



SAN FRANCESCO
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Opening of the Jubilee Year

A Journey of Hope for the Whole Church



On December 24, 2024, during the Solemnity of Christmas Eve, Pope Francis officially opened the Jubilee Year 2025 with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. With this ancient and deeply symbolic gesture, the universal Church has entered a special time of grace, conversion, and spiritual renewal.

The Jubilee, celebrated ordinarily every 25 years, is a gift rooted in Sacred Scripture and Church tradition. It is a favorable time in which God invites His people to return to the essentials, to rediscover mercy, to heal inner and social wounds, and to walk with a new heart along the paths of the Gospel.

The opening of the Holy Door is not an event that concerns only Rome or the Vatican, but has a universal scope. To cross that threshold means to recognize Christ as the Door of Salvation, the One who opens a future of hope for humanity.

Pope Francis, in his magisterium, often reminds us that the Church is called to be a "house with open doors," capable of welcoming everyone—especially the poor, the suffering, the excluded, and those seeking meaning in their lives. Throughout the Jubilee Year,

pilgrimages, celebrations, works of charity, and pastoral initiatives will be offered in every diocese worldwide, so that every believer may have a living experience of God's merciful love. As Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, present in various parts of the world, we wish to live this Jubilee Year in deep communion with the universal Church. We commit ourselves to following all Jubilee events through prayer, spiritually accompanying the journey of the Holy Father, the local Churches, and every person who, in this time of grace, sets out in search of God. In the silence and simplicity of our consecrated life, we will bring before the Sacred Heart of Jesus the sufferings of humanity, the hopes of all nations, the tears of the voiceless, and the joy of those who experience the Lord's mercy. Faithful to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we desire to be a sign of peace, humility, and concrete love.



May the Jubilee Year be a blessed time for everyone—a journey of light and hope, in which we rediscover that God walks with us and never ceases to open the doors of His heart to all humanity.



*"He chose to be called
Francis
to teach us to be
lesser brothers and sisters
today"*

Thank you, Holy Father

Franciscan Missionary Sisters
of the Sacred Heart

È tra le braccia
del Padre

21.04.2025

In memory of Pope Francis

"The Pope of mercy and universal fraternity"

On May 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., the Holy Mass for the Novendiali in suffrage of Pope Francis had been scheduled in St. Peter's Basilica, and members of Religious Institutes had been admitted to participate. For this reason, the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life had sent a special invitation to the Major Superiors.

On that day, some Provincial Superiors with their Vicars were present in the community, having been summoned to Rome for the Extended General Council.

We had deeply desired to take part, representing all the sisters scattered throughout the world, to thank the

Lord for the gift of Pope Francis, to pray for him with gratitude and devotion, together with all the members of Religious Institutes, as living members of the Church. The greatest difficulty was waiting several hours in line like the thousands of tourists and pilgrims crowding St. Peter's Square. Four sisters, having just entered the Basilica through the Holy Door, after walking around inside in search of a seat, stopped precisely in the area

reserved for Mother Generals. The volunteer in charge of checking access, seeing a large number of invitation tickets raised, asked, "Are you all Mother Generals? You've made photocopies!" He did not wait for a reply and, after a few minutes, allowed all the sisters who were waiting outside the barrier to enter. We calmly took our seats, awaiting the beginning of Holy Mass; thus we were able to pray and contemplate at length, in the radiant glow of light shining everywhere, the enchanting beauty of Michelangelo's dome and the bronze columns of

Bernini's baldachin, standing out in their harmonious majesty just a few meters from us. Other sisters, including some from the

Pope Francis died on April 21, 2025, Easter Monday, at the age of 88 in his residence, Domus Sanctae Marthae, in the Vatican.

Centocelle community, joined us later and took their places in the central section of the Basilica. They too were able to follow the Holy Mass well, sharing in the spirit of communion and gratitude in memory of Pope Francis.

The Holy Mass was introduced by the President of the UISG (International Union of Superiors General), Sr. Mary T. Barron, OLA, who, addressing Pope Francis in spirit, recalled: "You made us



active participants in the synodal journey... You envisioned consecrated life as a corner stone of this journey, where young and old, people from diverse cultures, share wisdom and visions, united in the mission of the Gospel." Sr. Mary concluded with a special word of thanks to Pope Francis: "We give thanks for your shepherd's heart, for your vision, and for the profound trust you placed in consecrated women. We promise to carry forward the mission you entrusted to us: to be the caress of our loving Creator God toward those who suffer, to be the fire that kindles other fires, and to live our lives for the Lord, for humanity, for all of God's creation."

Fr. Mario Zanotti, Secretary of the USG (Union of Superiors General), reaffirmed the commitment of consecrated life conveyed in numerous messages by Pope Francis: "He repeatedly invited us to be consistent in obedience to Sacred Scripture and to the charism of our respective religious families; to take seriously the commitment to poverty, which leads to true humility as a prophetic sign opposed to power and wealth sought for their own sake; to live chastity as a human and Christian impulse toward a more intense and universal love, so as to be close to one another and

to love more deeply, especially the least, the poor, and the marginalized."

Cardinal Ángel F. Artime, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, who presided over the Holy Mass, emphasized in his homily the mission of consecrated men and women, ready to receive the legacy of Pope Francis, to be "sentinels who perceive and proclaim the new life already present in our history," to bear witness with their whole lives to the primacy of God in today's world, which in many places does not experience His presence or easily forgets His centrality.

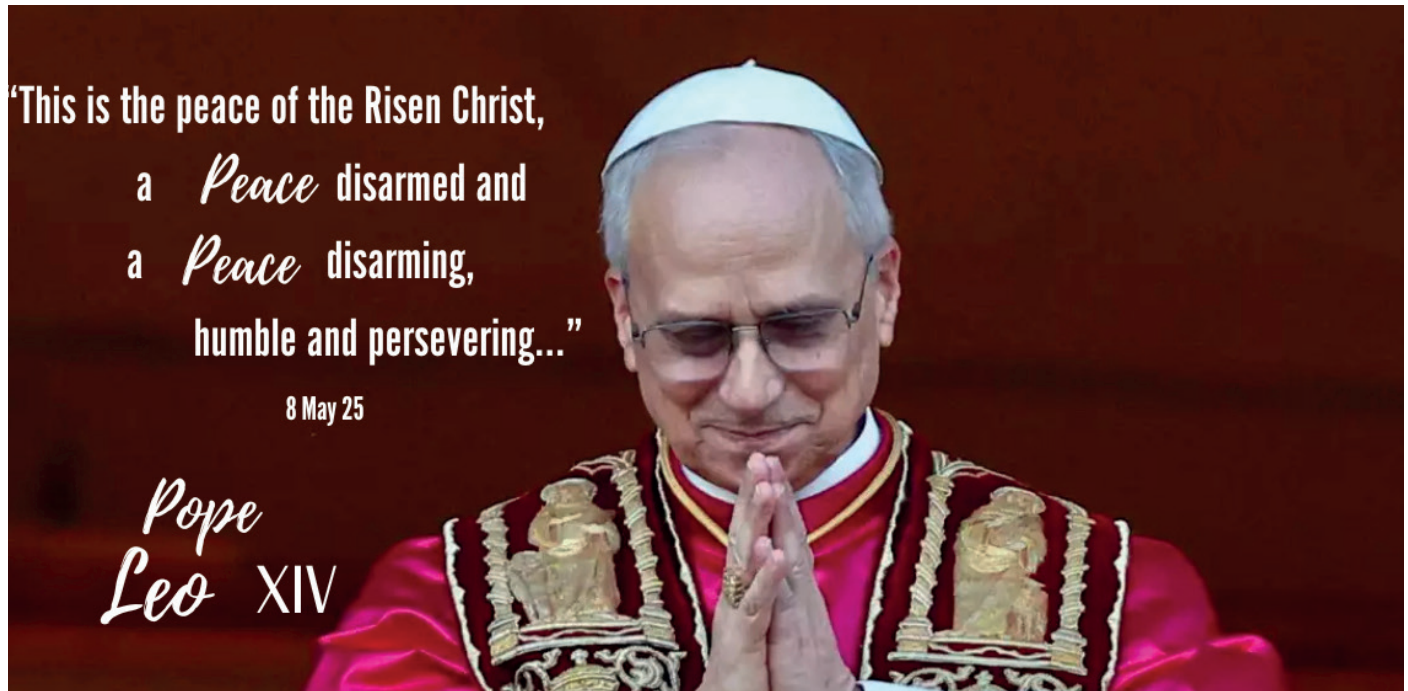
Now the memory of Pope Francis becomes a commitment; precisely in these days, prayer for the Conclave intensifies, invoking the Holy Spirit in communion with the whole Church.



The funeral of Pope Francis was held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. The celebration brought together the faithful, heads of state, and delegations from around the world in the sacred space before the Basilica to pay tribute to the late Pontiff

“Habemus Papam: Welcome Pope Leo XIV”

“A Pontificate Marked by Unity and Peace”



On May 8, 2025, in the Sistine Chapel, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church, choosing the name Pope Leo XIV, in an atmosphere of great joy and hope for the universal Church.

The Holy Father appeared on the Loggia of the Blessings of St. Peter's and, visibly moved, offered his first greeting to the crowd: "Peace be with you all. This is the first greeting of the Risen Christ: may peace reach your hearts, your families, every person, wherever they may be." Pope Leo XIV emphasized his desire for a missionary Church that builds bridges and fosters dialogue, always open to welcoming with love anyone in need of charity and fraternal presence.

With deep gratitude, he also remembered his predecessor, expressing his intention to walk in continuity of faith and service to the Gospel, promoting peace, unity, and dialogue in a world seeking light and hope.

As Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we wish to accompany the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV with constant prayer, entrusting his pastoral ministry to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will pray that the Lord may grant him wisdom, strength, and tenderness, and that the Church, under his guidance, may continue to be a visible sign of mercy, love, and peace in every corner of the world.

The papal motto of Pope Leo XIV is *"In Illo uno unum,"** which means "In the One who is One, we are one": a profound call to unity in the person of Christ, taken from a homily of Saint Augustine on Psalm 127. This choice expresses his vision of a Church in communion, called to promote unity, participation, and mission throughout the whole world.

Apostolic Visit of Pope Leo XIV to Turkey

*A grace of unity, peace, and communion for
our presence in Büyükada, as we celebrate the
10th anniversary of our reopening.*

From November 27 to 30, the Church in Turkey experienced days of intense grace during the Apostolic Journey of Pope Leo XIV. Our religious community was also able to participate actively: Sr. Zita Gutang, Sr. Bindhu Kolenchery, and Sr. Miriam Oyarzo served in the sacristy both in the chapel set up at the hotel of the papal entourage and during the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the Holy Father at the Volkswagen Arena in Istanbul. Each morning, in the simplicity of Morning Prayer, we shared moments of profound ecclesial communion.

During the prayer session on November 28 with bishops, clergy, consecrated persons, and pastoral workers, Pope Leo XIV recalled Turkey as a land of Christian origins, the place of the first communities, the Councils, and the rich heritage of the Eastern Churches. He invited everyone to safeguard the seed of faith received from the Apostles and the Fathers, living unity in diversity as both a gift and a responsibility.

A particularly moving moment was the personal encounter with the Holy Father on November 27 at the Apostolic Nunciature, made possible through the intercession of Cardinal George Koovakad. It

was an unexpected and precious gift: we were able to introduce ourselves as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, recall the mission of Tambobamba in Peru, and entrust to the Pope several letters from the girls in prison and from the “Cittadella dei Fiori,” receiving his fatherly blessing.

Throughout the journey, Pope Leo XIV entrusted to the Church in Turkey a strong message of peace, unity, and hope.

Especially meaningful was the moment of prayer in Iznik, at the remains of ancient Nicaea, in remembrance of the 1,700th anniversary of the First

Council, experienced as a return to the roots of the faith. In the concluding Eucharistic Celebration, the Pope recalled the symbol of the bridge as a sign of communion among peoples, cultures, and religions, inviting everyone to be its builders and guardians through prayer, dialogue, and charity.

As FMSC, we renew our commitment to building bridges of fraternity, welcome, and peace, especially in this context of religious plurality. We treasure the visit of the Holy Father as a seed of hope that will continue to grow in our fraternal life and in our service to the Church.

Sisters of Büyükada



Apostolic Visit of Pope Leo XIV to Lebanon

A Visit Filled with Grace

The Lebanese people had long awaited the visit of the Holy Father, an event that had not taken place since 2012. Last year, the journey of Pope Francis had been postponed due to his health conditions and the country's ongoing political and economic difficulties. This year, however, Lebanon received an unexpected and deeply consoling gift: the first Apostolic Visit of Pope Leo XIV, experienced as a sign of hope and of God's closeness to a people tried by hardship yet rich in faith.

From the moment the Holy Father arrived in Beirut, the atmosphere was filled with emotion and recollection. The rain that accompanied the journey from the airport to the Presidential Palace was perceived by many as a blessing, almost a baptismal sign upon a land marked by suffering. Despite the bad weather, numerous faithful gathered along the roads, waving flags and holding rosaries, eager to greet the Successor of Peter. Many experienced that moment as a silent confirmation: God continues to walk with His people, even in the midst of storms.

On December 1, Pope Leo XIV met with bishops, priests, religious men and women, and lay people engaged in the pastoral life of the country. In the morning, the Holy Father made a profound pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Charbel in Annaya, pausing in prayer before the tomb of the saint and entrusting Lebanon and its future to the Lord. Along the route, from Jbeil to Harissa, thousands of people patiently awaited the passage of the popemobile, expressing their faith.

The meeting with the religious communities, which began with a slight delay due to the rain, was a moment of genuine communion. The testimonies shared revealed a living Church that continues to serve despite



many difficulties.

In the afternoon, the Holy Father met with the young people, who were the protagonists of a joyful gathering filled with music and prayer. Some young members of our Franciscan group were also able to participate, living an experience that left a profound mark on their

hearts. Pope Leo XIV encouraged them not to be afraid to dream, to believe in the power of goodness, and to become builders of peace and bridges of fraternity, reminding them that the future of Lebanon depends on their courage and faith.

The visit concluded with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration held on a bright day, in the presence of a great multitude of faithful from across the country and from neighboring nations. It was a powerful moment of ecclesial unity, in which song,

prayer, and thanksgiving expressed the beauty of a shared faith.

For our community, this Apostolic Visit was truly a time of grace and renewal. In the presence and words of the Holy Father, we felt encouraged to continue our mission with fidelity, simplicity, and hope, following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Charbel. Lebanon, though marked by suffering, rediscovered in these days the courage to hope and to believe that peace is possible.

We cherish this event as a precious gift, certain that the seeds sown will continue to bear fruit in communities, families, and hearts opened to the tenderness of God.





JUBILEE OF YOUTH

28 July - 3 August 2025

From Grotte di Castro... walking with the youth

The Jubilee lived with the young people of Grotte di Castro, from the dioceses of Viterbo and Civita Castellana, was an intense and unforgettable experience. There were 250 of us, including priests, religious sisters, educators, people with disabilities from Unitalsi Viterbo, and the youth. For me, it was a time of grace, reconciliation, and renewed hope.

On July 28th, at 7:00 in the morning, we met at Lake Vico. We began with a moment of prayer and reflection together. Then, step by step, we started walking: the first stage to Ronciglione (12 km), the second to Nepi (18 km), the third to Le Rughe (32 km), and the fourth to Ottavia (15 km). For four days we walked together as true pilgrims, carrying in our hearts joy, fatigue, and the desire to encounter the Lord.

To be honest, I was a bit worried about walking for four days, but I completed the entire route with peace and serenity. The Lord was at my side, pushing me forward when I was tired. Together we shared laughter, prayers, silence, the beauty of nature, moments of reflection, and deep friendship. Every step was an opportunity to rediscover faith, the joy of being together, and the profound meaning of pilgrimage.

Each afternoon included catechesis, group work, prayer, Holy Mass, and in the evening the recitation of Compline. Everything was very well organized.

On the sixth day, in the morning, we arrived in St. Peter's Square. After four hours in line, we passed through the Holy Door—a sign of mercy—bringing with us our prayers, hopes, and even our fragilities. It was the culmination of a journey lived with faith and simplicity, where every step reminded me that God walks with us, even in our everyday lives.

We also lived an intense and unforgettable experience with the youth at Tor Vergata. After the long walk—about 8 km—accompanied by thousands of young people from around the world, the prayer vigil united us in a deep atmosphere of spirituality and communion. Together we prayed, sang, reflected, and above all felt part of something greater. I was deeply moved to see so many young people kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration.

The next day, before Holy Mass, we saw the Pope pass by, greeting and blessing all of us. The Mass celebrated by Pope Leo, in an atmosphere of joy and recollection, was the culmination of a journey made of listening, sharing, and living faith. Faces were illuminated by the light of hope, and eyes were filled with emotion. It was a powerful moment that touched me deeply and remains in my heart as a sign of God's living presence within me.

Now we return home, to our parishes, more united, more aware, with hearts open to hope. The Jubilee does not end here: it continues every time we choose love, forgiveness, and goodness. I want to thank first of all the Lord, my superiors, and Don Tancredi, my parish priest, who gave me the opportunity to live such a beautiful and intense experience. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Sr Mini Alex



From Bulgaria...

Pilgrims of hope toward Rome with the youth



BULGARIA

On July 25th, about 150 young pilgrims set out, coming from the various Catholic dioceses of Bulgaria. United by the same faith and by the joy of the Gospel, we began our journey together toward Rome to take part in the Jubilee of Young People with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

It was a journey of communion and hope: young people from different communities and parishes, gathered as one body, living days of prayer, fraternity, and encounter with the universal Church. Each of us carried in our heart our own dreams, questions, and longing for God; and together we were welcomed

as sons and daughters who recognize the Church as their home.

In this pilgrimage—more than just a human journey, truly a spiritual path toward the source of our faith—we experienced the love of God who gathers, renews, and sends forth.

We now wish to share one of the experiences that illuminated this journey: the voice of a young woman from our parish in Rakovski, Neli Terziyska, who recounts how the Lord worked in her life through trial and hope...



My name is **Neli Terziyska**, from the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rakovski. The pilgrimage to Rome, lived during the Jubilee Year of Hope, was for me a true inner journey in which I experienced God's closeness in a profound way.

During the days spent in the Eternal City, shared prayer, fraternal encounters, and the silence of the heart became signs of grace and communion with the universal Church. Along the way, I shared my testimony on the theme "When Everything Burns", recounting the trial of losing my father. In that pain I discovered that Christ does not remove suffering, but enters into it with love—through the presence of others and the strength of prayer.

This pilgrimage has been for me a time of growth and hope: I carry in my heart the certainty that God walks with us—silent and faithful—even through the darkest nights of life.



Group's Thanksgiving

Dearest Sister Marta, sisters of the Council, and all sisters, on behalf of the entire Bulgarian group, we wish to express our most sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the help and support we received during the Jubilee of Young People in Rome. We had asked only for a parking area for the buses and accommodation for the drivers, but the Lord—who always surprises us beyond our expectations—gave us much more: the encounter with the sisters and your concrete witness of charity.

In the midst of the joy of those days, we unexpectedly found ourselves needing to change our lodging at the last moment: from the sports hall in Guidonia we had to make new arrangements according to the possibilities of the moment. It was precisely in that difficulty that your availability became for us a tangible sign of Providence, which never abandons its children.

A special word of thanks goes for the welcome given to the young people who had to fly back home. After the event at Tor Vergata, in fact, one of the three minibuses was damaged: the window was smashed and their luggage stolen. Yet even that painful moment turned into grace, because the young people involved found refuge and hospitality with our sisters in Santa Maria degli Angeli – Assisi, where they spent the night. That gesture of evangelical fraternity transformed a distressing setback into an experience of communion and hope.

They were difficult moments, but also profoundly human and rich in faith, in which we were able to touch with our own hands the love that springs from a Gospel lived in daily life. Your hospitality and generosity will remain forever in our hearts as a living testimony of the Lord's presence.

With gratitude and affection, we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Sisters of Bulgaria





At the Heart of the Jubilee

The Grace of Being Catechists – Cyprus

26 - 28 September 2025



The Jubilee of Catechists ended more than a week ago, yet the emotion and depth of that experience continue to live in my heart. It was an extraordinary event of grace that brought thousands of catechists from all over the world to Rome during this special Jubilee Year.

We participated as representatives of the catechists of Cyprus: there were four of us—Sister Theresa Yinn, a Josephite sister and head of Catechism in Cyprus; two laywomen, Mrs. Elena Christofi and Pauline Elia; and I, Sister Aurora Castardo.

Our pilgrimage began on September 26, 2025, with the passage through the Holy Door. Through a gift of Providence, I had the honor of carrying the Cross during the procession: a moment of intense prayer and deep emotion.

In the afternoon, we took part in the Prayer Vigil in St. Peter's Basilica, presided over by H.E. Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization. After the Liturgy of the Word, three catechists—from Italy, Mozambique, and Mexico—shared their testimonies: luminous and authentic experiences of faith that inspired us with strength, perseverance, and renewed dedication to our ministry. Their words echoed Christ's love and were an invitation to give our lives in continuing His mission on earth.

The following day, September 27, we participated in the Jubilee Audience with Pope Leo XIV, followed in the afternoon by catechesis sessions in the various language groups. The day ended with confession and Eucharistic adoration, moments of profound intimacy with the Lord.

On September 28, at 10:00 am, we joined the Holy Mass presided over by the Holy Father. During the celebration, the Pope entrusted the mandate to 39 new catechists from different countries. Each one was called by name and responded with a moving "Here I am," receiving a cross as a sign of faith and mission. In his homily, Pope Leo reminded us that a catechist is first of all a disciple of Jesus, and therefore His witness. The Greek term κατέχειν, meaning "to teach aloud," is fulfilled in the life of those who proclaim the Gospel through the example of daily living. He also emphasized the urgency of finding new languages and ways to make Christ present in a society that often forgets Him. We are called to transmit the truth and charity of the Gospel with our lives, in our actions and words, bringing that hope which gives meaning to existence and fills hearts with joy.

At the end of the Jubilee, I felt renewed—full of enthusiasm, courage, and gratitude. This experience was not merely an event but a true pilgrimage of the heart that will continue to guide me along my journey of faith.

I returned to Cyprus with a new spirit, carrying those three days with me as a precious gift of strength, fidelity, and hope. I wish to continue my service with a heart that is ardent and trusting, ready to witness Christ's love in every gesture and word. It was truly a pilgrimage of the heart. I give thanks to all who made it possible for me to participate in this unforgettable Jubilee of Catechists.

Sister Aurora Castardo





JUBILEE OF CONSECRATED LIFE

8-9 october 2025

“Called to be operators of peace”

The Jubilee is an invitation from the Church to conversion, to the renewal of one's life, drawing from the roots of faith, vocation, and mission.

In this spirit, the Jubilee of Consecrated Life was celebrated from October 8 to 11 in Rome, promoted by the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. It was attended by 16,000 members: monks and hermits, contemplatives, members of religious institutes and secular institutes, members of the Ordo Virginum, and new forms of consecrated life. This extraordinary and colorful assembly of people from over 100 countries worldwide began living the Jubilee with a prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica, themed “Pilgrims of hope on the paths of peace.” Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, led the three moments of reflection and testimonies that

gave voice to the cry of the world and to the mission of consecrated persons as artisans of peace. He pointed to the Virgin Mary as the icon of consecrated life: in her rush to Elizabeth, she reflects the face of consecrated life that brings peace where hope falters. After hours in line, a group of sisters from the General Council and the Asisium community were finally able to enter the Basilica. The proclamation of the readings and prayers in various languages immediately highlighted the beauty of the Church's face in the universality of presences and the harmony of voices.

Given the experience of the previous day, the sisters were already in line before seven in the morning to access the square, find a spot as close as possible to the barriers, and thus participate in Holy Mass presided over by Pope Leo XIV. An angel, in the face of a newly met sister in line, gave us three special tickets to take our place on the Basilica's

forecourt. By 8 a.m., we were already in the third row, after the General Superiors, next to the papal altar, awaiting the Eucharistic Celebration. Under a crystal-clear sky, warmed by the October sun, we lived hours of intense joy, true exultation—an anticipation, almost, given the beauty and solemnity of the Celebration with the Pope, of the “great day of God” announced in the Apocalypse of St. John, in which the Slain Lamb is proclaimed Holy, Holy, Holy before an immense crowd. The harmony of voices, the orderly choreography of celebrants and clerics beautifully highlighted the solemnity of the sacred moment, fostering an atmosphere of prayer, listening to the Word of God, and the Pope's message.

In his homily, Pope Leo took up the three verbs from the Gospel of Luke—ask, seek, and knock—as icons of the evangelical vows: “To ask is to recognize in poverty that everything is a gift from the Lord and to give thanks for it all; to seek is to open oneself in obedience to discover each day



the path to follow in the journey of holiness according to God's designs; to knock is to ask and offer to brothers the gifts received with a chaste heart, striving to love all with respect and gratuity.” The Pope exhorted us to treasure the beauty and richness with which the Lord has repaid the gift of our life to Him. With the words of Pope Paul VI, he invited us to cultivate the simplicity of the Gospel's ‘little ones.’ “Be truly poor, meek, hungry for holiness, merciful, pure of heart—those through whom the world will know God's peace.”

With immense joy in our hearts, we returned home, only to resume in the afternoon the meeting with all religious in the Paul VI Hall. In small groups during the “Conversation in the Spirit,” we shared listen, experiences, and discernments, together crafting a common prayer born from dialogue and spiritual communion.



JUBILEE OF MARIAN SPIRITUALITY

10-12 October 2025

Vigil and Rosary for Peace – St. Peter's Square, October 11, 2025

“Disarm the heart above all”

On the occasion of the Jubilee of Marian spirituality, Pope Leo XIV presided over the Vigil and Rosary for Peace in St. Peter's Square. The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima was present and was carried in procession into the Square, departing from the Church of Santa Maria in Traspontina. Many faithful gathered together to invoke the great gift of peace and the protection of the Virgin Mother upon all humanity.

Before the vigil began, the Pope made a tour in the pope mobile to bless and greet those present.

We too—Sr. Maggaly, Sr. Lilian, and Sr. Francesca—had the joy of seeing him up close, as he stopped to bless a child. A smiling face, a simple manner, and a blessing hand expressed his closeness to those who had accepted his invitation to pray for peace.

Offering a Golden Rose to the Mother of God, Pope Leo XIV began the Rosary prayer by reciting the Joyful Mysteries in various languages. After the sung announcement of each mystery and the reading of a Gospel verse, a brief reflection taken from **Lumen Gentium** was proposed. Following the singing of the **Salve Regina** and the Litany, the Holy Father gave a meditation in which he pointed to the imitation of the human and evangelical virtues of the Virgin Mary as the most authentic Marian devotion.

He exhorted us to ask for “the gift of a heart that listens and becomes a fragment of a welcoming cosmos. Through her—Sorrowful, strong, and faithful Woman—let us ask to obtain the gift of compassion for every brother and sister who suffers and for all creatures.” He encouraged us to treasure her final words spoken at the wedding at Cana—“Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5)—as a mother's testament: to “live the Gospel, make it gesture and body, blood and flesh, toil and smile. Live the Gospel, and life will be transformed—from empty to full, from extinguished to aflame.” Pope Leo XIV addressed a clear and powerful appeal to the leaders of the world and to each of us: “Put away the sword” is a word addressed to the powerful of the earth, to those who guide the destiny of peoples: have the courage to disarm! At the same time, it is addressed to each one of us, so that we may become ever more aware that for no idea, or faith, or politics may we kill. What must be disarmed first of all is the heart, because if there is no peace within us, we will not bring peace to others. We have shared only a few brief excerpts from the Pontiff's reflection, but it is well worth reading and meditating on in its entirety. The vigil continued with a time of Eucharistic adoration, concluding with Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. It was truly an intense and recollected moment of prayer, of communion with all those who desire, pray for, and work for peace.





JUBILEE OF THE EDUCATIONAL WORLD

27 October - 2 November 2025

From October 27 to November 2, 2025, the Jubilee of the Educational World was held in the Vatican, a global and intergenerational event promoted by the Dicastery for Culture and Education. The initiative involved the various components of the educational system: educators, students, school principals, university professors, and representatives of theological institutes, who came from all over the world to reflect together on the value of education as a privileged path of human, cultural, and spiritual growth.

Within this rich program, on October 30, 2025, in the Paul VI Audience Hall, the Holy Father met with thousands of students, offering them words of encouragement and guidance for the future. A delegation from our school, composed of high school students, also had the joy and responsibility of actively participating in this particularly significant moment, experiencing an intense sense of the universal Church and sharing with young people from different cultures and countries.

In his address, the Pope touched on highly relevant issues, speaking directly to the hearts of the young.

He encouraged them to live life to the fullest, not to settle for mediocrity in their daily lives, and invited them to look “upward,” with hope and courage. With simple yet incisive words, he warned against the risk of merely “getting by,” stressing the importance of choosing an authentic life—one capable of great



dreams and concrete commitment.

In this regard, the Holy Father pointed to Pier Giorgio Frassati as an exemplary model for the new generations: a young man who was not seduced by appearances or passing trends, but who was able to unite faith, friendship, study, and concern for the poor. His witness was presented as an invitation not to live superficially, but to

cultivate lofty and profound ideals capable of giving meaning to life.

Participation in the Jubilee of the Educational World and in the meeting with the Pope represented for our students a precious opportunity for

personal and communal growth, strengthening their awareness that education is not merely the transmission of knowledge, but a journey of integral formation of the person—open to dialogue, responsibility, and hope.



Closing of the Holy Door

*St. Peter's Square, January 6, 2026 –
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord*

On January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Pope Francis presided over the solemn celebration of the closing of the Holy Door, the concluding act of the Jubilee year that profoundly marked the life of the universal Church. A simple yet deeply symbolic gesture, it does not signify an end, but a new beginning: the hope received now becomes a responsibility to be lived and witnessed to in daily life.

During the Jubilee, the Holy Father repeatedly reminded us that passing through the Holy Door means encountering Christ, the Door of salvation, and allowing ourselves to be transformed by His merciful love. With the closing of the Door, the Pope invited all the faithful to bring this experience into the streets of the world, where suffering, poverty, and the wounds of humanity await concrete signs of consolation and peace. As Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we deeply receive and share the message of the Holy Father. The Jubilee has strongly called us back to the heart of our charism: to live the Gospel in Franciscan simplicity, with a compassionate and attentive gaze toward the most fragile, proclaiming with our lives the tenderness of the Heart of Christ.



“Protect hope
and renew
the mission”

For us, the closing of the Holy Door becomes an invitation not to close the doors of our hearts, our communities, and our ministries. On the contrary, we are called to keep them open, especially to those who experience exclusion, loneliness, forced migration, and violence. It is there that the mercy experienced during the Jubilee must continue to take flesh.

In communion with Pope Francis, we renew our commitment to be signs of hope—consecrated women walking alongside the People of God, capable of listening, welcoming, and closeness. The Epiphany, the feast of light given to all peoples, reminds us that the mission knows no boundaries and that every place can become a space of revelation of God's love.

With gratitude for the gift of the Jubilee and with trust in the future, we entrust the journey of our Congregation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, certain that what we have received is not to be kept as a hidden treasure, but to be shared, so that hope may continue to enlighten the world.

The Jubilee around the world... with the FMSC





CIPRO



TURCHIA



BULGARIA



GROTTE DI CASTRO



ROMA



INDIA







Franciscan Rule

A Source Ever Living

On November 29, 2023, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran—mother and head of all churches of the Urbe and of the world—the Franciscan Family celebrated with gratitude and deep awareness the 800th anniversary of the confirmation of the Rule of St. Francis of Assisi. This anniversary holds great ecclesial and charismatic significance, bringing us back to the origins of a form of evangelical life that, even today, continues to speak to the hearts of men and women of our time.

The Rule, approved by Pope Honorius III in 1223, is not merely a set of regulations but a lived Gospel—a concrete path of following Christ, poor and crucified. In it, St. Francis entrusts his friars—and the whole Church—with a way of life founded on fraternity, humility, evangelical poverty, and mission lived in peace and joy.

The celebration at the Lateran carried strong symbolic meaning: the Franciscan Rule was born in the heart of the Church and continues to remain in full communion with it. In this place so rich in history and faith, the invitation resounded to cherish the gift received, not as a memory of the past, but as a living call for the present and the future.

For us, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, this anniversary represents a precious opportunity for renewal. The Rule continues to question our consecrated life, our way of being sisters, and our missionary presence alongside the poor, migrants, the little ones, and those wounded by life. It is a source that brings us back to what is essential and urges us to live our charism authentically in today's world.

The celebration of the 800 years of the Rule is part of a broader journey of Franciscan anniversaries, which in the coming years will continue to accompany the Franciscan Family and the entire Church: important milestones that help us reread the experience of St. Francis and his first companions as a gift that remains ever timely and prophetic.

In a time marked by crises, conflicts, and uncertainties, the Franciscan Rule continues to offer a simple and radical word: to live the Gospel without anything of our own, trusting in Providence, and walking as brothers and sisters. Eight hundred years later, it remains a light guiding our steps and renewing our hope.





A Journey of Conformation to Christ

In 2024, the Church and the Franciscan Family opened the Centenary Year of the Stigmata of St. Francis, commemorating the 800th anniversary of the event that took place on September 17, 1224, on Mount La Verna—a place of silence and deep contemplation, where the Poverello of Assisi received in his body the marks of Christ's Passion.

The official opening of the Centenary Year was commemorated at the Sanctuary of La Verna with a solemn Eucharistic celebration and moments of prayer and reflection, in communion with the entire Franciscan Family. From this holy place, so dear to Franciscan spirituality, came the invitation to read the stigmata not as an isolated extraordinary event, but as the fruit of a life entirely given to the Gospel.

The stigmata represent the culmination of St. Francis' spiritual journey: a profound conformation to the crucified Christ, lived in poverty, humility, and radical love. In them, we contemplate a mystery of mercy, inviting every believer to be transformed by God's love and to bring into the world signs of compassion and peace.

This anniversary is part of the broader path of Franciscan Centenaries, which in recent years have accompanied the Church: after the 800 years of the Rule and the Nativity of Greccio (2023), the commemoration of the Stigmata (2024) prepares for the celebration of 800 years of the Canticle of Creatures in 2025, and finally, the 800th anniversary of the Easter of St. Francis in 2026.

For us, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the Centenary Year of the Stigmata is an invitation to renew our consecrated life in the light of the Crucified One, recognizing in the wounds of Christ the wounds of humanity today. Following the example of St. Francis, we desire to continue bearing witness, with simplicity and fidelity to the charism, to the merciful love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



The Stigmata... Signs of Forgiveness

Towards the Holy Mountain..

A Journey Between Wounds and Light

In the heart of the eighth centenary of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi, from October 11 to 13, 2024, we lived a pilgrimage to La Verna. This was not a simple geographical excursion, but an ascent of the spirit to embrace the mystery that La Verna holds: the definitive encounter between the human and the divine through the sign of the wound.

“All the Pain, All the Love”



Climbing La Verna means entering the paradox of the Jubilee of the Stigmata. On that mountain, pain is not denied but transfigured. Francis does not receive the signs of the Passion as a condemnation, but as the final seal of a total friendship with Christ. We are called to contemplate how the suffering of the world—the wounds of poverty, war, and loneliness—can be inhabited by Love. La Verna teaches us that wounds can become openings: passages through which the light of the Resurrection shines.

Climbing La Verna today is an act of courage. It means asking for the grace not to flee from our fragilities, but to bring them up there, where the silence of the stone meets the breath of the Spirit. On this journey, Francis precedes us, not as an unreachable hero, but as a brother who takes us by the hand and shows us that it is possible to be both wounded and blessed at the same time.



800 Years of the Canticle of the Creatures

A praise that crosses time



In 2025, the Church and the Franciscan Family celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures, one of the most elevated and prophetic texts of Christian spirituality, composed by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1225, during the final years of his life. A hymn of praise born from bodily frailty and the splendor of faith, it continues to speak powerfully to women and men today.

The opening event of the Centenary Year of the Canticle took place in Assisi, at the Sanctuary of San Damiano, a place deeply connected to the life of Saint Francis and to the very genesis of the Canticle. It is here that the Saint—marked by illness, almost blind, and weighed down by inner suffering—was able to raise a pure and universal praise to God, recognizing in every creature a reflection of the Creator’s goodness.

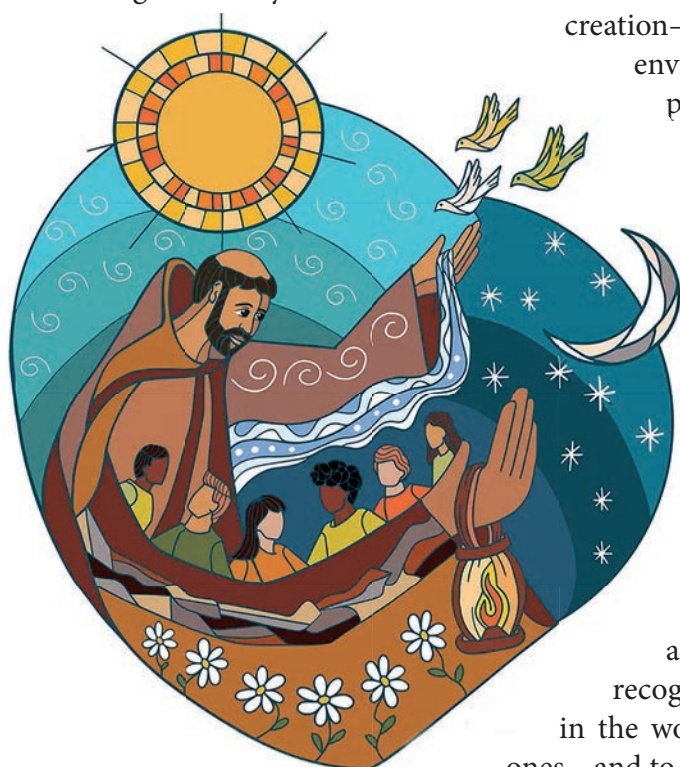
The Canticle of the Creatures, also known as the Canticle of Brother Sun, is not only a poem or a literary text of extraordinary beauty, but a profession of faith—a new way of seeing the world as a reconciled fraternity. Francis calls the sun his brother, the moon his sister, as well as water, fire, and the earth, even including suffering, forgiveness, and even death. Everything becomes a place of encounter with God and a space of communion.

Celebrating the 800 years of the Canticle means rediscovering a contemplative and reconciled gaze upon creation—something deeply needed in a time marked by

environmental crises, conflicts, and divisions. Francis’s praise does not arise from ideal harmony but from a life shaped by the cross: this is why the Canticle remains a credible word, capable of generating hope even in the darkest situations.

For the Franciscan Family, this centenary represents a moment of profound spiritual and missionary renewal. The Canticle strongly calls us to universal fraternity, care for creation, peace, and reconciliation—central dimensions of the Franciscan charism and of the Gospel witness in today’s world.

For us, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the Year of the Canticle is an invitation to reread our life and mission in the light of praise and gratitude. Amid daily challenges, we are called to recognize God’s presence in the reality around us—especially in the wounded faces of the poor, migrants, women, and little ones—and to transform every place into a space of blessing.



On the Path of Saint Francis in the Rieti Valley



22nd Greccio Conference: On the Occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures

From May 9 to 11, the 22nd Greccio Conference was held — a significant event within the celebrations for the 800th Anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures. Our junior sisters who attend the Antonianum University also participated; it was a privileged opportunity to reflect on human responsibility in caring for creation, in the light of the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The reflections offered focused on how to inhabit the world and relate to the surrounding environment, highlighting how the order and harmony of creation can awaken wonder for external beauty and lead the heart toward interiority. In Saint Francis, there was no trace of nature-worship, but rather a profound capacity to recognize and respect the right place of every creature — animals, flowers, and all elements of creation — within an equilibrium that points back to the Creator.

During the conference, several particularly meaningful Franciscan sites were visited, including Fonte Colombo, where Francis composed the Rule, and Greccio, the place where he desired to contemplate and “touch” the poverty of Jesus’ birth. These spaces, rich in spirituality, strongly recalled the need for an inner conversion aimed at living the Gospel with greater simplicity, humility, joy, and concreteness, following the luminous example of the Saint of Assisi.

The experience became an invitation to rediscover the beauty of simplicity and the transforming power of fraternal love, reminding everyone that true greatness lies in becoming small, in placing oneself at the service of brothers and sisters, especially the most in need: this is the essence of being “minor.” The reflections inspired deep questions for one’s spiritual journey: What should take priority in order to live the Gospel more authentically? How can one truly listen to the voice of God in daily life? In what ways can we follow Jesus in a concrete and radical manner? The spiritual experience of Saint Francis, expressed in the Canticle of the Creatures, continues to invite us to rediscover the ecological beauty of creation and the essential value of nature, urging responsible action founded on love and respect.

In conclusion, the conference awakened profound admiration for the figure of Saint Francis and for his ability to embody, in a concrete way, the love for simplicity and evangelical poverty. The visit to the Franciscan sites unfolded as an authentic inner pilgrimage — a precious opportunity to reflect on the meaning of faith and on the beauty of a message that continues to speak to the heart of humanity.



*International Juniorate
Sr Berinice, Sr Odianne,
Sr Rina, Sr Roxana, Sr Sunitha*



Chapter of the Mats

A journey of fraternity and mission

Santa Maria degli Angeli, Assisi – 2–8 June 2025

The Chapter of the Mats is a privileged moment of encounter for the Franciscan Family, where friars, sisters, and laypeople from all over the world gather to live an authentically Catholic, universal, and synodal experience, in deep communion with the journey of the Church.

As a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart, I participated in the Middle East Conference with profound gratitude—a sentiment that accompanied the entire experience. One of the strongest impressions was the joy of seeing people of different nationalities, ages, and vocations together: friars, religious sisters, and laypeople united by the same calling. Despite linguistic differences, a simple smile was often enough to create communion and mutual understanding.

The work of the Chapter revolved around three fundamental themes: living the Gospel, embodying the charism, and responding to the mission.

Through moments of prayer, sharing, and group work, we reflected on the pillars of Franciscan life—charism, communion, and mission—evaluating the journey already taken and opening our hearts to the future of the Franciscan Family.

This experience proved to be profoundly enriching and unforgettable, helping me to understand more clearly my mission as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart: to proclaim the Gospel with compassion, to live a continual conversion, to witness with joy and simplicity to the religious vows, and to serve others as instruments of peace, in harmony with all creation.

The Chapter of the Mats was a powerful reminder to live the mission not only through what we do, but above all in the way we do it, with fidelity to prayer, community life, and a simple and humble lifestyle.

My hope is that this Chapter will continue to strengthen Franciscan spirituality and the sense of belonging to the Franciscan Family. May Saint Francis, together with all the Franciscan saints, accompany and sustain each one on the journey, so that in poverty, fraternity, joy, and service, we may grow ever more in union with God.



Sister Bindhu Kolenchery - Turkey

Province “Maria Immacolata” XVIII Provincial Chapter



From December 26, 2023 to January 1, 2024

Being Minor: with Faith, Hope, and Charity

Provincial Superior:	sr Tiziana Tonini
Provincial Vicar:	sr Ma. Victoria Simora
2 nd Councilor:	sr Cristiana Basso
3 rd Councilor :	sr Federica Imperatore
4 nd Councilor:	sr Editha Sagayno

Province Holy Family VII Provincial Chapter

January 11–18, 2024

In Minority and Fraternal Communion: Let Us Reevaluate, Regenerate, and Renew Our Life and Mission



Provincial Superior:	sr Suni Chacko Mannakulathil
Provincial Vicar:	sr Lillykutty Attapattu
2 nd Councilor:	sr Rose Thomas Palamthattel
3 rd Councilor :	sr Sahaya Rani Gnanaprakasam
4 nd Councilor:	sr Maria Goretti Yelika

Province “Saint Louis IX” XVIII Provincial Chapter



May 13–18, 2024

**Sent in Fraternal Communion,
Let Us Live the Mission
in the Spirit of Minority**

Provincial Superior:	Sr. Sherly Joseph
Provincial Vicar:	Sr. M Armelle Kosta
2 nd Councilor:	Sr. Alice Karothu Narothu
3 rd Councilor :	Sr. Beniamina Borsato
4 nd Councilor:	Sr. Julija Lukauskaitė

Vice province “Saints Martyrs de l’Ouganda” X Provincial Chapter



September 29 – October 6, 2024

**Let Us Live Fraternal Communion and
Minority to Make Our Charism Present and
Alive in the Church and in the World**

Provincial Superior:	sr Beltha Ngwashi Mange
Provincial Vicar:	sr Renée Mbida
2 nd Councilor:	sr Marie Claire Bomki
3 rd Councilor :	sr Anne Marie Mballa Nkoulou
4 nd Councilor:	sr Chancela Nambe Bemba

Province “Santa Maria degli Angeli” XVII Provincial Chapter

June 30 – July 8, 2024

**The Beauty of Being Minors
in Fraternal Communion in Order
to Be Witnesses of Love!”**

Provincial Superior: **Sr Daniela Revelant**
Provincial Vicar: **sr Augusta Fantin**
2nd Councilor: **sr Lissy Joseph**
3rd Councilor : **sr Stefania Bandiera**
4nd Councilor: **sr Antida Galante**



Province “Santa Elisabetta d’Ungheria” XVII Provincial Chapter

August 1–10, 2024

**Minor Sisters Rooted in Christ Crucified,
Pilgrims of Peace and Hope**

Provincial Superior: **sr Antonia Piripitsi**
Provincial Vicar: **sr Elsapaola Pudhussery**
2nd Councilor: **sr Anabel Malabanan**
3rd Councilor : **sr Elka Staneva**
4nd Councilor: **sr Angelica Hadjihanni**



Province “St. Francis” XVI Provincial Chapter

September 29 – October 6, 2024
**Called in Minority to Trust in Jesus Who
Guides Us**



Provincial Superior:	sr Laura Morgan
Provincial Vicar:	sr Clare Poothakuzhiyil
2 nd Councilor:	sr Anne Matthew Carlone
3 rd Councilor :	sr Lyssamma Sebastian
4 nd Councilor:	sr Annakutty Vaddakemannoor

Province “Sant’Antonio” XVII Provincial Chapter

January 6–17, 2025
**Consecrated to the Heart of the Crucified,
as Pilgrims, Let Us Live with Hope the Joy
of Minority**



Provincial Superior:	sr Alejandra Vallejos Araya
Provincial Vicar:	sr Ana Ruth Ayma Quispe
2 nd Councilor:	sr Roxana Zapata Bustamante
3 rd Councilor :	sr Marilú Tecsí Alzamora
4 nd Councilor:	sr Gregoria Suárez Medina

Feast of the Superior General, Sister Marta Camerotto

A Franciscan Atmosphere of Fraternity and Communion

September 7, 2024

In an authentic Franciscan spirit, simple and deeply fraternal, the feast of Sister Marta Camerotto, Superior General, was celebrated on Sunday, September 7, 2025. It was a moment of great joy and intense communion among the sisters, lived in the family spirit that characterizes the Franciscan charism: an atmosphere of welcome, shared prayer, and sincere mutual affection.

The occasion brought together numerous sisters from all the Dependent Communities and all the communities of the Roman Province, making visible a unity that transcends geographical distances and finds its strength in the same calling and mission. A significant presence was that of the Provincial of Santa Maria degli Angeli, accompanied by the councilor Sister Antida, a sign of concrete and engaged closeness.

Other Provinces, although unable to be physically present, also wished to express their affection and communion through videos of greetings and messages of congratulations, which further enriched the festive atmosphere and testified to how fraternity can overcome every boundary. The words, smiles, and faces of the sisters, coming from different places, made tangible the unity of the Congregation and the deep bond that unites all in the same experience of consecration.

The heart of the day was the celebratory moment, presided over by Father Massimo Cocci, OFM, who guided the assembly in prayer with simplicity and depth. The Eucharistic celebration was experienced as a true thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of vocation, for the service carried out by Sister Marta as Superior General, and for the path that the Congregation continues to follow, trusting in Divine Providence.

During the celebration and in moments of fraternal sharing, the dimension of union among sisters emerged strongly: a togetherness that is not only organizational but spiritual; a sense of being part of one body, called to witness the Gospel through life, in daily routines and in various missions. The feast thus became an occasion to renew the “yes” to the Lord and to strengthen bonds of fraternity, with the awareness that communion is the first proclamation. The day concluded in an atmosphere of gratitude and shared joy. The feast of Sister Marta Camerotto was not only a celebratory event but a true time of grace, in which each sister could feel welcomed, valued, and part of a greater story. It was a moment that left in everyone’s heart the desire to continue walking together, in the spirit of Saint Francis, as sisters called to build unity, peace, and hope.



FMSC COMunicAzione Today

Communicative Voices of the Congregation

First Meeting of the Communication Commission

On March 20, 2025, we met via Zoom for our first meeting with all the sisters responsible for the communication commission of our religious family.

This was the first virtual meeting to work together on communication within our congregation, highlighting the work we hope to accomplish over time. In addition to all the representatives from each province, some provincial superiors were also present.

Although virtual, the meeting was a joyful moment to see each other and to share a desire to engage in constructive work for the entire Congregation. The meeting began with a moment of prayer, followed by an introduction from our Superior General, Sr. Marta Camerotto, who reminded us of the importance of developing the “weaving” of the communicative voices of the Congregation, in a spirit of communion according to our charismatic style.

In her invitation letter for this meeting, Sr. Marta wrote the word communication in a different way: COMunicAzione. A playful use of writing? No — it was intentional, to help us understand the goal of our work: our dedication to walking in communion through a unique form of action, charismatic in nature, and to share, at all times, in every place and through every means, the beauty of our vocation and mission.

Sr. Marta also called us to be communicative voices — people who use words, either spoken or written, that express thought, reflection, and expressions of a life of faith, to announce, transmit, and spread the Good News that makes us participants in the building of the Kingdom of God.

Following this, Sr. Francesca Fiorin and Sr. Maggaly Warthon presented some updates on our website, www.francescane.org, along with ideas and themes to continue working on together, so that our website can be an effective informative and formative space for us today.

The two main innovations, in addition to the updated graphics and background of our website, are:

1. The creation of a section dedicated to spreading knowledge of our Founder, Father Gregorio — an idea proposed by Sr. Diomira Cavin, who reminded us during the meeting how important it is to make our founder known. The unique feature of this section is to welcome and collect the prayers of all those who visit our website asking for Father Gregorio’s intercession. It is our commitment to pray for all those who ask.

2. The second new feature is a section that commemorates our deceased sisters.— a way to keep our gratitude for their lives alive, as well as to know and remember them.

At the end of the meeting, we had the opportunity to share our communication journey in various contexts, the challenges and difficulties, but above all, what remained was the enthusiasm to undertake a path of communion to express the beauty of being FMSC consecrated women in 2025, in a cultural and social context that challenges us to be significant and prophetic women.



Extended General Council

Minor Sisters, by choice, sent as pilgrims of hope and reconciliation

May 2025



In May 2025, the Extended General Council (EGC) was held in Rome, a significant time of listening, discernment, and communion, experienced in the spirit of the Jubilee as a journey of hope and reconciliation. The Extended General Council is a meeting of the Superior General and her Council with the Provincial Superiors, Vice-Provincial, and their respective vicars, aimed at strengthening unity, promoting communication, deepening the understanding of the Congregation's challenges, and planning and evaluating renewal initiatives (Dir. N. 101).



A Time of Prayer and Retreat

The meeting began with a day of spiritual retreat, a precious opportunity to return to one's heart, listen to the Word, and allow oneself to be reconciled by the Lord. The atmosphere of silence, prayer, and fraternity helped all participants to experience the Council not merely as a working meeting, but as an authentic spiritual and synodal encounter.

Pilgrimage to the Roots

During the Council, a pilgrimage to Gemona del Friuli, the birthplace of the Congregation chosen by the Founders, Mother Laura Leroux and the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti, was also undertaken. From May 6 to 10, the sisters retraced the roots of their history, reflecting on it as a story of Providence, faithfulness, and hope.

The visit to the Mother House, the meeting with the sisters in the infirmary, the prayer at the graves of deceased sisters, and participation in the commemorative celebration of the 1976 earthquake made this pilgrimage an intense time of grateful remembrance and renewed trust. Particularly meaningful were the visits to the communities and to the educational and hospitality works, concrete signs of a mission that continues to generate life and hope for the future.



Sharing to Take Stock of the Journey

In the following days, the EGC entered the heart of its work through sharing about the realities of the Congregation, the joys and challenges of mission, apostolic challenges, and future perspectives. Fraternal dialogue fostered a realistic yet hopeful understanding of the current situation, with a common desire to remain faithful to the charism and creative in responding to the signs of the times.

Among the themes addressed, particular attention was given to fraternal life, formation, mission, sustainability of works, care for the most vulnerable sisters, and the commitment to a simple, minority, and prophetic evangelical witness.





In Communion with the Universal Church

A moment of great grace was the audience with Pope Leo XIV, who confirmed the sisters in their path of consecration, encouraging them to live the Franciscan vocation with joy, as women of peace, reconciliation, and hope, especially in the most fragile contexts.



Gratitude Becomes Commitment

The Extended General Council concluded with heartfelt thanks to all the sisters and communities that supported the meeting through prayer, hospitality, and collaboration. What was experienced does not remain an isolated event, but becomes a daily commitment to walk together as minor sisters by choice, pilgrims in the world, at the service of the Gospel.

With a grateful heart and confident gaze, the Congregation continues its journey, certain that the Lord who began this good work will bring it to fulfillment.

First Renewal Course

July 2025

A Time of Grace, Memory, and Mission

In July 2025, the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart experienced the first Spiritual Renewal Course of the year, a long-awaited gathering as an intense time of prayer, fraternity, and reflection at the heart of the Church and in the spirit of the Jubilee.

Already in the first days of July, 35 sisters from various missions around the world gathered at the General House in Rome to celebrate together their 25th and 50th anniversaries of consecrated life, uniting their hearts in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. Sisters were present from the United States, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, India, the Philippines, Cameroon, Italy, and the Czech Republic, representing the international and multicultural face of our religious family.





Guided by Sister Marta Camerotto, Superior General, the days were enriched with moments of communal meditation on the Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, times of personal prayer, and deep Eucharistic celebrations that renewed the desire to live the vocation with renewed fidelity and Franciscan simplicity.

A significant pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica marked the beginning of the course, offering all participants the grace of the Plenary Indulgence in an atmosphere of recollection and joy. Equally meaningful were moments of prayer at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore to seek the Lord's forgiveness, and the visit to Assisi, following in the footsteps of Saint Francis, to rediscover the roots of Franciscan spirituality and carry its message of minority and reconciliation into daily life.

At the heart of these spiritual days, the theme of the "Rule and Life" guided every reflection as a roadmap inviting the sisters to renew their total consecration to Christ, following the example of Saint Francis and witnessing their faith with joy and openness.

The concluding feast, marked by the Eucharistic celebration and the renewal of vows, brought together a single song of praise, celebrating the gift of each sister's vocation and the belonging to the Congregation as a treasure to guard and share in service to brothers and sisters throughout the world. The experience of this renewal course was a tangible sign of the call to Franciscan minority, lived with gratitude and openness to the future, entrusted to the action of the Holy Spirit.



Second Renewal Course

August 2025

A Journey of Grace and Renewal



From 5 to 17 August 2025, the second Jubilee Renewal Course was held in Rome, addressed to the sisters who, from 2019 to the present, celebrated the 25th or 50th anniversary of religious profession. Thirty-one sisters from Albania, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, the Philippines, France, India, Switzerland, and various communities in Italy gathered at the General House: a rich and meaningful presence that made visible the international dimension of our religious Family.

The program was led by the Superior General, Sr. Marta Camerotto, who guided the reflections beginning with the Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis, helping the participants to reread their consecration in the light of the Gospel and of the Franciscan charism.





From the very first days, the course was marked by intense moments of prayer and pilgrimage. The visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, on the feast of Our Lady of the Snows, entrusted the journey of the jubilarian sisters to the maternal protection of Mary. Particularly significant was the pilgrimage to Grotte di Castro, the birthplace of the Founder, Father Gregorio Fioravanti: passing through the Holy Door with the flags of the countries of origin and visiting his childhood home strengthened the sense of belonging and charismatic continuity.

On Sunday, 10 August, the sisters made a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, carrying the Jubilee Cross, along with songs and prayers for the missions. Participation in the Angelus with Pope Leo XIV and his exhortation to invest generously the gifts received for the good of those most in need confirmed the ecclesial and missionary value of consecrated vocation.

The course was further enriched by the pilgrimage to Assisi on 13 August. The stop at the tomb of St. Francis and the visit to the Porziuncola offered the sisters joy, peace, and renewed confidence, strengthening their desire to live their consecration in evangelical simplicity, following the example of Francis and Clare. In the final days, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Basilica of St. John Lateran and the concluding blessing of the Rule, given by the Superior General as she called each jubilarian sister by name, sealed the journey of renewal.



The culminating moment was Sunday, 17 August, with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Father Vincenzo Battaglia, OFM. The renewal of vows, prayer in various languages, and joyful fraternal sharing made the day a true feast of gratitude and praise.

This Second Renewal Course remains in the heart as a time of grace, communion, and renewed missionary zeal—a sign of a journey that continues in fidelity to the charism and in service to the Kingdom of God.

All for the praise and glory of God

The Joy of Reunion in the First Mission of the Congregation in the United States

November 7-22, 2025
Province "St. Francis" - New York



The Superior General, Sr. Marta Camerotto, the General Councilor, Sr. Azieshi Lilian Fru, and the Provincial Superiors, Sr. Daniela Revelant, Sr. Antonia Piripitsi, Sr. Tiziana Tonini, Sr. Alejandra Vallejos, Sr. Sherly Joseph, and Sr. Claramma (Suni) Mannakulathil, visited our sisters in the United States to bring them our affection, comfort, support, and closeness. For most of us, it was the first time visiting the United States. With great emotion, we touched and walked on the land of the first mission established by our venerable Father Gregorio for the children of immigrants. It has been 162 years since the mission's opening, and the signs of the times show us that the mission remains relevant even in our modern days—not only in education but also in social assistance in multiple forms for

immigrants from many countries.

We heard the history of the Province not from books, but from the mouths of our sisters who lived it. You can imagine our emotions. Thus, we followed the past, saw how they live the present, and together with them, we are trying to look to the future with hope. From the testimonies of our sisters about their experiences, we understood that the sisters remained faithful to the mission entrusted to them by our venerable Father Gregorio. The sisters ran 53 schools across three states: 19 in New York, 34 in New Jersey, and one secondary school in Philadelphia. The "St. Joseph" house in Peekskill hosted over 1,100 orphaned children. Thanks to their simple life and missionary spirit among the people of God, many vocations arose from these various schools. With the sisters of the province, although



there were so few, we shared moments of great fraternity and visited the three communities to gain a general understanding of their work. In Peekskill, the sisters carry out pastoral activities with the elderly ladies of the VILLA and other sisters from different congregations who are cared for in our infirmary. This shows us how times can change our original mission in response to the current global situation, and we strive to adapt to the signs of the times to continue the mission entrusted to us.

In Fairview (New Jersey), the mission serves the poor, mostly migrants, not only by providing food but also through social support, listening, and assistance with legalizing documents. The mission in Totowa (also in New Jersey) remains vital: visiting the sick to bring them Communion, assisting the elderly, and teaching catechism to children, who are the Church of tomorrow.

We had the opportunity to participate in the “Province Day,”

which is for them a retreat day with the associated laity. The theme of the day was gratitude for all of God’s blessings. In the afternoon, the Superior General offered words of encouragement, and at the end, we gave them a picture of

Father Gregorio and a keyholder. We shared very precious moments with them. Precious moments

like these are always rare.

We had the great opportunity to visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York, with meaningful images that help prayer, and we also met Cardinal Timothy Dolan. As pastor of the local church, he encouraged us to continue the valuable mission of our Congregation in the Diocese of New York, mindful of the current lack of vocations. To crown the day, we visited the convent of the Franciscan Friars where the first sisters arrived.

From my experience in the United States, I believe that by looking at the history of our Congregation, each province, and the personal story of each sister called to live the Gospel in the light of God, we can better live the present and put together strategies for the future. We look to the future with our uncertain human eyes, but with faith, we have great hope. We have hope because we are willed by God. We learn to value ourselves, love each other, trust one another,

and ultimately, live in mutual understanding and forgiveness.

At the end of our stay in the “St. Francis” Province, the sisters were very happy, and we shared the same feelings of joy and rediscovered the familial bond of the Franciscan

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Praised be the name of the Lord forever and ever.



A Time of Grace, Communion, and Renewed Missionary Zeal

26-31 December 2025

Meeting of Dependent Communities – Rome



From 26 to 31 December, a meeting of sharing and formation was held, bringing together the communities dependent on the Superior General: the Asisium of Rome, and the communities of Assisi and Viole, Grotte di Castro, and Büyükada (Turkey). It was a precious time of fraternity, listening, and discernment, lived in the spirit of communion that characterizes the journey of the Congregation.

The days were enlightened by the figure of Saint

Peter, presented through a monologue by Roberto Benigni, which invited everyone to reread their personal and communal history of following and loving Christ. This reflection stirred gratitude for the call received and for the faithfulness of the Lord, who continues to sustain us.

A symbolic gesture made the meaning of fraternity visible: the Superior General, Sr. Marta Camerotto, gave the local superiors a puzzle depicting a rose window of Assisi, a sign of fraternity as a mosaic in





which each sister is a unique and indispensable piece. The communities, gathered to assemble it together, concretely experienced the value of collaboration, patience, and mutual acceptance.

The Jubilee pilgrimage also became part of the journey, lived with renewed spiritual awareness, strengthening the responsibility to witness with joy and coherence to the vocation received, as a sign of hope in a world thirsting for meaning.

Two days were dedicated to sharing missionary experiences, highlighting the richness of the apostolic in the field and, at the same time, the challenges linked to age, the decrease in vocations, and the changes taking place. This dialogue encouraged serious discernment on how to manage

available resources and remain open to new forms of missionary presence.

Reflection on fraternal life offered criteria for safeguarding authentic relationships, overcoming fragilities and tensions, and making fraternity a Gospel-inspired place of welcome, forgiveness, and shared responsibility. At the end, the Superior General entrusted the communities with the Congregational *Lectio Divina*, proposing it as a shared practice to be shaped by the Spirit and to root community and missionary life ever more deeply in the Gospel.

This time spent together remains for all a gift of grace, renewing the journey in trust, fidelity, and hope.



Perpetual Profession “Holy Family” Province

Sr. Harita Pilli
Sr. Rina Mossang
Sr. Sukanya Gorantla
Sr. Suman Ekka
Sr. Uma Rani

23 August 2023 – Vijayawada

The Perpetual Profession of Sr. Harita Pilli, Sr. Rina Mossang, Sr. Sukanya Gorantla, Sr. Suman

Ekka and Sr. Uma Rani was solemnly celebrated on August 23, 2023, at the Sacred Heart Church in Labbipet, Vijayawada. The Eucharistic celebration took place in the beautiful Sacred Heart Church of Vijayawada, bringing together priests, religious, family members, and friends to witness this sacred and grace-filled moment.

The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Khammam, Paul Maipan, whose presence gave dignity and spiritual depth to the celebration. In his homily, he reflected meaningfully on the significance of the total gift of oneself, reminding the sisters that perpetual profession is a lifelong covenant of love with Christ. He encouraged them to remain faithful, joyful, and steadfast in their consecrated vocation.

During the solemn rite of perpetual profession, the five sisters publicly pronounced the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for the rest of their lives. This sacred commitment expresses total belonging to Christ and complete dedication to the mission of the Church. With deep faith and devotion, they placed their lives upon the altar, offering themselves as a living sacrifice to God.

The vows were received by the Vice Provincial, Sr. Suni Chacko, who, on behalf of the Congregation, accepted their lifelong commitment. This gesture symbolized the Church's acceptance of their consecration and their definitive incorporation into the Congregation. The atmosphere was deeply recollected and reverent, marked by sacred hymns, heartfelt prayers, and an intense silence reflecting the sacredness of the moment.

Perpetual profession represents a fundamental milestone in religious life. It is not simply a ceremony, but a lifelong covenant rooted in baptismal consecration. Through this definitive profession, the sisters irrevocably consecrate themselves to Christ, embracing a life of prayer, community life, apostolic service, and evangelical witness. Religious life is a prophetic sign in the Church, a visible reminder that God alone is enough and that the Kingdom of God is our ultimate goal.

The celebration was truly solemn and filled with grace. Families rejoiced with gratitude, the Congregation celebrated with pride, and the entire assembly contemplated the beauty of young women who courageously offered their lives to God. The joy radiating from the newly professed sisters reflected their deep love for Christ and their readiness to serve wherever they may be sent.

May Sr. Harita Pilli, Sr. Rina Mossang, Sr. Sukanya Gorantla, Sr. Suman Ekka and Sr. Uma Rani remain faithful to their holy vows and continue to be radiant witnesses of Christ's love in the Church and in the world.



Perpetual Profession Vice Province “Saints Martyrs de l’Ouganda”

26 August 2023



August 26, 2023, was a memorable day as all the sisters of the Vice-Province “Ugandan Martyrs,” together with the families, friends, and acquaintances of our seven sisters: *Sr. Mary Ita Bih*, *Sr. Mary Juliette Gisele Masingo*, *Sr. Maria Angel Linzele*, *Sr. Maria Christina Njang*, *Sr. Maria Felicia Ude Okoro*, *Sr. Maria Emmanuella Kedze*, and *Sr. Maria Catherine Kpuyuf* gathered to participate in their perpetual profession.

This great event began at 2:00 p.m. with a solemn Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Jean Mbarga, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Yaoundé. The Bishop thanked the parents of the sisters for accepting, supporting, and encouraging their daughters in their vocation. He also expressed gratitude to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart for the formation offered, which prepared the sisters to embrace their calling and cooperate with God’s will in their lives.

He encouraged the seven sisters to remain faithful to their vocation and entrusted them with a special mission: to be sisters of the Visitation, imitating the virtues of our Mother Mary, who left her home to visit her cousin Elizabeth. In our context, he said, the sisters should be ready to leave their comfort zones and go out to meet people in their different life situations—visiting the sick, the elderly, and the abandoned—allowing them to experience the saving presence of God through their love and closeness. They are called to be women full of hope, joy, and love, capable of transforming the world around them.

After the Eucharistic celebration, there was time for commemorative photos, followed by a fraternal gathering at the sisters’ convent, where everyone shared joy and celebration. All returned home happy, thanking God for the vocation of these sisters and for the celebration.

To God be the praise for the gift of vocation to the Church and to our Congregation.

Perpetual Profession Province “Santa Elisabetta”

7 October 2023 – Limassol, Cyprus

Suor Norfe Rey Roa

“My spirit rejoices in God my Savior” forever!



On 7 October 2023, in the chapel of the Provincial House in Limassol, Cyprus, Sister Norfe made her Perpetual Profession in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, consecrating herself definitively to God through the profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. This day, celebrated on the liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary, marked the fulfilment of a vocational journey begun far from her native land, the Philippines, and nurtured through experiences of faith, personal trials, and the constant support of religious fraternity.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Father Bruno Varriano, Patriarchal Vicar for Cyprus for the Latins, and concelebrated by His Excellency Monsignor Mauro Lalli, Chargé d’Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature, together with Latin and Maronite priests present on the island. The participation of religious, faithful locals, and friends made visible the ecclesial communion that accompanies every vocation. The presence of the Superior General, Sister Marta Camerotto, and the Provincial Superior, Sister Antonia Piripitsi, was a sign of the Congregation’s closeness and support at this decisive moment.

Among the most significant moments of the rite were the calling of her name—through which the Church publicly recognized Sister Norfe’s vocation—and the profession of vows into the hands of the Superior General, by which she was definitively welcomed as a full member of the Congregation. This gesture marked her total belonging to God and to the religious family, expressing her choice to live forever in fidelity, fraternity, and service.

In his homily, Father Bruno Varriano highlighted the profound meaning of the expression “forever,” which characterizes Perpetual Profession and evokes the eternal dimension of religious vocation. Consecrated life is not simply a choice for the present, but an anticipated participation in eternal life and a sign of hope for the world. Referring to the Gospel of the Annunciation, he emphasized how the Virgin Mary’s “yes” changed the history of humanity, and how the “yes” of every consecrated person becomes a concrete participation in the salvific mission of the Church.

The Perpetual Profession thus marks the beginning of a new stage in the life of Sister Norfe, called to live her consecration fully as bride of Christ and missionary in the Church. With deep gratitude, she gave thanks to God for the gift of her vocation and for all the people who accompanied her along this journey. Her definitive “yes” represents the beginning of a path of daily fidelity, lived in prayer, fraternity, and service, as a concrete witness of God’s faithful love.

Sister Norfe Rey Roa



Perpetual Profession Province “Sant’Antonio”

Rome – 26 May 2024

Sr Laura Álvarez dell’Immacolata

*“From His fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.”
(Jn 1:16)*

Many words of Sacred Scripture arise in my heart, many promises that God has fulfilled in my life. 26 May 2024 was a long-awaited and deeply desired day, one for which I had persistently prayed to the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary so that it might come to pass. This day, already so special for my Perpetual Profession, was made even more meaningful by the celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. I recognized in this coincidence a sign of Divine Providence, which has called me not only to be His bride forever, offering my definitive “yes,” but also to live, in His image, in fraternal communion. It is precisely

through my sisters, who have accompanied, formed, and supported me, that I have been able to recognize God’s presence and strengthen my response to His call.

My journey has not been without trials. In particular, my mother’s illness and her return to the Father’s house marked my life deeply. This painful experience taught me to embrace the cross and to trust fully in the Lord’s promises, He who assures “a hundredfold” to those who leave everything to follow Him. I can truly testify that I have received much more than I have given, experiencing in a concrete way God’s faithfulness and generosity. When I was called by name by our Mother General, I responded with faith: “Here I am.” In that moment, I renewed my readiness to do God’s will, confident that He continues to guide me through my superiors and the life of the Congregation. I have never felt alone, because the Lord, in His goodness, has always accompanied and sustained me.

The words of our venerable founder, Gregorio Fioravanti, have always enlightened me: “Follow the footsteps of Providence.” Looking at my life, I recognize that everything has been gift, everything has been grace. Even in my fragility and my infidelities, God has never ceased to pour out His mercy upon me, sustaining my “yes”—sometimes fragile, but always trusting in His love.

I would never have imagined receiving the grace of making my Perpetual Profession in the Generalate House. It was for me an experience of immense spiritual value, a gratuitous and undeserved gift. The presence of my sisters and of the friends I have met in Rome made me feel deeply loved and accompanied. During the procession, being surrounded by so many sisters filled me with joy and consolation. Even though my family was not physically present, I fully experienced that new family the Lord has given me, confirming once again the truth of His promise.

The image I chose to remember this day depicts the woman who touches the cloak of Jesus to be healed. This gesture expresses my deepest desire: to draw near to the Lord with faith and trust, certain that even by simply touching His presence, I may receive grace, healing, and abundant blessing.

With a heart full of gratitude, I lift my praise to the Lord for all He has accomplished in me. I entrust my life to Him, that I may remain faithful forever to the gift I have received, walking each day in the footsteps of His Providence.

Sister Laura Elena Álvarez Ramírez, of the Immaculate

Perpetual Profession Vice Province “Saints Martyrs de l’Ouganda”

August 2, 2024

Sr M. Pascaline Bong

of Perpetual Help

Sr M. Canisia Berinyuy

of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

August 2, 2024, was a very special day for our lives, as we said our final Yes to God at the “Queen of Peace” Parish in Bamenda, Njimafor.

It was truly a wonderful and memorable day for us. In his homily, His Excellency Archbishop Andrew NKEA encouraged us always to look to Christ, who is the source of our vocation. He encouraged us to serve Him always with love and humility through

the people with whom we live and those we meet in our daily activities. He also encouraged us to always turn to the Virgin Mary, who is the model of consecrated life, whenever we face challenges in our vocation. He thanked our parents who joyfully offered us to the Church by accepting our vocation with faith.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, we thanked everyone for their support and encouragement during our initial formation, especially our religious family, our families, and our friends. It was a Holy Mass beautifully animated by the parish choir of the “Queen of Peace” Parish of Njimafor, and the Cadets of Mary led the procession.

After the Eucharistic celebration, we took some photos with the Archbishop, the priest, and the religious who came to share in our joy. We expressed our gratitude and joy for this day through traditional dances as a sign of our African traditional celebration.

The parish social committee interviewed us to share our encouragement with young people who are afraid to respond to God’s call because of the many distractions of our times. We told them that there is no need to be afraid when God calls, because He will always provide the necessary means to respond to His call, as He tells us that “His grace is sufficient for us.” In every situation we should always turn to the One who has called us, and He will show us the way forward.

May our Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we choose as our model in Religious Life, continue to intercede for us.



Perpetual Profession Province “Sant’Antonio”

Santiago, Chile – October 6, 2024

Sr Sandra Araoz Aranivar of the Risen Jesus

My God and My All



With the words of our Father Saint Francis of Assisi in my heart, on October 6, 2024, in Santiago, Chile, I pronounced my definitive “yes” in Perpetual Profession in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Latin American Province “Saint Anthony.” It was a deeply sacred day, lived in an atmosphere of intense prayer, gratitude, and fraternal joy, in which I clearly perceived the loving presence of the Lord who has called me to belong to Him forever.

The celebration was presided over by Carlos Paz, Provincial of the Order of Friars Minor, a sign of communion with the entire Franciscan family. In his homily he invited me to live my consecration according to the style of Saint Francis: with evangelical radicality, joyful poverty, a fraternal spirit, and total love for Christ. He reminded us that consecrated life is a spousal covenant, a definitive gift founded on the fidelity of God, who sustains and makes possible our “forever.” In the Eucharist I recognized the source of this call and the strength to live it each day in simplicity, fraternity, and mission.

In this atmosphere of grace, I pronounced my perpetual vows in the hands of Sister Alejandra Vallejos. When I was called by name and prostrated myself before the Lord, I experienced a deep peace, entrusting my whole life into His hands. In that moment I renewed my trusting response: “Here I am,” aware that God, in His fidelity, continues to guide my path. Being definitively welcomed into the Congregation filled my heart with joy, as I felt myself a living part of this spiritual family.

It was also an immense gift to have the presence of my mother and my sisters, a concrete sign of God’s love that has accompanied every stage of my vocation. Their closeness allowed me to experience once again the fidelity of the Lord, who never abandons those whom He calls.

Today my heart is filled with gratitude for the gift of my vocation and for all the sisters who have supported me with affection and prayer. With joy I renew each day my desire to live this consecration faithfully, so that my whole life may be praise to God and a witness to His love.

With trust and love I continue to proclaim: My God and My All.

Sr. Sandra Araoz Aranivar of the Risen Jesus.

Perpetual Profession Province “Holy Family”

I will sing forever the Lord’s love” (Ps 89:2)

July 3, 2025

Sr. Prasanta Ekka
Sr. Jayasree Kastala
Sr. Chanti Boddu

With hearts filled with joy and gratitude, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Holy Family Province – India, celebrated the Perpetual Profession of Sr. Prasanta Ekka (State of Jharkhand), Sr. Jayasree Kastala, and Sr. Chanti



Boddu (State of Andhra Pradesh). It was a moment of grace and celebration for the whole Congregation, which recognized in this event a precious gift from the Lord.

The celebration took place on July 3, 2025, a day rich in meaning, coinciding with the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, the first missionary to India and courageous witness of the Risen Lord. This coincidence gave their profession a special missionary depth, recalling the call to proclaim the Gospel with faith, courage, and perseverance.

In the presence of the Church, of their families, and of the religious community, the three sisters pronounced their definitive “yes,” professing for life the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Through this act, they offered themselves totally and forever to Christ and to His Mission, entrusting to Him their present and their future.

The generous response of Sr. Prasanta, Sr. Jayasree, and Sr. Chanti reflects the spirit of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi, who chose to follow the Lord in simplicity and humility, and the missionary zeal of our founder, the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti, whose deep love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus led him to a life of humble and concrete service to the poor, the suffering, and the most in need.

The celebration was for all a strong reminder that God continues to call and consecrate hearts for His Kingdom, even in our time. On this festive day, the words of St. Thomas—“My Lord and my God”—resounded anew in the total gift of self of these three sisters, becoming a living and incarnate profession of faith.

Their lives now become a living testimony of faith, love, and dedication, at the heart of the Church and the world. Through prayer, fraternity, and service, they are called to make visible the tenderness of the Heart of Christ, especially where life is most fragile and wounded. May they be a radiant sign of the Gospel and a concrete witness to the compassionate love that characterizes our religious family.

We give thanks to the Lord for having called them, and we entrust their journey of consecration to the Virgin Mary, Mother and model of every total gift, and to our beloved founder, the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti, that they may accompany and sustain them in daily fidelity.

First Profession

Vice Province “Saint Martyrs de l’Ouganda”

August 2, 2025

Sr. Lilian Luh

Sr. Augustine Mpuru

Sr. Virgilia Kernyuy

The joy that filled our hearts is difficult to express in words: August 2, 2025, will remain forever engraved in our memory. On this day, we took an important step in our vocational journey by professing our first religious vows in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, consecrating our lives to God.

With deep gratitude, we give thanks to the Lord for the gift of vocation and for allowing us to experience His love through the warm and numerous presence of sisters, priests, family members, friends, and parish communities who joined us in raising one single hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God.

At the moment of profession, as a sign of renunciation of the world, we placed all that we are and all that we will be into the hands of God, who has called us to follow Christ. Our vows were received by Sister Beltha Ngwashi Mange, Provincial Superior, representing the Superior General, Sister Marta Camerotto, who officially welcomed us into the Congregation. On this occasion, we were given the religious habit of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, a visible sign of consecration to God in the Franciscan penitential life. It reminds us that the sister consecrates to the Lord her heart, her body, every moment of her life, and all that she possesses, giving herself to Him without reserve, with trust and hope (cf. F.2, P.92).

We thank the main celebrant, Reverend Father John, for his profound, formative, and encouraging words, which will accompany us in facing the challenges of today’s society, calling us to be living signs of God’s love and mercy. He reminded us that religious consecration does not diminish the sacrament of marriage, but rather highlights its value, as we ourselves are the fruit of this great gift, and we are called to generate life and hope through our daily witness.

We express our sincere gratitude to the General Superior, Sister Marta Camerotto, and her Council, for welcoming us into the great Franciscan family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. A special word of thanks also goes to the vice Provincial Superior, , Sister Beltha Ngwashi Mange, and to her Councilors, who accompanied us with dedication during the time of formation—a period of growth, discernment, and vocational maturation.

We entrust our journey to the Lord and ask to continue being supported by everyone’s prayer, so that we may remain faithful servants of Christ Jesus Crucified. As our founder, Father Gregorio Fioravanti, reminds us:

“Wonderful are the ways of Divine Providence, which no one has the right to question by asking why thus and not otherwise.”



Beginning of the Canonical Year of the Novitiate Province “Sant’Antonio”

Santiago, Chile – June 27, 2025

Yblin Juaniquina Casanova
Yenifer Andia Ramos

*“I leave you all in the Heart of Jesus,
begging Him to enlighten you.”*
(Venerable Fr. Gregorio Fioravanti)



With deep joy and a spirit of gratitude, the family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day particularly meaningful for our Congregation. This feast was made even more radiant by the beginning of the canonical year of novitiate for Sisters Yblin Juaniquina Casanova and Yenifer Andia Ramos, who have taken a new step in their journey of consecration to the Lord.

After a time of discernment, formation, and spiritual growth, Yblin and Yenifer responded with a generous “yes” to God’s call, choosing to follow Jesus in the charism of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart with simplicity and trust.

The rite, presided over by Sister Alejandra Vallejos, Provincial Superior, invited the entire community to thank the Lord for the gift of these vocations and to renew, with hope, the commitment of consecration. During the celebration, the two sisters shared some biblical passages that accompanied their discernment, together with a brief personal reflection.

In a gesture rich in meaning, Yblin and Yenifer received the novice habit, along with the Rule, the Constitutions, and the Directory, committing themselves to live with fidelity and openness the blessed time of the novitiate. The community surrounded this moment with fraternal affection, prayer, and shared joy.

The novices themselves expressed in simple words how they experienced these days:

“The preparation for the vestition was an intense time of prayer, discernment, and adoration. The spiritual exercises lived with the community helped us to give deeper meaning to this step. It was an intimate, profound, and radiant celebration, lived with faith and great joy.”

Recalling the first steps of their vocational journey, they added:

“Standing before the community and renewing our response to Jesus’ call made us experience gratitude, enthusiasm, and hope. We felt that this journey is not traveled alone: God accompanies us through every sister He places along our path.”

We entrust Yblin and Yenifer to the Heart of Jesus, to the Virgin Mary, and to the intercession of our founder, the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti, so that they may be strengthened in their journey of growth, fidelity, and self-giving in the service of the Church and the poorest.

Beginning of the Canonical Year of the Novitiate-Province “Maria Immacolata”

Quezon City/Philippines – October 12, 2025

“Remain in my love” (Jn 15:9)

Ronna May Jose

On October 12, 2025, at the FMSC Mary Immaculate Formation House in Quezon City, Philippines, the rite of the official entry of Ronna May Jose into the Novitiate formation path took place. The date coincided with the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Rosary of La Naval, patroness of Quezon City.

At around 4:30 PM, the Rite of Entry into the Novitiate for Ronna May was celebrated. Present were the Provincial Superior of the Mary Immaculate Province, Sister Tiziana Tonini; the Formator, Sister Josie Enaje; the sisters of the Mary Immaculate Community in Quezon City, Sister Nida Malanog, Sister Felomina Sampayan, Sister Lucy Cupla, and Sister Ma. Gina Desamparado; from the Sacred Heart Community in Calbayog City, Sister Theresa Knox Gude and Sister Marilyn Yu; and Ronna May’s sister, Roanne Jose.



The initiation rite into the Novitiate took place in the simple yet decorated convent hall. The celebration began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit and a greeting from the Provincial Superior, who called the candidate by name. Ronna May responded by expressing her willingness to live the life of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and her desire to embrace the spirituality and charism of our Religious Family.

Sister Tiziana offered a beautiful reflection before the candidate’s vesting, composed of three phrases taken from the sayings of the Venerable Founder Fr. Gregory and Congregational Sources:

1. Novices will certainly hold in high esteem the inspirations of this blessed time.
2. The study of one’s own heart is of great importance for the novice if she truly desires to respond to the divine call and acquire the spirit of the Institute.
3. Novices must remember that they have entered an institute dedicated to the Missions.

Sister Tiziana also shared three words of profound significance: love, trust, and journey.

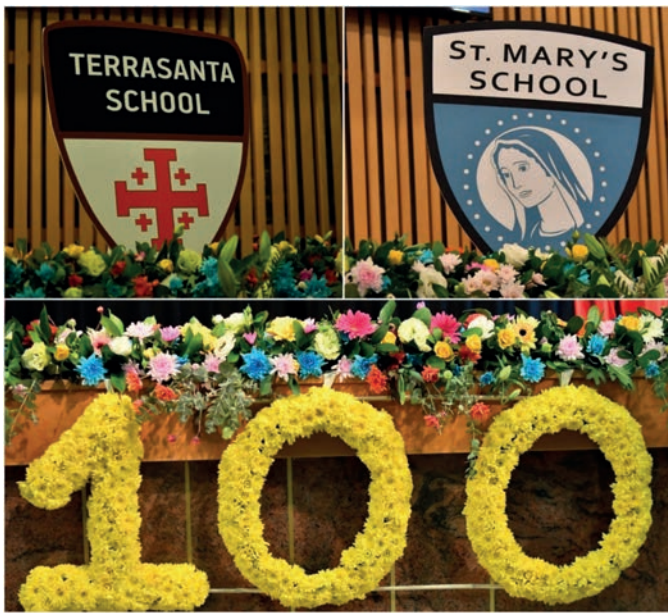
As Provincial Superior, Sister Tiziana Tonini officially welcomed the Novice after she received and donned the simple habit, as a sign of being a novice of the FMSC sisters. Sister Tiziana then entrusted Ronna May to the Formator, Sister Josie Enaje, appointed by the Congregation to continue accompanying her in discernment along the path and to assume the identity of a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart.

After the Rite, Vespers were solemnly prayed during Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. This was followed by a simple celebration of thanksgiving and joy for the gift that the Lord has granted us.

As Sister Tiziana said in her reflection: “Today’s celebration is also a great sign of God’s trust in the mission in the Philippines, in our Religious Family.”

“On this day, I am truly filled with joy and gratitude to the Lord for His goodness and love, as well as for all the FMSC Sisters who prayed fervently and accompanied me on my journey, especially Sister Tiziana and the Sisters of the Council, Sister Josie Enaje, and my sisters from the Communities of Quezon City and Calbayog City. This Jubilee Year of Hope is a reference point for me as I continue to walk with great hope on the path to which the Lord has called me. It is truly incomprehensible to penetrate the ways of the Lord, a mystery that amazes me every day. Now, as I begin the Novitiate, a time to deepen my response to His call and to acquire the spirit of the FMSC sisters, I continue to ask for your prayers while I remember each of you in my precious moments with the Lord.”

Ronna May M. Jose, FMSC Novice



100 Years of Grace, Education, and Mission (1923 - 2023)

**Jubilee of Saint Mary's School
Limassol - Cyprus**

One hundred years of life are not merely a measure of time, but a gift of grace—a story shaped by God's Providence and made fruitful through the fidelity of countless people. The Centenary celebration of Saint Mary's School in Limassol (1923–2023) was a true educational jubilee, an event that engaged the Church, civil society, and entire generations of families, united in giving thanks for a work that continues to foster life. Founded in 1923 and guided for a century by the *Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart*, the school has become a place of holistic formation, combining educational excellence, intercultural openness, and evangelical witness. It is not merely an academic institution, but a living community, rooted in the local context and open to the world, where students are educated “not only for school, but for life.”

A Jubilee Celebrated as a Festival of Memory and Hope

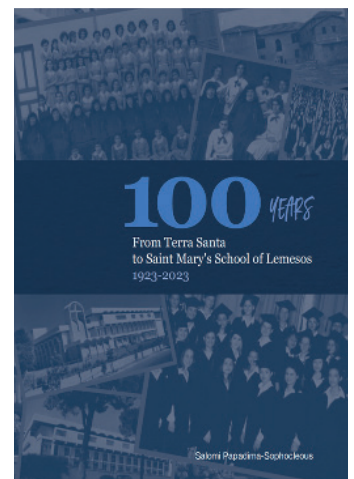
The Jubilee celebrations began on November 24, 2023, with the official presentation of the volume *100 Years: From the Holy Land to Saint Mary's School of Limassol (1923–2023)*, authored by Dr. Salomi Papadima Sophocleous and published by the Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus. The event, hosted in the school theater, took place in an atmosphere of solemnity and joy, attended by civil and ecclesial authorities, faculty, students, alumni, and families.



Songs in multiple languages, symbolic dances, personal testimonies, and artistic performances brought to life what Saint Mary's has been and still is: a space for encounter, dialogue, and beauty, where differences enrich rather than divide. The photographic exhibition and historical materials allowed attendees to retrace the journey of many generations who, within these walls, received not only academic instruction but also values and life guidance.

Educating with the Heart of the Gospel

In her address, the Provincial Superior Sister Antonia Piripitsi expressed profound gratitude on behalf of the Congregation, highlighting how, for one hundred years, the sisters have served God and humanity through education, with love, dedication, and missionary spirit. She emphasized their ongoing commitment to the ethical, cultural, and spiritual formation of students, regardless of ethnicity or religion, as a concrete response to the needs of a constantly changing society.





Special thanks were extended to parents, the first collaborators in the educational mission, the teaching staff, and all civil and ecclesial institutions that, over time, have supported and accompanied the school's mission. Today, Saint Mary's is recognized as a place of authentic ecumenical and intercultural encounter, valued for its educational approach and the human quality of its formation programs.



The Eucharistic Celebration: Heart of the Centenary

The highlight of the Jubilee was the solemn Eucharistic Celebration on November 25, 2023, presided over by His Excellency Mons. Giovanni Pietro Dal Toso, Apostolic Nuncio to Jordan and Cyprus, concelebrated by bishops and Latin and Maronite priests, in the presence of civil authorities, families, and the entire school community.

In his homily, the Nuncio thanked the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart for their long and faithful service to the Church and society, recalling that education means forming men and women capable of responsibility, service, and peace. He emphasized that education is a profoundly evangelical act: investing in young people is investing in the future of humanity.

The coincidence of the Centennial with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of



Cyprus and the Holy See further highlighted the ecclesial and social value of this educational work.

Testimonies that Speak to the Heart

Particularly moving were the testimonies of students and teachers, which gave voice to the profound impact of the school on their lives. Among these, the speech of Pascale Diamantis conveyed in simple yet powerful words the truest essence of Saint



Mary's: "Not just a building, but a place where dreams are born, where one learns to become a person."

Professor Roberto Pigro, a lecturer in Italian studies, also highlighted the cultural and human richness of the school, recalling the contribution of both sisters and lay teachers in transmitting language, Franciscan values, and mutual respect within a deeply multicultural context.

A Living Legacy for the Future

The Centenary celebration was not only a look to the past, but an act of trust in the future. As noted in the commemorative book, Saint Mary's School has weathered wars, political changes, and social transformations, remaining faithful to its identity while courageously embracing present challenges.

One hundred years of history demonstrate that when education is rooted in the Gospel and nourished by charity, it becomes a seed of hope for new generations. Today, as in the past, Saint Mary's School continues to be an educational beacon in the heart of Limassol, called to preserve and renew a human, spiritual, and cultural heritage that is a gift to society.

With gratitude to the Lord for the journey undertaken and eyes turned toward the future, the educational community entrusts the school's mission to Providence, renewing its commitment to educate in life, faith, and fraternity.

For many years, Saint Mary's School!"





100 Years of Faith, Fraternity, and Mission in France

September 28, 2024

A Century of Presence of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (1924 - 2024)

With hearts full of gratitude, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated, on Saturday, September 28, 2024, the Jubilee of 100 years of presence in France at the Provincial House of the “Saint Louis IX” Province. It was an event of great significance for the entire Congregation and the local Church, marking a century of devoted life, faithfulness to the Gospel, and humble service.

The memory goes back to October 24, 1924, when the first sisters arrived in France with boldness and

complete trust in Divine Providence. Celebrating this jubilee meant remembering a journey marked by lights and shadows, joys and struggles, yet always sustained by the faithful presence of the Lord. It was a time of thanksgiving, acknowledging that God, Master of time and history, guided every step.

This anniversary sought to honor the heroic dedication of the first sisters, their missionary courage, silent perseverance, and their ability to serve the Church and French society with a Franciscan heart. As our founder, Father Gregorio Fioravanti, used to say,





“Providence’s ways are wonderful”—words that continue to illuminate the Congregation’s path.

The jubilee year was marked by several significant moments, culminating in this festive day, experienced in the joy of meetings, fraternal sharing, and Franciscan simplicity. Numerous friends, priests, religious, and laity from the diocese and other ecclesial realities joined the celebration. Sisters from the entire Congregation felt spiritually and virtually present, in a single communion.

Particularly meaningful was the presence of Sr. Lilian Azieshi Fru, General Councilor and representative of the Superior General, Sr. Marta Camerotto; Sr. Antonia Piripitsi, Provincial Superior of the “Saint Elizabeth” Province; and Sr. Stefania Bandiera, Provincial Councilor and representative of the “Saint Mary of the Angels” Province. The Associated Laity, with their enthusiasm and active collaboration, gave the celebration an authentically Franciscan character.

In the afternoon, at the parish church of Saint Aldric, Sr. M. Armelle Kosta, Provincial Councilor and historian, recounted with deep emotion the journey of the past hundred years, highlighting the works born from the faith, sacrifice, and love of the first sisters. It was a true hymn of praise to God, who continues to perform wonders through human frailty. The book she wrote on this “sacred” history became an occasion to reread the signs of Providence and renew awe at God’s action.

The highlight of the day was the solemn Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Mons. Jean-Pierre Vuillemin, Bishop of Le Mans. In procession, to the singing of *Jubilate Deo*, the sisters carried the Cross

of San Damiano, the lit candle, and the blessing of Pope Francis—symbols of unity and ecclesial communion.

In his homily, the bishop invited everyone to give thanks for one hundred years of community life, lived as a theological place where the presence of the risen Christ is experienced. He emphasized that fraternity, lived in humility and simplicity, is already mission—an eloquent sign of communion in the Church and in the world. He thanked the sisters for their service to youth, the elderly, and the most vulnerable, reminding all that God reveals Himself to the small and humble, where the heart remains poor and open.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the reading of the Holy Father’s blessing and the singing of the *Madonna of the Angels* deeply united all the sisters of the Congregation, scattered around the world, in a single act of thanksgiving.

The celebration continued around the chalice of friendship, in a climate of simple and fraternal joy, a sign of a living and concrete communion. When silence returned, the sisters gathered together for an intense moment of fraternity and praise.

This centenary is not only a memory of the past but also a renewed call to the future: to guard the charism received, to renew one’s daily “yes,” and to continue serving with a Franciscan heart, trusting in Providence.

*Praise be to You, O Lord! Lord my God,
You are so great!*

Kretinga - Lithuania

30 Years of Presence

September 14, 2025



The Community Embraces Its Sisters!

On Sunday, September 14, 2025, in communion with the universal Church, which celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated the 30th anniversary of their presence in Kretinga. Numerous faithful from all over Lithuania joined them in this solemn act of thanksgiving.

Sr. Sherly Joseph, Provincial Superior, was accompanied by the first three sisters who founded this mission and whom the people of Kretinga have loved and appreciated since the very beginning. To praise the Lord together, in communion with all the sisters of the Congregation, former Provincial Superiors from France and Sr. Sicily Mundiyanal, who served in this mission, also joined the celebration.

The Mass of thanksgiving and praise was presided over by His Excellency Mons. Algirdas Jurevičius, Bishop of Telšiai, with Fr. Evaldas Darulis, OFM, Provincial Minister, together with the Franciscan friars of the parish and other concelebrating priests.

During the homily, Mons. Algirdas Jurevičius stated: “The sisters are ready to welcome with open arms anyone in need of spiritual, human, or social help. Their presence in Kretinga is an immense gift from God, for over three decades they have brought countless people closer to Christ. Their service has extended beyond the parish, enriching the entire Diocese of Telšiai and all of Lithuania.” Addressing all the faithful, Monsignor Algirdas expressed his hope that God continues to raise up new vocations for the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

At the offertory, the sisters brought to the altar the Constitutions, a testimony of our consecrated life; a lit lamp, symbolizing our life offered to Christ and His Gospel; and the bread and wine, while the children carried the flags of the 22 countries where the Congregation is currently present.

The entire community, gathered around the altar, participated with living faith and empathy in the Eucharistic celebration in an atmosphere of joy and gratitude. Among them were numerous families with their children, whose parents had grown up in the parish or in the MEJ group founded by the sisters. The joyful, clear voices



of the children's choir reminded and comforted us: "God is Love... He loves us..."

The parish church, decorated for the occasion, resembled a cathedral.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Evaldas, Provincial Minister, emphasized the importance of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters not only for Kretinga and the Diocese of Telšiai but also for Lithuanian Catholics, noting that their 30 years of service in Kretinga are now part of the history of the Lithuanian Church. Mr. Antanas Kalnius, Mayor of Kretinga, warmly congratulated the sisters and thanked them for winning the hearts of the local people with their smiles, offered to everyone they meet.

Fr. Paulius-Saulius Bytautas, OFM, parish priest, before presenting the sisters with an award for their dedication, jokingly remarked that "these medals might help you pass more easily through the gates of Heaven."

The celebration continued in the church courtyard, where a toast of friendship provided an opportunity for exchange, sharing, and thanksgiving.

In union with Father Grégoire, our founder, we can affirm:

"WONDERFUL ARE THE WAYS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE!!!"



25 Years of Mission and Providence Boarding School “Casa Nazaret”

September 27, 2025 – Tambobamba, Peru



Brief Historical Overview

In 1988, His Excellency Mons. Domingo Berni, Bishop of the Prelature of Chuquibambilla (now Bishop Emeritus), requested the presence of some sisters from the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to collaborate in evangelization, sacramental pastoral work, healthcare, and education in the town of Tambobamba and surrounding communities. At that time, the Superior General was Sr. Inés Pavan, and the Provincial Superior was Sr. María Fides Lorenzon.

Over the years, the sisters, recognizing the needs of the region, informed the Provincial Superior of the urgent need to build a boarding school in Tambobamba to welcome children from communities where no schools existed or that were very far from their homes.

Thus, in 1998, construction of the boarding school “Casa Nazareth” began, with a capacity for forty girls and forty boys. It was inaugurated on September 28, 2000.

The first directors of the boarding school, from 2000 to 2012, were Sr. Nancy Valentí Araya, Sr. María Fermina Ramos, and Sr. Elizabeth Verástegui. From 2013 to 2025, the school has been directed by Sr. Mirta Duarte. Today, the boarding school continues to welcome children from communities near Tambobamba, aged between 5 and 17 years. Its main mission is providing care and comprehensive educational work, carried out in close collaboration with families, with particular attention to strengthening family bonds. Currently, the boarding school hosts 64 children and adolescents facing complex and diverse psychosocial situations, including physical and psychological violence, anxiety, and depression. Added to these are lack of opportunities, poverty, exposure to misinformation through the internet, and family conflicts—all factors that deeply affect their development.

We cannot fail to recognize the presence of Divine Providence in the work of Casa Nazareth, for without its support, it would be impossible to carry forward this mission.

Mission

To support families in the comprehensive formation of their children. To welcome children and adolescents from communities near Tambobamba, offering them the fundamental conditions to build a life project.

Our values

Faith: Because those who believe transmit hope and dare to dream beyond what seems possible.

Responsibility: Because a responsible person does not look for excuses to avoid action but seeks strategies to build and achieve.

Service: Because life finds meaning when we feel useful, and its highest expression is service to the most needy.

Vision

Through the Casa Nazareth Boarding School, to make comprehensive formation possible for children and adolescents, so that they can integrate into society as individuals capable of facing the ethical and professional challenges of today's world.

September 27 was a day of great joy for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Casa Nazareth, a work that welcomes children and adolescents from the communities of Tambobamba. The day began at 10:00 a.m. with the Holy Eucharist of thanksgiving, celebrated in the Pallcaro temple and presided over by Mons. Wilder Vásquez Saldaña, OSA, Bishop of the prelate, together with the parish priest, Fr. Flavio Ferro Saya, OSA.

Participating in the celebration were Sr. Ana Ruth Ayma, Provincial Vicar; Sr. Marilú Tecsi, local Superior and Provincial Councilor; Sr. Blanca Herrera, Superior of the Cusco community; Sr. Lucero Olmedo, Superior of Lima; Sr. Enrika Bordignon; Sr. Nancy Valentí; and Sr. Mirta Duarte. Alongside the parents of the children and youth of the boarding school, former students—now professionals with their families—also attended, joyfully and gratefully sharing in a deeply fervent Eucharistic celebration. Casa Nazareth thus

confirms itself as a place of welcome and holistic growth.

After Mass, the celebration continued in the courtyard of the boarding school, where children, youth, and parents presented traditional dances of the region, enriching the celebration, which concluded with a fraternal meal.

It was a day full of joy and hope, a sign that this work truly belongs to God, as evidenced by its visible fruits: young people who, thanks to education and faith, have transformed their lives and surroundings, building a clear and responsible life project.

We give thanks to God for these 25 years of presence in the service of children, youth, and families. We also thank the Superior General Sr. Marta Camerotto, Provincial Superior Sr. Alejandra Vallejos, and all the sisters for their closeness, affection, and dedication.



Puerto Montt Celebrates: 75 Years of Presence in Chile

October 4, 2025



On Saturday, October 4, in the city of Puerto Montt, regional capital of the Los Lagos Region in Chile, the 75th anniversary of the presence of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in our country was commemorated. This tribute recalls the beginning of the missionary work of the first five sisters who arrived in Chile in an unfamiliar city at the southern tip of the world. With unwavering faith, dedication, and love, they laid the foundations of an educational mission inspired by Franciscan spirituality that continues today in six schools across our country.

The commemorative parade began with a prayer of thanks to God for this significant moment in the history of our educational communities—a seal of faith and recognition for each of the works of the F.M.S.C. sisters, who continue the evangelizing mission that began in Chile in 1951 for Latin America.

Following this, with pride, the National Anthem of Chile was sung, performed by the Instrumental Band of the Fifth Naval Zone. Representing the congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Provincial Superior Sister Alejandra Vallejos spoke, welcoming the civil, military, and educational authorities present. In her speech, she recounted the history, effort, sacrifice, and dedication of the first sisters, whose legacy continues to shape the lives

of Franciscan educational communities in Chile. At the start of the parade, representative and meaningful symbols were presented, including the flags of the Vatican and Italy, students of early education dressed according to the customs of the congregation's founders, Laura Leroux and Father Gregorio, in 1861, the congregation's emblem, and students introducing Saint Francis of Assisi, accompanied by the provincial director. They paraded alongside students carrying photographs of the first five sisters who arrived in Puerto Montt on March 15, 1951, after a long journey by sea across two oceans and by land by train, not knowing exactly where they were going or what support they would receive—they were guided solely by their faith and desire to serve.

Sisters Fabiola Marcuzzi, Anna Brustolini, Loreto Favero, Emiliana Zillo, and Ernestina Magoga were the first sisters to settle in our country, sowing with hope the seed of faith, knowledge, and love of God in the hearts and minds of the people through Saint Francis of Assisi.

This parade also introduced the community of Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas to the current location of the congregation's provincial headquarters in Santiago, Chile, and its presence in five Latin American countries: Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Mexico, organized into 14 fraternities. This information was



highlighted by students dressed in traditional costumes representing each country where the congregation is present in South America, symbolizing the expansion and commitment of the Franciscan mission in the region.

The celebration included participation from the schools present in Chile, which involved students and directors traveling from Santiago to represent their schools, including flag bearers and student delegations from the following institutions:

- “Santa Maria degli Angeli” School, founded March 1, 1960
- “Madre Cecilia Lazzeri” School, Santiago, founded March 7, 1960
- “Santa Rosa” Technical-Professional High School, Rancagua, founded March 1, 2006
- “Purísima Concepción” School, Chillán

Each educational institution was accompanied by its respective directors.

During the celebration, performances included the instrumental band of Bicentennial School “Felmer Niklitscheck” and the school band of “Arriarán Barros,” the host institution at Campo de Marte. Students of all levels expressed their respect, recognition, and appreciation for the spiritual, educational, and missionary work

as a testimony of gratitude. Both educational communities show cased their identity, belonging, and enthusiasm alongside directors, leadership teams, and staff from each school.

The ceremony also honored each sister who has served as directress of the first two schools in Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas over these 75 years, as well as those currently leading these educational communities, which each have more than 1,200 students enrolled in early childhood, elementary, scientific-humanistic secondary, and technical-professional programs. This recognition was also expressed by parents and guardians of students from Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas who participated in the parade, whose children are supported by the congregation through Franciscan spiritual and academic education.

The final message highlighted the ongoing story of the F.M.S.C in Chile for Latin America, inviting religious, civil, military authorities, and students to renew their commitment to fraternity, education, and love of God through the evangelizing mission motto promoted by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart: to be Builders of Peace by doing Good in the world.

A Different Nursing Home

**Maison Bernard – Tracy-le-Mont
(France)**

“I start to think to myself that in France faith in Christ must only concern people over eighty,” I muse as the door of Maison Bernard in Tracy-le-Mont (France) opens. A bright, welcoming, and clean environment, it truly reminds you of your own home. The attendant, using a secret code, opens a second door, then a third, and finally the nuns of the Carlepont community arrive in the dining room, which they transform into a chapel in just a few minutes. The parish priest, Père Guy-Marie Tavignon, celebrates Mass here once a month.

It is my first time in this environment. Attentive and curious, I observe what happens around me. The gentleman next to me, seated in a comfortable chair, sleeps so deeply that he does not even notice when a nun moves him to make room for relatives who have come to participate in the Eucharistic sacrifice. A distinguished lady sitting next to him gently caresses his hand and, as if to apologize, says to me, since I am new: “This is my husband; he has been like this for eight years. I had to bring him here because I could no longer care for him at our home by myself.” I am deeply moved. At the end of Mass, the man awoke, and seeing his wife beside him, gave her a big, beautiful smile.

The circle of people, all suffering from Alzheimer’s, is composed of men and women who were once businessmen, secretaries in important companies, mothers, grandparents who, after the war, emigrated from their countries to build a better life in France. All are now imprisoned in the memories of their past, all in need of a caress, a word, a smile. I was deeply struck at the moment of Communion when the priest gently touched the cheek of a lady to help her swallow the Host, and she, with a radiant smile and now toothless, held the priest’s face between her hands: “It is the embrace of the leper in the 21st century,” I thought to myself.

A nurse gently speaks to me and says: “Sometimes we wonder whether it is worthwhile to celebrate Mass among these Alzheimer’s patients.” And as she speaks, it seems as though an invisible hand is playing chess, and the people, like pawns, move constantly, changing the structure before our eyes. In reality, the answer had already been found in the gestures that came before.

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

Sister Julija Lukauskaitė

Crossing the Threshold of Hope

Pilgrims to the Holy Door in the Jubilee of Hope

Church of Assisi–Nocera Umbra–Gualdo Tadino – March 15, 2025

In the heart of the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Church of Assisi–Nocera Umbra–Gualdo Tadino guided the parish communities in a powerful spiritual sign: crossing the threshold, recognizing themselves as pilgrims journeying toward the house of the Father. From the beginning of Advent, each parish welcomed the symbol of the open Door with the inscription “Pilgrims of Hope”, a clear invitation to enter into a renewed life.

In this spirit, after Christmas, the Pastoral Unit of San Rufino – Cathedral and the parishes of S. Vitale, Costa di Tress, S. Maria di Lignano, Ponziano, and S. Anna – accepted the invitation of the new parish priest, Don Alessandro Picchiarelli, to undertake a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, visiting the Holy Doors of Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Peter’s Basilica. The response was so enthusiastic that it exceeded all expectations.

On March 15, four buses departed from Assisi with around 170 pilgrims, inspired by the desire to receive the gift of grace and to embark, after passing through the Holy Door, on a more conscious and committed journey of faith. The religious community “SS. Regina delle Rose” of Viole also participated fully, sharing in the value of walking together, supported by fraternity and hope.

Despite the fatigue of travel and heavy traffic, the pilgrimage was experienced as an authentic journey, both in spirit and in heart. The first stop, Santa Maria Maggiore, brought the pilgrims to the chapel of Salus Populi Romani, where the Eucharist was celebrated. Around Mary’s altar, prayer became particularly intense in memory of Don Cesare, a beloved priest who passed away a few months ago—a remembrance filled with affection, gratitude, and deep communion.

In the afternoon, the pilgrimage continued to St. Peter’s. Guided by volunteers and preceded by the Cross, the pilgrims walked along Via della Conciliazione, praying until they crossed the Holy Door of the Vatican Basilica. It was a powerful and moving moment, lived in silence and trust, a tangible sign of an inner passage. Returning home, the pilgrims were tired but their hearts were full of gratitude, hope, and new intentions. The pilgrimage did not end in Rome; it now continues in daily life, where each person is called to make the grace received tangible. As the motto *Spes non confundit* reminds us, the Christian life is a journey that needs strong moments to nurture hope—a faithful companion guiding toward the ultimate goal, the encounter with the Lord Jesus.



Walking Together in the Mediterranean: The Franciscan Network Meets in Rhodes

March 31 – April 4, 2025

From March 31 to April 4, 2025, we, the members of the Coordinating Commission of the Franciscan Network of the Mediterranean (RFMed), met in Rhodes, Greece, for our annual meeting.

Coming from Istanbul (Büyükdada) and as a member of this commission, I participated in this important gathering on this Greek island in the Mediterranean—an important place not only for its beauty, but also because it is a passage point for many migrants from Asia Minor and Africa.

The Franciscan presence in Rhodes today—represented by a fraternity of the Custody of the Holy Land—is highly significant, being the only Catholic parish on the island and carrying out precious work: supporting migrants, the poor, and refugees. We were welcomed and hosted by the friars, and especially by Fr. John Luke Gregory, OFM, parish priest and guardian of the convent, who expressed his great joy in welcoming a Franciscan Missionary sister of the Sacred Heart, in memory of our historical presence on the island from 1875 to 1970.

As RFMed, we are attentive to this and many other realities across European countries, and during this meeting we shared our concern about the winds of war and conflict that continue to affect the Mare Nostrum. The days of the meeting focused on evaluating the previous year's work of RFMed and planning for 2025–2026. We shared updates on our three areas of action—Migrants and Refugees, Dialogue and Peace, and Youth—reflected on our experiences of life and service within RFMed, presented the 2024 Annual Report, and assessed communication strategies for our network.

For our ongoing formation, Fr. Francesco Zecca, OFM, offered us a reflection on *Laudate Deum*.

At the end of our meeting, we had the opportunity to visit and learn about the island's history, appreciating the historical and political signs left throughout time. We visited the town of Lindos with its beautiful acropolis, the Temple of Athena, and the place where St. Paul arrived, beginning the evangelization of the Mediterranean. As a Franciscan Missionary sister of the Sacred Heart, this trip was a gift and a beautiful opportunity to breathe in our congregational history. I was able to give Fr. John Luke the book “The Province of St. Elizabeth of the FMSC – Historical Profile and Anthology of Sources (1872–2022)”, access the historical archive of the Friars Minor, and contemplate many photographs and documents of the wonderful work carried out by

our sisters in this land. I felt full of pride and gratitude for those women—our sisters—who knew how to keep pace with the times, always pioneering. I was also able to visit the school where our sisters once served, now a public school, and the Ducci hospice, now abandoned and unusable... walls that still safeguard our history.

Sr. Miriam Oyarzo



Pilgrimage to the “Villa Serena” Home

Rome International Juniorate

Lent – Duronio 2025

The community of the International Juniorate—Sister Lilibeth, Sister Berinice, Sister Odianne, Sister Rina, Sister Roxana, and Sister Sunitha—accompanied by Sister Cristina, experienced a day of Lenten pilgrimage to a very special destination. It is not a church nor a sanctuary, but a place where hope, faith, and charity are lived and felt every day: the retirement home “Villa Serena” in Duronio, where our sisters care for, accompany, and support the 20 elderly residents entrusted to their care.

Before going to Duronio, we in the International Juniorate community decided to visit the elderly as an integral part of our Lenten journey—a day in which we could carry out an act of charity while sharing moments of joy with the residents through dances and songs, giving them a day different from the usual routine.

We were eager and happy to meet not only the sisters of Duronio community but also the grandmothers whom our sisters welcome. Upon our arrival, we felt a warm welcome and the joy of being “hosted” through the smiles and greetings they offered us. Spending time with them, we heard many life stories and adventures they experienced in their youth, leading up to their arrival at the retirement home, where illness and loneliness had brought them. The stage of life they are living now has not prevented them from hoping and still believing in the beauty of life, and from loving—even though they are far from their families. As some shared with us, they have found a new family where they feel welcomed, cared for, supported, and nurtured—they truly feel at home.

It was beautiful to hear them sing and to see them dance to the music, feeling that “nostalgia” for their youth, as some expressed. The joy on their faces, their smiles, and their spontaneity made us, the young members in formation, reflect on how beautiful life is when lived with inner serenity and acceptance, and how old age is not an obstacle to joy, spontaneity, and companionship on the journey toward a goal: Jesus Christ. This example is powerful because it teaches us to love life even when it is sometimes difficult; it also reminded us of the importance of walking together with those who are beside us, and that in life we are never truly alone, because the Lord is always present through the people He places in our lives.

To the sisters of the Duronio community who welcomed us and gave us the opportunity to live this day, we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the love, dedication, time, and life they give every day without reservation to these grandmothers.

To the glory of God!

International Juniorate Community of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



“A World of Peace”: When School Becomes a Bridge of Fraternity Among Peoples

Gemona del Friuli, May 23, 2025

On May 23, 2025, the Teatro Glemonensis hosted the end-of-year performance of the Santa Maria degli Angeli School, titled “A World of Peace”, featuring all the students from the primary school and the children from the secondary school. The performance, both moving and engaging, was inspired by the work of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who are present in many parts of the world alongside children, bringing hope, care, and dignity.

A large world map on the backdrop served as the guiding thread throughout the performance, gradually coming to life with colored points representing the different continents. The eighth-grade students led this symbolic journey, culminating in a striking finale where all the continents were connected by a colorful string, symbolizing universal fraternity.

The journey began with Asia, presented by the first-grade primary class through traditional songs and dances, including Jai Ho, the Japanese song Mugi Kari, and the Chinese dance The Feng-Yang Drum.

The fifth-grade primary class then guided the audience to Oceania, with Aboriginal dances and the Maori Haka, expressions of strength, spirituality, and unity.

A particularly intense moment was dedicated to Africa, presented by first- and second-grade lower secondary classes. Through texts, African masks, and choreographies, the students addressed deep themes such as poverty, wars, racism, and women’s rights, culminating with The Prayer by Bocelli and Céline

Dion, leaving the theater in a profound silence full of emotion.

Latin America was brought to life by the second- and third-grade primary classes with the Andean myth Why Birds’ Feathers Are Colorful and a final dance to El Cóndor Pasa, symbolizing harmony and beauty born from unity.

The fourth-grade primary class presented North America through the spiritual song Lyu-Lay and the country dance Cotton Eye Joe, combining sacredness with joy of life.

The journey concluded in Europe, with a historical reflection led by first- and second-grade lower secondary classes. Following a dialogue inspired by the film Life is Beautiful, the students recalled the birth of the European Union as a response to the horrors of war, set to the Ode to Joy.

The final moment brought all the students on stage, accompanied by images of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart’s missions around the world. Among flags, symbols of peace, and the faces of children from every continent, two messages sealed the performance:

“Peace begins with a smile” – Mother Teresa of Calcutta - “We are all brothers under the same sky” – Pope Francis.

“A World of Peace” was more than a performance: it was a message of hope, an invitation to build bridges and recognize each other as brothers and sisters, starting with the youngest among us.



In the Footsteps of Hope: The Youth of Asisium on Pilgrimage

ROME – Asisium Institute, June 2025

In January, a group of young people from our Asisium Institute experienced a deeply meaningful and intense journey of faith by participating in the first pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. This journey fully embraced the season of grace of the Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope", offering the students the opportunity to embark not only on a physical journey but also an inner one.

Representing the entire school community were the youth delegates for prayer from of the lower secondary school and the upper secondary school accompanied and coordinated by Sister Gabriela Mamani. With open hearts and a spirit of communion, the students embraced this invitation as a true mission: to bring before the Lord the intentions, struggles, desires, and hopes of their classmates, teachers, and families. Not even the day's bad weather could dampen the enthusiasm, joy, and vitality that characterize these young people. During the pilgrimage to the Holy Door, their prayers spoken aloud as they walked caught the attention of many visitors and fellow pilgrims, becoming a simple yet authentic witness of lived faith, capable of speaking without elaborate words.

Passing through the Holy Door was a gesture full of significance for everyone: a sign of trust, inner renewal, and a desire for reconciliation. Inside St. Peter's Basilica, the students, divided into small groups, had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, spend time in adoration before Jesus in the dedicated chapel, and deepen their understanding of the spiritual, artistic, and symbolic value of the world's largest Basilica, the heart of Christendom.

This pilgrimage represented a precious time of silence, reflection, and sharing, fostering in the youth a greater awareness of their personal faith journey and a sense of belonging to the Church. It was an experience that left a profound mark on their hearts and continues to speak to the educational community, reminding everyone that hope is born from encountering God and is nurtured by walking together, step by step, as true pilgrims.



“VOCATION”: ONLY THOSE WHO DARE CAN FLY!

**Field School Experience in Selva di Cadore
with the Young Members of Catholic Action of Senigallia**

June 21-28, 2025 - Prov. Maria Immacolata



In the spirit of a collaboration that continues to grow, the Diocese of Senigallia renewed this summer its desire to journey together with our Congregation, particularly in the service and guidance of young people. At the request of Don Mirco Micci and Don Emanuele Piazzai, our Provincial Superior, Sister Tiziana Tonini, gladly accepted the invitation, sending Sister Marta Lucatelli (from the “Maria Immacolata” community in Centocelle) and Sister Aileen (from the “Santa

Chiara” community in Montale) to participate in the Field School held from June 21 to 28 in Selva di Cadore (Belluno).

The camp, which involved around 70 young people from the 2nd to 4th year of high school, centered on the theme of Vocation, understood as a call to life, joy, and love. The challenge presented to the students, “Only those who dare can fly”, guided them to discover that every vocation is unique, personal, and thoughtfully designed by God for each individual, and is built day by day through free and courageous choices.

Our sisters were integrated into the educational team, particularly in the service of liturgy, which was experienced with great care, participation, and creativity by the young people. Celebrations, moments of prayer, and vigils were lived as true festive encounters with the Lord. A particularly meaningful moment was the vocational testimony shared together with priests, families, a seminarian, and an engaged couple, which sparked deep and authentic questions among the students—a sign of already lively faith and a sincere desire for discovery.

Great importance was also given to the experience of silence and solitude, helping the young people discover God’s Word as a sure guide to listen to the voice of the heart and recognize the action of the Spirit. During this precious time, many requested personal conversations, confessions, and moments of adoration, sharing joys, doubts, and hopes.

The camp concluded with the presentation of the Rule of Life to the 4th-year students and an intense final vigil, symbolizing a journey lived in depth. We thank our Provincial Superior, the Council, and the communities for their trust and prayers, the Catholic Action team, and all the young animators. We continue to accompany these young people in prayer, so that they may have the courage to say Yes to Christ and dare to embrace the beauty of their vocation. To the glory of God.



Sister Marta Lucatelli and Sister Aileen Flores

Revealed to the Little Ones: The Heart That Unites a Community

Feast of the Sacred Heart

Assisi – June 27, 2025



With these words from the Gospel, the Holy Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus began, celebrated in our community—or rather, in our neighborhood of Santa Maria degli Angeli—as a living expression of simple, shared faith.

This is a tradition rooted in many years of history, briefly interrupted only during the pandemic, but which has blossomed again over the past two years with renewed enthusiasm. At the end of May, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the people of our neighborhood come together to express gratitude to the sisters, with whom they share daily life, particularly through the recitation of the Holy Rosary throughout the Marian month.

The celebration took place outdoors, under the canopy overlooking the well-kept and welcoming lawn, transformed for the occasion into a place of gathering and festivity. The Holy Mass was presided over by Friar Emmanuele Germi, with the collaboration of Friar Daniele Rossi, two friends and brothers particularly dear to us. Around the altar gathered the entire neighborhood: families who have long shared this journey with us, and new families who have recently settled in the area, welcomed with joy and simplicity.

A small lay community handled the liturgical animation, making the celebration participatory and heartfelt. At the end, as a tangible sign of fraternity, everyone contributed to the shared meal, bringing carefully prepared dishes and a rich variety of desserts, expressing creativity and generosity.

Also present were the sisters from the communities of Viole and Grotte di Castro, along with a community recently established in our area, the Franciscan Sisters of Christ. Their presence further enriched this moment of communion, making visible the beauty of a fraternity that grows and renews itself.

There was an authentic festive atmosphere, filled with smiles, encounters, new friendships, and words of mutual respect that left everyone serene and grateful. Even the weather was favorable: the evening, made milder by a pleasant breeze, encouraged everyone to linger together, joyfully extending the shared time.

In the simplicity of this common prayer and fraternal conviviality, we were able to experience—and offer to our neighbors—how beautiful it is to feel united, joyful in small things, and deeply connected by genuine feelings of fraternity. We are certain that all of this is a gift from that Heart that loved so much and continues to love each one of us, generously pouring out grace, unity, and peace.

*Sister Mini Joseph, Sister Maddalena, and Sister Eliadora
“Porziuncola” Community – Santa Maria degli Angeli, Assisi*

“Faith and Light”: The Ride of Tolerance in Plovdiv

27 September 2025 – Bulgaria

The “Faith and Light” groups of Rakovski, Zitnitza, and Hisarya enthusiastically took part in the initiative “Le tour du canal – The Ride of Tolerance”, held on 27 September at the evocative Rowing Canal of Plovdiv. The event—created to promote inclusion, respect, and solidarity—proved to be a profound experience of encounter, fraternity, and lived Gospel witness.



The day brought together people with disabilities, along with their friends and companions, in an atmosphere of genuine joy and simplicity. Supporting and accompanying the group were the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who joined the initiative as a concrete sign of closeness, service, and ecclesial communion. Their discreet and fraternal presence made visible a Gospel style marked by welcome, attentive listening, and mutual care.

The simple act of cycling together became a powerful symbol of a shared journey, where no one is left behind and each person finds their rightful place. Along the route—through smiles, words of encouragement, and gestures of mutual support—the awareness emerged strongly that differences are not a limit but a richness that opens the door to encounter and builds community. In this experience, fragility became a place of relationship and revelation, reminding everyone that a person’s value does not depend on abilities but on being loved.

For the “Faith and Light” group, the initiative was not merely a sports or recreational event, but a true experience of a Church that goes forth, able to witness the Gospel through simple and concrete gestures. It was a moment of grace, in which fraternity took shape in daily life, making visible the Kingdom of God that grows through small steps and open hearts.

With deep gratitude to the Lord—source of all communion and strength along the journey—we raise our praise for the sign of hope that this day has planted in the hearts of all participants. Events like this remind us that mission is also carried out through presence, sharing, and the ability to walk together, following the example of St. Francis, who invites us to live fraternity as both gift and responsibility.

As the Saint of Assisi reminds us: “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible. Suddenly you will find yourself doing the impossible.”



In the Footsteps of Saint Francis: Joy, Fraternity, and Care for Creation in Nkoabang

Nkoabang (Cameroon), October 4, 2025



Every year on October 4, the universal Church celebrates with gratitude the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, a shining witness of evangelical simplicity, universal fraternity, and love for creation. This year, the Sainte Marie des Anges Community in Nkoabang marked the occasion with particular intensity, in an atmosphere of openness, communion, and shared participation. At the invitation of Reverend Sister Beltha Mange, Vice-Provincial Superior, all the communities were encouraged to include those who daily share life and mission with the sisters. In this spirit, the celebration of Saint Francis in Nkoabang brought together hospital and school staff from Sainte Marie des Anges, the personnel of the house, local farmers, lay associates, and numerous collaborators. The event was further enriched by the presence of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers, a tangible sign of ecclesial communion. The central moment of the day was the Eucharistic celebration, presided over at 11:00 a.m. by Reverend Father John Maindze Koushavla, OFM Capuchin. In his homily, he invited the assembly to contemplate three fundamental aspects of Saint Francis' life and spirituality: detachment, universal fraternity, and integral ecology.

Reflecting on the theme of detachment, he encouraged everyone to free themselves from anything that hinders an authentic journey of following Christ, reminding the faithful that only a poor and open heart can fully embrace the Gospel. He then emphasized the importance of cultivating gratuitous and selfless love, capable of overcoming jealousies, divisions, and rivalries that often wound human relationships. Finally, he strongly

emphasized the commitment to caring for creation, stating that the true Franciscan spirit is also expressed in respect, attentiveness, and responsibility toward nature, a precious gift entrusted by God to humanity.

At the conclusion of the Mass, the community gathered on the esplanade for a festive and cultural moment, lived with enthusiasm, creativity, and joy. The opening was led by the sisters, who performed the Cantic of the Creatures in Italian, offering a moment of deep spiritual inspiration. Following this, various groups presented songs, poems, and short skits inspired by the life of the Little Poor Man of Assisi, highlighting hidden talents and showing lively and heartfelt participation from all.

The day concluded with remarks by Reverend Sister Renée Essama Mbida, Vice-Provincial Vicar, who expressed heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, for their dedication, collaboration, and family spirit that made this beautiful celebration possible. A moment of fraternal sharing sealed the gathering, leaving in everyone's hearts a deep sense of gratitude, communion, and joy.

The celebration in Nkoabang was undoubtedly a true experience of grace, an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of Saint Francis of Assisi to the Church and to our religious family. Entrusting ourselves to his intercession, we renew our desire to walk in his footsteps, serving the Lord with humility, love for the poor, and care for creation, to be credible signs of the Gospel in today's world. To the glory of God.

“Saint Francis told by the older ones to the little ones!”

Asisium Institute – Nursery School”

ROME – October 2025



At our school, we experienced days full of meaning and joy, dedicated to celebrating Franciscan spirituality, shared with simplicity and wholehearted participation by the entire educational community. The journey began with Eucharistic Celebrations designed for both the younger children and the older students, accompanied by moments of prayer and reflection in preparation for the feast.

Among the proposed activities, one of the most tender and engaging moments was undoubtedly the first encounter of Saint Francis with the Nursery School children. Through simple stories and images, the little ones were able to learn about significant episodes from the life of the Saint of Assisi: his choice of poverty, his love for creation, and his friendship with all, especially the most vulnerable.

The greatest surprise came when the fourth-year high school students, guided by Sister Gabriela, the religion teacher, staged a performance about the life of Saint Francis. With enthusiasm, creativity, and great sensitivity, the older students became storytellers of a story that continues to speak even to the hearts of the youngest. At the end of the performance, each child received a small gift, a tangible sign of care, affection, and sharing.

This “special lesson,” offered by the older students to the Nursery School children, allowed everyone to understand how Saint Francis remains a shining example of courage, authentic choices, and true joy—the joy that comes from giving oneself to others, caring for one’s neighbor, and feeling like brothers and sisters to every creature.

The children followed the story with great interest, attention, and wonder, participating with smiles, wide-open eyes, and spontaneous applause. With a long and warm round of applause, they expressed their gratitude to the older students, bidding them farewell with enthusiasm and a promise that was also an invitation:

“Friends, we look forward to seeing you again!”

A simple yet deeply meaningful moment that made it clear how Franciscan spirituality, when lived and shared, becomes an experience of joy, fraternity, and growth for both young and old.

In the Footsteps of St. Francis: Joy, Creativity and Values at “St. Francis School” in Madhira – India

October 2025



St. Francis School in Madhira, India, celebrated a special day filled with joy and deep community participation as it marked the Emerald House Day together with the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, patron and inspiration of the school's educational mission.

The entire school community—students, teachers, and staff—enthusiastically took part in a variety of activities, transforming the school into a space of celebration, sharing, and human and spiritual growth. The celebration offered everyone a renewed opportunity to reflect on the Franciscan values that guide the school's educational journey: simplicity, fraternity, respect for creation, and trusting love in God.

The most meaningful moment of the day was a beautifully prepared sketch performed by the students, dedicated to the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Through expressive and evocative scenes, the students creatively portrayed the Saint's life, highlighting his radical choice of poverty, his love for all creatures, and his total trust in divine Providence. The performance deeply moved the audience, becoming a true moment of reflection and testimony.

The active collaboration between students and teachers made the event even more significant. It was not merely a theatrical presentation, but a living educational experience capable of transmitting values that go beyond words and continue forming the hearts and minds of young people.

The celebration of Emerald House Day, one of the school's House events that promote team spirit, leadership, responsibility, and healthy competition, gained an even deeper meaning on this occasion. The emerald color—symbolizing life, hope, and growth—echoes the personal and community growth of the students, encouraging them to develop their talents in harmony with others and with creation.

Framed within the festive Franciscan atmosphere, this day further strengthened the sense of belonging, collaboration, and shared commitment, helping the students to embrace their school journey with enthusiasm. This celebration will remain in everyone's hearts as a moment of genuine joy, in which the figure

of St. Francis continued to speak to the new generations, inviting them to live with simplicity, love, and respect for creation, becoming builders of peace in today's world.



Franciscan Mission to the People: Come and See!

October 8–19, 2025 – Padua/Italy

The Franciscan Mission to the People took place in Legnaro, Polverara, and Isola dell'Abbà, in the province of Padua, from October 8 to 19, 2025, with the participation of thirty friars, sisters, and lay women from the beautiful Franciscan family. Carefully prepared by the coordinators, Fr. Matteo and Fr. Lorenzo, with the collaboration of the parish priest, Fr. Daniele, the assistant priest, Fr. Francesco, and the various pastoral committees, the mission was conceived to bring the joyful and hopeful message of the Gospel, to encourage pastoral collaboration and strengthen the unity of the three parishes, and to form Christians—missionaries in their own territory—who are in love with God and the Church.

“Come and see” was the motto of the Mission, and throughout these 12 days we sought to make Jesus known, through our presence, to all the residents of these communities: children and young people, adolescents and youth, couples, single individuals, the elderly, the sick, every group active in the area, the world of work and sports. Of particular importance was the encounter during the Festival of Peoples, which highlighted the spirit of welcome, respect, and appreciation toward people of different nationalities, cultures, and religions.

We went out two by two along the streets of these towns, bringing to every home and every person the Lord's Blessing and the maternal love of Mary.

We were generously hosted in local families, and we thank the good Lord for their warm availability and great hospitality toward us missionaries! Also meaningful and enriching was the concert “You Are Beauty”, held on Saturday the 18th—a burst of freshness and color that seemed to capture the beautiful and life giving breath of this mission.

The Mission began on Wednesday, October 8, with the Eucharistic Celebration, and in the concluding liturgy on Sunday, the 19th, the missionaries entrusted the missionary mandate to the parishioners of these communities. The mission therefore does not end—it continues in everyday life, in small gestures, in concrete actions, perhaps invisible, yet seen by God; in acts of faith and love that make no noise but move the heart toward eternity and holiness.

Equally wonderful was the friendship and mutual understanding that blossomed naturally among us missionaries.

Thank you, Jesus, because you always work wonders and you desire that we, despite our fragility, choose to live with you and for you. *Sr. Mara Lorenzet*



Hospital in Niem

Where Faith and Care Meet

Central African Republic / Niem



The village of Niem, located about 70 km from Bouar in the Central African Republic, is a place where the presence of the Church continues to be a concrete sign of hope and human development. The area is enriched by important educational structures: A private Catholic nursery and primary school, and a public secondary school belonging to the Central African state. Alongside these institutions stands a precious point of reference for the entire population: the Catholic hospital run by the Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart of Bétharram.

Within this health care facility, our sister Sr. Elisabeth Valookaran, originally from India, carries out her mission as a professional nurse. With competence, dedication, and profound humanity, Sr. Elisabeth accompanies the sick each day along their path of treatment and healing, becoming for many a friendly and reassuring presence in moments of suffering and fragility.

Her presence is a shining sign of devotion and compassion, harmoniously uniting professional medical care with the depth of faith. Sr. Elisabeth does not limit herself to providing medical treatment; she also offers attentive listening, comfort, and spiritual support, embodying a style of service that places the whole person—body, mind, and spirit—at the center.

In the hospital context of Niem, her role often takes on multiple dimensions: attentive nurse, spiritual companion, and point of reference for patients' families. Through a kind word, a shared prayer, or a simple gesture of closeness, she helps the sick to keep hope alive, reminding them that they are not alone in their time of trial.

The witness of Sr. Elisabeth is a strong reminder of the importance of the human dimension in healthcare, especially in contexts marked by poverty and instability. Her quiet yet fruitful presence reveals how the care of the body and that of the soul can walk together, making the hospital not only a place of physical healing but also a space of welcome, dignity, and Gospel love.

FAIRVIEW: A Franciscan Story of Compassion and Community

United States – Franciscan Community Development Center of Fairview

In the heart of Fairview, where families' needs are great and resources often limited, the Franciscan Community Development Center of Fairview (FCDC) has become a place of hope, healing, and dignity. This mission is lovingly led by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who, inspired by the humble compassion of Saint Francis of Assisi, open their doors every day to serve their neighbors with love, without judgment.

Each month, the Center's Choice Food Pantry reaches nearly 6,000 people and over 800 families. Parents worried about how to feed their children, seniors living alone on fixed incomes, and workers struggling to make ends meet find not only groceries, but also the dignity of choice, kindness, and a welcoming smile. The pantry is not just food on shelves: it is a true lifeline made of

nourishment, warmth, meals, and compassion.

But the Center's mission goes far beyond food. The Counseling Program offers emotional and psychological support to those carrying burdens too heavy to face alone. In moments of grief, anxiety, or uncertainty, people find

attentive listening, compassionate guidance, and the strength to start again.

The IRS VITA Program promotes financial literacy and independence by offering free tax preparation assistance. This service allows many families to receive tax refunds that bring relief, stability, and a little breathing room for those living paycheck to paycheck. The Legal Service provides concrete support for seniors in need: it protects their rights, guides them

through complex processes, and ensures that no one has to face their challenges alone. In the spirit of Franciscan justice, it gives a voice to those who are often unheard.

The mission also extends to celebrations and traditions that restore dignity, joy, and a sense of belonging. Children receive backpacks with school supplies to start the year with confidence; mothers are honored with small gifts on Mother's Day; at Christmas, children's eyes light up at gifts, at Easter the joy of renewal is shared, and at Thanksgiving families receive what they need to celebrate with gratitude. In every season, the Center cares to ensure that no one is forgotten.

All of this is made possible through collaboration

with schools, grocery stores, local authorities, and the many volunteers who join forces to respond to the needs of the community's most vulnerable: women, children, and seniors. All of these programs, rooted in the love of the



Sacred Heart and the example of Saint Francis, weave a network of compassion that reminds us all that every person deserves dignity, every family hope, and every neighbor the assurance of not being forgotten.

"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you will be doing the impossible." – Saint Francis of Assisi

Little Blossoms of Every Day: Life That Blooms in Tavannes

Switzerland, 2025

The life of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Tavannes unfolds in the simplicity of daily life, enriched by the beauty of the Jura Mountains. Their presence is discreet and joyful, marked by prayer, sharing the Gospel within the pastoral team, catechesis, leading small youth groups, encounters along the village streets, and visiting those who are alone or ill. Within this context of diaspora, certain special events have punctuated the life of the parish community, in which the sisters actively participate.



An Ecumenical Concert: A Sign of Unity

A historic event for the Jura region: 120 Catholic, Reformed Protestant, and Mennonite singers gathered to praise the Lord together, demonstrating the joy and richness of being united in diversity. The concert celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Federation of Cecilian Societies of the Jura pastoral region, as well as the 500th anniversaries of the Protestant Reformation and the Mennonite movement. Through music, the gathering expressed the value of dialogue and collaboration among different Christian denominations in today's world. The program ranged from Mozart's Ave Verum to Fauré's Canticum de Racine, from traditional songs like the Geneva Psalm to a song by Jacques Brel. The evening was accompanied by a narration dedicated to Saint Cecilia, patroness of musicians. "Singing together allowed us to overcome historical and theological prejudices," testified one chorister. An event unimaginable just sixty years ago, today it has become a tangible sign of fraternity and a desire for unity.

The Birth of the Pierre-Pertuis Pastoral Space

The Feast of Christ the King saw the Catholic Church of Tavannes filled with faithful for a celebration presided over by Monsignor Felix Gmür, bishop of the Diocese of Basel. On this occasion, the merger of four parishes into the new Pierre-Pertuis Pastoral Space was officially established. Beginning January 1, 2026, this new organization will involve over 7,800 Catholics, fostering greater pastoral collaboration, a broader range of activities, and a better response to future challenges.





The Advent Wreath: Tradition and Sharing

It has become a parish tradition to gather together to prepare the Advent wreath, a symbol of anticipation and unity. After the Eucharistic celebration led by the children's choir, parishioners shared a moment of fraternity guided by the community team. Sister Beniamina and Sister Paolina explained the meaning of the Advent symbols, passing on to the new generations the value of this time of preparation.



A Special Christmas "Pre-Vigil"

During Advent, Tavannes participates in the tradition of the "Advent Windows," an initiative that promotes hospitality, dialogue, and sharing. This year, the Catholic parish joined enthusiastically: in the church square, volunteers offered mulled wine, hot soup, and sweets, while inside, the intimate atmosphere—illuminated by two nativity scenes and the Advent wreath—invited silence and prayer. It was an intense moment of reflection on the mystery of the Nativity and the announcement of the Good News.

These small "blossoms" of daily life tell the story of a simple, welcoming Church on the move, capable of building fraternity at the heart of the community.



100 Years of Life:

Three Sisters, One Song of Praise

2024 - 2025

There are lives that, spanning a century of history, become living testimony to God's faithfulness. During 2024 and 2025, our religious family had the grace of celebrating the 100th birthdays of three sisters—three different yet complementary stories—united by a single vocation: to give themselves to the Lord and to their brothers and sisters with persevering love.

In them, we contemplate the beauty of a life lived in fruitful silence, in educational service, in mission, and in care for the most vulnerable. With deep gratitude, we give thanks to the Lord for Sister Clemens, Sister Annaluisa, and Sister Philiberte, luminous signs of hope and fidelity that transcend time

Sr Clemens - 100 Years of Life



On March 11, 2024, Sister Clemens turned 100, celebrated with great affection by the community and many former students. The festivities began already on Sunday, March 10, when the provincial hall was filled with faces, memories, and gratitude. Sister Clemens' entrance—alert and smiling, still able to recognize names and stories—moved everyone.

A passionate educator, teacher of Latin and religion, and for many years a respected and determined principal, Sister Clemens also carried out delicate administrative services at the provincial and general levels, always in a spirit of obedience and service.

The heart of the celebration was the Eucharistic thanksgiving, presided over by Fr. Massimo Cocci, OFM, enriched by the presence of numerous sisters from the Province, family members from Trento, and a particularly meaningful moment: the Gospel sung by her great-nephew, Don Alberto, recently ordained deacon, in a true Laetare Sunday celebration.

The celebration continued in a warm and simple family atmosphere, culminating in a hymn dedicated to Mary, Mother, performed by a choir from Trento composed of grandchildren. Numerous testimonies of respect and gratitude from former students recalled Sister Clemens not only as an authoritative teacher but also as a life mentor, capable of educating with firmness, passion, and love.



Sr Annaluisa Vanin - 100 Years of Life

On June 2, 2025, the community of the Most Holy Name of Mary joyfully celebrated the 100th birthday of Sister Annaluisa Vanin, in the presence of the Provincial Superior, Sister Tiziana Tonini, her Council, and some family members. The celebration, carefully prepared by the local community, was a true hymn of praise and gratitude.

In his homily, Fr. Carlos da Silva of the Barnabite Fathers invited all to welcome the Holy Spirit in every situation of life, reminding everyone that only He enables us to grow in conformity to Christ, for the good of our brothers and sisters.

Supported by prayer and trust in the Divine Spouse, Sister Annaluisa lived many years of loving service: she witnessed the growth of the Congregation, welcomed and listened, consoled wounded hearts, offering the joyful testimony of a consecration lived faithfully.

Today, giving thanks for her long life and mission, the community could proclaim with St. Paul: *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me,"* recognizing in Sister Annaluisa a life entirely inhabited by God's love.



Sr Philiberte Biogioni - 100 Years of Life



On Sunday, December 14, 2025, the third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete – the provincial house in Le Mans was filled with joy for the 100th birthday of Sister Philiberte Biogioni, of which 77 were spent in consecrated life. The celebration had already begun the day before with the Associated Laity, eager to offer their congratulations and hear her missionary testimony.

The Eucharistic celebration, shared by sisters and laity, was the most intense moment of the day. In his homily, Father Samson highlighted the beauty of a life totally given to proclaiming the Good News across France and Switzerland. With discretion and competence, Sister Philiberte was for many years a presence of peace and consolation alongside the sick, witnessing God's tenderness.

The celebration continued with a communal lunch, attended by the provincial Superior, sisters of the Province and family members from Italy, and concluded with an emotional evening moment: a video about her life and gifts offered as signs of gratitude.

With simplicity and depth, Sister Philiberte shared her total trust in the Lord:

"I am very happy with my consecrated life... I trust Him: He has accompanied and sustained me throughout my life."



In the Heart of God:

In memory of our 40 Sisters

2023 - 2025



Sr. M. Antonietta of Saint Joseph
Marianna Jossif

Born in Kormakiti (Kyrenia) on 03.02.1933
Died in Limassol on 16.10.2023

Sister Antonietta Iosif was born on February 3, 1933, in Kormakiti, a village in the Maronite Archdiocese of Cyprus. She was the third of eight children of Iosif and Susanna, a poor and hardworking family that raised their children in faith and Christian life within the small Maronite community of Kormakiti. She was baptized on February 10, 1933, with the name Marianna and received her Confirmation on July 31, 1939.

Tragically, during the Turkish invasion in 1974, her father and her brother Antonis were killed by a bomb explosion while on their way to the airport to welcome one of their daughters returning from England.

As a young girl, Marianna responded to the call of the Lord and entered the aspirantate in Limassol on July 30, 1950. She was the second young woman from the Maronite community of Kormakiti to embrace the following of Christ. On October 17, 1951, she left Cyprus to enter the pre-novitiate in Gemona. She completed the stages of religious formation and began the novitiate on July 21, 1952.

On July 22, 1953, she made her religious Profession under the name Sister Antonietta of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Virgin Mary and father

of Jesus, committing herself to make the virtues of Saint Joseph visible in her young life, as the guardian of the Church. After her Profession, she returned to Cyprus and solemnly made her perpetual Profession on July 22, 1958, in Limassol.

Sister Antonietta's early steps found fertile ground in our two schools. From 1953 to 1973, she taught English at Santa Maria School in Limassol and San Francesco School in Famagusta. In addition to teaching, she carried out various tasks and assumed several responsibilities. In 1973, she was entrusted with the administration of the "Terra Santa Rest Home" in Larnaca. In 1974, she returned to the Limassol community and from 1976 to 1982 served as the local superior. Sister Antonietta was distinguished for her thoughtful seriousness, discretion, precision in every task, and guidance of the sisters.

From 1987 to 1988, she was appointed local superior and director of the "Terra Santa Rest Home" in Larnaca. In her mission, she was able to reconcile uprightness and mercy, not only towards the little ones but also toward those suffering in body and spirit, always responding generously to the obedience required of her.

From 1988 to 1993, she again served as local superior of the Limassol community. From 1994 to 1997, she was elected Fourth Provincial Councilor, and from 1996 to 2015 she served as local Economa at the Saint Mary School and the Saint Anthony community in Limassol.

Her true passion was undoubtedly children and youth. With them, she found a language of immediate communication, which she maintained as long as her physical strength allowed. In 2016, she joined the infirmary at the Provincial House, yet her smile and joyful

gaze never faded. She was always an example of simplicity, prayerful devotion, and love for others through unconditional giving. Until her final moment, she remained faithful to duty, mission, and charism. In the courtyard, among the children, she sowed words of encouragement and guidance: love Jesus, study well, and obey your teachers. This was her path to heaven.

Even on her sickbed, her flame of faith and attentiveness never went out. Her love for Kormakiti and the children were her sails until her last breath. She embraced the Cross of Christ with serenity, and the only word she could whisper tirelessly was: "patience."

Yes, Sister Antonietta was a teacher and sister of patience—the kind of patience that gives itself without reserve. She practiced it day by day, and it became part of her being. Now we understand the great gift she has left us: only through the virtue of patience can we fully enjoy and appreciate the good and beautiful things in life. Strengthened by patience, Sister Antonietta did not falter in her final moments of suffering, never complained, and remained anchored to the Cross, supporting even the younger sisters in their lives and journeys. At the end of her earthly journey, the sisters of the community surrounded her until her final "Fiat." Sister Antonietta entered Heaven with her lamp lit, sustained by the virtue of patience.

Dearest Sister Antonietta, we thank you for seventy years of consecration and fidelity to our religious Family. We thank you for your example as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, for your kindness and gentleness, and for your tireless acts of mercy toward the whole world. Intercede for us from Heaven, for the Church and for our Congregation



Sr. M. Enricangela of Saint Francis
Lidia Chisté
Born in Vigo Cavedine(Trento) on 5.08.1939
Died in Roma on 31.10.2023

Sister Enricangela Chisté of Saint Francis, born Lidia Comai, was a great gift that the Lord gave to our religious family, certainly through the faithful witness of her dear aunt, Sister Tullia Comai, FMSC, and the faith of her parents.

She was born in Vigo Cavedine, a locality in the province of Trento, on August 25, 1939. Her hometown, surrounded by the peaks of the Dolomites and characteristic lakes, helped shape her solid, reserved, but always kind and generous personality, forged by the beauty of nature and a healthy mountain upbringing.

She first had brief contact with our Congregation in Gemona but entered the pre-novitiate in Rome, Centocelle, in 1956. Two years later, she was admitted to the Novitiate, and in 1959 she made her first Profession. Until 1964, Sister Enricangela assisted in the community and Kindergarten of Borgo Bainsizza, gaining good experience for her future role as a kindergarten teacher, a ministry she would continue in the following years.

From 1965 to 2008, she served as a formative guide for children and families in various provincial communities, often also serving as superior: Borgo San Michele, Borgo Bainsizza, Monte Porzio, Colonnata, Borgo Grappa. Her final mission stage was in a town in the Marche region, which she learned to love while further

engaging in parish pastoral work, sacramental catechesis, and youth formation, becoming a valuable collaborator with the parish priest.

In 2011, due to significant health issues, Sister Enricangela was transferred to the infirmary in Rome to receive care for her various ailments, where she passed away. We entrust her to continue guiding our Mission, so that it may respond effectively to the needs of today.



Sr. M. Giannateresa of the Immaculate
Agnese Libralato
Born in Piombino Dese (PD) on 15.01.1927
Died in Roma on 31.10.2023

No one expected Sister Giannateresa's death so quickly. She had been bedridden for some time, unable to move, though until a few months earlier she had still walked independently, proud to continue her personal tasks, including laundry. She was always ready to share a life anecdote and its accompanying reflection of faith.

Her independence ended after a fall, from which she never recovered. She experienced great physical pain, but even more, the confinement to bed, perhaps loneliness, and gradually, as often happens with the elderly, she faded: losing appetite and will to drink, yet remaining lucid and constantly praying, especially to the Madonna, to whom she had a special devotion and entrusted her confessor priests.

Sister Giannateresa was born in Piombino Dese (PD) on January

15, 1927. She entered the Novitiate of Centocelle on September 18, 1964, already mature in age, making her first Profession on September 30, 1965, which she confirmed perpetually on the same date in 1970. Between 1965 and 1966, in Borgo Grappa, she worked at a vocational school for women, a valuable opportunity for human and religious formation. At the same time, she prepared for certification as a kindergarten teacher, which she obtained in 1967.

Once certified, her first assignment was in Brugnetto, a beautiful community in the Marche region. She left her hometown Latina for a few years but returned in 1970 to serve in various towns entrusted to her by the municipality, which lacked educators for young children, to be assigned to the Agro Pontino.

In 1989, Sister Giannateresa returned to her first kindergarten in Brugnetto and to her early community, which had appreciated her attentive presence and strong sense of community. She gained Roman experience to complete her mission. In 1997, she was assigned to Piazza Pitagora, managing diverse community needs. In 2003, she returned to the provincial house with the same role, remaining vigilant and autonomous until her peaceful passing, surrounded by her nieces, Sister Adriana, and other sisters who came from Latina to visit her during her final illness.

Thank you, Sister Giannateresa. Pray for all of us so that we may be worthy of new sisters.

If you want, I can also format it in a polished, memorial-style version suitable for a program or booklet. It would read smoothly in English while preserving all the reverent tone. Do you want me to do that?





Sr. M. Gaudenzia of Jesus, Lamb of God
Caterina Tommasini
Born in Vedelago (Treviso) on 01.12.1925
Died in Gemona on 08.11.2023

"Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:29)

In today's Gospel, November 8, Jesus announced for the last time to Sr. Gaudenzia: "I am the Lamb of God; whoever wishes to follow me, let them take up their cross and follow me!" On the cross is the Lamb of God, Jesus Himself. Today, He showed Sr. Gaudenzia the true path leading to the resurrection, and she was able to take her final step toward Him, the Bridegroom-Lamb accompanying her to heaven. We remember the years of her youth in Vedelago (TV): her father Erminio Tommasini and mother Giuditta Pozzobon had a beautiful family of six children, two boys and four girls, including Caterina, born on December 1, 1925. Just two days later, on December 3, 1925, she received Holy Baptism from the parish priest, Mons. Giuseppe Mattara.

For about twenty years, Caterina thought about a life dedicated to God, and at the mature age of 18, she chose to become a Franciscan missionary of the Sacred Heart, entering the motherhouse "Santa Maria degli Angeli" in Gemona on November 18, 1943.

After formation in the postulancy and novitiate, on August 12, 1946, she made her religious Profession, taking the name Sister Gaudenzia of Jesus, Lamb of God.

That same year she was sent to Badoere, and the following year she began a true mission in Carnia at

Cercivento, caring for the children of the kindergarten. She continued this ministry in Treppo Grande (1947) and Buja (1954). Many towns and parishes benefited from her diligent and available presence, especially in human and Christian support: Cavasagra, Postioma, Udine (S. Gottardo), Vivaro, Salzano, and Sedegliano.

For several years, she also served as local Superior in various communities.

Everyone appreciated her work, and even more so her attention to the needs of families, supporting the sick and the elderly. She taught many children, especially in kindergarten, short prayers to the Guardian Angel, to Mary, and to St. Joseph, reminding them to think of their loved ones while looking to the "family of Jesus."

Once retired to the motherhouse in 2015, at the venerable age of 90, she did not cease her mission, continuing to listen and encourage all whom she knew to live a Christian life with faith.

She prepared hand-drawn and handwritten cards with enviable calligraphy, often including poems composed by herself. One simple and beautiful example addressed to St. Joseph:

*"St. Joseph, I give you my heart,
do not leave me abandoned.
As long as I have life on earth,
and then in heaven, I will be with
you. Amen."*

Or one she wrote near the end of her life to the doctor who lovingly cared for her during her final days:

*"My thanks wish to express
my best wishes for you and all your
loved ones*

of peace, health, joy, and serenity."

She shared Franciscan joy and gladness with everyone, according to the luminous meaning of her beautiful name: Gaudenzia = Joy!

As her final moment approached, her superiors and many sisters gathered in prayer by her bedside. Though not speaking, her presence was felt. At noon, the church bells rang the Angelus, and Sr.

Gaudenzia, at that precise moment, welcomed the angel's invitation just as the Virgin Mary did, and like her, immediately responded: "Here I am!"

She let herself be accompanied by Mary, "the Immaculate Lamb of her Son," to reach Jesus, the Lamb of God, in the heavenly homeland.

Sister Gaudenzia,

*now that you are in heaven
enjoying the presence of Jesus,
Lamb of God, and Mary, Lamb
of Christ, with so many of your
family members, pray for all your
loved ones. And for all of us, your
sisters, obtain for us the gift of
young women willing to dedicate
their lives to Jesus and Mary with
generosity and joy, as you did.*



Sr. M. Evangelina of the Child Jesus
Gilda Berlato
Born in Pianiga (Venezia) on 08.03.1933
Died in Roma on 19.11.2023

Sr. Evangelina Berlato of the Child Jesus, baptized as Gilda, was born in Pianiga, a town very close to Venice, on March 8, 1933. Always lively and "a little rebellious," as she described herself, she felt drawn to religious life from a young age, during a retreat in Treviso. She entrusted herself to the guidance of Sr. Cipriana and a priest. Once her vocation was clear, she informed her parents, who doubted the perseverance of their spirited daughter, but Gilda held firm: in 1948 she entered the postulancy in Gemona del Friuli, and after

two years, she was admitted to the novitiate. From 1951 to 1956, she made her Simple Vows, awaiting the final decision with the Perpetual Vows, which she took in Gemona on January 4, 1956.

In these early years as a newly professed sister, Sr. Evangelina gained apostolic experience, helping care for young children in kindergarten and studying music, which later allowed her to organize youth choirs in various parishes.

After studying for kindergarten teaching in 1963, she began her first group of children in Brugnello, Marche. She then moved to Pianello, where she continued her work as an educator with creativity and dedication, always engaging actively in parish life and collaborating with the parish priest. Her naturally joyful and cheerful temperament was a gift for community life and for connecting with families.

After a year of convalescence following a major surgery, Sr. Evangelina left the Marche region for Borgo Montello, then Colonnata, Chiesuola, and Borgo San Michele in the Agro Pontino. She returned to Colonnata for six years, continuing her generous service. Even when tired, she helped wherever needed, including a year in Tollo, providing pastoral care in families. Her life was a long testimony of being a FMSC missionary, detached from roles and locations, always ready to say "Yes" to the Will of the Lord.

In 2009, after just one year, she left Tollo and joined the infirmary community in Viale Saffi, offering every service to relieve sick sisters, while taking care of her own health, especially diabetes, which accompanied her throughout life. The Lord called her to Himself after a brief hospitalization following a fall that required surgery on November 19, 2023.



Sr. M. Battistina of the Holy Family
Giuseppina Bettio
Born in Santa Luce (Pisa) on 21.12.1926
Died in Le Mans (France) on 03.12.2023

Sister Battistina Bettio was born on 21 December 1926 in a small village in Italy, Santa Luce, in the province of Pisa. She was baptized on 29 December and received the name Giuseppina. She spent her childhood in a loving, Christian, and practicing family. As the eldest of ten children, she was a precious help to her mother.

On 22 January 1933 she received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Paese (Treviso), where her parents had moved for professional reasons. Throughout her life she kept a vivid memory of this celebration. In her heart, little by little, the call to religious life began to grow.

Shortly after the war, in 1945, at the age of 19, she fulfilled her life's project by responding to the Lord's call. She came to know the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart who were serving in the parish. After a period of discernment, she entered the Mother House of our Congregation in Gemona, Italy, where she began her religious formation.

On 6 October 1947 she professed her religious vows, fully aware that she was offering her life to the Lord in a missionary Congregation. After a few months, her superiors chose her for the most distant mission of our religious family, in Peekskill in the United States. She devoted herself with generosity and enthusiasm, but her health deteriorated so much that two years later she had to return to Italy.

This did not prevent her from accepting a new missionary assignment in Flers-de-l'Orne in France, serving the young people of the diocesan minor seminary.

She also spent part of her missionary life in another minor seminary in La Chapelle-près-Sées.

In 1967 she joyfully received the mandate for the mission in Switzerland, in Boécourt in the French Jura. A tireless missionary, she traveled through the surrounding villages to visit the sick. Everyone remembers her kindness, availability, and discretion.

In 1976, obedience called her once again to France, to Tracy-le-Mont in the Oise, to serve children. She worked there for ten years, humbly and courageously, offering every action to the Lord.

In 1986 her health no longer allowed her to remain there. She joined the provincial community in Le Mans, where she lived what became her most beautiful mission: humble fraternal service for many years.

At the same time, she cared for the sacristy of the Saint Aldric retirement home.

In 2017, no longer able to carry out active work, greatly weakened in body and having lost her sight, she withdrew into silence. A woman of prayer, she spent hours in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament and every day prayed the Franciscan Crown together with the sisters, often leading it herself. She offered her sufferings to God for the coming of the Kingdom, for the Church, for priestly and religious vocations, and for families, giving herself through quiet presence among the sisters.

She loved community life very much. Despite fatigue, she participated in all the common activities: prayer, meals, and recreation. During these moments she shared news from the Vatican and from RCF, because each day she remained attentive to the needs of the world in order to carry them in her prayer.

A woman of sacrifice, she never complained. She always gave thanks and rejoiced for every fraternal gesture. Dear Sister Battistina, we know that from Heaven you watch over us and over your family, especially your sisters and brothers who never stopped accompanying you and visiting you. You gave them the most beautiful testimony: obedience, tenderness, and patience in suffering.

Sister Battistina, our dear sister, intercede for us before our Creator. May you rest in peace and contemplate His face forever. We entrust you to His infinite mercy.



Sr. M. Radia of the Child Jesus
Mattar Radi Helene Hanna
Born in Sakhine (Palestina) on 03.05.1934
Died in Limassol (Cipro) on 29.12.2023

Sister Radia Matar was born on May 3, 1934, in Sachnin (Palestine), a village in the Greek Catholic Archdiocese. Her parents, Hanna and Farida, raised their children in hard work and faith. She was baptized on January 7, 1935, with the name Radi, meaning “joy” or “happiness,” and received Confirmation along with Baptism.

Due to the civil war in Palestine, young Radi moved to Cyprus at the age of nine, beginning a new chapter in her life. She attended Terra Santa School, where she met the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, alongside other girls who later discovered their calling to religious life.

As a teenager, Radi responded to God’s call and entered the aspirancy in Limassol on September 30, 1953. On September 6, 1954, she left Cyprus for the pre-novitiate in Le Mans, France, advancing through religious formation and beginning her novitiate on September 17, 1956.

On September 19, 1957, she made her religious Profession, taking the name Sister Paule of the Child Jesus, which became an emblem for her consecrated life, recalling her birthplace. From there, she humbly deepened her understanding of Jesus, the Messiah, and embraced the Father’s plan.

After her Profession, she began her missionary apostolate

with simplicity and generosity, performing various tasks in Le Mans. From 1961 to 1964, she served in Flers de l’Orne and made her Solemn Perpetual Profession on September 27, 1963, in Le Mans. From 1964 to 1966, she was in Attichy, then returned to Limassol for two years in 1966. In 1968, she was called again to Tracy-le-Mont in France, returning to Limassol in 1974 to assist the youngest at Saint Mary School. In 1976, she resumed her baptismal name, Radia.

From 1987 to 1989, she served in the San Giorgio community in Kormakiti, in the occupied part of the island, returning to Limassol in 1989 to the educational community. Beyond caring for the children, Sister Radia led singing lessons in French with her beautiful voice, fostering a pure, innocent devotion to the Child Jesus.

In 1997, her missionary vocation led her to Lebanon, in the mission of Menjez, where she assisted the sisters and served with zeal. Her gentle and joyful nature helped children overcome fear of war and poverty. After a year, she returned to Cyprus, to the Sant’Antonio community in Limassol, staying until 2001. She returned to Menjez from 2001 to 2004, enriching the mission with her voice and educational presence.

From 2004 to 2005, she returned to Cyprus, serving in Sant’Antonio, Limassol, and San Barnaba, Nicosia, before requesting to return to Menjez in 2005, where she remained until 2014. She became a model of Franciscan simplicity and joy, precise and diligent even as her physical strength waned, remaining faithful to morning prayer, songs, and children’s activities.

In 2014, with declining health, she returned to Limassol, Sant’Antonio community, overseeing the refectory and continuing to bring the smile of the Child Jesus to all through her meticulous and caring service. She guided children

in prayer and devotion, always present even when physically limited.

After the centennial of Saint Mary’s School and Christmas celebrations, her health further declined. She welcomed her grandchildren and contacted family, smiling and embracing them before beginning her journey to the Father’s House. On the eve of the Holy Family feast, accompanied by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Sister Radia embarked on her final journey with her lifelong qualities of silence, diligence, and generosity. Hospitalized due to worsening health, she passed away peacefully, leaving everything in order, as she had always done.

Dearest Sister Radia, we remember you joyfully, with a smile, ready to sing hymns to the Mother of God, thanking you for your life given in service to children and the poor, with total generosity. You leave us a legacy of beautiful and precious virtues. Thank you for your faithful “yes” as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart. Accompany us from heaven and watch over our religious family





Sr. M. Teresina of the Child Jesus
Thresiamma Thoravasseril Cherian
Born in Pulincunoo (Kerala) on 09.04.1950
Died in Manjeri (Kerala) on 29.04.2024

With deep sorrow and Christian hope in the Resurrection, we announce the passing away of Sr. Teresina Thoravasseril of the Child Jesus, a devoted missionary, compassionate nurse, and faithful religious, who was called to her eternal reward following a massive cardiac arrest on 29th April 2024.

Sr. Teresina was born on 9th April 1950 in Pulincunoo, Kerala, in the Archdiocese of Syro-Malabar Archeparchy of Changan cherry. She was baptized on 22nd April 1950 and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 10th April 1962. From her early years, she nurtured a deep love for Jesus and a desire to dedicate her life to His service.

Responding generously to the call of God, she entered religious life and completed her Novitiate in Asisium, Rome Italy. She made her First Profession on 4th October 1970 in Asisium Rome and her Final Profession on 4th October 1975 in Cento Celle, Rome, offering herself totally and forever to the Lord in consecrated life.

A qualified and compassionate nurse, Sr. Teresina carried out her mission of healing with tenderness and professional dedication. She served at Casa Madre, Gemona, and in Treviso, Italy, where her gentle care and attentive presence brought comfort to many patients. She later continued her nursing ministry in Peekskill, USA, and

rendered devoted service as the Local Superior at Mount St. Francis, USA. In every place she was sent, she radiated kindness, simplicity, and missionary zeal.

In her later years, she returned to India and humbly served as a helper at Shalom Matha Convent, Manjeri, Kerala, caring for mentally challenged women. Even in hidden and simple services, she remained joyful and self-giving, embodying the spirit of Christ who came to serve and not to be served.

Sr. Teresina was known for her deep faith, Cheerful nature, obedience, humility, and tireless dedication to mission. She was gentle in speech, patient in suffering, generous in service, and compassionate towards the sick and the poor. Her missionary heart crossed borders and cultures, always ready to respond wherever obedience called her. She lived her consecration with fidelity and serenity, trusting completely in Divine Providence.

Her sudden departure due to a heart attack has left a void in our hearts, yet we believe that the Lord whom she served faithfully has welcomed her into eternal peace. Her life stands as a testimony of loving service, quiet sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to God and humanity.

May the Risen Lord grant her eternal rest and reward her abundant labors in His vineyard.

"Well, done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Master." (Mt 25:23)



Sr. M. Adelaide of the Eucharist
Teresa Bernardis
Born in Pocenia (Udine) on 23.10.1945
Died in Roma on 21.06.24

Sr. Adelaide Bernardis, Teresa at Baptism, was born in Pocenia in the province of Udine. Her life was shaped early on, not far from the town of Gemona, where at the age of 17 she decided to enter the Convent of the Mother House and begin the discernment of her vocation.

Teresa Bernardis was born on October 23, 1945, and entered the pre-novitiate in Gemona in September 1962. Her initial formation lasted two years, at the end of which she made her First Profession in Gemona.

She was already mature enough to be sent to the General House in Piazza Pitagora, Rome, where for two years she devoted herself to study and internship to obtain her teaching qualification at the Istituto Magistrale. Thus, in 1964, Sr. Adelaide possessed the tools she would need for a lifelong apostolate, which would go beyond elementary school teaching to include engagement with families and parish life.

For more than ten years, Sr. Adelaide remained at St. Elizabeth School in Piazza Pitagora, and in 1976 she was sent to the community in Colonnata (Florence), where she continued her educational work, assisting students after school. This new Tuscan assignment marked an important stage in her human and pastoral growth. In the parish, she collaborated with the parish priest, Don Silvano Nistri,

who had a profound impact on many sisters who passed through that community. Don Silvano provided support, guidance, and fatherly trust. Sr. Adelaide also remembered with gratitude the fundamental catechetical course he had her attend.

After three significant years in Colonnata, she had experiences in the Roman schools of Viale Saffi and Maria Immacolata in Centocelle, though only for one year. There was, however, a very meaningful assignment awaiting Sr. Adelaide—again in Rome, at the new General House Assisium, where she worked in the school for 35 years.

During her early period there, she had the joy of collaborating with the elderly Sr. Costantiniana in a parallel class. Their students recalled that it was practically a single class, living days of learning in joyful discovery. After Sr. Costantiniana passed away, Sr. Adelaide continued to work calmly and lovingly with lay staff, maintaining her essential yet always caring style, especially with children facing difficulties.

In 2019, Sr. Adelaide had to retire to the infirmary community due to an illness that gradually took away her autonomy. We admired her docility and silent patience as she accepted help and bore the burden of illness step by step.

We look at Sr. Adelaide's life, like that of many other sisters we have loved, to understand that what we do passes away, but what remains is the love we have given and the life we have offered where the Lord has sent us, often silently. Quietly, like Sr. Adelaide!

She was called to Heaven on June 21, 2024.



Sr. M. Fabrizia of the Holy Spirit
Adua Maria Zanettin
Born in Casalecchio di Reno (BG) on 31.07.1937
Died in Gemona on 22.06.2024

A missionary heart: this was God's design when He called Sr. Fabrizia Zanettin into life, born in Casalecchio di Reno (Bologna) on July 31, 1937. Her parents, Arcangelo and Giuseppina Innocente, chose the name "Adua Maria" for her at Holy Baptism (06.08.1937).

After her family moved to Vedelago (TV), she received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the parish on June 25, 1944.

Knowing our resident sisters, at the age of 16 she asked to become a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, entering Gemona where she lived the postulancy (17.08.1953) and the novitiate (01.02.1954) and made her long-desired Religious Profession on February 2, 1955, taking the name "Sr. Fabrizia of the Holy Spirit."

Sent to Rome (Centocelle), her passion for study and love for human history guided her toward a degree in Literature, qualifying her to teach in secondary schools. She served as a teacher in:

"Maria Immacolata"

(Centocelle-Rome)

"Assisium" (General House)

as Teacher and Principal

"S. Maria degli Angeli" (Gemona)

In 1976, sent to Cameroon, she served as Delegate (1981–1987) and as a teacher for over thirty years.

A difficult moment in Cameroon occurred in 2010 with a car accident that claimed the life of General

Councilor Sr. Cecilia Subiabre and other sisters traveling with her; Sr. Fabrizia, transferred immediately to France for treatment, endured a long period of physical suffering that seemed to threaten her life. She ultimately overcame this trial and returned to her mission in Cameroon.

In 2012 she was recalled to Italy. Leaving Africa, she wrote:

"Regarding Africa, I leave it in peace. I know well that, because of the Lord and not myself, all was good. I accept what God has given me and allowed me to receive, both positively and negatively. I entrust my life to the Lord as it is. It does not need to be perfect or entirely good; it only needs to be true."

From 2014, back at the Mother House, she was entrusted with the responsibility for the "Historical Path of the Province" and the "Congregation Museum," welcoming groups of sisters, laypeople, and visitors, presenting the history of our religious family, founders, and patrons through the explanation of many objects, books, and images.

Despite her advanced age, she tirelessly fulfilled this mission, emphasizing: "Time is precious and must be received as a gift to live and give. When one feels in the heart the impulse of love that asks 'all and without reserve' to be a total gift, one perceives that it opens to universal mission!"

This courage came from an inner strength nourished daily by prayer. She always chose the first pew in church to participate in Mass and communal prayer without distraction. As she said, it was the Holy Spirit guiding her, giving light and strength even in the most difficult moments.

In March 2024, Sr. Fabrizia suddenly fell seriously ill, and on June 22 at 4:00 a.m., she was called to eternal life in Heaven.

Sr. Fabrizia prayed to Mary with great trust:

"I entrust myself to Mary and our Holy Protectors to help me peacefully face the challenging task



of always new beginnings.”

Her entrance into Heaven was indeed a totally new and radiant beginning.

We remember her, united with all the sisters of the Congregation, grateful to the Lord for giving her to us as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart.

Sr. Fabrizia, from Heaven, pray for your loved ones who always supported you and for all of us sisters who knew and loved you. The Lord Jesus has arrived and now celebrates with you; the celebration will never end, for you will finally be with Him forever.



**Sr. Luigia of Divine Love
Luigia Miglioranza**
Born in Morgano (Treviso) on 11.12.1930
Died in Gemona on 04.08.24

“Come, eat my bread,
drink my wine!”

These words echoed in today’s Gospel and for Sr. Luigia were the call to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, where she will forever taste Jesus, who said of Himself: “I am the Bread of Heaven; whoever eats me will live forever.”

(John 6:51)

Sister Luigia Miglioranza was born in Morgano (TV) on December 11, 1930. On the day of her Baptism (December 20, 1930), her parents, Pasquale and Amabile Zuccato, gave her the name “Luigia.” She grew up in a Christian family, receiving Confirmation on November 13, 1938, in Cavasagra (TV) from Bishop Mons. Antonio Mantiero, and actively participating in

parish life.

At 18, she asked to become a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, entering the Mother House in Gemona where she lived the postulancy (July 29, 1948) and novitiate (September 29, 1954) and made her long-desired Religious Profession on October 4, 1950, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

For many years, her main service was in the kitchen, supporting various communities of the Province “St. Mary of the Angels,” until she was assigned a special mission in Turkey at the Apostolic Nunciature.

Pope John Paul II, who met her there, expressed his gratitude:

“To Sr. Luigia Miglioranza, of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, at the end of her long and appreciated service at the Pontifical Representation in Turkey, I express heartfelt thanks, and for her new assignment, I impart a special Apostolic Blessing, which I gladly extend to those dear to her.” (Vatican, October 4, 1989)

She also served in the Cyprus Province, working in Kormakiti, Larnaca, Limassol, Ankara (Cyprus), Nicosia, Rakovski, and Gitnitzi (Bulgaria), where even Pope Francis visited the sisters in 2019.

She held special offices:

Provincial Councilor 1976–1979

Provincial Vicar 1988–1994

Local Superior in Nicosia

1989–1993

In 1995, she was granted a sabbatical year in Gemona, which she lived with gratitude.

In 2019, her health declined, and Sr. Luigia was transferred to Gemona, where she continued giving herself for another five years, especially in prayer and fraternal relationships. She felt comfortable and serene in the infirmary community.

In her final period, she recited daily the prayer of St. John Paul I, always keeping it in her pocket:

“Stay close to me, Lord. Keep Your hand on my head, but let me keep my head under Your hand. Take me

as I am, with my faults and sins, but make me what You desire and what I desire too.”

On Sunday, August 4, Sr. Luigia responded to God’s call to eternal life. Now, before the Lord, she can forever partake of Him, the Bread of Eternal Life, as she desired.

We remember you, Sr. Luigia, united with all the sisters of the Congregation, grateful to the Lord for giving you to us as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart. From Heaven, Sr. Luigia, pray for all of us sisters and for all those you carried in your heart during your life and mission.

“If you are hungry, I will satisfy you
If you are thirsty, I will quench you.
Bring bread and wine: in me I will change them.

Resurrection and life,

I will be for all of you!”



**Sr. M. Elizabeth dell'Eucaristia
Aleyamma Devasia Vavalkunnel**
Born in Valavoor-Kottayam on 09.09.1950
Died in Thellakom (Kerala) on 28.08.2024

Sr. Elizabeth Vavalkunnel of the Holy Eucharist was born on 9th September 1950 in Nechipuzhoor, in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Palai. Raised in a deeply Christian family, she grew up in an atmosphere of prayer, discipline, and love for the Church. Her baptism at Chittor, Kottayam District, marked the beginning of a life that would gradually unfold into a generous and wholehearted response to God’s call.

From her early years, Sr. Elizabeth showed signs of sincerity,

responsibility, and a quiet strength of character. She possessed a reflective nature and a gentle disposition that drew people close to her. Inspired by a deep love for the Holy Eucharist, she felt called to consecrate her life entirely to Christ. Her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament became the foundation of her religious vocation and missionary zeal.

She began her Novitiate on 1st October 1971 in Asisium Rome, where she was formed in the spirit of prayer, community life, and apostolic dedication. On 18th March 1973, she made her First Profession in the Mary Immaculate Province, Rome, committing herself to a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Later, on 15th July 1978, she made her Perpetual Profession in Asisium Rome, offering her life irrevocably to God in faithful service.

Sr. Elizabeth was trained as a Laboratory Technician, a profession she carried out with remarkable competence and conscientiousness. At Holy Cross Hospital, Machilipatnam, India, she worked with precision, discipline, and a deep sense of responsibility. She understood that her scientific work was not merely technical but a participation in Christ's healing ministry. Every task she performed was done with prayerful attention, knowing that behind each report was a patient in need of care and reassurance.

Her missionary vocation extended beyond her homeland when she was sent to Cyprus. In the St. Elizabeth Province, she embraced her mission with openness and courage. Living in a foreign culture did not deter her; instead, it enriched her perspective and deepened her universality of heart. She adapted with simplicity and humility, building bonds of fraternity and trust among the people she served.

For many years, she rendered dedicated service as a helper in old age homes. Her ministry

among the elderly was marked by extraordinary patience and tenderness. She listened attentively to their stories, comforted them in moments of loneliness, and cared for their daily needs with motherly affection. She saw Christ in each aged person and served them with reverence and compassion. Her quiet presence brought peace to many who felt forgotten or neglected.

A woman deeply rooted in Eucharistic spirituality, she drew her strength from daily Mass and silent adoration. In prayer, she found clarity, endurance, and joy. Even during times of difficulty or personal suffering, she remained steadfast and serene. Her faith was practical and lived — expressed in kindness, patience, and unwavering commitment to her responsibilities. During her final year in Tellakom, Kerala, while undergoing treatment for cancer, she bore her illness with remarkable courage and surrender. Her acceptance of suffering reflected her deep trust in God's providence. She continued to inspire others through her calm faith, gratitude, and peaceful demeanor.

Sr. Elizabeth will be remembered as a woman of deep prayer, professional integrity, missionary zeal, and humble charity. Her life was marked by fidelity to her vows, dedication to her mission, and a heart fully centered on the Holy Eucharist. In her simplicity and quiet service, she reflected the gentle love of Christ to all who encountered her.



**Sr. M. Barbara Ann of Our Mother
of Perpetual Help
Barbara Ruff**
Born in Teaneck - New Jersey (USA) on 28.09.1930
Died in Peekskill (USA) on 31.08.2024

Barbara Violet Ruff was born in 1930 in Teaneck, NJ and was the 7th child of Charles and Rose Ruff. She resided in North Bergen, NJ, along with her brother Charles and sisters Martha, Kathryn, Anne, Christine, and Rose Marie. Her education included St. Mary's Grammar School, St. Michael's High School, Ladycliff Academy, Ladycliff College, and Jersey City State College (MA in Special Education).

Sister entered the Franciscan Sisters on September 8, 1946 and taught in elementary schools in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Upon returning to Peekskill, Sister Barbara Anne was a member of the staff at Mt. St. Francis, working the switchboard, assisting with Chapel duties, and running one of the community Gift Shops. She began creating "Mini Books" to help spread the faith and help the Community financially, and enjoyed distributing packs of religious items for the missions.

Sister had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and promoted devotion to her throughout her religious life.

Her wake will be held in the Mt. St. Francis Chapel, 250 South Street, Peekskill, NY on Wednesday, September 4 from 10:30am to her funeral Mass at 2pm. Burial will take place at the Franciscan cemetery following her Mass.



Sr. M. Feliciana of the Sorrow of Mary
Anna Maria Bianchin
 Born in Solagna - Vicenza on 06.01.1930
 Died in Gemona on 05.09.2024

"Jesus called them... and they left everything and followed Him!"
 (Lk 5).

Today Sister Feliciana Bianchin welcomed the final call of Jesus in her life and, like the apostles in today's Gospel, she responded: Here I am! Thus she climbed the last step of her vocation as a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, a call the Lord had made her feel since her youth.

Born in Solagna, province of Vicenza, on the solemn day of the Epiphany, January 6, 1930, her father Vincenzo and mother Scramoncin Maria Maddalena brought her to Baptism five days later, on January 11, and ten years after that—on February 4, 1940—to Confirmation.

At the age of 21, feeling within herself the Franciscan vocation, she requested admission to the convent in Gemona, beginning the postulancy on September 10, 1951. A year later, on September 20, 1952, she received the habit and entered the novitiate.

On December 9, 1953, she celebrated her religious Profession. The Provincial Superior, Sr. Eligia Capriz, left an autobiography based on personal writings requested of Sr. Feliciana:

"Her account is not imaginative: it is genuine, and I believe I am not overstating its charge of simplicity, heroism, moral integrity, and altruism which, if known, would

undoubtedly deserve a gold medal; it truly would, if it did not overshadow the modesty of the person, deserve to be known more widely."

Her apostolate?... Prayer and her relationship with the many people who came from everywhere to meet her.

Her favorite prayer was always the Holy Rosary. She herself made rosaries and gave them to people. Who does not have in their pocket a rosary—small or large—made by her? Priests, sisters, and laypeople came to Gemona to receive her rosaries for their parishes.

She maintained a simple, fraternal, cheerful relationship with all who came asking for rosaries or the small statues she crafted in white plaster, especially for parish Nativity scenes. She expressed herself with simplicity and generosity to all who approached her.

She also served—often with sacrifice—in various roles at the Convitto in Udine and at the motherhouse, where she worked until 2020, when during the Covid period she was moved to the infirmary of the motherhouse, remaining present and lucid until her final days.

Today the Lord has called her to Heaven to grant her eternal happiness, according to the meaning of her name: FELICIANA!

*Virgin Mary,
 now Sister Feliciana
 contemplates you in the glory of
 your Son Jesus.
 And if she still sees your tears,
 she will invoke you for all the
 brothers and sisters
 who need your help.*

Sr. Feliciana,
 pray to Mary also for us,
 that we may live
 our daily mission as you did,
 in prayer and in the witness
 of God's love!



Sr. M. Gesuina of the Immaculate
Santa Del Negro
 Born in Paularo on 23.12.1931
 Died in Gemona on 07.10.2024

Sr. Gesuina was born in Paularo (UD) on December 23, 1931, to Gio Batta and Caterina Gortan. Only two days later, on December 25, she was baptized and given the name Santa.

She grew up in the simplicity and hard work of her family in the Carnic mountains, a home filled with faith, proven even through life's painful trials. In this environment she matured her call to consecrated life, which she sealed with religious profession on February 2, 1955, in Gemona, among the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

From that moment on, Santa would be called Sr. Gesuina of the Immaculate, a choice expressing Mary's communion with the Lord. She too wanted to bear witness to Mary's adherence to her Son Jesus; for this she loved to sing:

*"O my beautiful hope,
 my sweet love Mary,*

You are my life, you are my peace."
 She recalled with gratitude the pilgrimage to Lourdes, where she accompanied Fr. Giacomo who, right there, was called to heaven by Our Lady. She prayed to him:

*"Father Giacomo, you who loved the
 Mother of God so deeply,
 fill my spirit and my soul with peace."*
 Sr. Gesuina had a missionary heart and, from the beginning, dreamed of Africa. She wrote:

*"My missionary choice was to bring
 and make Jesus known in distant
 lands. Africa was my dream, but in
 God's plans the destination was quite
 different. After my religious Profession,*

in 1959, I was sent to Latin America (Chile–Rancagua–Puerto Montt)."

Then in 1977, upon returning to Italy, she served as a nursing assistant in various nursing homes in Veneto and Friuli.

She served as local Superior in a spirit of fraternity in Puerto Montt (1973–76), in Paluzza (1981–85 and 1991–94), and in Gemona–Motherhouse (1985–88).

In Gemona she spent about ten years providing spiritual support to the sick sisters in the infirmary. The Holy Rosary was always her cherished prayer, but she also loved certain psalms she used at Vespers "as an expression of her desire to adhere to God."

She often thought about her encounter with the Lord at the moment of her call to eternity. In a personal writing she had even prepared the hymns she preferred for the Mass of her funeral, as well as a final request:

"On my coffin, at the foot of the Crucifix, only three roses or white daisies...

No flowers but acts of charity!"

In her last days she expressed deep gratitude for the presence of her niece—also a doctor—who bore her same name, Santina, and who often visited her along with the rest of the family. Today she has reached the moment of her ascent to heaven.

As she had wished to die on a Marian feast, it was precisely on this October 7, feast of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompei, that moments before her last breath she was able to pray the Supplica to the Blessed Virgin of Pompei. She moved her lips, aware of the moment, and at the final Amen she surrendered her soul.

"The last word from our lips shall be
your sweet name,

O Queen of the Rosary of Pompei,

O our dear Mother,

O Consoler of the afflicted.

Be blessed everywhere, today and
forever, on earth

and in heaven. Amen."

Sr. Gesuina, our dear sister,

you now live in God

with Mary Immaculate:

continue to be present to your family
who remembers

you always, and also to us,

interceding for holy missionary

vocations for our religious family.



Sr. M. Teresiana of the Immaculate

Maria Gasparetto

Born in Postiamao (Treviso) on 22.05.1929

Died in Le Mans (France) on 24.11.2024

Sr. Teresiana was born on 22 May 1929 into a believing and practicing family. She was baptized the day after her birth and was given the name Maria in honor of the Virgin Mary. She was the second of ten children.

From a young age she lived her faith through service, helping her mother care for her brothers and sisters and participating in parish life while continuing her education. At the age of 17, in September 1946, after discerning the Lord's call, she left her family and entered the novitiate at the Mother House of the Congregation in Gemona del Friuli.

In 1950 her desire was fulfilled: she was sent to France, to Normandy, to Flers-de-l'Orne, where she was appreciated for her generosity, availability, good humor, and the joy with which she lived her consecrated life, generously giving herself in all the apostolic work entrusted to her.

She lived every mission entrusted to her in obedience with deep joy and faith. She was among the first sisters who opened the community in Paris. She spent many years in Switzerland, which marked her missionary life in a non-Catholic environment, where she distinguished herself through her service to orphaned children, in the kindergarten, and in assisting Italian migrants and the sick, without distinction of nationality or religion. For her, everything was lived in Franciscan joy. She also experienced the demanding yet happy missionary life during a year

spent in Cameroon as a nurse.

Within the Province of "Saint Louis IX," she served as provincial councilor and held several mandates as local superior, during which she dedicated herself joyfully to her sisters. In 2005, tired, she retired to the provincial house in Le Mans, where she continued to bring joy and serve the community in fidelity to the vows she had professed back in 1948.

She was faithful to the common acts of community life, to prayer, and to the daily Eucharist. A woman of faith and of deep love for the Virgin Mary, she never missed praying the Franciscan Crown with the other sisters.

Among the members of her family, Sister Teresiana leaves the memory—indeed the spiritual testament—of a loving and joyful aunt who spread faith, happiness, a spirit of recollection, and unity around her, turning every meeting into a true family celebration. She was more than a distant aunt who brought affection, attention, and care for each one; she was like a second mother.

Dear Sister Teresiana, your human and religious family accompanies you with affection and prayer so that you may eternally enjoy the Presence of God, who is Love, to whom you gave everything for His glory and in the service of all. Rest in peace and intercede for us.





Sr. M. Idalia of Our Lady of Sorrows
Emma Cavin
Born in Cavasagra (Treviso) on 20.09.1928
Died in Gemona on 25.11.2024

Sr. Idalia was born in Cavasagra (TV) on September 20, 1928.

We recall the years of her youth in Cavasagra: her father Ettore and mother Ida Comazzolo formed a simple family, as was common in the small villages of the time. After nine days, on September 29, 1928, she received Baptism.

She lived in her simple Christian family, attending church and growing in faith. Domestic work—in the kitchen and in the garden, as was customary then—gave her joy and strength. When she began thinking about her future, looking also at the sisters in her village, she envisioned a life given to God. Thus, at age 25, on October 15, 1953, she chose to become a Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart, entering the motherhouse “St. Mary of the Angels” in Gemona. The Superior, Sr. Ermanna Madussi, said that Sr. Idalia had asked to “be a missionary in everyday life.”

After formation in postulancy and novitiate, on June 4, 1956, she made her religious Profession, taking the name Sr. Idalia in memory of her mother Ida.

She dictated her intention to Provincial Superior Sr. Ermanna Madussi, who wrote it down and preserved it among her documents:

“I know I am not worthy of this life, but with trust I desire to consecrate my life to the Lord in this religious institute for my sanctification and the salvation of souls!”

After two years of service in the motherhouse, she was sent to various communities of the Province Smda: Cavaso – Savorgnano – Oasi Gemona – Borgo Cavour TV – Sevegiano –

Ospedaletto d’Istrana, offering herself in kitchen service and other tasks needed by the community.

In 2015, at age 87, she returned to the motherhouse, continuing to live serenely, speaking with the elderly sisters of the infirmary and praying to Our Lady of Sorrows for the world in need of peace.

Today, November 25, 2024, the Lord called her to Heaven.

She had reached the venerable age of 96!

*Sister Idalia,
 you have now reached in heaven your
 family members
 and all our deceased sisters,
 with whom you share the eternal
 happiness the Lord grants you.
 You are also beside Mary,
 whom during your earthly life
 you contemplated as
 “Our Lady of Sorrows.”
 Pray for our religious family
 that holy vocations may arise,
 joyful in living as Franciscan
 Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
 in the simple and beautiful
 way that you did.*



Sr. M. Anna Maria of the Child Jesus
Lidia Pian
Born in Ponzano Veneto on 11.08.1929
Died in Roma - Centocelle on 06.12.2024

It is often thought that staying in the background and not appearing are traits that make one disappear from a scene. Yet, Sr. Anna Maria, so quiet and withdrawn in her wheelchair, with ever-attentive eyes, we always felt her presence—kind in her silence, welcoming in her listening.

We never heard her complain about pain or ask for anything special, except to express the desire for companionship in the solitude of her final days, when she was serene and

aware that the end of her journey was near. She always spoke of her family, her affectionate bond with her older sister, Sr. M. Oliva, and with Sr. Daria, both missionaries in Latin America: a life given to God and the Church as a FMSC.

Sr. Anna Maria, Lidia Assunta, was born in Ponzano Veneto (Treviso) on August 12, 1929. Soon, the three sisters became orphans of their mother, whom she often remembered with a trace of sadness. After her initial formation in Gemona, she was sent to Rome, where she completed her training and made her perpetual Profession at the General House “Santa Elisabetta” in Piazza Pitagora.

Gifted with special talents in education and early childhood formation, her superiors guided her to study at the Magistral School to prepare her for teaching in kindergarten. She began with several experiences as an assistant teacher, then received her first assignment in the community of Ostia; later in Ripe, and finally in 1984 she arrived in the villages of Latina: Chiesuola, Faiti, Grappa, Carso, the last in 1999.

Everywhere she distinguished herself as an exemplary educator, a well-prepared catechist, and a serene sister in community.

I have listed her various assignments to highlight her adaptability and spirit of obedience, with which Sr. Anna Maria faced her entire life of dedication, maintaining until the end a subtle kindness.

In 2000 she was assigned to the provincial house in Rome Centocelle, already somewhat weakened by fragile health, and in the infirmary she completed, always in silence, her offering of love, never disturbing anyone, yet fully participating in community life and seeking to be helpful in small services.

She left us to answer the call of the Bridegroom on December 6, 2024, after long prayer and receiving the Anointing of the Sick, fully aware and ready for eternal life.

Let us learn from her to live humbly with life itself!

Thank you, Sr. Anna Maria.



Sr. M. Marina della Divina Provvidenza

Marina Fusi

Born in Broni (Pavia) on 13.12.1949

Died in Gemona on 12.12.2024

“Saint Lucia: a light that illuminates and brightens the path of life like a shining star.”

Yesterday, December 12, was the radiant day the Lord chose to call Sr. Marina Fusi into His Kingdom. Sr. Marina Fusi was born in Broni (Pavia) on December 13, 1949, to Carlo and Mayer Aurelia, who brought her to be baptized on December 31, choosing the name Marina Maria Grazia for her. She received the sacrament of Confirmation in Milan on May 8, 1958.

During the years when many people migrated abroad in search of work, her family had also left Italy for Brazil. Returning to Italy, Marina met two of our missionary sisters on the ship coming from Chile. This encounter was a sign for her of her calling to consecrated life.

Thus, at the age of 20, on September 24, 1969, hearing the Lord's call to consecrated life, she chose the congregation of the FMSC, entering the Mother House in Gemona. She made her religious Profession on September 27, 1971.

Over the years, reflecting on this event, she wrote: “Returning to the origins of my vocation strengthens the conviction: for me it could not have been otherwise. As the founder, Fr. Gregorio, said: ‘Wonderful are the ways of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, which cannot be questioned!’”

Recalling the time of emigration, she felt her vocation as a missionary desire, often asking herself: “What is my availability? My religious life calls for readiness toward God and others; concrete love for all.”

Indeed, she made herself available in many services wherever she was sent: in Luxembourg as a religion teacher in the European school; in Assisi for vocational pastoral work; in Rome as a theology student at the Antonianum; and in many other places where she served both as a kindergarten teacher and as a religion teacher at “Santa Maria degli Angeli” (Gemona) and in public schools. She also served as Director of the retirement home in Borgo Cavour (TV) and of the “Sacro Cuore” Boarding School (UD), caring for university students.

Appointed local Superior in various communities, with commitment and in a spirit of fraternity, she fostered communal harmony among the sisters and promoted collaboration in parish and diocesan pastoral work.

In 2021 she was transferred to Gemona – the Mother House – where she dedicated herself until the last day of her life to the spiritual animation of the sick sisters in the infirmary. Open-hearted, enthusiastic, and eager to share joy, she even created small skits presented with surprising simplicity.

Her departure from this world came suddenly: the Lord called her to make “the jubilee pilgrimage” and to enter paradise, ready to celebrate her jubilee.

Sr. Marina related easily with everyone. Here are some testimonies from her brother and friends:

*“Eternal happiness grant her,
Lord... I cannot imagine my sister
resting in eternity!
I write this to remember
her with a smile,
because smiling
was truly her style.”*

“The first memories of my life hold the warmth of that smile, the tenderness of her gaze, the sweetness of Sr. Marina. Alongside the sadness of this sudden news, I am grateful to have seen her a little over a month ago and introduced her to my family, my children. I will always remember that embrace and carry it in my heart, feeling her warmth in difficult moments.”

*“Farewell and safe journey,
Sr. Marina. Gemona,
especially the school, loses
a guiding light, a figure who
transmitted rules and values
that once mattered and now are
scarcely passed on.
Goodbye,
Sr. Marina,
and thank you for all you did
for my children
and the children
of Gemona.”*

It is such a great sadness to think tomorrow would have been her birthday.

For years she guided our children in kindergarten with energy, dedication, and unmatched commitment. I still remember her initiative in creating a stimulating, rich environment for the little ones.

A strong embrace to the religious community and all who were fortunate to know her. May her memory serve as example and comfort.

*Sr. Marina,
our dearest sister,
now you too rest in the womb
of infinite life in God's glory;
remember and intercede
for all your loved ones
and for us, your sisters, bringing
the divine light that makes us
“Pilgrims of Hope.”
Pray for our religious family, for
young people
capable of dedicating
their lives to God as you did*



Sr. M. Clara of the Eucharist
Liliana Teresa Mussato
Born in Paese (Treviso) on 29.12.1941
Died in Gemona on 23.12.2024

“Behold, a new light rises in the morning, a voice resounds: the King of Glory comes!”

Sr. Clara Mussato responded to God’s voice, which resounded in the morning liturgy, calling her to heaven, drawn by the Lord’s light! Sr. Clara was born in Paese (TV). Her parents, Virginio and De Marchi Maria, brought her to baptism in the parish on December 30, 1941, choosing the name Liliana, meaning “Purity of a lily.” Raised in her family and responding to the call to consecrated life, she entered Gemona at age 18 on October 5, 1959, and made her religious Profession on September 14, 1961, taking a new name: Sr. Clara of the Eucharist, reflecting the light of Jesus in the Eucharist. That same year she began her mission as a teacher in various kindergartens and in parish apostolate, continuing until 2009. After this long commitment nurturing children in school, youth in catechesis, and support for families, in 2013 she was transferred to Rome at the General House to assist in kindergarten. Later, in 2021, she was sent to the infirmary at the Mother House in Gemona due to health issues. These three years were important for her spiritual life, always growing with the support of the sisters who assisted her until her passing. Sr. Clara, we unite with you to hear the Gospel today: “I will sing

forever of the Lord’s love from generation to generation” (Psalm 88). The love of Jesus manifests itself in this Eucharist, which you chose to have always present in your life and mission.

Now, ascending to heaven, you have joined your family and all our deceased sisters to celebrate in glory the Holy Christmas of the Jubilee.

Mary and Joseph accompany you, helping us to contemplate Jesus born among us and ever present in the Eucharist.

Pray for our religious family, for holy vocations, young pilgrims of hope, joyful to live as Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in a simple and beautiful way, as you did.



Sr. Mariangela of Mary Help of Christians
Marisa Giovanna Moretti
Born in Udine on 30.10.1931
Died in Gemona on 06.01.2025

The Magi, when they saw the star, were filled with great joy.

Today, January 6, 2025, at 11:20 p.m., before the star of the Magi dimmed its light, Sr. Mariangela Moretti was called and welcomed into heaven, where the Light of God shines.

Sr. Mariangela was born in Udine on October 30, 1931. Her parents, Luigi and Noemi Bernardinis, on the day when the Church celebrates All Saints, November 1, 1931, brought her to Baptism, where she was given the name Marisa Giovanna. On 30.09.1940 she received Confirmation in Vendoglio (UD).

She grew up in her family and, at

the age of 18, welcomed the call to Consecrated Life to which the Lord invited her. She entered the motherhouse of the FMSC in Gemona on 30.10.1949 and there, after her novitiate formation, she professed her religious vows on 10.09.1951, taking the name Sr. Mariangela of Mary Help of Christians.

That same year, in Rome–Piazza Pitagora, she attended school and earned the qualification of “Teaching Certification for Preparatory Grade Schools,” and consequently, after her traineeship in Treppo Grande, she was sent for two years to her first mission in Fontane (TV).

Until 2018, she offered her service to children in various kindergartens and in pastoral ministry in different parishes: Manzano – Treviso – Borgo Cavour – Artegnia – Vedelago – Salzano – Buttrio – Ospedaletto d’Istrana – Savorgnano – Seveglia. In the provincial communities she also served as local Superior, carrying out this responsibility with simplicity and communicative dedication.

In 2018, at the age of 87, after a life spent for the Lord, she was welcomed back into the motherhouse, where she was still able to offer small services. Since 2023 she lived with the sisters in the Infirmary.

Today, the door of Paradise has opened also for Sr. Mariangela: like the Magi, she followed the path that leads to heaven to present to the Lord what she tried to live and spread on earth:

the Gold of charity toward God and neighbor,

the Incense of hope in daily goodness, the Myrrh of forgiveness and peace for all.

Epiphany is “a luminous, clearly visible path, capable of indicating a way upward.” It is the way of love that she lived throughout her entire life!

Sister Mariangela, now you have reached heaven to celebrate in glory the Jubilee Year 2025.

Pray for all your loved ones and for our religious family, that we may live the jubilee pilgrimage of hope.



Sr. M. Agnese of Mary Queen
Gioacchina Careddu
 Born in Roma on 17.06.1938
 Died in Roma on 23.01.2025

A life waiting to be discovered. Preparing a remembrance profile of a deceased sister—avoiding the somber term “obituary”—may seem like a purely administrative task for the provincial office archives. Yet, in preparing and learning about the life of each of the sisters who have passed into eternal life, interviewing those who knew them closely, one can come to know them deeply and appreciate their value.

It is beautiful to discover how much goodness lies hidden in the lives of people who may have only brushed past us or lived beside us 24 hours a day for years. Older sisters recall that, in former times, the rule advised against speaking about one's past or present experiences—certainly for good reasons—yet this perhaps prevented them from knowing more about one another.

I say this because, I believe, we were all surprised by the funeral prepared for Sr. Agnese by the entire college of the Urbaniana University, where she offered her service supporting foreign seminarians as interpreter and reviewer of their theses. But this is only one piece of the mosaic. Let us proceed through her life!

Sr. Agnese was born in Rome on June 17, 1938. She completed her studies, eventually earning a Teaching Diploma.

In 1954 she began her Aspirancy experience in the community of Centocelle.

After five years, she became a Postulant. She dedicated herself wholeheartedly

and concluded this year by entering the Novitiate in 1960.

The year 1961 marked a turning point for our sister, who seemed to advance rapidly in her growth: this was the year of her first profession. It was surely a milestone; generally, the Church allows more time to be strengthened in intention and perseverance. Yet Sr. Agnese was immediately sent to our Mission in Chile. In 1962 she was already teaching and serving as principal in the school of Puerto Montt, where in 1967 she professed her Perpetual Vows.

Then followed a series of varied assignments that highlight her adaptability:

- 1969 – Rancagua (Chile)
- 1973 – Asisium
- 1980 – Santiago – Teacher and principal
- 1985 – Lido dei Pini – Children's assistant
- 1986 – Centocelle – High school secretary
- 1995 – Viale Saffi – Interpreter for “Propaganda Fide”
- 2008 – Earns her degree in Religious

Sciences at the Gregorian University. She then began the service mentioned earlier at the Pontifical Urbaniana University, working alongside many young seminarians—Asian, African—preparing for the priesthood and mission. In this way, she too carried forward the missionary passion that accompanied her throughout her life.

At Viale Saffi, Sr. Agnese also contributed to the Franciscan Parish of St. Francis at Ripa, served by the Friars Minor of Father Gregorio's province.

This was her missionary activity, yet she also cultivated relationships and many personal interests. She faithfully carried forward her commitments, even as her health slowly declined. Several times she was hospitalized at the nearby Santo Spirito Hospital, where she became well known and well cared for.

She suffered greatly when, at last, the progression of her illness confined her to her room. Finally, Brother Body surrendered on January 23, 2025, in the Viale Saffi Community.

It is beautiful to remember her with the words of Bishop Mons. Vincenzo Viva, former Rector of the Urbaniana and now Bishop of Albano, who celebrated her funeral:

“...Sr. Agnese had the ability to stand beside the people she met, sensing their needs and responding with loving service... We can truly say that Sr. Agnese had a very big heart. As a ‘true Roman,’ she had a proud, genuine, vibrant character... She knew how to speak clearly and had uncommon courage, but she also knew how to love and accompany others...”

Thank you, Lord, for giving her to us; do not let us lack new sisters—treasures to be discovered.”



Sr. Michelangela of the Immaculate
Rosa Visentin
 Born in Postioma di Paese (TV) on 27.12.1930
 Died in Gemona on 28.01.2025

This morning at 7:30 a.m., Sister Michelangela reached the final step of the stairway leading her into the Kingdom of the Lord, after the long journey of her consecrated life.

At the motherhouse, the community Mass had just ended, during which the words of Psalm 39 placed in her heart the response to the call of her Bridegroom, Jesus:

“Here I am, Lord; I come” (Ps. 39). She was born in Postioma (TV) on December 27, 1930, into a good family, where her parents, Bruno and Erminia Visentin, accompanied her Christian growth through: holy Baptism on 03.01.1931, giving her the name Rosa; holy Confirmation on 30.10.1938; and First Communion. At the mature

age of 23, she chose to respond to the Lord's call to consecrated life and entered Gemona on 06.12.1953. After initial formation, she professed her religious vows on 04.06.1956 and was given the name Sr. Michelangela of the Immaculate. Sr. Michelangela lived her many years of consecrated life with love, together with many sisters, like a second family. Jesus, too, lived in a family formed by disciples and ordinary people. He himself confirms this in today's Gospel of the community Mass:

"Here are my mother and my brothers!

Whoever does the will of God is my brother, sister, and mother."

Sr. Michelangela, indeed like a sister and a mother, offered her service in various communities through pastoral and fraternal ministry.

The places or tasks assigned are not what matter, for, as the Letter to the Ephesians emphasizes, "There is one hope to which you have been called—the hope of your vocation" (Eph. 4:4).

Sister Michelangela, now you have arrived in the family of the Saints in heaven, certainly accompanied and welcomed by Mary Immaculate.

In your last written message, you left us this commitment:

*"Remember what you do:
one day you will find Grace!!!"*

*Pray for all your loved ones
and for our religious family,
that we may live the jubilee year as
"pilgrims of service"
in our communities
and with our brothers and sisters—
just as you did!*



Sr. M. Elena of the Eucharist
Elena Bilibio Durigon
Born in Cavasagra (Treviso) on 26.10.1948
Died in Santiago del Chile on 03.02.2025

*"A total gift to the mission of Christ,
loving and serving
with humility and joy."*

Our sister was born on October 26, 1948, in Vedelago, Treviso, Italy. She entered the congregation in the pre-novitiate on September 20, 1964, in Gemona, Italy, where she completed all her religious formation. She made her first vows on September 12, 1968, and offered her definitive "yes" to the Lord with the profession of perpetual vows on September 12, 1973.

Throughout her life, our sister generously gave herself to the path God presented to her, living with unwavering faith that illuminated even the most difficult moments. Her constant and overflowing service toward the brothers and sisters God placed on her path reflected her love and dedication. With a heart open to the Spirit, she courageously embraced the mission in distant Latin America, a challenge she could undertake only thanks to her profound trust in God, pronouncing her "yes" in 1985.

Upon arriving in these lands, she began an intense missionary life that took her through Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Mexico. With unparalleled generosity, she took on educational roles in schools as a religion teacher and developed direct, hands-on pastoral care for the most needy, especially children.

It is easy to translate a person's life into numbers and years, but these represent only a part of her story. Sister Elena's life was much more than dates and places; it was expressed in

the love and dedication with which she served communities, in the fraternity she shared with her sisters, in the depth of her prayer, and in her pastoral and sacramental work. With unique simplicity, she welcomed many children, giving them trust and closeness—a reflection of God's love in her life.

Sister Elena repeatedly served as superior and community animator, paying particular attention to ensure her sisters remained faithful to their mission and to the Lord, working in direct collaboration with the Church. From her arrival in Cochabamba in 1985, her missionary journey led her to the Yungas of Bolivia, in Caranavi (1987–1994). Later, from the heights of La Paz in the Emaús community, God called her once again to discover new faces in Chile in 1996. On this occasion, she dedicated herself to the delicate mission of formation, accompanying young women in the postulancy and then novices between 1996 and 2005.

Her missionary and generous spirit led her to Peru in 2006, where she accompanied a community in Lima. Later, between 2007 and 2008, she served in Cusco in a parish community. She also guided the opening of a new mission, "Laura Leroux," in Tijuana, Mexico, animating the religious community's life and serving as a religion teacher and in pastoral work.

In 2012, the Lord again called her to serve as mistress of novices, a mission she carried out with joy and dedication until 2015. In 2016, she took on the challenging role of animating and supporting the Lourdes community in the provincial house, a complex task that included responsibility for the infirmary.

At the end of her three-year term, she was sent to southern Chile, where she ran the open dining hall of Sister Ana Pía, providing care to elderly poor people, many of whom were in rehabilitation from alcoholism. She continued this mission until 2021, when she returned to the provincial house as local superior. In 2022, she assumed the role of Provincial Vicar,

serving diligently and committedly in animating the province, together with the Provincial Superior and her council, until the last days of her term, even as illness began to manifest.

As Vicar and Superior of the “*Lourdes*” Community, Sister Elena Bilibio of the Eucharist lived with tireless dynamism, supporting initiatives not only within her work on the Provincial Council but also promoting the functioning of the Provincial House and the infirmary. She devoted constant attention to the latter, even during nighttime hours, overseeing the care of the sisters. What distinguished her was precisely her inexhaustible energy, which did not diminish even with illness, because she never allowed herself rest.

She truly embodied the essence of her consecration, for the ultimate gift of Christ to us was the total gift of Himself, offering Himself as broken bread for all. Yet God’s will is not ours, and her illness presented us with a hard lesson. She herself suffered on her own body the relentless advance of her disease.

Like all humans, we dreamed of something better, and for this reason, we clung every day to a hope that arose amidst light and shadow. You fought, as always, for us, so that we could maintain the illusion of seeing you again in the community. Gradually, you joined the cross the Lord offered you each day. We had grown accustomed to rejoicing at every small improvement and remaining silent at each possible setback. Prayer for the miracle of your health became part of us; in every Eucharist, your name and our desire for your return were present in our hearts.

And here you are, dear sister. You remain in each of our lives, in the religious you formed, in the communities where you served, and in the missions, you dedicated yourself to. But above all, you remain in this mission of the Provincial House, in the “*Lourdes*” Community, and in the infirmary.

Now it is up to us to relate to you differently: in daily prayer and in

Eucharistic communion, like the one we will begin now to say to the Beloved: thank you, thank you for your life given to the very end



Sr. M. Loreto of the Heart of Mary
Guglielma Favaro Bottacin
Born in Salzano (Venezia) on 20.03.1925
Died in Santiago del Cile on 05.02.2025

“A missionary of joyful proclamation”

Sister Loreto was born on March 20, 1925, in Salzano, Venice, Italy. Her life was always marked by deep love for God and a vocation oriented toward service.

On June 2, 1948, she entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, beginning her pre-novitiate with great enthusiasm and dedication. Just two years later, on May 10, 1950, she made her first vows, fully committing herself to her religious mission.

Missionary obedience and her ardent love for Christ led her, even at a young age, to courageously accept the call to mission. She was chosen, together with Sister Fabiola Marcuzzi, Sister Ernestina Magoga, Sister Emiliana Zilio, and Sister Anna Brustolini, to found a new presence of the Congregation in Latin America. Mother Cecilia Lazzeri, the Superior General at the time, with the wisdom of one who fully trusts in Providence, entrusted them with the beautiful but challenging task of bringing the “fragrance of Christ” to distant lands.

For Sister Loreto, this departure meant a total detachment: leaving her homeland, her family, and her friends, without the certainty

of seeing them again, because at that time, communication and transportation were very limited.

Yet her heart, supported and embraced by Him who sends His disciples, found the strength to surrender to the unknown with faith and hope. On January 23, 1951, together with the other sisters, she sailed from Italy to Chile, marking the beginning of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart’s presence in South America, specifically in Puerto Montt, “*Comunidad María Asunta*.”

Whenever Sister Loreto recalled this voyage, she did so with such deep passion and emotion that it moved all who listened. Her love for Jesus was reflected in every word, memory, and gesture. Her greatest desire in the mission was to work with children, especially the little ones. God, in His infinite goodness, fulfilled this desire, allowing her to educate generation after generation. Despite language challenges, she taught reading and writing with admirable tenderness and patience, leaving an indelible mark on many children’s lives.

Sister Loreto celebrated her perpetual profession on May 10, 1955, in Puerto Montt. On that day, she gave her generous and definitive “yes” with a heart full of missionary fervor, accompanied by her religious community and many people with whom she shared the mission, who gradually became her new family and homeland. As a sign of total dedication, Sister Loreto renounced her Italian citizenship and became a Chilean citizen on November 13, 1956, reaffirming her missionary commitment to the Congregation and the Church. (Between 1975 and 1980, she was able to recover her Italian citizenship without losing her Chilean nationality.)

In 1960, Sister Loreto left the Puerto Montt community to move to Puerto Varas, where she joined the emerging “*Regina Mundi*” community, to which she gave her life with love and dedication. There, she served as local superior and in the basic education

of many poor children, providing not only instruction but also maternal care full of tenderness. Always attentive to their needs, whenever possible, she knitted wool socks for them to protect them on cold and rainy days.

In 1967, she extended her service to the girls' home of Santa Rosa de Rancagua, continuing her mission of love and care for the most vulnerable. Throughout her life, Sister Loreto dedicated herself to teaching and catechesis. She also had the opportunity to serve outside Chile, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she acted as local superior and teacher between 1991 and 1993. Later, she returned to Chile and dedicated herself until her final days to the mission at "María Asunta" in Puerto Montt, at Colegio "Arriaran Barros," where she served for 22 years in various periods, and in the "Regina Mundi" community of Puerto Varas, where she remained for about 19 years providing education and Christian formation at Colegio Felmer Niklitschek. In this latter place, she retired from active apostolate in November 2011 at the age of 85.

These were years of dedication to the education of countless children, youth, and adults. Many teachers followed her legacy with gratitude and affection. In her final years, spent in the infirmary, she lived a life of prayer and rest, but without neglecting her creativity and generosity: she transformed this space into her "memory workshop," creating postcards from recyclable materials to offer to the sisters working with children.

Sister Loreto always stood out for her deep love for God and her sisters, radiating with her warm, simple, and joyful presence a spirit of fraternal welcome.

How can we not thank the Lord for the gift of this life given in holy joy? Thank you, Good Father, for placing her on our path and allowing us to see your gentle face in every detail of her generous service.



Sr. M. Beatrice of the Sacred Heart
Joanna Skorti
Born in Kormakiti (Cipro) on 04.12.1941
Died in Limassol (Cipro) on 11.02.2025

Sister Beatrice Skorti was born on December 4, 1941, in Kormakiti, one of the villages of the Maronite Archdiocese of Cyprus. She was the third of six children born to Elias and Albina. They were a simple, poor, and hardworking family who raised their children in faith and Christian life within the small Maronite community of Kormakiti. She was baptized on December 12, 1941, with the name Ioanna and received Confirmation on June 5, 1949.

Thanks to the presence of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Kormakiti was one of the villages where the faith of the people and the missionary witness of the sisters fostered the emergence of many vocations to the consecrated life. Following the example of her sister, Sr. Bernadette Skorti, Ioanna felt the desire to also dedicate herself to the Lord. In June 1960, she entered Limassol as a postulant, and on September 30, 1962, she went to Le Mans, France, to begin her pre-novitiate. She pursued the stages of religious formation with dedication and seriousness. On August 12, 1964, she began her novitiate, and on October 4, 1965, she made her religious profession, taking the name Sister Beatrice of the Sacred Heart.

After her profession, she pursued her studies in France, Rome, and England. Meanwhile, on August 15, 1971, she made her solemn perpetual

profession in Troodos, Cyprus. She completed her studies in Manchester, England, and returned to Cyprus to teach at the Limassol school in 1974. For fourteen years, she devoted herself to teaching English language and literature, religion, and organizing various Christmas and end-of-year celebrations. She was also assigned to care for the school boarders, while from 1982 to 1988 she served as provincial counselor and secretary. Sr. Beatrice was always a strong and determined person, which helped her fulfill every responsibility entrusted to her with dedication, sacrifice, and love.

In 1988, at the request of the Carmelite Fathers and the Maronite Bishop of the Diocese of Tripoli, Mons. Joubair, to open a new mission in Lebanon, in Menjez – Akkar, the provincial superior, Sr. Bernadette Skorti, and her council supported the request and sent Sr. Beatrice Skorti to establish the mission as the local superior of the new community. Menjez, a small Maronite village in northern Lebanon, lacked an elementary school and any healthcare services due to the war, as well as roads, electricity, and water. The sisters began their service with five kindergarten students, sewing classes, healthcare assistance, catechesis, and the maintenance of the church, which had no priest.

With tireless dedication, Sr. Beatrice, together with her sister Sr. Bernadette, was determined to do everything necessary for the development of the mission for the benefit of the poorest. They approached various organizations and benefactors to build the school, dispensary, and convent for the sisters. Gradually, the mission flourished through human promotion, teaching, education, accompaniment, and healthcare. As school director, local superior, and vocation animator, she gave her all for the good of the mission and a people constantly threatened by wars and political, social, and economic crises. While visiting families, Sr. Beatrice discovered children with disabilities hidden at home out of shame. Her compassionate heart would not rest

until she established a section where they could at least learn a trade to earn a living.

Jesus said, “Knock and it will be opened to you,” and trusting in Divine Providence, she never stopped planning and seeking assistance from charitable organizations to improve the lives of her students and their families. The Lord, who tests but does not abandon, opened many doors, and aid came from various countries, allowing the mission to thrive.

Sr. Beatrice also served as provincial vicar for a three-year term from 2018 to 2021, participated as a delegate in the general chapters of 1987, 2011, 2017, and 2023, and was appointed a member of the congregational historical commission. Following research on the history of the province, she collaborated with Prof. Ulderico Parente to write, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the congregation in the Middle East, the book “The Province of Saint Elizabeth of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart: Historical Profile and Anthology of Sources 1872-2022.”

Throughout her life, Sr. Beatrice was charismatic, intuitive, cheerful, yet strict, aware of her many talents, and generously offered them for the good of the congregation and humanity. She was capable, decisive, sincere, and selfless, giving love and care to students, teachers, friends, and the poor with a maternal devotion. A person of faith, prayer, patience, self-denial, and service, she helped Menjez flourish through her insight and goodwill.

When she learned of an aggressive melanoma on her jaw, she accepted God’s will with readiness and serenity. After receiving the sacrament of the sick, Sister Beatrice began her final journey toward the House of the Father. She had endured much suffering in life, but the Virgin of Lourdes spared her further pain, taking her to heaven on February 11. Thank you, Sr. Beatrice, for all that you were and all that you did. Now, intercede from above for your Menjez and for us.



Sr. Mariangela of Passion
Mary Philippose Madappallil
 Born in Padinjathakara (India) on 26.12.1941
 Died in Thellakom (India) on 28.02.2025

With profound sorrow and deep Christian hope in the Resurrection, we announce the peaceful passing of Sr. Mariangela Madappallil, a devoted missionary and compassionate nurse, who was called to her eternal home on 28th February 2025 at Tellakom, Kerala.

Sr. Mariangela was born on 26th December 1944 in Padinjatinkara, Pala, Kerala, in the Diocese of Roman Catholic Diocese of Palai. She was baptized on 4th January 1945 and received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 9th May 1956 at Palayam, Kerala. From her childhood, she exhibited a gentle spirit and a deep love for prayer, which gradually blossomed into a firm vocation to religious life.

Heeding the gentle voice of the Lord She committed herself to God and entered religious formation and completed her Novitiate at Santa Maria Degli Angeli in Gemona in 1969. She made her First Religious Profession on 24th September 1970 in Gemona, and later pronounced her Perpetual Profession on 6th January 1977 in Udine, consecrating herself entirely to the Lord in lifelong commitment.

After completing her nursing studies, Sr. Mariangela dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the healing ministry. She served with commitment and professional excellence in Treviso, Italy, where

her compassionate care touched countless lives. Her missionary zeal led her beyond continents to South America, where she worked in Cochabamba, Bolivia, serving the poor and the sick with extraordinary love and courage.

Returning to India, she continued her noble service at Holy Cross Hospital, Machilipatnam, and at Holy Family Convent, Machilipatnam as a local superior, where her gentle presence and attentive nursing brought comfort to many suffering patients. Later, at Shalom Matha Convent, Manjeri, she rendered devoted service as a nurse among destitute women, seeing in each of them the face of Christ. Her patience, kindness, and motherly care were a source of healing not only for the body but also for wounded hearts.

In her later years, due to declining health, she was residing at Tellakom Laverna Convent, where she bore her sickness with quiet faith, serenity, and surrender to God’s will. On 28th February 2025, she peacefully departed from this world at Tellakom, Kerala, entrusting herself fully into the loving hands of the Lord whom she had served faithfully throughout her life.





Sr. M. Eugenia of the Immaculate
Novembrina Bernardinello
Born in Taglio di Po (Rovigo) on 09.11.1931
Died in Roma on 15.04.2025

Sr. Eugenia, born Novembrina Bernardinello a name that immediately reflects the time of her birth was born in Taglio di Po, in the province of Rovigo and Diocese of Chioggia, on November 11, 1931. She was born into a Christian family that immediately offered her the Sacrament of Baptism and nurtured her spiritual growth through parish catechism. At the age of seven, she received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, continuing her formation under the guidance of her parents' example of authentic Christian life.

At the age of 28, in February 1959, she left home to answer Jesus' call to consecrated life in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart (FMSC). She entered the pre-novitiate in Gemona until May 1960, when she received the habit and began her novitiate, culminating on May 3, 1961, when she made her vows, taking the name Eugenia. She continued her formation and remained in Gemona, assisting young women attending the College "S. Maria degli Angeli." She demonstrated a particular aptitude for this work, which she continued at the Udine Boarding School, the College "S. Elisabetta" in Piazza Pitagora, and finally at the College of the new General House "Asisum" until 1971. The young women remembered her fondly for her firmness as an educator and her gentle maternal care.

During this period, Italian colleges were changing activities as high schools

were established in towns, leaving only university boarding schools. Sr. Eugenia was sent to Monteporzio in Marche and Borgo Montello in Latina to assist in kindergarten teaching while pursuing studies to earn her diploma as a Kindergarten Teacher.

In 1977, she began her new mission as a childhood educator, working in various provincial kindergartens until 2002: Borgo Carso, Borgo San Michele, Tollo (Abruzzo).

The Lord then visited her with trials: caring for her elderly mother, and later a painful form of carcinoma, which Sr. Eugenia accepted with remarkable faith and courage, undergoing long and painful treatments that restored her health. In 2009, she accepted another nine-year mission obedience until 2018 as a pastoral collaborator in Borgo Grappa and Borgo Faiti, bringing zeal and enthusiasm to the souls entrusted to her care.

Tireless and attentive to the faithful, families, and especially the most disadvantaged, poor, and lonely elderly, she motivated and influenced others who accompanied her in home visits, charitable work, and nurturing spiritual life with prayer and love.

In 2021, an accidental fall caused health issues, and she was entrusted to the care of nurse sisters in the Santissimo Nome di Maria community on Viale Aurelio Saffi. For four years, she bore her infirmities courageously, maintaining a silent relationship with the Lord and fraternal dialogue with the sisters. Gradually, her strength diminished, and a further fall left her immobile.

Sister Death found her ready: her lips spoke only words of thanksgiving to the Lord for choosing her, to her superiors for allowing her to fulfill her mission of giving life through the care of the sisters she led for 18 years, the children and their families, and the elderly whom she comforted with the Eucharist.

Sr. Eugenia led a rich, exemplary, itinerant missionary life. She passed away at the first light of dawn on Holy Tuesday, April 15, 2025.



Sr. M. Elena of the Holy Eucharist
Jesusa Martinez Pereira
Born in Acchilla Sucre (Bolivia) on 16.01.1933
Died in Peekskill (USA) on 19.04.2025

Sr. Elena Martinez of the Holy Eucharist, FMSC peacefully entered into eternal life on Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025.

Sr. Elena (Jesusa Pereira Martinez) was born in Acchilla, Bolivia on January 16, 1933 to Wenceslao Martinez and Elena Pereira. Sister was part of a large family, 10 brothers and 8 sisters, and over 50 nieces and nephews.

In 1962, when our first 4 Sisters arrived in Bolivia, Jesusa was impressed by their spirit of dedication, self-sacrifice, and willingness to help the poor, so much so that in 1963 she joined them in Apolo. Sr. Gabriel reminded her many times that she should not get her hopes up to go to the United States, but that was never her intention when she joined the convent. Six months after entering our community, Sr. Elena was invited to join the formation community in Peekskill. Her "yes" brought her to Mt. St. Francis in September of 1963 to join the 20 postulants for her spiritual formation.

After her profession in 1965, Sister returned to Bolivia, taught school and did mission work. Upon returning to Peekskill, Sr. Elena was the Religious Education Coordinator at St. Patrick's in Newburgh, NY; ten years later she continued her ministry at Our Lady of Victory in the Bronx, and later at Sts. Peter and Paul in Mt. Vernon, NY. In 2006 she received the medal of honor from the Archdiocese of NY for over 25 years of service in Religious Education, as well as the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Award.

During her later years, Sister Elena lived at Mt. St. Francis and was an active staff member. She also volunteered her time at Assumption Parish in Peekskill and St. Christopher Parish in Buchanan. Sister Elena loved life: helping people, music and dancing, crocheting, and making ordinary occasions a celebration of life. She went home to God quietly and we now rely on her intercession for our needs.



Sr. M. Veronica of the Agonizing Jesus
Giuditta Santina Parisotto
Born in Barcon di Vedelago (TV) on 29.10.1931
Died in Gemona on 14.05.2025

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you: remain in my love!”
 (John 15)

We heard this proclamation today, May 14, in the Eucharistic liturgy, and surely Sr. Veronica Parisotto had already heard and embraced this message at 4:30 a.m., after several days of suffering. For her, it was a holy day, giving her the certainty of remaining forever in the Lord's love: God visited her and brought her into His Kingdom of love and peace.

Sr. Veronica was born on October 29, 1931, into a large family in Barcon di Vedelago (TV). Her father, Amerigo, and mother, Veronica Cavazzan, baptized her three days later, choosing the biblical name Giuditta-Santina.

She grew up in this Christian environment until the age of 21, when she felt called to the consecrated life. She entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Gemona on May 15, 1952, dedicating her youth to the Lord.

Her formation progressed regularly,

and she received the habit on July 21, 1953, taking her mother's name, Sr. Veronica. She made her religious profession on July 31, 1954, and her perpetual profession on July 31, 1959. Two of her sisters, Giacinta and Leontina, also followed religious vocations, joining the “Mantellate Serve di Maria.”

Sr. Veronica lived her religious life as a true missionary, serving in various communities in Veneto, Friuli, and Lazio (Borgo Faiti-Latina and Rome), contributing to teaching in kindergarten. Families and children always appreciated her loving and joyful dedication. She also carried out pastoral and catechetical work in parishes with great passion.

In 2007, due to her advanced age, she was welcomed to the Motherhouse, where she spent her final years sharing community life with the sisters and in the infirmary.

Sr. Veronica, from heaven in this month of May dedicated to Mary, pray for your family and for all of us, your sisters, who will continue to hold you in our hearts with fraternal gratitude for the good example of your life.



Sr. M. Mafalda of Jesus Crucified
Antonia Porato
Born in Paese (TV) il 16.11.1928
Morta a Le Mans (Francia) il 20.05.2025

On the day of her Baptism, 16 November 1928, her parents, Angelo and Agathe, gave her the name Antonia. She spent her childhood in a loving, Christian, and practicing family, in a household of ten children: one boy and nine girls, three of whom would follow Christ in consecrated life with the

Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

From a young age she lived her faith through simple and joyful service, helping her mother care for her brother and sisters and participating actively in parish life while continuing her education.

At the age of 19, in October 1947, after discerning the Lord's call, she left her family and entered the novitiate of the Mother House of the Congregation, “Saint Mary of the Angels,” in Gemona del Friuli. After two years of formation, she made her religious profession on 10 May 1950. Aware that she belonged to a missionary congregation, she kept in her heart a strong desire to go on mission. In 1951 her wish was fulfilled when she was sent on mission to the community of Attichy in France, where she served as the person responsible for the kitchen of the Pillet-Will retirement home.

In 1955 she was sent to Flers-de-l'Orne and to Sées, serving the seminarians of that diocese where she carried out her apostolate as a cook, showing great generosity and sensitivity. In the difficult situation of post-war poverty, she used all her imagination and creativity so that the young seminarians would have something to eat every day.

She was appreciated as a religious woman of prayer, humble, quiet, and hardworking. For seventy-five years, without ever complaining, she placed herself at the service of the Church and of the religious family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, living in humility, hiddenness, and generosity, joyful to serve others in the humble tasks entrusted to her.

In the various missions where she was sent (Attichy, Flers, Le Mans, Tavannes in Switzerland, and several times Le Mans), she remained faithful to her first commitment to live as a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. Wherever she went, she left the memory of a sister who was fraternal, open, and welcoming, always with a smile and

a word of encouragement.

In 2017 she withdrew from all active work, and her only apostolate became prayer. She prayed much and gladly spent hours in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. The Franciscan Crown was for her the most beautiful prayer addressed to the Virgin Mary, and under no circumstances would she miss the community acts. She loved fraternal life very much and shared joyfully and simply with the sisters.

On 20 May 2025 the Lord called her to enjoy His Light for eternity.

Dear Sister Mafalda, your human and religious family accompanies you with affection and prayer so that you may enjoy forever the Presence of God who is Love, to whom you gave everything for His glory in the service of all.

Rest in peace and intercede for us.



**Sr. M. Raffaella
Maria Martelli**

**Born in Miglianico (Chieti) on 20.08.1937
Died in Roma on 25.05.2025**

Sr. Maria Raffaella was born in Miglianico (Chieti) on August 20, 1937. One month after her birth, she was baptized with the name Maria, as her mother, devoted to the Madonna, wished to consecrate her to the Blessed Virgin.

She was born into a simple family; her parents were farmers in the Abruzzo countryside, committed also to the education of Maria and her two brothers. The family soon moved to the nearby town of Tollo, which offered better opportunities due to its hilltop location

overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Here, Maria came into contact with the Franciscan Marian Sisters, who ran a kindergarten and were active in parish ministry. She attended catechism and Catholic Action, and at 17 received Confirmation. During these years, the sisters' guidance inspired her desire to know them more deeply and to follow them in religious life.

On September 8, 1956, Maria began the pre-novitiate at Viale Aurelio Saffi in Rome, receiving her initial formation. In 1957, she began her canonical year of novitiate, concluding with the profession of her religious vows on September 12, 1958, the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, the congregation's principal feast day. She took the name Sr. Maria Raffaella.

She was immediately assigned to the community at Viale Aurelio Saffi, where the sisters taught kindergarten and elementary children and hosted elderly women. Sr. Maria Raffaella generously dedicated herself to various tasks until 1961, when obedience sent her to Frosinone. These were challenging years marked by the merger of the Franciscan Marian Sisters with the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Sr. Maria Raffaella embraced God's will with faith, offering her suffering in silence and committing herself to the new life path with simplicity and generosity.

In 1998, she served in Borgo Carso (Latina) as an assistant in kindergarten, caring attentively for many children. She later returned to Frosinone, where the old school had been rebuilt and adapted to host a new mission: the "Laura Leroux" Family Home for children in difficulty. She served as cook with care and dedication, looking after the children's health and well-being. For twenty years, she was a tireless missionary, serving the Lord's smallest and poorest, offering not only physical care but also spiritual support with love and understanding.

In 2019, fatigued and affected by various ailments, she returned to the house where she had trained as a young sister, now a serene residence for elderly sisters. Free from household duties, she received care while enjoying community life and intimate prayer with Jesus in the chapel. Her final earthly journey was painful, but Sr. Maria Raffaella endured it with serenity, offering an example of faithful surrender to the Father's will. She was called home on May 25, 2025, during the Extended General Council at the General House. Her funeral was attended by the Superior General, her council, and provincial superiors and vicars from across the congregation.





Sr. M. Pierpaola of the Holy Cross
Marianna Koumettou
Born in Kormakiti (Cipro) on 20.01.1938
Died in Limassol (Cipro) on 20.06.2025

Sr. Pierpaola Koumettou was born on 20 January 1938 in Kormakiti, one of the four Maronite villages of Cyprus. She was baptized with the name Marianna Koumettou Giorgi, also in Kormakiti, on 20 February 1938, and confirmed on 1 November 1944. She was the fourth and youngest daughter of the family of Koumettos Antoni Giorgi and Christina Channi Skoullou, and she also had two half-brothers from her father's first marriage.

Marianna attended the primary school in Kormakiti until the third grade. Those were very difficult times and her poor family had many needs, so she left school early to offer her precious help to her parents. Later in life, as an adult, she resumed her studies at Saint Mary's School in Limassol, attending up to the first year of high school.

Marianna became a little shepherdess and walked through the pastures of her beloved village, responsible for tending and guiding a small flock among the carob trees and olive groves, amid the scents of thyme and mastic, through the pine forests and the orange and lemon blossoms of the orchards, her gaze always turned toward the sea horizon adorned with sunsets of a thousand colors. There, in that paradisiacal landscape of her adored Kormakiti, she first felt the stirring inspired by God: the call of Jesus, inviting her to follow Him, to consecrate herself to Him, and to serve Him.

Thus, at just thirteen and a half years old, in September 1952, she left for Limassol, where she remained for four consecutive years. In 1956, seeing her desire to consecrate herself to the Lord, the Sisters sent her to Gemona del Friuli, where she completed her pre-novitiate and novitiate. On 3 May 1959, she professed for the first time her vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity, taking the name Sr. Pierpaola of the Holy Cross. A few months later, in September 1959, she was sent on mission to Vedelago and then to Paese, where she also learned the Venetian dialect. In 1962, she returned to Cyprus and served, at different times, all the communities of Cyprus: Nicosia, Larnaca, Kormakiti, and Limassol, well known for her exceptional recipes. Her greatest concern was always that the Sisters, the boys in the boarding school in Nicosia, and the girls in the boarding school in Limassol would be properly nourished.

She was always an example of simplicity, hard work, prayer, positive thinking, sacrifice, love, and dedication toward others. She was sociable, communicative, and full of humor. She knew how to maintain an atmosphere of joy, whatever the situation. Always with a broad smile on her lips, she would patiently listen to the problems of those who approached her and would try in every possible way to help them.

In her later years, from 2018, due to age and health issues, she was transferred from Kormakiti to the provincial infirmary in Limassol. Throughout her life she suffered greatly because of health problems, but she never lost her courage or her cheerful spirit. In fact, when she could no longer prepare her delicious dishes, she did not allow herself to be discouraged: with intelligence and goodwill she found a way to be creative and to help our missions in Lebanon and Bulgaria. She was always ready, within her abilities, to help in the best way she knew.

On 1 June 2025, after feeling unwell, she was admitted to the Ygeia Polyclinic in Limassol, where she was diagnosed with pulmonary edema and the need to replace her pacemaker. On 19 June 2025, her condition worsened, and she passed away quietly the next day, 20 June 2025, at 7:05 in the morning.

Dear Sister Pierpaola, we thank you for who you have been for all of us over these years and for all that you have done for the poor and the little ones, as a true Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart. We thank you for your smile, your kindness, and your sense of humor. Have a safe journey into eternity and pray for us. Pray to the Good Lord to send good and holy vocations to continue His work of redemption. Rest in peace!



Sr. M. Lauretana of the Resurrection
Maria Assunta Bigelli
Born in Ripe (Ancona) on 15.08.1939
Died in Gemona on 01.07.2025

Sister Lauretana Bigelli has reached the final step of the vocation to which the Lord had called her in life. She walked the long Christian-religious journey always attentive to the paths that the Lord allowed her to glimpse.

She was born in Brugnetto, near Ancona, on 15 August 1939—a date that immediately led her parents, Giovanni and Ida, to think of giving her the name “MARIA ASSUNTA,” so that the Blessed Mother might accompany her lovingly throughout her life.

One month later, on 15 September 1939, she was baptized; on 15

September 1948, she received Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit accompanied her throughout her earthly existence.

She grew up in her family together with five siblings.

She was 16 years old when a community of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart settled in her village. Having met them, the young Maria Assunta asked to be able to become like them: a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart.

She lived her postulancy and novitiate in Centocelle (Rome), where she made her religious Profession on 17 September 1961, receiving the name "Sr. Lauretana of the Resurrection."

After her perpetual Profession in 1966, she began her mission in various communities of the Roman Province: Borghi Faiti and Montello, Centocelle, Lido dei Pini, Piazza Pitagora, Asisium.

Following her transfer to the Veneto Province, she devoted her life to nursery schools and pastoral work in Pasian di Prato, Udine, Codroipo, and Sevegliano.

Her whole life was a smile and a constant invitation to peace, serenity, and unity.

With particular sensitivity and care, she tended to the smallest, the defenseless, and the poor.

She loved her religious family and the Church with attention, generosity, and readiness.

When her health began to fail, Sr. Lauretana came to the Motherhouse in Gemona. In this time of her earthly life, she prepared to welcome the Lord's final call with this certainty:

"I am the resurrection
and the life. Whoever believes in
me, even if he dies,
will live;

and everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die"

(Jn 11:25-26)

In this Jubilee Year, Sr. Lauretana,
"Pilgrim of hope,"
has reached her destination!



**Sr. M. Clara of Mary Queen of All Saints
Clara Nasato**

**Born in Paese on 12.09.1936
Died in Le Mans (Francia) on 05.07.2025**

Sister Clara was born on 12 September 1936 into a believing and practicing family. She was baptized the day after her birth and received the name Clara in honor of Saint Clare. The eldest of six children, from a young age she helped her mother care for her brothers and sisters and lived her faith by participating in parish activities while continuing her education.

Very young, at the age of 16, in September 1952, after welcoming the Lord's call, she left her family and entered the novitiate at the Mother House of the Congregation in Gemona, Italy. After two years of formation, she made her religious profession on 31 July 1954. Aware that she belonged to a missionary Congregation, she carried in her heart the desire to go on mission. In 1963 her wish was fulfilled when she was sent to France, to Le Mans, where she was appreciated for her generosity, availability, and talents, generously offering herself in every apostolate entrusted to her.

She lived all the missions entrusted to her in obedience with deep joy and faith. She was among the first sisters who opened the new community in Luxembourg in 1965. In 1967 she was appointed responsible for the formation of postulants in Le Mans. For her, everything was lived in Franciscan joy. She accepted missionary life with happiness in distant Cameroon, where she served as a sewing teacher. After eight years of mission, for health reasons she returned to Rome where, while receiving treatment, she attended theology courses and further prepared

herself for teaching young children. Once recovered, she continued her missionary vocation in Switzerland working with children and later with the Italian mission in Fribourg.

Within the Province of "Saint Louis IX," she held several mandates as local superior, during which she dedicated herself joyfully to her sisters. In 2002 she moved to the provincial house in Le Mans and continued to serve the community in fidelity to the vows she had professed in 1954. However, her missionary life did not stop; she was transferred to Attichy (Oise), close to the sick and elderly. She placed herself at their service, listening to them and accompanying them daily, always caring for them attentively. Before returning definitively to Le Mans because of her fragile health, her last mission was in Carlepont (Oise), where she offered many services.

Sister Clara was faithful to the common acts of community life, to prayer, and to the daily Eucharist. A woman of faith and love for the Virgin Mary, she never failed to pray the rosary with devotion for the intentions of the Church, missionaries, and the Congregation.

Dear Sister Clara, your human family and your religious family, united in prayer and affection, accompany you so that you may eternally enjoy the Presence of God who is Love, to whom you gave everything for His glory in the service of all. Rest in peace and intercede for us.





**Sr. M. Attiliana of Jesus Crucified
Emma Durigon Tonon**
Born in Treviso on 12.05.1931
Died in Santiago del Cile on 11.07.2025

Emma Durigon Tonon, Sister Maria Attiliana of Jesus Crucified, was born on May 12, 1931, in Treviso, Italy, into a large and deeply Christian family, the daughter of Caterino Durigon and Eleonora Tonon, one of twelve children. From her family, she received a strong and clear formation in human and Christian values, shaping her to be confident, steadfast, responsible, hardworking, optimistic, courageous, persevering, self-sacrificing, an untiring missionary, and much more.

She was baptized five days after her birth in her parish of San Giuseppe. At the age of eight, she received Confirmation.

She entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart on September 1, 1949, at the Motherhouse in Gemona, Italy, and consecrated herself to the Lord on September 10, 1951, at the age of 20.

In 1953, at only 21, she arrived at the mission in southern Chile, beginning her service as a teacher, educating the poorest and most needy children in schools in Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas, Santiago, at Liceo Madre Cecilia Lazzeri and Colegio Santa María de los Ángeles; she also served in Rancagua and Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

Her enthusiasm, abilities, and desire to serve led her to graduate as a teacher with a specialization in mathematics, as a consultant, and with a degree in education.

Throughout her long life and career, she served as director of schools and colleges, starting in 1960 at the Josefa Téllez girls' school and, for many years, as director of the Arriarán Barros School in Puerto Montt, while also providing extensive service at Santa María de los Ángeles School. In 1994 and 1996, she served as a missionary in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

In 1998, while in Italy, she contracted a serious illness lasting until 1999. This, though leaving lasting effects, did not diminish her missionary zeal and dedication to service.

In religious life, she served as provincial bursar, provincial councilor, and local superior on countless occasions, the latter role she fulfilled until August 2023 at the Santa Clara community, responsible for Santa María de los Ángeles School. Later, she was transferred to the infirmary at the provincial house, where the Lord called her on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the age of 94.



**Sr. M. Vittoriana of the Holy Spirit
Santa Gasparini**
Born in Istrana (TV) on 19.08.1933
Died in Gemona on 05.11.2025

She was born into a large family of nine children, as was common at that time.

In Istrana, she was baptized on August 27, 1933, with the name Santa Maria and confirmed on November 12, 1942. She grew up in a simple Christian home, attending her parish church and developing faith and love. Domestic work, common in those days, gave her joy

and courage.

Considering her future and inspired by the sisters in her town, she felt called to a life dedicated to God. At 21, on November 11, 1954, she entered the Motherhouse "S. Maria degli Angeli" in Gemona, choosing to become a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Sacred Heart.

After the required preparation, she made her religious profession on February 11, 1957, taking the name Sr. Vittoriana of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit guided her throughout her life in her simple services in the Menegazzi community from 1962 to 2006, and later at the Motherhouse in Gemona in the infirmary in 2012. In her final days, bedridden, she welcomed every sister entering her room with a warm greeting:

"Ciao ciao ciao: I love you, I love you very much!"

On November 5, 2025, the Lord called her to heaven. She reached the venerable age of 92. We entrust her to the goodness of the Lord with our prayers.

Sister Vittoriana, you are now reunited in heaven with your family and all our deceased sisters, sharing in the eternal joy that the Lord grants. The Virgin Mary, who accompanied you throughout your earthly life, is also by your side. Pray for our religious family, that the Holy Spirit may inspire holy vocations, eager to become Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the simple and beautiful way you lived.





Sr. M. Camilla of Divine Mercy
Edda Giovanna Berlato
Born in Pianiga (Venezia) on 06.03.1938
Died in Gemona on 10.11.2025

Sister Camilla left a written profile she desired:

“Most Holy Trinity: I adore you and thank you for the gift of physical life and for belonging to the great family of God’s children through Holy Baptism and for the many graces granted to me through the Holy Mother Church.

Thank you for giving me parents full of faith and great humanity, wonderful sisters and a brother who helped me grow and love...

I ask forgiveness if I have not always responded to so much goodness and tenderness...

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of the Religious Vocation. After many trials... YOU WON!

I thank the Superiors for all the good they have done for me and ask forgiveness if I have not always corresponded; the same to all my sisters, especially those who were close to me during my illness...

Thank you for the opportunity to meet many people to help and love... many children to educate and instruct... If I have not loved them with the tenderness you taught me, Jesus, I ask forgiveness.

Fill my gaps with the strength of your Spirit so that they may always be ‘GOOD CHRISTIANS.’

I beg You, Lord, not to look at the little good I have done, but at the DESIRE to do it.

And THANK YOU again for having shown me so much BENEVOLENCE and MERCY, and many loving

WONDERS and SURPRISES...

Mary, my Mother, THANK JESUS for me for His countless blessings and for His constant help throughout my life!

Sister Camilla, THANK YOU!”

Sr. Camilla, our dearest sister, you are now embraced in eternal life in God’s glory, together with your sister Sr. Evangelina. Remember and intercede for all your loved ones and for us, your sisters, granting us the divine light that makes us “Pilgrims of Hope.” Pray for our religious family, that young people may be inspired to dedicate their lives to God as you did.



Sr. M. Usha of the Child Jesus
Mary Usha Kosanam
Born in Prodduturu, Andhra Pradesh (India)
on 15.10.1984
Died in Vijayawada on 08.12.2025

On 8th December 2025, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Lord gently called Sr. Usha Kosanam, our dear sister from our midst to her eternal home. Her passing has left a quiet emptiness in our hearts, yet we remain deeply grateful for the gift of her life among us.

Sr. Usha was not only a member of our Congregation but truly one of us—a sister who walked with us, prayed with us and shared our joys and struggles. She lived her religious vocation. With sincerity and faithfulness, embracing each responsibility entrusted to her with humility and devotion. Her presence was simple, her words few, but her life spoke eloquently of trust in God and love for the community.

Sr Usha was born on 15.10.1984 at Prodduturu, Vijayawada Diocese, as the youngest child among the four

siblings into a faith-filled Christian household. Surrounded by the loving care of her parents, Mr. Prabhudas and Mrs. Suguna and nurtured by her brother and sisters, she grew up learning the values of prayer, simplicity and concern for others. Cherished at home, she was nevertheless touched by the call of God at a young age and with generous courage she responded, choosing the path of consecrated life and offering herself completely to the Lord and her sisters.

After a period of formation marked by commitment and prayers, Sr. Usha Kosanam made her first Religious Profession on 8th September 2007 at Carmel Nagar Vijayawada. In due time she made her perpetual profession on 4th October 2014 at St. Clare Convent Vijayawada, sealing her lifelong dedication to Christ and to the mission of the Congregation. Through her vowed life she remained a sincere and committed religious, striving to live her consecration with humility, perseverance and love for the community.

Throughout her religious life, Sr. Usha rendered her service with quiet commitment and a deep sense of responsibility in the various ministries entrusted to her by the Congregation. Each mission she undertook was carried out not merely as a duty but as an expression of her love for God and concern for those placed in her care. She served as hostel warden in Palassa Srikakulam Dt, and Savio Hostel Machilipatnam. In addition to hostel ministry after the completion of her post graduation she served as a teacher in St. Francis School Madhira Telangana, and St. Benedict Academy Bangalore where she carried out her educational mission with sincerity and perseverance. As she was committed to the academic and personal formation of the students striving to shape them into responsible and value-oriented individuals.

In the course of her life, Sr. Usha Kosanam was diagnosed with breast cancer, a trial that she carried with remarkable faith and courage for nearly five years.

Though the journey was long and

demanding, she never allowed suffering to diminish her spirit or her love for service. With quiet strength, she accepted each stage of treatment uniting her pain with Christ and drawing strength from prayers. While undergoing treatment, Sr. Usha remained active in the parish ministry offering her presence and support the Legion of Mary group. As her health permitted, she encouraged the faithful through her prayerful presence and gentle words. Her perseverance became a source of inspiration to many as she continued to serve and witness to hope amid suffering.

Through her illness Sr. Usha taught us a profound lesson that true dedication does not cease with physical weakness. And that faith, lived faithfully becomes even more radiant in times of trial. Though she is no longer physically with us, her memory continues to live on in our communities and in our prayers.



Sr. M. Sherly of the Heart of Jesus
Sherly Thomas Parappurath
Born in Koduvally Kerala (India) on 01.08.1964
Died in Tellakom - Kerala on 18.12.2025

With deep faith in the resurrection, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart announce the peaceful passing of Sr. Sherly Thomas who was called to eternal reward after a life loving service to God and His people.

Sr. Sherly Thomas Parappurathu was born on 01/08/1964 at Kalikavu, Thamarassery Diocese of Kerala as the third child among the four children of Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Mary in Parappurathu family. She was baptized with the name of

Anna. Listening attentively to the gentle call of God Sr. Sherly Thomas entered the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart with a sincere desire to dedicate her life to God and His people. After the initial formation she made her first profession on 11/05/1996 and later committed herself permanently to the Lord through her final profession on 31/05/2001.

Sr. Sherly lived her religious vocation with simplicity, dedication and quiet commitment. As a school assistant she rendered her service in St. Francis School Machilipatnam, Assisi School Pamarru and St. Francis E.M. School Madhira Telangana for several years. Her efficiency, honesty and sense of duty were highly appreciated. Through her silent and steady service, she contributed to the smooth administration of the institution, supporting both staff and students. Sr. Sherly's work reflected her understanding that even hidden service is an important participation in the mission of the church.

She was a skilled tailoring teacher and rendered her service as a tailoring teacher in St. Antony's Tailoring centre Chennai for three years. She was well-known in her dedication in stitching religious habits for the sisters with precision and care.

Sr. Sherly faithfully served the Congregation by shouldering the responsibility of mother superior in Holy Family Convent Machilipatnam, St. Clare Convent Vijayawada and Holy Trinity Convent Tekkalipatnam, Srikakulam. She guided the communities with a gentle spirit, prudence and motherly concern, always fostering unity, prayer and simplicity of life, guiding her communities not with authority but with a gentle, motherly heart.

Deeply rooted in her religious vocation Sr. Sherly Thomas lived her consecrated life with unwavering faith, sincere commitment and a loving dedication to the

Congregation. She embraced the community life as a sacred space of communion, her prayer, mutual support and simple living shaped her daily witness. In the final three years of her life, she courageously carried the painful cross of bone cancer. She accepted her prolonged illness with deep trust in God's will offering her suffering in union with Christ for the Congregation and the Mission of the Church. Despite physical weakness, her spirit remained peaceful and prayerful, bearing silent testimony to her total surrender to the Lord. Having reconciled with all and prepared herself spiritually, she completed her earthly pilgrimage peacefully in the presence of all the sisters in the community on 18th Dec. 2025. and returned to the father's loving embrace.

As we commend her soul to the loving mercy of God, we believe that she now intercede for us in heaven. May her prayers continue to accompany and strengthen us in our journey of faith





Saint Francis for Peace

1226-2026

8th Centenary of his death

Prayer to Saint Francis for Peace

Saint Francis, our brother, you
who eight hundred years ago went
to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix
of San Damiano, teach us to seek in
Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines
of war and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges where
the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become
peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses
of the peace that comes from Christ. *Amen*



Leo P.P. XIV