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Pope Francis indicates us the way of holiness!



The apostolic exhortation “Gaudete et Exsultate” of Pope Francis addresses the theme of holiness in the contemporary world, affirming with conviction that “holiness is within everyone’s reach in everyday life and in everyday problems”.

It consists of five chapters to help the whole Church to promote the desire for holiness. Pope Francis says “ My modest goal is to propose again the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us “to be holy and blameless before him in love”.

The apostolic exhortation begins with the “Call to holiness”, dealt with in the **first chapter**, in which Pope Francis explained who the “saints of the next door” are and what mission each of us can have. We are all called to be saints living with love and offering each one our own testimony in the occupations of every day, where we are “.

Pope Francis explains that all people have their own “journey of holiness” to highlight the best of themselves and that we should not waste time trying to imitate what has been thought of for others.

In the **second chapter**, he dwells on what he defines as “ two false forms of holiness that can lead us astray: gnosticism and pelagianism”. Once again, therefore, the Pope refers to these two heresies «which arose in the first Christian centuries», and which in his judgment «continue to have an alarming actuality» within the Church (n.35). It is “two forms of doctrinal or disciplinary security that give rise “to a narcissistic and authoritarian elitism, whereby instead of evangelizing, one analyses and classifies others, and instead of opening the door to grace, one exhausts his or her energies in inspecting and verifying. In neither case is one really concerned about Jesus Christ or others”. (No. 35).

In the **third chapter**, Pope Francis presents the Beatitudes one by one, updating them in today’s cultural context. Explaining that holiness is the fruit of God’s grace indicates the characteristics that constitute a model from the Gospel. He thus illuminates life in love that cannot be separated for God and neighbour, which is the central commandment of charity and the heart of the Gospel from Jesus’ own words: “Jesus explained with all simplicity what it is to be saints, and He did that when He gave

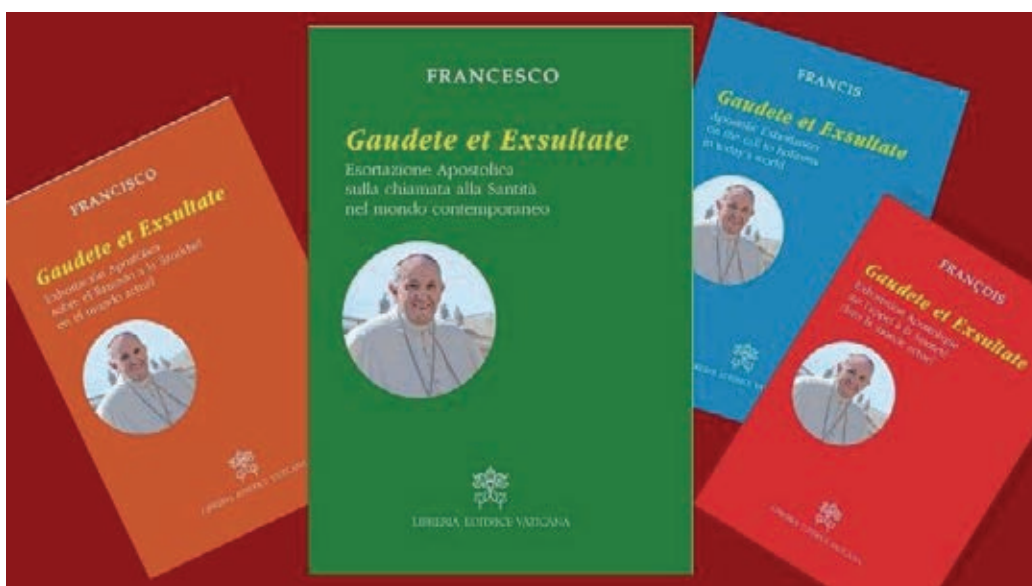
us the Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5: 3-12; Lk 6, 20-23). They are like the Christian identity card “So, if any of us asks the question: “How do we get to be a good Christian?”, The answer is simple: it is necessary to do, each in our own way , what Jesus says in the speech of the Beatitudes. In them the face of the Master is outlined, which we are called to make visible in the daily life of our life ».

In the **fourth chapter**, Pope Francis pauses to present some characteristics that are indispensable for understanding the style of life to which Christ calls us in the current context and which are of particular importance because of some risks and limitations of today’s culture, “where we see a sense of anxiety, sometimes violent, that distracts and debilitates; negativity and sullenness; the self-content bred by consumerism; individualism; and all those forms of ersatz spirituality – having nothing to do with God – that dominate the current religious marketplace.».

The first of these virtues are: endurance, patience and meekness. Then follows the humility that, says Pope Francis, can be rooted in the heart only through humiliations. Without them there is neither humility nor holiness “(No. 118). It refers not only to the violent situations of martyrdom, “but the daily humiliations of those who keep silent to save their families, who prefer to praise others rather than boast about themselves, or who choose the less welcome tasks, at times even choosing to bear an injustice so as to offer it to the Lord.” (No. 119).

Other features are humor and fervor. The saint is capable of living with joy and a sense of humor. Without losing realism, he enlightens others with a positive spirit full of hope »

In the **fifth chapter** Pope Francis warns that the path to holiness is also “a constant struggle against the devil, who is the prince of evil”. And “how to know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it comes from the spirit of the world or the spirit of the devil? The only way is discernment”, which “is also a gift that must be asked” (No. 166). Pope Francis then asks “all Christians not to neglect to do every day ... a sincere examination of conscience” (No. 169).



The document concludes with the prayer that the Holy Spirit instills in us an intense desire to be saints for the greater glory of God and to encourage each other in this regard (No. 177).

Ecumenical visit of Pope Francis in Geneva



With great joy, the parishioners and the sisters of the community “San Giovanni XXIII” of Tavannes participated in the celebration of the Eucharist with Pope Francis. The visit of Pope Francis to Geneva on 21 June 2018 was an intense moment of dialogue, meeting and sharing.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the World Council of Churches, founded in 1948, which brings together 348 churches: Protestants, Anglicans, Orthodox and old Catholics, representing more than 500 million Christians in 110 countries. The Catholic Church is not one of these, but participates in all discussions with the dialog, and only she does not have the right to vote. During this ecumenical pilgrimage to Switzerland, Pope Francis asked for a “new evangelizing impulse”.

He twice urged the members of the Ecumenical Council of Churches, gathered at the headquarters of this organization. He renewed his invitation to “*walk, pray and work together*”. “*I am convinced that if the missionary spirit grows, the unity among us will grow*”.

At the end of this ecumenical and exceptional day, Pope Francis presided over a Eucharistic celebration at Palexpo in front of 40,000 faithful. He was surrounded by the president of



the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, the Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch and the Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, Bishop Charles Morerod. In his homily, Pope Francis meditated on the Our Father (Mt 6,7-15), emphasizing, as he regularly does, three words of the Gospel: Father, Bread and Forgiveness. “It is only by saying Father that we pray in the Christian language,” he said. From Him



comes “all fatherhood and motherhood”, and the Our Father is “the formula of life, the One who reveals our identity: we are beloved children of the Father”. To ask for each day the bread of



the Father, as Jesus taught us, means choosing simplicity, so as to “rediscover the courage of silence and prayer, the leaven of a truly human life”. Pope Francis asks that there be “first the person, then things”, after warning against speculations about bread: “it is the food for people’s daily life and must be accessible to all.”

As for forgiveness, “does miracles” as we can see it in Christian history. Echoing the theme of the day, the ecumenism, Pope Francis said that forgiving oneself among Christians means, “rediscovering our brothers after centuries of polemics and tears”. “How much forgiveness did well to us and continues to do well!” We thank God for participating in this historic event for Switzerland, where we are on a mission.

The presence of Pope Francis was a sign of hope and encouragement for all Catholics in this wonderful country where the Lord asks us to prosper.



General Assembly of UCESM in Snagov (Romania)



The 18th General Assembly of UCESM, the Union of European Conferences of Major Superiors took place from 5 to 10 March 2018 in Snagov (Romania). The community of the Carmelite Friars of Snagov welcomed us with great hospitality. The representatives of the consecrated and consecrated of the European Conferences of the European countries were present.

At the center of the meeting entitled “Widen the space of your tent” (Is 54.2), have been the current problems of migration and integration in Europe, both in religious communities and in society.

The Eucharistic celebration of the opening of the assembly was presided over by Msgr. Giovanni Peragine, ex-president of Ucesm and since last September bishop of the Apostolic Administration of Southern Albania and vice-president of the Albanian Episcopal Conference. “The latest crises that have hit the old continent - declares mgr. Peragine - from the economy to the emergency-refugees, have awakened populist sentiments and forces, contrary to the integration process.

Then there are mass migrations tightened by the facts of terrorism and the belief that the borders defend themselves only by closing them with the risk of plunging Europe back into the vortex of nationalisms “. “In the face of these phenomena, close communion is necessary in the sign of solidarity”. Precisely the concept of solidarity, which is synonymous of hospitality, openness, enlargement of one’s own living space, has been well developed, in its various meanings.

The dominant thought presented in the reports by the speakers was precisely that of “Widening the tents”, that is, extending the heart to God, to one’s own fraternities, to the Congregations and to the world.

Mons. Jose Rodriguez Carballo presented the discussion on the



document of “*new wine in new wineskins*”, reflecting on the consecrated life of the Second Vatican Council and on the challenges still open. To the question “how can the consecrated life respond to the challenges in Europe?” His answer has returned to the example of the winter season. He transmitted with great hope that consecrated life seems gray, asleep, icy, like nature during the winter. But the flowering of the future of the consecrated life will come and that will not be in the quantity of numbers but will be pouring new wine into new wineskins, thanks to men and women of hope, joy and peace. In the Franciscan spirit he concluded his remarks by recalling that the visit of sister death is a song not a cry!

Another rich contribution was offered by Father Jose Ignazio Garcia sj - regional director of the “Jesuit Refugee Service Europe”. He presented the Jesuit projects in the field of social apostolate. The questions addressed to the whole assembly are incisive: what does it mean to be a refugee and who is really the refugee? Responding he meditated on those to whom the dream of life and the greatest desire of the family was taken away, and those to whom human dignity was stolen. The presence and testimony of Brother Alois of Taizé was not lacking in this assembly. Starting from the specific ecumenical apostolate of the Taizé community, he spoke on the theme “Have a passion for the unity of the Body of Christ”: Taizé, an interfaith life with inter-religious openings. In the final part of the general assembly, elections were held for the new president of UCESM. The young Hungarian priest Zsolt Labancz was elected.

The final greeting to the participants in this meeting was the words of Pope Francis on the occasion of the World Day of Peace 2018. “*Let us not put the hope in the hearts of these our migrant brothers and sisters who are willing to risk their lives on a journey which in most cases is long and dangerous. Do not stifle their attempts at peace!*”

Suor Elka Staneva from Bulgaria



Rome: Pre-Synodal Meeting Towards the Youth Synod with Irina

If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You don't know you are a leaf that it is a part in a tree. It is a remarkable moment in my life when God gave me the opportunity to be a representative of all Catholics in Bulgaria during the Pre-synodal Meeting that took place in Rome from 19th to 24th March 2018. The pre-synodal meeting was a preparatory event for the 15th General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops that will be in October 2018, with the theme: "Young people, faith and vocational discernment".



This one of its kind event in the history of the Church not only brought young people together under the motto "We talk together" to discuss the essence of our belief and express their honest opinion, to encourage a fruitful dialogue among people of different Churches, religions and convictions. The delegates of all over the world were all a leaf of the tree of love, unity and courage. This was the beginning of a historic journey to create an eternal tree of humble dialogue, peace and to be living witnesses of love.

From my home town, Rakovski, to Rome it is 1 843 km. In our global world this is not a such a long distance, however, these are 1.843 km that my faith, heart and being travelled to be part of a family without prejudice, hatred and envy, where 300 young people from different religious background or no religion talked together with respect, lead by the religion of love – religion in which each heart is a temple.

My soul still remembers each step of my journey, each acquaintance, the spiritual feeling during the Holy Mass we had every day while we sang together in different languages, the tears of joy, and the light of the Holy Spirit I felt during the Palm Sunday Mass on Saint Peter's Square. It is a hardship one to make a testimony regarding this unforgettable week as it changes your being from within because not only all the people you meet change you, but you can sense the presence of God, our Lord and His Fatherly support for all of us to be courageous. The presence of Pope Francis only encouraged to the fullest all the delegates to speak freely during the conference that took place on 20th March: "Therefore I urge you, please: be courageous in these days; say everything that comes to you; and if you are wrong, another will correct you. But forward, with courage!". The Holy Father spend more than three hours to speak with us, delegates from around the globe. His words, frank, sincere and straightforward, addressed to all participants – both those physically present in Rome, over 300, and those connected through social networks, about 15,000 as the Pre-synodal meeting have inspired immense interest. In moments like this you realize how no matter where you live and where the story of your life is being written, you are part of something special and unique, something holy and inhuman as without the Holy Trinity we would have never come together in our belief in God.





I am grateful for all the people who made the efforts to make this dream of the Church come true. I strongly believe young people all around the world have been convinced that this was not a meeting just to formally acknowledge us, but also to truly listen to our voices, worries and hopes. Some talk in their free time and some free their time to talk to you. I learnt the difference as it felt as if our presence in the meeting in not just a formality – but a genuine reaching out to young people, to the whole world on behalf of the Church.

Moreover, I hope we managed to surprise positively the organisers as there is always the stereotype for younger generations and if they are

reliable enough – it is hard to break the vicious circle of prejudices and false myth. I am proud of all the participant and what we managed to do in a week. We were singing at the tops of our lungs in the joy of togetherness, but we were also silent and we were listening attentively; we dance with youthful enthusiasm under the rhythm of music from Latin America and Africa, but we also spend hours in plenary assembly or working language groups to share, talk, compare situation and ideas and put them in writing with the purpose of producing the final document. And we succeeded – on one the most beautiful celebration of the pastoral year – Palm Sunday Holy Mass, we handed in our final document on the topic “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” to Pope Francis. These pages may not be fully satisfactory or criticized, however, they are full of passionate search for meaning, generous sincerity, great seriousness and voices from the whole world.

I would like to end with a quote from Pope Francis, something he say during our the Palm Sunday Holy Mass: ” On this Palm Sunday, as we celebrate World Youth Day, we do well to hear Jesus’ answer to all those Pharisees past and present, even the ones of today: “If these were silent, the very stones would cry out” (Lk 19:40).

Dear young people, you have it in you to shout. It is up to you to opt for Sunday’s “Hosanna!”, so as not to fall into Friday’s “Crucify him!”... It is up to you not to keep quiet. Even if others keep quiet, if we older people and leaders – so often corrupt – keep quiet, if the whole world keeps quiet and loses its joy, I ask you: Will you cry out?

Please, make that choice, before the stones themselves cry out.”



Realize how blessed you are and never be afraid to cry out – our soul should be always faithful to God, in good times and in bad. God loves you immensely – never let your heart forget it.

Irina Dzhundrina

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSECRATION

“You will be my people and I will be your God. Ez.36,28”

An international conference was held on 3rd to 6th May at Antonianum University, Rome on the theme, *Consecratio et consecratio per Evangelica Consilia*, to reflect on consecrated life in the Church and of the various forms of consecrated life. It was an extraordinary gathering of around 800 men and women belonging to different Institutes and forms of consecrated life, of diverse cultures and from different parts of the world. Four of our sisters of the general Council participated in this event. It was an enrichment for all; listening the input sessions, reflecting and sharing the beauty and challenges of ‘Sequela Christi’-following Christ. The conference was organized by the Congregation for the institutes of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic life. In the welcome address cardinal Joao Braz Aviz said that the assembly represent a numerous people of God in the Church, *“let us try to permit the new wine of Jesus renew the wine skins of Consecrated life experiencing the joy of the Gospel”*. The objective of this conference was to reflect on our consecration as a continuous journey, to give space for dialogue and deepen our identity as consecrated of the Church in the service of the Church.

It was an intense moment in which we reflected on the elements common to all forms of consecrated life and the elements proper to each of them without bearing any superiority that *“everyone remaining in the state in which he/she is called”*. Different resource persons enlightened the assembly in the input sessions, analyzing “consecration” from the biblical theological ecclesiological and juridical point of view.

Nuria calduch-Benages MN, a biblical theologian presented consecration as an irresistible power of the word, bringing out the examples of prophets, the wisdom books and Jesus in the New Testament. Consecration is initiated from a certain separation, consequence of an election for a religious mission; Israel the chosen people were consecrated for



God’s mission. Then God enters into a covenant with them, *“You will be my people and I will be your God”* (Ez. 36:28). Consecration is a covenant, by which God becomes our God and we become His people. The initiative is from God and the covenant has the power of transforming our cold heart into “a heart ardent with love” (Ez. 36:26). It is a covenant that does not expire because it lasts to eternity (Ez.37:26). The prophets were called and consecrated for a mission to be messengers of God to the chosen people, to remind them of their fidelity to God and His covenant. Prophets, from their intimate communion with God, proclaimed God’s word to the people even at the risk of their lives.

When we come to the New Testament, the whole idea of Consecrated life is centered on the person of Jesus and his mission. At His Baptism in river Jordan, God reveals His Sonship by consecrating Him with a mission, the redemption of the humanity. In the vocation stories of the disciples, we see the call of Jesus and their immediate response in following Him. He chose them to be with Him and to send them out. Therefore, consecration is a setting apart for a mission.

In the afternoon section of the first day, Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo Ofm, the Secretary to the congregation of consecrated life, shared his reflection on Consecration : steps of a journey. He analyzed consecrated life from the ecclesial vision; the members of the people of God are consecrated through the Baptism and Confirmation and they are to remain in the vocation to which they are called. The people who make the public profession

of evangelical counsels are called to follow Christ more closely and to configure themselves totally to Him. “Christ invites them to share his experience as the chaste, poor and obedient one” (VC 18). It is when they practice the evangelical counsels, the consecrated persons live with particular intensity the Trinitarian and Christological dimensions, which mark the whole of Christian life and through fraternal life, the consecrated persons are eloquent witness to the Trinity. Consecration always has a missionary dimension. He pointed out that in the conference it was mentioned that consecrated life cannot be defined only as “*vita per consiliorum professionem consecrate*”, consecrated life by the profession of counsels; we must add other fundamental aspects to the counsels such as fraternal life and mission. Fraternal life, which has its foundation in the Trinitarian love, “is constitutive of the consecrated life in the same way as the three vows, although not necessarily a life in common, but rather fraternal life in function of the mission”.

On the second day of the meeting the whole group had, an audience with Pope Francis. He spoke on our great responsibility as being consecrated for a mission, in witnessing God’s love in the world today. He presented three ‘P’s as the pillars that hold our life; prayer, poverty and patience.

Pope Francis said, “Prayer is always a return to the first call, a return to the Lord who invited me to be near him. A return to the one, who looked into my eyes and said to me, come, leave everything and come”. He brought the example of Mother Theresa who went in search of problems, but daily spent two hours of prayer before the Most blessed Sacrament, which no one or no problem could take away from her. The Holy Father invited us to do the same, to be persons of prayer. “Each one must find how to do it, where to do it, when to do it, but

do it always. One cannot live the consecrated life, one cannot discern what is happening, without speaking with the Lord”.

The second ‘P’ he said, stands for poverty. Saint Ignatius wrote, “Poverty is the Mother, it is the retaining wall of consecrated life”. Without Poverty, there is no fruitfulness in consecrated life. It is a wall which protects you from worldliness,” leave everything; give to the poor”, the Lord said to the young man. We are all that young man, some attachments that we have, the Isaac that we must sacrifice. With this spirit of poverty, the Lord protects us –He protects us from so many problems and from so many things that seek to destroy consecrated life. Holy Father pointed out three steps, which drag the religious to worldliness; Money, vanity and pride. We need a homework to see how our poverty is going on. “Look into the drawers, the drawers of your soul; look into your personality, into your Congregation. Therefore, poverty is the mother; it is the wall that protects us and makes us more religious and helps us to dedicate all our richness to the Lord”.

The third ‘P’ is “patience. He exhorted us to “enter into patience” like Jesus who “entered patience” to bring redemption. It is an attitude to bear with problems big and small, of personal, of the community or of the Congregation and of the world in which we live today. Have this attitude of “entering patience”. The Lord has His plan for every situation and He acts in His own time. The Holy Father brought the example of Abraham, God’s promise to him and the patience he bore with. He concluded his message, insisting the consecrated people to be fruitful, by being persons of prayer, of poverty and of patience.

The third day of the Congress was totally dedicated to group sharing. Many relevant aspects of consecrated life -the Sequela Christi- today our charismatic presence and mission, living the evangelical counsels and our fraternal life in the communities, the presence and mission of the diverse forms of Sequela Christi etc. were the points given for reflection and sharing. The shared points on various topics were coordinated and presented to the assembly; which will be considered for further reflection. The conference was concluded with a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Basilica at Antonianum. It was indeed an enriching experience for all.



The Minister General of Friars Minor in our mission, Gumla

Maloam Noatoli is a very remote parish in the diocese of Gumla in Jharkhand, India. There are many Catholics and there are many vocations from these tribal villages. We have many sisters in our congregation from this diocese. The superior general of Franciscan



Minors, Rev. Fr. Michael and the definitor General Fr. Lino Greg Redobaldo paid a visit on 24th and 25th April to our mission at Maloam Noatoli parish. It was an occasion of great joy and celebration to the fathers, sisters and the parishioners. The parishioners prepared everything possible to give a traditional welcome to the rare guests and when the fathers reached a half kilometer away from the church, people carried them on the shoulders being seated on the decorated chairs. It is a custom, the greatest expression of respect to the quests, whose presence is heartily welcomed and is considered as a great blessing.

In the solemn Mass concelebrated, Fr. Michael Perri gave the homily, which was translated, by the fathers in the language of the people. He exhorted them to be humble like st. Francis, before God and before men. The grace of God will flow like stream when there is humility in the family and in the community; the stream will turn into a river and flow to the society giving grace and life to all. He

said that he knew very little about their culture, but God's love is the same and is understood everywhere. We need much unity within our families, and in our parish community to enjoy this flow of grace. If we live this grace, many vocations will come from our families.

When we live this grace with faith, we are able to receive the call of God and witness God's love to all. After the Holy Eucharist, the parishioners gave a felicitation to the quests with their traditional dances and singing. The friars run a Hindi medium elementary school where our sisters are also working. Children from the surrounding villages frequent the classes. In the next day after the Mass, the staff students and the parents gave a reception to the guests in their own way. Everything is done with much simplicity and great joy. Father general was very much pleased with these simple expressions of love.

In the evening, fathers visited a remote village Jayapur, a substation of the parish. In the evening the other Franciscan families nearby also joined them for the dinner.

Father admonished everyone to work in fraternity, in the spirit of St. Francis to make the Gospel known in the area. He imparted the blessing of St. Francis to Brother Leo and distributed "TAU" to all the priests and religious. We sisters took active role in making this



visit a memorable one in the mission. In the spirit of St. Francis we worked, along with the friars and the parishioners. His words of encouragement and appreciation really motivated us with a new spirit to make an effective presence in the mission.

Celebration in the Generalate House



‘Gratitude is the music of heart,’ we expressed our sincere gratitude to the almighty for the gift of our dear founder Fr. Gregory Fiorovanti, whose heroic life has been recognized by the church and raised him to the status of “venerable”. Pope Francis announced this great news on 8th November 2017. His daughters all over the world have celebrated this great event in different moments and expressed their gratitude to God.

On 24 March, we had a solemn thanks giving mass at Asisium recounting the marvelous things the Lord has accomplished in our religious family through this heroic, but humble man of God Fr. Gregory. It was our desire to make everyone know the heroic role this father had played to grow our congregation reaching out the continents, proclaiming the gospel message. Therefore, our General superior and councilors planned the celebration in such a way with the participation of our various school students and parents. The awareness program given to all the classes right from Kinder to Liceo with power point presentation and other means. It made the young ones understand our religious family, the life and work of this good father who always had a dream for our congregation, how the little seed of FMSC planted, grew into a big tree spreading out branches to embrace the whole world.

This basic awareness given prepared the way for an effective participation of the student’s teachers and parents





on the day of the celebration. With much enthusiasm, they took active roles in animating the Eucharist along with the sisters through singing, sharing the prayers for the various intentions and even in decorating the church. As a whole, we could observe in them a feeling of very much a part of the family.

In the morning of the day, we could see everything is prepared much in advance and all are much relaxed and in a spirit of

fraternity greeted the guests and our sisters reached from different places. There were present, the provincial superior, councilors of both the provinces Rome, Gemona, and many sisters from the different communities of the Roman province. A joyous group of people from Grotte di Castro, the native place of Fr. Gregory, came along with the parish priest and the sisters. It really created in us an affectionate feeling as they have donated us with such a good father for our family. Many Friars from the Order of Friars Minor, the religious family of our beloved father had come from different places. All these fraternal meeting itself gave us an atmosphere of festivity. The altar was very artistically, delicately decorated with flowers creating an atmosphere of prayer and sanctity. A big portrait of Fr. Gregory placed at the side of the altar welcomed everyone with penetrating smile of an affectionate father lovingly reminding us to imitate his heroic virtues. As a whole, everything was in its best combination, expressing the glory of god and reflecting the solemnity of the moment. In such an atmosphere started the solemn music of the organ, accompanying the hymn “Chiesa del Risorto.” His Excellency Cardinal Angelo Amato the prefect for the cause of canonization was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. The procession moved slowly towards the altar, while the melodious singing of our choir put every heart in an ecstasy.

After the Gospel, very important and touching has been the reading of the decree of Venerability of Father Gregory, approved by Pope Francis on November 8, 2017 was read to the public by Fr. Gianni Ofm, the postulator of the cause. The heroic virtues of the venerable father Gregory have been highlighted in the decree. The humble, patient submission to the will of God, and his total abandonment to the divine providence are to be treasured and lived in our daily life. The assembly after a silent listening to



the decree we could hear an explosion of great joy as the whole assembly clapped the hands. It is indeed a memorable moment in the history of our religious family.



The homely of his Excellency, Cardinal Angelo Amato, was a reflection of the virtues of Fr. Gregory as he thoroughly learned the life and mission of this great son of the church. We love to consider some of the inspiring points of the homely:

- Father Gregory has been an edifying Franciscan religious, prudent superior, courageous founder, enlightened Guide of the F.M.S.C.
- The sanctity of the Founder marks the validity of our apostolic charism, drawn from the redemptive love of the pierced heart of Jesus, which pours out upon all, mercy, forgiving love and grace.
- A saint of rare category, "Silent Saints".
- A humble instrument in the hands of God
- More than his words, his life, attitudes, actions, virtues and silence, have been speaking of his deep interiority.
- In the difficult moments of the Institute, being the only responsible, he sustained it even, by coming down to the reality of a beggar, and a tenacious assurance for its existence.
- surviving of the Institute as well as to promote the fervor of the religious life, with a well-defined clear identity and mission.
- a strong sense of mission send sisters to US, to follow the migrants and later to the Middle orient.

The cardinal highlighted the personality of Fr. Gregory as an authentic Franciscan lived the life holding on the crucifix, fixed his eyes upon the pierced heart of Jesus. From his contemplation drew constant strength to accept unconditionally the will of God. His characteristics; humility, Spirit of sacrifice, excellent kindness, has been experienced by many people; he has been



a humble and silent saint. In order to love humility must love humiliations, without which it is impossible to acquire humility.

His whole life was a reflection of his effort in living intensively as a minor. He lived a total abandonment of his will, entrusting everything to the Divine Providence. On the example of St. Francis, often he asked : “My God who are you and who am I?”

Cardinal concluded his inspiring sermon saying, Fr. Gregory is a luminous light. We the spiritual daughters have the pleasant duty to rediscover the sanctity of the founder, admire his virtues, imitate the attitudes and follow his examples”. Today the F.M.S.C. all over the world have to do a promise; to pray with intensity, so that through the intercession of the Venerable Founder, numerous spiritual and material graces and favors may be granted. A miracle will be in fact the seal of God on the person and will lead to the further work to be proclaimed a Saint.

At the end of the Eucharist Sr. Paola , the superior general expressed her word of thanks in a very touching manner. Above all she thanked God for this great soul as a father for us, thanked the church for recognizing his virtues and raising him to this new status of holiness, thanked his excellency Cardinal Amato for his loving presence and inspiring homily. She expressed her sincere thanks to him and all who have worked hard with him to bring the virtues of this humble man into light. She thanked all the fathers and sisters present, especially the friars minor who represented the religious family of Fr. Gregory and the dear people of Grotte di Castro for giving us the gift of Fr. Gregory. She specially congratulated the little ones of Asisium, the parents, and teachers for their melodious choir. So many people worked together made this day a colorful cherishing one. Together we glorify God with Fr. Gregory “Marvelous are the ways of God...”



THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION IN AFRICA

“The Lord has made wonders for us; a day of celebration and joy”!

March 24th is an unforgettable day. A day of joy because the Lord has done wonders for us through our Founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti.



United to all our sisters scattered throughout the world, we thank God because the Church, through the voice of Pope Francis, elevated our Father to the rank of Venerable, recognizing his heroic virtues.

The Sisters of all the communities of the Vice-Province attended the Mass of Thanksgiving.

With the Eucharistic celebration, presided by Father Riccardo of the CICM Congregation, we wanted to underline the importance of this day.

Sr. Béatrice Bifouma, Vice-Provincial, gave a brief introduction to indicate the

reason for the celebration and briefly outlined the meeting between the Duchess and Father Gregory who started our Congregation. Furthermore, she urged us to propagate devotion to the Founding Father in our missions.

The celebrant in his homily retraces the life of Father Gregory, his meeting with the Foundress Laura Leroux, the foundation of our Congregation and his death.

He speaks of the merits of Father Gregory, he exhorts us to imitate his virtues and to entrust ourselves to Divine Providence.

Considering the biblical readings chosen for the occasion, the Father continues:

“As the first reading says, dear sisters, on this blessed day we must rejoice. May the Lord himself give us a joyful heart, his peace and that his grace always remain with us to continue the mission of the Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti. The Gospel, then, reminds us that we have received the power of the Spirit of God to transform the world and also to ward off the devil. Yes, we must not fear the devil, because the devil is afraid of us that we are consecrated to the Lord.

Finally, the Father read the Decree of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints proclaiming “Venerable” Father Gregory Fioravanti. How much and what emotion!

After the Mass, all the Sisters, with songs of joy, went around the statue of St. Francis for souvenir photos. With some dance steps to praise the greatness of God, we ended this beautiful day with some moments of fraternal conviviality.

To the praise of his glory!



A concert for Father Gregory in Centocelle



This time Father Gregory has expressed by himself the desire to make himself known and he did it in small steps using people almost unknown to us, people who keep in their holy desires to access the daily sanctity that Pope Francis in his last document calls “The sanctity of the next door”.

We have discovered among the parents of our School “Mary Immaculate” in Centocelle. People particularly interested in knowing the figure of our Founder Fr Gregory Fioravanti recently declared Venerable and in him deepen the knowledge of the Congregation and especially of our Missions.

They then made available their possibilities and talents to pay tribute to him, the Founder, but also to his Daughters who in the appreciated Institute of Mary Immaculate and throughout the world, announce the Gospel through various educational works: schools, houses for boys and girls, retirement homes for the elderly, parish activities and all the activities where they are present.

The talent was music and so it took little to decide that with the language of music would have made possible a musical evening all in honor of the Founder.

Here then the Master Mattucci has prepared the Polyphonic Choir “The Eighth Note” which gave us a moment of great enthusiasm.

Next to the 35 members of the polyphonic choir, the children of grade V also sang, they prepared with passion and love by the same Master, and a group of high school teenagers.

The show was opened by the Cantic of the Creatures recited by the presenter and by a sister while the singers entered from the back of the church, took their seats in the large presbytery and began their performance with the song “Dolce sentire ...”

The show was held with agility with classic songs by well-known authors, some short films on the



birth of the Congregation, on the development of the Missions. The highly anticipated songs of the children that caused clapping to praise the composure, the skill, the new way to sing that, while making the most of the concentration of children, gives them freedom and does not extinguish joy.

To crown the show here are the dances prepared by the Junior sisters with the flags of the whole world of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. That waving of colors, the light and the dancing steps, the words

of the song “I will announce Your love...” repeated many times moved those present, especially the choir members who wished to be invited again to prepare another event.



THANKSGIVING in the Mother House

April 24, we commemorated the birth anniversary of our venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti, in the motherhouse, Gemona, where he lived for 34 years along with our first sisters. We lived this special day, with great joy and gratitude to the Lord for the Venerable Founder of whom, not only can we admire the heroic virtues, but we are also invited to practice them, imitating his testimony of holy life, keeping firm faith in the Divine Providence.

Precisely with the total abandonment to the Divine Providence, the Venerable Father Gregorio played a great role in the origin and the history of our religious family even in the most difficult moments. He lived everything for the glory of God, being always attentive and obedient to the mysterious designs of the Spirit, which indicated the way through human mediations, and the daily signs of life. We can truly affirm that he loved the Congregation very much. He supported and





accompanied the journey of it throughout the years, especially in the difficult times of poverty, death, and uncertainty. History evidences that he even begged food for the sustenance of the many young and sick sisters. He protected the new foundation, many times from the risk of closing down. He was very much open and available to the missionary sending in response to the specific nature of the charism.

At the Feast, the Vicar General Sr. Tiziana Tonini and the General Councilor Sr.

Gregoria Suarez represented the general council since Sr. Paola Dotto, the superior general was on a visit in the Indian province. Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon who over the years has worked diligently for the Cause of Fr Gregorio, Sr. Laura Leon and Sr. Fulvia Stefanato, a missionary in Bolivia also were present. In addition, many sisters from different communities of the Province, sisters from other congregations of our area, various civil authorities, the teachers of the “S. Maria degli Angeli” and many other people from Gemona and surroundings joined to share the joy of the day.

The Eucharist Celebration was presided over by Archbishop Andrea Bruno Mazzocato with six other Priests and the representation of the dear Community of the Sanctuary of S. Antonio with the Guardian Fra Giovan Battista Ronconi.

In his homily, Bishop Andrea Bruno highlighted the holiness of Father Gregorio and invited us not only just to remember them and celebrate, but also to commit ourselves to live the Virtues that he has heroically practiced in his life.

After the Celebration, everyone was offered a fraternal moment in the Chapter hall. The day was great; celebrated with heart was full of joy!



XV CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. ANTHONY

“Messengers of the Gospel joy”



On the 15th of January with the presence of Sister Paola Dotto, Superior General, of the councilors Sr Augusta Visentin and Sr Gregoria Suarez, all the delegated sisters of the different communities belonging to the province “Saint Anthony” met in Santiago de Chile for the XV Provincial Chapter.

The joyful coincidence of Pope Francis’ visit to Chile and Peru gave the Chapter sisters the opportunity to listen directly to his most incisive and encouraging word.

In fact, many sisters with the delegates, on January 16, participated in the Holy Mass that the Holy Father presided over at O’Higgins Park. The Pope arrived early before 10 am and he was accompanied through all the sectors to greet people. In his homily, he focused on the evangelical Beatitudes, Pope Francis stressed “the Beatitudes are born from the compassionate heart of Jesus who meets with the compassionate and needy heart of men and women who desire and yearn for a blessed life” ... Pope continued: “Yes, lucky you and you, each of us. Blessed are you who let yourselves be filled with the Spirit of God and fight and work for this new day, for this new Chile, because yours will be the kingdom of heaven. «Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Mt 5: 9) ». He then urged “Sowing peace by proximity, by closeness! By dint of leaving home and looking at the faces, going to meet those in difficulty, those who have not been treated as a person, as a worthy son of this land Building peace is a process that brings us together and stimulates our creativity to create relationships capable of seeing in my neighbor not a foreigner, a stranger, but a son of this land “.

The Holy Mass well animated by the songs began at 10.15 and ended around 11.30.

Many sisters then went directly to the cathedral for the meeting of the religious with the Pope.

The day of 17 January was dedicated to the retreat of preparation for the Provincial Chapter.

After the morning prayer, the Holy Mass was presided by the Provincial Vicar of the Friars Minor Fr. Santiago Andradet.

It was not possible to reserve any priest for the meditations, because everyone was busy for the visit of Pope Francis. Sr. M. Fides therefore asked Sr Fabiola





Parra to prepare slides to project with phrases taken from the meditations of Sr Elisa Kidanè, the Comboni sister who had presented the meditations on missionary work at the General Chapter 2017. In this way, each one had the opportunity to welcome what was proposed and make it the object of deep reflection and evaluation.



On January 18, the Chapter officially began. The Superior General Sister Paola Dotto addressed her initial greeting to the Chapter sisters gathered for the XV Chapter of the Latin American Province, whose theme was: “Messengers of the Gospel joy”. In particular, she recalled our founder, Father Gregory, pointing out his example and his heroic virtues recently recognized also by the Church.

“We have a concrete example in our Founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti, recently venerable: ... he was a friar who had studied, with long experience of government, common sense and so much prayer. But the most consistent virtues that he put in place to live his human and religious reality were the heroic patience, the fortress, the humble dependence and obedience, the constructive silence. He had made his life a continuous abandonment in letting go God ... lived his missionary life by accepting and witnessing to the Gospel, infusing the apostolic zeal to the sisters, so much, so that he

was called an “apostolic missionary” without ever leaving his country.

Therefore this Chapter is an opportunity to give new impulse to the evangelical priority of being with Him and in Him in believing in small steps, to make the ordinary, an extraordinary time. We need the courage of love, of simplicity and humility, of fraternal tenderness, of acceptance ... that make our life extraordinary and joyful “.

With her message, Sr. Paola indicated the charismatic missionary lines of the XV General Chapter to be concretized in the missions of Latin America.



On 23rd January, in communion with all the sisters of the Congregation, we recalled the passage of our founder Father Gregory to heaven with the Eucharistic Celebration that was presided by the Provincial Vicar of Friars Minor P. Santiago.

With great emotion and joy all the sisters, at the conclusion of the Eucharist, followed the discovery and the blessing of the painting with the photo of Father Gregory, placed in a specially built grotto, to honor our Founder, of whom the Church has recognized the heroic virtues.

The song “Glorifica, glorifica o Dio il Servo tuo Gregorio ...” resounded with great enthusiasm and exultation.

After having invoked the Holy Spirit in Eucharistic Adoration, the Chapter sisters elected the new Council of the “St. Anthony” Province, as follows:

Sister Marcela Uribe Mancilla
Sister Mirella Venturin Mattiazzi
Sister Mirta Duarte Gutierrez
Sister Gladys Chávez Pillancari
Sister Zulma Ayma Quispe

Provincial Superior
1st Councilor and Vicar
2nd Councilor
3rd Councilor
4th Councilor



All the sisters present in the provincial house welcomed the new council with joy.

Feelings of gratitude, esteem, trust and affection were unanimously expressed to the sisters of the previous Council.

In the following days, the discussion of the Chapter document and the sharing by some sisters of their missionary realities was completed.

To the Lord we entrust the path of “St. Anthony” Province and upon the sisters of the new Council we invoke an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



XVI CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE “S. LOUIS IX “

On February 25th , with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by the Bishop of Le Mans, Mons. Yves Les Saux, the XVI Chapter of the Province of St. Louis IX began in the Provincial House in Le Mans (France).

The sisters prepared for this important event with a series of meetings where all were able to reflect, express themselves, share ideas, proposals and concerns.

When she arrived in France, the Superior





General, Sr. Paola Dotto, met not only the Sisters of the Chapter, but also the other Sisters of the Province, who were gathered there to live together this strong time of grace of our Religious Family and of the Province. In fact, all the sisters were in the Provincial house.



On the theme of the Chapter *"FMSC ... sent to announce ... with the Heart of Christ Crucified"*, the Chapter Sisters focused their reflection and their evaluation with the gaze aimed at the future of the Province to respond to the challenges that today's secularized society presents to religious life.



On March 1st , the Chapter Assembly elected the new Council as follows:

Sister Elisabeth Varikkakuzhil
Sisterr Emmanuelle Piccolo
Sister Marialuigia Borsato
Sister Shaiby Kolenchery
Sister Irène Foscolou

Provincial Superior
1st Councilor and Provincial Vicar
2nd Provincial Councilor
3rd Provincial Councilor
4th Provincial Councilor.



We wish our sisters to obediently follow, with the trust of our Founder, Fr. Gregory, the steps of Divine Providence, to discern the Will of God for each sister entrusted to them.

The Chapter then concluded with a Eucharistic celebration that presented to the Lord all that had been discussed and decided to that He bring to completion the Work begun.

XV CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE “SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI”



The sisters delegated to the XV Chapter of the Province “Santa Maria degli Angeli”, together with the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, with the two Councilors Sr. Augusta Visentin and Sr. Rose Thomas Palamthattel all gathered in the Mother house in Gemona on 27 June. The following day they had an intense

time of retreat in preparation for the Chapter itself.

The three meditations were led by Fr. Giorgio Auletta ofm, with reflections centered on the Gospel passage of Mt 4: 1-11, on the temptations of Jesus in the desert. In the afternoon, with the celebration of Vespers and Eucharistic Adoration, the day of reflection and prayer was completed.

On June 29, solemnity of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, the birthday and feast day of our Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto was celebrated in an atmosphere of particular fervour precisely for the beginning of the XV Provincial Chapter. The Archbishop Andrea Bruno Mazzocato in the solemn Eucharistic Celebration, concelebrated with his Secretary Don Marcin Gazzetta, expressed his cordial greetings to Sr. Paola and addressed to the Capitulars the invitation to live with passion these important days looking at the testimony of the two Apostles. He said: Peter and Paul, two ever-present witnesses who have placed their security only in Christ Jesus in whom they have founded their faith.



Peter, the stable, solid rock had said: “You are the Christ the Son of the living God”. Paul, already old, and in prison left his message: “I have finished my race ... I have kept my faith”.

Missionaries are those who can go anywhere because they base their being and doing in Christ and Christ crucified.

So prison is no longer a prison, fatigue is not heavy.



In light of this testimony, we can only find, every day, the rock on which to plant our lives, often asking ourselves: who is really Jesus Christ for me?

At 9.30 am with the prayer of the beginning of the XV Provincial Chapter, including the singing, invocation of the Holy Spirit, listening to the Word of God, the delegated sisters gathered in the community hall in the presence of the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, of the General Councilors Sr. Augusta Visentin and Sr. Rose Thomas Palamthattel and of the Councilor of the Vice-Province “Saints Martyrs of Uganda”, Sr. Giovanna Craighero, representative of the Vice-Province for the journey of annexation of the two communities of Niem and Maigarò

At the end of the prayer the Superior General, Sr Paola, gave each sister a

small jug containing the light of a candle, to symbolize the Holy Spirit who must guide each one in the Chapter Mission. Then all in procession we went to the chapter room, well prepared and embellished with the Chapter logo, which well expressed the chapter theme:

“FMSC community on mission accompanied by Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help”

In these days, the Virgin Mary reminds us to listen to her Son with a special invitation: ***“Do whatever He tells you!”*** ... And Jesus immediately puts our faith to the test by saying: ***“Fill the jars of your life with water!”***.

If we listen with faith to the Word of Jesus, we will see with our own eyes and taste with our hearts the water of our poor humanity, changed into the good wine of the feast.





We are here to draw the drink of the Holy Spirit and allow ourselves to be guided by Him on the journey of the Chapter. The Spirit will make fruitful our discernment, research and choices to be done for the good of our Provincial Family.

The Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto then declared open the XV Chapter of the Province “S. Mary of the Angels” urging all the sisters to feel solicited

by Jesus’ words:” It is not you who speaks but speaks in you the Spirit of the Father “. Therefore all have to offer their attentive listening and their lively participation so that the Spirit can “make new all things “.

The following days the Chapter assembly were engaged in the usual formalities and in the sharing and discussion for the preparation of the new Chapter document. The atmosphere of openness, dialogue and research has helped everyone to make this moment a moment of grace.



On 3rd of July the Chapter sisters, under the presidency of the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, elected the new Provincial Council as follows:

<i>Sr. Stefania Bandiera</i>	<i>Provincial Superior</i>
<i>Sr. Giordana Marta</i>	<i>1st Councilor and Provincial Vicar</i>
<i>Sr. Chiara Ceron</i>	<i>2nd Councilor</i>
<i>Sr. Francesca Fiorin</i>	<i>3rd Councilor</i>
<i>Sr. Augusta Fantin</i>	<i>4th Councilor</i>



To Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, we entrust the “new” journey of this Province so that it may continue to guide the New Council, every fraternity and every sister to realize the Lord’s plan of love to be always open to “do what the Lord will say”.



Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July, our general house Asisium is filled with faces and new voices. Who then arrived? We are sisters from different parts of the world. The most distant from India, from Latin America, others from Africa, from Cyprus, France and Lithuania; the closest from the Venetian and Roman provinces. We have been invited to “meet” to celebrate together in our joy and thanksgiving our jubilee of 50 and 25 years of religious life. At the arrival of the various groups there are festive greetings, explosions of joy in finding people we had not met for years.

**In feast for our Superior General
Sr PAOLA**

Sunday, July 8, the church of Asisium also fills with sisters from the various communities of the Italian provinces to celebrate, with a week late, the double



anniversary of the birthday and feast day of our superior general Sr Paola Dotto. The solemn Mass is celebrated by Fr. Marino Porcelli, Friar Minor; with him concelebrated Fr. Carmine, who was a missionary in Turkey, Fr. Massimo Coccia, Friar Minor and Fr. Angelo, chaplain of the nearby parish of St. Philip. In his homily, Father Marino, in the facetious style that distinguishes him, he emphasizes the characteristics of the Franciscan religious life: simplicity, openness to God and to the brothers and sisters, joy, even “if there is the thorn” of the various difficulties and sufferings. In the afternoon, at 3.30 pm, in the renovated hall of the Asisium theater, our young juniors and postulants rejoice us with dances, sketches on the life of our Founders, Laura Leroux and Father Gregory. The power point on our charism, reconsidered in the light of exhortations and suggestions of our founder Father Gregory, is a moment of intense spiritual reflection and communion.



Our experience of “Renewal”

Tuesday, July 10 we went to Grotte di Castro (VT), the birthplace of our venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti. The day is beautiful. The old medieval village, of ancient Etruscan origins, appears in all its beauty, full of history. The sun illuminates the brown-gray stone of the adjoining houses along the narrow main street. On the side, the narrow streets protected by arches and vaults lead to the innermost rooms. The ancient stone embellished and enlivened here and there by multicolored flowers, transpires the memories of a laborious and tenacious past. Along the path that leads to the church, we pause to read the marble plate that indicates the house where our beloved founder P. Gregory was born on April 24, 1822, baptized on the same day of his birth with the name of Ludovico.

At 11 o'clock, in the Basilica sanctuary of Maria SS.ma del Suffragio, we participate in the Mass presided by the parish priest Don Tancredi. For the occasion, considered important, the damask cloth was removed



which usually hides the richly decorated wooden statue of the Virgin of suffrage. We commend ourselves to her with a trusting heart of daughters who renew together the desire to continue to live even more faithfully the charism and the mission received.

When we, the Franciscan sisters arrive at Grotte di Castro, the meeting with Mr. Peppe Capoccia is inevitable. We look for him and he awaits us, aware and proud of his role. He is the sole owner and tenant of the house where Ludovico Fioravanti was born. It is not his descendant. In his typical Lazio intonation and exuberant language, he makes himself for us local “cicerone” (guide), especially in the history of the sanctuary. Immediately capture our sympathy, this over-70-year-old person with a brilliant memory and forbidden speech. After Mass, a short poem by Trilussa is declaimed for us. At the end of the celebration, then following him to his house for the visit to the place where Father Gregory was born, we realize that our friend Peppe is a fan of the classics of literature, able to declare texts by Dante and Leopardi, as if he had attended a school of recitation.

Time passes quickly, we went, always accompanied by Don Tancredi, to the parish house, where lives the community of sisters working in Grotte di Castro, consisting of Sr. Mini, Sr. Annagrazia, Sr. Angeli. The welcome of the parish priest and theirs, since our arrival in the morning, is truly fraternal, joyful and such is revealed even at lunchtime consumed with appetite, happy to be together.

In the afternoon we go to Bolsena, admire the beauty of the lake of volcanic origin, the vibrant surface of the green / blue waters, and while a cool breeze makes us



forget the hot early afternoon. Finally, we reach the Collegiate Church of Santa Cristina, since Bolsena is known as the place of the Eucharistic miracle that took place there in 1236. We also admire the painting depicting Santa Maria della Pace, the Franciscan religious martyr, niece of Father Gregory, martyr in China, in 1900.

Rich in many teachings, vibrant for the joy of being together, and resume with greater impetus the path to holiness.



With a heart full of gratitude for the strong spiritual and fraternal experience lived the day before in Grotte di Castro and in Bolsena, on the morning of 11 July, we gather together to reflect and deepen our “*being a*

mission in Franciscan joy and passion". Citing St. Francis, Father Cesare Vaiani ofm, secretary for formation and studies, highlights how the Franciscan proclamation is first and foremost a testimony of life, that is, "going to the world as brothers and minors, submissive to every creature and confessing to be Christians" and can also include an explicit activity of preaching or charity. The Franciscan has to be very attentive to how to carry out any activity, as brother / sister and minor, always privileging the works that put in contact with the poor and remembering that the activities in favor of the poor must be lived as a restitution of what we have received. The content of the explicit proclamation of preaching is Peace, the Lord's gift, the invitation to praise, as a joyful response to the gift received and the exhortation to penance / conversion which consists in becoming capable of giving / forgiving.

In the afternoon fraternal and sincere exchange in workshop is a favorable opportunity to apply to our reality as Franciscan missionaries of the Sacred Heart what Father Cesare had announced to us in the morning

The impetuous enthusiasm of Sister Filippa Castronovo, fsp surprises us, when the morning of the following day we gather in the meeting room. With passion and joy, Sr Filippa transports us into the world of the Bible and makes us vibrate to the rhythm and joy of the Word. A quick and profound rundown on the particular figures of envoys with a "special mandate" ad intra, is an introduction to the event of Jesus who announces the kingdom of God in an itinerant way. The sensitivity of sr. Filippa, woman and religious, brings newness and freshness to the presentation that makes of Christ and his mission. "It is to the women of the resurrection that Jesus gives the missionary task" - Sister Filippa tells us - and they full of joy run ... "it is to the eleven who gives the mission to go, make disciples, baptize, teach». The joy and the passion of these first witnesses and announcers must also be ours when we "go for the world". We too, like St. Paul, should live the mission as a "debt of love", burn with love for Christ and be able to say: "it is not a boast for me to preach the Gospel, it is a necessity that imposes me" (1 Cor 9 , 16).



We thank the Lord for all these years of religious life. We are full of joy for the great gift of having better deepened the mission's mandate.

Sister Antonietta and Sister Tiziana explained with such clarity the specific identity of our Congregation and the role of our Founders Laura and Father Gregory in guiding our first sisters.

In reading and listening to the explanation our mind and our heart are open to receive the mandate, aware of being sent by the Church, for the Church and in the Church.

Father Gregory, as a true Franciscan, was aware that the first form of mission is the witness of life.

Mission is a way of living, before being an activity. Being a missionary involves a lifestyle!

We bear witness to others to follow Jesus and to love Him.



Sunday, July 15, in the afternoon, we, the group of jubilant sisters, leave Assisi to go towards the Sanctuary of La Verna. In this Franciscan place par excellence, where Francis received the stigmata of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pause for a week of spiritual exercises from 16th to 21st of July



The preacher, Fr Sandro Guarguaglini ofm, welcomes us with fraternal benevolence and guides us, in the following days, through meditation on the evangelical Beatitudes of Matthew, to rediscover the foundation of our consecrated life. He makes a cross-reading of it, relating to the teaching of Pope Francis in the document *Gaudete et Exultate*, to our Constitutions and to the writings of the Venerable Founder P. Gregory.

This place, steeped in Franciscan spirituality, fascinates us with the silence of the surrounding forest, broken only by the light breeze that caresses the leaves and accompanies the song of the birds.

The naked rock that so fascinated St. Francis, because it made him feel Christ as living rock, unshakable love, boundless peace, he also speaks to us; he encourages us to continue our mission with renewed courage and love.

At the end of the spiritual exercises, leaving the holy place of La Verna where St. Francis touched

the peak of his spiritual experience making himself one with Jesus Crucified, our heart burns with desire to conform ourselves to Christ like him and overflows with gratitude for so many graces received.



The Jubilee festival takes place, as planned, at the Asisium on Sunday, **July 22nd**. Its culmination is the Eucharistic Celebration at 11.00. Concelebrated with Fr. Sandro who guided us during the exercises at La Verna, Fr. Massimo, Fr. Prakash from Andhra Pradesh and Fr. Alessandro Puggiotto, our former student.

The church is decorated like a wedding. On the benches are placed bouquets of roses while under the lectern and beside the altar, beautiful sunflowers remind us of our desire to be constantly turned to God.

At the moment of the entrance of the Jubilarian sisters in procession, the choir of the sisters sang: “The wedding of the Lamb has come, his bride is ready!” Thus interpreting our joyous response to the call.

Meanwhile, each one of us places on the altar a lighted lamp given by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto.

The light represents the fire of love that is consumed

by giving oneself and the vigilant fidelity to the Bridegroom. The homily proposes in a meaningful synthesis the values of the Beatitudes that must continue to illuminate our journey as missionaries in a holiness of daily life.

Then follows the renewal of the Holy Vows, pronounced with moved fervor and intimate desire for fidelity to the Lord of our life, which is echoed by the song “Here I am Lord, send me!”





At 13.00 we find ourselves for the fraternal agape in our refectory further embellished. In fact for each celebrated a small ‘tree of life’ as a placeholder, it has a double message:

- “Your life is a continuous thanksgiving to God” (P. Gregory)
 - “The tree of life is born of a small seed that, like love, must be protected on the way, day after day”.
- Good lunch, but even more flavored it is the Franciscan joy of meeting fraternally together to tell us joyous events of the past and constructive experiences of life, in the perspective of new paths for the future.

A laude of Christ. Amen.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Forever FMSC in the Church for the world

The Lord has chosen you to be share in his Holiness!!!

On January 25, 2018, with joy that overflowed from our hearts and gratitude to God for the gift of the vocation to the consecrated life in our Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we:

SR GLADYS RODRÍGUEZ
of Jesus the Eucharist
SR CLARA ESCOBAR
of Jesus the Eucharist
SR LUCERO OLMEDO
of Divine Providence



we made our perpetual profession in the hands of our Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, in the chapel “San Damiano” of the Provincial house in Santiago of Chile, at the conclusion of the XV Provincial Chapter.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago, Mons. Pedro Osandon. Let us listen to his words: “... the consecrated life is generated in the heart of the Church, it is animated, felt and guided by the Holy Spirit ... In the personal encounter with the risen Christ, ... you are called to recognize Christ as the only Lord of your life ...

The charism of your Congregation, where the Lord has called you, was born from the Church, and it develops

and is for the Church...

The Lord sends his eleven disciples on mission ... yet you, in the name of Jesus Christ, as women consecrated, daughters of St. Francis, daughters of this Congregation and of the Church, you are called to invite all people to conversion ... Just when there is greater frailty or division, persecution and confusion, God’s grace intervenes and acts with greater force. You are called, therefore, not only to ask every day the grace of conversion for you, but to carry out the task of conversion which is a missionary work. The greater the difficulties you find, the more you praise the Lord “.

We then ask the Lord of life to grant us the grace to respond faithfully to the call, to always nourish ourselves with the Eucharist and to strengthen ourselves in prayer. We entrust ourselves to the intercession of St. Francis, of our Founders, Father Gregorio and Laura Leroux, so that we, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, can be in the Church the visible signs of the Gospel in today’s world.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF

*Sr. Deva Matha Nethala
Sr. Lucy Rani Bandada
Sr. Lourdu Matha Dola
Sr. Victoria Kaitepalli S
Sr. Sumathi Gurram
Sr. Sobha Ankam
Sr. Sujatha Chebathina*

*“May your life be a
continuous thanksgiving
to the Lord”*

Venerable Fr. Gregory



Impressed by these words
of our beloved founder

Venerable Fr. Gregory, we gladly lift our hearts to the Most High God, who called us out of nothingness and loved us with an everlasting love. 21st April 2018 is an ever memorable day in our lives, the day that touched our hearts with emotional joy and gratitude, which cannot be explained in words or deeds. With all that we have and with all that we are going to possess, we have said “YES” forever to the Lord by putting our confidence in the ever flowing Grace of our Divine Master. Marvelous works of the Lord in our lives, which strike our hearts and minds to be thankful to Him now and always. He who is rich and generous in His steadfast love has stretched out His hands to embrace us as His spouses and to empower us as His witnesses to stand before the World and to share His love and mercy with all the people around us. The simple word of thanks will never be enough to express our gratitude to the Lord God, who filled our hearts with an overflowing joy but our hearts continuously and melodiously sing the hymns of thanks giving to the Lord our God.

We would like to express our gratitude to our religious family, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a loving family which resembles fraternal Holy Family here on earth. It is indeed our great privilege to become members in this Franciscan Missionary family forever. We are completely in debt to express our gratitude to our Mother General Most. Rev. Sr. Paola Dotto, and the General Councilors and our Provincial Superior Rev. Sr. Gracy and all the Councilors



for granting our request and for accepting us as members of our Congregation to serve the Lord God and His Holy Catholic Church. We are even more thankful to our mother General Most. Rev. Sr. Paola Dotto for her gracious presence here with us, which made the celebration more meaningful and wonderful. We also thank Rev. Sr. Bernarda, the mistress of International juniorate in Rome who blessed



us with her presence and valuable prayers. All the people who participated in the celebration have raised their hearts to God on our behalf to thank Him and prayed for our prosperous future. This celebration has helped all other religious to thank and praise the Lord for the precious gift of their vocation. During the Eucharistic celebration while delivering the homily His Excellency Most. Rev. Bishop Telagatoti Joseph Raja Rao has encouraged us to be faithful to the call that we have received from the Most High God .

We are really grateful to all who are one or another way helped us to reach this stage of our lives. We will never say that we have reached the perfection of our lives because we are aware of our frailties but still we courageously said “Yes” to Him to walk in His footsteps who enables us to walk aright and to attain perfection of our lives. May our lives burn, as thanks giving sacrifice before God and His love and mercy may flow through us to all the people of God. Trusting in His infinite goodness we place our hands in His hands and joyously walk along with Him.

Give thanks to the Lord for His Love endures forever



JUBILEE CELEBRATION

“The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.” - (Psalm 118:24)



Yes, April 21st 2018, a memorable day for 22 of us. Our hearts were filled with emotions at the dawn of this day. But gratitude was the prime one. With gratitude we raise our hearts to God the Almighty, who called us and sustained us throughout these 25 years, with His grace, in this Franciscan family. We are grateful to our parents alive and dead for their generosity in preparing and offering

us in God's service. With thankful heart we remember our Superiors, formators, animators of the communities for all their help, love, care and concern for each one of us during these 25 years and in a very special way all those who worked hard to make this day a day of celebration and of joy. We are grateful to each one of you dear sisters who were with us throughout our life journey. The preparation for this great day was started days before, with a week of retreat. But the day was started with Holy hour, along with our seven junior sisters who pronounced their "yes" to the Lord forever. As we stood at the entrance of the Cathedral, with the lamps in our hands, we travelled back to the day of our first profession.

We could recall the joy, excitement and anxieties of that day. 25 years of religious life mixed with joys and sorrows, ups and downs, failures and achievements, acceptance and rejections, fidelity and infidelity, supports and misunderstandings, yes in all these circumstances we see God's protecting hands sustain us and leading us. We realize that though we are unworthy the Lord has called us and sustained us. Our hearts well with gratitude; we cannot but say Thank You Lord, and you



dear sisters. As we were in the retreat and as we stood to renew our vows we relived our life in the Novitiate, but we missed our loving Sr. Maddalena who was novice mistress for all of us. We make it our own the words of John F Kennedy: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." We request your valuable prayers, so that as we express our gratitude, with renewed vigor and enthusiasm we live by them. Thanks to one and all!



First Religious Profession in Cameroun

On June 13, the universal Church and, in particular, the Franciscan Family and our Congregation celebrate the feast of St. Anthony of Padua. In this beautiful festival, we, Pascaline, Canisia, Emmanuella, Catherine, Delphine, Esther and Agathe, we are very happy to pronounce our “YES” to God in the Church, in the hands of the Superior General, Sister Paola Dotto, accepting to live in obedience, poverty and chastity. This is an unforgettable day. We



will always remember the commitment made with the Lord in our religious family.

Our joy is inexpressible because the Lord has fixed his gaze on us and has chosen us to become his witnesses.

“The most precious thought of the sister must be to believe that Jesus chose her among the best, to be his bride” (thus Father Gregorio wrote to our first sisters).).

We thank Sister Paola Dotto, our Superior General and her Council who have honored us with their presence; we thank the Vice-Provincial Superior and her council for accepting us in this religious family. We are very proud to belong to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we have longed and loved this moment, now we feel like family.



We thank all the sisters who contributed, so that the fraternal and joyful environment was enjoyed by everyone. In this same environment of joy and gratitude we praise and bless the Lord; we ask Him to continue the work He has undertaken in each of us.

FEAST DAY OF THE CONGREGATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

School of “San Francisco de Asís” Arcadia Quito - Ecuador



In preparation for our Congregational Feast of 21 April, it was proposed to carry out activities for two weeks to help achieve the goal of making our Congregation and our charism known within the school.

From 9 to 13 April various topics were presented to all students regarding our religious Family and our Founders: Laura Leroux and Father Gregory; each class has created a poster with a specific theme of the Congregation.

During the week from April 16th to 20th several activities were carried out according to the different classes: some performed on the dramatization of the canonical inauguration ceremony of the Congregation, the meeting of the two Founders, others participated in the competition on the knowledge of Father Gregory Fioravanti. In addition, the students were involved in cleaning the school garden as a “sacrifice” to offer for the needs of the Congregation. Some classes presented dances and poems.

There has also been a debate on the problematic whether religion is experienced or not; the drawings of the competition and the knowledge of the names of the Founders and the choreography in honor of Father Gregory were exhibited.

This Congregational week culminated with the solemn Mass on Friday 20 April celebrated by the Franciscan Father Ramiro Cachimuel, who highlighted the value of the presence of religious in the world especially in this mission, underlining the great work done in the educational and pastoral field, the great value that the Founders have for the Congregation. In his homily, he also motivated the students to listen to the voice of God so that, in the future, if someone should hear the call, can respond generously to this invitation.

A group of children presented a choreography as a sign of gratitude to the Lord for these 157 years of presence of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the world.



In the School Felmer Niklitschek of Puerto Varas- Chile

In the celebration of the anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation, the Feltre Niklitschek School in Puerto Varas, Chile, prepared a Eucharistic celebration with a beautiful message for all the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The Mass was presided by the priest Paul Mackenzie S.J. The celebration took place



in the school gymnasium and with the participation of 100 students, the vocational call was presented, leaving the nets to follow Jesus, following all the religious who worked as missionaries in the school and left their charismatic sign. Through the dance, the continents in which the sisters are present were represented, and with various symbols, we wanted to thank the protection of the Sacred Heart, the intervention of Divine Providence and the legacy of our Founders: Father Gregory and Laura Leroux.

This ceremony was a stimulus for all the young people present in our school, and also a time for renewal of the commitment to the educational work of the sisters.



Feast of the Families in Asisium – A bridge long 50 years

Saturday 19 May 2018, Istituto Asisium.

There is a strange excitement on this May morning, in the gardens of Asisium, the avenues are strangely animated by busy people, the usual silence of the working mornings is interrupted by voices, footsteps, noises. It's early for the city a little awakening, some cars are starting to gather in the parking lot in front of the school, family groups cross the entrance gate. The meadows well cut and fragrant with grass and dew populate with people and strange devices ... here are the first gazebos are erected and the umbrellas open like flowers ... the machine for the cotton candy, that of the pop-horn, the plate for the crepes appear, on long tables they show themselves of mysterious trays.



In the square of Saint Francis has been composed a long spiral of colourful wooden tablets, the set-ups have begun! Families continue to drift down with big bags; blankets for the picnic that will follow, excited children begin to kick on the meadows, in the paths, on the playgrounds.

After three years of break, we return to celebrate the Family at the Istituto Asisium. The organizing committee has been in turmoil for days, teachers, parents, students, sisters and many other people have worked to prepare the event. It is an expected return, a special return, just this year the Institute celebrates fifty years and Father Gregory Fioravanti Founder of the order of our dear Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart has been proclaimed venerable.

The Holy Mass as usual celebrated by Father Alessandro Pugiotto, opens this day of celebration, the



children of the classes of all levels, mothers and fathers, the teachers, the dear sisters, all gather on the steps of the skating rink, today chapel without walls and with a clear sky to make a ceiling. The echo of familiar notes calls attention, the sounds of the tunings of the guitars can be heard, and the assembled chorus of the parents begins to try warming up the voices. The sound amplified by the large speakers fills the air while the altar is composed like a mosaic for the succession of industrious hands engaged in customary gestures, the outdoor Holy Mass can begin.

The notes of the Song of Love welcome the children of the fourth grade classes of

the Primary School, who led by Father Alessandro approaching the altar, bring the white calla flowers gift for Our Lady, they made the First Communion this May! In the Holy Mass today we thank Our Lord for the 50th anniversary of our Institute and for the proclamation of the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti. The children of the fifth grade classes read their prayers, thanking God for their beautiful years together, wishing each other well.



Today everything seems to have a special flavour, the air warmed by a generous sun is filled with a thousand scents. The Holy Mass is over, but the announcement of a surprise draws people in the square of Saint Francis: dozens and dozens of beautiful painted wooden boards are arranged on the asphalt, follow each other by rolling in an unusual spiral around its center, lovingly watched by the gaze of the statue of the Poverello of Assisi. They are the fruit of the work of small hands of the children of the maternal and elementary school, of the middle and high school students, all the students of the School who contributed to this visual marvel. On the steps of the Church, awaits Father Maurizio Botta, surrounded by students and teachers, hundreds of marveled people admire the spectacle of the tablets. They are captured by his intervention, which recalls that everything starts from the Love of the Our Father, the image of the Finger of God touching the finger of Man, the beginning of life giving life, it is life itself, the finger of God touching the finger of Man gives principle to the whole. The unusual show of tablets already surprised by itself, at the desired touch of a hand, wonderfully comes alive in a fall that seems perpetual and hypnotizes hundreds of eyes rapturing them, the lifeless wood has come to life... One after another, the tablets on the asphalt of the square falls, giving rise to a surprising show, the energy is self-perpetuating, each tablet is an essential piece for the success of the project, as every single man is for the choreography of the Creation, for the realization of the design of God, we are all indispensable traits. The joyful applause of those present concludes the show at the fall of the last tablet.

Young and old, aware and animated by the words of Father Maurizio and the show just seen move to reach the areas set up, organized activities follow each other. Everyone finds an interest today and here, the little ones with the puppet theater. The adults engage in sports tournaments; parents, teachers, the culinary competition, the group dances and much more. All have their space and their leisure on the day of celebration! Large blankets cover the lawns, each green area is a picnic area, families become groups and entire groups. The show is wonderful. Today, families are more united here than ever! The sense of belonging to this community makes all the participants a big family. It feels





at home. And with this feeling of blessed participation everyone gets carried away by the day. There are entire generations of students who have become parents and then grandparents of other students. This is the Asisium!

This is the home of many, the second home or the only home, here mothers and fathers who accompany their children every morning excited in doing together the same avenues made by children with their parents. hHre today families have come to celebrate their being a family every day and the children are the real unconscious protagonists enjoy an unusually fun. It is carefree day in the study places that for a day are only places of play where every game is possible. In every place, there is a cheerful shouting, multicolored balls twirl in a thousand sports, and the air smells of popcorn and nutella crepes.

Everyone enjoys an endlessly pleasant day that ends in the late afternoon, with a prayer and thanksgiving to the Heavenly Mother who has lovingly watched all her children. Then even the last families are heading towards the exit tired and happy to have been able to participate, and grateful to all those who have allowed, organized and given birth to a wonderful festival, with the hope that everything can be repeated every year.

Francesca Travaglini, “a grateful mother” of Asisium



50th of the prelature of Chuquibambilla Peru



The Prelature of Chuquibambilla is an ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in Peru, based in Chuquibambilla.

The prelature was established in 1968 by Pope Paul VI as a territorial Prelature of Chuquibambilla.

That is why today we are celebrating, thanking God for these 50 years of service among the poorest brothers and sisters through the availability of our first pastoral workers who gave their lives to bring the Gospel to this people.

Keeping in our hearts so many moments lived here, so many names, so many situations of shared life, we elevate to God, the Father from whom all good comes, our gratitude. 50 years is a sign of the

active and saving presence of the Lord in our history, where we continue to build a Church that is God's homeland for all under the maternal gaze of Our Lady of Good Counsel, patroness of our prelature.

For this great occasion we had the visit of great personalities such as the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, representative of the Pope in Peru with the other bishops: Msgr Richard Daniel Alarcón Urrutia Archbishop of Cusco Msgr Gilbert Gómez Gonzales, bishop of the diocese of Abancay, Msgr. Pedro Alberto Bustamante, bishop of the diocese of Sicuani, Msgr Robert Francis Prevost, OSA, bishop of the diocese of Chiclayo.

We also had the pleasant visit of Father Luciano de Micheli, OSA, Prior Provincial of the Augustinian Province of Italy. Our Congregation was represented by our Provincial Superior Sr. Marcela Uribe Mancilla and



Sister Maria Fides Lorenzon who was provincial when the prelature was established. There were also other religious congregations working in this place.



The Apostolic Nuncio Nicola Girasoli arrived on April 28th. All the people of Tambobamba close to Msgr Domingo Berni, the authorities, like the mayor of the province Mr. Valentin



Flores Quispe, and Mr. Eduardo Márquez, sub-prefect of the Apurímac - Tambobamba region, the pastoral operators with emotion welcomed him on the Tambobamba bridge. All were showing posters with phrases prepared by the people and could not miss the children who shouted for joy and the balloons that gave a festive air.

The ceremony took place on 29th April with a solemn Mass presided by the Apostolic Nuncio Mons Nicola Girasoli and with the other guests Bishops and pastoral workers and the people. A civil act was followed with the raising of the national flag by the Apostolic Nuncio and by the outgoing Msgr Domingo Berni Leonardi; on this occasion the mayor of the municipality of Cotabambas, Valentin Flores was present with typical gifts of the place, which he delivered to our distinguished visitors: the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishop.

Then he presented a parchment to Msgr Domingo Berni as a sign of appreciation for the great work of evangelization carried out as a pastor of our people and his precious service here in Tambobamba Province of Cotabambas.

Also in the civil ceremony, the students of the school of “San Antonio de Padua” and “Erasmus Delgado Vivanco” were invited to present an artistic number that gave joy to this moment. Afterwards the educational institutions of the city presented themselves with a solemn parade giving another solemnity and meaning to this event.

We want to underline that the ceremony also had the intention to thank Msgr Domingo Berni, who will leave the Prelature in the next few months. The celebration therefore had a double motivation to offer with joy, feelings of gratitude to God for all the gifts He gave us and continues to give us.



For an integral formation: Healthy and Holy.

Formation to Religious Life becomes today more and more fragile and complex.

The currents thinking of globalization; the socio-political and tribal conflicts that cross some countries of the African continent damage Consecrated Life and also our candidates who come from different families and cultures.

It is in this context that the Vice-Provincial Superior, Sr. Béatrice Bifouma, organized a session for the formators of the Vice-Province in the Provincial House (Nkoabang-Yaoundé) from 20 to 23 March 2018. This session was led by Father Riccardo of the CICM Congregation on the theme: **“For an integral formation: healthy and holy”**.

The formators who participated in this session are:

- Sr. Dorothé Ngassouga : formator of the sistematic juniorate
- Sr. Giovanna Craighero: formator of the Novitiate
- Sr. Francisca Beeko: formator of the pre-novitiate in Kinshasa
- Sr. Marie Pierre Obama: formator of the pre-novitiate in Bamenda

The objectives chosen for this session are as follows:

To help formators to learn about new forms of pedagogy for new approaches to individualized formation and to deepen their knowledge on the new orientations of the Church regarding the contents of integral formation.

The Father in his reports reminds us that formation is a process of maturation. It is integral when it is a path of human and spiritual maturity.

In formation, it is necessary to provide the physical, biological, sexual, cognitive, moral elements, above all emotional and relational maturity. The formator and the formation community must commit themselves to give the candidates a good testimony of life.

We need to help the young people to:

- overcome the defense mechanisms
- learn how to get rid of their issues
- seek the balance between FAITH and REASON
- open up to interculturality
- (take into account) that the Sequela Christi involves three paths: 1) *purification*, 2) *lighting*, 3) *union*

All this implies a model of formation for the person of our times and of different contexts.

The formator must embody certain qualities such as:

- know herself
- to be a person who loves God and the Congregation
- have a good missionary experience
- be careful (at every event)

To have a lifestyle that challenges, that is to avoid the training of information and to practice effective formation, which teaches, transmits and builds the entire balanced person (free and responsible) on this, must be:



- well equipped (physiologically, psychologically, morally, spiritually) hence the urgency of the formation of the formators;
- well informed about the teaching of the Church and her action;
- must know and love the charism of the Congregation;
- to form to docility, that is to form a free heart capable of learning from the history of every life;
- be deeply rooted in JESUS and truly missionary;
- be guided by the Holy Spirit, the formator par excellence.



This is how the formator can become salt of

the earth and light of the world (see Mt 5: 13-15); to give the taste, the joy of Consecrated Life to the candidates and to clarify their doubts and shadows, that is to be light in their darkness.

Thanks to the Lord, source of all good, to Sr. Beatrice for this wonderful inspiration, to Father Riccardo for his availability.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD!



INTER-COMMUNITY ENCOUNTERS

FRATERNAL LIFE: FIRST PROCLAMATION

The FMSC communities of Ospedaletto and of Paese

Looking in the folds of the experiences, I observe that the territorially close communities keep the tradition of living “ad Intra” “laboratories of united hospitality”.

Our meeting is supported by the desire to deepen mutual knowledge.

The knowledge of the sisters puts us in a position to sustain our fragility and to acquire in this way the strength and the meanings that open to the real conversation “that benefits”.

This agreement in simplicity helps us to give depth to welcoming cultural diversities without renouncing one’s own particularity.



This simple and loving style is born among people who recognize themselves as the debtors of Christ’s love (1 Jn 4:11) and recognize that it is not their efforts to increase the ability to take care of their sister and brothers, but it is the presence of the Spirit of Jesus which constitutes fraternity and constantly renews it.

Here are the roots, or at least some of the reasons, that motivate the various experiences of meeting the different neighboring communities.

Once again, with the pretext of the presence of sr Gregoria (general councilor) as a guest in the community of Ospedaletto, the two fraternities of Ospedaletto and of the Paese met. This time at the regional nature park at the sources of the river Sile in the “Fontanasso dea Coa Longa” locality-Casacorba (Treviso)



Water comes from the earth as if by magic. It flows without rest, silent and limpid: Fontanassi (this term we write it as more frequently pronounced: we write “fontanazzi”, but the “z”, in Treviso dialect we read “s”) the place, once wild, maintains a certain aura of Mystery. Sacred to the ancients, the resurgences abound with pagan stories and legends that mingle with the Christian ones.

“Fontanassi de la Coa Longa” is certainly one of the most significant and among the most accredited as the source of the Sile, even if the whole area is involved in the phenomenon. The water of the spring flows, partly hidden by a thick tangle of plants and brambles, makes its way through the marsh grasses forming a very limpid “Fossatello”, with a gravelly bottom streaked with green algae .

Precisely in this place the day April 25, 2018 the two fraternities have lived an afternoon-evening meeting. The joyful spirit of the meeting has become contagious ... both for the pleasant laughter and for the singing of the psalms and the shared sandwich as for the ice cream

The many laity, here present, fascinated have stopped. They have questions about our identity with amazement. Some then have placed their suffered lives on our hearts.



We must say that the Spirit is the guiding force that guides us and makes us witnesses and announcers. And He is the unitive and constructive strength, His signs are love, joy, peace, kindness. He is the strength of consolation: He supports us, He is at our side in the trial and helps us to find the meaning of things according to

God's plan. He is the force of novelty and inventiveness. He is the living water ever new that makes us find the simplest solutions to the most intricate problems, with that simplicity of the things that come from above. He continually renews us deeply.

When the time came to return to our home, we were filled with the joy of the meeting. In the heart, we treasure the memory of the testimony of Franciscan evangelization as St. Francis traveled the city with his brothers and this was enough to evangelize because joy and unity reach the depths of the heart and take root in the intelligence of every man. We asked the Lord that each one has the grace to recognize the signs of His presence in daily life, in small things, in apostolic activities, in daily prayer, in all people that He places on our path and in moments of encounter like these.

Sr Natalina



The joy of inter-community meetings

For several years the sisters of the communities :
Notre Dame à Parigi
St. Maurice à Attichy
St. François à Carlepont

meet to live together the monthly retreat and the preparation for the different chapters.

They are precious occasions that help us to deepen together our documents and the Magisterium of the Church and make us grow as sisters on the path to holiness.

Preferably, we choose the convenient dates for all to be able to share and prolong the time organized in a relaxing and fraternal way.

Each community collaborates for lunch so that the joyful conviviality reigns.

The last meeting took place on Monday, April 16, in the presence of our provincial superior Sr. Elisabeth Varikkakuzhyil who, after a time of prayer and adoration, gave each of the Statutes and Deliberations of our last provincial chapter.

We praise the Lord for these intercommunity moments which strengthen fraternity and re-propose the commitment to live in conformity with the Holy Gospel and our regulations following the Steps of Divine Providence.

We hope that these opportunities will be multiplied ...



*With the sisters ...
of the communities dependent on the General Superior.*

The communities dependent on the mother general, we the sisters of Grotte di Castro, Assisi “Santa Maria degli Angeli” and Viole, we have the beauty to meet every month for spiritual retreat. Thanks to Sister Eliodora who found a just person, Father Mimmo Campana, who is part of the community of the friars of Santa Maria degli Angeli - Assisi - for our retreat...

We are lucky and we are so happy to wait for the day to go and be together to pray, to rejoice with St. Francis and with the sisters by speaking with simplicity and sharing our life ‘. The retreat begins with Lauds and Holy Mass celebrated by Father Mimmo who, after breakfast, gives a deep meditation.



Every month, the wise words of fr. Mimmo encourage us to be faithful witnesses in our mission, to seek first of all union with the Lord in order to take care of the weakest people in our environments and in the parish community.

Besides the moment of prayer, we find ourselves in other circumstances to live in fraternity and in joy. We thank God for his providence, because everything we live and we receive, it comes from the Lord.



Symposium of consecrated life in Lithuania

It is 5:30 am March 10, 2018 and here is traveling a particularly interesting group: two Franciscan friars ofm, two Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart FMSC, two Poor Clares, two Missionary Sisters of Charity MC and two Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help; destination Panevėžys, city of northern Lithuania, whose ordinary bishop, Monsignor Linas Vadopjanovas OFM is also responsible for religious at the



episcopal conference level. The weather is snowy and the roads are particularly insidious because of the ice, but at the driver is the intrepid friar Astijus ofm, who is sure, supported also by the prayer of us all. The group of religious, coming from Kretinga must reach as soon as possible the other religious of Lithuania who meet together to celebrate the second Symposium of the consecrated life. The day is full of sharing, reflection, common research to find appropriate answers so that the presence of religious in this land for a long time marked by the blood of the martyrs, is also today salt of the earth and light of the world”.

To strengthen this research and renew the commitment of each one for a witness of life ever more radically centered in Christ, Fr. Antonio Scabio OFM, General Definitor from Rome, animates the two conferences whose theme “Life in community: psychological and dynamic aspects” . After reflecting on community life in the Acts of the Apostles, Fr. Antonio Scabio goes on to analyze the psychological aspects of consecrated life in community and offers clear and exhaustive paths so that everyone is able to start again with renewed enthusiasm and zeal.



Enriching then were the two moments of group work, where in a friendly fraternal spirit all the participants were able to express themselves on how to translate the indications received in concrete form.

Center and pivot of the meeting: the Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral “Christ the King” and presided by the bishop Monsignor Linas Vadopjanovas, OFM surrounded by the bishops present at the day, by Father Antonio Scabio OFM, by fra Algis Malakauskis OFM, provincial

Minister and many other religious priests or less. In his homily, Bishop Linas Vadopjanovas, ofm highlighted the centrality of Christ in religious life as the principal and exclusive engine of every



apostolic mission and the joyous witness of a life entirely offered to God's cause Giver of all good. The final song guided by the inter-congregational chorus that had animated the liturgy raised us in daily reality with new enthusiasm. The appointment will be next March when we will meet again together, and this time in Vilnius, where the main speaker will be Monsignor José Rodriguez Carballo ofm.

The sisters of the community Kretinga.



Juniores meeting (US)

It was during the first weeks of November and March that we attended workshops at Graymoor spiritual center on the themes of discernment in the Franciscan tradition and the ancient Franciscan history respectively. It's our joy to share with our sisters what we learned during these workshops. We're going to present this article into two parts. Part one, we will talk on discernment. Part two we will talk on the ancient Franciscans history in today's reality.

Defining discernment, the presenter, Sr. Clare D'Auria, said was to listen to the voice of God and the movement of his spirit, cultivating openness to God's will. Continuing on this topic the presenter demonstrated it into 4P's which are purpose, posture, practice and process. Sharing on the purpose of discernment which the presenter said is to know God's will, accept and affirm the unique way in which God's love is manifested to us. We need to ask meaningful questions in order to get correct answers.

Looking at the example of Saint Francis who asked God, 'WHO ARE YOU O LORD AND WHO AM I'? Francis was just trying to be honest before God in order to overcome his weaknesses asking God for a right faith which will enable him to see with the eyes of Jesus, certain hope which involves vigilant waiting and a perfect charity which involves transparent vulnerability in front of God.

Talking on the posture of discernment, it involves the contemplative listening of the voices of my experiences, Gospel, charism, and creation. We look at the posture of Jesus during his temptations but despite all the promises coming from the devil, Jesus remained watchful, prayerful and humble. Meanwhile in the practice of discernment, I need to be prayerful, alert, aware, cultivate a listening heart, and available to the will of God. Continuing on the discussion on the practice of discernment in the Franciscan tradition, we took the example of Saint Francis embracing the leper;

we considered a leper to be someone placed out of my world or anyone I chose to avoid in the society or as part of myself I don't want to look at what in reality is a privilege place to encounter Christ in order to rebuild relations. In the last stage of discernment, which was the process of discernment we need to seek the different voices that comes our way, paying attention for what is going on in our lives, our feelings, listening attentively to the voice of my life experience, family, friends and signs of times.

In the second part of our article which is talking on the theme of Ancient Franciscan History and Franciscans in today's reality.

Now we discuss how early Franciscans met the needs, fed the hungers of the people of that time, the effectiveness of their mission. Francis was educated for his time; he recognized the illiteracy of his contemporaries. He interpreted the text that they couldn't read which the fraternity adopted as their way of life and so he built an intimate relationship to help people imagine what was possible with them. So we need to ask ourselves, 'How is our relationship with the people of God helping them to grow spiritually'? To continue, on the second day, the presenter demonstrated to us the three women in the Bible who are a source of inspiration to holiness. Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene

and Veronica. Looking at the story of Mary Magdalene, her encounter with Christ changed her and brought her into the sensitivity of holiness and she became a sign for people who feel unable to live an extraordinary holiness. Her change shows us the power of grace because she lived contemplative and active life; which also had a great impact on the life of Saint Francis. Then we should ask ourselves as Franciscans today, 'What impact our lives have on others'? Do our lives encourage people towards holiness? In the last part of our sharing, we discussed how we Franciscans of today with our realities still engraved into our ancient tradition. Reflecting back on the ancient way of life and prayer; in our time we are tempted to change because we are being carried away by activism and modernism. Looking at the example of Saint Francis and how he invited people to join the fraternity that they may learn about God. But with the modern Franciscans we invite people to join us in order to do what we are doing and not to be with 'JESUS'. So we do work and forget the Lord of works.

To end our workshop, we came out with a conclusion that our friendship and companionship with Christ is the ultimate of our call.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY.



TOWARDS MOTHER HOUSE ... OUR HOLY LAND!

Wonderful are the ways of Divine Providence..." Venerable Fr. Gregory

From April 28th to May 1st we the Junior sisters of the Centocelle Formation House, Sr Annabel, Sr. Aileen, Sr Angel Rose, Sr. Jaida, the novice Norfe and the postulant Rina together with our Formators Sr. Josie and Sr. Lilibeth and the Provincial Councilor Sr. Cristina Bottan, we finally realized a great dream: to go to Gemona del Friuli in the Convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli, the cradle of our Congregation.



We left at dawn with the bus and the first stop was Padua, the Basilica of St. Anthony dear to us for the particular devotion that Our Foundress had for the great Saint who later she chose as a special Patron of the Congregation. We stopped near the tomb of the great saint, we visited the chapel of the relics and we paused in prayer together with many devoted pilgrims. Then we continued the journey and finally we arrived at the Mother House !!!

The provincial superior Sr. Annamaria Volpato and many sisters were lined up, ready to welcome us. The environment was soon filled with mutual joy. The elderly sisters were witnesses of fidelity and generous self-giving and we enjoyed young people who are still on the way.

The first evening we attended a concert organized by the citizens of Gemona in honor of Father Gregory Fioravanti, declared venerable and in thanksgiving by the Sisters who in Gemona are a precious presence for the service of love they give. It was moving to see how God works and loves through His missionaries in this place.



At nightfall, after celebrating Compline, we went to rest and the next day we had a very interesting day animated and led by Sr. Fabrizia Zanettin who told us with many details about the history of the Congregation developed in this Holy Land where our charism, the great gift of the Lord, took shape and life. We recalled the first sisters: their fidelity, perseverance in offering their lives with joy for their beloved Institute. Thus encourages us to live the life of consecration with enthusiasm to the end.

Then we visited the different parts of the Motherhouse where our first sisters lived, very characteristic places: the chapter hall, the cloister, the refectory, the church where we relived the spirit of the Congregation.

The visit to the Museum highlighted all that Sr Fabrizia had told us through many objects presented and explained to us.

The museum extends in three rooms. The first is the room of the origins as there are objects belonging to the Poor Clares and our Founders.

The second is that of human resources

and the third testifies to the humanitarian commitment of the Sisters: all this for us is a living testimony of the hand of God who has guided us in history and continues to guide us.

After that, we visited the environments where the sisters perform the service with love in silence, with passion and missionary creativity.



Another way of living, expressing and witnessing our charism have been experienced by visiting the sick sisters in the infirmary and the service of the nurse sisters has given us joy in seeing how they can give themselves in simplicity and serenity.

It has been the feast of encounter, rejoiced also by the songs we sung for them and with them.

Then we went at the Missionary Center, a precious place where the missionary reality of the whole Congregation is present, cared for with so much love, precision and zeal from Sr. Chiarfrancesca who knows the different cultures, loves the particularities and appreciates their value and originality.



The following day, continuing the journey, again with the guidance of Sr Chiarfrancesca, we went to the cemetery where our venerable Founder is buried, our sisters deceased since the year 1862 until today and the Franciscan Fathers.

We spent some time reflecting, in silence and recollection, then we prayed and thanked them for their testimony, for the sacrifices, for the offering of their lives and for the fidelity that encourages us to live our consecration in fidelity and above all we have asked for their intercession in order to continue the mission that they have begun and that now is entrusted to us. Leaving the cemetery, we went to the

shrine of St. Anthony recalling the solemn day of the canonical opening of the Congregation when the sisters in procession went to pay homage to the great thaumaturgy who wanted this work. We have asked for his intercession for our religious family.

Next to the Sanctuary stands the School Santa Maria degli Angeli where there is a community we have visited. The school was born as an answer to the needs of the population to give education, not only intellectual but above all moral and Christian to the young generations. The meeting was very joyful, simple

and spontaneous, just as if we had always known each other.

We then reached the Cathedral walking along, with emotion, that road where passed by our Foundress and that group of novices, all with a lily in hand, the morning of April 21, 1861, day of the canonical opening enlightened by the words of the Archbishop “This has been done by the Lord and is a marvel in our eyes!”

Time passes quickly and we arrived at the last evening that we wanted to cheer with our songs and dances to express gratitude for the beautiful meetings and for the fraternal welcome that made us experience the sense of belonging to the only great family of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. We were excited but we discovered that even the sisters of the community hardly hid tears of joy for our youth that infuses them new hope.

On the day of departure we were given a surprise present: a visit to the sanctuary of the Madonna dei Miracoli in Motta di Livenza (Treviso) crowned Queen by our dear Father Gregory who venerated her with particular and tender devotion.

We participated in the Holy Mass with the multitude of pilgrims. The celebrant greeted us publicly and gave us the wish of peace, joy and love, giving us the blessing.

The experience lived in these four days was a marvel for us given by Divine Providence and it has increased in us the joy of feeling part of this Work of God realized through our Founders and the first heroic sisters.

In the Mother House we have breathed the identity of Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The meeting with the sick sisters has edified us: their shining faces, the serenity in their gaze, the joy in spite of the suffering and the illness that unites them with that of Christ, invite us to live life in trustful abandonment to Jesus, serene in everyday life, strong in the relationship of love with the Lord and with our neighbor.

We give thanks to the Lord and to our superiors and formators who have given us the opportunity to know and deepen the origins of our Religious Family and its historical heritage.

And to the sisters of the Province of St. Mary of the Angels, a special thank you for this experience that we cannot really express.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



World Day of Consecrated Life celebrated in Bulgaria

“We live in a moment of human history in need of a vocational sense of life - said Cardinal De Aziz, Prefect of the CIVCSVA - We need a project, a basic sense of our existence, full of joy and hope. We the consecrated, right from the baptismal experience, inserted into the life of God and his family, the Church, we are heirs of the vocational and charismatic patrimony of the Church and we feel the joy and the duty to guard and promote it “.

Celebrating the World Day of Consecrated Life is an occasion for celebration, and commitment to the Lord for the gift of new vocations that renew the face of the Church and the world, announcing the joy of the Gospel and the love of God that gives meaning to our existence.

On this occasion in our convent, St. Elizabeth in Rakovski, we had the prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of consecrated life in the church, that many men and women who responded to the Lord's call, leaving everything to follow in the footsteps of Jesus! In his homily, Father Claudio Montanelli has filled us with joy by saying that we are the beloved of Jesus and we belong to the King of kings! The Franciscan Fathers - Capuchins and Conventuals, the Assumptionist fathers, the Sisters of Mother Teresa, the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul, the Benedictine nuns, the Oblate Sisters, representatives of the third secular order and diocesan parish priests of Rakovski have come to share the joy of the day. The bishop of our diocese Mons. Georghi Iovcev gave us his blessing through an e-mail!

It was a moment of communion, of joy and gratitude for everyone!



Missionary Childhood in Carlepont

For several years in Carlepont «France» a group of children of the Missionary Childhood has been formed.

Every year, together with their animators, we prepare a program that gives continuity and openness to the participants. Together we make a journey to discover and deepen the present reality and of Christian faith.

This year we set out to pursue three objectives:

1. Prepare and manage a stand for the Christmas market to provide a fund for annual activities.
2. Make contact with a group of kids of the same age in another country. 1. On 9 and 10 December 2017 we organized to participate in the Christmas market.
3. Take relevant points from the Encyclical of Pope Francis: “Laudato Si’” to actualize them in our experience.

This is the journey made during pastoral activity:

1. We organized a Christmas market on 9th and 10th December 2017 and everyone participated. Despite the bad weather, the participation was good and fruitful
2. Knowing the various activities that our Sisters perform in Lithuania we have agreed to make contact with other children through writing and exchanging some photos; decided to plan and to resume next year.
3. To develop and adapt the encyclical “Laudato Si’” we invited a professor who is passionate about nature, interested in what Pope Francis says and very active and faithful to the parish activities. His sensitivity and simple and captivating ability immediately captured the children.



His provocations were not lacking, but neither were the children’s insightful and practical questions, expressing their desires to make commitments to implement in their daily life. We really felt the presence of the Lord who guides and accompanies us!

*Sr. Paolina, Sr. Michéle and
Sr. Marialuigia*



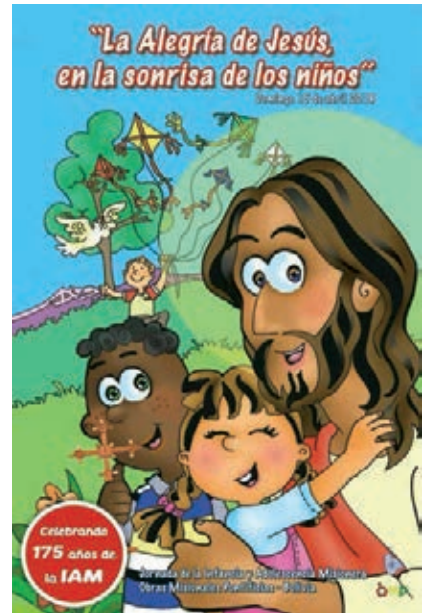
A Holy Easter ...fully missionary

“THE JOY OF JESUS’ IN THE CHILDREN’S SMILE”

A day full of joy, learning, communion and fraternity; more than 550 children of the missionary childhood and adolescent missionaries of our archdiocese of Cochabamba met to celebrate the Risen Christ.

The Missionary childhood of our School of Santa Clara de Asís, as every year, has also participated in this important celebration with more than 100 children, accompanied by Sr Maggaly Warthon and her animators.

The day began with the procession to the Church, accompanied by songs and clapping. Subsequently, the Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Eugenio Coter, apostolic vicar of Pando. After the Eucharistic celebration, the children shared snacks and then



met in groups

to take part in a lively discussion on various prepared topics.

After lunch they had fun with various recreational and animation games. It ended with a prayer of blessing and the missionary mandate. Thank you Lord for the many wonders that you have given us.

Children of the world ... always friends!

With Jesus and Mary ... Missionaries all day!



“THE JOY OF JESUS IN YOUNG PEOPLE”

The Archdiocese of Cochabamba and the Pontifical Mission Societies organized the 5th Easter meeting for young people with the slogan “the joy of Jesus in young people”. This activity took place in the Pedro Poveda school. The youth of our school, San Francisco de Asis B, participated, preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, catechists and assistants, as well as the youth group Joframi (Franciscan youth) with its animators accompanied by Sister Marlene Paco.

This experience was greatly appreciated by all the young people who participated, because they were able to share their experiences with other boys and girls from different schools and parishes, reflecting on the great event of our faith: the Resurrection of Jesus.



During the day there were moments of entertainment with songs and dances. Central moment was the Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Mons Oscar Aparicio, Bishop of the Archdiocese of Cochabamba, who in his homily invited the young people to be the actors of this society collaborating and living the Christian values each in his reality, in his environments.

In the afternoon groups, organized according to the missionary colors, it was reflected on the “Encyclical Laudato si”; then the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was followed: intense moment of personal and community prayer.



After this activity, a march was started from the Pedro Poveda school to the main square on September 14th, where an artistic dance and religious singing festival was held. For everyone it was an experience to share faith in the Risen Lord and the joy of knowing that He lives.

A friend ... of The Poor And of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart



“It takes courage and considerable human sensitivity” we said to invite the homeless in their own luxurious restaurant. But our friend and benefactor, wanted to offer “our friends” - as he calls them - a breakfast-lunch in his hotel in a residential area of the city.

He had previously invited us to breakfast to learn more about our activities to those in need, to give us an important sum of money for the poor and to communicate his idea to us. He had thought that for the homeless it would have been nice to offer an opportunity to spend a morning at the restaurant and choose their favorite menu. No sooner said than done.

About thirty people have come with us, among those who come every day to the central station and together we set off towards the castle. Well, not only were they clean, but even ... elegant and very much excited.

At first a little awkward, they chose, from a table prepared with a large variety of food, the more they liked without exaggerating, but then, encouraged by our benefactor who looked at them with tenderness, they got up several times to repeat ... Not only food of their likeness but also drinks: cappuccino, coffee, orange juice and other.

Our benefactor reveals: “The idea of inviting homeless people into their own luxury restaurant was born after having met three sisters from Veneto, Franciscan Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart, who have been working here in Prague for twenty years and who work daily to help the most needy people. Among their activities it includes, organizing a table every morning for the poor who attend the Hlavni nadrazi, the main city railway station “, to point out the even more Italian character of this initiative of solidarity.

“I am not a believer I was impressed by the generosity with which, Sister Annarosa, Sister Emanuela and Sister Clare, whom I now regard as friends, dedicate their lives to the poor. So the idea of inviting them all to me came to my mind “, with the expressed intention of making the initiative periodic.



March for life

On the occasion of the 45th annual march for life, which took place in Washington D.C under the theme “Love Saves Lives” on January 19th 2018, our two young Sisters Pascaline and Sylvia had the privilege to take part. Our



sisters remarked that it was marked by a huge population of youth, adult and old who came out from all the four corners of the United States of America, regardless of their denominations, to oppose the continual slaughter of innocent babies through abortion and other forms of killing. It was good to see the crowds especially the youth marching with such vigor, passion and shouts of songs for this noble cause reminding them of the importance of life and fighting for the right to life of every creature. On our own part as pro-lifers we marched with placards in-

forming the pro-abortionists that the only way for them to return to God, is through the Ten Commandments and the Christian morality.

Our march as pro-lifers was aimed at fighting not only for life but for the higher law that

defends life and the God who created both life and law; so compromise must not be part of our vocabulary because we consider abortion to be a form of slavery and a sinful decision that is morally indefensible. We were also amazed with the message of the president of the United States of America, Donald Trump, who encouraged all the pro-lifers never to be discouraged by defeat and never allow betrayals to shake their determination. We fight for God and His law and must trust in Him alone for the final victory, with passion and hope!



Traveling with mothers



In spring: A special program was given this year for mothers. Now that the world is globalized and that our children surf better than adults do on the internet, they wanted to take a stroll with their mothers. Here they are in an all-modern screenplay of “A Thousand and One Nights.”

Starting from Syria to Egypt, towards Europe - France - Spain - Greece, then off to Africa - India, America and China, without forgetting Lebanon, everyone presented themselves with their customs and particularities.

Mothers have been reminded of the great responsibility they have in this modern world where no one can control children who can use social media much better than adults and deceive their parents on this aspect. Even to Christian mothers, an appeal was made to set an example for our children regarding our faith. In fact, we are increasingly aware that youth is less



and less present in liturgical celebrations.

They prefer meetings and discussions among themselves and say that the Mass is long and uninteresting. Our mission is now much more difficult than thirty years ago when the Church was packed with people, who prayed and sang for hours without ever getting tired. Today, we need creativity, attracting young people.

It takes courageous mothers who can help us, to channel the confusion that is invading even the most remote villages of our world.

Sr. Beatrice Skorti

Missionary activities from Viole of Assisi

This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the FMSC sisters in Viole di Assisi. The date of the opening of this activity was January 3, 1978 for the pastoral ministry and educational activity.



Now the community is made up of three sisters. For some years the parish has been part of the pastoral unity with Saint Rufino of Assisi where the parish priest and his collaborators live.

The Holy Mass is celebrated every day in the church of San Vitale; here are the remains of the body of this hermit, because he lived here.

Moreover it is also a place of pilgrimage and prayer to the Madonna of Roses for the miraculous painting placed in the Church..

Sr. Chiaremilia is dedicated to the organization of the church and the preparation of the liturgies; brings communion to the sick and elderly.

Prepare families who ask for baptism, perform the task in the parish office in preparing the required documents, listen to the people who come to the parish and the pilgrims wishing to see the church and learn its history.

The other sisters are engaged in the school from Monday to Friday with teaching, reception and testimony.

This school exists for a vow to the Madonna of the roses that the parish priest don Lamberto Pettrucci has issued with the population before the Virgin during the Second World War to preserve the country from destruction.

There are many experiences that the Lord is giving us in this place and with the various “missionary” activities.

Our commitment to witness to faith was crowned at the beginning of the year with the baptism of two brothers who attend this school.

The excited mother, seeing her 5 year old son pray in the evening alone, asked us to help him prepare for baptism.

We drew a project with the teachers in the section of the “great” discovering the symbols and the meaning of the signs and gestures that are used in the baptismal liturgy. The celebration took place in San Rufino Cathedral in the Baptismal font where St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows became Christians “friends of Jesus.



The mother to thank for the preparation in an e-mail sent to the school has expressed this: “This feast left me a joy and an indescribable feeling ..

I feel a serenity within me that I cannot narrate ... When my son is preparing for the first Communion I would like to participate in the Catechism too to receive Jesus with him. “

The school also participates in the initiatives that the Istituto Comprensivo Assisi proposes to us: on the morning of 17 May we finished the “continuity project” with the event at the Rocca Maggiore in Assisi. This year the theme was on pollution with the title: “Man and the Earth, a relationship in conflict”.

The Councilor for culture of Assisi Pettirossi Simone, said: “Talking about the future of the world in which we live, which is in a fragile balance ... Today we are talking about” Circular economy “or” economy of the spaceship In fact, the earth is like a spaceship in the universe and as the astronauts we have to commit ourselves every day to safeguard and use the available resources well....



After developing a project on the pollution of the four elements of nature in the 5/6-year-olds section with appropriate stories, experiments and discussions; as a school we participated in the event representing the song of the “Zecchino d’Oro” “Tito and Tato”.

Two Martians who come to visit the land and discover many beautiful things but also realize that not all people are educated because they write on the walls or throw things on the ground and abandon the trash.

Before returning to their spaceship they have left us a recommendation. “Remember that nature needs love and care. His gifts are treasures that give you happiness!”

A message that St. Francis has left us and commits us to live and witness.



To the peripheries of India - Changlang

Our presence in the mission at Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh, the northeast frontiers of India celebrates its tenth year. Arunachal Pradesh has China and Tibet in the north and Myanmar in the east. It is one among the “seven sisters of north East” (Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura), as these states are commonly known in India. It is the habitat of many tribes mostly of mangloid ethnic group. Changlang is a very beautiful place with many green hills and valleys. The cascades flowing from the green mountains like silver lining, the blue sky over the green mountains with white clouds, indeed capture a Franciscan heart and make a spontaneous expression of “Laudato si..” The area is famous for quality bamboo forests. The hills covered with green, tall bamboo trees bending their heads and gently moving in the breeze, as if they are bowing before the almighty, will certainly give us an experience of the divine.. For a tribal, forest is not simply a place to live and work, but something sacred and part of their very life. The forest products like wood, bamboo, cane, etc. are their financial sources.

Arunachal Pradesh is a land of different tribes, with rich cultural heritage. They vary in many ways language, customs and traditions and they try to preserve it with care. They are very joyous group; music and dance are the very part of their life, so their festivals are very solemn and colorful. They are mostly Hindus, Christians, Doni Polo (worshippers of Sun and moon) and many other animist or indigenous religions. Christian



missionaries, protestant sects and Catholics put an enormous effort to plant the word of God in this land, but Protestants got access much before Catholics. Missionaries were not accepted in the beginning and many of them sacrificed their lives, either due to adverse climate and sickness or due to persecutions. The French Missionaries Fr. Nicholas Michael Krick and Fr. Augustine Etienne Bourry were brutally martyred on August 2 1854, at Somme village in Arunachal Pradesh by the tribal leaders of the village. The church in Arunachal seek their intercession and pray for their beatification.

We started our mission in Changlang in 2008 . It seems very providential, that we became part of these people, very different in all the ways from the life, of the people of south. “Marvelous are the ways of God...”the adverse climate, language, minimum convenience, hard but simple lifestyle made us feel, as “we are missionaries” in the true sense. The bishop of Miao Rev. George Pallippambil, who



had been working in the area as a young priest, later became the bishop when the diocese was erected in 2005. He is a fervent missionary who put enormous efforts to evangelize, implemented number of projects to educate and develop the diocese. He also invited many priests and religious to the diocese to collaborate with him in the evangelizing mission. He continues to say the motivating words, “It is the favorable time, work hard, we do not know how long it is possible to continue our mission of evangelization”. It is true with the present government; religious freedom in India is being curtailed day by day.



Our mission is in the outskirts of Changlang district headquarters. When we reflect on the last ten years of our presence and service in the place, we have great reason to rejoice and thank the Lord. We made our presence as FMSC felt in different ways in the area. We are involved in the pastoral educational and health care ministry of the parish. There are so many villages around Changlang, where the people have not known Jesus. Therefore, it is our daily task as a community programme to choose one village for the day, offer mass, prayers adoration, rosary etc. for that particular village. The people are also free to join us in the weekly one full day adoration in our chapel. We visit the families, share the word of God and pray the rosary with them where there are Catholics. In faraway villages, we stay overnight in the families and spend our time in prayer and sharing the word with them. It is much fulfilling to share their hospitality and simple life style. We are sure that the Lord will reward our efforts. When there are no Christian presence, we simply visit the families and listen to their problems.

Our hostels and school are not only places of education and Christian formation but also means to link with the families and villages. The villages are scattered on different hills, many kilometers far from the center. No proper roads in many place therefore they walk kilometers through the forest to reach the centers to buy the necessities of life or for medical purpose. We conduct medical programmes; to assist their medical needs, conduct awareness classes for healthy living. We motivate the parents to send their children in our hostels and school. We have the girl's hostel with all the facilities, where we accommodate 70 girls from 4 to 16 age group. Thanks to the agencies (Missione Tau Onlus, CEI) who provided financial support to the mission. The parish priest also run a similar hostel for the boys. Children who live happy, healthy and formed well in our hostels are really making us to have access to their villages. People accept us and respect us in their homes happily when we reach their village since we are known through the children. Thanks to God, our efforts during these years have



great effects. We can see a tremendous change in the attitude of the people; their living conditions, enthusiasm to educate the children, active participation in the spiritual practices etc. The children in the schools also are educated and formed in a Christian way. We are confident that a tomorrow they will the lead the society the values we inculcated in them.

MONTH OF MARY in Quito

On 12 May the Franciscan Father Ramiro Cachimuel, Rector of the Quitumbe College of St. Andrew and pastor of the parish “St. Francis of Assisi”, invited our school, “San Francisco de Asis” Arcadia to attend the Holy Mass in honor of the our Most Holy Mother for the celebration of the month of Mary, an occasion in which we also celebrated Mother’s Day.

The Father emphasized the value that our mother Mary should have for us Christians, she who loves us and gave us her son, suffered for the sufferings of Christ, respected the will of the Father, gave an example of virtue that help us to be people of faith.

He then stressed that we are all called to be grateful to our mothers for all that they give day by day; he prayed for all those in difficulty, those who are single mothers, those who have their sick children, those who struggle daily to carry on their children, for all those who transmit the faith. Most especially he prayed for the mothers who were present .

In this Eucharist, there were some teachers, parents with their children and some lay associates of our mission.

For everyone it was an opportunity to grow in our love for Mary, our Mother of Heaven, and to become more sensitive and grateful to our mothers.



RETREAT OF TEACHERS OF THE EDUCATIONAL STAFF

“San Francisco de Asís B” and “Santa Clara de Asís”



One of the priorities that has been assumed as a religious community is the formation and spiritual accompaniment of teachers who work in the different schools we have.

This is why on 29 March of this year a spiritual retreat took place with the teachers of the various educational units of San Francisco de Asís (secondary) and Santa Clara de Asís (primary), at the center of the Franciscan spirituality of the town of Tarata.

On this day the theme of the role, identity and commitment of a Catholic teacher was addressed. For everyone it was an experience that helped us to reflect on our daily tasks in our classes and also to become more aware of strengthening or restarting the values and attitudes that we, as teachers of a Catholic Christian institution, are called to live and transmit. Likewise, this day of retreat has helped and strengthened the bonds of friendship and camaraderie between the members of both educational centers, hoping that the experience will be repeated during the current year.



RETREAT FOR PASTORAL COLLABORATORS

Of the San Francisco de Asís School B - 2018

At the beginning of this new year of the Lord 2018, the Educational Community of the School of San Francisco de Asís B, of the city of Cochabamba, as every year, made the retreat with the pastoral agents that animate the different groups of evangelization. The meeting took place on 25 of February in the catechist's house (Cadeca), where we could share the experience with more than 55 young people who offer their service in a disinterested way.



The theme of this year significantly indicates the pastoral commitment that each one has with the Lord.

We started this day with the Eucharistic Celebration, where we had moments of prayer, fraternal sharing and group reflection.

It is also important to underline that this year the Franciscan brother Fr. Limbert Tejerina accompanies us in a special way; he is carrying out his pastoral service in our school, a very important activity in his stage of formation.



A special meeting in Alberobello

“... For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor 9,16).

An experience, the one I would like to tell, or better for which I spend a few words, sprouted by a few lines that Sr. Paola Dotto received: “have the opportunity to have a Sister who” comes among us “so that we can deepen the Franciscan spirituality and spiritual richness as part of the FMSC congregation as lay people.”

I speak of the meeting that took place in Miceli near Alberobello - Bari - to which, by grace, we were called.

This is how the day 22 April 2018 Sr Augusta and myself, Sr Natalina have set off for Apulia.

The outward journey, although in some moments a bit challenging, whether for stretches of road from the bottom of the road is not very well-kept, or for the short stretches where they are presented fog banks, is made shining: from the exceptional landscape, from the times of prayer (morning and praise) and the fraternal exchange carried out with free, true and profound sisterhood.

Upon arrival we were welcomed by two ladies, Annalisa and Giulia, with their partners. They appear bright to us for the gentle, delicate, affable and familiar features. With them we participated in the Holy Mass in the cathedral, very beautiful from the artistic point of view.

After a short visit to Alberobello we went to Miceli, where the spirituality house is located, where we had lunch and conversed with 15 people besides us (1 priest,



two consecrated persons and 12 lay people).

At 4.00 pm, we started the meeting with the 12 people gathered to get to know each other.

After a moment of prayer and a brief presentation, I said to: remember how we have been conducted so far; to explain the motivations of the meeting and introduce the intervention of Sr. Augusta.

Sr Augusta, had prepared a good speech ... but after listening and talking with some people, during lunch, she decided to change it. Speaking “directly she outlined in a precise, simple and clear way the historical profile and characteristics of both the Franciscan spirituality, both of Father Gregory and of the Congregation. She referred not only to history, to people, to our sources, but also to the apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*. In this way the interest and the involvement of the whole group has aroused. I then, keeping in mind the exhortation “*Gaudete et exsultate*” on the call to holiness, I made a reference to the experience of listening to the Word lived in spiritual exercises (through the method suggested by St. Ignatius) in order to become contemplatives like Francis of Assisi.

After a final prayer there was a space - to encourage personal dialogue ... and a short walk among “the birdsong and the silence of the countryside”, and finally the prayer of Vespers.



The evening ended with a dinner in the name of minority, fraternal simplicity with Don Mimi and the two people who run the place.

Sr Natalina

An experience to be treasured

Upon our arrival in Italy, after years spent in Chile and France, we decided to enroll our girls at the Asisium, my old school. There during Christmas I met the market of the non-profit organization Missione Tau and after a few months the Easter market! I immediately thought that I would have bought the chocolate eggs only at school, but then I found myself asking friends and relatives if they were interested and without believing it I managed to sell them a lot!



In this way, I started this wonderful volunteer experience! A few months later, they invited me to see how the Christmas sale was organized ... and immediately I set aside everything and filed irons and crochet, beginning to awaken something that my grandmother had taught me as a child. I never imagined being able to create and sell something!

Years have passed, the children are now three, the girls are now teenagers and soon we will leave for Switzerland. I do not know what the Lord holds in store for us, but if until now He has stayed

with us, I know he will not leave us right now that we are a bit lost! How will our new life be, I do not know, but certainly I would like to continue doing something for OnlusTau even from afar.

The ONLUS was a “little house” with the keys always on the door ... it was enough to enter to find someone to have a coffee, to chat about this and that, organize a Christmas job or just say hello. Sr. Ermellina’s welcome has always been so great, her wise words always a stimulus, her strength always an example! Together with the other volunteers, we have formed a nice group and the clashes or meetings have always been constructive for me! I learned to be a bit ‘more diplomatic, to judge less, to listen more, not to care too much about criticism because on working is normal to make mistakes, and only mistakes make us grow! I grew up a little bit, but I am still very young and I have done little, but for that little I have to say thank you to all the volunteers and the sisters! They were the ones who involved me in this mission and thanks to them I was able to make my little “talent” come true.

I am sure that my path had already been written! Years ago in Chile a friend had read the parable of the talents (Matthew 25, 14-30) concluding that the missionaries do just that, they make their talents come true! I already knew that writing, but that day I kept it inside me, and for years I had the feeling of having buried my talent. Only when I arrived at the Onlus did I feel that those verses finally made sense. The Holy Spirit accompanies us and sometimes needs only the courage to say Yes! So I thank everyone again for accompanying me in these years because without them my talent would still be under the ground! And I would not be able to be a drop in the sea, a small drop that sometimes is nothing but at other times a vase is overflowing!

Simona



ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN SYMPOSIUM IN ISTANBUL

“The importance of prayer in the experience of St. Francis of Assisi and of Mevlana”

On April 21, 2018 in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Istanbul a conference was held on the theme “the importance of prayer in the experience of St. Francis of Assisi and of Mevlana”.

This event intends to continue the tradition of the Islamic-Christian Dialogue Symposia initiated by the Capuchin Fathers and then carried out by all the Franciscans of Turkey in 2010. This year’s meeting was promoted by the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue of the Franciscan Family in Turkey represented by the three male branches of the Minority Order (Conventuals, Minors and Capuchins) and of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

During the past year, the members of the commission had several opportunities to meet with the members of the “Mevlana International Foundation for Education and Culture-Şefik Can” led by H. Nur Artıran. Together with them, we organized this day of meeting on the theme of prayer in our religious traditions, to compare and better understand the specific Franciscan and Sufi world, the interreligious relationship between Muslims and Christians in order to continue walking in friendship and dialogue.

The aim of the theme was to present two approaches: one theoretical and one practical

First, the theoretical approach was that of seeking to “know each other better and live together”, from observing religious differences with the aim of building spiritual dynamics. Instead, the practical approach was spiritual exchange, which concerns the spiritual life of St. Francis as that of Mevlana. These two dimensions have a common point that is to bring “a spiritual interest” from the affirmation of the common elements of convergence between the two spiritualities.

The two moments that animated the agenda were therefore the presentations of these two different spiritualities, during the morning, with two speakers the prof. Father Pietro Maranesi and the President of the Foundation, Mrs. H. NUR Artıran; in the afternoon a moment of prayer with spiritual songs animated by the two dialoguing groups: Franciscan religious and Sufi.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM.



After the opening of the Symposium by Sister Miriam Oyarzo, coordinator of the Commission of the Franciscan Family for Interreligious Dialogue in Turkey, the word was given to the first speaker, Prof. Father Pietro Maranesi, OFM Capuchin who developed the theme: “Francis of Assisi: between hermitage and city, when the prayer of praise to God becomes an announcement of peace to the people”.

His analysis spoke of the fact that two places are intertwined in the mystical experience of St. Francis of Assisi:

1. The life of the Hermitage with his first companions: His life of prayer passes through various hermitages (Carceri, La Verna, Greccio ...), existential places of his search for God through the contemplation of nature, solitude and prayer.



2. Life in the city: His life is also linked to the various paths traveled through the cities he visited, in the desire to meet men and women to announce peace to them. A shared commitment with his brothers in a community of prayer.

This way of praying between hermits and the city challenges us to be men and women who seek the face of God in the solitude of prayer, who become witnesses of peace and credible

announcers in the cities of people.

In her speech, Mrs. H. Nur Artiran, emphasized the existence of prayer in the life of Mevlana. The prayer that united him to Allah and made him a precursor of his message all over the world: a message of unity of the human race, peace, dialogue with respect for all, creatures. She emphasized that unity is already acquired by Allah; he has given it to the men and women of all time and to all religious diversities in the world. The path of unity remains to be continued through prayer.



At the end of the speeches, Mons. Ruben Tierrablanca, Vicar Apostolic of Istanbul presented the common elements, the prayers between the two spiritualities.

As if to unite the word with the action, the second part of the day consisted of a practical approach to prayer through songs and spiritual meditations on the writings of St. Francis concerning the topic of the day, presented by the brothers and sisters of the Franciscan family of Turkey. Then spiritual songs and dances performed by Derviş of the Mevlana International Foundation.

A candle was lit between the two organizers as a sign of covenant, to be credible witnesses to the light of God to be announced through prayer, peace in the world.

Living in God

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



Sr M. ATTILIA
of the heart of Mary

*Born in Castelfranco (TV)
on 21.08.1933
Died in Roma
on 20.01.2018*

Sister Attilia Campagnaro, daughter of the Trevisan land, was born in Castelfranco Veneto on 21 August 1933. Her parents took her to the baptismal font when she was only 20 days old at S. Andrea (Treviso).

These are the difficult years in which the lack of work and economic difficulties push many Italians to emigrate to better lands. The family of sr. Attilia chooses Agro Pontino which, after reclamation, had become a more promising land. We see sr. Attilia in Borgo Bainsizza already in the

year 1940 when she received the Confirmation and then continues to grow in faith and in Christian life thanks to the testimony of the whole family, in the small Christian community that was forming, composed of emigrants coming from Veneto and from the nearby Campania and in which the FMSC, arrived in 1955. They were zealous missionaries, active and present with their strong Franciscan and missionary spirit. The presence of the religious immediately becomes for her an instrument with which the Lord speaks to her heart making her perceiving the desire to consecrate herself to the Lord.

In the meantime, she supports the sisters in their work by becoming a guardian of the Nursery School and helping them in their pastoral activities, in which she immediately shows great skills in initiatives and a zealous spirit. After completing her discernment process, in 1960 she was ready to begin formation among the FMSC, of which she appreciated the spirit of humility and service and the Franciscan style of going around the world to proclaim the Gospel.

Immediately after her religious profession she was sent on a mission to Pianello di Cagli (Pesaro).

In Pianello she serves as a cook for the sisters and children but is always present in all activities. They remember her special trust in Divine Providence, so much that she left the doors of the house open so that Providence could enter at any moment.

From 1965 to 1977 we see her at Lido dei Pini engaged in the education of small children, always male because they are more suited to her strong and secure temperament.

She educated those children with competence and loved them with that healthy jealousy as a mother. She was proud of them, enjoyed their achievements, loved them and corrected their frailties. Then in 1977 another phase of her life began: the teaching in kindergarten and the service in the Parish where she loved catechesis, but she had a natural inclination for young people with whom she knew how to relate and from which she was much loved. They saw in her the strong, courageous sister, the enterprising missionary, the fraternal religious, faithful to

her commitments and always in search of the Will of God.

In the year 2000, here is a new obedience: through illness, the Lord calls her to withdraw from activity, to surrender herself in His arms and be part of the community of Viale Aurelio Saffi where our sick and elderly sisters motivate and support with their offering and suffering the missionaries working in the various communities of the Congregation.

It was not easy. As long as she could, Sr. Attilia also served this community in the services, then abandoned herself.

On January 19, already ready to celebrate the Midday prayer together with the sisters, a bad fall gave her only a few hours of life and Saturday, January 20, the Virgin Mary invoked by her always with tender devotion, came to take her to present her to the Father .



Sr. MARILISA Cavasin
of the Risen Jesus

Born in Cavasagra (TV)
on 27.05.1938
Died in Tolmezzo
on 14.02.2018

Sr. Marilisa Cavasin, was born in Cavasagra (TV) on May 27, 1938 and was baptized two days later with the name of Gina. She grew

up early on the Christian journey accompanied by her parents, Domenico and Amabile Carnio.

Cavasagra, in those days, was a village where the religiousness and faith of the people contributed to the birth of so many vocations to the consecrated life. Soon, even Gina, just a teenager, heard and answered the Lord's call and entered Gemona as an aspirant. Later, on 4 October 1955, the day of St. Francis, with the entry into postulancy, she passed through the stages of her religious formation. May 1, 1957 began the novitiate and May 3, 1958 made the religious profession choosing to call herself Sr. Marilisa of the risen Jesus, significant name: placed under the gaze and the protection of Mary, she could look to Jesus the living, now the Bridegroom and Lord of her life. From here, she began her simple and generous mission in many communities of the Veneto, Trentino, Friuli, Vielle of Assisi and Rome in the General House in two separate periods, the longest and last ended in 2017 when, seized by a serious illness, she had to retire first to Borgo Cavour and finally to Gemona-Mother house. With the cook's service throughout her life, she was able to put into practice the "first work of mercy" that Jesus also recommended to his disciples when, in the desert, he had compassion on the people who followed him and said: "Give yourselves something to eat!" (Mk 6)

In the last days the physical conditions of Sr. Marilisa have worsened further and at any moment the collapse was expected. Hospitalized in the Tolmezzo hospital (UD), the sister continued to resist with courage, until February 14, 2018, the beginning of the Lenten journey, welcomed the Word of

the Lord that resounded like an invitation:

"Now is the favorable moment, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor.5, 2)

Yes, for her it was the favorable moment of the call to the true Easter in heaven. He did not need any more penance, she had already made her Lent in the serene acceptance of her illness and was ready to enter the Kingdom.

This is the strongest testimony that we can accept from her life: how to live even the hardest moments of physical and spiritual suffering with hope, trust and without lamentation, knowing that everything contributes to the good of those who love God (Rom. 8).



Sr. AURELIA Ferraro
of St. Francis

Born in Resana (TV)
on 27.01.1932
Died in Gemona
on 20.02.2018

On 20 February 2018, Sr. Aurelia Ferraro entered into eternal life. She quenched like a flame, already consumed by the disease and in the desire to experience that living embrace of the Father that she expressed in a personal writing:

"I want to be and live forever in the presence of the Lord. Be present to the Eternal Present! " Born and raised in a deeply Christian family, Sr. Aurelia was able to feed on the genuine faith of her parents Raimondo and Maria Dionesse. In this religious environment her vocation matured whose meaning was clear in her conscience of a young eighteen-year-old:

"To follow Jesus means to be with Him; it is not so much a search for God, but having the awareness of being in God ... Being and living always in His presence! (Personal writings)

Thus, to respond to the Lord's call, she entered in Gemona on November 16, 1950. After a year (September 15, 1951) she dressed the habit of the Franciscan missionaries of the Sacred Heart by starting the novitiate. On this occasion, she chose to change her name, Tullia Bruna, with Sr. Aurelia of St Francis. The following year (September 15, 1952) she celebrated her religious profession with a heart full of joy. "I have drawn you in the palm of my hand!" ... (Is. 49)

God does not love us because we are good and beautiful, but we are good and beautiful because He loves us!

For forty years, she carried out her mission as an educator in various kindergartens in Veneto and Friuli in contact with families and in parishes, transmitting, through her genuine and sincere faith, a lot of serenity and above all an involving and mature love. In 2005, retired in the mother house, with other small services, she took care of the novitiate chapel always ready and decorated for the days of Eucharistic

adoration reserved for the sisters of the mother-house community. Recently, transferred to the infirmary, she spent a period of suffering and immobility, but always united to Jesus "heart to heart" - she said - and with the desire to offer her crosses in a Eucharistic spirit. She wrote:

"I have to welcome the small daily crosses with great respect and love, knowing that they are like many fragments of the Divine Host which, despite all their smallness, contain the whole God.

The night of 20 February she received the voice of the Lord who called her to Himself and on tiptoe she left the earthly dwelling to enter that Kingdom prepared by the Father to those who, they invoke Him with the prayer taught by Jesus: "Father, ... let your Kingdom come".



**Sr KATHERINE Siegel
of the Passion of Christ**

Born in Yonkers (NY)

on 05.08.1945

Died in Peekskill

on 10.03.2018

Sr. Katherine (Kathy) Siegel.
FMSC entered into eternal life

on March 10, 2018. Kathy was born in Yonkers, NY on August 5, 1945, the youngest of the six children of William and Katherine Siegel. and entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart on January 1, 2001. She made her final profession on August 30, 2008. Before entering the community, Sr. Kathy was employed by the 1st National Supermarket Company and then became a Teacher's Aide in the Harrison school district. After profession, Sister worked in the Lighthouse Child Care Center in Teaneck, NJ, Mt. Carmel Pre-school in Newark, NJ, Assumption School, Peekskill, Staff member at Mt. St. Francis, Villa St. Francis, and the Franciscan Community Development Center in Fairview, NJ. Sister was the moderator for our Province Lay Associates until she became ill in late 2017.

After graduating from High School, Kathy felt called to religious life and applied to a religious community. At her interview she was told she was "a woman of the world" and would not be accepted. The desire never left her, and God led her later on in life to meet Fr. Bill Burke. He arranged for her to meet Sr. Rose Cecilia who was principal in his parish in Port Chester. Kathy met with Sr. Petra, who invited her to spend Holy Week at the Motherhouse. It was here in our chapel that Kathy knew God was calling her to become a Franciscan Sister of the

Sacred Heart; and the rest is history! During her 17 years as an FMSC, Sister Kathy brought her energy, her joy, and her deep willingness to do God's will to all that she became involved in. She loved the children she worked with, the poor whom she served in Fairview, and of course her Sisters, family, and friends. Sister Kathy had her experience of Calvary in the last few months of her life. I am sure that her intense suffering has brought many back to the Lord, and we wait for the new vocations that may come as a result of her intercession.

The 700 FMSC Sisters throughout the world have been praying to the Venerable Fr. Gregory for the miracle of Sister's healing. We know that was not God's plan, and we thank God that Sister's suffering has ended and she is home, peacefully living in God's loving presence.



**Sr. M. LICIA Plazzotta
of Christ the King**

Born in Cercivento (TV)

on 23.12.1932

Died in Gemona

on 16.03.2018

Sr. Licia was born in Cercivento (UD) December 23, 1932 by Giovanni and Caterina Boschetti. Only three days later she was baptized, receiving the biblical name of Rachel.

She grew up in the simplicity and industriousness of her large family, a home filled with faith also witnessed in overcoming various painful trials of life. In this environment, she has gained the call to consecrated life that she was able to seal with the religious profession which took place on June 4, 1956 in Gemona among the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

From this moment, Rachel will be called Sr. Licia of Christ the King, a choice that refers to the true royalty witnessed by Jesus on the cross, a regality that is realized as a service to the brothers and sisters up to the supreme gift of life. Even Sr. Licia, wherever she passed,

left the mark of true fraternal love with the attentive service of a cook.

Of a mild and humble nature, she was loved not only by the sisters of the communities, but also by the numerous children of preschools in Paluzza, Manzano, Udine and in our school "S. Maria degli Angeli" where she spent 24 years. With the same service, for 12 years, she also carried out her mission in the Diocesan House of Spiritual Exercises of Tricesimo, leaving a beautiful memory of herself.

Moreover, Sr. Licia took the service of local superior in the community of Paluzza and Tricesimo, always with her modest and respectful style.

One particular to be noted is her talent as an embroiderer, exercised throughout her life. In the free time from the cook's service, she produced sets and tablecloths for the church.

In 2015 Sr. Licia left the service permanently in our school, but in the Mother's house she continued to engage in various activities until suddenly, the presentiment of the last stretch of road towards eternal life came. Sr. Licia had guessed this when a few days before she was writing with a trembling hand in her notebook:

«Blessed is she who goes to meet the Lord! ... It is the awareness of what I am living ... Love is not lived only with sentiment, but with passion, as Jesus did in all his life ... I am a pilgrim to the Fatherland on the road to the end, but the Father

is waiting for me: Jesus give me your blessing in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ».

On March 16, the desired passage arrived: at 6 o'clock the Lord opened the door of eternal life to Sr. Licia while the sisters, around her bed, prayed the "Magnificat".



Sr M. TERESINA ZANITTI
of the Holy Family

Born in Montenars-Artegn-
Friuli
on 03.02.1930
Died in Cipro
on 05.04.2018

Daughter of Giovanni and Marchand Etima Antonietta, Sr. Teresina Zanitti was born on 3 February 1930 in Italy, specifically in Montenars-Artegn-Friuli

At the age of 15, on October 3, 1945, she began her formation journey in Gemona. She made her first profession on 10 January 1951 and perpetual profession on 4 January 1956, also in Gemona

During the five years of perpetual vows, Sr. Teresina was in Rome, in the Santa

Elisabetta community, studying to obtain her degree in foreign languages. In fact she was graduated from the Maria Santissima in Cielo University in Rome on May 12, 1955. She taught at Centocelle-Rome, until the year 1970 when obedience called her to Cyprus. As a true missionary she left her homeland and arrived in Cyprus to Famagusta to teach the French language and to shape the hearts of many young people who still remember her with so much gratitude. Sr. Teresina, an intelligent and enterprising woman, served as a secretary in the school of Famagusta, aide to the director and for two years she was in charge of the management. In 1973 she went to Rome, to the Asisium, for rest but also there she helped in the school as a secretary. Returning to Cyprus in 1976, she was in Limassol for a year and then obedience sent her to Larnaca where she dedicated herself to the elderly and suffering people. From 1988 to 1997 she was entrusted with the provincial secretariat, an office that she carried out with great delicacy, precision and scrupulousness. In 1997, she returned to Larnaca, where she performed her generous service in the nursing home, taking care, consoling and cheering the elderly with her talents. The last two months of her life, after two successful interventions, she remained motionless on the bed of pain in the Limassol infirmary. Her health no longer permitted

her to do anything other than to unite herself to the sufferings of Christ Crucified and to follow the Bridegroom carrying her cross day by day throughout Lent. His suffering was indescribable..

Thursday, April 5, the day on which Cyprus was celebrated the Holy Thursday, following the Orthodox calendar for reasons of ecumenism, at 10.00 has given back her spirit to God and celebrated the last supper in heaven with her Spouse.



Sr M. VALERIANA Zanello
of Jesus Adolescent

Born in Teor (UD)
on 21.10.1920
Died in Gemona
on 09.04.2018

Sr. Valeriana was born on October 21, 1920 in Teor (UD) from Angelo, employed in the railways of the State, and Sandrin Grazia. A simple family, but deeply Christian. At baptism (07. 11. 1920) she was called Ernesta and lived her childhood together with two brothers and three sisters until she felt called to give her life to the Lord among

the Franciscans missionary of the Sacred Heart.

When she entered in Gemona she was just 16 years old (26. 07. 1936) and, after a short formation program, she celebrated her religious profession in the Mother House (18. 07. 1939) choosing for herself the name of Sr. Valeriana of Jesus Adolescent ... "Jesus Adolescent" ... a choice made with conscience thinking of Jesus' words: "Do you not know that I must take care of the things of my Father?" (Lk 2). Her life has had just this purpose: to always seek only "the things of God!".

In fact, in the writings she left, she clearly manifests this commitment to search for God's designs with the desire that the Father's Will be realized in her life and in the daily mission serving the community in various external tasks: "Occupying myself outside the things that pass, I feel I commit myself to live the true love for God and for Him alone".

It is not always easy, especially when the 'darkness of faith' emerges in life! Sr. Valeriana has also felt and lived for a long time. Regarding this she writes: "My spiritual life has lost its fervor ... The state of my soul pities, languishes ... I am cold-poor-petty-miserable in spirit. I think of Jesus, but it seems that there is not ... This dryness, coldness, poverty is always present both in prayer and in fulfilling my commitments ...

I spend the days and nights without any fervour ... the years are many and life goes towards the end (year 2004) ".

But, after the long trial period, the serenity is back. Sr. Valeriana describes her experience as follows:

"When I think of the transition from this life to another, fear makes me tremble: what will become of me after death? ... But today I had this experience: a light on the things of the spirit, I was enlightened. That light was something that illuminated my spirit about eternal truths. It was not the result of study, of intelligence, of things heard, were not voices, it was only light that illuminated and in that light I saw and felt the eternal truths ".

In this light of eternity, Sr. Valeriana entered 9 April, in which the solemnity of the Annunciation was celebrated: Mary, the Virgin of the 'Yes' accompanied her to the house of the Father to contemplate "the eternal Truths". It was 9.00 pm. The sisters gathered around her bed to say thank you to the Lord of the long life of Sr. Valeriana (97 years), given to God whom she called "Lord and Bridegroom".



Sr M. TERESA della Pietra of the Divine Love

*Born in Comeglians (UD)
on 19.11.1935*

*Died in Tolmezzo
on 13.04.2018*

*One thing I asked the Lord,
this one I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
every day of my life,
to taste the sweetness of the Lord
and admire his sanctuary.
(Psal. 27)*

How many times Sr. Teresa during her life has prayed this Psalm. Now for her, this desire has become a reality: at 4.30, of 13 April from the hospital in Tolmezzo where she had been for a few days, she was called to heaven to contemplate and to taste that "Divine Love" to Whom she had given her whole life.

She was born in a beautiful mountain village, in Comeglians (UD) on 19. 11. 1935. Her parents, Dominic and Tamussin Teresa, in baptism (05. 01. 1936) had called her Anna.

Soon, at the age of 15, she experienced the great sorrow of her mother Teresa's death. Following this fact, the sisters of the Community of Comeglians, considering the intelligence of the girl, suggested to the father

to let her attend the school in the Convent “S. Mary of the Angels” in Gemona. The ways of the Lord are mysterious: it is in this environment that Anna, coming to know the sisters closely, has developed her religious vocation, which she certainly already carried in her heart.

On 03. 10. 1954 she entered the pre-novitiate in the mother house, beginning the formative journey which culminated with the religious profession on the day of St. Francis, 04.10. 1956. Here was given the name of Sr. Teresa in memory of her mother Teresa.

Later she was sent to Rome-Piazza Pitagora in the general house to continuing the study, up to the Degree in Literature, and, at the same time, to carry out the teaching mission.

Called back to Gemona in 1965, the teaching service continued in our school and it is here that, at the request of her parents, she helped set up the ‘Magisterial Institute’. In the educational field, she has always proved to be an attentive educator, ready to encourage girls to give their best.

Since 1975 the mission of Sr. Teresa changed the Divine Providence according to plan, which often manifests itself by surprise! Participating in the General Chapter in Rome was chosen as General Councilor and in the following Chapter (1981) she was elected Superior General of the Congregation. As such, during that period, she contributed to the renewal and approval of the Constitutions of the Congregation.

During her term, she was also

a member of the MO.RE.FRA National Council. She collaborated for the new formulation of our Rule, approved by Pope John Paul II in 1982 and in the Assembly of the Franciscan General Superiors of 1985 was elected Vice-President of the International Franciscan Conference (CFI).

In Gemona, then, in the Provincial Chapter of 1987, she accepted the mandate of the provincial superior, another demanding service addressed to the numerous sisters belonging to the province “St. Mary of the Angels”.

It should be emphasized that in all these responsibilities, Sr. Teresa continued to maintain herself according to her modest, humble and helpful lifestyle, convinced as that “to love is to serve!”

In 1994 she also lived a direct missionary experience in the Central African Republic as a teacher in the School of Maigarò and local community superior until 1999 when, she was called to participate in another General Chapter and she was elected Vicar General.

Once this task was completed, in 2005, she was sent to Gemona as the head of the historical commission of the Province. She carried out this mandate with such passion showing true and profound love for the Congregation and its history. Everything ended with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Congregation (2012) in which she presented a summary of the path of the religious family, marked by significant milestones that highlight the constant presence

of Divine Providence. Sr. Teresa concluded the presentation with the words of the singing sung by the Choir:

“Jubilate Deo omnis terra, laudate Eum omnes gentes, laudate Dominum nostrum...”

Thank you, Gemona, thanks to all those who have shared with us, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart these moments of grace. Let us resume the journey, on the streets of Gemona and the world, animated by the love of the Heart of Christ, that Jesus whom we can discover everywhere, in the faces of the brothers and sisters who live next to us and need love.

Thus the heart of Sr. Teresa has always been manifested, open to the Congregation and to the whole world!

Following this date, she lived a long period of suffering, seized by an illness that placed her in silent abandonment in the hands of God until the Lord invited her to participate in her Easter in Heaven. Thus her hope turned into certainty:

I am sure to contemplate the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! (Sl. 27)

