



YEAR XCVII - N°1/2021

PACE E BENE

SUORE FRANCESCANE MISSIONARIE DEL SACRO CUORE

FMSC IN MISSION

IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

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SYNODALITY:

a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church

On 9-10 October Pope Francis opened the SYNOD with consultations at the level of the universal Church and on 17 October the bishops in the cathedrals of their dioceses; the consultation will take place from October 2021 to April 2022. In order “To bring out diversity”, 7 continental meetings are introduced, each with a document for the “instrumentum laboris”; in October 2023 in the Vatican there will be the XVI Ordinary General Assembly “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission”; from November 2023 the implementation phase will follow in the particular Churches.

With the convocation of the SYNOD, Pope Francis invites the whole Church to question itself on synodality: a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church. “The path of synodality is the path that God expects from the Church of the third millennium”: this is the commitment already proposed by Pope Francis in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Synod of Bishops. Synodality, in fact, Pope Francis affirms, “is a constitutive dimension of the Church”, so that “what the Lord asks, in a

certain sense, is already all contained in the word synod”.

During the opening Mass of the Synod in St. Peter’s Basilica, in which about 3 thousand people were present, including cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and laity, Pope Francis posed a question that intends to shake the consciences and mentalities of all. He said: *“Today, as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves – all of us, Pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity – whether we, the Christian community, embody this “style” of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: “It’s useless” or “We’ve always done it this way”?”*

Pope Francis offers three verbs: to meet, to listen, to discern on which to reflect by referring to the passage from the Gospel where Jesus meets the rich man, listens to his questions and helps him to discern. *Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together.*



Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern. I would like to reflect on these three verbs that characterize the Synod.

To meet. The Gospel passage begins by speaking of an encounter. A man comes up to Jesus and kneels down before him, asking him a crucial question... The Lord is not stand aloof; he does not appear annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to this person. He is open to encounter... As we initiate this process, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another...

The second verb is **listen**. True encounter arises only from listening. Jesus listened to that man's question and to the religious and existential concerns that lay behind it. He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a prepackaged solution... Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. Most importantly, he is not afraid to listen to him with his heart and not just with his ears.

... people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey. Participating in a Synod means placing ourselves on the same path as the Word made flesh. It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others...

Finally, **discern**. Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before... Jesus senses that the person before him is a good and religious man, obedient to the commandments, but he wants to lead him beyond the mere observance of precepts. Through dialogue, he helps him to discern. Here is a valuable lesson also for us. The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God...

Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first.



THE LOGO OF THE SYNODAL PATH

A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the etymology of the word synod, which means "walking together". The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk. These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins. This aspect is reinforced by the

multiplicity of bright colours, which are themselves signs of joy. There is no hierarchy between these people who are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, religious, parents, couples, singles; the bishop and the nun are not in front of them, but among them. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children". (Mt 11:25)

The horizontal baseline: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission" runs from left to right in the direction of this march, underlining and strengthening it, to end with the title "Synod 2021 - 2023", the high point that synthesizes the whole.

The PANDEMIC in the PROVINCIA HOLY FAMILY - INDIA

**...All in the same boat,
where one person's problems are the problems of all...**

Coronavirus has come as a huge shock to us and within a short time, it has challenged our attitudes and behaviors, prayers and beliefs.

During the first wave of the virus in the country, we were spared and indeed, we lived in a lock down with the Lord, praying for the whole world and of living an intense fraternal life. Just relaxing the period of confinement situation turned into different direction; few days after taking the first dose of the vaccination, one or two sisters of the Holy Cross community showed the symptoms of high temperature, headache and cough.

They were taken care by our nurse sisters, with medicines and diet, hoping it was simple fever. Since they showed no improvement, we consulted the doctor and tested. Unfortunately, they were tested positive and were sent to quarantine. Here began the story of all who have taken care of the sick sisters' one after another went to isolation. It is astounding to see the divine hands of the merciful Lord work here; except two sisters, the entire community was affected. It was a frightening situation for us since the community is attached to a home for the sick and aged men and women. We had no other option than crying out to the Lord and the entire province fell on the knees praying.

In spite of the attentive care of two of our nurse sisters, Sr. Jimni and Sr. Sahayarani, the cases were increasing and the condition of the sisters was worsening. Besides, from the neighboring Holy Family Community also the sisters got affected and came to the Holy Cross community, where they could have the oxygen support and the nurse sisters available to give better care. They were all suffering highly, of breathlessness and unstable saturation level of their heart.

Though they all needed hospital admission, there were no beds available in the hospitals and patients were lying on the corridors.

It was indeed a hard time of trial; we were cornered in all levels.

Sr. Celine who is weak due to her age and physique, suffered from severe breathlessness with saturation, instability and we looked for an emergency admission in the hospital.

*"I called up on the Lord in my distress,
I cried to my God for help ...my cry of
grief reached his ears..."*(Ps.18:6)





We got Sr. Celine admitted in the intensive care unit in emergency in the government hospital, luckily through the kind intervention of the Minister of affairs for the state of Andhra Pradesh, since the accommodation was very tight and bed availability was nil.

Sisters from Holy Family Community also were in need of continuous oxygen and pulse checking as they too were unable to maintain their deteriorating health condition. Providentially, the local political leaders, who greatly appreciate our charitable services in the locality, came forward to help us in this moment of great trial.



They got the sisters admitted in the hospitals and treated even at their own expenses.

The providence is always at our side.....

Thank God, all of them got well after few days of hospitalization they returned home and those who were at home were also cured.

When the situation was, somewhat better Sr. Jimni the superior and nurse of the community also got affected and went to quarantine and rest.



It was not only the community in Machilipatnam but our sisters in other places as well became victims of the pandemic.

The communities at Chennai and Palasa were badly affected. Sisters were in ventilation as well as in home quarantine. Our provincial Sr. Mini Joseph who intended to make a visit to the communities in Kerala got affected during her journey by train. She too was hospitalized, since her condition was bad.

In fact, the whole province suffered this trial period with

much anxiety. Of course, we consider it as an opportunity to touch and experience the agony, which the people around us were undergoing.

It is very evident that the Divine hands took hold of the critical situation, responding to our constant pleading for his mercy.

Continuous Eucharistic adoration, recitation of the Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, psalm. 51, 91, Prayer to St. Michael, novena to our Venerable Fr. Gregory, fasting, penance, mortifications etc., made in the whole province, helped our sisters to be shielded by our Heavenly Father, washed by the precious Blood of Jesus and healed by the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

We have felt the support and the prayers of all the sisters of our religious Family all over the world, who in various ways showed the fraternal affection and closeness to us in this moment of trial.



We need to appreciate our fraternities, especially the pandemic affected – for their diligent care and concern for each other at the risk of their own lives to give life for others.

We became more aware of our personal responsibility in taking care of one's own health and to maintain immunity etc.

Pandemic has made us to cope with hardships and uncertainties with a stronger faith.

It was a call for us to slow down, to stop, to reflect, to interpret the reality and to re-orient our life and mission from God's perspective.

Above all, it was an opportunity to deepen our fraternal relationship in the community for an effective witnessing in our mission since we had quality time together to strengthen the bond of unity, with greater openness to one another.

In particular, there grew a deeper sense of responsibility to pay more attention to the elderly members in the community and their need for care and affection.

As Pope Francis reminds us, *"We have realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together..."*

The storm has exposed our vulnerability and uncovered those false and superfluous certainties around which we constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities...

Amid this storm, the face of those stereotypes with which we disguised our egos, always worrying about appearances, has fallen away, revealing once more the inescapable and blessed awareness that we are part of one another, that we are brothers and sisters of one another". (Fratelli Tutti 32)



Strong times in the Provincial house: “Living fragility” Latin American Province “San Antonio”

*“Blessed is the servant who loves his brother so much when he is sick and he cannot reciprocate him as when he is healthy and he can do it.”
Adm. 25.*

What seemed to be a simple flu or an illness was transformed from day to day into a sequence of discomforts that intensified at night, becoming heavier in the morning because the body lost its strength, but the spirit continued to impose itself to go to prayer and to the Eucharistic Celebration. We knew that was the tendency of our sisters in the infirmary, that despite all the care and precautions if they wanted to go to the chapel at community time it was very difficult for them to accept that they had to be absent.

PCR tests began on 17 September to detect whether their discomfort was associated with the scourge that hit the whole world, Covid -19; in two of the sisters who were ill, the presence of covid -19 was confirmed on 20 September: to Sister Rosa María and Sister Roberta. On this same day, thanks to the commitment of everyone, to several sisters, the PCR test was done and to those who were missing, it was done the next day. So much concern and fear immediately emerged in all hearts, trying to make sure that if there were others infected, the pandemic had not spread. Access to the infirmary was limited.

The infected were hospitalized one by one, the medical teams and ambulances arrived promptly, until in the end only Sister Loreto and Sister Angiolina remained in the infirmary, also infected, but their health situation meant that with the care provided they could recover in the convent.

Sister Marcela Uribe, as she always aimed to seek and acquire all the means of safety; in a short time, she transformed the house into a real protected area with automatic portals that measure the temperature.

Whether the use of masks and alcoholic gel it was already common that the sisters took precautions to intensify protection: adequate clothing, disposable material for food consumption, etc. All of this was done to give our sisters what they need. To this day the medical and nursing

teams continue to visit us to see the situation of the house in which we live.



The prayers of the Sisters of the Province and of our Superior General, Sr. Paola, and of all the sisters of the Congregation represented by the Provincial Superiors who were always present through their phone calls, kept alive the hope that the Sisters could recover and return soon in the convent.

In this health emergency, the only permanent sister was Sister Lilia Sucno Torre; Sister Elena Bilibio supervised the food and all the needs of the sick sisters, together with the assistants of the sick on duty.

To this health situation was added Sister Fides, who spent a month with severe bronchitis with a weakening never seen before. The last to be rushed to hospital was Sister Attiliana with heart failure, which, if not promptly intervened, could have had a painful outcome.

She spent a week in intensive care and today, 21 October she returned to us, living her convalescence here in the Provincialate house to reach a full recovery.

During this month that seemed never ending, we used to hear Sister Marcela answering the call from the doctors and the ministry of health to inform about the health state of the sisters, as well as go to the hospitals to get what they asked for.

On October 20, the last hospitalized Sister Josefina Neira returned home and now we can say with joy that they are all with us. The convalescence continues, but now in the morning when the sisters open their eyes they see themselves at her house and this helps them to continue to fight with this scourge that has no mercy on anyone.



It was painful for us to see our sisters become so fragile, having always seen them very strong, and who have carried forward our Province with so much love and sacrifice.

Already this year the Lord has called to His Presence three of our sisters who, where they have exercised their mission for years, have left the mark of religious dedicated with all of themselves to the good of others: Sister Fulvia, Sister Ana Pía, Sister Vittorina. “We thank God for all the good they have sown in this Latin American land”.

Today we thank God for the promptness and diligence with which this difficult moment has been carried out, and we live in the certainty of being creatures always guarded by His powerful hands.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS

The Time of the Pandemic, which for almost two years has been spreading all over the world, has touched people, families, businesses, the economy and all sectors of our human reality.

A time that is continuing to guide our history and to bring about changes in our ways of living, planning, managing situations and events.

The Church, through Pope Francis, dicasteries and associations, supports the journey of all by giving guidelines that can help to continue to live and express the Faith, which is fundamental in this very dramatic time, to organize apostolic and charitable activities so that the love of Christ can be “experienced” with more vigor.

Religious Congregations are also guided by the Church with indications that support the efforts of all. The General and Provincial Chapters of all the Institutes in the world have also undergone program changes due to the Pandemic and also in this the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has always responded with punctuality and great attention to difficulties and problems of the Congregations.

Our religious Family was also forced to modify the Program of the Provincial and Vice-Provincial Chapters. For some Province it was possible to maintain the established dates, for others it has been necessary to change even several times. There are therefore still Chapters that must be celebrated and that we continue to entrust to divine Providence.

PROVINCE “SAINT LOUIS IX” PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2021

*« Revitalize
the evangelical enthusiasm,
live fraternity,
give life,
with the Heart of Christ Crucified »*

The Provincial Chapter is a particular time of grace that allows us to revitalize the charism and give a new impetus to our being missionaries today.

The health restrictions linked to the pandemic have not stopped our path of reflection and discernment.

Confident in the benevolent presence of the Lord, we prepared ourselves with prayer, the study of paths for reflection, community sharing, personal contribution.

Franciscaines Missionnaires du Sacré-Coeur
Province « Saint Louis IX »

Revitaliser l'enthousiasme évangélique

Vivre la fraternité

Donner la vie



All the communities have organized themselves to live intensely this time of renewal through fraternal dialogue and the search for the Will of the Lord on this portion of the Congregation which is the “St. Louis IX” Province.

Then, finally, the great encounter came: from May 31 to June 6. All the Sisters of the Province met in the provincial house already on May 23 to prepare ourselves to live this important meeting of fraternal life with joy and enthusiasm.

Even Sister Lucy Gandam, the only one absent because she was blocked in India due to the pandemic, was spiritually united to us with prayer and daily offering.



Two days of spiritual retreat introduced the preparatory session allowing us to deepen the profound meaning of our being consecrated.

Then we found ourselves working in the pre-chapter meetings that we had not always been able to take due to health restrictions.

The exchanges in groups and in the assembly made us feel the richness of fraternal life and the profound desire for holiness that animates everyone.

Beautiful moment was on May 27 when we welcome Sr. Paola Dotto, Superior General, and Sr. Augusta Visentin, Councilor and Secretary General.

Finally we were able to meet again after a long time! How many things to share, how many joys and difficulties we have overcome and above all how nice it is to witness to each other the wonders that the Lord has worked in our life.

Then, spontaneously and un-animously we sing to the Lord the hymn of the Magnificat.

On May 31, the feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, the official opening of the XVII Provincial Chapter took place.

The exultation of the two future mothers was an invitation to unite to sing the glory of the Most High.



It was in this festive atmosphere that we welcomed Father Grégoire Cador, Vicar General of the diocese of Le Mans, representative of Bishop Mgr. Yves Le Saux, who presided over the Eucharist accompanied by the deacon Philippe Lenoble, who at the same time conducted the songs, supported at the harmonium by Mr. Vincent Cautreau.

We were happy to have the Lay Associates with us, who, as always, participate in the prayer of praise and the Eucharist. The celebrant, in his homily, exhorted us to place ourselves in the school of Mary and to seek the face of God where He manifests Himself. He insisted on the beauty and spiritual richness of this feast. The Gospel presented us with two women, two mothers, one virgin, the other sterile, both pregnant in a prodigious way.

They announce the coming God. Mary's prayer flows from the meeting of the two cousins, in an atmosphere of joy and action of grace; the Lord always makes himself present in the encounter, in people, in events. It is all a life plan already drawn up for us.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, the main celebrant and the deacon joined us for the singing of the "Veni Creator Spiritus" as we went to the chapter room where each delegate placed the lighted lamp received from the hands of Sister Paola Dotto at the end of the same Eucharist.

In the official opening address of your Chapter, Sister Paola Dotto addressed us with words of encouragement and trust in the Lord. *"We are happy to 'stay', to meet, to listen to each other and listen together with trust and enthusiasm to the ever new presence of the Lord in us and for us, listen to*

the provocation and challenge by asking our Family present in this portion that is so precious to us that you are, in the province of 'San Louis IX '. God continues to speak to us even in current circumstances. Like Mary, whose feast we celebrate today,



we are called to respond with humility, promptness and simplicity.

He trusts us and wants to entrust us with ever new creativity here, where our Foundress Laura Leroux felt the impulse of the Spirit for the Congregation in the Church."

Always in an atmosphere of fraternal trust, we engaged in the discussion on the “instrumentum laboris” from which to draw useful suggestions for drafting the Deliberations.

Community prayer, reflections, sharing in the assembly rhythm our days, then, in the evening... the beautiful moments of joyful ‘recreation’.

June 3 was the date set for the election of the Provincial Superior and her Council.

On this occasion, all the Sisters of the Province gathered in the chapel for an hour of Eucharistic adoration. We asked the Lord to infuse His Spirit of wisdom and discernment: “may He enlighten us in the choice of the Provincial Superior and the sisters who will take up the service during the next mandate”.

Then all the chapter sisters gathered in the chapter room for the elections. Sister Paola Dotto, president, lovingly exhorted us to carry out this important act responsibly.

When the act was completed, all the sisters gathered in the community to greet the newly elected sisters: :



**Sr Elisabeth
Varikkakuzhyil,
Superior provincial,**

**Sr Emanuela Piccolo,
vicar and 1st councilor**

**Sr Beniamina Borsato,
2nd councilor**

**Sr Sherly Joseph,
3rd councilor**

**Sr M. Armelle Kosta
4th councilor**

Deep gratitude goes to the sisters who have finished their service: Sister Marialuigia Borsato, Sister Shaiby Kolencery and Sister Irène Foscolu.

The following day, reflections and fraternal sharing resumed in search of the Lord’s Will for us today. The official closing date of the Chapter was also significant. 6 June, solemnity of ‘Corpus Domini’

The Eucharist presided over by Monsignor Yves Le Saux, bishop of the diocese of Le Mans and with the participation of the concelebrants Fr Paul-Antoine Drouin, Vicar General and Fr Edmond Samson, put us in close communion with the universal Church. Lay Associates were also present, true brothers and sisters linked to our Family.

In his homily, Monsignor Yves Les Saux expressed praise and thanks to the Lord for having assisted us throughout the Chapter. He invited us to ask ourselves incessantly about the concrete places where we are living the acceptance of the Bread of Life that is to help persons thirsty for God and justice, to find Him in the depths of their heart. It is important and urgent to enlarge the interior spaces and make them capable of welcoming the presence of the Lord “A presence so humble, hidden and sometimes invisible that it is needed a heart open, vigilant and available to be recognized.”

After the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, all the delegates gathered in the chapter room where Sister Paola Dotto declared the official closing acts of the chapter. The words she addressed to us are very profound: *“Today is the day of the Eucharist, the day of Communion, of profound union with Jesus, it is the day of gratitude. In this gratitude, I want to express my gratitude to each one for the daily journey traveled in these three years marked by the good will of each and by the commitment to live the consecrated life in fraternity, placing the Lord and His Word of Life at the center.*

I have breathed with you in these days an atmosphere of solidarity, closeness, communion that generates serenity and enthusiasm. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I am grateful to the Lord for having accompanied you in the joys and difficulties, sometimes incomprehensible, illuminating your mind and heart with His Spirit who has given you listening, security and comfort, consolidating your commitment to life in tenderness and joy. Then I grasped the intense preparation carried out in the communities with the involvement of all the sisters. I appreciated your reflection together, treasuring the indications of the Church and the precious richness of the Franciscan and Congregational documents.

We are called to announce the Good News of the Gospel, witnessing in the society in which we live the joy in our fraternities and the richness of diversity as a gift designed for us by the Father.

In this beautiful provincial reality, so colorful and so different, we continue to give ourselves freely, in humility and simplicity, as sisters, belonging to the same Family with concern for the good of all.

In this Family of ours, nowhere else, we find the strength of unity, the joy of being part of a great project of God, the joy of living”.



The richness of this chapter experience is transformed into joy and gratitude ... yes, the celebration continues, indeed it is expressed in all its beauty.



A unique occasion holds us around Sister Paola Dotto, with her we celebrate her Golden Jubilee. And not only that: two other jubilant sisters: Sister Emanuela Piccolo and Sister Luisa Modesto respectively 60 and 70 years of religious life.

The Eucharistic celebration was prepared with enthusiasm and love: we all want to express our deep gratitude to the jubilant sisters.

The community chaplain Edmond Samson celebrated the Eucharist of thanksgiving and expressed all the gratitude to the sisters celebrating the fidelity and love of which they are witnesses.

For us it is an honor and a great privilege to be able to sing the Magnificat for the sisters and in a particular way for our dear sister and mother, Sister Paola.

Our feast is made up of simple gestures, of sincere and joyful participation of all the sisters, who draw from their 'repertoire' of life the "florets" of their Franciscan and missionary experience in the land of 'mission' (in the Province no sister is French!). The recreational moment of the evening made us enjoy the richness and beauty of the life of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.



To the most sincere gratitude to Sister Paola Dotto we add that to Sister Augusta.



Their being among us with a fraternal and discreet presence made us pulsate to the rhythm of the Congregation and the Church.

Their testimony has been there and it is an encouragement for all.

We want to assure you of our daily prayer so that the Lord will continue to assist you in the service and self-giving to the Congregation.

*The Sisters of the
"Saint Louis IX" Province*

Chapter of the Vice-province of “Holy Martyrs of Uganda” Africa

“We give our lives to be evangelically fruitful women”

The Chapter of the Vice Province “Holy Martyrs of Uganda - Africa” began on 1 May and ended on 6 May 2021 in the Vice Provincial house in Nkoabang-Yaoundé in Cameroon.

All the sisters delegated to the IX Vice Provincial Chapter arrived from Congo, Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the communities of Cameroon in Nkoabang, on April 30, 2021.

Our Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto accompanied by her Vicar, Sr. Tiziana Tonini arrived from Rome on April 24.



On May 1, the Chapter Sisters had a day of retreat led by a Jesuit priest, Father Kisca, who spoke about the “Evangelical fruitfulness”, referring to natural fruitfulness, and focusing on spiritual-apostolic fruitfulness.

In the afternoon, the sisters met in the chapel for a prolonged time of reflection and prayer.

The theme has spiritually prepared us to live this very important event as a time of grace.

The following day the Chapter Sisters met in the chapel for the official beginning of the Chapter; after a well-prepared moment of prayer they were called one by one by the Superior General and then in procession with a lamp in hand they headed towards the chapter room, preceded by the Crucifix and the Word of God.

With a unanimous heart, in an attitude of prayer, trusting in the Lord, we went singing the wonders of the Most High and imploring His help in this very important and significant moment of our history where we all aim and seek the common good, the continuation and the sanctification of our Vice-province.

Once in the room, well prepared for the occasion, each sister positioned her candle in the already well arranged and finely set up place.



The Superior General, Sr. Paola Dotto, opened the IX Vice-Provincial Chapter and in her speech she motivated us to participate actively and sincerely for the good of the Vice Province and of our entire Congregation.

We share some points of her speech that are very dear to us and rich in our Congregational spirit: *“We appreciate the theme you have chosen, linked to the path desired for our entire religious Family by the Assembly of the General Chapter (EGC 2017): “We give our lives to be evangelically fruitful women”*.

We are called to a great challenge to be women, to be fruitful... to become mothers! Let us think of how strong the value of fertility and motherhood is here in Africa! How much energy, dedication, suffering and fatigue are needed, always and everywhere!



And, even more for us consecrated, being mothers, giving life ... according to the Gospel ... requires a human and spiritual love, a strong and simple love in overcoming selfishness, individualism, personal desires to make room ‘to the other’. For us consecrated women and missionaries, giving our life finds its foundation and motivation in Jesus who gave His life to the extreme consequences, and calls us to follow Him “there is no greater love than to give life”.

In Him, our fruitfulness arises from the ability to suffer and die every day for the people who journey with us in our community, in our mission. For us FMSC, this is the Center of our contemplation of Love: the pierced Heart of Jesus Crucified. It is a true, strong reality, aware that Jesus has overcome the darkness of evil, and with His light, He illuminated our eyes, our face, our heart.

In this reconciled transparency and in this renewed fidelity, we can be fruitful in the relationship with the Lord, and with our brothers and sisters all the more precious as they are different because they are a great gift of the Father who generates and gives us the beauty of the diversity of His Face”.

The Holy Spirit was the main guide of the Chapter, with tenderness and wisdom; He inspired the sisters to give the best of themselves for the good of all.

The fraternal and dynamic environment stimulated an active participation of all the sisters, certainly enriched by good reflections and spontaneous sharing.



The work of the Holy Spirit and the hand of God operating in each sister was made manifest as a light that came to illuminate the ways to go and allow the sisters to grow and bear witness. This spiritual and historical moment filled us with joy, serenity and enthusiasm.

We thank and praise God the Father Almighty, for His ineffable love, His mercy and tenderness towards us and also for our new Vice Provincial Superior and her Council. Let us place Africa in the hands of the Lord and entrust ourselves to His divine Providence, so that He may lead us according to His will.

We sincerely thank our Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, her Vicar Sr. Tiziana Tonini and the whole General Council, for their spiritual and fraternal support. We are grateful to our sisters from all provinces for their support in prayer.

The Superior general Sr Paola Dotto blesses the New Council with the words of St Francis' blessing.



Here is the new Vice Provincial Council:

Sister M. Beltha Mange Ngwashi
Sister M. Victorine Mbora
Sister M. Teresa De Cecco
Sister M. Lilian Azieshi Fru
Sister M. Carine Metang

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



**XVI CHAPTER OF THE PROVINCE
"SANTA MARIA DEGLI ANGELI"**



"Remaining in Christ to live our fraternal relationship with missionary faith" has been the title of the XVI Chapter of the Province "Santa Maria degli Angeli", whose preparation journey was inspired by the Gospel of John, "The vine and the branches".

The Chapter took place in the Mother House in Gemona del Friuli from June 26 to July 4, 2021. Sister Paola Dotto, Superior General, arrived at the Mother House a few days before the beginning of the Chapter, in order to greet and give comfort to the sisters much tried by the painful experience of the Coronavirus, which affected them from November 2020 to January 2021. She arrived together with the Vicar General Sister Tiziana Tonini, the General Councilor Sister Augusta Visentin and the Superior of the Vice-Province "St. Martyrs of Uganda" "Sr. Beltha Ngwashi Mange.



On Saturday 26 June the delegate sisters arrived at the Mother House and on Sunday they lived the important time of the recollection in preparation for the Chapter, entitled "Do not fear, just believe!", The recollection was led by Sister Grazia Paris of the Congregation of the Dorothes of Cemmo, who gave significant and concrete ideas for the delegated sisters. The reflection was divided into three flashes: the purpose of the provincial chapter - discernment – moving from the "individual" to the "person", and in three key words: REMAIN - ACCEPT - BELIEVE.



On Monday 28 June, the liturgical memorial of Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr, the Eucharist was presided over by the Archbishop of Udine Andrea Bruno Mazzocato. In his homily, the Bishop based his reflection from the first reading, Genesis 18, 16 - 33: Abraham is the great man of prayer, to whom we should all look upon. He turns to God with humility, constancy and courage; this should also be our attitude, thanks to which we know how to get on our knees to entrust to God, our Congregation, the whole Church and all humanity in a difficult historical time, where prayer is the essential dimension of the consecrated person and of the believer.



The Bishop then, with Sister Paola and Sister Giordana, brought greetings and his blessing to the sisters in the infirmary; he was particularly attentive and present to the great suffering experienced in the Mother House due to the coronavirus.

The opening of the XVI Provincial Chapter began at 10.00 in the Church, the delegate sisters gathered for prayer in the presence of Sister Paola, Sister Tiziana, Sister Augusta, Sister Beltha. The Gospel of the Wedding at Cana was the Word of God proposed for the Liturgy at the beginning of the Chapter, because only by assuming the attitudes of Mary can we look beyond ourselves and entrust ourselves to Jesus: "Do whatever He tells you". After the prayer, Sister Paola gave each chapter delegate a lamp, a sign of Jesus and of his Word. The Chapter members then went down in procession to the Chapter Hall, where Sister Paola, president of the Chapter, officially declared the opening of the XVI Provincial Chapter.





Sister Paola listened attentively to the report of the Provincial Superior Sister Stefania Bandiera, highlighted the concreteness of the relationship, underlining how the pandemic on the one hand made the journey more difficult, on the other hand it highlighted the courage and the ability to take care of each other.

The following interventions of the sisters focused, in particular, on the drama experienced in the Mother House from the months of November 2020 to January 2021. The sisters most directly involved in this indescribable and unimaginable suffering, shared their still living and strong experience in the assembly. All listened to them with emotion, all expressed the closeness and solidarity that came from Gemona and also from all the missions of our Congregation.



On Tuesday 29 June, the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, the birthday and name day of the Superior General Sister Paola was joyfully celebrated.

The parish priest of Gemona, Mons. Valentino Costante presided over the Eucharistic celebration in the morning, highlighting the prayers of today's liturgy, of the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, in which the two Apostles are called "friends of God", to remind us that the goal of our life is precisely this: to be friends of God.

During the day and in the following days the chapter assembly was engaged in the usual formalities and in the presentation of the reports, in the sharing and discussions for the preparation of the new chapter document.

Throughout the day there were various moments to express good wishes to our Mother General Sister Paola: the songs at breakfast, the special prayer in the chapter house, the well-prepared lunch for the occasion with the cake that crowned everything.

Special was the recreation of the evening: all the delegated sisters and the whole fraternity of the Mother House joined in a cheerful and relaxing evening of celebration for our dearest Sister Paola.

Sister Paola was born in San Giuseppe - Treviso.... just when the airport “was born” ... And therefore a first gift offered to her was a plane.... of paper symbol of playfulness with the signatures of the delegate sisters and of the “actresses” of the party evening ... The plane has the colour yellow, the colour of the sun and stars, of light, and the colour green, the colour of hope, but if it is true that the plane flies in the sky then we look to the sky with hope and make sure that that sky, that hope may walk with us on earth !!!!

The sisters, young and old, although with little time, prepared songs, dances, poems, small joyful and meaningful dramatizations.

On Wednesday 30 June, the delegated sisters, after invoking the Holy Spirit in Eucharistic Adoration, elected the new Provincial Council constituted as follows:



*Sister Stefania Bandiera
Provincial Superior*

*Sister Francesca Fiorin
First Councilor and
Vicar*

*Sister Miranda Sforza
Second Councilor*

*Sister Giordana Marta
Third Councilor*

*Sister Chiara Ceron
Fourth Councilor*

All the sisters present in the Mother House joyfully welcomed the new Council.

After the announcement to the sisters of the community of the Mother House, Sister Paola, with the councilors Sister Tiziana and Sister Augusta accompanied Sister Stefania and the new Council to greet the dear sisters of the infirmary.

Within the Chapter, a special moment was reserved for the visit to the cemetery.

Since the morning of Friday 2 July in the Liturgy of Lauds and in the Eucharistic Celebration our deceased sisters were remembered, in particular those who left us because of the Coronavirus.

In the afternoon, at 5.00 pm all the Chapter Sisters drove to the Gemona cemetery for a

prayer, a greeting to our sisters, to Father Gregory and to our dear Franciscan friars.

Stopping in front of the graves of our sisters, especially of those who, due to the pandemic, were not accompanied with the usual liturgy, caused a lot of emotion in all of us despite the certainty that spiritual communion was and is even stronger.



The morning of July 3 saw the conclusion of the work in the assembly and so, in the early afternoon, Sister Paola, after reading her final report, declared the closure of the XVI chapter of the “Santa Maria degli Angeli” Province.



Sister Paola and her councilors have given the sisters of all the communities of the Province beautiful gifts !!! Furthermore, they donated to the Community of the Mother House, a wonderful chasuble and an ambo cover that Represents Joseph and Jesus in their daily life. In the evening, all the sisters had a super final party to cheerfully welcome Sister Stefania and her Council and joyfully praise the Lord for the week spent together.

The Thanksgiving Mass for the Provincial Chapter was celebrated on July 4.

In the evening a large, brightly coloured rainbow appeared in the sky; a sign for all of Hope, of Peace, of fraternity for our journey as Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Province “Santa Elisabetta” XVI Provincial Chapter 2021

On August 5 - 11, 2021, in the Provincial House in Limassol - Cyprus, we contemplated the wonders of the Lord by celebrating the XVI Provincial Chapter, with the theme: 150 years of missionary service in the Middle East! Enriched by the experiences of the past, we live the present with confidence and face the challenges of the future with courage.

The chapter sisters, who came to Cyprus from our various communities and missions, experienced the chapter meeting as a renewed proposal for the spiritual and apostolic life of the entire Province. In the contemplative search for God and in the concrete responses of the deepest desires that mark our day, we were accompanied by the pleasing presence of the Superior General Sister Paola Dotto and Sister Augusta Visentin, Secretary General.

Sister Paola and Sister Augusta have supported us, encouraging us to sow the seeds of fraternity, openness and acceptance in this beloved land of the Middle East: a land of saints and a significant memory that encourages our present in faith and hope, projecting us towards the jubilee of 150 years of missionary service, with a creative and courageous lifestyle.

The dominant experience was that of the spiritual exercises, in preparation for the Provincial Chapter, led by Father Jerzy Kraj ofm, patriarchal vicar for Latin Catholics in Cyprus.

From the beginning the speaker invited us to get in touch with God by letting ourselves be questioned by His Presence, and to draw from the figure of Saint Joseph to discover the Providence of God in our daily lives, following some guidelines:

- give us strength and courage at this strong time of the Provincial Chapter;
- take a step forward in accepting the will of God;
- experience the hunger and thirst of God and His Word;
- make room, within us, today, for the grace of God;
- learn from Saint Joseph to be men and women who base their lives on faith in God.



The reflections focused on the figure of Saint Joseph, father and custodian of the house of Nazareth, focusing on his faith and acceptance as a model rich in spiritual wisdom and personal and community pedagogy.

God entrusts himself to us in his sister, in the poor, in the needy, and our response to this gesture of love must be expressed in total trust in Him, in unconditional surrender, like Joseph.

“The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts.

Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning (...)

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments”. (Patris corde, 4)



Pope Francis says that Joseph “*who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence*”. (Patris corde n.5).

This beautiful emphasis on Saint Joseph spurs us to transform our way of life into obedient listening to the Word, in concreteness and silence, starting with the Person of Jesus.

Pope Francis also suggests and recommends that we invoke Saint Joseph as a father and learn from him spiritual fatherhood.

“Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.

Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person”. (Patris corde n. 7)

Joseph, contemplative, docile, humble, silent, father and custodian of the house of Nazareth, for us today becomes the immediate image to narrate the consecrated life in a simple and prophetic way, enriched in our fraternities by the diversity of nations and cultures.





At the end of the spiritual exercises Father Jerzy urged us to welcome with wonder what is daily, to convert the ordinary into extraordinary, to let ourselves be touched by the grace of God and sisters, to live relationships of love and to generate a future together.

This is the miracle to ask for our fraternities.

A fruitful journey was traced to us by the Superior General Sister Paola Dotto, who encouraged us in our commitment to build bridges and positive relations between the two worlds: Western and Eastern, with simple style, in the richness of synodality and in the acceptance of the greatness of God in our daily life.

Sister Paola underlined with satisfaction the privilege we have in our Province: to be presence and living witness in the Church, bearers of the joy of the Gospel in the diversity of faces, cultures, ethnic groups and religions, meeting brothers and sisters fleeing war, from hunger, trafficking, fear, violence. He urged us to make our own the goal that the Church, as a caring Mother, proposes to us: to care for spiritual values, formation in all ages, the prophecy of consecrated life, inserted in a society that has the cult of well-being, of hedonism, of individualism.

In these days, lived in communion, we have highlighted the sacred history of our Province and our personal, community and pastoral resources in the search for the one Good.

Therefore, we consider it is important for us to have a common commitment in the diverse world in which we find ourselves, facing up to it, without scaring the current situation. Sister Paola emphasized the quality of life and reiterated that this reality must provoke in us the greater awareness that we have a life in Jesus to witness, we have a time to devote to listening, to welcoming the other, making ourselves instruments and collaborating passionately with the action of the Spirit in the people we meet, in the serene search for the will of the Father.



During the assembly, we allowed ourselves to be questioned by some questions:

- On the eve of the 150 years of presence and service, what is our response today to the mission which Christ himself entrusts to us?
- In the light of the Word of God, what path of renewal are we called to take, identifying the needs of the Church and of the world?
- Are we able to understand the signs of the times following the example of our Founders and first sisters?
- Are we mission? Are we fraternity that witnesses and attracts?



The presence of the missionary sisters and the sharing of the beauty of the missions of Cyprus, Lebanon and Bulgaria was another constructive moment for all of us, because it made us perceive our missionary heart that goes where there is need of love and tenderness, and consequently embraces the poor, the least, the refugees and the marginalized. Missionary fraternities and sisters, in their various forms, guard and proclaim the Gospel with courage, drawing in prayer zeal and compassion for humanity (cf. Const. 4).

In this context of internationality and interculturality, just as in the origins of our Religious Family, and in the fraternal atmosphere of great experiences and desires, sustained by the prayer of the elderly and sick sisters, With confidence we let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit for the election of the Provincial Superior Sister Antonia Piripitsi and her Council.



Sr. ANTONIA PIRIPITSI
Superior Provincial

**Sr. ROLY
KAITHAKULATH**
1st Councilor and Vicar

**Sr. KRASSIMIRA
GOVEDARSKA**
2nd Councilor

**Sr. ANABEL
MALABANAN**
3rd Councilor

**Sr. MONICA
HANNOULLI**
4th Councilor

In her closing speech of the XVI Provincial Chapter 2021, Superior General Sister Paola Dotto shared some thoughts, almost a program of life, that helps us to renew our way of life and traces the path to the future not only of our consecrated life but of all humanity:

- to feel ourselves provoked by the richness of the congregational, spiritual and human patrimony, which shines through our history, and which encourages us to sink ever deeper roots in the Lord and in the witness of life of the many sisters who have preceded us;
- live with enthusiasm the 150th anniversary of the mission, in the sign of the restitution to God, with gratitude, of all the Good he accomplished in so many courageous sisters with the power of the Spirit, animated by merciful love for all, without distinction, and in particular, close to the poor and the weak;
- with docility and openness of mind and heart, collaborate, in synodality, for the construction of a universal brotherhood, in dialogue with the religions present in the mission;
- by living, pointing out Jesus and the Gospel to the people who make their way with us, and continuing convinced and in communion with the Church;
- take to heart the present and the future of Consecrated Life as FMSC in this Land of mission, with evangelical creativity and family spirit, looking to St Elizabeth, to the sisters who have gone before us and to our Founders.

On the feast of Saint Clare, “Francis’ Little Plants”, we concluded the XVI Provincial Chapter 2021 with sentiments of gratitude for the greatness of God in our midst.

To Sister Paola Dotto Superior General and Sister Augusta Visentin we express our fraternal gratitude for having accompanied us in serene sharing and courageous proposals.

Certain of His presence, let us continue the journey together, in the sign of humble and trusting restitution for all the good received, with passion, with strong faith, with ardent love and apostolic zeal!

To Thee, o Lord, be praise and glory forever and ever. Amen!



XVII Provincial Chapter of the Province “Mary Immaculate”

“We are mission: let us revive our relationship with God to heal our fraternal relationships and to give life.”

Praise and glory to God who has granted us grace to celebrate the XVII Chapter of the Province held in the provincial house in Centocelle, Rome, from 17 to 23 August, in this time when uncertainty sometimes presses and does not allow displacement and meetings, even as community.

God has summoned us to this Chapter; He has gathered us together in this difficult period of pandemic. He who invites us to share in His desire for life and novelty for our Religious Family, for our Province, has allowed us to live a time of grace.

The Father sent Jesus, His Son, who grafts us into Him as the branch in the vine, so that we can bear fruits of life and love. He, the vine and we the branches. Jesus, united with us in love and in the gift of life to save humanity, is our source of life and hope in every age.

The meeting began on August 17 with the recollection day of the chapter sisters and the reflection on the theme: “*Remain in my love*”, offered by Sr. Enza Carini, a Combonian sister.

In prayer, the Chapter sisters were invited to take their place in communion with the Trinity and to feel part of Them (the three Persons of the Holy Trinity). This day spent in the presence of the Lord and in deep communion with Him, gave them a strong spiritual experience that strengthened the presence on the Spirit in them.

The sisters were very happy with the meditation that made them feel the presence of the Lord who invited them to remain in His great love, like the branches united to the vine.

On the morning of August 18, 2021, in our beautiful church, at 09.30 all the Chapter Sisters met together with the Sisters of the community who joyfully participated in the moment of prayer for the opening of the XVII Chapter of the Province.

It was a moment of entrusting ourselves to the Lord to allow ourselves to be guided by Him and to be enlightened by His Holy Spirit in this event.

During the prayer the Word of God was brought by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, accompanied by the Provincial Superior who had the candle. They went to the altar where there were other candles prepared for the members of the chapter. The assembly accompanied them with the hymn to the Holy Spirit, “*Veni Creator Spiritus*”.





The Gospel of John on the vine and the branches (Jn 15: 1-11) was the guiding theme of the prayer. After the reading of the Gospel and the response of the sisters expressed in the prayer of invocation, the Superior General called each sister by name by handing over the small candle that each one went to light to the large candle, a sign of the light of Christ who gathered the assembly. Each then returned to their place and all sang the song “Tu sei la vite”. After the chant, the sisters continued with the procession towards the chapter hall following the Word of God carried by the Superior General and the candle carried by the Vicar General Sr. Tiziana Tonini. The moment of prayer ended with the final prayer.

After the prayer, the Superior General and president of the Chapter introduced the participation of the Vicar General, Sr. Tiziana Tonini, then began her opening address of the Chapter bringing the fraternal greeting and communion of all the sisters near and far scattered throughout the world. He reminded the assembly of the painful situation that occurred precisely in the year in which our Congregation celebrates the 160th anniversary of its foundation: the suffering caused by Covid 19 which caused the death of many sisters, of which three belonged to our Province.

She remembered with gratitude all the sisters who have been able to give their lives concretely, in living with fortitude, even risking their own lives, the situations of this difficult time, thus becoming witnesses of love, solidarity, generosity, closeness and charity, all with the simplicity that must always characterize us. She also recalled Mary’s example, from her the sisters were able to take her example of her tenderness and pass it on in the care of their relationships with maternal affection.



The theme of the chapter:

*“We are mission: we revive the relationship with God
To heal our fraternal relationships and give life.”*

Sr. Paola Dotto, superior general, expressed that this theme provoke us to *“re-read our life starting from the logic of the Gospel, which presents itself with a precise identity: the person of Jesus”*. She also says that *“this meeting of the XVII provincial chapter is an opportune moment to listen to the Spirit of the Lord, to entrust ourselves to the novelty and creativity of the Heart of God and to set out again, seeking together the paths indicated by the Holy Spirit, in simplicity and mutual trust, sustained by a concrete spiritual life, because the Spirit “works through all and is present in all” (Eph 4: 1-13)”*.



After thanking the outgoing provincial council and asking for the intercession of Mary, St. Joseph and our Founder, Venerable Fr Gregory Fioravanti and our Foundress Laura Leroux, Sr. Paola Dotto, Superior general and president of the Chapter officially declared open the XVII Provincial Chapter of the “Mary Immaculate” Province.

After the opening declaration we continue with the proceedings of the Chapter and then with the reflections, the discussions on the working instrument that collected the evaluations and desires of all the sisters of the Province.





After days of intense work, on 21 August the important moment of the election of the new Council of the Province took place. The Chapter elected:

Sr. Marta Camerotto
Superior Provincial,

Sr. Lilibeth Labian,
Vicar and first councilor

Sr. Cristiana Basso,
second councilor

Sr. Cristina Bottan,
third councilor

Sr. Federica Imperatore,
fourth councilor

All the sisters of the Province and of our entire religious Family of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have expressed their affectionate good wishes by promising prayers for the new Council.

In the community of Centocelle, at the announcement of the new council, the Sisters gathered to celebrate the joy of fraternity and all expressed their joy and greetings to the new elected.

Then continued the chapter work on the document that will trace the new paths for the three years of the new mandate.



At the end of the Chapter, Sr. Paola Dotto, Superior General left a significant sign for the 160th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, a gift received from our sisters in the Mother House, in Gemona: small pictures with the painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help so dear to us and Saint Joseph.

They are the copy of the painting that is in the chapel of the Mother House, which all the older sisters who had the formation in the Mother House remembered with affection.



After this moment, so simple but so fraternal and rich in a sense of Family, the superior general Sr Paola Dotto presented her closing address to the Chapter assembly highlighting the strengths that emerged from the Chapter reflection and wishing everyone a good personal, community and provincial journey.

Then the liturgical commission offered the prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God, the giver of all good, and thus our Chapter ended.

The love of Christ, which is the foundation of our living together and attests to the identity of being with Him, unites us and makes us witness to our being a gift for one another in faith. Strong in faith and hope, founded on this great Love which God has poured out upon us and which renews us in His will through our personal, community, provincial and congregational history, united to the whole Church of God, to the Lord who guided us at the end of this fraternal encounter with His grace and love, let us give our praise and gratitude.

We are united to Christ, our light on the way, the true vine to which to remain united to bear fruit, because without Him we can do nothing.

He knows us and has chosen us so that we can walk together with Him: to Him we entrust all our resolutions and thank Him!

To praise and glory of His name!!

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS

Santiago del Cile: February 11, 2021
Feast of the Virgin of Lourdes

"My soul sings for joy"

Today that we remember the apparition of our Mother, the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, it becomes a very special day for me, because God, who in His goodness called me to be a missionary, has consecrated me through the religious Profession, filling me with joy to become part of the religious Family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. I thank God for the gift of the religious Family, where I experience fraternal love among the sisters.

I thank all the sisters of the Province of Mary Immaculate for the welcome, the prayer, the encouragement that they transmitted to me on my formative journey in the novitiate and to the formation team, in particular my formator, Sr. Lilibeth Labian, for her constant commitment, her generous dedication in daily accompaniment, in spiritual maturity, in the intimate relationship with God.

During the week of the retreat that I did with Father Carlos Ampuero sdb I was struck by these words of his: *"Today we need to be good news and good Samaritans for our brothers and sisters in the social context in which we find ourselves, we need a culture of 'welcome and closeness to our brothers and sisters'".*

Father Isauro Covilí, ofm Minister Provincial, in his very meaningful homily affirmed that we are called to "be new wines by seeking the best wine that is Christ, that wine that does not lack of joy, hope and charity in our communities, because we have been found by the poor, Crucified - Risen Christ. This must be the only concern, that of continuing to love driven by the light of the Holy Spirit, faithfully living the Gospel".



These words invite me to live the consecrated life with total dedication and enthusiasm to be and to bring the good news to many brothers and sisters, becoming a "good Samaritan woman" with the people I meet and will meet in the mission.

I thank all the Franciscan Priests who accompanied me with their simplicity and closeness in the Eucharist, Friar Isauro Covilli, Minister Provincial who presided over the celebration, Friar Domingo Tapia, Chaplain of the "Lourdes" Community, Fra Nicolás Alfaro and the Deacon Fra Miguel Ángel Correa, and also the Salesian Fr Carlos Ampuero, a priest who joyfully shared this feast day.

I sincerely thank Sister Paola Dotto Superior General and Council, Sister Marcela Uribe Mancilla, Provincial Superior of the Latin American Province of “San Antonio” and Council, for their generosity and concern they have had and have to give me an adequate formation.

I thank all the sisters of the Lourdes community and to those who have connected through communication networks from different parts of the world.

I thank God for the spiritual accompaniment of my parents, sisters, family, friends and benefactors, who, despite the impossibility of being present due to the pandemic, did their best to participate spiritually and virtually in this special day.

Blessed be God, our Father, for the gift of the Sisters in a special way for the Sisters of the Infirmary of the “Maria Immacolata” Province and the Sisters of the Infirmary of the “Lourdes” Community, who accompanied me with their constant prayer and continue to accompany me on the formative journey that I am making. I am sure that your closeness and prayer will help me to be a faithful bride of the Lord who so generously called me to work in his vineyard.

Lord, grant me the grace of joy and perseverance on this journey that I started with so much enthusiasm. San Francesco and San Antonio guide my steps.

Sister Roxana Puscalla Andrada



First RELIGIOUS PROFESSION of Tess Kusiak in PEEKSKILL- US

*"To hear the voice of Jesus, you need to knock;
knock in simplicity, with faith, hope and love."*

Laura Leroux (FMSC Foundress)

April 24, 2021 was the day of my consecration to Jesus.

Highly significant for me was how the entire day was enfolded by our congregation, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

- April 24 – day of Fr. Gregory’s birth. This year, its 199th anniversary.
- April 21 – 160th anniversary of the FMSC canonical recognition, in the same week as my profession.
- Each day signifying a year of our history, my profession occurred in the same time frame. [4 days = 4 years. Canonical opening, 1861. First mission began in America, 1865.]
- Our chaplain, Presider and celebrant of the HolyMass, was taught for twelve years by our sisters.
- Church of the Assumption, Peekskill, is where the sisters began apostolate after expanding north from New York City. The two concelebrants were the parochial vicar and a priest who frequently helps out on weekends. The parish deacon also assisted at Mass. Parishioners whom I have come to know through being on the Bible Study team, assisting in the parish CCD program, going to Mass and various events were part of the day’s Congregation.
- Ladies from Villa St. Francis, independent living facility here at Mount St. Francis, also attended.
- Our Lay Associates and Sisters alternated praying the intercessions during the Prayer of the Faithful.
- The Communion reflection song, “Immaculate Mary,” was sung by our Sisters in languages of the FMSC provinces: Italian, English, Spanish, Malayalam, and French. The people added their voices as the refrain was sung.
- Quotations from our co-founders opened and closed my profession Mass booklet.



The Rite of Profession brought tears to my eyes. Provincial Sr. Laura held my hands as I professed the vows while Sr. Anne James and Sr. Ana Maria were witnesses.

Returning from dressing in my new habit [made by Sr. Joana with assistance from Sr. Annakutty and Sr. Clare], I was beaming with joy and love.

Hearing myself called 'Sister Tess of the Sacred Heart' was overwhelming and humbling.



What a blessing to share this special day with friends, family, Sisters and parishioners. After the Holy Mass, we ate, celebrated and reminisced.

"The importance of consecration can never be sufficiently appreciated".

Fr. Gregory Fioravanti (FMSC Founder)



First Religious Profession of Sr Albina and Sr Punam - India

“Come and see.”

They went and they saw where He stayed and spent the rest of the day with Him.

“I will bless the Lord, all my days; His praise will be ever on my lips” (Ps 34:1).

We raise our hearts to thank the Almighty God for the great gift of our vocation and His making of us as His own.

On 11 August 2021, on the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, we, Albina Kispotta and Punam Tirkey garbed in white, with lighted lamps in our arms consecrated ourselves to God by making our first Profession, in the novitiate chapel at Carmelnagar Vijayawada.

We were very glad to become the members of the family of the Franciscan Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart. We know it was a

day of great joy for our religious family especially of our province Holy family.

We were delight-ful to pronounce our vows to God into the hands of Rev. Sr. Mini Joseph, our provincial Superior.

“Marvelous are the ways of the Lord and no one has the right to ask why in this way and not otherwise”, says our venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti. Indeed, it is true, in this hard situation of the pandemic; we celebrated this great day of joy very intimately and serenely in the presence of few of our sisters.

In the usual custom as part of the ceremony, during the entrance procession

of the Eucharist our parents accompany us to the altar and also during the offertory they walk along with us, a symbolic expression of offering their daughter to the Lord.

The pandemic restrictions prevented us from having this joy. Of course, our parents and dear ones joined us in spirit though they wished to be, and eagerly waiting to be with us in this one’s in lifetime grace to celebrate, and share the joy of the day with us. The words of our venerable founder encourage us and we joyfully accepted it and offered this pain as an expression of our intimate communion with our beloved spouse, Jesus Christ whose love is ever more valuable.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Excellency, Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao Thelagathoti, S.M.M. Bishop of Vijayawada Diocese.

In his homily, he enlightened us that ‘the call to religious life is God’s Initiative and the ultimate purpose is to be conformed to the Lord, who is our model so we have to become Christ like.

Our attitude towards taking a step like this is very important; not what we show, but a life lived in humility, to be humble models for others like St. Francis, who was the other Christ and St. Clare was the other Francis.

Today the people look at us as spiritual persons, to be peaceful, then, what is our role? It is a prophetic role, speak about God, have connection or speak with God and give it to the people, we have to be readable witnesses to them, once we are committed to Jesus, it should be seen in our life.





In conclusion he exhorted us of the vow of obedience is listening and knowing the will of God and not just something asking permission. Listening gives us perception and we need it. Obedience is assuming responsibility and serving the Lord wholeheartedly. Live only for God. Simplicity in living and not accumulating the things is poverty.

He highlighted the importance of community life. The community can help us, sustain us, form us and teach us to live a holy life.

Thank you is a precious word, which sprouts from the depths of our heart, a heart filled with gratitude and love we thank our most beloved Bishop, for presiding over the holy Eucharistic celebration and encouraging us with his inspiring message to go ahead with enthusiasm and joy.

We express our profound gratitude to our dear Mother General Rev. Sr. Paola Dotto and councilors, though you are not present here, we thank you for your Spiritual support and accepting us in this religious family.

We also thank all the sisters of our congregation especially the sisters of the holy family province who constantly nourished us with their loving support and care.

We are very much indebted to our beloved Sr. Mini Joseph, the provincial superior and councilors for their goodness and timely guidance, which shaped us as Franciscan missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart. We thank all the formators, Vocation promoters and all the sisters for inculcating in us the true joy in following Christ.

We conclude with the loving admonition of St. Clare of Assisi. We are fortunate to make our vows to follow Jesus on her feast day:

“What you hold, may you always hold. What you do, may you always do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet...Go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing, agreeing with nothing which would dissuade you from this resolution... (2 Letter to Blessed Agnes)

Sr. Albina Kispotta and Sr. Punam Tirkey



“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord”

On the second day of August 2021 we celebrate the feast of our lady of the Angels of the of the Porziuncula “The Pardon of Assisi”.

That date was a very memorable and important event in my life. I was filled with emotions, excitement, anxious, fear, and joy as the day finally came that I had longed for and desired to say my total yes to God. The Psalm 118:24 saying “ *This is the day the Lord had made. Let us rejoice and be glad*” expresses clearly what I felt. I believed it has been the day chosen by the Lord to gather us to celebrate my perpetual Profession, a special moment of confirming my total commitment to the Lord, in giving my whole self forever to Him, to the Church and through the mission of our religious Family, the FMSC. Truly how good is the Lord in letting me to experience His love and compassion for giving me the grace to make this event possible amidst in our pandemic situation!

The Gospel of Luke 1:46:35 speaks up of the Joy of Mary proclaiming the greatness of the Lord as the chosen one; like Mary my heart sings with full of gratitude to the Lord for all the wonders He has done on me in special way for gift of my vocation calling me to live in this life as consecrated person. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was held in the Church of Mary Immaculate in our Provincial House in Centocelle. It was an honor having the presence of Fr. Vidal Rodriguez Lopez OFM who presided the ceremony and concelebrated with Fr. Raymond OFM; great joy was given to me by the presence of the sisters of my religious Family, some physically present and others spiritually deeply united to us.

Fr. Vidal in his homily reminds us that “*no one is saved alone and no one makes profession alone; that there’s no vocation that can go alone. A vocation is always sown by mediations and by them it grows and bears fruit to develop and make perfect the way of the Lord’s call*”.

A part of his homily there was a question that made me to reflect. He said “*We don’t know why God’s call us and love us so much? He calls us even if with fragile faith. He loves us asking to live with a simple heart...He asks us to be witnesses of the Gospel ...*” Fr. Vidal concluded his homily thanking the Lord for my vocation ,for my family who shared to me the Christian faith, for my formators who accompanied me to respond with generous maturity to the call from the Lord.

The my most awaited moment started when Sr. Tiziana our Vicar General, delegate of the Superior general Sr Paola Dotto, presented me to the Church, represented by the Presider as candidate for perpetual Profession. I was filled with emotions but, with joy and conviction, I pronounced my “yes” to God in publicly to the church. I was carried by emotions as the celebration continued when I was prostrating for the litany prayer.



At that moment, I experienced and felt the mercy and unconditional love of God despite of my weaknesses and shortcomings but what matter most I felt God's forgiveness expressed in Corinthians 2, 12:9 *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*. That made me stronger and gave me strength to present in the hand of the Vicar General my vows to God forever with the three evangelical council of obedience, poverty, and chastity according to the Constitution of our Congregation of FMSC.

I was so deeply happy when I was welcomed by Sr. Tiziana Tonini to be fully part of the congregation of the FMSC with its mission in the Church. Apart from this, I felt more responsible to respond to the redemptive love of Christ and God's divine salvation for humankind with hopeful desires to be a living testimony by living out concretely the Franciscan virtue and share my spiritual identity expressed by my religious name: *Sr Angel Rose of the Pierced heart of Christ crucified*.

In this occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and deep heartfelt



gratitude to my religious Family who joyfully accepted me and guide me to live continually our charism.

With love I thanked all of you, with whom I journeyed and helped me to nurtured my vocation throughout my formation and for my natural family I express all my gratitude for the love, sacrifices and support given to me always in my journey with God.

As what Fr. Vidal said in his homily that to make my perpetual Profession is not to reach to the peak; the journey is not finish. For thus, I am humbly continue to ask your prayers that I will remain faithful to the covenant of God and to our Congregation remembering the words of our Founder the venerable Fr. Gregory *"Trust always In God's Divine Providence"*.

That will accompany me to walk in the path of God and conform myself with Him forever following His words in John 15: *"remain always in my Love"*.



**“HERE I AM ...
TO DO, YOUR WILL, O GOD”**

Today, September 14, 2021, the day on which the Universal Church celebrates the Glorious Cross, our Vice-province “Holy Martyrs of Uganda” is clothed with celebration also because of the six sisters who make the perpetual profession in the hands of sr. Beltha Ngwashi, Superior Vice-Provincial, delegate of the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto for this circumstance.

After a long spiritual preparation in Rome and Cameroon, the six sisters are ready to pronounce the perpetual vows that will commit them definitively in the “Sequela Christi” with the specific charism of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and at the service of the Church wherever they will be sent (Cf. Cos. 56). The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Monsignor Jean Mbarga Metropolitan Archbishop of Yaoundé in the parish “St. Anne and St. Joachim” of Nkoabang. The bishop in his homily said that we must put this ceremony under the sign of thanksgiving, for:

- the availability of our six sisters who have become docile to the listening of the Holy Spirit and to his holy work;
- their families who have offered their daughters to the Lord accompanying them in their decisions to the final choice of life;
- the Church that welcomed them through the Religious Family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and that today confirms their definitive belongingness to the Congregation.



The bishop also encouraged them in their choices: the consecrated life is a call that can be realized only if we believe, if we have faith. Faith is the gift that we must continue to invest, even if we must suffer to be faithful to the Lord. The faith that we have received from our parents is the one that gives us the courage, the sense, the strength to respond to the Lord’s call because the Christ we confess is alive, he is here, he is with us.

He also said: “you have funded your religious life on three pillars which are the vows, which are not to be perceived as obligations, but as spiritual enrichment lived in the light of the Lord who surpasses all our human capacities. Let us take for example the vow of poverty that leads us to the kenosis of Jesus, that is, to renounce everything that you are capable of being in order to live a continuous sacrifice of yourselves “No one has greater love than to lay his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13). This is the vow of poverty! It is not a matter of renunciation of goods, the good pass away, you need goods to serve the poor, because poverty is lived being charitable.

Therefore, much work is needed to support the community so that it is charitable. The vow of poverty is the gift of one's life, giving one's life for others. This implies understanding that your autonomy, independence and ability must produce the best for the entire people of God.



As for the vow of obedience, it is Christ himself who has motivated it: "I have come down from heaven to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me..." (Jn. 6, 38) He was obedient to his Father until his death. The vow of obedience is fidelity to the will of God and is the greatest gift to be received and lived out. The vow of chastity is not only an expression of spiritual asceticism, but in truth chastity is lived as a generous donation to God the Father, following the example of Christ at the service of all humanity.

Be joyful of your choice of consecrated life and spread this joy to all you meet. Be followers of Christ in the world. May you be in your communities the place of universal communion (Cfr. V.C. 46), may you be a religious family founded in Christ who lives by the love that you draw from His heart pierced on the cross. We thank the Lord for this event so significant that it brings forth our Vice-province and the Congregation all in praise and joy for the gift of sister:

- Sister Mary Emeline Yungsi Kinyuy of the Holy Cross
- Sister Mary Prisca Nyisome Petuewoh of the Blessed Sacrament
- Sister Mary Sylvia Bong Ngehseng of the Holy Spirit
- Sister Mary Chiara Fredya Mouraguele of Divine Mercy
- Sister Mary Pascaline Yenmole of the Eucharist
- Sister Mary Juliette Fonyuy of the Divine Will

**"You are our eternal life, great and admirable lord,
God almighty, merciful Saviour."**



Forever Consacrated as Franciscan Missionary of the Sacred Heart

“The true love of Christ had now transformed his lover into his image”. (Saint Bonaventure)

September 17, the feast of the Stigmata of our Seraphic Father St. Francis... It is mere providential... no other day was so fitting for me to make my definite ‘Yes’ to the Lord as a Franciscan Missionary sister of the Sacred Heart.

It was indeed planned by God, that the day of stigmata has been chosen to mark my day of Perpetual profession as just I am back from my International Juniorate in Rome, where I knew, touched and experienced much more directly the life, the spirituality, the holiness of my favourite saint Francis of Assisi, through intense course on Franciscan Spirituality. I returned my home country eager to accomplish my mission of “building the Church”, as assigned by my superiors.

Perpetual Profession... a moment which was long awaited, to realize the deepest desire of my heart, to give myself totally to God who lovingly called me to share the unconditional love of His heart by being a Franciscan Missionary sister of the sacred Heart. The Stigmata of St. Francis in fact is an expression of love received and given. As St. Bonaventure states, “The fervour of his seraphic longing raised Francis up to God, and in an ecstasy of compassion, made him like Christ who allowed himself to be crucified in the excess of his love”.

On this day, I am to give my total love to God who immensely loves me.



The day’s celebration was made all the more joyful with the presence of my parents, grandparents and other dear ones together with many of our Sisters and priests who are in one or other way close to my family and to me. The Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Monsignor Muvvala Prasad.

In his homily, he stressed on the call of Samuel and it encouraged and strengthened me to be strong in my decision of giving myself totally to the Lord.

I was alone to do my perpetual profession, since I was in Rome and the group of my companions have already done it. I was very happy with the simple and very touching celebration. The beautiful singing and all arrangements moved my heart in great joy.





Indeed, my “yes” to the Lord forever is an expression of my humble and complete submission to the will of God. Our blessed Mother Mary exulted in joy expressing, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (St. Luke 1:46) yes, like her I too say the same words in great joy, “My Soul magnifies the Lord”, for the wonderful gift of my vocation and the many graces I received in my life. I am extremely happy today that I became part of the great Franciscan family, specially of the family of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

On this great day of grace and joy, I gratefully remember and pray for all the people who guided me through my journey of faith and helped me to grow in God’s love. I prayed for the youth that they encounter Jesus like St. Francis and choose to live for him.

On the 19 of September, a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in my home parish at Pedana. It was a great privilege for me to witness my Consecrated life to my parish people as amidst them I have grown up. Certainly, it motivates them to live and witness the gift of faith they have received and in a special way, I hope it will inspire in the hearts of the young people a desire to follow the Lord.

I would like to conclude the experience of this great day of mine put in words, with the words of St. Bonaventure on St. Francis, “Francis realized by divine inspiration, that God had shown him this vision in his providence, in order to let him see that as Christ’s lover, he would resemble Christ Crucified perfectly....”.

May our seraphic Father St. Francis help me to walk on his footsteps, to be ever faithful to my commitment and to live my life for Christ Crucified.

Sr. Mary Vani Boddu



Peekskill: Perpetual profession of Sr Lisa Grace of Jesus and Mary

«His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you”». (Jn 2:5)

On October 16, in the Church of the Provincial House in Peekskill, a great joy was experienced: the Perpetual Profession of Sr. Lisa Grace. The gathered sisters were able to taste the “goodness” of the Lord and the strength of His Love who continues to love, call, send His consecrated women in the Church and in the world through our religious Family.

We thank Sr Lisa Grace for her generous “yes” to Him and let us listen from her words how she experienced her total self-giving to the One who has always chosen her.



If I could describe my experience of Saturday, October 16, 2021 in a single word it would be “joy.”

Joy is what I especially thank Jesus for, what I remember most about that day.

His unfailing love, tenderness and faithfulness that came into my heart as I gave myself completely to Him through perpetual profession of vows of obedience, poverty and chastity overflowed and left me with a profound inner assurance, a confidence that He will always direct my life and will never leave me alone, even though my own weakness and life’s inevitable changes seem to complicate things.



Since then I have realized, "This is what St. Francis meant when he spoke of God's true and perfect joy."

Father Thomas Kreiser, who celebrated the Mass in the Chapel of St. Margaret of Cortona at our Provincial House in Peekskill, New York, reminded me that this vocation is a gift to the entire Church.

He also referred to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins in Matthew's Gospel, chosen because it spoke to me of the importance of awareness- the "oil" I must have to persevere so that the love of Jesus' Sacred Heart can be shared.

And so I must constantly choose conversion through prayer, silence, a spirit of collaboration and gratitude.

I thank God for showing me His face in the Sisters, our faithful Lay Associates and so many other people He has placed on my path.

I hope, more and more, in the words of Fr. Gregory, to *"learn to do good...and then leave the rest to Providence."*



JUBILEES OF CONSECRATED LIFE IN THE GENERALATE HOUSE

REJOICE, MY DEAR SISTERS!

The 60, 50, 25 years of Religious Profession arrive and you find yourself in the full spirit of the feast organized by your sisters, wondering: is it I who have travelled such a long way? This was the question, which the sisters who celebrated the jubilee seem to have asked themselves.

Sr. Bernarda Alvarez and Sr. Leandra Desideri celebrated their first 60 years of religious consecration.

Sr. Paola Dotto Superior General 50 years of profession together with

Sr. Anna Bizzarri and Sr. Diomira Cavašin.

Sr. Mini Alex celebrated her “young” 25 years of Religious Profession.

The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by the parish priest of “San Filippo Apostle” Father Antonio Saturno and the assistant-parish priest, Fr. Joseph. The Mass was well animated by the choir of the community sisters and the juniors with very meaningful hymns, which gladdened of our hearts and raised our spirits.



The Word of God of the day, on September 18, invited us to renew our fidelity and to “present ourselves to the Lord with exultation” (Ps.99). The celebrant invited us to dig deeper the soil of our heart, so that the Word of God may take roots and bear much fruits and perseverance. (Lk 8:4-15) Together we thanked “The Almighty, Most Holy, Most High and Highest God”.. we renewed our Religious Profession and expressed our happiness to belong to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Our Founder, Venerable Fr. Gregory gave us the response, “*Rejoice, my dear sisters, in the graces that God grants you in religious life... But make it clear that yours is a joy full of fidelity to the graces that you receive and above all a fervent joy of zeal for your salvation*”.



The hymns sung, in various languages, made us taste the internationality of our Religious Family and the prayer of the faithful opened our hearts to the needs of the whole world.

The presence of the Provincial Superior of the Province St. Mary of the Angels, Sr. Stefania Bandiera and Sr. Giordana Marta, made us taste the closeness of the Mother House, which is always in our hearts.

The presence of Sr. Cristina Bottan and Sr. Federica Imperatore the provincial councilors, who represented Sr. Marta Camerotto the Provincial Superior from the Province Mary Immaculate added our joy in living the fraternal communion.

The sisters from Assisi and Grotte di Castro with the jubilarian, Sr. Mini Alex, got in the generalate house in the morning itself, very happy to be part of this joyful event.





The pandemic has prevented us from being able to celebrate with the presence of so many sisters who usually come to the Generalate with joy for the Feast of the Superior General and for the jubilees. Spiritual communion and fraternal affection were however expressed in many ways.



In fact, in the afternoon we had the joy of being surrounded by all the sisters of the various Provinces and Vice-Province: alternating with the dances and songs of the Asisium sisters, we saw and listened to the wishes addressed to all of us and, with particular gratitude and affection for Sr. Paola Superior General, from the communities scattered all over the world. The variety of languages and expressions of good wishes moved us: each video transmitted with simplicity and authenticity the love of each sister for the Congregation and for Sr. Paola who now represents us all.



The song of Vespers ended this beautiful and serene day.

*Lord, let us continue our journey with joy, while waiting to contemplate your Face in the eternal joy, give us the strength to love and forgive each day with the support of your Word and the Eucharist.
Thanks to all of you!*

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2021 in the REST HOME in TREVISO

*Recalling our sweet memories together, with phrases about grandparents and grandmothers, is a way to still feel connected to you, especially on days like this. Greetings to the grandparents!
Grandparents hold our hands only for a while, but our hearts forever.*



For some time with the educators and the psychologist we reflected on how to live the “Grandparents’ Day” in our “Franciscan Sisters Rest Home” to cheer up the grandparents on this day, especially dedicated to them. Various ideas and proposals were shared, but in the end, the educators had the brilliant inspiration to involve family members and, in agreement with the managers and the various professionals, sent them an email, asking them to send some material, prepared by grandchildren: photos, videos, messages, etc. to be given to the grandmothers during the meeting, on the day of the party.

And finally, after various preparations, Sunday 3 October arrived. As agreed in the afternoon, at 3.00 pm, a nice group of our old ladies was accompanied into the garden and in the meantime the musicians arrived, three men from a folk choir, who, after a short greeting, started playing with their instruments and to sing traditional songs that have awakened the memories of their youth in the old ladies. In fact, several

of them, according to their possibilities, participated in singing, dancing, even simply by gesturing with their hands, others participated with their eyes and smiles.





At a certain point, while the musicians continued to play and sing, the educators began to deliver to the individual ladies the gifts received from their families and relatives: photos, writings, videos, etc. and a gift prepared by them: a little angel who carried a message with him: “*Grandparents are guardian angels*”.



This gifts moved many of them to tears.

Letting the affection of and for loved ones leak out in this way, highlighted the effectiveness of these moments of encounter, in which each person expresses her bond with those around her, first of all with her loved ones.

To sweeten the being together, biscuits and drinks were distributed and, as even the weather began to get excited by the joy and beauty of this meeting, started dropping drops of rain, we thanked the musicians from our heart, expressing them the desire and the hope to see them again among us.

We concluded the meeting with the song “Mamma”.

IN THE LAND OF CEDARS *“The cedars of the Lord”*

Lebanon is one of the oldest lands in the world and is known as the land of cedars, a symbol of the fortress of this land. In fact, in the Bible they are mentioned as the cedars of the Lord: “the trees of the Lord are satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon”. Psalm 104 tells how everything is woven with the blessing of the Lord for the splendor of creation. And again, in the Song of Songs, Lebanon is described for its perfume and beauty, like a bride adorned with jewels.

Today, this land, holy and blessed by God, seems to be losing its particular characteristics.

The engraving of daily life perfectly embodies the meaning of the Arabic word inshallah which means if God wills. Local people live in a hectic way and try to savour every moment of life. At this moment, the Lebanese people are in despair and many leave the earth because they believe that there is no more life here, there is no more future.

The country has been undergoing a severe and prolonged economic depression for some time. Let us not talk about the pandemic! Lebanon, in the past, was very high in its economy among many countries of the world.



At this moment, the Lebanese people are shouting at the top of their voices because they are hungry and do not have the necessary means to live.

All of this causes many demonstrations, explosions and destruction. There is no longer a fully functioning government; people suffer from severe poverty in every sense. Above all, in the region where we evangelize, the poor, young people and children are inconsolable.



What do we FMSC do in this mission? How do we face the challenge? We often ask ourselves if we are able to face the innumerable difficulties? How can we help the families around us?

Divine Providence always comes to meet us! In fact, we were afraid of not being able to open the school anymore because families cannot send their children, both for the school fees and for other expenses and means of transport. However, Providence does not abandon us! Through many international organizations and local contributions, we are trying to resolve the great inconvenience in some way. On 4 October, the feast of our seraphic father St. Francis, we reopened the school with the celebration of the Holy Mass attended by all the pupils and teachers and this was God's confirmation for us that nothing can obscure in us the hope for a better future.

Not even the young people of the Saint Francis Mission group gave up. In fact, in this time of numerous lockdowns and the economic crisis, they are very discouraged.

Many of them study at the Lebanese university, but unfortunately they cannot continue their studies because the state university, including government schools, do not open.

Beyond the difficult situation, the smile and the desire to live and continue to engage more and more, illuminate the faces of young people.





In fact, a group of young people and we sisters participated in the spiritual formation meeting led by Fr. Jihad Krayem ofm, which took place in the convent of the Friars Minor in Tripoli with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio of Beirut, Mons. Joseph Spiteri.



A good number of courageous young people pledged to be part of the Franciscan group by making their promises in front of the present assembly.

Two of them, Alondra Najem and Nour Khoury share some thoughts with us.

At the time of the promises, I felt very proud to belong to the Saint Francis Mission group. Furthermore, I feel the responsibility and the enthusiasm to follow the spirit of St. Francis and to do my best to make the group proud of me..

Alondra Najem



The day lived was the best opportunity to reunite after a long time of isolation. The family atmosphere, the Holy Mass and the prayers helped me to feel the joy, the peace and the presence of God in my heart. Celebrating the Franciscan feast gave me the opportunity to see again after a long time the people I love: my friends and all the Franciscans who have followed us on this journey up to now.

Nour Khoury

The sisters of Menjez, Lebanon

"... YOU DID IT TO ME!"

Our Founder, Fr. GregorY Fioravanti OFM, told us: *“Marvelous are the ways of the Lord and no one has the right to ask why in this way and not otherwise”* (cf. F.1, p. 16) and certainly in the hands of the Father everything has meaning and acquires prominence.

I am Sister Inés Portugal Encinas, Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, who for more than a year have been sent to Lithuania and as Abraham I felt that God, for the vow of obedience, invited me to leave everything I had built up until now, to undertake a new missionary challenge (cf. Gen. 12:1-2).

This is how I arrived in Kretinga - Lithuania, where I was welcomed very fraternally by my new fraternity. I had to start all over again: learning the language, establishing new relationships, getting in touch with people certainly new in the socio-political, economic, etc.

Lithuania is a country of great spiritual riches and ancient traditions that make it a very special and attractive country.



At the least awaited moment, the parish priest of Kretinga Fr. Juozapas Marija Žukauskas OFM asked me for the service of spiritually accompanying children with different abilities and their parents in the center founded by them. As an FMSC fraternity we welcomed this proposal with joy and also in the certainty that God would sustain us in this new mission.

At first, I encountered several difficulties that, by the way, are normal when changing mission-country.

In spite of the difficulties and sufferings, I experienced the love of God in my life that has gradually introduced me to new challenges and great surprises that only He knows how to prepare.



The center welcomes children from 3 to 12 years. It offers various therapies to develop children's skills and communication, such as sensory therapy to develop the vocabulary, motility and autonomy of the child.

The accompaniment is individualized, that is adapted to the specific difficulties of each person and regularly reassessed according to evolution.



A month ago, I attended the camp of children and teenagers with different abilities. I was given the care of a beautiful child who speaks Russian, but also includes Lithuanian; little by little the friendship was born on both sides,

He felt accepted by me and I felt that he needed me and was the most important and precious person the Lord entrusted to me at that moment. It was the child who had the most difficulty in the group, was restless, always angry, had lack of recognition in the eyes, did not eat or sleep very well.

During the day many people took turns to take care of him.

Children with different abilities have become a beautiful gift of Divine Providence. After two whole days of being next to him and making him feel that it was important to me and above all give him affection; the child was integrating and participating calmly in the different activities that the professionals were organizing

It has been two wonderful weeks that God has given me to help me grow in love and faith. On this occasion I experienced the presence of God in my life, I felt how God had brought me out of my security without me realizing it and now he was leading me to new ways ... I did not resist because the Lord became the strength to continue working with these children who are a true blessing: *“Amen I say to you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me”* (cf. Mt. 25:40).

I hope to be for these children an instrument of God that helps them to discover Jesus in their lives through small gestures of love and simple and unconditional services.

“THE JOY OF BELIEVING IN THE LORD” 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines

The Filipino people celebrate 500 years of evangelization. The present celebrations were postponed until Easter 2022 because of the pandemic.

The theme of the Jubilee celebrations in the Asian country is “Gifted to give”, which recalls the evangelical phrase “*Freely you have received, freely give*”.



At the Holy Mass in St Peter’s for the 500 years of the evangelization of the Philippines, the Holy Father on Sunday, March 14, 2021 thanks the Catholics of the Asian country, third in number in the world, for the joy with which they bring their faith throughout the world into the everyday life of their work: “This is a ‘blessed sickness’, keep it”.

About family and faith, understood as a gift, has spoken instead Monsignor Romulo Geolina Valles, president of the Episcopal Conference of the Philippines:

“For us it is a joy: this is a special year for us, a joy that comes from the heart, a joy because we believe, thanks to the faith that was given to us for the first time 500 years ago: faith is a gift of God. And so we are happy with this special Jubilee Year. We are happy because faith has given meaning to life: faith, in fact, helps us navigate the journey of life. Moreover, I would like to add, it is not only a faith lived in one’s own self; it is a faith lived in families. And this is so beautiful...”

In guarding our faith, we are helped not only by individuals but by families.

I would like to say this in the words that Pope Francis would use: we are the witnesses of faith in Jesus, and we are so when we show the joy of believing.

Believing and entrusting our life to Jesus gives us joy.

Life is difficult, especially in a country like ours, but faith helps us to be strong, confident despite all the storms of life.

Thanks to faith we have more confidence: we know that the Lord is with us.

That is why we celebrate this Special Year full of joy, the joy of being in the Lord, the joy of believing in the Lord.”

Thanks for the gift of faith. The nine years of preparation for the Jubilee began in 2013 and were destined to end in 2021, when the Philippines celebrates 500 years of evangelization.

Because it was in 1521 that, on the island of Cebu, Raja Humabon, Hara Humamay and 800 Filipinos were baptized, thus marking the beginning of a great history of evangelization. Magellan converted the Rajah of the island starting Christianity in the Philippines».

Filipino religiosity has given rise to devotions that are strongly felt by the people.

Among all, the devotion to the Saint Niño, originated from a statue of the child Jesus donated by Magellan to the local lord who had converted and which is preserved in the homonymous basilica in Cebu.

«It was 1521 when Magellan, in his circumnavigation expedition of the globe, arrived in the Philippines, in particular in the island of Cebu.

According to the story of Pigafetta, Magellan converted the Rajah of the island starting Christianity in the Philippines».

It seems that, in the celebration of its 500th anniversary, the Philippines are called to evangelize the world. In 2013, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle began preparing for nine years as Archbishop of Manila and celebrates today, together with the Pope, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Launching the nine years of preparation, the bishops of the Philippines asked “in the face of secularism which has itself become a sort of dominant religion in some parts of our world, in the face of the reality of billions living today

without having met Christ or heard the Gospel, how much we are led to enter into the task of the new evangelization?”

Each year of preparation had a specific theme: in 2013 it was “Integral Formation to the Faith”, in 2014 “Laicity”, in 2015 “The Poor”, in 2016 “Eucharist and family”, in 2017 “The parish as a communion of community”, in 2018 “The clergy and religious” and in 2019 “Young people”, in 2020 Ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, in 2021 “Missio ad gentes”.

Thanks to the Filipino people, witness to the joy of the Gospel

The Holy Mass celebrated by the Pope on 14 March in St Peter’s was a feast of faith and joy, concelebrated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Vicar for the Diocese of Rome, 50 Filipino communities live there.

In his homily the Holy Father said: “*Dear brothers and sisters, you have received the joy of the Gospel: that God loved us so much that he gave His Son for us. And this joy is seen in your people, it is seen in your eyes, in your faces, in your songs and in your prayers*”.



In addition, he wanted to say “thank you” to the Filipinos and Philippines for “*the joy you bring in your faith*”, so much so as to call them “*smugglers of the faith*”, to spread it everywhere, as a “*good disease*”.

“I want to thank you - he continued - for the joy you bring to the whole world and to the Christian communities. I think of many beautiful experiences in Roman families - but it is so throughout the world -, where your discreet and laborious presence has also been able to bear witness to faith. In the style of Mary and Joseph: God loves to bring the joy of faith with humble and hidden, courageous and persevering service.

And on this very important anniversary for the holy people of God in the Philippines, I also want to urge you not to stop the work of evangelization - which is not proselytism. That Christian proclamation that you have received is always to be brought to others; the gospel of God’s closeness asks to be expressed in love for your brothers and sisters; God’s desire that no one be lost asks the Church to take care of those who are wounded and live on the margins. If God loves so much that he gives himself to us, the Church too has this mission: she is not sent to judge, but to receive; not to impose but to sow; not to condemn but to bring Christ who is salvation”.

“With your joy - he concluded - you can make sure that the Church is also said: “he so loved the world!” A Church that loves the world without judging it and that gives itself to the world is beautiful and attractive. May it be so, in the Philippines and in every part of the earth”.

Before the conclusion, Card. Tagle, representing all the Filipino migrants, thanked the Pontiff for his participation in the celebration: *“We bring you here the filial love of the Filipino people of the 7641 islands of our country. There are more than ten million Filipino migrants living in almost one hundred countries around the world. They are united with us this morning”.*



After briefly outlining the history of evangelization in his country, which led the Philippine Church to be the third Church in the world by number of faithful, Card. Tagle added: *“Because of God’s mysterious plan, the gift of faith that has been given to us is now shared by millions of Filipino Christian migrants in different parts of the world.*

We left our families, not to abandon them, but to take care of them and their future. For their sake, we endure the pain of separation.

When the moments of solitude arrive, we Filipino migrants find strength in Jesus who travels with us, Jesus who made himself a child (Santo Nino) and made himself known as the Nazarene (Nazarene Jesus), who carried the Cross for us”.

At a certain point, speaking of the loneliness lived in the faith by many migrants, Card. Tagle was moved. “We pray - he concluded - that through our Filipino migrants, the name of Jesus, the beauty of the Church and the justice, mercy and joy of God, they may reach the ends of the earth.

Here in Rome, when we miss our grandparents, we know we have a Lolo Kiko-Grandfather Francesco (Taggalo, Filipino language).



Salamat-Many thanks! Mabuhay-Long live the Holy Father!”



LET US WALK TOGETHER WITH JOY

How is the DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE celebrated today in a South American countries?

The solicitation is to know a particular form of celebration of Latin American countries and to open to another culture, bearer of wealth, in which are also found the seeds of the Word.

As it is tradition in the Church in Chile, on the Solemnity of the ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, on 15 August, the Day of Consecrated Life is celebrated, intended to emphasize the apostolic work, missionary, pastoral and social activities of men and women religious throughout the country. Facing today's culture and the form of life marked by individualism, loneliness, religious indifference and the exacerbated value of productive activity, a group of consecrated persons in the Church to love God above all things and neighbour as one'self, that dedicate a day to gather and celebrate together the joy of loving and serving, is a clear witness of God's presence in the midst of his Church.



With great joy, the CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS OF VI REGION, the so-called, CONFERENCE Zonale, of the city of Rancagua, Chile, assembles all consecrated men and women, to celebrate together the Day of Consecrated Life. Coming together and celebrating, in this great social and health crisis that we live, is a good opportunity to meet and nourish ourselves: to nourish life with the Lord and with the fraternal sharing of lived experiences. And the religious life, what is it?

The Consecrated Life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit... In every age there have been men and women who, obedient to the Father's call and to the prompting of the Spirit, have chosen this special way of following Christ, in order to devote themselves to him with an "undivided" heart" (cf. VC.1)

In following Christ, Mary, Virgin and Mother becomes a companion of the journey, a model of life of consecration and dedication. It is she who indicates the way of being in the world; she is, the first disciple of Jesus, the paradigm of the believer who, with his words and actions, praises God because with the humble and the little ones "God does great things".

To honour her, on the Feast of the Assumption, the group of religious, meets in the house and parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, of the Congregation of the Religious of the Mother of God, in a country called Quinta de Tilcoco, of the VI Region.

After a long time of closure, because of the Covid 19 pandemic, being encouraged to leave the confinement, to leave the city, means to begin to enjoy the natural environment. We were received by the region of Quinta de Tilcoco, which is located in the central part of the Rancagua area, surrounded by hills, mountains and islands.

As a sign of welcome, joy, esteem, support, the pastor of the diocese, Monsignor Guillermo Vera Soto, recently appointed Bishop, who took possession of the Diocese of Rancagua at the end of July 2021, awaited us. He will be a “shepherd with the smell of the sheep” as Pope Francis said.

This is the pastoral style of every Bishop. Since the centre of religious life is Christ, after welcoming and sharing the joy of fraternal encounter and a sweet break, the parish awaits us for a moment of community prayer with the recitation of the Holy Rosary and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The central moment of this meeting has been the Eucharist presided over by Mons. Guillermo and concelebrated by some religious priests. The goodness of the Lord pours his grace upon us giving us the opportunity to renew our consecration in joy and in offering.

In the homily, Mgr. William emphasizes Mary’s attitude of faith and hope, which stand out in the Gospel of the day (cf. Lk. 1:39 - 56) inviting us to “believe in God and believe to God”.

The sisters of Santa Marta, also present in the village of Quinta de Tilcoco, make available the rooms of the Sacred Heart College to share a lunch seasoned with great affection and joy. It has been an opportunity for every religious community to present to the new pastor the charism of their Congregation and their presence in the Diocese.

As a SIGN, the sisters of Santa Marta offer to every religious a plant as a wish for fruitfulness, accompanied by the message: “*The Church awaits the contribution of consecrated life, for its specific vocation to the life of communion in love*” (cf. VC, 51).

Consecrated persons are asked to be true experts of communion and to practise the spirituality of communion as “*witnesses and architects of the plan for unity which is the crowning point of human history in God’s design*” (VC, 46).

Faced with the scarcity of religious vocations in today’s world, having the opportunity to see, listen, talk with a large group of religious, makes hope sprout, allows you to listen to the divine voice that continues to say “... *I am with you always till the end of time*” (Mt. 28, 20) and “*For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them*” (Mt. 18, 20).



A BREAK IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The pandemic of Covid 19, led the Catholic Church to evangelize and continue its pastoral mission, through the use of digital technologies. Today the circumstances have made habitual the telework, the various attentions required by daily life and the online classes. In these circumstances, rather exhausting, it seems necessary to have a break.

How do children and adolescents live today, their families, teachers and staff of a Catholic Schools, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the prolonged confinement imposed by the health authorities of the country?

We present through small brushstrokes, the dynamic and creative celebration of the Pentecost Vigil of the Educational Community of the Liceo Madre Cecilia Lazzeri in Santiago, Chile. The so important feast of Pentecost, in which the Holy Spirit summons everyone to receive the gifts that enlighten and strengthen life, opens the door to enthusiasm, to creativity to live it online, but at the same time it becomes a great challenge:

- to motivate the 28 classes of the High School, most of which are composed of 45 pupils, boys and girls, from the nursery school to the 5 class of high school;
- unify the criteria among the members of the Educational Pastoral;
- call on teachers, religious, families and especially teachers to work in communion and in coordination with the responsible.

The sisters of the religious community, who provide their services in the work of the Liceo Madre Cecilia Lazzeri, prepared the different liturgical moments and intervene in the celebration, ensuring diversity, dynamism, enthusiasm and joy according to the gifts of each. As the biblical account indicates, the various groups are present: Chileans, Venezuelans, Peruvians, Cameroonians, Mexicans, Colombians, Italians.



The 45 minute celebrations were organized according to the schedules, facilitating the meeting with children and young people, in a different environment of the daily class, offering joy and rest, as if it were a BREAK IN THE SPIRIT. It has been transmitted simultaneously to the various classes at the same time, animated by dynamics, songs, prayer, reflection, signs of the “fire” and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that subsist joy, relax and make us understand and wait with more anxiety for the interpersonal encounter.



The pastoral groups deepen the themes, through the songs and dances, reinforced by the simple and assertive reflection of Father Luis Miguel Mori Añazco ofm.

The utilitarian world would say today, what is the use of so much effort, commitment and enthusiasm of the members of the High School, especially the sisters?

In this society that moves away from God and is built without Him, losing the meaning of life, the celebration of the Holy Spirit, is an appeal to rediscover the identity of the believer, to recognize oneself as a son of God, to open oneself to his call. During the pandemic, a Catholic school, seeks to recognize the step and presence of God in what each one is, in what one has, in the family, in what one is willing to give. Today the announcement is not in the streets, but inside, of each of us and of the houses.

Today, witnessing to God is knowing how to listen to the other, the one who shares the same roof and the Eucharist. To celebrate Pentecost means to come out of oneself to be known by others, to be silent in order to listen with the heart, parents and children. Listening is the way to understanding, encounter, reconciliation and love. In these little things of every day, animated by the Love of God, unity is achieved in the family and we are projected towards society.

The power of the Holy Spirit always strengthens, but especially in these times of fear; we all need it so much!

The Word of God illuminates the human and Christian journey of the staff of the Lyceum through the Gospel of Saint John 20:19-23

“At the sunset of that day, on the first day of the week, and having closed the doors of the place where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he shewed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced to see the Lord. Jesus also said to you, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, so I also send you.” Saying this, he breathed upon them and said to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit. “To those who forgive sins, these are forgiven; to those who withhold sins, these are withheld”.

PEACE WHICH STRENGTHENS.

The Word and fraternal sharing warms the human heart, permeating it with love and forgiveness, peace and hope, those that only Crucified and Risen Jesus can give. With these certainties the Gift of the Spirit that we implore today is being delineated: FORTITUDE, strength for the soul not only in the dramatic moments of today, but also in the usual conditions of difficulty, in the struggle to be consistent in the journey of truth and the grace of a God who saves us every day.

THE REST LIVED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT injects energy and grace to do daily work, a way that leads to Eternal Life.

I BLESS YOU IN MY LIFE AND AFTER MY DEATH

TRANSFORMING DAILY LIFE INTO A PATH OF LIGHT

It doesn't make sense! Nothing to hold on to! The lapidary conclusion of the sacred writer of Qoelet, seems to emerge with new impetus on the whole face of the earth. This nonsense of today's world becomes a great challenge for the gaze of the believer, asked to reveal the unknown existence in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 13,8).

The proposal of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, in the School that they direct in the southern area of the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia, acquires a human face, close, that of Saint Clare of Assisi. The Educational Centre, which bears her name, presents her as an example of Christian life, in the process of formation, especially today on her liturgical feast: 11 August.



AMBASSADOR OF THE CULTURE OF LIFE

Like the saints, in their time, they loved and incarnated Jesus Christ, their experience of life becomes light for people of all times. That's what happens at Santa Chiara in Assisi.

For this reason, during the course of a week, various recreational, cultural and spiritual activities take place, through which the life of St Clare and her values, which are proposed as a model of life to all the members of the Educational Centre, are interiorized, which in Bolivia is called the Education Unit.

The words that flowed from the heart, from the lips of Saint Clare and that the Franciscan sources keep: THANK YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU CREATED ME, penetrate the life of every child. This week the words of St Clare are translated into prayer, conviction, action of grace, assembly, song, joy, celebration and hope, before the world that lives without God and opts for the culture of death and cultivates ideologies without a future.

THANK YOU, LORD, BECAUSE YOU CREATED ME, is painted in slogans, posters, sentences. It is recorded in poems, songs, speeches. It acquires a harmonious and delicate movement in dances and dances. Although this year takes place in the context of distance education - virtual, it is no less festive, joyful and committed.

It also goes back to memory and we walk with this persuasion of Saint Clare: “SHORT IS HERE OUR WORK, THE REWARD, IN EXCHANGE, IS ETERNAL”.

This conviction of Saint Clare is made life in the teachers led by the director and the other sisters of the religious community, that make it possible to carry out activities, with responsible, creative work, committed to everyone.



Parents are precious members of the Educational Unit and are invited to participate in the process of formation and education of their children. In this way they also participate in the work of evangelization. Thus, virtually from August 2 to 10, children, their families, teachers and nuns gather for the novena in honour of Saint Clare, actively participating in the broadcast at 19:00.

Every day a kindergarten class is in charge of the transmission. They record the video, send it to the Education Unit's Facebook page and involve all the participants.

This is how a passage or an event in the life of Saint Clare is explored, which allows us to illuminate today's families.

In addition, throughout the month, the children perform an assigned reading on the life of Saint Clare, for 10 minutes every day.



To find oneself personally in this time of pandemic, even if only online, is a source of joy and emotion; it is to renew the conviction that the human being is social, that we need each other, that, in order to cultivate fraternity, characteristic of Franciscan spirituality, it is necessary to see, embrace, share, listen and communicate with the whole being. On 11 August, the feast of our Patron Saint Clare of Assisi, the Eucharist is celebrated in the presence of the teachers of the Educational Unit, while students and families participate virtually. At the end of the Eucharist fraternal sharing takes place.

Another important moment of the celebration of Santa Chiara and the anniversary of the school is the CIVIC ACT: a ceremony that is carried out according to a program developed with the aim of celebrating events. Its structure is the presentation of the program, the opening words, the hymns and the cultural and civic component according to the creativity of teachers and students.

As a conceptual element, it includes reflections that promote values through various activities also expressed with the body. At the feast of Santa Chiara, the teachers on duty, send to their colleagues the order of the animation of the Civic Act and the script, so that all the courses record their videos.

The transmission on the Educational Unit's Facebook page is scheduled for 17:00. For the second consecutive year, the civic hour is performed in honor of Santa Clara, in virtual form.

Saint Clare presents herself with two of her most significant thoughts, which look at with attention lead to discover that both are a song to life and ETERNAL LIFE.

These words spoken by a woman in the thirteenth century, wish to be for the members of the Educational Unit Santa Clara of Assisi, Cochabamba, Bolivia, an incentive to value, defend, cure, love life, especially that of the human being and thank God for this beautiful gift.

With her life, Saint Clare tells us that the culture of life is also the culture of commitment, sacrifice, generosity and love. Santa Clara's life has a lot to tell us.

The culture of life is more difficult than the culture of death, but it is the only one that gives hope and is a pledge of Eternal Life.

We all receive the blessing from this exceptional woman:



"I bless you in my life and after my death, as I can and more than I can, with all the blessings with which the Father of mercies blessed and will bless his sons and daughters in heaven and on earth, and with whom a spiritual father and mother blessed and blessed their spiritual sons and daughters. Amen" (FF. 2856)

The beauty of fraternity

This year the FMSC Sisters who are in Cameroon had the opportunity to organize the feast of St. Francis of Assisi even if in times of pandemic.

With the support of the new Council of the “Holy Martyrs of Uganda” Vice-Province of Nkoabang / Yaoundé, commissions have been set up for the activities of the Vice-Province, including the Commission for Franciscan Spirituality. The feast of 04/10/21, being a day of work, has been celebrated discreetly in the communities, and solemnly on 10/10/21 in the parish of “Sant’Anna and San Gioacchino” in Nkoabang.



This celebration brought together all the three Franciscan Orders and their associates, namely the Capuchin brothers and fathers, the Poor Clares, the SFO, the Secular and Regular Franciscan Order as well as the lay associates.

What beauty and what richness in these times when the Holy Father, through his Encyclical “Fratelli tutti “ awakens in us the beauty of fraternity. We have organized ourselves to invite our brothers and sisters of the great Franciscan family to celebrate with them the wonders of God!

Each of these Franciscan families, a little before the end of Holy Mass, had the opportunity to present their charism to the Christian people under the Franciscan aspect, which also served as a vocational proposal for the three Orders.



The Christians present at the Holy Mass were amazed by such richness, that is why, at the end of the liturgy, many came to the community to enjoy with us some beautiful moments of sketches, dances, songs, and ancestral stories through which we can discover lessons of life and wisdom.



The sketch on the healing of the leper by Francis of Assisi was a very exciting moment and we were able to grasp, through their performances, the different talents of our young sisters in the novitiate and in the systematic juniorate.

At the end of the day, we ate and drank something together: a marvel!

Finally, we can only present our sincere thanks to the sisters who form this commission, our gratitude also goes to Father Martial Nanak K. of the Order of Discalced Carmelites who gave us space during the Holy Mass for our presentations.

And finally, thanks to Sr. Beltha and her Council for the opportunity offered to us to be able to celebrate God through Franciscan spirituality.

Sr. Gisèle Bella, member of the Commission





Let us listen to the reflection on the Eucharistic celebration proposed to us by the novices of Nkoabang -Cameroon-

The Holy Mass was celebrated in our Parish of “Saints Anna and Joachim” in Nkoabang and was presided over by the Rev. P. Mvogo Martia, first Vicar of the parish, OCD, and by the Rev. P. John, OFM, Capuchin, assistant and who gave the homily. Also present were the parishioners and teachers who during the Eucharistic celebration were to receive the blessing as the beginning of the new school and academic year.

During the homily, Friar John, in the light of the texts proposed by the liturgy of this 28 Sunday of year B, drew our attention to two elements: one that brings us closer to eternal life and the other that tends to attach us to goods of this world.

The first element is wisdom: *“For this I prayed and prudence was bestowed on me; I begged and the spirit of wisdom came into me. I preferred it to scepters and thrones, I estimated wealth as nothing compared to it ...”* (Sap. 7,7). And the second is wealth because the Gospel tells us: *“One thing is missing: go, sell what you have and give it to the poor and you will have a treasure in heaven; then come and follow me ..”* (Mk 10: 21-22).

In reality - continues the priest - our father, St. Francis, understood everything, and for this reason, he renounced all the goods he owned and his natural ties with the family.

This means following Christ in a radical way: it is a question of religious life and more precisely of Franciscan “high poverty” where we, pilgrims, follow nothing but the wisdom of the Father who is Christ Jesus in order to inherit eternal life and to possess the only good, which is God.

However, the rich young man chose another way to follow Christ because, perhaps, what Christ proposed to him was too difficult for him.

Later, the priest turned to the laity and the teaching staff to invite them to teach like Christ, to seek in everything that leads to wisdom and to commit themselves as true disciples of Christ for the Church, because they are the future of the nation.

While the celebration continued, we went to the ambo and the celebrant gave us the opportunity to present our Congregation; later he invited the faithful to make the life choice that is appropriate for each one to follow the Lord more closely.

News from the Mission land of Changlang

The Spirit will guide you...

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of the rising Sun, is famous for its diversity of culture and faith. The young Church in Arunachal Pradesh is growing in the experience of the Lord and at the same time by preserving its rich indigenous culture.

Corona virus affected badly in the region and our hostel in Changlang was a center for quarantine for the people entering in the district from other parts of the country.

During the lockdown, we sisters have arranged on-line prayer meetings and Small Christian community prayer services, where we taught the importance of family prayer and Scripture reading.

Every family in the parish, the members, parents and children came together in a certain time, prayed the rosary and shared the word of God.

It was amazing to see the fervent prayers of these people very young in the life of faith. Besides inflaming their enthusiasm through virtual contact, we also have made it a point to pray for a particular non-Christian village of our choice each day and offer our prayers for them that they may receive the gift of faith.



When the lock down was relaxed after the first wave, we made use of the opportunity to visit our villagers, conduct prayer services, and celebrate Holy Mass. Few villages like Yankam, Nyotong and Namtok we could stay for few days, preparing for baptism, first communion and strengthen them in their faith by teaching catechism and encouraging them to read the Word of God.

Thanks be to the Lord, we could open a new mission substation at Noytong, a remote forest area in Changlang district, Kilometers away from our mission, where the Village Head invited us and asked us to teach them the ways of the Lord.

Though some families of the village were against it, he was adamant and donated land for a church. The fathers, sisters and the parish members from Changlang profited this opportunity as an invitation from the Lord.

They cleared the forestland and made a bamboo church within three days. The village head and few others received the baptism. Gradually many families expressed their desire to know about this ‘new way of life’ and invited us to their houses.

Most of them are followers of indigenous religions, like worshipping the powers of nature and also a local religion named “Ramfrah .

Our sisters used of this opportunity to make a medical survey in the entire village, thereby got in close touch with all the people. Educational and medical facilities are the best way to get acquainted with the people.



The journey to this village is very tiresome as the road is very bad, the members of our parish, have accompanied us to this village whenever we go.

These isolated villagers have to walk at least seven to ten kilometers, through the forest in order to reach the nearest grocery shop.

Very few are blessed with the luxury of a motor bike or bicycle.



In our area, though many people tested positive in the second wave they all cured mostly through prayers and moral support given by us sisters. People trust very much in our prayer and for any reason they ask our prayers and advice.

We really feel and it is very evident that the Lord is walking with us every day, using us as his instruments for his greater glory.

We draw our strength to serve these people by drawing the strength from the pierced Heart of Jesus crucified.

The animated novena in the community in preparation for the feast of the Sacred Heart and other feasts always recharges our enthusiasm and inspires us for a greater commitment.



JAPAMALA BHAVAN: HOUSE OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary is the most beautiful prayer of the Church's tradition, it sparkles abundant graces granted by God through the intercession of his Mother. It touches the deepest of the human heart, and remains the safest "place" for those seeking spiritual and maternal warmth of Mary.

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches the most, the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary."(Pope Saint Pius X)

Yes, these words of Pope Pius X are very appropriate for women living in 'Japamala Bhavan' in Thellakom, in Kerala in the southern state of India. It is a shelter for poor, aged or physically vulnerable women left with the sisters by their families because they were no longer able to look after them for various reasons.

The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, thanks to the generous heart of an elderly couple who donated a small house to welcome these people, have opened a community at the service of these women. The shelter home called Japamala Bhavan 'which means "House of the Rosary"', is the small house given, which has been transformed into an oasis where these women slowly recover their dignity as daughters of God and integrate themselves as active members in the work of the family that welcomed them. This mission also responds to the intentions of the donors: that it be a place of welcome and prayer. The prayer of the rosary is the lifeblood of these women who never fail to pray it daily.



On August 14, 2021, the sisters organized a special time of prayer on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence Day of India, which is on August 15. The women animated the prayer of the rosary by reciting the mysteries in different languages and singing songs of the Blessed Mother.

Furthermore, to each mystery of the rosary they openly entrusted their fears and pains to her. Most of these women suffer from the traumas of living in misery, the abandonment of their loved ones and the consequence of physical and mental illnesses.

After the recitation of the holy rosary, we had an hour of Eucharistic adoration, in which we remembered the great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi who heroically sacrificed their lives for freedom of the nation.

We thanked the Lord for their dreams of a free nation; as written by the great Indian poet and mystic Rabindranath Tagore:

*“Where the mind is fearless and the head is high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been shattered by narrow domestic walls;
Where the words come from the depths of the truth;
Where the tireless struggle stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear current of reason is not lost in the desolate desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led by you in ever broader thoughts and actions -
In to that heaven of freedom,
my Father, let my country awake”.*

We presented before our Eucharistic Lord, the present day sociopolitical and religious struggles we live and the misery of the people still living under the poverty line. Thus, we cannot claim that we are truly free. With a humble and contrite spirit, we begged the Lord to grant us the grace to proclaim Jesus the Son of God, Savior of the world with our own life; because we obtain true liberation only when we leave a space for His person. Yes, the true freedom we get only when we find out and live the Truth, that Truth in person is Jesus Christ and that Truth alone can set us free. He himself said, “I am the Way the Truth and the Life” (Jn.14:6)

We infinitely thank God for all his gifts and entrust our country into the loving hands of the Father. The prayers of our women rise like incense and be accepted and answered by God according to His will.



May the lord bless us and keep us!





*Come, ye blessed of my Father,
inherit the kingdom
prepared for you!*

Mt.25,34



**Sr. Anna Pía Favero Pellizzari
of the sacred Heart**

*Born in San Martino di Lupari (PD)
on 29 March 1929
Died in Santiago del Chile
on 9 February 2021*

Remembering a serene, silent woman, with a smile on her lips, with kind words and with the advice that filled a life very close to God, is to remember a sister who had an intense pastoral life, a charism of encounter with the most poor and affected by adverse social situations, which at times had consumed not only health but also the soul. The wonderful ability to immerse herself in a listening room where a brother and sister could feel at ease with her without feeling judged

or belittled by her, made her a person known throughout Puerto Varas for her charity.

Sr. Anna Pía Favero Pellizzari of the Sacred Heart was born on March 29, 1929 in San Martino di Lupari - Province of Padua - and she left us on February 9, 2021.

Her name was Giovanna Favero Pellizzari; in May 1951 she realized the dream of consecrating her life to God, professing religious vows in the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

In August 1953 she arrived in Puerto Montt-Chile, starting her apostolic work in the “María Assunta” community, dedicating the first years to education, at the “Arriaran Barros” bishop’s school. In 1960, she was sent to Puerto Varas, in the Puerto Chico Alto Sector, among the poor and marginalized of the city, with a high index of vulnerability, where she worked and in the “Felmer Niklitschek” School which continues today. In Puerto Chico, Sister Anna Pia found the right ground to carry

out her humanitarian action and her missionary charism for the benefit of many needy brothers. In 1971 she founded the “Nuevo Porvenir” Club for the rehabilitation of hundreds of alcoholics, victims of poverty, ignorance and frustration

In 1973, she founded the “Father Mario Vásquez” Senior Citizens’ Club to provide a direct service to the elderly, with the help of a group of volunteers, who still today organize various activities for the members of the Club. In the early 1980s she founded the “San Francisco” Polyclinic to serve the poor in the sector, who for lack of means have no access to medical care.

An open canteen was also organized where the many homeless people, especially children and the elderly, are going.

For her extraordinary humanitarian action, Sister Anna Pia received the recognition and gratitude of the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities, at local and national level, even more the affection and appreciation of the citizens.

She was proclaimed “Illustrious Daughter” of the city of Puerto Varas, when Guido Rebheir was mayor. In 1979 the President of the Republic awarded her with the “Order of Bernardo O’Higgins”, in the rank of “Officer”, with the gold medal, in recognition of her exceptional work, as a foreign missionary for Chile. 1996 the President of the Republic Eduardo Frei Tagle with Law n ° 19.442, single article, “granted Chilean citizenship, by special grace, to the Italian sister Ana Pía Fávero Pellizzari” ..., “for the great works carried out in favor of the most destitute, work that has been developing for years, in the most needy groups, such as alcoholics, the sick and the most marginalized in the municipality of Puerto Varas”. The mission she carried out in Puerto Chico was intense from 1968 to 2014. Her illness limited her physically but she did not stop her ardently feeling about the suffering of the other, beating with a heart that radiated compassion. What she most desired her in these months is that God would come to meet her. We are sure that her embrace with the Lord has been tightened, from heart to heart in eternity.



**Sr. Giovannina Gemin
of the Immaculate Conception**

*Born in Ospedaletto d’Istrana (TV)
on 2 February 1928
Died in Peekskill (US)
on 21 April 2021*

Giovannina Gemin was the first child of the six children of Eginio and Maria Gemin, born in Ospedaletto d’ Istrana, Italy. After four years of school, Giovannina worked on the family farm until she was 17 years old. As a child, she went to Gemona for the Profession of her mother’s sister, Regina. It was there that the Bishop told her mother that Giovannina would one day be a nun. Against the wishes of her parents, Giovannina entered the Franciscan Sisters in Gemona in 1945. There she had to study English; little did she know that God was preparing her for her first and only assignment: a missionary to America! Along with Sr. Maria Pozzobon and Sr. Battistina, she boarded the Saturnia in Naples on December 28, 1947 and arrived in New York on January 12, 1948. Immediately she was assigned to the Kitchen at Mt. St. Francis, and never left there until 2006, She was in charge

of preparing three meals a day for 550 children of St. Joseph’s Home and 100 for Sisters and staff, and she had never cooked before.

She quickly learned and learned well! Our kitchen became her comfortable home.

“Reggie” was a gift to all of us. She genuinely cared about everyone and practiced many, many acts of kindness to Sisters, staff, and the ‘homies’.

All the Sisters were “Suzie” to her and she always went out of her way to make people happy. Even in her last years of living with Alzheimer’s disease, she would smile and try to communicate to others through her most caring eyes. Her hymns to the Blessed Mother gave her great peace, even to the hour of her passing from this world to the Father’s Home..

We give thanks to sister Giovannina who made this kitchen her home for over 60 years, not by just cooking and baking and cleaning, but by serving everyone with the greatest of caring, kindness, and compassion.

Our Reggie has touched countless lives with her smile, her laughter, with an extra cookies or candy or a piece of fruit.

How many new candidates were encouraged to persevere because she saw them struggling and reached out to them and made feel at home.

Like Jesus in today’s Gospel, she always made sure everyone had enough to eat, even in the times when food was scarce and people were hungry.

We give thanks, for who Sr. Giovannina was in her vocation, her ministry, and in these last years when her memory seemed to fade, but her spirit learned to speak through her loving eyes. Recentemente abbiamo ricevuto una lettera da una donna che era al St. Joseph.

We recently received a letter from a woman who was at St. Joseph's. It demands sharing.

Dear Sister Giovannina, Years ago from 1944-1946, you were working in the kitchen of St. Joseph's Home.

I used to work for Sr. Alphonsine and has occasions to go the kitchen. We as kids, had "coffee" in the morning but I think it was Postum. Somehow, I got a taste of the "nuns' coffee".

I used to ask you for some every time I came there. You were very kind and to this day I drink coffee.

That kitchen and kindness pops into my mind every now-and-then. If I didn't thank you then, I say it now.

May we follow Reggie's example and continue to be kind in many little ways.

What a great witness and ministry we all have!



**Sr. Carmelle Piccoli
of the Blessed Sacrament**

*Born in Paese (TV)
on 19 April 1931*

*Died in Le Mans (France)
on 17 May 2021*

Sr. Carmelle Piccoli was born in Paese (TV) on April 19, 1931. She left us on 17 May 2021. A month ago we celebrated her 90th anniversary with thanksgiving in Franciscan joy. She thanked the Lord for all the graces received during her life, which she described as beautiful and fruitful.

Since adolescence she had expressed the desire to consecrate herself to the Lord. At the age of 19, she fulfilled it by entering the Mother house of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, in Gemona. She did not stay long in the community in Gemona, because she was destined to go to France, to the novitiate of Le Mans for her initial formation. At the beginning of this transfer, she suffered a lot, but soon the missionary mandate of the Congregation matured in her.

It is with enthusiasm that she pronounced on 29 July 1952, the first vows with Sr. Teresa

Bandiera who preceded her to heaven in September 2020.

Sr. Carmelle was a religious of prayer and action. Her devotion was the Blessed Sacrament and the Virgin Mary.

She never lacked in common prayer and recreation, because the life of prayer and fraternity were her indispensable support for her to better live her consecrated life.

As a person of relationship and bonds, she took advantage of these qualities of hers by putting them at the service of announcing the Good News. Wherever she has gone, she has formed bonds that have remained so until the end of her life. She devoted herself with zeal to catechesis for children, young people and adults (Souligné / Ballon).

She had a special gift for looking after the little ones in the nursery school (Switzerland).

In Paris, in the boarding house of "Santa Clotilde" she was responsible for the young students and workers: tireless close to them, day and night, both in listening to them and in advising them.

Her missionary life took place in various activities and in direct pastoral care, which was greatly appreciated by the bishop, by various parish priests and by the people of God.

Several times, she was elected provincial councilor and appointed head of communities where she placed herself at the service of the sisters in obedience and in the joy of being able to be useful in fraternity.



Six years ago, she was struck by a serious illness, the Lord visited her entrusting her with the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

She was transferred to the provincial house in Le Mans, where she continued the offering of herself and spent a lot of time in prayer and in the hospital.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, she was strong to the end. She leaves us her example of her self-offering for the Church, the Congregation and Evangelization that was very dear to her.

God, our Father, called her to Himself at dawn on May 17. Accompanied by the sisters, she died peacefully and quietly in the hands of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

From heaven where she contemplates the face of God for eternity, she intercedes for us.

Thank you, Sr. Carmelle, for your life given and your presence among us.



**Sr Vittorina Colla Gallina
of the Sacred Heart**

*Born in Coste de Maser (TV)
on 20 December 1942*

*Died in Puerto Varas (Chile)
on 24 June 2021*

Sr Vittoria (Natalina) Colla was born in Coste de Maser, province of Treviso, on December 20, 1942 to her parents Vittorio and Irene Gallina.

Attentive to the signs that the Lord could give her on her journey, she accepted the call to religious life and entered the Mother House in Gemona on April 21, 1961. On 6 May 1963, she made her first profession in our Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Gemona and on 6 May 1968 she was consecrated forever to the Lord with Perpetual Profession, celebrated in Puerto Varas in Chile. Precisely in that year she was sent on a mission to that land she loved so much. Her missionary work in Latin America began at the age of 26, first as a teacher together with a fruitful pastoral work in the Nuestra Señora de Fátima parish in the Puerto Chico sector. Through this mission she met rural missions and neighboring

sectors such as Petrohué and Ensenada. Between 1977 and 1983 she provided important support and service in the construction of the provincial house. Later she returned to the educational work of the Felmer Niklitschek School where she dedicated herself to an educational work full of challenges, experiences and innovative contributions until the last day of her life. Sister Vittorina was characterized by her ability to unite the forces of lay people, benefactors and national and foreign institutions, especially when she had to rebuild the school building she loved so much after a voracious fire that destroyed it. She did this with such strength that she did not allow fatigue to win her. Above all she did everything with a level of humility in which she constantly tried to remain in the background so that others could enjoy and rejoice in what had been achieved. She was really happy when she saw that the school was improving not only in the construction of pavilions, gymnasium, classrooms, halls, etc. but also when this was accompanied by an optimal and quality education. It was typical for her to express surprise when others recognized her talents and abilities of her, reacting with shyness and amazement as if this did not belong to her. In 2016 she was declared Illustrious Daughter of Puerto Varas, in recognition of her generous dedication to the task of educating children and young people, as well as her social and pastoral work, which is not only reflected in the school.



Surely the great work she gave her life to, like Felmer Niklitschek School, is concrete proof of a sister who never stopped fighting to get the best for everyone. Because of this in 2017 the University of San Sebastián de Puerto Montt gave her the AURORA award for her tireless educational and missionary work, her Franciscan charism that has managed to transform the lives of many young people and children.

When she touched the strongest pain she had to experience, such as the death of her brother and then that of Sister María Oliva, she said a few simple words that manifest her heart: *“my heart came back to life when I saw how much I still was necessary in the mission of Puerto Varas; this gave me strength and it was as if seeing the welcome and affection of the people who were happy to see me, gave me a sense to keep fighting”*.

*Sr Vittorina,
we cherish with gratitude
all the love
you put on your journey
expressed in constant work
with a strength illuminated
only by the desire
to do a better good for others;
it is what you were looking for
every day in your dedication,
in your fatigue,
in the pain of the disease that
did not stop you.
Today the good Lord
embraces you,
holding you tightly
with all the tenderness and
mercy that only He can give.*



**Sr. M. Angelene Grace Matero
of the Holy Name of Mary**

*Born in Ossining, NY
on 15 June 1940
Died in Peekskill
on 16 August 2021*

Sr. M. Angelene was born in Ossining, NY, the fourth child of Angelo and Antoinette Matero and the young sister of Sam, Angelo, and James. Growing up in Croton.

She attended Holy Name of Mary Grammar School and Mary Immaculate High School. She made up her mind while in the sixth grade that she would be a Franciscan Sister after she witnessed some of our FMSC Sisters standing on the roof of the convent porch washing windows.

Aware of the simplicity of their lives, she felt at home with them and how they lived. After her first profession, “Angie” received her degrees from Ladycliff College (English Lit.), Pius X School of Liturgical Music (Sacred Music) and Western Connecticut State College (School Administration/Supervision).

Her assignments were many: teacher at St. Columbanus,

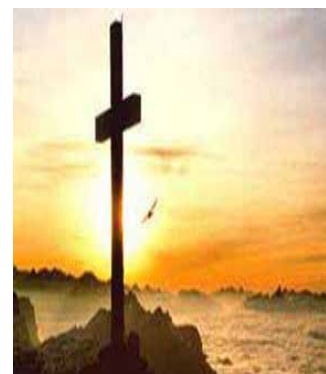
Peekskill, St. Ann’s, Ossining, Holy Rosary, Yonkers, Administrator at St. Columbanus, St. Ann’s, Nyack, St. Teresa’s, Tarrytown, Bursar at Franciscan High School, Mohegan Lake, DRE at St. Margaret’s, Pearl River, Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart, Newark, part-time Assistant Chaplain at Sing Sing, Religious Education teacher at Assumption, Peekskill, and most recently a member of the Provincial Council.

Besides enjoying being with children, Sr. Angelene could often be found feeding the birds around the Motherhouse, naming and nurturing the local squirrels (Sammy was her favorite!), puttering around her garden, and trying to master her laptop so she could spend time on Facebook.

Her free spirit led her to meet many new people and their pets in the neighborhood.

After a difficult six months of illness, hospitalizations, and therapy, Sister went home to God very peacefully, knowing that she was going to where she wanted to be, into the arms of a loving Father.

We count on her intercession for all the needs of her community and her family.





**Sr Patrizia Dotto
of the Most Holy Trinity**

*Born in San Giuseppe (TV)
on 24 December 1917
Died in Roma
on 11 October 2021*

Sister Patrizia, Angela Dotto, was born into a peaceful family welcomed into life with joy on the eve of Christmas 1917, in times that were certainly not easy, when the 1st World War was raging.

She is brought to the Baptismal Font on Christmas Day and was given the name of Angela.

Despite hostilities, uncertainties, fear and all the consequences of a war in progress, Angela receives Holy Confirmation at the age of seven.

She met the zealous missionaries in the Home for the Aged of St. Joseph (Treviso), all dedicated to the poor and needy elderly. Their example matures her decision to consecrate herself to the Lord.

At the age of 21, in 1938, she was in Gemona where she began her journey of formation, she made her 1st Profession in 1940 and was immediately sent as a missionary to Cercivento where she took care of the young women, as well as in Artegna. until, in 1955 when she was sent to Centocelle.

There she took care of various

tasks always with that zealous spirit that characterized her, with the simple and true Franciscan joy with which all those who knew her in the various communities of the Maria Province remember her Immaculate: in Monteporzio, Borgo Grappa, Borgo San Michele, in Centocelle, in Le Marmore, always serenely free and available to obedience that called her to various tasks in the community, a model of itinerant fmsc religious.

In the year 1967, we find her again in Centocelle who directly takes care of minors in difficulty to whom she gives all her pure and generous love in the care and education of the internal girls, until obedience calls her to Duronia, a village in Molise, in the “Villa Serena” house built to welcome and take care of the elderly who, due to the strong emigration of young people, were left alone.

In addition to caring for these elderly, she has been a zealous missionary in various parish services for 30 years.

We hear the testimony of these years directly from the eulogy that Professor and Writer Umberto Berardo, a citizen of Duronia, wrote on the occasion of her death:

“On Monday 11 October 2021, at the ripe old age of one hundred and four, Sister Patrizia Dotto left this earthly life who for many years, together with the other Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, worked in Duronia committing herself with a spirit of service in the care of the elderly of the “Villa Serena” , in the education of the children of the parish kindergarten, as

a catechist and animator of the liturgies, always maintaining cordial, respectful relations with everyone and making herself available to anyone with the joy and smile of an affable person and ready for any work needed in the parish and in the village.

This closeness to people and their needs will never be forgotten.

I especially remind the new generations of the great gift of availability and love for others of this sister who authentically embodied the teaching of the Gospel and lived her long life dedicating herself above all to the education of children and young people, but also to the assistance of the elderly.”

In the last part of her earthly life, in the year 2000, she was welcomed in the provincial infirmary in Viale Saffi, because she was in need of treatment and in 2011 she was permanently bedridden. She began the most precious testimony of her life, in the most absolute silence which, however, was eloquent, she was a praying, sacrificing presence. The sisters of the community considered her an altar where her sacrifice of her life perfumed and went up directed to the Lord after having worked so well in their hearts.

They often visited her, talked to her, confided some distress to her, caressed her about she somehow responded by leaving a consolation in the heart of each one, an encouragement to holiness. Now that we have handed her to her Father, we feel the duty to thank Him for the richness of gifts that she has bestowed on her and above all for the beautiful witness of an evangelical life, totally consecrated and given.



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