overwhelmed by a disease in which she showed great patience and endurance. Everything she offered to the Lord without ever complaining. Several times seemed to take flight for heaven, but only on 25 June, surrounded by the sisters in prayer, Sr. Libera left this earthly exile to go to meet Jesus, the Good Shepherd, truly 'free' to travel the eternal pastures of the heaven to satiate her hunger for infinity.

Sr. Libera, now that you are "free from all ground conditioning" you can experience the joy of the children in the tender embrace of the Father, remember your loved ones and us your sisters. Intercede the gift of holy vocations that know how to live with trust in the love of God!





**Sr M. Terlisa Pattaro
of the Good Shepherd**

*Born in Trebaseleghe (PD)
on 19.11.1924
Died in Gemona
on 23.07.2017*

On July 23, 2017, towards the conclusion of the XVI Sunday, in which the Gospel speaks to us of good wheat and weeds, the Lord sent His Angels to gather the “good wheat”, cultivated in a suitable land, the soul of our Sr. Terlisa, and brought her and the harvest to heaven.

Mary, this was the name given to her by the father Gio Batta and mother Giovanna at Baptism. She is one of the five children, born of their love; she was born in Trebaseleghe PD on 19.11.1924. From this family rooted in faith, the Lord had chosen for himself Mary, who at a young age wanted to be part of our Congregation of Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Sr. Terlisa - this the name chosen as religious - a kind, generous soul, has

found benevolence in all the communities in which she has lent her humble and precious service.

She was engaged in some towns for the activities with the children “after school hours”, but it was above all as a Kindergarten teacher where she shared her beautiful talents and left a good memory of her kindness and availability. She served many times as Superior in various communities: this reveals the esteem deserved to her by the Provincial Superiors of the time and the Sisters.

In recent years, when she was not allowed, due to age limits, to remain as a teacher, she lent herself competently to the most various services, always with availability and kindness. The sickness that caused her death has been manifested lately, in a form already serious. Sr. Terlisa welcomed the final trial from the hands of the Lord with serenity and patience.

Dearest Sister Terlisa, now that you have reached the Lord, the Love of your life, intercede holy vocations for your Congregation, who has loved and esteemed you, and ask for abundant blessings for all the relatives who have loved you so much.



**Sr Maria Teresa Rodriguez
Munoz of the Divin Will**

*Born in Gorbea Chile
on 15.10.1939
Died in Santiago del Chile
on 12.08.2017*

Sister Maria Teresa Rodriguez Munoz on August 12th lived her Easter, her passing from this world to eternity; moment that for us Christians makes us similar to Jesus who from the pain of passion and death on the cross went to the bosom of the Father, to glory. María Teresa Rodríguez Muñoz, was born in the province of Temuco in 1939; spiritually followed by Fr Clemente Pérez, of the Franciscan Order, and oriented to our Congregation, she entered that she was not yet twenty years old. She lived her formation in Puerto Varas in the pre-novitiate and novitiate. She made her first Profession on January 29, 1962 and her perpetual vows, that is to say for life, on February 25, 1967.

After completing the pedagogical preparation in the

“school” Santa Teresa de Santiago, she was alternatively in all the communities and the respective schools that the Congregation has in Chile, Puerto Varas, Puerto Montt, Rancagua and Santiago, as a teacher in primary school and in pastoral activities especially in sacramental catechesis, with children and with families. We also find her in Santiago as superior of the religious community between 1991 and 1994.

She had the good fortune to go to Rome for the beatification of Father Alberto Hurtado, and she was also able to visit the Holy Land, the most significant places where the Lord lived. A few years later, she returned to the Italian capital for an annual pastoral theological course. Finally, she was sent to the missions of Tambobamba at the Department of Apurimac in Peru and Cusco, where she happily served in the apostolate of pastoral and human promotion available to the parish that the sisters themselves administer. But it was here in 1998, after four years of mission, that her illness manifested itself; she was urgently rescued and returned to Chile, where she underwent surgery at the Catholic University Hospital, an operation that saved her life. Since then she has fought against metastatic cancer that has never completely abandoned her despite numerous treatments. In the last 20 years she has had periods of calm, she has dedi-

cated herself to the aloe she prepared for all the sisters who wanted it, as well as for the external people who trusted in that remedy. Two years ago she was about to leave us, but once again they saved her and that’s how we got to August 12th. After the feast of Santa Chiara, the Lord came to pick her up at dawn. He took her into sleep and led her to other shores. She was a simple, practical, hard-working sister who knew how to take care of the house, the orchard, the field and the plants, the traditions of the Chilean people who celebrate life, meetings, events, appreciated her land, the fields green, copihues, the song of the Maros, the music of the manantiales and the silence of the simple.

Sisters, family and friends thank God for the gift of your life, Sr. Teresa, for the good that God has done through you and when the Lord will keep you in His glory, do not forget your natural family, your religious family, and all those who somehow came to you. For all of us, obtain blessings and graces from heaven to grow in faith, hope and charity and to be able to find ourselves happy as guests of the same eternal banquet.



**Sr M. Flora Ceron
of the Immaculata**

*Born in Trebaseleghe (PD)
on 23.01.2017*

*Died in Limassol Cipro
on 19.08.2017*

Sr Flora, daughter of Virgilio and Genoveffa Ceron, was born on January 23, 1924 in Trebaseleghe, Province of Padua. She was baptized on January 27th of the same year, with the name of Milena. At 18, on July 2, 1942, after hearing the Lord’s call to consecrate herself to Him, she began her pre-novitiate with the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, in the Mother House at Gemona, where she made her novitiate and on October 5, 1946, she made her Holy Vows of obedience, poverty and chastity for the first time. Still in Gemona, she completed her studies and in 1948, she taught rhythmic gymnastics in the elementary school of Santa Elisabetta in Rome for two years.

In 1950, she moved to the high school in Gemona. She made her perpetual profes-

sion in 1951 and in 1965 she arrived as a missionary in Cyprus as an Italian teacher. She taught in the school of Limassol and Famagusta where she also served as local superior, in Famagusta from 1966 to 1969 and in Limassol from 1972 to 1976. In these same years, Sr Flora also served as provincial councilor and secretary. During the Turkish invasion, in 1974, Sr Flora from her place as local superior, together with the provincial superior Sr. Emilia Branco, opened the doors of the school of Limassol to accommodate, for a few months, many refugees who had escaped from the horror of the war, offering them lodging, food and all that was necessary for them, having left their homes empty-handed. From 1976 to 1992 she served as provincial treasurer, then she was transferred to Ankara-Turkey for two years and in the Holy Land Rest Home in Larnaca for another four years. In 1998, she returned to the community of Limassol where she spent the last years of her life. Sr. Flora, a calm and patient person, worked hard on missions and helped the poor. Furthermore, she encouraged the community to pray for the vocations we so badly need. Many ex-students always remember her smiling and welcoming attitude, singing with her the favorite song in Greek "Ypomoni" (patience). She really needed this patience when in the last six years of her life, because of a paralysis, she had

to stand still in bed, accepting suffering from God's hands as a means for her purification and offering it for vocations. Sr Flora has left us poor of her presence, but rich and lucky to have known her and lived next to her.

We thank you, Sr. Flora, for your example of humility, simplicity and patience and we pray you to continue to pray for us, so that the Lord may protect us and enrich us with many, good and holy vocations as you have always done.



**Sr. M Nazarena Boa
of the Holy Cross**

*Born in Badoere (TV)
on 21.07.1933*

*Died in Tolmezzo (UD)
on 22.08.2017*

Born in Badoere (TV) on July 21, 1933 and baptized three days later, on July 24, 1933,

her parents Giuseppe and Bario Domenica had called her 'Imelda', a common and popular name in those days. Grown up in the environment of simple faith of the family and the people of her genuinely Christian town, she perceived and welcomed the call of the Lord to follow Him in religious life at the age of 18: young, but mature to respond with an open and sincere heart to vocation.

She went in Gemona among the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart on 17 February 1951; after two years of preparation in postulancy and novitiate, she consecrated herself totally to the Lord with religious profession, which took place on 19 May 1953 and chose to be called Sr. Nazarena of the Holy Cross. The cross has been the hallmark of her life and mission in her generous and humble "daily self-giving" ... 55 years with the commitment of being a cook, a service aimed at the corporal and spiritual benefit of many brothers and sisters, especially the elderly and the sick in the rest houses of Menegazzi - Borgo Cavour and in schools. Since 2008, she retired in the mother house, she has lived with her elderly sisters in the infirmary, the well-deserved rest.

In her memory, however, her mission of cooking remained so impressed that she kept remembering it with typical expressions that recalled that

job. In the month of August, she suddenly got physically worse, requiring admission to the Tolmezzo hospital. Here the sisters of the communities of Cedarchis, Cavazzo and mother House would turn around to be close to her during the day, until on 22nd August, on the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the heaven was opened for her, where she surely found her assigned place from God since eternity.

Sr. Nazarena, now that you are also in the glory of heaven, help us to invoke the Virgin, Queen of the Angels and Saints, so that you may come close to us, your sisters, to all those whom you have loved and served in life, to all your loved ones. *Queen and Mother, obtain for us that those who in all parts of the world acclaim you and recognize you as Queen and Lady, may one day in heaven benefit from the fullness of your Kingdom, in the vision of your Son, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen!* “(His Holiness PIUS PP.XII, 1 November 1954).



**Sr M. Emidia Hernández
Kaiser of St Francis**

*Born in Fresia - Chile
on 07.07.1940*

*Died in Santiago del Chile
on 29.09.2017*

She was born on July 7, 1940 in Tegualda, in the municipality of Freesia where she was baptized a month later. She received the sacrament of Confirmation on November 11, 1949. Because of the need to complete her studies, she lived for a period in a college of Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, where she began to discover the meaning of a consecrated and missionary life. When they arrived in Puerto Montt, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, in 1951, she approached them and the Josefa Téllez school that the Sisters themselves began to administer.

Little by little, she began to internalize the dream of being a true missionary, so while attending the first cycle of secondary education at the Women's Lyceum in Puerto Montt,

we find her to live first as an aspirant and then as a pre-novice, until 1961 when she went to the novitiate in Puerto Chico, municipality of Puerto Varas. On March 21, 1962, she made her first profession. When the celebrant priest, according to the appropriate ritual of the Congregation, asked her, together with the other newly professed, if she was willing to go among the infidels and give blood and life, if necessary, to defend the faith, her heart was deeply moved, while the Spirit of the Lord sealed her soul forever with the great desire to proclaim the Kingdom of God. The Lord accomplishes great things in the little ones, in those who seek Him with a simple heart, with humility and in truth. She has been present in all the communities that the Congregation has in Chile: Santiago, Rancagua, Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas, as a teacher, vice dean, administrator in our educational works, but above all as a missionary presence, as a catechist and as a pilgrim in southern islands, and many small remote villages not always cared for and assisted in religious formation. She followed the Missionary Childhood for many years, was also prepared in Rome with pastoral courses and participated in conferences and meetings in Latin America, always cultivating her missionary spirit. In the year 1979 she asked the superiors of the Congregation to go to Africa, where our religious family began to spread.



She was not allowed, but she was able to change Cameroon for Bolivia and went to work in the Yungas de la Paz and in the plains of eastern Bolivia, but she could not tolerate the heights of the Andes Mountains and after a couple of years she had to return.

Despite her great intellectual ability she never wanted to study, she wanted to be simple and nurture contact with the poor, with the land and with all of nature. In 2012, she went to Rome to celebrate the anniversary of her consecration, 50 years of religious and missionary life in the eternal city and in the center of the Congregation. But even then she began showing signs of memory loss and little by little she reduced the moments of lucidity. Aggravated by various disorders, finally, by a pulmonary complication, at dawn on September 29, 2017, the Lord came to meet her with sister death, to take her with Him to the land of the just, where everyone will enjoy an overflowing, unknown fullness and where we will all be one in a new land and a new paradise.



Sr. M. Kevin Dillon of the Agonizing Heart of Christ

*Born in Washington on 11 April 1921
Died in Peekskill on 27 October 2017*

Sister M. Kevin of the Agonizing Heart of Christ, FMSC (Mary Elizabeth Dillon) entered into eternal life on October 27, 2017. She was born on April 11, 1921 in Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC to John and Catherine Dillon. Her father was an officer in the Army War College and eventually retired to West Point with his family.

After her graduation from Sacred Heart Grammar School and Ladycliff Academy she entered the Franciscan Sisters on September 8, 1939, was professed on July 7, 1941 and made final vows on July 7, 1946. Sister had a BA from Ladycliff College and a MA in Latin from St. Bonaventure University. Her assignments include “group mother” for the big boys at St. Joseph’s Home in Peek-

skill, a 3rd grade teacher at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, NYC, and teacher of Science, Latin and French at St. Joseph’s High School in West New York, NJ. For three years, Sister Kevin served as Personnel Directress of the Province, while teaching ESL in the evenings. She served on many Middle States Evaluation Committees and was the recipient of three government grants for further education.

A new chapter in Sister Kevin’s life began when she and Sister Raphael became Religious Education Coordinators at St. Mary’s Parish in Katonah, NY. In 1987, both Sisters took over the Catechetical Program at Holy Family Parish in Staten Island. In 1994, she was elected as the Assistant Provincial of the Province.

After leaving full-time ministry, Sister returned home to Peekskill where she assisted others in their time of retirement. The love and care which she provided for her good friend, Sister Raphael, was a beautiful example of Franciscan compassion and love.

I quote Sister Kevin from an account of her vocation experience: “By the little miracles that God works daily I have been buoyed up by the love of God all my life. The Lord acts in strange ways and desires complete trust and submission to his holy will. This I learned early in



my religious life.”

As we thank God for Sister Kevin's life as a Franciscan Sister, we, too, are grateful for the little miracles and blessings with which she has graced us: her smile, her Irish wit, and her dedication to the gift of her vocation.



**Sr M. Antonia Rosin
of the Nativity of Mary**

Born in Istrana (TV)

on 17.10.1949

*Died in Gemona-
on 04.01.2018*

Sr. Antonia was born in Istrana (TV) on October 17, 1949 from a simple family, but full of deep religious values. In baptism (October 27, 1949) she was called Antonia, with the intention of placing her under the protection of the great miracle worker of Padua. Inside the home, since the early

years, she learned from father Francesco and mother Emilia, love for life and the pleasure of giving oneself with generosity and courage.

She was still a child when she expressed her desire to consecrate herself totally to the Lord, asking to enter the Congregation of the FMSC Sisters as an aspirant: she was received in Gemona in 1959, at the age of 10. Here she attended high school. Always convinced of her choice, she entered the pre-novitiate (1966) and then in the novitiate (1968) preparing to celebrate the religious profession which took place on September 15, 1969.

In the following years, she continued to attend the school “S. Maria degli Angeli” - Gemona, obtaining the ‘Diploma di Maturità Magistrale’ (1973). In the same year, she was sent to Rome in the community of the general house where she dedicated herself to the educational mission as a teacher in the elementary school. During the period of stay there, Sr. Antonia was also able to attend the Pontifical Lateran University where she obtained the ‘Diploma in Religious Sciences’. In 1979, she was inserted at the Youth Hostel of Udine from where she began her mission in our school “S. Maria degli Angeli” in Gemona as a teacher of Religion.

In 1984, she was transferred to the community of the Oasis (Gemona): this is the starting point that marks the beginning of the 33 years as a secretary in

our school. At this time, Sr. Antonia distinguished herself in a particularly fruitful experience, with which she manifested,

- **a true, profound ‘love’ for the school:** her constant commitment has been to make it grow and, when necessary, to safeguard the educational mission, with an immediate proximity to the children, teachers and families. Her eyes were particularly attentive to everyone’s needs, expressing a real passion for a mission in which she demonstrated that she believed fully.

- **a tenacity, always vigilant and constant, to support the scholastic reality** even in the most difficult moments ... and this always through her interventions marked by serenity, trust and the spirit of a true Franciscan, capable of conviction and acceptance.

Her passage to eternity, sudden and unexpected, found her ready, as always, to repeat her ‘yes’.

Now from up there she will be able to continue her mission obtaining from the Lord, with her usual unyielding insistence, that accompanying force of divine grace that gives hope and promise of good future to the school “S. Maria degli Angeli”.

