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***This is the acceptable time!***

## TIME of MERCY

A special Jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy is the announcement that Pope Francis has done in the Vatican Basilica, during the homily of the penitential celebration on March 13, 2015, the second anniversary of his election. An announcement welcomed with the applause of those present. In his homily Pope Francis emphasized the richness of God's mercy highlighting *"how lovingly Jesus looks at us, with much love heals our hearts of sinners"*

***"Be merciful as your Father"***



*"So I decided to hold a special Jubilee that is focused upon the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the Lord's words: "Be merciful as your Father." This Holy Year will start the forthcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, Sunday of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the universe and living face of the Father's mercy. "*

*It is " ... as a new stage of the journey of the Church in its mission to bring to every person the Gospel of mercy. I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time."*

In the Jubilee year the readings for the Sundays of Ordinary Time will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, called "the evangelist of mercy."

### **To better understand the meaning of "jubilee"**

In ancient times among the Jews, the jubilee declared was a holy year falling every 50 years, in which it was meant to restore equality to all the children of Israel, offering new possibilities to families which had lost their property and even their personal freedom. To the rich, however, the jubilee year reminded that the time would come when their Israelite slaves would once again become their equals and would be able to reclaim their rights. *"Justice, according to the Law of Israel, consisted above all in the protection of the weak"* (S. John Paul II in *Tertio Millennio adveniente* 13).

The Catholic Church has started the tradition of the Holy Year with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Boniface VIII had planned a jubilee every century. From 1475 - to allow each generation to live at least one holy year - the ordinary Jubilee was measured with the pace of 25 years.

An extraordinary jubilee, however, is organized on the occasion of an event of particular importance. The ordinary Holy Years celebrated are 26. The last was the Jubilee of 2000.



The custom of holding extraordinary jubilees dates back to the sixteenth century. The last Holy Years extraordinary, of the last century, were those of 1933, proclaimed by Pius XI for the XIX centenary of the Redemption, and that of 1983, proclaimed by John Paul II for the 1950 years of the Redemption.



The Catholic Church has given to the Jewish jubilee a more spiritual meaning.

It consists of a general pardon, indulgence open to all, and in the possibility to renew the relationship with God and neighbor.

Thus, the Holy Year is always an opportunity to deepen the faith and live with renewed commitment the Christian witness.

With the Jubilee of Mercy Pope Francis puts the focus of the merciful God who invites everyone to return to Him. The encounter with him inspires the virtue of mercy.

The initial ceremony of the jubilee is the opening of the Holy Door. It is a door that is open only during the Holy Year, while in other years remains walled. They have a Holy Door the four major basilicas of Rome: St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. The rite of opening the Holy Door symbolically expresses the idea that, during the Jubilee, is offered to the faithful an “extraordinary journey” to salvation.

The Holy Doors of the other churches will be opened after the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica.

Mercy is a topic very dear to Pope Francis. In his first Angelus after his election, the Pope said: *“feeling mercy, that this word changes everything. This is the best thing we can feel: it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just. We need to understand properly this mercy of God, this merciful Father who is so patient”* (Angelus, 17 March 2013).

In the Angel of 11 January 2015 he stated: “ There is so much need of mercy today, and it is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth! We are living in the age of mercy, this is the age of mercy.. “ *Still, in his message for Lent 2015, the Holy Father said: “ how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference! “*

The official announcement and solemn of the Holy Year was made with the reading and publication at the Holy Door of the Bull in the Divine Mercy Sunday.



## Pope Francis to the religious: Be joyful and God's gift to the world!

### *Some thoughts expressed by Pope Francis speaking to the consecrated people*

In this year dedicated to Consecrated Life, many are the challenges and the encouragements we are receiving from the Church and in particular from our Pope Francis. The letter He has written to all consecrated men and women gives us many points of reflections and evaluations.

Here we share some of his thoughts and ideas addressed to the religious and various occasions.



*“Wake up the world with your witness!”*  
(Pope Francis)

### **A consecrated woman is a mother**

There is a spousal dimension to women's consecration. That brings to assimilate the love of a nun for Christ to the love of marriage with the same *“qualities of perseverance, fidelity, unity of heart”*.

*“So often we forget this; and we forget this maternal love of the nun, because the love of the Church is maternal; ... because the love of Our Lady is maternal. Fidelity, the expression of love of a consecrated woman, must mirror — not out of duty but connaturally — the fidelity, the love, the tenderness of Mother Church and the Mother Mary”*.

### **A concrete love, goodness and truth**

*It is concrete love! A nun cannot afford love in the clouds; no, love is concrete.*

*What is the concreteness of a consecrated woman. What is it like? You can find it in two passages of the Gospel. In the Beatitudes: they tell you what you have to do. Jesus, the plan of Jesus, is concrete. So often, I think that the Beatitudes are the first Encyclical of the Church. It is true, because the entire plan is there.*

### **Celebrating... not making noise**

*“Celebration is a theological category of life. Consecrated life cannot be lived without this festive dimension. But celebrating is not the same as making a racket, noise.... Celebrating is what is in that passage that I cited. Remember: Deuteronomy 26. There is the aim of a prayer: it is the joy of remembering all that the Lord has done for us; all that He has given me; even that fruit for which I worked and celebrate.”*

### **The mystery of obedience**

the virtue that characterized Jesus on this earth:

*“The mystery of Christ is a mystery of obedience, and obedience is fruitful... As I said that a consecrated woman is the icon of Mary and of the Church, we can say that obedience is the icon of the way of Jesus. When Jesus became incarnate out of obedience, he became man out of obedience, until the cross and unto death. The mystery of obedience is not understood if not in the light of this way of Jesus. The mystery of obedience is to resemble Jesus on the journey that He wanted to take. And we see the fruit”*.



**Witness as vocation promotion**

*“I am also certain that there is no vocational crisis where there are consecrated people capable of passing on, by their witness, the beauty of consecration. Testimony bears fruit. If there is no testimony, if there is no consistency, there will be no vocations. You are called to bear this testimony. This is your ministry, your mission. You are not only “teachers”; you are above all witnesses of the sequela of Christ in your own charism. One can do this if every day one joyfully rediscovers being a disciple of Jesus. This also leads to the need to always attend to your own personal formation, beginning from a close friendship with the one Teacher”.*

**Consecrated life is beautiful**, it is one of the Church’s most precious treasures, rooted in baptismal vocation. Thus it is beautiful to be its formators, because it is a privilege to take part in the work of the Father who forms the heart of the Son in those whom the Spirit has called. At times one may feel this service to be a burden, as if it detracted something more important from us. But this is a mistake, it is a temptation. The mission is important, but it is equally important to educate for the mission, to educate in the enthusiasm for proclaiming, to educate in that passion of going to whatever place, to every periphery, to tell everyone of the love of Jesus Christ, especially



to those who are distant, to communicate it to the little ones and to the poor, and to let oneself also be evangelized by them. All of this requires a firm foundation, a strong Christian framework and character which today even families are rarely able to provide. This increases your responsibility.

**“There, where everything began”**, Peter says in his first speech. Things happen in Jerusalem but they began in Galilee. In our life too, it began in a “Galilee”: each one of us has had a Galilee experience, of the encounter with the Lord, that encounter which is never forgotten, often gets buried by

things, by work, by fears and even by sins and worldliness. To bear witness it is necessary to often make the pilgrimage to one’s own Galilee, to recall the memory of that encounter, that astonishment, and from there to set out again. But if one does not follow this path of remembrance there is the danger of just staying there, where one is and, there is even the danger of not knowing why one is there. This discipline is followed by those men and women who want to bear witness: to go back to one’s own Galilee, where we encountered the Lord; to that first astonishment.

**The Young smile of 97 years old**

The last greeting of the Pope was for a nun of 97 years of age. *“In regard to the feminine genius, I spoke about the smile, I spoke about patience in community life, and I would like to say a word to this 97-year-old nun whom I greeted....*

*I exchanged a few words with her, she looked at me with clear eyes, she looked at me with that smile of a sister, mother, and grandma. In her I would like to pay homage to perseverance in consecrated.*



## The Church invites us to...“search the horizons of our times”

Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Pontifical University Antonianum was held a day of study entitled

### **“The Franciscan consecrated life 50 years after Vatican II”**

to which some of us, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, attended. The themes were a deepening of the second circular letter of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, entitled **“Keep watch”**.



The biblical dimension inspired by the text of Exodus presented the life of consecrated as a continuous journey that starts from daily experiences and ends in the encounter with Christ. An itinerary sometimes difficult, sometimes fraught with obstacles, characterized by the apostolic fruitfulness, by the exercise of the virtues, the human and spiritual maturity, but with an element that should not be missing: the joy. A cloud that treasures, holds, gives direction, takes care of the people but at the same time, does not take away the possibility to choose. In fact, the prophecy must be evaluated and asks for personal involvement.

Certainly, in this way, the image of the biblical exodus is even more appropriate to describe the journey of the consecrated persons. Ups and downs, as in the story of Scripture, that marked the path of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, there were also frequent in the renewal of religious institutes in the years following the Council Vatican II. Thus appears in all its importance the function of the cloud before the people of God. Consecrated men and women keep watching the horizon to be guided, to rediscover the original charism, adapting themselves to the needs of the times.

Facing the prophetic dimension of consecrated life, Mgr. Paolo Martinelli OFM<sup>Cap</sup> stressed that searching the horizons today requires to stand in front of a new and intense change. It is no longer enough to look at the past with gratitude but it urges a step further asking to live the present and embrace the future. We must know how to ask questions about what the people today might say to all consecrated men and women and vice versa in order to find a way of renewal. Rediscovering the centrality of the baptismal vocation and so the specificity of each one becomes a reciprocal gift. Mgr. Martinelli has proposed two models of renewal still valid today:

- The return to the original charism not like archeology, but as identification of the vital elements to actualize in this historical time. A charism alive that cannot close in structures but, for its inherent power and vitality, it expands looking for new paths.
- to adapt to the circumstances that are the concreteness of our spiritual experiences otherwise the charism remains a theory that does not access to reality. The circumstances are the detonator as for Francis of Assisi was the leper. It is necessary then to be examined by them.

For the fraternal dimension with the title *“the mystical encounter”*, Sister MG Bortot showed that today the Church and the world challenge us by asking urgently the witness of our fraternity.



With her dynamism presentation, she has put in front of us many challenging questions: has prophecy faded? As a fraternity are we seeking ways of authentic relationship? Are we in danger of separating the charism and life?

And with these provocations, we were asked to re-read our fraternities as the womb of the Word, and the Word as the womb for fraternal life. Learning to live the mystique of carrying up each other not to look for perfect relationships but to live Easter relationships.

It is therefore highlighted a consecrated life as a life of men and women made fruitful by Christ,



which is only possible if we are poor, if we make room in us. Then the question was: what are we burdened with and what is lacking in our humanity? Perhaps we are weighed down by repetitive routes, old, towards which the Spirit calls for a crisis, a move to exit the circle of the privileged.

“*In the sign of the small*” was the intervention of Fr. Amando Trujillo Cano TOR that, following the No. 16 of the letter he outlined the value of the minority in the consecrated life as a place where God works through human frailty. To be minor in the world today asks to have a look able to grasp the presence of the Kingdom even in the humble signs.

To have the courage to live in the suburbs trusting the Providence; to find a contemplative dimension as the sap for our lives; to cultivate a faith that has its strength in the kenosis; to enjoy the little things to overcome fears and habits to make way for the ever new breath of the Spirit.

*“To walk following the signs of God means experiencing the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ, centre of life and source of decisions and actions. The encounter with the Lord is renewed day after day in the joy of a persevering journey. “Always on the road with the virtue that is of pilgrims: joy!” (Keep watch n. 19).*

## “Women in the Church. Perspectives in dialogue”

“*Women in the Church. Perspectives in dialogue*” was the theme of the seminar of April 28, 2015 held at the Pontifical University Antonianum in order to reflect the increasing contribution that women can give to the Church, by analyzing the patterns of the past to watch the challenges of today.

The main theme emerging was the attention that in recent years has been given to the role of women in the Church present in different parts of the world.

It was not a reflection on the role of women only in functional view or only in the roles to be filled, to be assumed but as significant presence able to bring a specific contribution with the distinguishing characteristics of the feminine genius.





A constructive contribution to the Church as a place of communion and collaboration in the respect and recognition of the various gifts.

The talk of the card. Gianfranco Ravasi has then clarified the need to overcome the historical analysis of the role of women but to look at a present and at a future where the issue does not refer



only to women but to the anthropological culture marked by great challenges of the present age.

Thanks to the presence of several witnesses from Africa, Latin America, China, North America and Europe, who have presented the challenge of women in these cultures, it emerged the strong need for Christian women to promote intercultural dialogue, feeling part of what it is now a global village. It has been remembered the trouble of so many women in different

parts of the world still struggling for recognition of their rights, standing against the new slavery and seeking new ways so that their voice may be heard by the Church, now more than ever, attentive to these appeals.

In the conclusion, it was shown the importance of understanding that we are in a time in which humanity goes on in the interaction, dialogue, reciprocity between men and women, according to the forms that culture supports or may show in evolution.

## International Congress of Formators to Consecrated Life.

From 7 to 11 April 2015 was held in Rome, a Convention for formators to the consecrated life around the world, organized by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life of the Holy See, as part of initiatives planned for the year dedicated to Consecrated Life in the Church proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Many took part in the Congress more than 1,300 formators from many religious orders, congregations and other institutes, from more than one hundred nations. For our congregation attended Sr. Tiziana General Councillor, Sr. Stefania Bandiera of St. Mary of the Angels Province, Sr. Silvana of Mary Immaculate Province, Sr. Dorothée of the Vice-province Holy Martyrs of Uganda, Sr. Sophy of the Province Holy Family. The Congress, with the theme *“Living in Christ, according to the way of life of the Gospel”*,





has faced problems, dynamics, prospects of initial and ongoing formation, to give positive responses to the urgent needs of the consecrated life in the Church today. Pointing out principles, objectives and criteria for the whole formative process in order to center it on the Gospel lived out in the following of Christ.

In a society in constant evolution, consecrated persons are called to be prophets of a new way of living human relations, fraternal relations, to be present in the midst of differences, tensions, to be builders of unity. *“In a society of confrontation, the difficult coexistence between different cultures, oppression and inequality over the weak, we are called to offer a concrete model of community that, through the recognition of the dignity of every person and of sharing the gift that everyone is, can live fraternal relations.”*

To achieve this goal the integral formation must be attentive to all the dimensions (intellectual and emotional, individual and community, personal and social, emotional and sexual) and must seek to conformation

to the sentiments of Christ. So, in fact, Michelina Tenace concluded her speech: *“The vocation to holiness. The formation has no other basis: to make shining in the human life the divine holiness, to form to having the same feelings of Christ Jesus.”*

To form free and responsible persons: this is the aim of the formation. To form docile people, who allow themselves to be questioned and shaped by the events of life; learn to seek God’s will in every situation, in every person they meet, in the poor and weak, and to allow themselves to be taught by them: it is what has supported Fr. Cencini Amedeo, in his report. He continued *“the formation is the action of the Father who seeks to form in us the feelings and sensitivities of the Son.*

A formation that has this objective can only last a lifetime: it is the idea of on-going formation. It is not something that comes after the initial formation, but what comes first, that is the premise and foundation of the whole formative process.”

The purpose of the initial formation is, therefore, to form the willingness to let oneself be molded by life, that is, the availability of “learning to learn”, to let themselves be put in crisis by life itself, in all its seasons.

*“It is an urgent formative pedagogy that considers formation as one project that should guide the initial and ongoing formation, to mature” docibilitas “to find a person willing to let themselves be formed always,”* said Sr. Claudia Peña y Lillo, speaking of formation pedagogy. He even pointed out that *“it is important to acquire the ability to build and rebuild their lives around a ‘vital center’, which, for the believer,” is the paschal mystery, the cross of the Son who, raised from the earth, draws all to himself “ . We are called to learn from Jesus-formator, by his education, by his testimony. “*





Some fundamental demands in formation have been emerged. Formation is a relational art, it is essential to implement it in a relationship and sharing between the formator and the person who is formed. It is also important a concrete and credible testimony of consecration of the formator, who paid attention and is close to the path of the formants. Moreover the importance of a proper discernment of vocations and formation that promotes the maturation of the whole person, especially of emotions.

To express the joy of consecration to transmit its 'beauty. To be an expert of the ways that lead to God, to be able to accompany others on this journey, with 'passion' for Christ; adequate preparation of the formator in harmony with the Church; make room for the personal dialog, done regularly and frequently. It is also needed that the formator is accompanied by a formative fraternity, which expresses the charism.

From these basic elements, derive some urgent challenges. The vocational discernment, to place Jesus at the center of the formation project; the need for a personal encounter with Jesus and for a strong and unified spirituality. The spirituality has to make us 'mystical prophets' walking in a deep communion with the Church. It is important to form a fraternal life in community that is humane and humanizing; to have "passion" for the Lord and the "passion" for humanity, especially for the poorest; to prepare the candidates for the mission of the Institute. To cultivate "a renewed love" for a cultural commitment; a dedication to study as a means of integral formation and as ascetic path.

Very strong and significant were the words of His E Mons. Carballo who has encouraged the formators:

"Today, in his speech, the Pope Francis spoke of an overriding reason of formation, in which we cannot give up.

I am convinced that this is not the time to make concessions to anyone, the time to offer a secular education, to offer a 'light' consecration, but this consecrated life will not be grateful to God nor to men. Be demanding, live the logic of gift and know that the Lord



says to you: "Do not be afraid, I am with you." Faced with the temptation of discouragement, weariness and disappointment due to the current needs of formation and the poor results that are achieved, from my experience as a formator for many years, no doubt to say to all the formators: Do not be afraid."

After the seminar, it has drafted a final message that, in terms of the Beatitudes, undertakes the task of initial and on-going formation, and the training of formators, as a commitment to evangelical service to transmit the joy of following Christ. Path that is accomplished through the mediation of the accompaniment and discernment, in a horizon of evangelization and missionary spirit. In all of these, all the candidates, formators and formants, we are called to allow ourselves to be formed every day by Jesus, the only Master who calls us to be for our whole life "disciples and missionaries" in the Church in "outgoing", according to the charism given to each founder.



## Brothers and Minors in our time



The Ordinary General Chapter of the Friars Minor, which was held in Assisi from May 10 to June 7, 2015 involved spiritually the whole Franciscan Family. We too Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, affiliated to the Order of Friars Minor since our origins, we followed this important event especially through prayer.

The Minister General and Definitory, along with provincial Ministers who came from all over the world gathered at the Porziuncola, for a long time, and full of activities, to meet on the subject: **“Brothers and Minors in our time,”**. Thus making visible the image of the Franciscan Family from Celano described eight centuries ago: *“And like living stones, collected, so to speak, from all over the world, grew up in the temple of the Holy Spirit. What was ardent brotherly love of the new disciples of Christ! How strong was in them a love of their religious family!”* (1Cel 38).



The General Chapter began with the Eucharistic celebration presided by the Minister General, Fr. Michael Perry along with His. E Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa, Cardinal delegated by the Holy Father to accompany the friars during this Chapter, Fr. Julio César Bunader, Vicar General and Br Aidan McGrath, Secretary General of the Order.

On 21 May 2015, the Ordinary General Chapter, gathered at Domus Pacis, at the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli has elected **Fr. Michael A. Perry Minister General, the 120<sup>th</sup> successor of Saint Francis.**

On May 26, one of the most intense moments of the Chapter took place: the private audience with Pope Francis in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace. The “audience “was also attended by Mons. José Rodríguez Carballo, Archbishop Secretary of CIVC-SVA and former Minister General.

Fr. Michael Perry greeted Pope Francis, presenting the work they were carrying out in the Chapter. The Pope, on his part, addressed a speech to the Chapter in which he recalled the consideration of which the Order enjoys, and it has always enjoyed among the people over the centuries, saying that this must be an



incentive to continue to engage in evangelization in the true spirit of the Franciscan tradition. He then addressed a special invitation to be ‘freely poor and minors’, to continue to grow in mutual trust in fraternal relations, because this is the necessary condition to overcome any difficulties, and underlined the importance of the minority as a hallmark of life Franciscan.

In the concluding Mass at the Portiuncula on June 7, the Minister General, Fr. Michael A. Perry, recalling the central theme that guided the Chapter, invited all the Friars to live as authentic men of faith, in order to be truly brothers and minors and he entrusted the Order to Mary, invoking Her help to respond to the urgency to share in the world the Good News of Jesus Christ.



### ***Brief experiences of a journey for Interreligious Dialogue***

The evening of April 14, 2015 was memorable for the academic Community of the Pontifical University Antonianum.

In fact, in St. Francis Hall, crowded with people, there was a meeting of interfaith prayer, promoted, according to the “spirit of Assisi”, by the Friars of Istanbul and the “Whirling Dervishes”, related by old friendship. This group of Muslims in Istanbul, are inspired by a mystic of the Middle Ages (Jalâl âlDîn Rûmî: 1207-1273), and are accompanied during the dance by musicians and singers.



The prayer meeting was marked in two phases. First, the Franciscan Friars have read or sang hymns inspired by St. Francis. In the second part, there was the prayer and the dance of the “Whirling Dervishes.”



Some of us FMSC, of the General Council and of the communities present in Rome, took part in this interfaith meeting sharing the Franciscan spirit that, from the time of St. Francis, preserves and lives interreligious dialogue and the deep yearning of Peace.

The meeting ended with the blessing of St. Francis and with some words from the Minister General, Fr. Michael A. Perry, read in Italian and Turkish.



## Provincial Chapters



### Chapter of “Mary Immaculate” Province

From 27 to 31 December 2014 was held in the Provincial House in Centocelle the *XV Chapter of the Province “Mary Immaculate”* with the theme: *Being Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart: Beatitude and Prophecy in Christ*. In joyful Christmas spirit all Chapter members arrived on the 26 of December jointly also to the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, the Vicar Sr. Roxana Zapata and the counselors Sr. Tiziana and Sr. Georgina.



The day of retreat was led by Father Alfredo Marchello ofmcap, on the theme of the beatitudes. He helped all to enter into a climate of openness to the Holy Spirit, to reflect on the great value of our life of consecration and mission and of what the Church calls us in this year dedicated to the Consecrated Life. Father Alfredo, recalling the very words and exhortations of Pope Francis, presented the challenges of the world today and the urgent commitment to authenticity of our life of consecration to be the “salt” and the “light” that Jesus defined as

our identity in the world.

The days of the Chapter went on in an atmosphere of serene sharing, openness and search for the common good for this small, but precious part of our religious family. It was an experience of the Lord, the God-with-us, who is in our history and constantly is present and invites us to look at the road traveled with gratitude, to live with passion the present and to embrace with hope the future. On these issues, the reflection and the discussion of the chapter took place and gives the fundamental lines of the provincial plan for the new three-year period reported in the deliberations.

On 30 December, the sisters delegates elected the new Provincial Council:

**Sr. Marta Camerotto** *Provincial Superior*  
**Sr. Claudia Graziotto** *1<sup>st</sup> Provincial Councilor and Assistant Provincial*  
**Sr. Paola Aita** *2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Councilor*  
**Sr. Clarita Pesce** *3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Councilor*  
**Sr. Silvana Botton** *4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Councilor*



We wish the new Council and all the sisters of the Province a Journey of renewed faithfulness. Strong in the faithful love of the Lord, sustained by the grace that comes also from this year dedicated to the consecrated life and the joy of being “blessed” and “prophetic”, making alive today our identity as Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.



## Chapter of the Latin-American Province of “Saint Anthony”

*The XIV Chapter of the Latin American province “Saint Anthony”* was held in Santiago de Chile from 16 to 25 January 2015, in the presence of the Superior General, Sr Paola Dotto, the Vicar General, Sr. Roxana Zapata and General Councilor, Sr Tiziana Tonini .

The Chapter members have been confronted on the theme: **“From the grateful memory to the commitment of accompanying and serving others.”**

Before officially starting the chapter, there were three days of reflection from 12 to 14 January. The psychologist Anna Corteras involved the sisters in personal and group exercises to experience and acquire important elements of being accompanied and to accompany others.

Sr. Tiziana Tonini, general councilor, has instead presented the spiritual-charismatic elements of the accompaniment by a lectio divina of the Gospel passage of the disciples of Emmaus and a reflection on the letter written by St. Francis to Brother Leo. She also offered basic elements for fraternal correction.

On January 14, Father Josè Maria Arnaiz helped the group of chapter members to become more aware of the way to deal with the lay people associated with us to share with them our charismatic richness.

The day of spiritual retreat was led by Father Hector Field, Provincial Minister OFM Cap. The reflection was centered on the passage of the disciples of Emmaus with the theme: “The gaze of Jesus before life.”

On January 16, the XIV Latin American chapter of the province has started, with the opening celebration. The work of the Chapter took place in an atmosphere of serenity, of sharing and mutual acceptance. After the steps prescribed by the Regulation, the assembly was engaged in reflection, discussion and re-processing of the various proposals in order to reach new resolutions.

Every day has always begun with prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist with the Community and each day a Franciscan Father gave many insights in the homily.

On January 23, the anniversary of the death of the founder, Fr. Gregory Fioravanti, the Chapter members elected the new Provincial Council.

**Sr M. Fides Lorenzon, Provincial Superior**  
**Sr M. Ines Pavan 1<sup>st</sup> Councilor and Assistant Provincial**  
**Sr M. Bernarda Alvarez 2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Councilor**  
**Sr M. Gregoria Suarez 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Councilor**  
**Sr M. Elena Bilibio 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Councilor**



In the afternoon of January 25, the closing of the Chapter was the most solemn moment with the Eucharistic celebration presided by the auxiliary bishop of the south area of Santiago, Monsignor Pedro Osandon. It was a celebration attended by everyone, led by the singing of the choir consists of alumni who sung even in Italian. The Bishop, in his homily, helped all to reflect on the immeasurable value of our religious vocation and commitment. We have to live with consistency and generosity what we have promised the Lord, certain that He is always with us and that He can do and will do great things with our weakness and availability. His message has become the wish and commitment to each one and especially for the sisters of the Province and the new Council.



## Chapter of “Saint Louis IX” Province

The sisters of the Province “Saint Louis” prepared and lived the *XV Chapter* with intense participation of all the sisters.

The time of the Christmas holidays was an opportunity for all (delegated and not) to gather in the provincial house. The days have been intense for the sisters delegates but also for all the others and especially they spent together days of true fraternity, with moments of common prayer, recreation, sharing that has given to all new spiritual energy and enthusiasm. In these days, the sisters prepared the preparatory document for the Chapter, scheduled February 10 to 15 at the provincial house of Le Mans.



The two days before the opening of the Chapter have been days of recollection for all Chapter members.

On February 9, in the afternoon the Mother General Sr. Paola Dotto, and the councilors Sr. Tiziana Tonini and Sr. Georgina Vilongiyil came in the Provincial House, greeted with joy by all the sisters of the Province. For the occasion, all the sisters of all communities found themselves together to experience this important event: the delegates with their specific task in the Chapter and all others through prayer, offering and fraternal service, done with generosity and Franciscan serenity.

On February 10, the Opening Mass took place, presided by Father Paul Antoine Drouin. After Mass, the Superior General has called each chapter member around the altar and celebrant gave each a lighted lamp. Singing of the Veni Creator, in procession all have gone to the chapter hall and sr. Paola Dotto, officially declared open the XV Chapter of the province “Saint Louis IX”, with the theme: **“Found, reached out, transformed by the truth.”**

The following days were very intense, dedicated to the work of reflection and discussion.

The fraternal atmosphere of openness has enabled all to participate by offering their own contribution with reflections, suggestions etc.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of February, the Chapter members elected the new Provincial Council which is now composed of:

<b><i>Sr M. Armelle Kosta</i></b>	<b><i>Provincial Superior</i></b>
<b><i>Sr Elisabeth Varikkakuzhyil</i></b>	<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Councilor and Assistant Provincial</i></b>
<b><i>Sr Beniamina Borsato</i></b>	<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Councilor</i></b>
<b><i>Sr Paoline Mookenthottathil</i></b>	<b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Councilor</i></b>
<b><i>Sr Ines Portugal Encinas</i></b>	<b><i>4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Councilor</i></b>

Very beautiful and joyous were the evenings recreation. All the sisters seemed rejuvenated by several years because all donated their presence, their joy, sharing their experiences through song and dance.

We thank the Lord who continues to support our “steps” and to open the roads to do His Will.





### **St. Francis Province**



On March 14, 2015 the sisters of “St. Francis” Province elected the new Provincial Council that will start their service on July 1 and it is composed by:

<b>Sr. Laura Morgan</b>	<b>Superior provincial</b>
<b>Sr. Rose Cecilia Bozzo</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Provincial Councilor and Assistant Provincial</b>
<b>Sr. Clare Poothakuzhiyil</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Councilor</b>
<b>Sr. Katherine Siegel</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Councilor</b>
<b>Sr. Antonia Maguire</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Councilor</b>

### **Chapter of the Vice-province “Holy Martyrs of Uganda”**

On the theme “*Designing the future in the joy of the faithful ‘yes’ in universal fraternity*” focused on **VII Chapter of the Vice-province “Holy Martyrs of Uganda”**, opened on June 11 under the guidance of the Superior General, Sr Paola Dotto and the presence of the General councilor, Sr Georgina Vilongiyil.

At this vice-provincial chapter also participated Sr. Giulia Mazzon from Niem, Central Africa, the province of Saint Mary of the Angels, representing the Provincial Superior Sr. Anna Maria Volpato. Her presence was a concrete sign of the commitment made by the Province and Vice-Province to walk together for a possible annexion in the future of the missions of Central Africa to the Vice Province Holy Martyrs of Uganda.



The Chapter members, in the House of the Vice-province in Nkoabang (Yaoundé) have spent the day of June 10, in the spiritual reflection led by Fr Dieudonné o.cd.

The days of the Chapter were challenging but lived with serenity and responsibility by all.

The work has been enriched by two moments of spiritual reflection Church.

1. The day of June 12 Sr. Angèle Makiang of the Sisters of Mary Queen of the Apostles of Yagoua in the North of Cameroon presented to the Sisters of the Chapter a conference on the Identity of consecrated life focusing the reflection on some fundamental aspects: the following Christ, the vows, the Trinitarian dimension, the witness, the charismatic and ecclesial dimension. The interventions and the questions asked by the Sisters present has enriched and deepened what had been presented.

2. On June 15 Father Toussaint of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception led the Chapter members to reflect on the delicate issue of economic management of goods.

He highlighted many aspects: the personal authority and the collegial authority to highlight the importance and responsibility of the Chapter, the economy as an instrument of the mission of the Church; How do you get our “goods”? the management of goods, who can be treasurer? management and stable patrimony; collaboration with the local Church; formation; collective witness of poverty; helping families.

These issues have been followed carefully and with a sense of gratitude to the Father who clearly presented this issue so urgent and important today.



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June the Superior General Sr. Paola has announced the names of the sisters of the new Council of the Vice-Province Holy Martyrs of Uganda

*Sr Béatrice Bifouma*  
*Sr Giovanna Craighero*  
*Sr Francisca Beeko Lonkeke*  
*Sr Silvia Aro*  
*Sr Ritha Avozoa Mekongo*

*Superior Vice-Provincial*  
*1<sup>st</sup> Provincial Councilor and Assistant Provincial*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Councilor*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Councilor*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Councilor*

May the Spirit of the Lord enlighten and accompany them on their journey for the good of our religious family in the Church and for the glory of God.

The chapter that has always been guided by the prayer every day ended with the celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord, entrusting to him the future path of the Vice-province.



***The canonical visit of the General Superior, Sr Paola Dotto, to the communities of the province “Mary Immaculate” in Italy***

The canonical visit is always a time of grace to build universal fraternity because it is “*the visit of the Lord*” ... that actually comes to us, in our communities.

For St. Francis the visit to the brothers was very important: aware of the importance of such meetings and such service in the Earlier Rule, the holy seraphic father wrote: “*Let all the brothers who are constituted ministers and servants of the other friars often visit them and spiritually*

*admonish and console them* “(Rnb 4,2). This same exhortation is in the approved Rule with some important nuances: “*The friars, who are ministers and servants of the other brothers, shall visit and admonish their brothers, and shall humbly and charitably correct them, not commanding them*” (Rb 10,1).



Superiors, therefore, in their visits are called to reveal the



presence of Christ in the world, being themselves the aroma of Christ, to move others to do the same. The canonical visit is as a privileged instrument to be evangelized and, at the same time, to evangelize, to comfort, to correct, to admonish and to grow in the life of the spirit, stimulating everyone and everything to peace and goodness.

And this happened again, with the canonical visit that Sr. Paola Dotto, Superior General, made in the months of April and May, in the Province "Immaculate Mary" and this is clear from the very words of the Sisters, who, with simplicity, punctuality and spirit of faith have said.



*"The day April 20, 2015 at 17:30 arrived in our community Sr. Paola Dotto Superior General, for canonical visit. We welcome her with joy and we share with her a moment of prayer with the recitation of Vespers and then dinner.*

*It is a gift for all of us here in the community to have Sr. Paola, we feel her close to us as a sister who encourages us to continue to be simple and happy among us and among the people we meet.*

*She asks us to always be the heart and hands of the care and tenderness of the Father for all.*

*We thank Sr. Paola for the time these days she has dedicated and shared with us, we continue to accompany her with assiduous and constant prayer so that the Lord sustain her in this service of authority she does for us. For this great gift we thank the Lord" (Community of B.go Carso).*

*"At last the time so desired has come, the encounter with our Mother General Sr Paola!.*

*Her presence among us was short, a day, but enough to get from her advices and suggestions, which are never too many because there are fraternal and community responsibility to which we would like to give more understanding and charity, to live each day joyfully.*

*Sister Paola with all her understanding and charity welcomed our failures with the care of her encouragement; exhorting us to start anew with love and trust in the Lord.*

*A big thanks to Sister Paola and for her our prayer that the Lord will sustain her in her task of spiritual guide. Fraternal greetings" (The Sisters of B.go Faiti).*

and more:

*"The day May 6 came to our community of Montale our dearest Sr. Paola Dotto Superior General, for the canonical visit. This visit was a reason for us to resume our daily journey with enthusiasm, joy, simplicity, love, mutual respect, trust in the providence of the Father, and serenity. Yes, it was a very beautiful and meaningful encounter especially in the individual dialogue with her, brought us great joy and strength.*

*Her presence among us led us to feel united with all the Sisters of the Congregation and to feel within us the responsibility to pray for each member of our family, supporting each with great respect and affection.*



*Also as a community of prayer, the challenge for us is to live the fraternity according to the Gospel that guides us in the right path to holiness and which illuminates the mind and the heart and leads us to understand the true meaning of people in love with Jesus Christ Crucified, source of unity, life and love.*

*Our community of Montale feels the need, to live intimately the spousal love with the Lord and agrees to follow his command to love one another and to recognize that the other is a precious gift from God, just as He said "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (Jn. 15:12).*

*Only then can we become the instrument of His saving love. True testimony starts from our community.*

*This happens when we are in deep intimacy with the Lord, who is able to transform our lives into His, transforming our reality in a community of prayer, presence and acceptance.*

*Three days together with Sr. Paola were few but intense, lived with simplicity, sobriety, love and Franciscan spirit. The canonical visit ended on May 8 with the community meeting.*

*Our community of Montale thanks God the Father for the great gift of Sr. Paola for us; we assure her of our prayers and fraternal affection, always walking together in a spirit of unity and joy every day and always renewing our fidelity to the Lord and to our congregation. All for the glory of God!"*

*"This morning ended the visit of the Superior General, Sister Paola Dotto, to our community.*

*The two days spent together in an atmosphere of familiarity, were special gifts of grace of the Lord.*

*We lived moments of personal dialogue with her, fraternal life, common prayer, rediscovering the beauty of our vocation and together we contemplated the wonders that the Lord works through our*

*"yes" to his calls every day in personal conversion, in community journey, in apostolic commitment.*

*Concluding the meeting, the Superior General invited us to cultivate a desire for personal prayer and to live our "today" of change and uncertainty of our specific mission in a spirit of discern-*

*ment of God's will by seeking in the Gospel and trusting in Divine Providence as did our Founders.*

*Moreover, the Superior General has given to each one a frame with our Founders.*

*After this great moment, with Sr. Paola we went to the chapel to gain the plenary indulgence scheduled for this important event. "*

*(Lido dei Pini, 23 May 2015)*





Sisters of the community “SS. Nome di Maria” in Viale Saffi.

Finally:

*“We Sisters of the community of Centocelle, we rejoice with a grateful heart to the Lord for the precious gift of the Superior General presence among us these days. We are very happy to have had the opportunity to share with her moments together, in the concrete reality of our fraternity, lived simply. Each took their time to talk to her and for us Sisters was a precious moment because we feel listened to and accepted by virtue not only of her role. She has established a personal relationship with each of us as true Sister, sharing, with her closeness and understanding, not only the situation of each one, but also of the community.”*





*On the last day of the visit we encountered as community with the Superior General, who has expressed her feeling of joy and she felt welcomed in a house so familiar to her. During the final meeting, she showed that in this community can be perceived the commitment that leads all to live better fraternal life.*

*She thanked God for the history of each one, accepted as sacred history that urged us to live with joy what the Lord has prepared for us. Pointing to various difficulties, she invited us to help each other to overcome them*

*in a spirit of family and belongingness, that is, generously, because “every experience is always a journey.” She also stressed “at the Congregational level we need the mutual trust”.*

*She did emphasize that diversity should not only be reason of conflict, but for meeting, to foster communion, because the criterion of the consecrated life today is not the doing, but the search for a true relationship with God and with others, then be builders of a relationship of harmony, that of fraternity.*

*She urged us to have a wide horizon, to allow entering our lives by what is in the world. Sr Paola has also appreciated the prayer organized in the community and time for personal prayer, convinced that our primary and inexhaustible source is the Eucharist.*

*At the end of the meeting, she urged us to strengthen our bond of sisters, and to renew the commitment to the Lord fervently. And all together, with joy, we thanked God for the gift he has given us in these days: the visit of our Mother and Sister, Sr Paola Dotto, Superior General “.*



*With the sisters of the community of Colonnata Sr Renata Casagrande, Sr Linarosa Miele, Sr Pieraurelia Andreatta*

*With the Lay Associate*

*And for all these graces, for the visit of Sr Paola Dotto, thank and praise to the Lord, Most High God Almighty, that in the history of our province and the history of each of us, every day works great things.*





**Canonical visit  
to the communities  
depending on  
the Superior General**

*in Grotte di Castro (VT)  
on the lake of Bolsena,  
Sr Mini Alex, Sr Annagrazia Ghedin,  
Sr Jyothi Kodumagundla*



*in S. Maria degli Angeli in Assisi,  
Sr Eliodora Mattiuz,  
Sr Maria Fermina Ramos,  
Sr Amela Nol*



*the community of the Generalate House*





## Back to Büyükada (Turkey)

A return to Turkey? In these times? Yes, a return to the origins of the mission! We know that Father Gregory, after the start of the first communities in the United States, sent, in 1872 our first sisters in Constantinople (now Istanbul). These courageous missionaries, known by the Franciscan Friars as “most excellent creatures fully formed by the Franciscan spirit,” in a few years opened other communities in Rhodes and in 1883 in Prinkipo (today Buyukada).

In this beautiful island of Turkey was opened a school and a college where they taught French, English, Italian, Greek, Turkish to students without any exclusion of ethnicity or religion.

The school and the college was closed in 1937 following the laws decreed by the Turkish government and Mother Teofila, Superior General of the time, to console the sisters who had to leave their mission, she wrote. *“Do not be afraid. You will return if He will wish it. Yes, if it is His will, we will be back again here, to Buyukada “.*

Some sisters moved to Istanbul, in Santa Maria in Draperis, others in Cyprus, only two, called *“the Sisters of St. Anthony”* remained in the island to keep watch on the house, so that I would not be sold to the Turkish government.

When, in 1987, Sr Vitalia Pozzobon, left the island, along with Sr Paola de Col and Sr Pierluigia Borsato, the property was entrusted



out to the Salesian Fathers residents in Istanbul, who for various reasons in 2010 gave up to take care of our house.



*The Superior general, Sr Paola Dotto, with the sisters of the community, Sr Zita, Sr Gigimol, Sr Miriam*

The awareness of the value of a Christian presence in the Muslim land, so recommended by the Church, led us to search for other solutions. And Divine Providence facilitated the meeting with the Minister General of the Friars Minor, Father José Carballo, during the XIX General Chapter in 2011.

In fact, as early as January 2012, the General Definitory of the Friars Minor approved that the property could be entrusted to Fr. Eleuterio Makuta and Fr Ruben. Tierrablanca members of the “international fraternity of Dialogue” in Istanbul, as well as the task of overseeing the renovation of the property.

P. Eleuterio, with wisdom, active cooperation and true Franciscan spirit strove to bring the building to be functional and ready for a new Franciscan presence of the *“Sisters of St. Anthony”*.

The joyful return occurred on 16 June and on 27 June, with the presence of the Superior General, Sr Paola Dotto, was celebrated the official reopening of the community “Saint Anthony” dependent on the Superior General.



Let us leave the word to our sisters, Sr. Zita Gutang, from Philippine, of the Province of “Maria Immacolata”, Sr Gigimol Sebastian, Indian, from the Province “Holy Family”, Sr Miriam Oyarzo, Chilean, from the Provinica “S. Antonio “, who brought back our Franciscan presence on the island.

***“... and confessing themselves to be Christians.” (Rnb XVI, 5)***

We arrived at the airport of Istanbul “Atatürk” on 16 June 2015 the three of us: Sr. Zita Gutang, Sr Gigi Mookenthottathil and Sr Miriam Oyarzo, accompanied by Sr Emmapia Bottamedi



and Sr Tiziana Tonini, excited for this return of our religious family in Turkish in the island soil of Büyükada.

Upon our arrival was waiting for us Fr. Rubén Terrablanca OFM, who in this period, together with all the Franciscan brothers of Santa Maria in Draperis in Istanbul, are committed and concerned

about every detail of our return; we are very grateful to them. At the port of Kabatas Fr. Eleuthère Baharanyi Makuta was waiting to accompany us to the other side and get home at last. A Büyükada were waiting for us, to our surprise, people, who now have become dear friends: İbrahim Uslu and Uğur.

We immediately felt a lively, warm welcome; as we walked home, people looked at us a little curious, and someone has even asked: Hıristiyanlar? Christians? With a little bewildered the next few days whenever we confirmed our faith, professing ourselves Christians in Muslim country.



Büyükada is an island of Turkey, located in the middle of the Sea of Marmara. It is the largest of the Princes’ Islands. Most of the population is Muslim and in this June, our brothers Muslims practice Ramadan, sacred and important moment of prayer and fasting. We also saw our arrival in this month in this Island as Providence; it is certainly not a coincidence, but a blessing.

The first few days passed quickly and lived with intensity, arranging home and seeing the work that our dear friend Ibrahim tried to explain; he was speaking in Turkish and we with dictionary in hand trying to figure out! The gestures, patience and good will made the dialogue quite a feat!



In the Island all greet us and look at us with amazement and empathy. We, with a big smile try to communicate joy and simplicity, shyly learning a few words in Turkish: merhaba, günaydın and good morning! The request to take some pictures or some selfie with us is now normal for us...

people are surprised to see the sisters and in every place where we go once we point out: how joyful they are!

The Franciscan Friars Minor of St. Mary in Drapeiris have here a parish “Saint. Pacific” and a priest comes from Istanbul every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday to celebrate Mass in the island. Most of the faithful are Catholics Armenians and a small group of Catholics.



Masses are in Turkish and Italian and sometimes in French. We, as a community, we take part in all the celebrations, meet and greet people and animate with songs the Holy Mass.

Our presence here in the island is a gift to every person and gives value to it. Thus was said by the vice major Mahmut Yerlikaya when we went to greet the civil authorities, along with Sr. Paola Dotto, general superior.

She came to us on June 24, 2015, together with Sr. Bernadette, Provincial Superior of the province s. Elizabeth and Sr. Augusta Visentin, secretary general, to accompany us in these days and during the inauguration of re-opening of our community “Saint Anthony”.

The vice mayor told us that he grew up with our sisters and treasured beautiful memories of them. He has shown gratitude for all that we do here and especially for being here once again.





Friday, on June 26 sr Paola, Sr Bernadette, Sr. Augusta and Sr. Zita accompanied by Fr. Rubén went to Istanbul to meet and greet the Apostolic Vicariate of Istanbul Archbishop Louis Pelâtre.

*“ You begin to do what is necessary, then what is possible. and suddenly you will be surprised to do the impossible “*



Saturday, June 27 was the day chosen for the inauguration. Fr. Rúben had previously pledged himself to send an invitation to all religious communities of Istanbul, the authorities and even to close friends of the friars.

The liturgical celebration was presided by Fr. Rúben, guardian of the fraternity of S. Mary in Draperis and concelebrated by all the brothers of the fraternity and by other priests who accompanied us. It was an opportunity to learn about the presen-

ce of consecrated life in Istanbul, to know new people and to make new friends. Focolarine were present, the Little Sisters, the Sisters of Ivrea, a ofmconv., the sisters of charity, community “Identes”, a diocesan priest and the authority of the municipality, together with other friends.

The weekday liturgy accompanied us these days in a very special way.





It is echoed in our hearts the Word of God contained in the pages of Genesis and the Gospel: with Abraham and with the words of Jesus we confess our faith: *“Many will come from east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob “(Matthew 8:5-17).*

These words were for us a confirmation of how Providence has accompanied the decision to reopen our presence on the island of Büyükada.

Sr Paola also in her address to those present emphasized the plan of

divine Providence, thanked the Friars Minor in the person of Father Rubén and Fr. Eleuthère, who followed the renovation of the houses and above all they have been able to read the steps of Providence in all that has been done.

P. Rubén presented us as a fraternity of “Saint. Anthony “and wished us to be a simple Franciscan presence on the island, joyful people and close to the people, a fraternity open, friendly and attentive to the needs of people. After the blessing of the building, he has blessed us and all the people present.

The celebration ended with a fraternal meal, which favored mutual knowledge, the establishment of relations with the Church present on Turkish soil.



the only means of transportation





# Religious Profession



*Celebration of Joy:  
Religious Profession of Sr. Angel Rose  
Philippines March 28, 2015.*

**I**t was a day full of gratitude, a day for celebrating the special events in my life, a day to conform my self to God to say yes, because it was a day of my Religious Profession.

A mixture of emotions what I felt on that day a feeling of excitement, nervous and but above all a feeling of joy of gratitude to the Lord for the gift of my vocation. The joy of gratitude when I look back, and saw my parents who molded me in their love in simplicity, and gratitude, looking their eyes speaking into my heart, your joy is also our joy telling to me in Ilongo “padayon” it means “go on” embrace the life that you have choose.

I witness the faithfulness of my parents, and this challenge me to be faithful to my vocation and to God. While I am wearing my habit, I felt a strong emotion which leads me into prayer asking the grace of the lord of faithfulness till the end of my life.

The joy of gratitude when all our sisters in our religious family came forward to welcome me as their new sisters. My heartfelt gratitude to all my religious sisters and for the entire congregation, I thank them for sharing the joy of the love and mercy of God and for being an instrument in searching the will of God as I journey towards him.



The joy of being challenge by Fr. Serge Orenga OFM Cap. Who presided the Eucharistic Celebration to fix my gaze to Jesus, to learn from Him in perseverance, to confirm my total being in the person of Jesus where He will be my complete joy.

He invited me to go day by day to the one who calls me and as the source of my life, and be strong to the choices I have made conforming my self to the pierced heart of Christ crucified and to be faithful to the gospel by living the spirit of our father St.Francis.



*“You did not choose me, I chose you.” (Jn 15:16)*

## **Religious Profession of Sr. Lisa Grace Carlone of Jesus and Mary Peekskill (USA) 30 May, 2015**

May 30, 2015, I responded to Jesus’ loving invitation by Religious Profession with the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It was a beautiful ceremony, held in the chapel of St. Margaret of Cortona at Mount S1. Francis, our Congregation’s Provincial House in Peekskill, New York. Some might call this a “milestone” or “achievement” but for me it was natural- a simple “Yes” to God’s call that began in my heart long before I became aware of it. Jesus drew me to Himself very gradually, especially through Bible study, my family and persons of deep faith. Among them were several Secular Franciscans whose simplicity and joy inspired me to become acquainted with Francis, Clare and contemplative prayer.



This combined with a passion for service and a growing sense that Jesus was asking me to give Him everything, led me to begin volunteering for the Sisters.

After several visits to the convent and careful discernment with the Superiors Sr. Anne Matthew and Sr. Anne James I entered on August 11, 2013. Despite the inevitable challenges of initial formation the inner strength that only God gives stayed with me. Less than a year after my entrance God called both my father and grandmother back to Himself. It was a time of loss and interior struggle.

Our wise and kindly chaplain, Fr. Reinbold (who celebrated the Profession Mass), always reassured me that “God would fill in the gaps” when I became discouraged and unable to pray. And He did- through the Sisters support, spiritual reading, persevering in prayer, and reflective journal writing.



My feelings about the profession. If I could express them, would be something like this: ‘The whole day was joyful from beginning to end. I am so grateful to the Lord! Knowing that He loved me into existence, that He will always be there no matter what, gave me a sense of hope, an inner calm, that “peace that the world cannot give.” As Sr. Anne Matthew, our Provincial Superior received my vows I felt with all my heart, soul and mind. “Yes. This is the right choice. This is the path He wants me on, this is who I am.” Fr. Reinbold encouraged me not to lose my sense of zeal, to remain humble and always remember that this vocation is from God.

It is an incredible gift! When I look back on my life and see how He has changed me, all I can say is, “Lord Jesus make my heart like Yours.”

It is an incredible gift! When I look back on my life and see how He has changed me, all I can say is, “Lord Jesus make my heart like Yours.”



*“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God.” (Is. 61:9 -11)*

## Religious Profession of

**Sister Laura Elena Alvarez Ramirez of the “Immaculate”.  
Sister Judith Sarmiento Mercato of the Holy Spirit**

**Santiago - Chile 13 June, 2015**

On June 13, 2015, feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of our Patron Saint San Antonio, we made our Religious Profession that has meant a very important step in our lives. We have been called and loved by the Lord, and we want to share with our sisters His work of love within our religious family of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.



We are very happy and grateful to God for the gift of our vocation “which is a call to offer our life to God and to the service to our brethren, nourished and renewed in the Eucharist, a sign of communion among us and in the Church” as he said in his reflection, P. Jorge Concha, OFM Minister Provincial.

We have the assurance and confidence of God’s presence in our journey, and we know that the Spirit of the Lord is with us and guides us in our generous YES we pronounced. To Him we ask for the grace of fidelity and perseverance

forever.

Thanks be to God who has chosen us in His infinite goodness and mercy, with all that we are and what we have.

Thanks to Sister Maria Fides Lorenzon, Provincial Superior and all the sisters, who all this time, have given examples of a life given to God and they have invited us to be part of our religious family.

Thanks to all the formators who have accompanied and guided us; to our families that have always supported our religious vocation and to all the people who have given us an encouraging word at the proper moments of our lives.

Thank you, thank you all, we are very happy to have pronounced the “yes” to the Lord the best “spouse”, companion and friend. Thanks for everything and as Pope Francis says, we too, we rely on your prayers.





“Whatever gains I had, I regard as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord “

Phil. 3:7.

## Perpetual Profession Sr Kumudini Kujur, Sr. Premalatha Gangarapu Sr. Sunitha Varla

India: Vijayawada, 6 June, 2015

With immense joy and gratitude to God, we the members of the Holy family province celebrated the perpetual profession of three of our sisters, Sr. Kumudini Kujur, Sr. Premalatha Gangarapu and Sr. Sunitha Varla. The day was blessed with the presence of few priests, sisters, novices, postulants and aspirants. We could experience the love of God in many ways especially the weather on the day.. As God protected the Israelites in the desert, He has put a shadow of cloud and saved us from the scorching summer heat.

During the entrance procession two kids dressed like angels accompanied three of them to the sanctuary of God. There they stood courageously to pronounce their perpetual “Yes” to the Lord forever. The parents, dear and near ones participated the different parts of the ceremony with great devotion and emotion while the sisters of the assembly silently renewed their commitment of love to the Lord.

Rev. Fr. Chinnu Polisetty, the Provincial Minister of OFM CAP, presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and gave a beautiful message reminding the words of Pope Francis that the great responsibility of the religious to wake up the world. He added, for this, we religious should to be waken up first. We, religious are not extra ordinary people, but ordinary people empowered by his love made to be instruments for His purpose.



Also he said that consecrated persons should remember that they must be connected to Jesus in order to live a meaningful life instead of falling to the trap of modern worldly fascinations. We should be connected to Jesus and to be connected to the world in an extra ordinary manner.

He compared the religious to the honey bee which collects only the honey from the flowers of the world, religious must collect only the “good “from the world and share this “good” to others. All the people present were greatly appreciating the enriching homily of the father. After this we had a fraternal agape for all who were present.



We could experience a special joy and serenity all through the celebration. Sisters, novices and the candidates of the different levels of formation shared their joy. All were satisfied and appreciated the simple and meaningful celebration.

We thank the Lord for accompanying us in everything and making it cherishing experiences. We sincerely congratulate the sisters, Sr. Kumudini Kujur, Sr. Premalatha Gangarapu and Sr. Sunitha Varla and thank the Lord for the gift of their generous offering.



## **Sisters celebrating their Jubilee of Religious Profession on 2015**

<b>75° of Profession</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Province</b>
1. Sr M. Patrizia Dotto	24-08-1940	"Maria Immacolata"
 <b>70° of Profession</b>		
1. Sr M. Gianmarca Fracalanza	21-07-1945	"S. Maria degli Angeli"
2. Sr M. Terlisa Pattaro	21-07-1945	"S. Maria degli Angeli"
3. Sr M. Rachele Menis	21-07-1945	"S. Luigi IX"
 <b>65° of Profession</b>		
1. Sr M. Rosapia Cuzzolin	07-05-1950	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
2. Sr M. Loredana Favaro	10-05-1950	" S. Antonio"
3. Sr M. Matilde Tomietto	10-05-1950	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
4. Sr M. Mafalda Poratto	10-05-1950	" S. Luigi IX"
5. Sr M. Petra Zanghi	07-07-1950	" St. Francis"
6. Sr Maria Federica Volpato	04-10-1950	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
7. Sr M. Odilia Bonanni	04-10-1950	" Maria Immacolata"
8. Sr M. Luigia Miglioranza	04-10-1950	" S. Elisabetta"
9. Sr M. Beatrice De Luca	04-10-1950	" Maria Immacolata"
 <b>60° of Profession</b>		
1. Sr M. Gesuina Del Negro	02-02-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
2. Sr Biancamaria Morao	02-02-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
3. Sr M. Annangela Vit	02-02-1955	" Maria Immacolata"
4. Sr M. Fabrizia Zanettin	02-02-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
5. Sr Marialucia Favaro	24-05-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
6. Sr M. Rosarita Palman	24-05-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
7. Sr M. Tarsilla Visentin	24-05-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
8. Sr M. Silvia Meneghel	24-05-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
9. Sr M. Sara Facini	24-05-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
10. Sr M. Felicita Fulgaro	03-10-1955	" Maria Immacolata"
11. Sr M. Teotima Panzarin	03-10-1955	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
12. Sr M. Ermenegilda Cavasin	03-10-1955	" Maria Immacolata"
13. Sr M. Anna Fulgaro	05-11-1955	" Maria Immacolata"
14. Sr M. Catherine Campolucci	05-11-1955	" S. Luigi IX"



### 50° of Profession

50° of Profession	Profession	Province
1. Sr M. Annetta Xenopulu	11-02-1965	" S. Elisabetta"
2. Sr M. Manuela Villarroel	03-05-1965	" S. Antonio"
3. Sr M. Giordana Marta	24-05-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
4. Sr M. Deodata Donati	24-05-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
5. Sr M. Veridiana Scaini	24-05-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
6. Sr M. Adelaide Bernardis	24-05-1965	" Maria Immacolata"
7. Sr M. Elena Martinez	28-08-1965	" St. Francis"
8. Sr M. Giannamaria Solari	18-09-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
9. Sr M. Chiardamiana Tommasini	18-09-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
10. Sr M. Giannateresa Libralato	30-09-1965	" Maria Immacolata"
11. Sr M. Nicoletta Abate	30-09-1965	" Maria Immacolata"
12. Sr Luisamaria Betetto	30-09-1965	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
13. Sr M. Cristiana Basso	30-09-1965	" Maria Immacolata"
14. Sr M. Beatrice Skorti	04-10-1965	" S. Elisabetta"
15. Sr M. Armelle Kosta	04-10-1965	" S. Luigi IX"

### 25° of Profession

1. Sr M. Claramma Thengumpallil	22-02-1990	" Holy Family"
2. Sr M. Agnes Kadamthottu	22-02-1990	" Holy Family"
3. Sr M. Sahaya Rani Guanapragasam	22-02-1990	" Holy Family"
4. Sr M. Stefania Bandiera	30-06-1990	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
5. Sr M. Patrizia Genovese	30-06-1990	" S. Maria degli Angeli"
6. Sr M. Lillykutty Attapattu	15-09-1990	" Holy Family"
7. Sr M. Nirmala Neelam	15-09-1990	" Holy Family"
8. Sr M. Lissy Puthenpurackal	15-09-1990	" Holy Family"
9. Sr M. Gigi Parayil	15-09-1990	" Holy Family"
10. Sr Maria Goretti Yelikai	15-09-1990	" Holy Family"





## Feast at “Menegazzi” for the 100 Years of the Church

June 7, 1915 - June 7, 2015

On June 7, at 9:30 am in the “*Menegazzi*” residence, the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Vicar General of Treviso Don Adriano Cevolotto was offered to the Lord as thanksgiving for the 100 years of the church. The Mass was enlivened by the choir “cantiamo insieme” conducted by Terence Savio. The participants in this significant moment, then moved the church where they were executed some songs, especially the Hail Mary and the Franciscan singing “Dolce sentire”.

It was read a brief history of the church that we report here.

### History of the “Menegazzi” Church

From that June 7, 1915 a century has passed since the laying of the cornerstone, blessed by Bishop Andrea Giacinto Longhin, attended by Monsignor Giuseppe Menegazzi, the Mayor and the authorities of Treviso. The first Superior Mother Marta Zanuzzi and the first community of sisters certainly have coveted it. Mother Marta saw the urgent need to build a church for the benefit of the patients and sisters. The great trust in Providence, urged the sisters to pray Saint Anthony, and so an offer of 14,000 lire from some benefactors allowed the erection of the church of Santa Giustina of Padua, as the existing chapel. Later it was added at the request of the sisters, the title of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The altar is dedicated to the Immaculate, whose statue of fine workmanship was donated to Mother Martha, who for 20 years until 1917 was a person of reference for the guests and the staff at the nursing home. We see six paintings on canvas, representatives: St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph. The author of these paintings is probably a Visitation nun. The Stations of the Cross are in plaster and embossed images. In the ceiling of the nave, are painted the symbols of the Evangelists, the center there is a lamb and the word “Redemisti nos domine in sanguine Tuo”. In the ceiling of the sanctuary there is a monstrance with a heart and the words: “Cor Jesu Miserere nobis” and the angels in worship. The Franciscan Sisters arrived in Treviso on 9 of May 1898 at the request of Monsignor Giuseppe Menegazzi canon and parish priest of the Cathedral. The sisters would assist the elderly and the chronically ill. At that time, the headquarters of this “Pia Opera” was near the church of St. Nicholas, then in early 1900 was moved in Noalese road to St. Joseph to meet the increased requests for assistance. Initially the sisters went to beg the need for the inmates from house to house, going outside Treviso, and this was done for about 12 years; until Monsignor Menegazzi entrusted the



charitable work of the “Congregation of charity” of Treviso, which provided a small income. In these hundred years the church was a place of prayer for many people: the Franciscan sisters that followed, the guests of the house, their family. A unanimous chorus who asked the Lord for the faith to find strength in dealing with situations of life. The church is very often requested by the family for the Holy Mass for the souls of their loved ones and so ends in this place the stay of the guests in the residence Menegazzi, with the blessing of the Lord.



## A special grace in the year of Consecrated Life

(Le Mans - France)

To live a pilgrimage is always a great gift that the Lord gives to a person, then if you live this experience together with the sisters of the same religious family and it takes place in the Holy Land, then it becomes a priceless gift, a grace especially valuable, an incessant hymn praise and thanksgiving.

And what we have experienced, twelve sisters of the Province “St. Louis IX” of France, on April 19 to 26, in this year dedicated to the celebration of consecrated life.

The spiritual preparation that each person has been very important to live this particular grace of the Lord. When the afternoon of April 19, we arrived at the airport in Tel Aviv, father Carlo OFM was already ready to welcome us. It was he who with great dedication and love accompanied us throughout the week helping us to meditate on the mystery of Redemption, to vibrate our heart to gratitude and praise, to lead us in a new and ongoing process of conversion.

Here we are on the road leading from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; it is wedged into Israel territory and is strictly bounded by the “separation fence”. Our guide tells us about the vicissitudes and suffering of the Palestinian people and in particular those of Christians since the war. So we reached Jerusalem, the “Holy City” par excellence. Here, our hearts exult and the psalmist’s words echo in the deepest of our heart: *“what joy, when I said,” go to the house of the Lord. “And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem” (Ps 122)* We are full of emotion and amazement, almost incredible that the experience that we have begun to live is a reality.

The morning of April 20, we have the grace of participating in the Holy Mass celebrated by Father Carlo Cecchitelli OFM at the altar of the Crucifixion on Calvary and then venerate this holy place. It starts here a particularly

intense week of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, emotion. How to find the words to say what one lives when she is in Beit Fagi, on the Mount of Ascension, in the Grotto of Our Father, with its Carmelite monastery and the tomb of the mother of our foundress, on the Mount of Olives, in the Basilica of Gethsemane, in the Cenacle? In these holy places you have only to humbly open your heart to the gift of the Lord, contemplate and relive the saints moments of Redemption with emotion and humility. When you could pray, praise, worship and touch with your own hands these holy places, make you feel inside “Yes” Jerusalem is “The Holy City”.

April 21, is particularly dear to our religious family, and it is dedicated to visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs, in Bethlehem, Ain Karem and the Visitation. Could there be a better coincidence? The beginning of the mystery of Redemption and the official beginning of our Congregation.

To reach these places we have to go through the “wall of shame” and is really impressive. Here Christians live as separate, surrounded as they are by this high-high wall of reinforced concrete 11 meters high. Here, too, Father Carlo OFM, our valuable guide, does not fail-



to introduce not only the places of Jesus’ birth, but also the suffering of Christians, often forced to emigrate, because in their own land is denied a job.



In these places of the Holy Land Franciscans are working tirelessly so that Christians may remain and not be forced to emigrate.

On this very day we pilgrims sisters have the joy of participating in the Mass celebrated at the altar of the Manger and relive here, in these places, the event of the Incarnation is a grace really very big. Here, as at the crucifixion, we cannot sing loudly, but our hearts become “song of praise”. Here, where Jesus was born, we renew our Vows and we feel in perfect communion with all the sisters of the Congregation.

Father Carlo, who currently lives in the community of Bethlehem, care with love, humility and emotion the presentation of the places, the reading of the various Gospel passages, reflection on the events that characterize these places and introduces us to prayer and personal meditation to accompany the visit. Finally, when we find ourselves in the field of the shepherds, (custody of the holy land) we sing and our voices join those of the many pilgrims and become a beautiful chorus: same melodies, languages and different words, united in praise. When in the afternoon we reach the Visitation is the song of the “Magnificat” which springs spontaneously from our hearts as thanksgiving to the Lord for the wonders he performs each day in our lives. In the evening, return to Jerusalem; do not fail to go to visit the Sepulcher.



The following day is dedicated to the Stations of the Cross, to visit the Basilica of the Resurrection with the Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. Walking the Via Dolorosa praying the Lord’s passion, visit the Sepulcher of the Lord and the place where the passion, it is an experience you will find the best words in the worshiper silence and contemplation.

On the fifth day of our pilgrimage begins the journey to Galilee. Father Carlo celebrates Mass at Bethany. He invites us to be Martha and Mary. “Here in the house of friendship, where Jesus was coming for friendship, we ask God to do everything for love even the smallest service, and without any anxiety. We renew our friendship with God and with the sisters. “We reach the Dead Sea and then return to the road passing through the desert and then reach the shores of the Jordan River where with deep conviction of faith we renew our baptismal promises.

Next stop will be Jericho, a town situated at the foot of the Mount of Temptation, and several times nominated in the history of the Redemption. So we go to the Mount of Beatitudes.

With great joy and gratitude we celebrate Vespers in the chapel of the Beatitudes and we do the reading of the Gospel followed by a long time of meditation and silent prayer. “It is necessary to live reconciled, cover the evil with a veil and bring out the good, to bend to the misery of the other and always be merciful. Jesus does not mitigate the beatitudes to our tastes; they should be lived out as just as Jesus said” says Father Charles OFM.

The sixth day is dedicated to the Sea of Galilee and the events that took place in these places. In this Easter season is a special grace to be able to meditate and pause in prayer at the place of the “primacy” of Peter. In the place where, after the resurrection, Jesus appeared three times, in the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, we celebrate Mass in Capernaum, near to Peter’s house, we visit the synagogue, where Jesus was praying



and from where he proclaimed: “Today the prophecies are fulfilled.”

When in the afternoon we go on the boat that takes us off on Lake of Galilee and reread the various Gospel passages that speak of Jesus and the apostles, spontaneously and joyfully grateful we praise the Lord for the marvels accomplished and for those every day He does in each one of us.

The next day, the day that I would describe as one of total surrender to God, Father Carlo celebrates Holy Mass in the lower chapel of the Basilica of the Annunciation. Just in front of the house of the Virgin Mary.

Once again we are immersed in the mystery of the Incarnation and the “Yes” of Mary, which invites us to surrender ourselves in God’s hands, which accomplishes great things in the heart of one who abandons himself totally in Him. Even here in Nazareth everything speaks of humility, trust, simple and deep joy, inviting us to bring Jesus to the world. The chronological time of course is always too



its beauty. Going uphill we meditate on what Jesus did with Peter, James and John, and once we reach the top we remain in silent prayer at this wonderful church. We too, like the three witnesses of the Transfiguration, we exclaim: “How beautiful it is to be here ...” and we are also facing the invitation of Jesus to go down, to go and testify what we have lived and experienced.

The return trip to the Mount of Beatitudes leads us to the airport in Tel Aviv becomes an incessant hymn of praise, thanksgiving, songs to the great and mighty God who sent his Son Jesus to save and send the Spirit to sanctify us. The experience has touched the lives of each. We could no longer be as before. Here the Lord spoke personally and was manifested in his merciful love. Here we could see with our own eyes and touch with our hands the places of Redemption.

You, Sister Paola and you all sisters were with us throughout the pilgrimage, wherever we have been.

Thank you very much, Sister Marie Armelle, our provincial superior, for thinking, organized and made possible this unforgettable pilgrimage; may the Lord give you the reward and the joy for this gift that you have given us. Thank you, Lord, for having redeemed and saved us, to You the hymn of praise and glory.

*The sisters of the province St. Louis IX*



short so the desire to linger and remain in contemplation of the Incarnation at these places. But you need to go a little farther and not far away from the beautiful basilica which contains the home of the Virgin Mary. We recollect ourselves in silent prayer at the site of the house of Joseph, the just man.

It is hot in the afternoon when we arrive at the foot of Mount Tabor which comes to us in all



## **The formative sessions in the Generalate House Assisium**

The formative sessions scheduled on 14 and 21 March for the community of the General House provided an opportunity for reflection and shared *a fraternal meeting with other communities dependent on the Superior General in Italy, the two communities of Viole of Assisi, Saint Mary of the Angels and the community of Grotte di Castro.*

The talks of Fra Jacopo Pozzerle, OFM, of the Fraternity of Palestrina, called the European missionary fraternity, were very interesting and they pose questions: how to evangelize in a multicultural and indifferent Europe? In a second step, Fr. Jacopo explained that to evangelize means above all and first of all to be humans and made us reflect further on this issue with watching a movie - The flight of the butterfly. In the story, the protagonist, accepting himself and the Love of the Lord who is always present, managed to give full meaning to his life, despite being a disabled person.



The second meeting was focused on community life. Father Jacopo, with the help of a very short film, entered the theme of community life, very often based on prejudices. From there he continued pointing out some ways to overcome them and to live a life of true communion as the Holy Father presents to us often, building true fraternal relationships. He then gave us the purposeful and enriching testimony of his community, initiated some years ago by Father Giacomo Bini, ex-Minister General OFM. Using the DVD entitled "Palestrina - fraternal relations" – he showed us that it is possible to live a radical choice in which proximity to the man of today and his problems is the most important of our facilities and our comfort.

Very alive and enriching has been the dialog of the sisters participants on the given theme.



## Meetings of Pastoral care for youth

**“A journey together that continues ...”**

*Each Franciscan sister in the measure in which she renews herself in fidelity to God and shows the joy of her consecration, she becomes a mediator of the divine call to others.*

**F**rom May 1 to 3 the fraternity of Montale has expanded by hosting the group of sisters in-charge for the pastoral care of vocations of the Province “St. Mary of the Angels” and “Mary Immaculate” and the houses dependent on the Superior General accompanied in particular by the presence of Sr. Marta Camerotto, Superior Provincial who shared with us these days. The arrival was planned for lunch on Friday to begin in the afternoon with a time of prayer that prepared us to “look at the past with gratitude” This, indeed, was the theme from which we have started: “To make memory of first love, with which the Lord Jesus has warmed your heart “(Pope Benedict XVI Homily 02.02.2013).

We felt strong the invitation to return to the root of a love that has chosen us to dedicate ourselves to Him in the beauty of the proper charism of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and, in silence, each of us has tried to retrace the initial steps of one’s own call. For this, few biblical icons have guided us in the past re-read in the light of an ever-living Word: the vocation of Abraham, Samuel, Jeremiah and the first disciples.

In the Eucharistic celebration in the parish and then the Vespers, each one of us has been able to offer the prayer in thanks for the fruits of personal work done. The dinner has brought together in an atmosphere of joy and fraternal sharing.

The movie of Peter has involved us in the reflection of the relationship between the first of the apostles and Jesus through the moments of the call, the denial and the mandate of confirming the brethren and of leading the Church in its first steps. The presentation of the figure of Paul and of his conversion, the doubts, questions and also the courage of the disciples, the desire to be baptized by the pagans were all reasons to rethink the different stories of vocations and how to act and choose the one Lord.

The next day we began in prayer and then met again in three groups to share our call, listen to each other to contemplate the love of God that in various ways always attracts through unexpected and surprising paths. In the second part of the morning each group has collected those elements that had emerged from our vocational stories but also those who feel significant for each call, especially today.

After lunch we went for a walk and then met again in fraternal gathering to share the benefits of the group work and ask ourselves some questions about the future. Sister Silvana, from the question “what possible ways to bring the message of vocations in the ordinary pastoral care?”, Presented us some key points to look at what we are called to be, what are the expectations of the Church from religious and the response that we can offer as FMSC today.





*“The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing, to act, to live! You can live differently in this world. I expect from you this testimony. “(Rejoice n.10). This is the way shown to us by Pope Francis who from the consecrated, is expecting:*

- The prophecy of joy, a joy that is contagious testimony because it comes from an encounter with the Lord who has called us.
- The ability to wake up the world making us close to the stories of our time to preach the good news of the Gospel.
- To become experts of communion that the Church will be a home and school for the new generation.
- To reach the existential peripheries of our humanity.
- To question ourselves about what God and humanity today is asking us and to follow the Spirit with docility to its new inspirations.

As our response, we feel called to draw and make more and more the charism of our founders and the first sisters, our own.

Through Our Formation Document, Sister Silvana has outlined the possible ways to create environments encouraging vocational responses and they mainly involve our joyful and serene personal and community witness, the service in the pastoral care of vocations and the motivation to arise in young people the desire for God. As itineraries we explored the importance of caring the liturgy and prayer, of living the ecclesial communion, the charitable mission and the proclamation as a result of a personal testimony.

With the richness of what emerged in the abundant sharing we found ourselves together in prayer to all the sisters of the Congregation who in their daily lives, even through small and humble signs, become mediations of God to make grown the seed of vocation abundantly bestowed by the sower.

The evening continued in the joy of the feast during which we could also remember the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious profession of Sr Stefania and entrust her to the Lord that He may continue to guide her with the breath of his Divine Spirit.

With gratitude we praise the Lord for this time of grace and sharing that has been given to us and, in him, our thanks extended to Sister Paola Dotto, Sister Anna Maria Volpato and Sister Marta Camerotto that allowed this event to happen in the sign of fellowship.



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## Mont Saint Michel - France

*The strong time that I experienced during the pilgrimage to St Michael's Mount, with the young students of the chaplaincy, the Diocese of Mans (Sarthe)*

*"Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you because you made me as a miracle; wonderful are your works! You know me through and through" (Ps 139: 13-14).*

Thank you, Lord, for the presence of your infinite love, that I have experienced in a special way during this pilgrimage with the young students of the chaplaincy. A certainty in diversity, and a hope in trial, to assert my spiritual growth, trusting in your living word.

*"I am with you until the end of time." (Mt 28, 20)*



We had the chance to live together a very solemn Eucharistic Celebration in the abbey. There were 800 young people and 80 religious, the celebration was beautiful and devout. The Eucharist is a living source at the center of my life and that I approach each day as an act of offered love.

The shared joy along the way was very enriching and we did know each other joyfully and spontaneously. I witnessed my faith in the Risen Christ among young people discussing and sharing very simple gestures.

The topic on the way was: *"Mercy, a face of God to be welcomed in the Bible."*

It was a very important moment that has allowed us to experience a "living Word" which is addressed to each and every one, personally.

During the journey we exchanged our experience of life in faith, simply and without shame.



For me, this was a day of celebration and joy when I renewed my fidelity and alliance with the Lord. So I felt His Presence stronger than my thoughts, my fatigue, my way of acting and I like to repeat with Saint Paul *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* (Gal 2, 20).

Solidarity, spontaneity and free help among us remain indelible.

Everyone was very attentive to the needs of the other. An experience of the mercy of God and how to love with our brothers and sisters who need so much tenderness, kindness, joy, but also ocom passion, hope and love.



*“Freely you have received, freely give”* (Mt 10,8).

*Sr Shaiby Paul Kolanchery*

### ***Our experience in Colombia***

We thank God and our Provincial Superior Sr Maria Fides Lorenzon and the provincial council, who made possible our participation, and a course in Vocation Ministry, during two months in Colombia Bogota, Institute ITEPAL - CELAM.





It was a very interesting experience in which we could share the different realities, social, political and religious of various countries such as Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Panama, El Salvador, Ecuador, Colombia y Chile. The most enriching experience of this meeting was the human and pastoral formation, where the knowledge and resources to the process of accompanying the young people who have a concern for vocations, was significant and an impressive contribution to work in the different realities of young people in every country of Latin America.

What gave us the most satisfaction is that the Church offers clear and courageous proposals in working for vocations to the consecrated life, priestly and lay.

This was manifested in the large participation of priests, deacons, religious men and women, in



this course with the desire to motivate, to accompany and help to discern so many of our young people in our schools and parishes, to respond to Jesus Christ who calls us to build the Kingdom of God on earth.

From all the discussions and work that took place during this course, we can

draw three important considerations for our pastoral work:

- The first consideration and we believe it is the most relevant in this course is: the need to overcome “the crisis of the callers”. Father Carlos Silva, said that God calls each person, however, consecrated persons, priests and religious must give a coherent testimony of the vocation to which we are called.
- The second reflection: vocation ministry is not limited to a single person, if not to all the “religious community”, living with faith, love and hope our consecration, without waiting for the others to start to live their conversion, but begin the path ourselves, believing in the change that this can provoke in people with whom we live and work.
- The third point: we need structural changes where we can work in a network and as a team, to share our faith in Jesus Christ, from the places where we already operate and testify in the various initiatives that are born in each community. To enrich each other mutually with a scheduled work planned and evaluated, that embraces all the pastoral realities and community that we live in any environment where we live our faith by proclaiming the Kingdom of God, and believing with all our heart that we can touch others to live a religious consecration with joy and gladness.

We are grateful once again, from our heart, for this valuable formation time so special and rich for our life of consecration.

*Sr Alejandra Vallejos, Sr Mercedes Samaniego,  
Sr Claudia Muñoz, Sr Marilú Tecsi.*



## **Vocation week in 2015 Colegio Felmer Niklitschek (Cile)**

This year, as every year, during the month of May, it was organized a vocational week, special moment where people pray that the Lord continues to call young people to the priesthood and religious life. This week takes place in the world, in all the churches and so also in our school we have *“Prayed Jesus for Vocations”*.

All classes of our school lived an hour of activity and prayer in our chapel, ask for an increase of vocations in the Church of priests, religious and laity.

In a moment of reflection and workshop proposed by the sisters and teachers of religion, the students have created a chain of prayers, drawing with colors their intentions, so decorating the altar with their prayers.



## **In communion with the local Church**

### **Kretinga (Lituania)**

The year dedicated to consecrated life in our diocese of Telšiai began with a day dedicated to reflection sharing, thanksgiving and praise for the gift of vocation to the consecrated life. Religious, priests, lay people gathered by Bishop Jonas Boruta and his auxiliary Linas Vodopjanovas OFM, national coordinator for the consecrated life have experienced the joy of belonging to God. The words of welcome by Bishop Jonas Boruta SJ, have highlighted the particular role that religious men and women have within the ecclesial community and the entire society. Bishop Linas Vodopjanovas, then, referring to the words of the Holy Father invited all religious to be those who “wake up the world”, to go to the world by bringing the joy that comes from living with Christ.

Sister Asta Venskauskaitė ACJ, president of the Conference of Major Superiors has traced the history of religious life in Lithuania emphasizing in particular, the important role in the transmission of the faith that the men and women religious have played especially during the period of oppression by both tsar, and during the period of Russian oppression. The sister then continued emphasizing the special significance of this year of grace.

Algis Malakauskis OFM friar brought his reflection on holiness that religious are called in a special way, following Christ more closely and know how to read the signs of the times.

Beautiful was the time when the theater room raided the many young people gathered in Telšiai at that day for their annual weekend of spiritual renewal. Songs, music and so much joy colored the closure of this morning where our young Sister Juljya with competence and enthusiasm had played the role of presenter.



The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided by the ordinary bishop Mons. Jonas Boruta SJ, with the Auxiliary Bishop Linas Vodopijanovas OFM and all the priests, religious and diocesan conference participants.



In his homily, Msgr. Linas Vodopjanovas OFM, emphasized the particular task that religious are called to play in the world today: to make shining the face of the Lord. He encouraged us to live faithfully their religious vows.

Another very significant and important moment was

on the January 17, day in which the men and women religious in Lithuania met for the “Forum” of the consecrated life. No press, no advertising, just the joy of being among us and to experience what the psalmist says *“How is beautiful, how is joyful when brothers and sisters are together.”* Everything had been prepared with love and creativity so that each participant could live the fraternal joy. Stefanas Kiechle, SJ Provincial Superior in Germany in his speech has developed three aspects of religious life: consecration, community and mission. Sister Carmen Sammut, MSOLA President of the International Conference of Major Superiors, likened the religious life to the beating heart, the heart that burns with love for God and for humanity. After her presentation has then followed the group reflection that she led all to analyze the challenges faced by consecrated on.



In the afternoon Mons. Linas Vodopjanovas, OFM, blessed the icon of Jesus Master, icon which then began its journey from community to community until February 2, 2016, when in Kretinga we will have the solemn celebration of the closing of the year of consecrated life .

“What would the world be without the religious men and women?” He asked the bishop Linas Vodopjanovas, OFM, in his homily during the solemn Mass celebrated by Cardinal A. Backis. Bishop Linas invited to be consecrated not only those who live the joy of belonging to Christ, but also to be the Elijah to help others discover the voice of the Lord.

Very significant and particularly ecclesial was the presence of all the bishops of Lithuania that with great interest participated in the Forum, sharing with us the joys and hopes of the Lithuanian and universal Church.

*Sister Beniamina and sisters of the fraternity of Kretinga*



## Our Missionary Charism

### **“Go to the existential peripheries...”**

In this year dedicated to the consecrated life there have been many provocations and also encouragements addressed to us by Pope Francis. His “expectations” for us become “challenges” and even feedback on our being “consecrated” and missionary. In particular, these words from his letter to the consecrated give “value” and light to so many of our evangelical answers and encourage us not to stop and search for others “answers” according to the “signs of the times”:

*“I also expect from you what I have asked all the members of the Church: to come out of yourselves and go forth to the existential peripheries. “Go into all the world”;* these were the last words



*which Jesus spoke to his followers and which he continues to address to us (cf. Mk 16:15). A whole world awaits us: men and women who have lost all hope, families in difficulty, abandoned children, young people without a future, the elderly, sick and abandoned, those who are rich in the world’s goods but impoverished within, men and women looking for a purpose in life, thirsting for the divine... “*

In this part of the “Pace e Bene” we want to present some of our missionary realities in the world, without thereby wanting to exclude anyone. “Our existential peripheries “ where we give

ourselves, our days, our dreams, our hopes and our concerns and especially the “dream” and “plan” of love and salvation of God for His people today !!

The various articles or experiences shared intend to embrace the various apostolic fields in a direct or indirect commitment, because our peripheries are also our communities, our diocese, any human reality that requires genuine relational capacity with all, discerning and committing ourselves to be “instruments” of His love everywhere.

### **With simple and fraternal heart**

### **in the existential peripheries of youth ...**

**(Convitto Sacro Cuore - Udine)**

Greeting a large group of young people from the Diocese of Piacenza, on 28 August 2013, Pope Francis addressed them this exhortation: “ have courage, go forward and make noise. Where there are young people so should there be noise. Then things settle down but the dream of a young person is to make noise forever. Go ahead! In life there will always be people who suggest that you slow down, blocking your path. Please go against the current.”

They are words that provoke us too, every day in the service of the youth, forty young ladies from various regions of Italy (up from Trentino to Sicily) and from abroad (this year we welcomed two



Chinese girls) that are housed in the boarding house Convitto Sacro Cuore di Udine, share with our religious community their studies. The warning of Pope urges us to ask ourselves the fundamental question of our mission here and our witness. Are we women who are able to bring hope? To indicate, with our lives, an alternative route where are not efficiency and success to dictate the pace, but the genuine passion to spend the most of their talents to build and share “goodness”?

Often we talk, even in our communities, about the youth but not always with sufficient knowledge of where young people are today, in peripheral spaces if not marginalized, uncertain thresholds unpromising or difficult to deal with. Victims of a climate

and a style pessimist as an attitude or political way, who interprets everything in economic terms, even the dreams that are worth or not to cultivate, and also the relationships set more on convenience than on the truth. Having the need to appear, the need to realize the need to match excludes the beauty of freedom - space of God - the time of the meetings, the opportunities available to each one as a gift and a way of communication and communion.

Being in direct contact every day with our girls we are frequently provoked by their fears, from the fatigue with which they have to deal, by the fragility of their emotional worlds in



need of certainty and stability.

The University is not always associated the effectiveness of the formatives courses with the attention to human values and those of faith and not always young people are accompanied to understand the importance not only of goal achieved, but also the path taken to reach it. The efforts made - intellectual and economic - sometimes they do not give results: some get stranded for months on an examination, without being able to understand what was wrong and what to improve, others - even

with brilliant results - have not opportunities once completed the path. Others are disappointed by a system that, if you muddle along for the promotion - at all costs - of the roles, does not promote

people and life, in its most worthy aspects of being preserved. We listen every day and many stories behind every girl there is the experience of a family who hopes, invests, makes sacrifice, is anxious, sometimes in the midst of difficulties and crosses of all kinds. We listen to the beauty and the freshness of being young, their vast horizons of desire, the joy of friendship and love, enjoy learning, to discover, to know. We listen smiles and tears. And you have to be there, with your mind, your heart, with your own human truth and authentic witness of faith, with discretion, willing to grow and to let themselves be formed and disturbed even by those who have been entrusted to us.

We invoke the Spirit healing our weaknesses and inadequacies to teach us to heal, to sympathize, to communicate with simplicity what a young person today has more need to be told: “I am here because you are important, the way you are, whatever situation you’re going through.”

The boarding house wants to be a family where every girl can feel welcomed and respected





for what she is, never invaded but sure that we sisters are always willing to listen, not to judge, not to be scandalized, to encourage them, to believe first of what is really worth. We try to



promote in every way the friendship, sharing, collaboration, constantly aware of being looked at and, in a certain way, “Featured”.

The formation service we try to offer every day is in the simplicity of affectionate greetings, to be aware of their tensions and sorrows, by the call when needed and always motivated by the urge to use the time wisely and responsibly, personal and common spaces.

To give value to festivities, the reached goals, remembering the Christian and Franciscan appearance of the boarding house indicating frankly - albeit without harshness or fundamentalism and willingly accepting girls from other denominations and faiths - the lifestyle and relationships that follow. Weekly moments of prayer are offered specifically designed to which girls participate freely, with some constancy. In the Advent season, also the boarders are entrusted the preparation of the “Crib”: a waiting opportunity that they perceived as significant.

At the beginning of the year of living together, of Christmas, of Easter and the conclusion of the academic year in the chapel of the boarding house- where young people have free access, with the possibility to participate in community prayer - is celebrated the Eucharist for them.

They are intense moments of reflection and communion in the life of this mission: the girls are involved, according to their talents and interests, in the animation of the liturgy at the end of which is regularly given them a sign that recalls the dimension of values and the life of faith. We believe that this mission meets the needs of the times and is a great support to families, as well as the youth themselves, especially in cases where the reception is facing - as it has been in recent years - also to girls with disabilities and special uncomfortable situations. We need certainly to accept to be in a difficult challenge, with plenty of questions and obstacles and where, above all, keep in mind that the path that we are committed to offer - and to re-assume by us at first every day! - is now decidedly against the current and re-

quires patience and perseverance, even when it seems that young people do not respond as we would expect, as we would like or are not constant. But we are convinced that the good sown, entrusted to the work of the Lord, is not lost, and sometimes we could ourselves note that over time, with the help of God, has given life to his small or large fruit.

Lately many of our boarders have completed their process of study and time with us; the messages that they have left open a small glimpse in this lively and varied reality of the mission:

*“... I wish to thank you for the gift of acceptance and fraternity that has been given me. It is now quite clear that it was Jesus who led me here, to give me the opportunity to know him and be reconciled with him.” I.*

*“Thank you so very much for welcoming me in this wonderful house that is the Convitto Sacro Cuore! Many thanks to all of you for the affection that you were able to give to me !!! You’re like a big family for me! Anyway, I hope to have more opportunity to come and say hello ... thanks for the wonderful work you have been able to do and serenity you have given me over the years.” M.*

*The Sisters of the Convitto Sacro Cuore - Udine*



## Peekskill - USA

### God Won the Toss

*“Go and preach the gospel...when necessary, use words.” (Francis of Assisi)*

She didn't want to go; she didn't know how to turn down such an invitation graciously; and most importantly, she wouldn't tell a lie. Sister Antonia had been invited to volunteer and work on a REC (Residents Encounter Christ) retreat at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. Her presence would have been a great asset to that weekend retreat team; the inmates would have fallen in love with her, she had so much to offer them. She was always known as a generous, loving, warm person, overflowing with all those Franciscan attributes that make a person feel one's inner joy. She was the right person for the job. She quickly answered NO!

She loved teaching; she enjoyed her times counseling young people. She KNEW that God had called her to work with his innocent little ones. That was where he wanted her to build his kingdom, not behind prison walls. But, she wouldn't tell a lie. Antonia told Moe that she would pray over the invitation. The time drew near to give her answer. Antonia knew that God wouldn't want her in prison, but she also knew that she hadn't even asked him how he felt about this new experience. Striving to be like Francis, she went before the Lord to wait for his confirmation that he was pleased to use her exactly where



she was. Trusting in his word, like Francis, she randomly opened her Bible, hoping to read about “the little children coming to the Lord” and instead gazed upon the words of Matthew as he tells of Jesus mandating his followers to “visit him when he is in prison” while at the same time warning us that “woe to those who do not come and visit me in prison, for you shall be consumed in the everlasting flames!” Annoyed and sitting on the loser's side of the altar, Antonia uttered her “Yes”...but only this once and solely because God won the toss!



This was the moment of conception, almost thirty nine years ago, for what has grown and blossomed into a lifetime of being a loving, vibrant peacemaker in an environment of ugliness, pain, rejection, and inhumaneness. This “Yes” was the beginning of embracing countless leper-like children of God with a love and a passion that only leads to self-acceptance, metanoia, and new life; it was the start of a ministry that created the Franciscan woman who is now lovingly referred to as the “Worldwide Mother of People in Green; the Mother Teresa of the New York State Correctional System”.

Since 1977, Sister Antonia has preached the Gospel loudly with her actions behind bars: in segregation units, in solitary cells, in kee-locked caves and in prison nurseries. She has brought Jesus to secured hospital wards, waiting rooms and morgues and funeral parlors. Her presence at baptisms and weddings and family reunions reminds many



that God is alive and working in the lives of all people who thirst for him. She is the harbinger of his Good News when spirits are low and fears are oppressing, when children are lost in a careless foster parent system, when loved ones are fighting for life and others have gone home to God, when AIDS becomes a reality in the depths of one's existence and when injustice prevails and common respect is much too hard to find.

Antonia, follower of Francis, is sometimes the only instrument of peace when hatred grows and festers and sneaks through the razor-wired walls of a secured state prison. She stands tall and powerful as she picks up



the shattered pieces of fractures lives, lives scarred by the hatred of abusive spouses, violent parents, punitive teachers, scheming co-workers, selfish drug dealers, and unfit friends. It is here that her gentle smile, her warm embrace, and her closeness with the One who loves her...sows love.

Incarcerated men and women are hurt; they are injured by those who should have loved them, by a harsh and selfish society that has taken them for granted, by acquaintances that have led them astray and abandoned them behind secured walls. They have been hurt by peoples' indifference, greed, anger, and lust. They have been raped of their dignity and stripped of even their name. They are in pain. Compassion and caring and inner strength teach these "numbered" men and women that forgiveness is real and indeed possible in the midst of deep pain.

One who has known the joy of being forgiven...sows forgiveness, with joy.

Broken people forget how to have faith. Haunting memories of abuse and rape and fighting and drunkenness and anger and ugliness overtake the hidden sparks of light which are burrowed in one's heart. Doubt prevails...there is no light, there is no hope, there is no chance to change and become anything more than a locked up criminal. It is the compliment, the pat on the back, the genuine smile and the warm safe hug, the extra mile that Antonia takes that leads the doubting and despairing soul to stop and recognize a spark of hope within a tomb of darkness.

The presence that never lets the darkness overtake one's life...sows light.

Prison is the womb of sadness. Prison is the place where joy is left on the doorstep and happiness is barricaded away for a long, long time. When the days are gloomy and the only news is bad, when the letters aren't written and the visits never happen, when loved ones die and children become ill, when caring becomes obsolete and life loses its meaning...there is sadness, there is hopelessness, there is despair.

And when an inmate feels so far down that there is nowhere else to go, it is the little bits of





“perfect joy” that bring a real Franciscan presence to God’s truly injured people.

The affirmation that comes from a “Happy Birthday” or “Your hair looks nice today”; from a simple “thank you” for a deed so often gone unnoticed, from a special prayer for a pressing need, and mostly, from a woman, generous, caring, and devoted; from a follower of Francis who always puts herself last and God’s chosen ones first; a real companion of the Father, working from a wheelchair, spreading little bits of sunshine all along a shaded path...sowing joy.

It is a rare gift in this world to find someone who genuinely understands people, especially when they feel they are so complex and confused that no one could ever look beyond the mess they feel they have made of themselves and love them. In a correctional environment, inmates, numbered people, feel alone and misunderstood. In such an atmosphere, no one fights for you, only with you.

Solitude is safety, distance provides protection, isolation fosters peace. Antonia’s affirming presence draws women to trust her, to open their hearts and share their deepest feelings with her and to wholeheartedly believe that she unconditionally cares for them. She respects who they are, what their stories tell, where they’ve been, and she gently leads them to believe in the beauty she sees within them. She sees the sculpture hidden in the stone of rejection and by her actions and her caring she becomes the instrument releasing the beauty that has always dwelt within... she understands.

Consoling, loving, pardoning, giving...Antonia speaks the Gospel daily. Her proclamation of the Good News is the magnet which draws so many diverse kinds of people to her heart and ultimately to the heart of the Most High God. She sees goodness in the midst of evil, she embraces joy during moments of pain, she suffers deeply with the despairing, and she brings peace and goodness to countless imprisoned children of God. Listening and hearing,

crying and smiling, hurting and healing, she often puts her job on the line as she embraces her ministry to our modern day lepers. She is the one who fights for justice, unearths mistreatment and demands change; she touches hearts and speaks the truth at any cost (for she will not tell a lie!). She finds the best in the worst and leads others to share in that vision; she changes numbers to names and tears to smiles and shows people what God is like and rejoices when they find him deep within their own scarred being. Obeying her father Francis, she never ceases trying to do good.

Sister Antonia has built the church within the poverty of prison walls. She has nurtured a group of women who band together and live as children of the God of freedom. These fol-



lowers, this band of troubadour sisters, live the gospel as they reach out to the hardest of hearts among them. They pray, they sing, they support fellow inmates and greet the day in perfect joy as they become the minstrels of the prison, knowing that “good works must follow knowledge”.

Now, these “little flowers of St. Francis” bring love to the lonely and hope to the despairing and joy to those sated with sadness. They join together as they spread their share of light in darkened halls and cold-stone hearts, and they shine! They work, they help, they smile, and they, too, preach the Lord’s Gospel by their



many loving actions accompanied by some needed affirming words.

Each week, after we have celebrated the Liturgy, Sister Antonia reminds the women that there are many hurting people behind the prison walls.

She missions them to the cell blocks with the mandate to **BE KIND TO EACH OTHER**. She never tells them to go out and preach, convert, teach or admonish...she instructs them to be who they have become: transformed, loving, vibrant, caring children of a Father who created them in His image from the beginning. As builders of God's kingdom, they obey the words of our great Francis of Assisi and "*show themselves joyfully in the Lord, cheerful, and suitably gracious*".  
(*Rule of 1221*)

The many friends of Sister Antonia Maguire, along with all the men and women whom she has touched during this long ministry of setting people free are blessed indeed, and most thankful to God for sharing her with them. Her preaching of God's "Good News" has been witnessed and cherished by a multitude of people who indeed have been created anew by one who obeyed God with her "Yes", and are filled with gratitude that so many years ago, **God won the toss!**

### ***The courage to be in the Peripheries... is awarded!***

### ***Award Pavoncella to the F.M.S.C. sisters of Kormakiti***

***6 June 2015***

June 6 was a special day for us, held in the Church of San Giorgio a Kormakiti. We sisters who are in the mission are rewarded by an Italian Art cultural association, Award Pavoncella nato in Sabaudia. The Award was done to us for the presence and the service that, as the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, that we have done for years to the people of the Maronite community of four countries: Kormakitis, Karpasha, Asomatos and Ayia Marina that for 40 years is inhabited by Turkish military troops.

For this occasion was present Sr. Bernadette Skorti, Provincial Superior, who is one of the first three sisters, along with Sr Annateresa Liatsou and Sr Patrick Frantjià returned after the Turkish invasion, with great courage and trust in the Lord. There was also the wife of the Italian Ambassador, Mrs. Catherine Cerboni, accompanied by her son, the Doctor Peter Katsioloudi who did the translation from the Greek, then two more helpers, the teacher Elia Zonia and Yiannaki Pahita. Not missing the presence of Rev. Father Salim Sfeir, parish priest of the village of Kormakiti with many parishioners and friends of the sisters. They were connected with Skype Italy, when they have seen us, they said "here are the Franciscan sisters" with great applause.

We thank the Lord and the Association for the gift that was offered generously to us. For our part we promised prayers that the good Lord give them health and the blessings to continue their charitable work.

*The Sisters of Kormakiti*





*Here are some articles that were written by journalists and others*

### **Four “frontier” Sisters in the Turkish Cyprus**

*Neither the occupation by Ankara nor the car of Iraqi Kurdistan have made them loose their smile and the desire to help the small Maronite community.* *Monica Ricci Sargentini*

Kormakiti is the only Christian village still surviving today in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the part of the island occupied by the troops of Ankara in 1974 and since then has divided in fact from Greek Cyprus, an EU member since 2004 . You get there through a curving road to the sea after being left behind Kyrenia, the capital of this ghost State, paved with shops selling branded goods to a third of the list price. But in Kormakiti, home to the Catholic Maronite, the atmosphere changes. You no longer see the barracks, the barbed wire, the insignia glittering casinos that offer tourists all kinds of pleasure. Everything remains as it was 40 years ago, the Turks have occupied the houses of the Maronites and the church of San Giorgio, built in 1940, continues to dominate the main square of the village.



Next door is the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, that arrived in 1936 and considered the heroines for having the courage to come back after the occupation. “If it was not for them,” says an old country, Cristina, “we would not be here now. The sisters are the spice of our lives. “

“It was a difficult choice,” it parries Sister Bernadette, born Rosetta Visentin, 74 years ago in Postioma, in the province of Treviso. “We could not leave our people and students.” The sisters look over the

garden and indicate a ruined building where once studied the small Maronite. “When we were able to return in February 1975 there were 150 children who were waiting for us, blessed,” says Bernadette, who has not lost an ounce of his Venetian accent. “At five in the afternoon there was curfew. Times were hard. Who had to go to college, left for the Greek side and waved his people



forever. They wept as if they were going to a funeral. “ The only way to communicate was hide messages in the packages of aid of the United Nations.

The school remained open until 1985, when the last child has finished elementary school.



Then inevitably the village began to empty. Before the occupation had two thousand inhabitants, now there were 200 people, all elderly.

But it is a miracle that Kormakiti remained standing, given the end they did the other villages. Agia Marina was completely engulfed by the military barracks where they lodge. For Asomatos however, until a few months ago, an old woman, Emilia was still living. Now there are only the troops.

The paradox is that Kormakiti, Koruçam for Turks, who changed the name to all the towns in the area, over the last 10 years has experienced a new awakening thanks to the opening of borders between the two states that allowed young people to come to spend holidays in the country of origin. So at Easter, summer and sometimes even on weekends you get to a population of over 1000 people. On the other hand we are only 50 km from Nicosia, the capital of the Greek side. Thanks to European Union funds some parts of the village are being restored. Primarily the main square, a meeting place daily, then the church of the 1400s located in the convent.



Despite this, Kormakiti still runs the risk of disappearing. The four sisters do what they can. Sister Elsa, 67, is a nurse, and every day goes to visit the sick. For others, the convent opened a school for seniors where they teach embroidery. But also “sisters” are elderly. For example, last year they decided not to remove the Crib. “We no longer had the strength,” explained Sister Piera, 85, from Cyprus. “So we covered with the sheets and protected by a glass case.” Winter is the hardest moment for the sisters because the monastery has no heating. But they smile and go on.

How is your relationship today with the military? “Excellent,” ensure the four sisters. “The Turks have never done harm to our people. We have them always helped and even cured. “Some small skirmish, however, there was: the antenna cable inexplicably cut and, even worse, that Mass interrupted by police in Kythrea on 31 May 2014. But the greatest fear are the cars badged Erbil, the capital of autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan, which are seen more and more often turn to Kyrenia. The Isis will come here? The sisters shake their heads: “What are you thinking... Blessed! “





*The only religious remained in the occupied Turkish  
(da ANSAmed).*

**Kormakiti (NORTH CYPRUS), June 8** - The Pavoncella Award for social commitment has been awarded this year to four Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart who have the courage - knowing to risk their life - to return to the village of Kormakiti not to abandon the big Maronite community in which they worked as teachers of Italian and nurses.

Thanks to their decision, the village of Kormakiti (almost 2,000 inhabitants in 1974, just 200 today, mostly elderly) is still remained occupied in northern as a small but solid point of reference for the Christian Maronites for which, despite advanced age (the younger sister Elsa, 67 years) continue to make efforts with generosity and self-sacrifice.

Precisely for this reason, the cultural association 'ArteOltre' Sabaudia (creator of Pavoncella Award) has decided to give this year's award for social commitment to the four sisters who still live in the convent, Sister Bernadette, Sister Piera, Sister Pierpaola and Sister Elsa.

The prize (a sum of money for the purchase of two heat pumps air to heat the small convent during the cold winter months) was assigned to the four sisters at a ceremony Saturday night in Skype connection between Sabaudia and the church San Giorgio, in Kormakiti, where many faithful were gathered. Ms. Catherine Cerboni present at the ceremony on behalf of his husband, the Italian Ambassador in Nicosia Guido Cerboni, was keen to stress that the four sisters are awarded as *"heroines of every day for their constant presence here that has allowed this village - that they have never left more than 40 years - of remain Christian and Catholic, and most importantly, without creating tensions with the Turkish Cypriot community and the Turkish, offering by their example a message of peaceful co-existence with incredible commitment and sacrifice not indifferent"*.



***The Sisters of Menjez (Libano)***

Abuna Toufic says he does not want to go to the north, which is dangerous, it would be better to continue to think about the things to do here in Beirut. Angel insists and in the end, as usual, he wins. Tomorrow morning we will go to the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Menjez, with or without Abuna Toufic.

The friar laughs amused and amazed by so much determination and called the sisters on the phone as they prepare to welcome us happy. This is precisely the aim of Angiolo: make the sisters happy. Even we find another friar, the sympathetic Abuna Jerzy Kray, Patriarchal Vicar in Cyprus who decides to join us too, to pay tribute to those courageous sisters.

Menjez is a Christian village in the north, located on the border between Lebanon and Syria a few



kilometers away from Homs.

The area is dangerous, the clashes are frequent; along the way there are several golf Syrian refugees. Civil war still rages in Syria, with the added danger of kidnappings by ISIS, or Daesh as they say in these parts, with consequences sadly known in the West.

In this difficult situation, there are four Franciscan sisters who carry out their pastoral mission for the benefit of local people. They run a school for the disabled and for children with mental and behavioral problems and send out a convent from whose windows you can see clearly the Syrian villages beyond the “wadi” that marks the border.

The community of the sisters is composite: two are from Cyprus, including the Mother Superior Sister Beatrice, one is Italian and one is Filipina. The presence of the Franciscan sisters in this remote place has been since 1988. Since then they have built a very large convent and a beautiful school. The convent, tells me Sister Beatrice, had been built to accommodate the “vocations” in the area but then the political events and the recent war in Syria have blocked everything. In recent years, they remained almost isolated and had few visits. Then they welcome us even more willingly.

Their gospel message is important for the people of the village of Menjez but also to the nearby villages from which many of the students are coming. The school receives about 270 children of which at least sixty with delayed cognitive and behavioral problems.

After the city of Tripoli we meet the tented camps of refugees that were installed far enough away from the border, in Lebanese territory. From these fields often they come out guerrilla bands that, in addition to fighting the enemy, they create social and coexistence problems to the native population of Lebanon. We arrive at the border, we overcome the barrier of Lebanese police and walk the “unnamed land”; few meters before tackling the Syrian police there is a junction and turn right, going up to Menjez. Abuna Toufic stops to talk with a man and then quickly starts up with the car and says, “do you want to know

what the man said? Go to Menjez for the new road? And so hurry because they shoot !!!!

With this encouragement hardly reassuring, we face the uphill road at high speed. At one point we see out of the side of the road, gunmen but with disbelief I realize that they are hunters. Yes hunters, dressed in camouflage but with the shotgun and game bag full of birds.

It is funny the world, in the middle of nowhere, plagued by war, dangerous, are people who come to shoot for fun migratory birds. And they do it through dangerous terrain and abandoned houses riddled by Syrian artillery.

It is it really true that the passions cannot control but come hunting here it seems madness.

Menjez is a village of 1,500 people exclusively Christian - Maronite. In 1975, as a result of the difficult political situation in Lebanon and the persecution of the Maronites, all left



the village and moved to Syria, beyond the wadi. The village was burned during the Lebanese civil war, like many other Christian villages in the area.



Then, slowly, they returned but not all. In Syria, until a few years ago, the socio - economic status of Christians was better and some families remained there and now they are in trouble.

The sisters are happy with our visit and they have prepared a “Christmas” lunch to welcome us. Obviously, we tell us the situation and I really appreciate their clarity and their power in carrying out the mission despite the situation and repeated calls to leave.

Sister Annabel tells me that they have the suitcase ready with the necessary in case the ISIS guerrillas arrived. Fear is stronger in the population because ISIS seems to want to expand westward to reach the Mediterranean Sea. In fact they say that ISIS, if it comes, will come out of Wadi Khaled.

The border is not marked and, above all, is not supervised so there was a time, until two months ago said Sister Martina, where the people fled from Syria to Lebanon through the wadi while the other side was shooting . The convent is located right on the edge of the wadi, outside the village, and then the sisters heard shot against them at several times.

Sister Annabel tells me she has been able to withstand this situation through prayer.

Beyond the educational and pastoral teaching the presence of these sisters in this place and at this time is a strong element of comfort and confidence to the local population that sees the school and convent as a certificate of consideration, help and closeness very important.

And Sister Beatrice never stops despite some problems in the leg. She has recently gone surgery but she desired to return to her sisters in Menjez to control and manage the convent school.

Along with Father Jerzy we visit the school. The sisters tell us that they need to expand the classrooms because are coming more and more children from various villages in the area where the schools are closed because of the war. The Foundation has decided to help these sisters and support the purchase of some prefabricated houses to be used as classrooms and install in the large courtyard of the school. These are prefabricated houses that are located in Tripoli, in the square of the Franciscan convent, currently closed, we visit to return to Beirut.

From “*Voci del Vicino Oriente*” (John Paul II Foundation ONLUS) Posted on 30/03/2015 di Paolo Ricci





## ***Consecrated Life in the Poverty of our Existential Peripheries*** ***The center and the periphery***

**E**ach person, by his own nature, tends to channel all the energy, all that is and what he has to a unifying point: the center of his life. Even for us Sisters is valuable this simple law and the center of our life is (or should be) Jesus Christ. He is our “pole star around which everything rotates,” where all our life finds harmony and the whole existential experience has its value, meaning and fulfillment, “the how, the where, the when” is perceived, then, has secondary importance. That’s why in the life of a FMSC Sisters there is no periphery, because everything is periphery, which finds its subsistence in the irradiance of light radiating from Jesus Christ, our only focal point of attraction, our unspeakable final goal.

In the religious Province “Mary Immaculate” the Sisters and the fraternities share this experience of fire of love - the experience of feeling loved and called by Jesus Christ in the various - maybe small, seemingly insignificant and monotonous everyday gestures:

- Unceasing prayer, adoration of the Eucharist, the will testify to offer all suffering on the Paten, the problems, the yearnings of every person that passes next to us, with the confident determination of those, secure in the faith, know to be heard;
- The care, attention and a smile to the Sisters weak and fragile, due to age, illness or special moments of life that are lagging behind in every community;



- To bend on the sick (nursing homes) and shake hands to reassure the children alone and



abandoned.



- To start every day to rediscover the beauty of creation, sharing hope and searching for the good, the beautiful, the good that each person carries with it (schools).

And this is no different for the city or the suburbs, by state or by continent, because in every



latitude always “man and woman” paths run through seemingly different style and culture, but

deeply equal in research because of the strenuous life: join to the Love of the Father’s love for each of us sent His Son.

The Holy Spirit who dwells in us—we do find that we, sisters FMSC, in Centocelle or Viale Saffi, or Calbayog to Boso Boso, to Dushaj or in Duronia we bring to fulfilment, with our life lived as a response of love, the Father’s plan: “to unite all things in Christ” (Eph 1:10), from





the periphery to the center!

## ***The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart at the service of Education***

***Opening of Educational Center “San Antonio de Padua”  
TAMBOBAMBA APRIL 21, 2015***



In 2014 the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated its 25 years in Tambobamba. The population and the authorities of the province of Cotabambas -Tambobamba have expressed the desire to create an Institute of Primary Education (Educational Center), run by the Sisters, making this a memorial. In this way it was presented the project for the creation of a new educational institution, in accordance with the Provincial Municipality of Cotabambas and the Educational Management Unit of Cotabambas.

This Institution in congregational character is led by FMSC sisters, whose fundamental mission is the human, intellectual, moral, and it offers training based on human and Christian values of Franciscan spirituality, among teachers, children and all the educational agents. It also strengthens the formation of the family as the domestic church that helps in the education of their children, promoting encounters, hospitality and forgiveness for building a society based on the pedagogy of love preserving their cultural identity. We also seek to enhance the level of education of children.



Currently the School Institute was incorporated into the structures of the hostel “ Nazareth House”. As of now we have 43 children enrolled in the first and second “degree” from the surrounding communities and from the same city of Tambobamba.

They are followed with love and attention by teachers under the direction of Sister Consuelo Borda Puma, and the administration run by Si-



ster Mirta Duarte Gutierrez.

On April 21 was held the inauguration of the Educational Institute in the presence of the Mayor, the Governor, the Director of “UGEL” and heads of various educational institutions and other authorities. We had the pleasant presence of Sister Attiliana Durigon sent by the

Provincial Superior Sister Maria Fides Lorenzon, who could not be present due to the duties of her office.

The entire population was present, parents, faculty and staff.

The celebration began with a Mass of Thanksgiving, presided by Monsignor Domenico Berni, and continued with the civil ceremony and the program of various artistic presentations by the children of our institution and of other institutions of the place.

### ***Garigombo (Cameroun): An exceptional event***

**T**uesday, April 7, 2015, I received a phone call from Sr. Clemence of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary in Yaoundé who works as a nurse at the hospital center.

She asked: “What reception capacity do you have in your health care center? A group of 30 people made up of surgeons and nurses is willing to come to make consultations with the possibility of hernia surgery. This team that was invited by the mayor of Garigombo to the public hospital, was treated badly a week earlier for reasons unclear with the local doctor.

The health minister had given the order that this campaign should be done in any case. So Sr. Clemence has made contact with our dispensary, a providential opportunity to ensure that our health center to be known. I said yes even on behalf of Sr. Silvia, the





mana-



ger of the center, who was on her way back, after three days of session in the vice provincial house in Nkoabang.

On her arrival we have started working to create space for the 250 sick announced people and to provide accommodation to the medical staff that consisted of seven surgeons, an ophthalmologist, a dentist and nurses, that a team of 30 people.

The female medical staff was housed at the convent of the sisters and

the male in the dormitories of the parish.

Their daily food was provided by the municipality. Their arrival, three days later, lifted a great multitude of onlookers who wanted to see what was happening; a feat with installation of tents to shelter some sick people and their helpers. Commercial space was arranged in front of the dispensary, between the entrance of the convent and the dispensary and there was food prepared by ladies of all religions and tribes confused with pancakes and meals prepared in the early morning. The activities were very intense for three days. Sunday, April 12, was the day of departure of the team that cared for



city. sick, quite people

men, women and children, having operated 140 patients. Many others were visited by an ophthalmologist and received eyeglasses while the dentist blew up bad teeth. Operations and treatments were free, except for someone because, due to the large number of patients, the stock of medicines was over.

As of April 12, with the return of doctor Bwelle and his team in Yaoundé, the medications were made by Sr. Silvia and the staff of the dispensary. As of now the majority of patients have left and some are still following treatment.

The medical staff of Yaounde as well as the local

population of Garigombo wish to thank the sisters and the parish for the welcome that has been reserved for them.

Garigombo April 28, 2015 Sr. Gisèle Bella,

FMSC



Pro-

vince Holy Family - India

It is the Lord who has prepared the "way" for us to serve the "last" and the "least"

The mission "Shalom Matha Bhavan" in Manjeri in Kerala has many beautiful stories to tell.



This community had been started to accommodate our candidates in initial formation. It was inaugurated in 1989, with the Mother General of that time: Sr. Ines Pavan. After a period, it had to change the aim of this house as it was not suitable for formation. Thus it sought to use as the structure for the reception of young teachers who came from distant places.

This activity was closed in a short time to open instead to the needs of elderly and sick people who could not be cared for by the families. Some of these elderly are still here in the “new reality” ... that the Lord made us understand His plan and His will through those concrete “signs” that He often used to show “His ways”!



This mission has thus become a place of welcome for those who have none, or who cannot be cared for by their families ...

Let us listen how things happened!

In August 2010, to the three sisters who were here Sr. Mini, Sr. Celine, Jimni Sr., were asked to accept a woman. The sisters went to her home and their eyes could not believe the figure that appeared in front of them! A body covered by any kind of dirt, with a gangrenous leg, where the worms were coming out ... With a heart full of tenderness and compassion, as St. Francis, they tried to hug her and advise her to go with them.

The woman was convinced and agreed to go with the sisters. The leg was amputated and a prosthesis applied. That night, the sisters had “seen” the new road that God was opening for them.



Answering the new call, they continued to welcome other women, and others; all these



that the hand of the Lord  
their arms and

brought in their house, at the door of their hearts, in  
entrusted to their care and their love.

And to-  
nary

day we reach to have an extraordi-  
number of 70 sick women from  
different places of India and  
of different religious be-  
liefs.



Our guests are all men-  
tally ill and in need of  
special care. The Divine  
Providence that guides  
us, is always present and  
with this great confi-  
dence we  
nue on  
tra-

conti-  
the path  
ced for us by  
God.



Every day here, we live mo-  
ments of prayer to-  
gether. In the morning, the Holy  
Rosary, then the Eucharistic Adoration, the  
Chaplet of  
Divine Mercy;  
every Thursday for all we have Mass in our cha-  
pel. In the afternoon at 6 PM all together we go in  
sion to make the Way of the Cross ... for various inten-

proces-  
tions.



Our house  
is called the house  
of Divine Providence and it really is ...  
every day the Lord will take care of our  
needs by sending some good person.  
Until now, we had almost 150 sick wo-  
men, among which more than 35 are re-  
turned to their families after having regai-  
ned their health and are doing well. 28 of  
our guests received our love and prayers  
before their death. If they had remained



*Our life is changed not taken away*

in the state of life that they



were living, they would have died in the street ... but here they died with so much dignity and serenity. Some of them have received the sacrament of Baptism.

We have many things to tell you, but for now we stop here hoping to have your remembrance for this delicate work that the mercy of the Lord works with us and in us. He is good and gives us the strength to be witnesses of his love for these poor and

forgotten people entrusted to us.

*With much love and prayers, the Sisters of the house of Providence, Shalom Matha Bhavan.*

**SR.M. ADELANGELA PAVAN**  
*of Jesus Crucified*

n. Padernello (TV) 13.2.1946  
+ Treviso 9.1.2015

*The Magi, guided by the star, came where Jesus was!’ (Mt. 2).* That star was shining from a few days

before the inner eyes of Sr. Adelangela, making her perceive the invitation: “Come, I will drive you where you can see and be forever with the Lord!” With open and available heart Sr. Adelangela, enlightened by faith, followed the star that, at the end of the Christmas season, stood “above the eternal home where the King and Lord lives” ... so she entered forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Adriana Pavan was born in Padernello (TV) on 13 February 1946 by Luigi and Roberta Grespan. Baptized two days after birth and confirmed at seven, soon she felt the call to religious life and she replied with joy, entering among the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Gemona: she was 16 years, on 8 September 1962.

She lived regularly the stages of formation for religious life: on September 12, 1963 she entered novitiate



and she was called Sr. Adelangela of Jesus Crucified and on 14 September 1964, “Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross” she celebrated her religious profession.

With Franciscan spirit, the life of Sr. Adelangela has

unfolded between the two major mysteries: Jesus Crucified present in her heart from the beginning of her consecration and the Incarnation of Jesus, the time she ended her earthly life (9 January 2015).

The mission done during her religious life makes us realize that Sr. Adelangela took



seriously the invitation of Jesus: “Jesus said to them: You give them something to eat!” (Lk. 9) living with the joy the service of cooking.

A “lavish cook”, especially in the communities of Solagna, Fontane, Badoere ... But in a very special way in the retirement home of Borgo Cavour where she served with true love, every day, weekdays and holidays and whit rest, the guests and elderly sick for a couple of decades

Thus we remember her, always in motion, even when were made predict the first si-

gnis of the disease which

soon led her to end her days on earth, generous and faithful to the end.

Bear fruit the good that Sr. Adelangela has sown generously in her daily mission.

*From Heaven may she continue, as always, to be closer to her family whom she loved so much and from whom was so much loved.*

*May she implore, also for the religious family, where she lived and worked, holy vocations to the continuity of that love the Gospel suggests:*

*“Give and you shall receive!” (Lk. 6)*

**SR M. LUIGIA NASATO**  
*of Maria Bambina*

n. Paese (TV) 11.07.1934  
+ Gemona 21. 02. 2015

The Lenten just begun, envelops our life of hope for the promise of Jesus: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory with all His angels will sit on the throne of his glory!...

Then He will say to those on his right: *“Come blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom, For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was*

*thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ...”*(Mt. 25)

Since 21 February, Sr. Luigia Nasato is already part of the elect who sit at the table of the Kingdom! She left this

earth silently, as the style of her daily life was a full and generous offer of herself for others ... without noise!

Giuseppina, so they called her in Holy Baptism (15 July 1934) her parents Attilio and Maria Vendramin, has traveled fast the stages of her youth, first in her deeply Christian family, where at sixteen she heard the call of Lord: “Follow me!”. There is no time to lose when you feel the pressure in the heart of the love that asks “all at once” to be a perfect gift!

So, on September 21, in the memorial of the “Presentation of Mary in the Temple”, Giuseppina also showed up in the Convent “Saint Mary of the Angels” in Gemona to undertake her initial formation, which culminated with the religious profession on 15 September 1952. To her a new life was opened: “from now on you will be called Sr. Luigia of Maria Bambina”. This was followed by several years of service in various communities (Treviso S. Maria Maggiore and St. Joseph - Castagnole - Pradamano), then in 1954, she was for two years in Rome (Cencelle) as an assistant in the





orphanage, and she has started to study for the required graduation to teach

in kindergarten.

It is allowed just enough time to experience the educational mission of the school in Borgo Faiti (Latina) and here arrived the surprising request of the Superior General, Sr M. Tarcisia Bracale, who decided to open the first house of the Congregation in Africa. The lot fell on four sisters, the first of which, as Superior of the new community, was Sr. Luigia Nasato with her 29 years of age.

Let us listen to the story that makes herself recalling, by her memories, those distant years: “We are in 1963, many bishops are in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. In this climate of the Council fervor, there are creating opportunities for the first contacts for the foundation of a new mission in Africa, including the Bishop of Yaounde (Cameroon) Bishop Zoa and our Superior General, Mother Tarcisia Bracale. Following the identification of a group of sisters ... and then the sending!

Upon arrival we Sisters are invited to join in the Church for the first greeting to the

Lord; when we go out we find the people of the village that welcome us with their characteristics cheers and then, accompany us home, through the banana plantation. The house is empty, but the Father shows his good will by providing a piece of canvas to make tents, while the villages in turn undertake to provide daily sustenance to our need.”

Sr. Luigia, with her heart of a “mother”, for 43 years has guided her sisters as local superior, or as a formator of young people as they came to multiply the religious presence assuming the charism of FMSC, or as regional Delegate when communities have multiplied, forming a small Organism.

Various activities have been developed over the years in the mission: the formation of women, children’s education, the boarding school for girls, a dispensary for the sick ... Everyone could find a response to their needs by Sr. Luigia .

Only the illness that came suddenly forced her to leave her beloved mission on 2007, forcing her to return first to Rome and finally to



motherhouse in Gemona. Right here, where she had begun her religious life, she continued her mission in a different way; yes, the activities were finished, but never the apostolic zeal which continued to grow in her soul because it had deep roots in the Lord. Jesus was always the center and priority of her

life, the one that filled her being with light and made fruitful her mission.

A sister who for many years lived with Sr. Luigia in Africa remembering her, she said:

*“This is the impression I always had and even now I got from my inner self, looking Sr. Luigia:” we are faced with a holy sister! “Her life was truly a witness of holiness, humble, hardworking, compassionate, strong even in difficult times, attentive and generous, never to leak the moments of suffering, but also a holiness rooted in God: She, simple woman, but full of goodness drawn and powered by the goodness of God. “*

We remember her, united to all the sisters of the Vice-Province of Cameroon, grateful to the Lord for giving her as





sister and mother. To her we turn with confidence as well: Sr. Luigia, from heaven now see even better your Africa for which you have lived, offering all your life. Intercede abundant blessings of the Lord for all the sisters to give continuity to your work attracting other young people with an ardent and missionary heart, capable to bring fruits of peace and hope.

**SR M. ENRICA FORGIARINI**  
*of the Assumption*

n. Gemona 16.11.1914  
+ Gemona 14.3.2015

Sr. Enrica: a century of “life-believer”, since in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Gemona she received Holy Baptism, by the name of Anna. A life enclosed between two Witnesses Saints: Mary and Joseph. Shee was born in Gemona by Giuseppe and Maddalena Goi, just one hundred years ago. Her family was a deeply Christian, for this her vocation to the consecrated life has blossomed when she was still small in the home. In fact, at age 17, in 1931, she was already with the sisters to Vedelago (TV) where, temporarily, had been transferred the pre-novitiate of “S. Mary of the Angels”. Later, she went to Udine to begin her studies, even before the canonical novitiate, she graduated as a teacher! Back in Gemona, she began her novitiate and August 30, 1938, she entered novitiate and she chose for herself the

name of “Sr. Enrica of the Assumption”, placing herself under the maternal

protection of Mary. On October 2, 1939, at last, she realized the dream of her vocation by religious profession at the young age of 25. Soon she was sent to Rome and then to Castelnuovo Fogliani (PC) to resume the study that she completed with a degree in pedagogy on July 12, 1943 at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan.

Immediately she began her educational mission with the youth, their families and, through the years, even the ex-alumni. Sr Enrica had always felt the mission of teaching in the school as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, as a gift that becomes a sign for the society of the value of the person, of her vocation as a child of God. She taught for 47 years, mostly philosophy and education in our school in Rome: Institute “S. Elizabeth” Piazza Pitagora, the Institute “Maria Immacolata” in Centocelle and Asisum. She also became the Dean of the school from 1969 to 1974. A mission carried out with all the spirit of Franciscan simplicity, minority, dedication and love to help many young people (over 1300) in their maturity to truth and goodness. When the age did not longer allow her to teach, Sr Enrica had dedicated herself to other activities both in the school, where she remained for many years a presence

sought and loved by all, both in the parish with the pastoral care of the elderly.

She has been able to build a bridge of love and solidarity between the school itself and the large group of elderly and needy families in the parish. In 2005, at an age of 91, she was transferred to the motherhouse in Gemona. Physical strength had been declined, but never she has failed the inner spirit and the prayer that was the source from which she draw so much strength for her daily mission in the 47 years of



teaching and other activities of 15 years between school and parish. Just in recent days, now bedridden, she recommended: “Say to all the sisters to pray remaining united to the Lord for the strength to face even the hardest moments of the disease when it becomes more difficult to pray and remain only the desire to offer! “ Sr. Enrica has had time to celebrate with the whole religious family and surrounded by the affection of all her family, her 100 years of life: on 16 November 2014. On that occasion, a group of



former students who have come from Rome expressed: "The greatest gift you have given to us, offering us the opportunity to meet again after many years and share the excitement of memories, through your How her life was, so was her departure to heaven, conscious and lucid to the end. Before leaving for the eternal abode, she removed from her wrist holding her rosary

in her hands ... Last gesture as if to say: 'In your hands, Lord, through Mary, I place my life' !. .. And, reclined her head on the pillow, "filled of years -as says the Bible- she fell asleep in the Lord. (Gn. 25).

*Rest in peace, Sr. Enrica, but there still remember all of your loved ones and your sisters. May your life be still fruitful of love for those who have known and served with your testimony. Intercede holy vocations from the Lord, able to bear witness to Jesus with their life and mission.*

**SR M. ADOLFINA LANDI**  
*of the Annunciation*

n. Ostra (AN) 2.1.1938  
+ Roma 15. 5. 2015

*"I thank the Lord ... Thank you, thank you to all of you ... in the Congregation, my home, I always felt to be loved ... Thanks."*

With these words sr Adolfina, next to the meeting with her Lord, in her bed of pain, already invaded by the cancer, in the infirmary, "Holy

Name of Mary "of Viale Saffi thanked and greeted all who approached.

Born in Ostra (Ancona) from Orlando and Albina Giovannetti, Liliana Landi was educated, in human and Christian values, with the consistency of the gesture and the genuineness of life of ordinary people. Learn to measure up herself to the limit in the reality of personal situations that ultimately shape her shy and reserved character.

At nineteen she is a postulant in Rome, Centocelle, where, after a year of novitiate, will complete her religious formation with the profession in 1960, taking the name of Sr. M. Adolfina Landi of the Annunciation.

In the following years, she will finish her studies by acquiring then in Centocelle (RM), the degree of teacher. In the group of the teaching Sisters of the crowded school in Via Tor de Schiavi 150, she keeps her reserved attitude by sharing with the serene expression of the face, the style of life and mission. Charming and friendly with students and parents, she was able to gather their



confidences and keep gently

mood and discretion.



So she lives, both in the school in Centocelle (1960/1970) and in that of the General House 'Asisium' (1970), where she will remain until 1985, first as a teacher of elementary school, then high school.

When the precariousness of her health was felt more intensely, she retired from

teaching and helped the sisters in various tasks, denoting always great creativity and originality. From her hands delicate "thoughts" and "cards" came out to remember birthdays, feast days and make "parties" in the community.

In 1986 she was sent by obedience in the community of infirmary "Holy. Name of Mary "of Viale Saffi.

The situation psychophysical accused a growing precarious situation, with greater frequency alternating periods of stability to other fatigue and extreme weakness. In the recent years, when an aggressive cancer gradually corroded and almost transformed her person, but more the sickness worsened , more she refined in sweetness and gratitude her spirit from her sickbed sr Adolfina



always pleased and thanked all even when the morning of 15 May the Virgin Mary called her to enter forever in the house of the Father.

*Now, from Heaven sr Adol-fina pray for all of us, for your sisters, for all the people you met and loved in your mission.*

**Sr. M. REGINA PAROLIN**  
*of the Sacred Heart of Mary*

n. S. Martino di Lupari  
(PD) 25. 01. 1924  
+ Gemona il 20. 06. 2015

Parolin Teresa, Sr. Regina of the Sacred Heart of Mary, was born in San Martino di Lupari (PD) on January 25, 1924. She soon experienced suffering, remaining orphan of mother at the tender age of 9 years. The pain of such great loss has joined the need to become immediately available in the house for the family and to work outside the home.

Committed full-time to support their loved ones, Sr. Regina often said she had to wait 22 years to respond to the Lord calling her to follow him in the consecrated life, in fact, she arrived in Gemona on 3 April 1946 finally realizing what so long she had in her heart.

It had been just a year since joining the convent of Gemona when Teresa was admitted to the novitiate among the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and it was on this occasion

that she could ask the name as her dear mother.

In the church of the motherhouse before the altar she heard the priest saying that name long-awaited and loved: “From now on, no longer shall your name Teresa, but Sr. Regina of the Sacred Heart of Mary.”

From now on, under the protection of the natural mother, Regina, and the spiritual mother, Mary, she began the novitiate year, which ended on June 2, 1948 with her religious profession.

So, now, Sr. Regina was ready for her mission, the same done also in the family: being a mother! Her service as a cook was not only to prepare the table everyday, but also that of fraternal closeness that nurtures the soul. For many years she has been able to live and fully exercise her maternal attitude in her new religious family, in the community, but in other situations with children in Comegliano, including the prisoners of Treviso, among the elderly in the nursing home and Paluzza especially in Piano D’Arta, in Carnia, where she has been available for 42 years.

And here in Piano D’Arta the people, grateful for her long simple but generous presence, the day of her 50th jubilee of religious profession (1998), by the Representative of the kindergarten expressed thus: “. .. I want to thank you, Sr. Regina, on

behalf of all the directors of the school succeeded in time

for your great humanity and availability, for your generosity and for all the love with which, allow me this phrase, has “stuffed” the work for our school and our community ...

Thanks from all the parents and children for all the good food that mothers are never able to make eating at home!”

In 2006, at the age of 82 years, for health reasons she was received in motherhouse in Gemona and again from Piano D’Arta came the greeting:

“It’s natural that inside of us, right now, there is so much sadness. We cannot remain indifferent when one of the family after so many years goes away ... For our kindergarten school closes, without a doubt, the most important chapter in its history “.





A chapter that Sr. Regina was able to write with her tireless commitment imbued with humanity, openness and generosity.”

In the last years of her life, the mission has not changed: the offer of her daily life was not being held in some direct services, but in the gift of her continuous prayer and suffering always turned to God for all those who she knew and loved in the past and, even for those who, at the present, gave their care and services to her.

At dawn on June 20 sister death has caught quickly, but not surprised, because Sr. Regina remained

conscious until the last.

A few hours earlier she had called her mother who, from heaven, came to pick her up ... Sr. Regina is now reunited in the Kingdom of God with her two moms: Regina and Maria!

*Sr. Regina, from heaven pray for all of your family that you still remember, for us your sisters and to all those who cannot forget your maternal charity. invoke the gift of other vocations that can prolong your good work simple but fruitful.*

*"As soon as the door  
of the heavenly Home is open  
He will embrace you..."  
"Then I will know your patience  
on waiting for me,  
and when, with love,  
you have prepared ...  
the wedding feast!"*

### **Remembering don Angelo of Grotte di Castro**

We dedicate a little space to the memory of Don Angelo Patrizi Maria Grotte di Castro (VT), who on 11 June, the day of his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday; he ended his days on earth.

We met Don Angelo since 1988 when the Superior General of that time, Sr. Ines Pavan, invited the sisters of the entire congregation to gather testimonies and writings around Father Gregory in view of the cause of canonization of the Founder. In 1994, Don Angelo wrote expressing his joy for the first symposium on the figure of his fellow citizen and our founder. He, then, through the parish priests of "Grotte", Don Giosy Cento and Don Tancredi Muccioli, expressed the desire to have the presen-





ce of our communities near the Shrine where Father Gregory, as a child, usually went to pray. With great joy and satisfaction, he received in 2008, the Sisters of the first community, led by Sr. Margherita Menegazzi. However, his physical strength was waning and he insistently asked the sisters to be near him, especially during the celebration of Mass and Vespers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Suffrage. Moreover, the sisters of the community took turns tirelessly at his bedside until his last breath, as he entrusted himself, as a child, to the caring attention of Sr Mini Alex, who sensed his every need even when it could not neither see, nor hear, or speak.

To better understand his figure let us listen to the words of the parish priest, Don Tancredi who traced his spiritual and human profile.



Don Angelo Patrizi Maria was born in Grotte di Castro on June 11, 1922 and was ordained priest on 15 July 1945. He served his pastoral ministry in Zepponami, Marta, Gradoli and Grotte di Castro of the Diocese of Viterbo. He has had assignments at the diocesan Episcopal Curie of Montefiascone and Acquapendente, as Chancellor and as curator of the archives and a member of the Diocesan Council for Economic Affairs.

He has put all his energy and all that he had for the care and the dignity of the churches entrusted to him. In Grotte di Castro he has built, with considerable economic sacrifices, the new Church of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist and, under the Basilica Sanctuary, created a museum of sacred objects, relics and historical curiosities related to the Basilica and to the territory of Grotte di Castro.

Don Angelo was also a good writer. In 1978, he published the book “Un popolo, una Madre, un tempio”.

He spent the last days of life with great physical suffering. In those days, he was always surrounded by what can be considered his “family”: the parish priest Don Tancredi, Mr Elisabetta (who has lovingly cared for him for 5 years), the FMSC Sisters (Sister Mini, superior of the community, Sr. Anna Grazia and Sister Jothy), Mr. Maria Pia and other helpers. How many beautiful moments we spent in these years with Don Angelo!

Since, due to health problems, he lived at the rectory of the Sanctuary House, his home and then his room had become a meeting place after the celebration of Holy Mass on weekdays.

In addition to providing him all the news about the life of the village, we sought from him some historical memories on the religious life of Grotte di Castro.

Between a speech and the other was the occasion for a nice joke that Don Angelo did not fail.

I still remember that when he had a moment of sadness, was intervening Sister Margherita,

former Superior of FMSC, reminding Don Angelo something or some special character that could help him immediately to return to serenity. It was easy to love Don Angelo.

On the days when the corpse was placed in the Basilica Shrine, there was a great crowd of people who stopped to pray.

Even the celebration of the funeral, on June 13, was attended by many people.

The celebration of the funeral Mass was presided by the Diocesan Bishop SE Msgr. Lino Fumagalli . and other several priests concelebrated. They were sent some wonderful messages from SE-Card. Angelo Comastri, S.E. Card. Loris Francesco Capovilla, S.E. Msgr. Lorenzo Chiarinelli. He joined the celebration spiritually S.E. Mons. Dante Bernini, a contemporary and fellow seminary of Don Angelo.