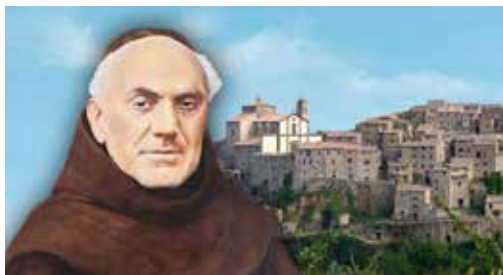




YEAR XCVIII - N° 1/2022

PACE E BENE

SUORE FRANCESCANE MISSIONARIE DEL SACRO CUORE



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Pope Francis and the cry of humanity:

PEACE!

February 24 was the beginning of the Russian invasion on Ukraine. President Wladimir Putin appeared on TV at 6 am in Russia with a recorded message to launch military aggression on Ukraine.

The men and armored vehicles amassed in recent weeks have crossed the border into the Donbass, bringing Moscow's intentions to the field, namely: 'to create and strengthen the borders and take away the richest reserves of the country, Ukraine'.

Putin wants a "buffer state" of 600,000 square kilometers and 44 million people who, however, are not very willing to act as a barrier for the Kremlin.

Not, then, an "Invasion", but an announcement of WAR.

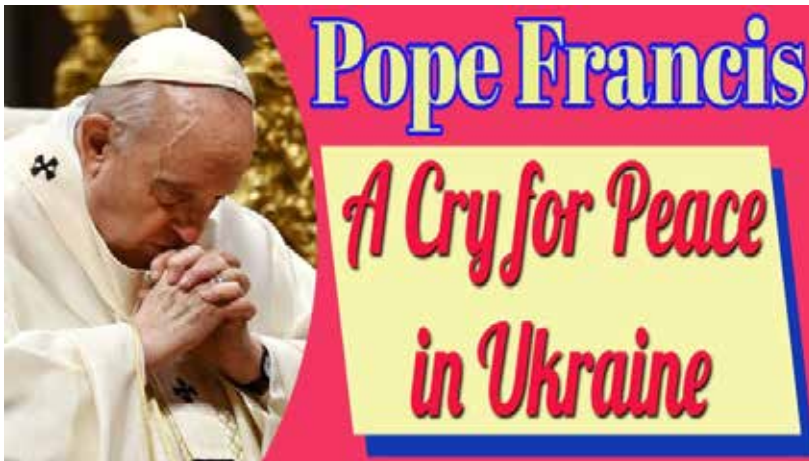
"War": a word that in a short time went around the world and brought a sense of darkness, fear, bewilderment

and disbelief, because everyone thought that war with its drama would no longer appear in the world after the hard experience of the last world war.



The whole world has raised its voice for this 'absurd and unjust invasion', which offends the freedom and democracy of a people.

Up to now, all attempts have been in vain for a dialogue between the parties to seek, through listening, a peace negotiation and a ceasefire of the bombings.



Unfortunately, the war goes on, sowing destruction and massacres like the news every day tell us about frightening things. People running away in fear, people forced to live in bunkers for a long time. People elderly, the sick without care, without anything but tears, children who died under the bombings and many people, deported to Russia.

Then many dead soldiers and civilians buried without dignity

or thrown into mass graves, mothers who no longer have news of their young children and then the shame- of many young women - mothers raped.

A complex and shameful war that encompasses interests of political and economic power and throws the darkest and most dramatic pages of the last seventy years on the world.

In this painful and tearful scenario, however, a light rises and illuminates the darkness, goodness, availability, solidarity, the implementation of works of mercy.

The whole world has been actively involved in hosting refugees and providing for their needs. Many volunteered to welcome the brothers who fled the war, to dry their tears, to alienate the pain so great and profound.

This is still the hope: that men and women are good, they still have love in their hearts to witness in the world the presence of the mercy of God who never abandons.

So did many of our communities who, collaborating with the Municipalities and Parishes, made themselves available for responsible and courageous work, hosting families, mothers with children and responding to many other needs.

At this moment, the cry of pain of the Holy Father Francis rises throughout the world:

“I pray all the parties involved to refrain from any action that causes even more suffering among the populations!”...

“I have a great pain in my heart for the worsening of the situation in Ukraine: increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up as so many people in the world are experiencing anguish and concern. Everyone’s peace is threatened by vested interests. I would like to appeal to those who have political responsibility to make a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, the Father of all, not of someone who wants us to be brothers and not enemies”.

Very strong, the call, again from Pope Francis, addressed to all believers and non-believers on 2 March inviting to prayer and fasting:

“Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war”.

Again, insistently, Pope Francis: *“Don’t get used to war and don’t forget to pray for the battered people of Ukraine!”*

In these incessant appeals from the Pope, the whole Church spread throughout the world joins, which does not let hope extinguish in hearts, but invites us to invoke the Peace of the Lord.

To recognize that we need “Someone” to free us from evil in order to spread among us seeds of ‘Peace and Good ‘ and make us capable of a new gaze to see the light of God’s mercy in our life and in humanity, still feel all brothers loved by the Father.

PROVINCE HOLY FAMILY INDIA
VI PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 6-13 MARCH 2022

The pandemic also forced the postponement of the provincial chapter in India, which should have been celebrated in October 2021. The right time, with permission to travel according to the provisions of the Indian and Italian State, was the month of March; as soon as news of the openings of the States was received, the VI Chapter of the “Holy Family in India” Province was scheduled from 6 to 13 March.

The Superior General Sr Paola Dotto, accompanied by the councilors Sr Tiziana Tonini and Sr Rose Thomas and by Sr Maddalena Moro and Sr Mini Alex, delegates to the chapter, arrived in India three days before the celebration.



On March 5, the Province decided to celebrate the jubilees on this day before the Chapter, bearing in mind that the two sisters celebrating their fiftieth anniversary are Sr. Paola’s novitiate and profession companions.

The Chapter event was awaited in order to have the joy of celebrating together.

Sr Paola Dotto , Sr Monica Pullattukalayil and Sr Elisabetta Pullikattil - 50 years of religious profession
Sr Mini Alex, Sr Santha Kumari, Sr Sherly John - 25 years of religious profession

It was a very beautiful day, prepared well, with solemn Eucharistic celebration in the parish Church, followed by lunch and recreation in the hall, as a whole a wonderful day well organized. The Bishop of Vijayawada Joseph Raja Rao Thelegathoti celebrated, who arrived a little before the time set for the Holy Mass to spend time with the sisters.



In the initial procession of the Eucharistic celebration, the sisters celebrating the jubilees were accompanied by the young people in formation with a beautiful song and dance that immediately put us in a

solemn atmosphere to the celebration. The Bishop addressed words of thanks to the Lord and to the Sisters for their fidelity and all the good that has been accomplished in their journey of consecrated life and mission.



Truly, the whole day was a praise to the Lord expressed in many ways with the Eucharistic celebration, with the fraternal moment of lunch, with songs, dances, etc.

On 6 March 2022 at 3.00 pm, the official opening of the VI Provincial Chapter of the Holy Family India Province began. All the Chapter delegates went to the chapel, together with Sr. Paola Dotto, our Superior General and President of the Chapter, Sr. Tiziana Tonini, Vicar General, and Sr. Rose Thomas, the General Councilor.

A nice introduction was given in the chapel.

The Superior General called the chapter delegates by name from the last to the first on the list and each received a lamp. Then the procession of all the delegates began followed by Sister Rose Thomas carrying incense, Sister Tiziana Tonini with the Bible and Sister Paola Dotto with the Congregational candle amidst the melodious song of the “Vieni Creator”. When the procession reached the chapter hall, all placed their small lamps on a “tree-shaped stand” specially prepared for the occasion and all took their places in the assigned place where each one found a small candle lit. The

Bible and the lamp placed in the designated places indicated the presence of the living Christ in our midst. Sister Paola garlanded the Bible as a sign of reverence and love.

The prayer continued with a symbolic representation of water and purification. Water is a symbol of life, because it nourishes all living beings. It is also a symbol of birth as it reminds us of the fluids that accompany the childbirth. Water is used as a symbol of purification in a variety of contexts. A pitcher of water was placed on a table, which was brought from different parts of India, wherever the Province is on a mission.

The superiors of the communities or a representative of each mission made one prayer according to the situations of this time, for the province, for the Church and for the whole world. Ritual hand washing was in traditional Jewish practice: washing hands by taking a cup of water in one

hand and pouring it on the other hand. The ritual anointing of our hand is a symbol of the renewal of creation and a spiritual purification in preparation for the work of our new chapter. The prayer continued, holding hands and singing the prayer “Our Father”.

All raised the lamps to the same level, symbolically entrusting to the Lord all the acts of the chapter in the following days.





The meaningful celebration of the prayer really made us feel the presence of the Divine Spirit and put us in the atmosphere of the Chapter.

The next was an introductory welcome from the Provincial Superior, where she reported all the important aspects of the Chapter and gave a warm welcome to each delegate on this fraternal moment. In a special way she welcomed our dear Superior General Sister Paola Dotto, Sister Tiziana Tonini and Sister Rose Thomas Palamthattel for their presence and encouragement. Then Sister Paola officially opened the VI Provincial Chapter of the Holy Family Province.

Her remarks were very enriching and encouraging and at the same time expressed her concern about the current world situation of war and suffering. She invited us to live *“this moment by offering our life as women and consecrated women”* heart to heart *“with Jesus and with the oppressed people in every part of the world.”*



She appreciated and offered reflections on the theme of the chapter: FMSC chosen to be evangelically fruitful women.

“In Jesus our fruitfulness comes from the ability to love, suffer and die every day for the man / woman who journey with us in our community, in our mission. For us FMSC, the pierced Heart of Jesus Crucified (chapter 5 DGC 2017) is the Center of our contemplation of Love.

It is a true, strong, awareness to the reality: Jesus has overcome the darkness of

evil, and with his light, even today, if we allow it, He illuminates our eyes, our face, our heart.

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

With these and other reflections, Sr. Paola declared the VI Chapter of the “Holy Family” province opened. The days of the Chapter then continued with the commitments regularly requested.

Each day was accompanied by a specific theme, which was the subject of the father’s homily who celebrated Holy Mass and moments of prayer in the chapter hall. The elections of the new Council took place on 10 March, constituted for the new three-year period by:



Sr Mini Joseph
Varikakuzhiyil
Provincial Superior

Sr Suni Chaco
Mannakulathil
1st councilor and vicar

Sr Gracy Thuruthipallil
2nd councilor

Sr Selinamma
Mookenthottathil
3rd councilor

Sr Nirmala Buradagunta
4th councilor

The chapter work continued with the active participation of all the chapter members. Sr. Paola Dotto helped in the various reflections by encouraging and offering nourishment for thought and verification. The atmosphere of the chapter showed joy, enthusiasm, a desire to grow in the “ways” that the Lord shows us along the way, attentive to the signs of “his calls” and faithful to our identity.

On March 13, the closing Eucharistic celebration was celebrated in the morning by Father K. Karunakar OFM cap., provincial superior of the Capuchin friars minor.

Before the closing of the chapter, the bishop Rev. Thelegathoti Joseph Raja Rao also came to give his message and his blessing to the new Council and to all the sisters.



On the afternoon of March 13 in the chapter room, the superior general Sr. Paola Dotto declared the VI Chapter of the “Holy Family” Province closed, encouraging all the sisters to continue the journey they had undertaken:

“Go into all the world ... evangelize”: this is our Gospel, this is what the Church expects of us, this is what the Lord expects who provides for us and provides for His people through us. Sacrifice for His people! It will be the Lord, with His Providence, who will reward the gift of our life for Him and for the brothers.

The Lord and His Providence will not miss anything, indeed He will give the hundredfold “as long as we do not precede the steps of the Lord” as our Founder, the venerable Fr. Gregory.

Sr Paola concluded: “May the Spirit of the Lord be your guide, your strength in every situation, together with Mary our Mother and the humble and courageous Joseph.

May our Founders, Father Gregory Fioravanti and Laura Leroux, accompany us and intercede for us, for this wonderful reality, together with our sisters who from Heaven watch and protect us”.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION IN CUSCO, PERU

This is what I want and have been looking for ...

A great event, clothed in joy, truth, hope, peace, faith, love, shines in the “Virgin of Carmel” parish, Cusco, Peru, the perpetual consecration to God, of two young people from this generous land. Incomprehensible to human eyes that sometimes lack faith, the perpetual profession of Sister Judith Mercado and Sister Paola Cascamayta, two young sisters who give themselves forever to God to the church in our religious Congregation, of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Let us hear how they themselves lived that unique and special day:

March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, husband of our Mother and Patron of our Holy Church, a simple man who knew how to listen to God’s will, is truly a perfect day to say our definitive “yes” as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. It is a day truly thought by God.



With joy and gratitude to the Lord for the gift of our vocation to religious life and in particular to our Congregation, we confirm today our definitive ‘yes’.

11 years of formation have passed where we have been able to live more closely the love of God and of our brothers in the different places where God has called us.

On our journey, we have been immersed in the spirituality of our Father St. Francis of Assisi who radically lived the call of Christ.

We tried to follow the desire and inspiration of our Founders; strived to observe and live the Holy Gospel.

In all this, we have found the fundamental root of mission, the Word that challenges us and strengthens us, which gives us the courage to trust to persevere, for the love of the Gospel, in difficulties and adversities.



On this day the presence of our parents, relatives and friends at the celebration was very significant.

They witnessed our journey of religious life to which God has been preparing them also. Their unconditional support strengthened our determination. We thank our superiors, Sister Paola Dotto, Superior General, whom we felt unconditionally present, and each of our sisters who accompanied us in the formation process.



The celebration was preceded by Archbishop Richard Daniel Alarcón Urrutia, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cusco and concelebrated by Archbishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera OSA. Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco,

In his homily he reminded us of the great love that God has for us, the answer of our 'yes' finds the example in Saint Joseph as a silent expression of humility and full acceptance of God's will. Moreover, he invited us to live the desire to holiness and the joy of announcing the Kingdom of God. Today more than ever our hearts feel enlightened and sustained by God's grace, to respond with fidelity and perseverance to his invitation to be disciples in a world thirsty for truth, justice and peace. At this moment we proclaim the joy of our "yes", we thank for the many gifts received and we praise the wonders of our God. Peace and Good!

*Sor María Judith Mercado Sarmiento del Espíritu Santo
Sor María Paola Cascamayta Cabrera de Jesús Buen Pastor*



EXTENDED GENERAL COUNCIL 17- 31 May 2022

*In minority and in fraternal communion
we live the charismatic gift in the Church for the world.*

On May 17, all the provincial and vice-provincial superiors and some vicar provincials were present in the generalate to participate in the Extended General Council organized.



It was a congregational event organized as soon as a decrease in the spread of the pandemic and the relaxation of rules and restrictions of various countries.



Don Antonio Saturno, pastor of the parish of “San Filippo Apostle” presided, in the chapel of the generalate, the Holy Mass at 5.00 pm, starting the meeting. Some young sisters enlivened the celebration with songs and musical instruments.

In his homily, Fr Antonio offered us some reflections starting from the Word of the day and inserting them into the commitment required of us in this congregational meeting.

“I give you my peace”, these words of Jesus also make us understand the Franciscan greeting, “Peace and good” and perhaps we should start from here to enter the right atmosphere of this meeting, which is like a synod. The true peace that we must exchange is the one that comes from being united with Jesus Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles should be the ‘Gospel’ of the synodal journey. The first Christian community was always waiting for the Spirit; the architect of everything was the Holy Spirit.

We are filled with the Holy Spirit, first of all by listening. Too much talk is of the Evil One, when our words are in vain, they risk becoming insidious words, which take us far away. This strength was given to them by being united with Jesus. Putting the spiritual dimension above all else is fundamental to living the mission well.

The Acts of the Apostles describe the following points as necessary for the mission:

- *the proclamation of the Gospel; Jesus Christ dead and risen;*
- *the confirmation in the faith of the brothers; this is also the task of the superiors;*
- *the story of the grace of God working.*

Finally, referring again to the first reading, father underlined how the apostles, before designating the elders as head of the communities, prayed and fasted, indicating how the Holy Spirit is listened to. Then he concluded by exhorting the assembly to start from the Word, from the Holy Spirit, allowing the Spirit to speak.





The assembly meeting of the General Council Extended to the Provincial Superiors, presided by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, had its official opening on May 18 in the chapter hall.

The assembly meeting of the General Council Extended to the Provincial Superiors, chaired by the Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto, had its official start on May 18 in the chapter house

Sr. Paola's message was full of stimuli for reflection and sharing, expressing the desire and the need to take care of our family together, sharing the same values with a common style and criteria.

... I am truly happy to be able to see you all here to continue "walking together" by broadening our gaze and opening our hearts with confidence to what, from time to time, presents itself on the horizon of our Family, the Church and the world ...

... we realized that we must continue together, counting on closeness, solidarity, affection that can be manifested in a different way, letting ourselves be embraced by the Father and His Providence.

Now we feel that this is the moment to identify and face different ways, with methods and styles matured together in discernment, giving time and space to the provocations of the Spirit of the Lord and entrusting ourselves to Him with courage... letting ourselves be taken by the hand.

Illuminated by the Word of Jesus: "Abide in my Love", for this EGC, we thought and proposed the theme, "in minority and in fraternal communion, we live the charismatic gift in the Church for the world".

... We wish to be open to the Spirit, to initiate processes of communion and care, as the Pope says, in a Franciscan attitude of minority, a constitutive charismatic element in our life and mission...

The evangelical value that the Spirit of the Lord has entrusted to our family is missionary spirit: the witness and proclamation of the presence of Jesus in our life, in our history, and in the history of every man...

In this special month dedicated to Mary, we entrust our expectations and hopes to her. We follow the traces still visible today of our Founder, Venerable Fr Gregory Fioravanti whom we feel present in our 'boat' with his Cross of Hope."

The days alternated with reflections and sharing on themes offered by the speakers and on concrete situations experienced throughout our religious Family or specific to the provincial and vice-provincial realities.



SPEAKERS who guided in reflection and evaluation

The assembly had the gift of having Mons. Josè Rodriguez Carballo, Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for an entire morning.

Mgr. Carballo described the historical moment in which we live as a difficult time in which Covid has added new difficulties, in addition to other viruses that infiltrate our communities.

The pandemic brought to light difficulties that were present but were hidden, especially in relation to fraternal life.

Mons. Carballo then offered us some CHALLENGES like POSSIBILITIES:



1. **DISCERNMENT**, to separate what is essential in consecrated life from what is not;
2. **STUDY OUR SOURCES** in order to grasp the essential that belongs to us, one must reread and recreate one's own story, remembering what our Founders wanted.
It must not be a nostalgic return, we cannot make an "archaeological" memory, as Pope Francis says, but "deuteronomic", fruitful, "traditions are to keep the fire alive, not to adore the ashes".
3. **SEE THE POSITIVE**. He expresses the fear that there are more disciples of Mary Magdalene than of Jesus. She has a defect: the tears for a dead person who no longer exists, the tears that prevent her from seeing the Living One next to her.

CHALLENGES to face and assume to:

- a. Recover the capacity for **ENCHANTMENT** and **WONDER**. Jesus is a source of enchantment for those who listen to him. Enchantment opens the heart to questions; asking questions is like believers, even Mary, even Jesus on the cross-asked questions. Questions that are answered in the following of Him. Enchantment also causes restlessness. Which is a sign of youth, of the desire to change, from good to better. Wonder makes us move. Enchantment causes **CONVERSION**. When I feel so loved, I have the desire to **RE-LOVE**, want to respond more and more to this Love.
- b. Give the consecrated life all its **ENCHANTMENT** .
The enchantment also refers to the joy that is contagious, which becomes strong attraction.



The enchantment causes HOPE. The Church needs PROPHETS OF HOPE. The enchantment gives rise to sympathy, imagination, creativity.

HOPE arises from fragility, in which the power of God's love that does not disappoint is manifested, arises from faith.

To restore enchantment to our life you need:

1. Passion for Jesus, called to be consecrated, women in love with Jesus, poor and crucified; the passion that provokes the almost dramatic search for Jesus. We should be able to call ourselves seekers of the One who loved us first, in order to be able to meet Him..
2. Create fraternity and awaken hope. What does it mean to build fraternal communities? It involves an exodus: from a life in common to a communion of life, marked by interpersonal relationships, by welcoming the other, by dialogue, discernment, responsible freedom. "Focus on fraternal life!" and this means evangelizing.
3. Moving from structures that infantilize to relationships that form adult and free people. Responsibility cannot be demanded without giving freedom and vice versa.
4. Live in the periphery and listen to the cry of the poor. All our works were born with this precise orientation. We will evangelize the poor and the poor will evangelize us.
5. Be a prophet, do not play at being one. A prophet listens to the Word of God, be careful to feel like protagonists of the announcement. Jesus announces the Word of the Father.
The prophet listens to the Word
The Prophet announces the Good News (testimony)
The prophet denounces what is contrary to the Kingdom of God.
The Prophet is the man of communion with God.
6. Take care of the person and innovate structures. Putting structures at the service of the person and not vice versa. Be Mothers!

*Minority:
Franciscan value and lifestyle for fraternal communion
and missionary witness*

In addition to Mons Carballo, the sisters of the Extended Council were guided and enlightened by the competence and wisdom of Father Cesare Vaiani, ofm who presented the message on the theme: “*Minority: Franciscan value and lifestyle for fraternal communion and missionary witness*”. Father Cesare chooses to start from the literal meaning of the term “minority”, which derives from the Latin



“minor”, has the root of “minus”, is the comparative of “parvus”, that is small, therefore minor means smaller. It is an inherently relational term.

It is a changing value, relative to those around. Minority is always measured in relation to the context in which it is placed.

In the language of St. Francis, the adjective “minor” always refers to concrete realities, not abstract ideas. The choice of the name “Friars Minor” (cf. FF 386) expresses a strong connection to the virtue of humility, the foundation of all virtues. In the Letter to the faithful, the term “minors” is attributed to the laity (cf. FF 197) and there is a clear evangelical echo.

Those in society who are charged with governing are asked to treat others with mercy. Francis then

attributes this term to himself, declined in the sense of service, in the direction of lowering (see FF 206). In Admonition 12 (cf. FF 161), having the spirit of the Lord is understood in the sense of not being proud, that is, not appropriating the good we do, because it belongs to God.

Minority is linked to humility. Minority is also closely linked with poverty. We are users of all goods, not owners.

Admonition 14 (cf. FF 163) comments on beatitude “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt 5: 3) and clarifies that true poverty does not consist in material deprivation, but in accepting some rude word or that someone else decides to take away something that belongs to us.

Poverty in relationships was the inner exercise that Francis was called to experience especially in the final phase of his life. Relationships with others are the place of true poverty. What is the profound reason for choosing minority? Jesus is the reason, because He is the first who became minor. According to St. Francis Minority is the substance of the essence of Christ. Francis’ “Christology” is based on the lowering of the incarnation, a God who makes himself minor for us. The Lord together with Mary chose poverty.

Father Cesare referred to art. 57 of our Constitutions, noting the desire to concretely implement poverty as Francis did.

The Congregation strives to be present wherever the urgent needs of the Church call it. As its identity is Franciscan and missionary, it carries out its activities in the style of:

- *pilgrim and availability;*
- *minority and preference for the poor;*
- *attentiveness to the signs of the times ;*
- *obedience to the Church.*

It emphasizes the presence of attention to the signs of the times. "Itinerancy" is also a Franciscan word, in chapters from 14 to 17 of the Rule, it is on how the friars must go, not so much on what they must do, if not give the greeting of peace.

Father Cesare considers our itinerancy a grace, an opportunity to leave again, to convert. Life asks us for changes and invites us to a renewal.

Father Cesare stated that art. 73 of the Constitutions expresses full harmony with the Franciscan charism, which lives service with attention to the poorest.

He then explained the minority in relation to work.



In the writings of Francis, work is considered as a grace, to be lived in an attitude of restitution to God of the graces received from him; "They work with fidelity and devotion", because everything is accomplished in relation to God.

Father Cesare once again referred to the Constitutions art. 15 and to the Directory art. 11 to demonstrate how the conception of work is in full harmony with Francis.

There is also an ecclesial minority; Francis chooses to keep a place as minors also in the Church, with a rigorous submission to the diocesan clergy without accepting ecclesiastical appointments.

The temptation is to appropriate the service of authority.

For Francis, minority is also a choice that breaks down social barriers; the first fraternity is interclass (noble and poor) and is situated with the poor, at the service of the excluded, such as lepers.

Perhaps it is this minority that still arouses admiration and sympathy towards Francis today.

There are many points and values on which to reflect and share.

Vocational dimension of life - discernment

Another time of grace was given by the presence of Father Alessandro Angelisanti, ofm of the Loreto fraternity, engaged in the pastoral vocational ministry with particular attention to the pastoral care of the family.

The speaker describes the steps that have taken place in the way of proposing youth-vocation ministry, stating that to open up to changes one must leave something one is used to.

Then he began the reflection by asking questions-provocations in order to be able to identify

- The WHAT of the vocation.
- The WHO of the vocation.
- TOWARDS WHO?

From all the answers and reflections, Father Alessandro offers these clear indications: Every pastoral work is always vocational, it is the experience of acting as a bridge between the Lord and the person we meet to make him feel loved, called.

It is always the time for a vocation ministry; the whole life is marked by the vocational dimension. The goal is intimate union with the Lord Jesus.



Father Alessandro presented the passage from the Gospel of John (1: 36-37), which narrates the meeting of Jesus with two disciples as he passed along the road.

In the same way we too are called to go where the young people are, and in a later time they can be invited to come and see our communities. What spaces do the young people occupy today?

He quoted a phrase from Cardinal Ratzinger “The Christianity of the future is condemned to suffocation if we do not know how

to make the interior experience live”, to emphasize that our relationship with God must be tasted interiorly in order to lead others to an encounter with him. We are called to live the spiritual life, to always have a “You” in our hearts.

Every man in the depths of his heart is a very good thing, nothing about him must be discarded and forgotten, because he was created by God and He found him good. The risk that we consecrated people run is to have a partial look at the emotional world and the body. Everything is very good, our gaze must be directed by this faith.

“The holy grace of baptism gives us two goods: the image of God immediately and the likeness that awaits to be worked by us”. Not even grave sin can affect this image. The mandate that the Father has entrusted to us is to fulfill this likeness. To become “similar” to the image that God has placed within us and becoming it according to the “service” required.

Father Alessandro then presented the path of the beloved disciple with three stages:

1. The grace of the beginnings
The thought is fixed on Jesus. The Lord makes us feel all His love for us.
2. The grace of weakness.
The grace of weakness is the grace of reality, of recognizing that one's own strength is not enough, we must collaborate with God.
3. The grace of transforming union.
We are called to live in relationship with Him in everything, to go towards others, in our reality, with lights and shadows, with the strength of being in relationship with the One who gives us light. The beloved disciple is always in the right place, he holds onto the image of a beloved child of God, defends it with his feelings, thoughts and actions and this is the grace of transforming union.

Father Alessandro then continued his presentation by offering us the explanations regarding to:

- a. The line of the body that proceeds automatically according to the age and the evolutionary stages of growth.
- b. The line of the emotional world that becomes a light on our experience shows us where we are and only progresses if we make choices.
- c. The line of identity that calls us to live the reality of being "children" in order to feel and live as "beloved children of God". The final goal is to experience a transforming union with the Lord. With our presence, with our history, we can help others to reach this union.

Following the Lord Jesus means not wanting to become better, but to live in communion with the sisters and with each person, with everyone, with the desire to carry everyone in the heart; in the center is the Lord, around all the other faces.



Other themes and aspects presented by some of the sisters

MISSIONARITY

The general councilor, Sr. Tiziana Tonini, presented a topic on the theme: the missionary charismatic identity of the fmsc sisters.

The reflection refers to the report by Prof. Ulderico Parente, presented to the historical commission in 2019. Sister Tiziana specified the articles of the Constitutions (art. 55 and 63) in which our missionary identity clearly emerges. Then she offered the assembly the charismatic elements that emerged from the study of the Sources that refer to the years from 1858 to 1870 where the charism can be grasped right in its foundational purity.

From the presentation, it became clear that we are a genetically international religious family from the very beginning. International in the places of foundation, in the Founders, in the first sisters. Gemona at the time of its foundation was not yet part of Italy. Our first sisters came from different nations and cultures. International also are the Founders: Father Gregory was sent from the Papal State to the Austro-Habsburg Empire (Venice only became Italian in 1866).

The Duchess was French, lived in Italy and had moved to various places due to medical problems.

International in places and in people,

in a time when the national spirit is very strong: this represents an aspect of great originality. We are the fruit of an encounter, of different cultures and orientations and this is already a missionary dimension. The incite that emerges is to overcome ourselves in order to open ourselves to the other, as Father Gregory did, opening ourselves to the will of God expressed in Laura Leroux.

Just as Laura also identified in Father Gregory a man capable of listening and of knowing how to embody the gift she had received. It is also the encounter of a spiritual dynamism. The charism that meets the institutional dimension.



Sr. Tiziana also presented a power point in reference to our missionary spirit, following a journey of how this element is fundamental and constitutive of our identity.

The journey included Father Gregory as apostolic missionary, the choice of the Constitutions and the need to write an article of the missions that did not exist for other congregations, and also some Franciscan testimonies of that time clearly highlighted our missionary identity ad gentes.

SYNODALITY

One day was dedicated to the theme of SYNODALITY, a challenge and a style on which the whole Church is walking. Sr. Augusta Visentin, the general councilor introduced the theme with a reflection: the Spirit is the protagonist of the synodal journey. The starting point is listening to the Word of God, which then becomes listening to the other, in minority, with a welcoming style, with attention to what the Spirit says through others. From listening, comes dialogue, which is sharing of what the Spirit has communicated to everyone. From this journey of listening and dialogue comes personal, community and whole Church conversion through the participation of all in the commitment to proclaim the Gospel.

Sr Augusta took up the letter that the Superior General sent to the Provincial Superiors in order to start a reflection on the synodal journey and also the last letter from the secretary of the Synod and the prefect for the CIVCSVA, to which an internal reflection is requested to each Institute following a proposed scheme, consisting of six questions. A sharing in the assembly arose from these questions, responding according to the reflections sent by the sisters; the experiences lived with a vision of a religious family in communion with the local and universal Church and with humanity on its way in this time.



PROTOCOL ON ABUSE

A morning is dedicated to the reading and reflection of the PROTOCOL ON ABUSE requested to all the Congregations by the Church and prepared by Sr. Diomira Cavasin, who was appointed delegate for the protection of minors and vulnerable people by the General Council.

Before reading the Protocol together, Sr. Diomira explained how the request of the Church demands a protocol on abuses arises from the rectitude and tenacity of Pope Francis who in every way tried and tries to contrast and heal situations of sin on the part of members of the Church and guarding the most vulnerable.

Sr Diomira also cited some decrees issued by the predecessors of Pope Francis and underlined the strong action of the Holy Father who reformed Canon Law by defining “crimes” as sins against the sixth commandment against minors and vulnerable people, providing for a penalty and a trial.

In his Motu proprio “Vos estis lux mundi”, the Pontiff indicates that we must protect children, accompany the abusers and the abused, pay close attention to sex tourism, take care of initial and ongoing formation.

The Pope obliges, in addition to drawing up a protocol, to denounce these sins. This report does not violate official secrecy, indeed it is a serious fault if it is not made.

The dignity of the person from conception to death must always be placed at the center and everyone is called to respect this and to be vigilant for the value of justice.

While reading the Protocol was read point by point, Sr Diomira gave indications and explanations on the various points, open to any question she was asked.



ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Another very important aspect was that of administration; the General Councilor Sr Gregoria Suarez presented this topic, starting from the ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION.

The document in question was drawn up by Sr. Paola Dotto, then General Treasurer, with the contribution of some professionals. It was presented during a meeting in 2009 and then in the General Chapter of 2011 it was decided to assume it “ad experimentum”. A meeting was scheduled to verify and evaluate the Regulations, but it was not possible to do so and to date it has not yet been approved.

Sr Gregoria stressed that the economic aspect is linked to all the other areas of our religious life and refers to universal law and proper law.

The reading of some points of the Regulation then began, pausing to clarify doubts or better investigate some aspects. The various points offer the opportunity to share specific administrative aspects according to the laws of the different states and to investigate and verify common aspects.



the sisters of the extended General Council
follow the prayer of Pope Francis' Angelus
Sunday 22 May

The sisters of the extended Council lived intense days of work but also of sharing that helped everyone and above all that created a sense of unity, of belongingness, a desire to walk together. During the two weeks, days and fraternal moments of relaxation were reserved.

PILGRIMAGES

On May 21 *a pilgrimage* was organized *to Assisi*, a place that is always so dear and special to all. All the sisters of the Extended General Council left Rome early in the morning; the first stage was a stop in the community of Santa Maria degli Angeli to greet the sisters and then proceed to the Basilica where each one had time for personal prayer before participating together the Eucharistic celebration at 11 am.

At 12.30, we all returned to the community where all the sisters from the community of Santa Maria degli Angeli and those of Viole were waiting for us.

It was a great joy to be able to greet each other warmly without the restrictions of the pandemic.

Sharing lunch was a very beautiful, simple, spontaneous fraternal moment that gave everyone the joy of fraternity, of encounter, of the richness of internationality, of belonging to a single religious family.

The afternoon was dedicated to visiting and praying in other Franciscan places: the basilica of Santa Chiara, the church of the Spoliation where we stopped in front of the tomb of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis and in San Damiano.



We could say that it was a day alternating with intense moments of prayer and contemplation with joyful times of fraternity.

For all these wonderful experiences, all praise and all honor to the Lord!



In front of the tomb of the young blessed Carlo Acutis in the Basilica of the disrobing, where St. Francis renounced all the good of him and began to follow the Lord in a new form of radical life.

Almost at the end of the meeting, **a pilgrimage to Grotte di Castro** was organized. All the sisters of the Extended General Council welcomed this opportunity with great joy. The trip was done all together in a van that helped us to travel peacefully and also to share the journey from Rome to Grotte di Castro together. Arriving at the house of our community, the sisters welcomed us with affection, joy and with a sense of family.

The pilgrimage was also made to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Founder.



It also wanted to be an expression of gratitude to the Lord for having given us Father Gregory as Father and Founder. An expression of our gratitude to his birthplace, where he received those human and Christian values which helped him to answer YES to the Lord both for his Franciscan vocation and for the great commitment to guide and support the foundation of our religious Family.

At 11.30 we participated in the Eucharistic celebration in the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Suffragio a few meters from the birthplace of Father Gregory. The sanctuary was for him, the place where he received the gift of faith but also where he was nourished and guided by the Virgin Mary especially after the death of his earthly mother.



The Sanctuary was still solemnly decorated with what had been placed for the celebration of April 24, so all the sisters were able to contemplate and taste the delicacy and beauty of what the dear sisters of the community of Grotte had prepared.

Before reaching the sanctuary for the celebration, we went to the birthplace, the home of Father Gregory.



After the celebration, we shared lunch in the community with the presence of the parish priest Don Manfredi Muccioli.

At the end, to the parish priest was given the gift of the chalice, the pyx and the paten in memory and as a sign of gratitude for the bicentenary of the birth of our Founder, the Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti.



In the afternoon, before continuing the journey to Rome, we visited the basilica dedicated to Santa Cristina in Bolsena, home to one of the Eucharistic miracles and where there is the icon of Father Gregory's niece, Santa Maria della Pace, a Franciscan missionary sister of Mary, martyred in China.

RECREATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Another very significant moment was the recreation lived with the community and the sisters of the international juniorate.

The young sisters with songs and dances typical of the various nations gave a festive evening with the colors of internationality, of the beauty of our Religious Family. Besides the various dances, they also organized nice games based on the values of our constitutions, missionary spirit, sending, etc. The sisters of the extended General Council were involved in the games and quizzes, who followed the instructions given with simplicity and joy.

This beautiful, joyful fraternal moment he gave has all the beauty of "being together" united by the same charism that makes us sisters everywhere.





On the final day of the extended General Council, the Superior General Sr. Paola expressed her profound gratitude to all for what has been experienced in these days and addressed words of encouragement and hope to the Sisters.

Dearest sisters, I first of all want to say my thanks, our thanks as the General Council, for your participation in this Council extended to you, Provincial Superiors and Vicars, to you who are the 'heart' of our family realities.

... a precious family time, a fruitful time for fraternal and convinced sharing on the various themes and expressions that concern the life of our realities of consecration and mission, of fraternal life and apostolic service, of challenges and hopes to continue to face 'together'.

Let us continue to live in depth the charismatic spirituality of Jesus crucified: he will be our strength and our comfort in difficulties, convinced that we are minors! We embrace the cross. In this we are called ... to participate, in difficulties we remember with courage that Jesus offered himself to the Father to save every person... Let us continue our journey of fmsc in minority, in fraternal life with joy and courage to bear witness to our being mission !.

May our Founders Father Gregory and Laura Leroux help us to live in fidelity the charismatic commitment entrusted to them by the Heavenly Father.



The gift of internationality in the Feast for Sr. Paola

On the day when the Church celebrates the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, we Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrated the anniversary of the birth and the name day of our superior general Sr. Paola Dotto.

All the sisters of our Congregation felt spiritually united (but few physically due to the particular moment created by a new spread of the virus) in praising, thanking the Lord and expressing the joy for the precious gift of Sr. Paola to our religious Family.

“How many gifts God has given me, how many graces! I owe him all my love”. With this sentence of our Founder Fr. Gregory, Sr. Tiziana Tonini, in the Morning Prayer, tried to interpret the deepest feelings of Sr. Paola expressed by all of us.

Our voices joined hers invoking the strength and tenderness of the Holy Spirit on her, on each one of us, on each sister of the Congregation and on the feast day so that everything could be an accepted offering to Your Heart, source and origin of every Good, all Good.

Thus began the celebration of the Feast, and then continued with the solemn celebration of the Eucharist, the fraternal sharing of lunch and the entertainment prepared by the young sisters; all these created a serene, joyful and fraternal encounter.



Certainly, being together, motivated by gratitude for the gift of the presence and service of Sr. Paola made us feel even more being a family that walks together, and at the same time, enjoys being and sharing moments of joy and celebration together.

A Family desired by the Lord and spread throughout the world to live their missionary spirit with a spirit that invites us to renew our missionary enthusiasm for the Gospel every day.

The floral decoration, the music, the songs in tune with the theme “In the love of the Heart of Christ,” have fostered in us a more attentive and sensitive soul to live with greater awareness the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Father Alessandro Angelisanti O.F.M.



During his homily, Father Alessandro led the assembly to make two separate reflections.

The first in reference to St. Peter and St. Paul, in their relationship with Jesus. Father Alessandro explained that the two Saints had an experience with Jesus of a “particular” shepherd who never comes to take the life of his sheep, as it happens normally, but a shepherd who becomes sheep, who becomes lamb; he does not take life away but gives it.

He takes the place of the sheep to give his life and does this again for each of us. St. Peter and St. Paul learned with Jesus and from Jesus to give their lives.

Father Alessandro’s second reflection helped all of us to reflect on the value of the “face of a mother”.

The Face of a mother, which clearly always refers to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and of all of us, must, give confidence; giving truth, always giving his presence, pointing out Jesus.

The face of a mother gives confidence, gives strength in facing difficulties, supports, and leads to grow.

The face of a mother gives truth, helps to live the truth. A mother reveals to her children that they cannot do everything, have everything. The mother teaches her children that they are “children of God”.

The face of a mother gives a sure presence like Jesus who gave His Presence, His Love always to his disciples, even when they made a mistake, they abandoned Him. A mother lets the other experience that she is always there.

The face of a mother indicates Jesus, as did the Virgin Mary who continues to tell us to do His Will. After the solemn celebration, the young sisters accompanied Sr. Paola to the refectory to the rhythm of drums, dancing and continuing to sing the joy of the feast.

Father Alessandro in his Franciscan simplicity also took part accompanying Sr. Paola; thus adding an extra festive note on our face.



For the fraternal recreational moment offered in the theater, two words were highlighted, two values, among many others, which are very dear to Sr. Paola for our charismatic identity: INTERNATIONALITY and PROVIDENCE.



The first part was introduced by a moment of prayer led by our sisters from India. Through the dance, they expressed the joy of praising Jesus who brought the love of God on earth and with the song; they proclaimed the victory of light over darkness, love over hatred, life over death, self-giving over 'selfishness.

This was followed by a power point entitled, "In the love of the Heart of Christ, the source of our identity". Some phrases from our special protector Saint Anthony, our Founders and our first superior generals have guided us to contemplate our charismatic identity which finds its source in the Heart of Christ Crucified ".

The second part was dedicated to internationality. Through songs and dances from different cultures, we were able to savor the beauty of our international and missionary Congregation.

In this part, it was moving to feel united also with the sisters spread in the missions around the world who, with joy and love, sent their wishes to Sr. Paola, through videos to express celebration, praise, thanks for the gift of life and the generous service of our dearest superior general sr. Paola.

Love doesn't have frontiers..

The last part was a hymn to Providence.

Through the song "MERAVIGLIOSA PROVVIDENZA" and a video, we walked the "providential and wonderful ways" that the Lord made our Religious Family walk, from the Founders, the first sisters and those who preceded us up to us.

Our meeting ended in the recreation room, where each sister shared the joy of the day spent together and enjoying an ice cream.



IN HIS BIRTH PLACE: GROTTE DI CASTRO

1822 - 2022
24 Aprile

2° Centenario della
Nascita del Venerabile
**GREGORIO
FIORAVANTI**
O.F.M



**"Il Calvario è una grande scuola,
Fa d'uopo andarvi spesso
per imparare ad amare e patire,
patire ed amare,
Gesù e Maria ne sono i Maestri".**
(Ven. Padre Gregorio)

For our entire Religious Family, last April 24 was a very special date, that made us feel all united, as beloved, desired “daughters” called by God the Father but entrusted to our beloved Father Founder, the venerable Father Gregory of Grotte di Castro.

This date echoed in our communities throughout the world, in the places of our mission, among the people who are part of our apostolates and who live in relationship with us.

April 24, Father Gregory’s BIRTHDAY, the birth of our Founder who it happened 200 years ago.

However, for us today it is a reason to express a profound gratitude, heart-rending praise, fervent prayer and trusting intercession towards him, who has been chosen by the Divine Providence to accept and accompany the divine plan of the foundation of our religious family.

How to celebrate it? A question that has often aroused among the sisters of the General Council. The place was immediately identified, Grotte di Castro, where Father Gregory was born and received those seeds of the Christian faith that helped him to seek and live in the Will of the Lord and to guide and accompany many of our first sisters.

The collaboration with the parish priest of Grotte di Castro, who so wanted to celebrate the event in the birthplace of Father Gregory, outlined a very clear program for both the preparation and the day of the festival.

The parish community of Grotte di Castro, since the beginning of 2022, has been preparing to celebrate solemnly the second centenary of the birth of the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti.

The parish priest Don Manfredi Muccioli, in the parish information leaflet, regularly published a passage from the life of Father Gregory taken from the booklet prepared years ago by Sr. Antonietta Pozzebon.

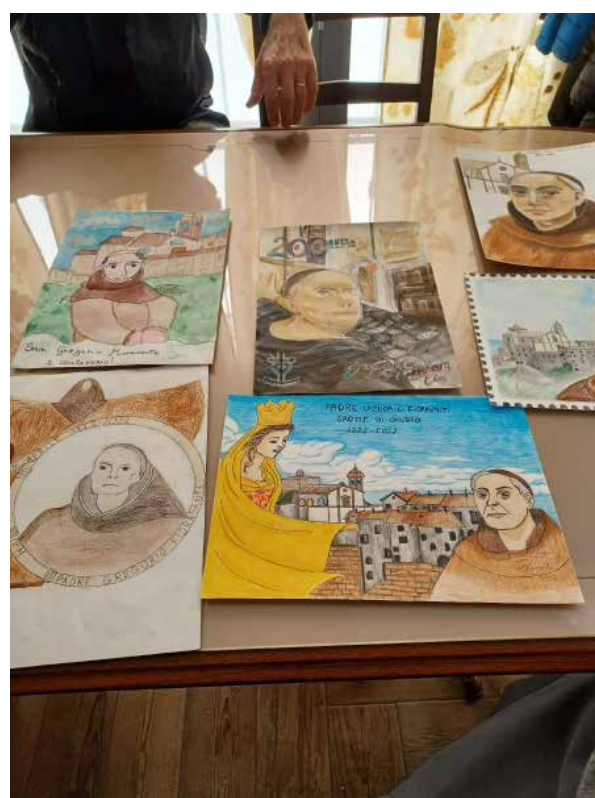
In this way, the parishioners were able to learn about the life of their parishner by reading these passages, almost a series of episodes that made them savor the life and virtues of Father Gregory.

Another very beautiful initiative was the drawing competition, a stamp for Father Gregory, which involved primary and middle school children.

They had to draw Father Gregory according to their sensitivity and their artistic tastes on a sheet that was to represent a postage stamp; they were clearly prepared by the teachers who introduced them to the life of Father Gregory and, through photos, to see people and places that referred to his life journey.



*Members
of the chosen jury
to evaluate
the drawings made
by children
and by the boys*





The three days before April 24 were carefully prepared by organizing a triduum of prayer services with, children, youth and families, distributed over the three afternoons.

On April 20, the moment of prayer was reserved for elementary school children with the theme, “Father Gregory, friend of Jesus”.

The presence of the group was numerous and very participatory and lively.

The simplicity of children is always an evangelical attitude that makes them ready to welcome the message of Jesus and the saints.

They presented Jesus with a candle, as a sign of the gift of life, games materials that indicated joyful moments, books that is their commitment to study, the Bible as a desire that the Word of Jesus always accompany them. At the end, they offered some flowers to Father Gregory asking him to help them to be true friends of Jesus.



On April 21, the young people were gathered, to whom the reflection on the dream of God for each of us was presented and how Father Gregory accepted this “dream” by responding to his specific vocation and to the call to be father and founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.



Each of the young people was asked to write their dream on a piece of paper (which would subsequently be burned) and to present it to Father Gregory invoking his intercession to learn to know in their dream, how much God wants from each of them.

They lived this moment of prayers with intensity, with concentration and everyone wanted to offer their dream to Father Gregory.





On April 22, families gathered in the Basilica of the Madonna del suffragio.

For them, the reflection was, on the life of Father Gregory, his commitment to accompany and guide our first sisters to go on mission. They too, as parents and grandparents, have the delicate and important commitment to accompany and guide their children and grandchildren on the journey of life.

The people present participated with attention and love towards Father Gregory, wishing that all the people of the place could know and love him more and more.

The three moments of prayer were led by the parish priest Don Tancredi, by Fra Alessandro, a Capuchin friar born in Grotte and by the sisters of our community present in Grotte di Castro.

All the days some young sisters from the community Asisium and the international juniorate, animated the prayer with songs while the Vicar general, Sr. Tiziana Tonini offered the various groups a reflection on Father Gregory.

On Saturday 23rd, at the Basilica, a beautiful concert was held with the extraordinary participation of friar Alessandro Brustenghi, ofm.

The “In... canto” choir, directed by Maestro Gianfranco Brinchi, Maestro Francesco Poponi and the young and very valid organist Leonardo Poponi also took part in the concert.



On April 24, the eighth day of Easter, and Sunday of Divine Mercy, everything was ready for the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Friar Massimo Fusarelli the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor.

The parish priest Don Tancredi Muccioli and other religious and diocesan priests concelebrated with him. The Superior General Sr. Paola Dotto and the General Council were present. Many sisters came from Rome, Assisi and the Mother House of Gemona del Friuli. Through the streaming connection, the sisters from all the realities in the world were connected together with the lay associates and many people who know our religious family and

who learned about this special event. Those who were in streaming also had the opportunity to follow a video on the life of Father Gregory and on the history of our Congregation. The video was broadcasted before the Eucharistic celebration.

The opening procession of the Holy Eucharist preceded by a group of 23 young people each with a flag of the countries where the Congregation is present, in addition to the flag of the Vatican State. The flags were fixed around a well-prepared image of Father Gregory on the side of the altar.





At the beginning of the celebration, Sister Paola Dotto the superior general of the congregation greeted the Minister General, the concelebrants and the many faithful present and those in via streaming.

She expressed the words with emotion the joy and gratitude to the Lord for the great gift of Father Gregory in the Church, in the Franciscan family and as our beloved father and Founder.





The Minister General, Father Massimo, in his homily highlighted the figure of Father Gregory Fioravanti, evidencing how his supreme ideal was always only the glory of God, self-mortification, and in the service of all those entrusted to him:

... Father Gregory did not have a direct, peaceful life; the meeting with Laura Leroux de Bauffremont, who has her intuition of giving life to a religious family, of Franciscans and missionaries.

It was a particular time in history also of the Church, and in religious life, and there was the adventure of a novelty, of an openness...

Father Gregory did not personally want this community, this foundation, but he obeyed, he listened, he trusted his superiors and the circumstances that life prepared for him and he did not spare himself. He encountered difficulties; also, to feed these young women, who entered the convent because at a certain point he found himself without anything, he did not even have the material means to keep this community going.

He continued to trust, he continued to believe in that hand that rested on his shoulder; the hand of Jesus who told him: "Gregory don't worry, go ahead".

A phrase was typical of Father Gregory: "As pleases God" and so Father Gregory trusted. He learned to recognize the Lord's providence and to trust Him.

He gave back to God all the gifts that God had given him. He kept nothing to himself, not even his individual prestige. He has learned to step back.





Remember today, the two hundred years of the birth of the Venerable Fr. Gregory Fioravanti from Grotte di Castro, means then, to give back in praise to the Lord what he was and what he was generated through him; in particular this Institute, this community of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and all the good that we do not know but that came from him.

Remember to continue the journey today.

We do not live easier times than those of Father Gregory, on the contrary we live as we often say a change of era: We do not know what our life will be like tomorrow; the uncertainty we have experienced in the last two years fully confirms this. We do not have the reins of history in our hands. We must learn to recognize a meaning, a reason, a Presence in this history and entrust ourselves. So here is Father Gregory, especially in the last years of his life, what did he do? He went back...

He did not put himself at the center, he the Founder, but recognized the Presence of the Lord at the center, the work of the Lord, and it is "this work", that he has favored and made to grow.

We celebrate the two hundred years of the birth of Venerable Fr. Gregory... and we wish us to be able from his life, from the gift of the Spirit that is still alive in him, not only to learn, but also to put ourselves on the road. Moreover, I would say to his daughters: "Do not be afraid! Your father did not choose a reassuring life even in the walls of a convent. He remained there, but he understood that the destiny of his daughters was to go, to go out and the mission was the great breath. Do not be afraid!"...



The parish priest Don Tancredi read the decree of the apostolic penitentiary with which the plenary indulgence was granted from April 24 to May 8, 2022.

At the end of the Holy Mass, the award ceremony of the Drawing Competition was carried out. The Minister General awarded the winning children and youth the certificate with a scholarship. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta offered the awards.





The last act of the busy day was the blessing of the new plaque placed in the house where Father Gregory was born. It replaced the stone kept in 1988.

The title of Venerable and the remembrance of the second centenary have been added to it.



The feast continued in the parish hall, where we have our community.

The sisters had beautifully decorated the walls of the hall with many phrases of Father Gregory; reading them one felt his presence, his love, his desire for good and fidelity for all of us, his daughters.

Words that were not only visible to the eyes, but with tenderness and strength, penetrated the heart making us taste once again the charismatic values that our Founder Father Gregory welcomed with faith and discernment by our Foundress Laura Leroux.

The beauty of our charism, which our Founders continue to entrust to us, nourish in all, the deep desire and constant commitment so that in every part of the world the tenderness and love of the Heart of Jesus Crucified may continue to be manifested to all.



A memorable day

24 APRIL. It was an unforgettable Sunday in the province of “Santa Maria degli Angeli” spiritually prepared with a beautiful triduum of prayer to our beloved Venerable Founder Fr Gregory. In the motherhouse, the Holy Mass at 9.00 was solemnly celebrated, as well as in all the communities and parishes.

At 4.30 pm it was also possible to follow in live streaming the solemn celebration broadcast by Grotte di Castro where the Bicentenary of the birth was particularly highlighted.

In addition to the General Council, there also were present, our Provincial Superior Sr. Stefania Bandiera, her Vicar Sr. Francesca Fiorin, the councilor Sr. Miranda Sforza and the Superior of the community of the Sanctuary of S. Antonio di Gemona, Fra Giovan Battista Ronconi ofm.

Greetings and congratulations have come from the various parishes, especially from that of Gemona, and from the Franciscan friars for this feast celebrated by all with deep gratitude to God.

Divine Providence is present in the personal history of Fr. Gregory Fioravanti since his birth on 24 April 1822 in Grotte di Castro (VI).

His future was already written in this expression pronounced by the Venerable Fr Gregory:

“The features of Providence are marvelous

which no one has the right to ask

why this in this way and not otherwise”. (F. 1, page 9)

In fact, in God’s plans, he was already destined to be in our ‘fmsc religious family’ Founder, Father, Guide, Teacher, Model of fidelity on the Paths of the Lord, tireless seeker of the Father’s Will and True Good.

For this gift of his person together we have raised our praise and our thanks to the risen Lord, in the paschal joy that ‘Sunday in the dawn’ offered us.



**A prayer that flows from the heart...
of a daughter of Father Gregory**

I also wish to add my feelings of gratitude to the 'Thank you' of so many sisters for the beautiful feast of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Father Gregory.

A heartfelt thanks to the Superior General and her Council for the joy she made us live by remembering our wonderful and singular story of the birth of our FMSC Congregation.

Everything was great! The video, essential and moving, made us retrace the paths of Providence and gave birth to feelings of gratitude towards the Founders and towards the Lord who called us to be part of this family so rich in Franciscan history and virtues.

Being able to follow the whole celebration together in "streaming" was a moment of great sharing and unity, a great gift of the Holy Spirit who made us feel on the way, united in love, to revive together our gift to the Lord with courage.

The very touching celebration, I think it was an invitation for everyone to start again with more enthusiasm the path towards Holiness, as our Founders wished in any situation.

To Father Gregory a fervent prayer that comes from my heart:

*"Retouch your work,
Father Gregory!
We need a 'retouch':
the fear, the difficulties,
the dusty ways of life, the time ...
perhaps clouded the original design.
Father Gregory, together
with the Foundress Laura Leroux,
"REFOUND",
because our charism,
a precious pearl,
may it always shine in the Church
and in the world,
and the strong testimony
of your daughters be rich in graces,
of joy, of fraternity
and of new vocations".*

Sister Novella Gaier



Divine Providence interweaves the history of the Congregation, from its origins until today, with the events of ordinary life; our Founders listened attentively to it “ admiring the many and innumerable ways it has to reach its ends”.

From the community of Palmanova

To make the ordinary events we have experienced, flow in our memory and to leave traces, we want to write a few lines of our participation in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Fr. Gregory Fioravanti.

The bicentenary of Father Gregory was an opportunity for our fraternity of Palmanova to be able to listen with the heart and to be able to experience this event not locked up in that inner world that we carry inside, but going out of the cloister to meet people and be able to so tell our roots, our history. We prepared for this event with community prayer, with the renewal of vows (21 April 2022) presided over by the parish priest Don Angelo del Zotto in the parish of Palmanova, but also by informing about this event through the pastoral collaboration sheet.



In fact, weekly, for a period, he published our history, that of the foundation, of our charism and of our current service in all 10 parishes in which we serve. (Bagnaria, Jalmicco, Clauiano, Merlana, Melarolo, Sevegliano, Sottoselva, Palmanova, Privano, Trivignano,)

The newspaper “Vita della Comunità Palmarina” and the bulletin “Walking together” also spoke of the “bicentenary of Father Gregory”.

We also used all our Whatsapp contacts to send the celebration link and invite friends, acquaintances and relatives to praise God with us. Some lay people, as well as the fraternity, followed the celebration via streaming, in direct connection with the Sanctuary of Maria SS. of the Suffrage in Grotte di Castro (VT) ”and later they communicated their positive responses and appreciation to us.

Someone wrote, I feel Fr Gregory, very close and invoke him in difficulties. Thank you for the opportunity offered to reflect on his life and to pray to him.

In other words, our community too was able to celebrate and recognize that truly “everything is Grace” and we praise God for the provident style with which He acts, in silence and simplicity. He does wonderful things.



**Palmanova Cathedral
where we have renewed the Vows**

On the occasion of the bicentenary
the newspaper “Vita della Comunità Palmarina
and
the bulletin “Walking together”
they spoke of the “bicentenary of Father Gregory”,
of the beginnings and developments of our Congregation.

Sr Natalina De Nobili, Sr Valeria Bassetto, Sr Adelina Comin.

MARVELOUS ARE THE WAYS OF PROVIDENCE



IN STRETTI DI ERACLEA (VE) there were many ways we celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Father Gregory both in our community as in the parish and in the pastoral collaboration. We share what we lived and celebrated on Sunday 24 April. Yes, a date, a special Sunday for all of us F.M.S.C.

“The bicentenary of the birth of our Venerable founder Fr. Gregory Fioravanti united us in prayer also thanks to the connection via Streaming with the Sanctuary of ‘Santa Maria del Suffraggio’ in Grotte di Castro (VT) “.

The link was advertised and some parishioners were able to follow, like us, the celebration of Grotte di Castro live. Someone said he was moved by the celebration.

To prepare for this event, we took care of the liturgies of April 3, (the death of Laura Leroux.) April 21, (anniversary of the canonical foundation.) and agreed, with the parish priest Don Davide Carraro, to make the annual renewal of vows in the

Sunday Mass of 24-April 2022.

In the homily of the Eucharistic celebration, the parish priest Don Davide compared the person of Fr Gregory to apostle Thomas. He highlighted how Fr. Gregory let himself be led by the Faith, and believed in this work, uncertain from its birth, trusting in Providence.

Don Davide said; “ In the difficult situations in which he found himself, even in supporting the young duchess, Fr.Gregory sees with the eyes of faith how God challenges him and he allows himself to be led in absolute obedience and trust.

The apostle Thomas, on the other hand, wants to touch the Signs of the Passion of his Master. We do not know if Thomas will put his finger on the wounds of the Risen Jesus Christ, but his great profession of Faith will come from him “My Lord and my God.”

This comparison made Fr Gregory’s faith, fidelity and humility shine and emerge. He lived the birth of our religious family by walking in the footsteps of Providence. So much so as to exclaim and write “Marvelous are the ways of providence to which no one has the right to ask why this in this way and not otherwise”.

This homily and this approach have aroused in us and in the assembly a particular moment of reflection and amazement.

Particular attention was given to this event by the newspaper: “GENTE VENETA” (newspaper of the diocese of VE -n.16, of 22 April 2022); edited by Don Giovanni Carnio

and from the weekly: “4 PASSI SUL PIAVE” (newspaper of the four parishes where the sisters work) always edited by Don Giovanni Carnio.

Catechesis was also the place to make Father Gregory known and within it, we have developed some bookmarks to distribute to the people of the parishes.

The Sisters of Stretti di Eraclea (Venice)

Sr Rosapaola Rottin , Sr Annamaria Borsato, Alice Ceccato



Celebration of the bicentenary of Father Gregory in the province of St. Francis

Joining with our Sisters throughout the world, the Sisters of the St. Francis Province participated in the celebration of the birthday of Fr. Gregory.

Remembering him during our morning and evening prayers, as well as at our morning Mass, we gave our thanks to the Lord for the gift of life and his inspirations to begin the community which we continue each day.

Colorful flowers and the light of the burning candle in front of his picture reminded us throughout the day of the life of our founder and his willingness to say YES to God's call. Each of us has reaped the benefits of his one YES, and with God's help, this will continue for many years to come. Living in the world of technology, our Sisters were able to participate in the special birthday Mass at Grotte di Castro. Seeing so many of our Sisters celebrating this beautiful day made us feel that although separated by an ocean, we knew we were of one spirit, filled with gratitude for the blessings of our past and hope for our future..

"God puts us to the test, but He never abandons us: this is enough to comfort us"

Fr. Gregory Fioravanti

We were blessed to share in the beautiful experience of a Mass offered in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Fr. Gregory's birth by video link from Grotte di Castro on Sunday, April 24th.



In preparation, we offered thanksgiving to God through a triduum of prayers from our superior general Sr. Paola and the Council.

The Holy Mass, in addition to a brief film that showed Father Gregory's heroic perseverance and courage, especially during his final days, was an occasion of jubilant prayer, solidarity and praise to God.

Seeing our Sisters from every corner of the world, gathered with the people of Grotte di Castro and many others, gave us hope and strengthened our faith.

In the face of so many challenges, the Lord continues to remind us through the witness of Father Gregory's life and example that we are never alone.

Celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of the Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti in the "Santa Elisabetta" Province

Undoubtedly, the Grottani are proud that their country is the birthplace of our venerable Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti.

However, so are we, his daughters: Franciscan Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The grateful memory of the 200th anniversary of the Founder's birth has involved us directly from all parts of the world. A truly evocative image that makes one think of the first missionary sisters whom Father Gregory accompanied with special attention to be sent to the missions. Therefore, we have the joy of living this "continuity" of the patrimony of the charism, a gift of the Spirit to the whole Church. The feast was lived in the family, in ecclesial and Eucharistic joy. In the Province, we made an appointment online and we all found ourselves excited to follow the solemn Eucharistic celebration from Grotte di Castro.

The red thread that connects us is that of the grateful memory of the past: from the writings of the Founder, from the documents of the beginnings and from the testimony of the first sisters, we discover the vital inspiration for our time.



Accepting the challenges of the present with one's own charismatic identity is the existential fabric in which we find ourselves living and working as Franciscans and missionaries.

The figure of Father Gregory is an invitation for us to turn our gaze to the future and to travel a renewed path in harmony with the Church, capable of giving concrete answers to the new generations. The 200 years are like a river of graces that flows through our Religious Family, like a small seed that bears abundant fruit.

As a Province, in the days leading up to the bicentenary feast, we had the opportunity to follow online a relevant conference on the heroic profile of Ludovico Fioravanti, presented by Sister Beatrice Skorti from Lebanon, a member of the historical commission.

Let us listen to her:

On April 3, 2022, I had the joy of being able to pass on the treasure of the legacy of our Venerable Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti to the Sisters of the Province of Saint Elizabeth.

It is true that I have worked for years on the history of the Province and not on that of the Founders. However, one cannot exist without the other, just as the tree cannot grow without roots and leaves without sap. Therefore, I got ready to talk about these roots and so that the facts were not my fantasy, I made use of the documentary material collected during the research.

Ludovico Fioravanti was born in Grotte di Castro (Viterbo) on April 24, 1822.

Documents reveal that he receives the sacraments in due time like all Christians of his time and lives as a normal boy. He was orphaned of his mother at the age of six. Let us imagine how this absence affected his character as a child and adolescent. Soon he leaves everything and goes to Viterbo where a new life begins that will lead him to Venice and slowly enters our history.

Let us take the Seraphic Father St. Francis as an example. It was not his birth or his future mission, not even his skill as a knight that proclaimed him a saint but his conversion and listening to the Crucifix.

He strips off, lives according to the Gospel, embraces the cross, and follows Christ until death. What does this comparison tell us?

It tells us that the saints are first of all human persons who transform humanity into a way of holiness. This is how we want to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludovico Fioravanti. His birth is important because it reveals his humanity. He was born on a spring day, grew up, entered the convent, studied, became a priest, professor, provincial superior, a normal, calm and always obedient Franciscan. We do not find anything extraordinary in the documents. God leads him to a providential meeting with the Foundress Laura Leroux and thus, silently, he becomes part of our history. From that meeting a charism was born in the Church and who knows ... a saint in heaven!

We are interested, first of all, in the role of Father Gregory from that historic day of his meeting with the Duchess. It is October 20, 1859. She is 27 years old, he 37 years old with various experiences. Mons. Battisti, who started the trial of Father Gregory in the Diocese of Udine, will say, "perhaps he would not be provoked to the exercise of virtue to a heroic degree if God, Lord of history had not put the Duchess Laura Leroux of Beaufremont in his way."



Father Gregory, speaking of that encounter in historical memories, places it in the light of Providence and says, “The noble woman of Paris was the instrument that God used to start the work”. He then observes the beautiful expression “wonderful are the traits of Divine Providence to which no one has the right to ask why this is in this way and not otherwise”. Today we must understand the true meaning of the words because Father Gregory writes them towards the end of his life and they are the result of an experience lived at times with bitterness.

The Calvary of Father Gregory begins when the Foundress decides to leave the institute. Are his fears and anxieties about the initial success, the beauty and richness of the work come true: “maybe it will be God’s will”? With steadfast faith and in silence, the humble Franciscan walks in darkness, obedient to the will of the superiors. He becomes a heroic example when it comes to saving what can be saved. On the one hand, the young sisters suffer from hunger, disease and death. On the other hand, the monastery is in danger of being sold, of suppression. Together with his daughters, he holds out his hands for alms, knocks on the door of bishops, mayors, cardinals, sends letters trusting in Divine Providence, without neglecting the preparation of the sisters for the missions.

Father Gregory patiently faces a torrent of stormy and tragic events. He prepares himself with constant commitment for the conformity of Christ Crucified.

The trials purify him, strip him completely, he remains alone, on the sidelines, for 17 years until the day of his death. He endures everything with faith, with patience, with strength, with trust in God. Many of his writings (letters to the sisters on mission) reveal that he was a man of prayer and did not accept that his daughters neglect prayer for any reason.

In the first letters exchanged with Father Theophilus, when the first missionary sisters arrive in Constantinople, we note the lament that those daughters of Gemonia, very kind, very polite, very Franciscan have a defect: they are more Magdalene than Martas” and that this makes the missionary life in Constantinople was rather difficult. Father Gregory is very explicit he writes, the sisters cannot be good Martas if they are not first good Magdalene. The charism entrusted by God to the Duchess must not change even one iota. The sisters must also help the missionaries with prayer.

Who knows how many times Fr. Gregory, during his last stretch of life lived in hiding, solitude and abandonment; he has placed everything at the foot of the Crucifix. From contemplation, he draws the resolution to adhere unconditionally to the will of God for the good of his daughters. In front of the Crucifix, in the embrace of the Madonna, he goes out in silence, leaving us all the paternal blessing. “Yes, I bless all of them, present and future ones”. More than with words, Father Gregory Fioravanti, our Venerable Founder, speaks to us with his life, actions and silences; with their own charity, attitudes and virtues. His precious heritage is the seal of his holiness, which we hope, will soon be recognized and proclaimed by the Church.



The Provincial house and lay associates celebrate the 200th anniversary of Father Gregory's birth

First of all I want to express my deepest gratitude to the community of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who, through Sr. Elisabetta Varikkakuzhil, provincial superior, allows us to participate, at the provincial level, in the events of the Congregation.

This integrates us fully into the great Franciscan family and encourages us to persevere and grow in Franciscan spirituality.

Today, Sunday 24 April 2022, the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti, Founder, is at the center of our prayers for him and for the Congregation which he supported with great determination and courage.



In the provincial house, there is a party and a small group of Lay Associates joins the sisters of the community to celebrate the venerable Father Gregory, celebration made in all simplicity but with great fervor and participation of all.

The biblical readings of this Sunday of Divine



Mercy are particularly suitable for the occasion!

The first reading presents us with the strength that comes to us from faith. The responsorial psalm reminds us all that Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, has become the cornerstone that sustains the Church. The text of the Apocalypse insists on the trust we must have in the Lord just as the Lord places His trust in us. The Gospel of St. John reminds us that the Holy Spirit sending us on mission gives us his Peace, which is the only lasting one; Jesus never fails to soothe our sufferings and heal our wounds. (experience of St. Thomas).

I am convinced that Father Gregory in the arduous commitment (struggle) that he had to carry on made incessant recourse to Holy Scripture, in it and in fervent prayer he found the necessary strength, trust and perseverance.

The celebration ends with the community recitation of the prayer to Father Gregory; we all ask that he intercede for us with the heavenly Father.

With deep gratitude, we receive the image with the relic of Father Gregory, it will be of support in the prayers that we do so that he may reach the beatification as a reward.

At the end, as true Franciscans, a friendly refreshment could certainly not be missing, an opportune moment for sharing and fraternal joy. All this contributes to feeling more and more a living part of the great family of the Franciscan missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart.

All praise and glory to God!

Claire Nogaret responsible for Lay Associates



**CARLEPONT PARISH COMMUNITY
celebrates the birthday
of VEN. FATHER GREGORY FIORAVANTI**

The context: thanks to the foresight of Father Jacques Gosselin, parish priest of Carlepontl, the Franciscan missionary nuns of the Sacred Heart have come to work in this parish. Now some areas near to the house where the sisters live have become the “parish house”, the center of all pastoral activities in the pastoral sector.

For 33 years now the sisters have been working with alacrity and great availability in this part of the Church which is located in the diocese of Bauvais. Sixteen sisters have been able to pass into this community in this period of time and from the very beginning the pastoral reality has changed considerably.

In March of this year the sisters announced that the bicentenary of the birth of their Founder was approaching; due to the health restrictions linked to the pandemic, they would not have been able to go to the celebration in the provincial house and join the other sisters of the province.

This allowed each community to organize itself in celebrating this important moment of congregational life. This is how the parish community of Carlepont took the opportunity to join the nuns and solemnly celebrate the event with them; on the other hand, this is an excellent opportunity to bring together the faithful who still have difficulty getting together after the pandemic. It could only be like this: a wonderful opportunity to express the joy of meeting again after two years of forced interruption!

This event was therefore a reason for the resumption of parish community life!

The concept: Certainly celebrating the festive Holy Mass in an atmosphere of praise, thanksgiving and prayer. A nice power point allows everyone to remember the salient moments of the presence of the sisters in the parish community, a simple but significant brochure and ... a good aperitif at the end of the Holy Mass certainly cannot be missed.



Organization:

1) The focal point of everything is the Eucharistic celebration which the liturgical group has cared for with particular attention and great love.

At the beginning of the Holy Mass, a parishioner reads a brief but rich presentation of the anniversary; at the end of the reading a big applause from the faithful to the sisters present Sr. Marialuigia Borsato and Sr. Clara Nasato, (Sister Michèle Liatsou is detained in the provincial house due to COVID).

The parish community thus testified to the great esteem it has and has always had towards the sisters for their precious presence in the sector!

At this point, Father Guy-Marie, the celebrant, introduces the Holy Mass and recalls the story of the venerable Father Gregorio. In this way all the faithful were able to join in the prayer with a more active participation.

The sisters, as is customary, carefully organized the liturgy of the Word and chose the readers!

The universal prayer, composed by a parishioner, is read by the mayor emeritus, professor of history, while the celebrant reiterates the prayer for Father Gregorio.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, the whole assembly recites the prayer to Father Gregory.

- 2) At the parish level it was decided to draw up an exhibition of the Congregation to be exhibited in the church. The parishioner who made it concrete expresses himself “It was moving and beautiful to search the archives for the photos of the nuns to compose the illustrative panels of the life of the religious community in these years of presence in Carlepont”.
- 3) We have created information leaflets to distribute to the faithful.
- 4) We have created an exhibition with representative photos of the history of the sisters since their arrival in this parish. This is not easy given that there are not many photos taken until 2005 when there was still no ease of mobile phones.
- 5) A Golden Book (of memories) has been made available and will pass from village to village so that everyone can express themselves.



Aperitif :

A good aperitif could certainly not be missing, a unique opportunity for conviviality and knowledge of the life of the Franciscan missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart.

The slides, the illustrative panels, the sharing allowed everyone to enhance the activity of the sisters. Four hours were not enough: at 1.30 pm there are still those who want to continue the beautiful sharing and enjoy being together.

Unfortunately not everyone was able to participate as we are still in vacation time, presidential elections, family.

Conclusion:

This celebration falls at a propitious moment for our parish life which, as everywhere, was still suffering the consequences of the pandemic. Activities were very limited and community meetings were completely absent for the duration of the pandemic (two years). The celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Father Gregorio has given us courage to resume community initiatives and meetings. We hope that this day is the beginning of our “Resurrection”.

The display of information panels allowed everyone to learn about the spirituality, history, heroic beginnings and vitality of the congregation of the Franciscan missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart!



We also had the opportunity to show the power point at the meeting of the pastoral animators of the large sector of the parish of Noyon. It is a beautiful testimony of the precious presence of the sisters and we will have other opportunities to use it!

We realized that the organization of this celebration, even before being a journey of preparation, was a spiritual journey. Father Gregory has always accompanied us!

In conclusion we are truly blessed to have a community of sisters; thanks to them and to the Congregation for the dedication and love with which they work.

With their joy, great trust, love and dedication, all the sisters have contributed to transforming our parish community of Carlepont. THANK YOU AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU!

A parishioner

Testimony of Mr. Locman

On Sunday 24 April, during the celebration of Holy Mass, we celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti, founder of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, with great joy. For several decades the Franciscan sisters have illuminated our parish community through their smile, good humor, charity, the gift of themselves, the apostolate among children and young people, the comforting presence among the lonely and elderly.

This Sunday of mercy was an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for their precious presence in the heart of our parish community, to pray for those who have already reached the house of the Father and to sing our joy for having them among us. A church embellished with many flowers, young musicians, numerous parishioners, friends and relatives, a presentation and an interesting photo exhibition, all contributed to the success of this commemoration which ended around a glass of friendship, one could say speaking of our sisters, a glass of affection. ALLELUIA.

Parish “Our Lady of the Assumption” Carlepont

The Feast... prepared... by the Providence

We lived this experience in the reality of our parish of Tavannes (Switzerland) on the commemoration of the bicentenary of the birth of our venerable and beloved father Gregory.

For some time we have been asking ourselves the question of how and when to live this moment of ecclesial and congregational life which is so important and meaningful for us. How to make the parish community, which still has difficulty in reconstituting itself after the pandemic, to participate and be interested? Divine Providence comes to meet us, traces the path and guides us lovingly.

The date? Solemnity of Corpus Domini: feast of the Eucharist! The Eucharist that he loved so much, from which he drew courage, fidelity, prudence, humility and a spirit of sacrifice.

The parish priest, Hilaire Mitendo, enthusiastically supports the initiative and proposes that during the procession with the Blessed Sacrament, one of the four stops be dedicated to Father Gregory.

Preparations and awareness are in full swing; we sisters work with alacrity so that the feast is an opportunity to make our founder

known and loved. Many people collaborate so that everything contributes to praising Jesus in the Eucharist and at the same time, the figure of Father Gregory is made known and he, Father Gregory, is the main actor throughout the preparation phase. "Father Gregory we need many flower petals, flowers to decorate the four altars that are used for the procession ..., we need ears of wheat ...," Here he is making himself present through Providence.

We go to the valley's supermarkets to ask for flowers, we explain what they are for (this also becomes evangelization) and on Saturday evening, the eve of the celebration, the managers of the supermarkets present us with carts full of flowers: we have the joy of seeing the baskets full of fragrant and multicolored petals. We knock on the doors of friends who with great generosity and joy tell us to pick as many roses as we want.



The hands of Benedetta, the girl who accompanies us in the project, are full of crashes provoked by having cut so many roses with scissors: “Here is Benedetta, in the future, when you are older, you will know how to do it and how beautiful it is to contribute to give glory to Jesus in the Eucharist !!! “ And the flowers for the altars? Here is the Montavon family traveling with care along the “Clos du Doubs” to catch “the Queen of the forest”. “Father Gregory we need about seventy ears of wheat” for the offertory moment ... here is the farmer we contacted arrives early Saturday morning with a bunch, happy to contribute to the feast.



Sunday morning everything is ready, we celebrate Jesus in the Eucharist and his humble and faithful servant. Holy Mass begins with the procession. First Communion children dressed in white dress spread the flowers with veneration, the assembly, accompanied by two guitars, sings and praises the glory of the Lord, the altar boys reverently carry the incense, and the parish priest carries the monstrance with deep devotion. Great and profound is the participation of the faithful who came from the three parishes for the solemn celebration. Everything takes place in an atmosphere of prayer, recollection, and praise. At the fourth stop, we sisters briefly introduce Father Gregory, a man of incomparable human and spiritual greatness and total trust in Divine Providence.



At the end of the Holy Mass all the participants receive, a short biography and prayer to Father Gregory, then we all meet in the parish hall for the projection of a power point illustrating our beloved Father Gregory. Then the well-deserved refreshment.

Participants are astounded and amazed by the heroism of our Founder, his fidelity, his unshakable faith and his filial abandonment to the divine Providence. Several people approach us to get more detailed information on the life of the venerable father and of our congregation and intend to have recourse to him in prayer.

With immense gratitude, we can sing the wonders of Providence.

Praise and glory to you Lord Jesus who made us live an intense moment of ecclesial and congregational life!!!

The sisters of the “Saint Jean XXIII” community of TAVANNES

Testimony of Mr. Bernard Füg - president of the parish assemblies..

On Sunday June 2022, at the parish of Tavannes, the faithful commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti, founder of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

A celebration, that of this Sunday, organized with care and love by the parish priest Fr Hilaire Mitendo, by Sister Beniamina, Sister Deepthi, Bernard Koller, co-president of the Parish Council, the deacon Gaby Noirat, the pastoral animator Jean-Louis Crétin as well also our artistic sacristans Linda and Sandy Müller and the gifted altar boys.

This anniversary was “merged” well with the procession and the Holy Mass of Corpus Domini. An exceptional moment of recollection, where the Holy Spirit blew like a gentle breeze that settled magnanimously and in a solemn way on all the participants.



In fact, each participant, through prayers and the expression of a radiant face, with solemnity and profound conviction, expressed his faith in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This was a moment that truly unique, gratifying and with full of gratitude.

The beautiful idea of involving the children of the First Communion, the “Santa Cecilia” choir, the organist, two guitarists, Jean Louis and Diego Polato, as well as the children of the choir led by Sister Beniamina contributed much making this ceremony a magnificent religious event.

As a wonderful gift then: a radiant sun cheered us up and a panel of flowers rich in colors, as if it were a carpet, crowned and colored this historic moment for our church.

To complete and enhance the bicentennial event, in the parish hall, there was a power point presentation that the sisters had prepared. It indeed gave a magnificent retrospective on the life and spiritual journey of the venerable Founder and the work he began, starting right from its institution to this day.

The joy, the good humor, the smiles and the pleasure of being together are evident in everyone and especially in those who spent their childhood at the nursery school: a joyful sharing of anecdotes, of splendid and nice memories, lived with the sisters.

Thank you Fr. Gregory for the spiritual inheritance

In communion with all the sisters of the Congregation, on April 24th we experienced an extraordinary event, 200 years of the birth of our beloved founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti. The solemn anniversary took place in Grotte di Castro, his native town in the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Suffragio, with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, Minister General of the Friars Minor, the parish priest and some confreres.

The event was prepared with great care by the sisters with the parish priest who involved the entire parish community.

Thanks to the new technologies, we too were able to follow the celebration live and enjoy the participation which was great also thanks to the presence of sisters from the various communities; Sister Maribel went to represent our community.

Gratitude, joy, emotion filled our hearts which opened to the deepest appreciation.

We praise and thank the Lord for having given us Father Gregory to lead our Congregation. Accepting to God's will, not always clear and not always easy, offering his experience as a true son of St. Francis, in discernment he was

able to exercise the virtues: strength in facing so many sacrifices, docility and trust in Divine Providence to which no one may ask why in this way and not otherwise.

The great testimony even in the moment of the hard trial that began with the illness of many young women and continued to increase until the sisters began to die.

It is not possible to express in word the pain and distress caused by the death of numerous young sisters in the monastery: even in this situation he showed great ability to assist and accompany them spiritually and physically, encouraging them to do God's will, as a mother who loves her children with an infinite love.

Let us ask the Lord, as much as possible, for the grace to imitate and put into practice his virtues, the great trust in Divine Providence and the willingness to accept God's will and carry it out with joy.

Thank you Father Gregory for the spiritual inheritance you left us as a commitment to move forward, bearing witness to the joy of belonging to this Congregation.

The community of Viale Aurelio Saffi



A SPECIAL MEETING OF PASTORAL ANIMATION

“Yes, as it pleases God!” (Fr. Gregory)

On April 26, the weekly catechesis meeting of second year children for First Communion was made interesting by the presence of the two youngest Sisters of our community: Sister Loida and Sister Rina.

They presented, through a video, the historical, spiritual and charismatic profile of our Founder, the Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti from Grotte di Castro (VT), prepared on the occasion of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of his birth.

The children carefully followed his story as a boy, a Franciscan friar and founder of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and their mission in the world. Many of them have been impressed with the image of when he was little, and especially the final one in which, the wide open doors of his life are symbolically seen bathed in the blazing light of Heaven.



It seems to us the essential image captured by children sensitive, to the one reality we all tend to. We distributed to each one the image of Father Gregory with a short biography and a list of the 23 countries in the world where our Sisters are present. To the specific question of a little boy.

“Which country are you from?” Sister Loida and Sister Rina indicated their country of origin, noting

that all of us Franciscan Sisters are missionaries in conformity with our specific charism wherever we are. The parish priest, present at the meeting, offered three chocolate eggs. Open in joy, not even a crumb is left.



*The Community
of Lido dei Pini*

The community of Boso Boso celebrates the bicentenary of the birth of Fr Gregory and the 161 years of its foundation.

“As Jesus was intent on consoling his Apostles after his resurrection, so he will come to console the faithful soul with his peace.”
(Father Gregory)

In our community, the community of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, we celebrated the feast of the 161st Anniversary of the Canonical Opening of our religious family, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, FMSC.

On the morning of April 21, after the prayer of Lauds and meditation, we undertook to prepare the necessary things for the Holy Mass. The Holy Mass would be celebrated in our chapel, in praise and thanks to God for the gift of the charism given to the our founders, Laura Leroux de Bauffremont, to the Venerable Father Gregorio Fioravanti, OFM and to the first Sisters.

We thank the Parish Priest, the Rev. Br. Evan Paul A. Villanueva, MI, for his willingness to celebrate Holy Mass in our chapel. He wanted to celebrate with us, as he always wants. We also had a few people for the celebration, who attend the parish church during the week. Besides, we took the opportunity to invite some people close to us and the lay people who were available that day; as a whole about twenty people attended the Holy Mass.

We offered the intention of the Holy Mass for the Congregation, for the Sisters scattered around the world and especially for those who find themselves in difficult missions.

For the people who have been touched by the life and testimony of the FMSC Sisters, here in Boso Boso.



The parish priest in his homily proposed to take this opportunity also to see the past and evaluate in ourselves whether we have been faithful to the commitment assumed in order to be able to continue the journey of faith and face the new challenges that this time offers us. The laity are now committed to helping us in the service of welcoming pilgrims and selling handmade wreaths and other religious objects as souvenirs for pilgrims who come to our parish, which is one of the Jubilee Churches. The Jubilee year for the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of the Philippines has been extended until the end of 2022. The Holy Father Francis wanted to give permission to extend the time because the pandemic had greatly reduced the presence of pilgrims.

After the homily, we renewed the Holy Vows of obedience, poverty and chastity in communion with all the sisters of the Congregation.



At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, we took the group photo, followed by a simple sharing in a fraternal agape.

There was a great desire to meet and share, in fact the last time we met was in 2019, then the pandemic had interrupted all activities in the presence.

Then we offered a souvenir with the magnet specially prepared with the image of the Founder, the Venerable Father Gregory and the necklaces with the image of the Founder and the Madonna of Perpetual Help sent to us by the Sisters in Italy. For the occasion, we also had a plate painted with the image of Father Gregory in thanksgiving to God for the 200th anniversary of his birth. The gift is for the three communities in the Philippines. After that, we thanked those present for their participation and sharing the joy for the 161 years of the foundation of our religious family. Therefore, they too thanked us for the invitation.

We always hope in God that the pandemic will soon end so that we can resume normal life with formation meetings and various activities, even with young people.

Venerable Father Gregory, pray for us!

*Sr. Lucy and Sr. Carlota
Community of Saint Elizabeth of Boso Boso-Philippines*

Duronia: bicentenary of Fr Gregory, a moment of strong provocation to live the preciousness of our consecrated life with more intensity

This year, a happy event was a cause for exultation for all of us, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart for the bicentenary of the birth of our Founder Father Gregory Fioravanti from the Grotte di Castro.

We also lived and celebrated it with our elderly women who are in our care, with the staff and with the faithful of the Parish, who gave their contribution of appreciation with a simple writing. To live the Celebration in harmony, the Superior General, Sr. Paola Dotto, sent all the organisms of the Congregation the needed help to prepare us adequately for the Feast.

In our Community “Gesù Bambino” of Duronia, on 21, 22 and 23 April we prayed and reflected on the Word of God and on the writings of Father Gregory, before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed.

Our elderly women also participated with us and were happy to hear passages from the life and writings of our beloved Founder.

In the parish, our parish priest don Gino organized the Triduum on days 27, 28 and 29 in preparation for the feast of the Coronation of the Blessed Mother, by inserting the figure of Father Gregory.

Let us add a brief thought on Father Gregory who in this period provoked us so much to live the preciousness of our religious life with more intensity.

For Father Gregory the will of God was truly the daily bread, the cross of Christ his support and the sweet mother Mary his guide. Only a profound and humble spirituality, and a charity beyond the ordinary manner could support the project so demanding and so moving that God asked him to carry out.



The contribution of Prof. Umberto Berardi, our parishioner and admirer of Fr. Gregory...

The community of Duronio (CB) of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart on 30 April 2022 feast of the Coronation of the Blessed Mother, wanted to remember the figure of the founder of the Congregation Father Gregory Fioravanti on the two hundredth anniversary of his birth within a solemn concelebrated Eucharistic celebration by the bishop of Trivento (CB) H.E. Msgr. Claudio Palumbo, by the parish priest of Duronio, Don Gino D'Ovidio and by don Antonio Adducchio, vicar and rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Assumption in the district of "Santa Maria" in Duronio. The sisters working in the "Villa Serena" retirement home in Duronio thus intended to remember their founder hoping that the cause of canonization at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints will continue favorably in its passages.



Meanwhile, they wish to continue to keep alive the memory of their Venerable Founder who was born on 24 April 1822 in Grotte di Castro (Viterbo) with the name of Ludovico who will then change to Gregory once he becomes a Friar Minor in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi.

After a very extensive preparation in the theological and philosophical fields, he was assigned to teach the clerics of the Franciscan convent in Venice and was subsequently chosen to hold the position of Minister Provincial.

Towards the end of the summer of 1859, the meeting with a young French woman, Laura Leroux, who later became Sister Giuseppa, changed the life path of Father Gregory. He first wrote the regulation for the Tertiaries of the Missions of the Seraphic Father St. Francis and then obtains the founding decree of the new religious institute, which will later take the name of "Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart".

Father Gregory not only assumes upon himself the responsibility of running the Foundation, which is experiencing immense initial difficulties, but he does his best to prepare the sisters for the missionary task of service to others wherever there is a request in this sense.

After a return to the post of Minister Responsible for the province, he returns to devote himself completely to the sisters, to strengthen their vocation and to the organization of missionary service, which also extends outside Italy to other countries.

Therefore, the Community of Duronio (CB) of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart also wanted to place, the figure of its founder at the center of the attention of all the inhabitants of the parish, emphasizing the most relevant aspects of his personality.

Placing this commemorative event within a Eucharistic celebration had the meaning of remembering a man with such an exemplary life, but also of remembering him to the Lord in prayer with gratitude and profound gratitude.

The great mission of service to others carried out by the Congregation in all these years would not have been possible without the great faith of Father Gregory Fioravanti, his demanding formative itinerary for the sisters, his complete abandonment to the will of God, his responsibility in organization and direction of the Order, the ability to cope with the difficulties that have arisen, the generous dedication to all the needs of the Institute but above all the passion for service to the needy in the spirit of evangelical charity.

The sisters working on the path indicated by him also from the small parish of Duronia (CB) hope that the memory of Father Gregory Fioravanti on the two hundredth anniversary of his birth will be an example of Christian life for all and of a vocation at the service of others which certainly represents, together with love for God, the most important goal of everyone's life..

From a collaborator: Rita Ciolfi

My name is Rita, worker in the rest home in Duronia (CB).

With joy, my husband and I participated in the online celebration on 24/04/2022 of the Founder of our Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

We were struck by this exceptional figure of Father Gregory, exceptional in his great humility, tenacity and perseverance in fulfilling God's will despite the great difficulties he had to face.

We wish all the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to live with joy the charism of their Founder.

From another operator: Maria Izzi

The first time I heard about Father Gregory Fioravanti and Duchess Laura Leroux when I was in Assisi, a guest of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. During the days I spent in their house as a guest, the mother superior and the sisters of the community told me the story of the foundation and the great difficulties that the Congregation had to face from the beginning; I was struck by Father Gregory's tenacity and courage in following step by step he lived the project of God that was taking shape, and the charism given by God to the Duchess Laura Leroux. Relying on the Lord's hands, everything takes shape and can reach the most distant places in the world where there is a need for comfort and hope.

I have returned to Assisi many times, and each time it has been a precious pause for me that has helped me to disconnect from everyday life, allowing me to experience moments of constructive solitude made of prayer, silence and listening to St. Francis and Fr Gregory. In difficult moments, I remember those peaceful days with sweetness and hope and I draw strength from them.

*From the
community
of Duronia*



Latin American Province of San Antonio of Padua

We give Thanks with joy

«Remember well, may your joy be the joy of fidelity to the graces you receive and above all to the ardent joy of zeal for your salvation and that of others»
(From the Thoughts of Father Gregory)

In harmony with the thought of our Venerable Founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti, we joyfully thank God for the precious gift that Father Gregory's whole life means for our Church, for the Order of Franciscan Minors, and especially for us, his daughters, the Franciscan Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart, an Institute that today brings the missionary charism to the most remote places in the world. Thanks to the virtues that Father Gregory lived heroically to give life and shape to our Congregation.

This year, 2022, the year of the bicentenary of our founder, the Latin American Province of San Antonio of Padua, encouraged by the provincial superior Sr. Alejandra Vallejos, who urged the sisters of the entire province to celebrate this important and significant event together.

Going beyond the barriers of time and space, making use of the mass media, which, thanks to technological development, have allowed all the communities to meet on Saturday 23 April, the eve of the day of the celebration, at 17:00. The virtual meeting was broadcast via zoom from the provincial house of Santiago de Chile.



With great enthusiasm, the faces of the different communities began to appear and, following the previously prepared program, Sr. Alejandra Vallejos, together with the sisters of the council and community of Lourdes, animated the virtual presentations. It was a pleasant afternoon and we welcomed each presentation with great joy, each one truly unique, creative and well prepared.



I welcomed each presentation with great joy, each truly unique, creative and well prepared. It began with a prayer that opened the sharing and then listening and seeing the dramatizations, dances, songs, poems, accompanied by all the traditional colors typical of each country, framed in the same theme that called us “the bicentenary of Father Gregory”. This fraternal meeting ended with a closing toast accompanied by a special greeting from the sisters, priests and laity. In each presentation, we were able to feel the spirit of our religious family, its missionary sense in the midst of so many children, young people, adults and the elderly, the Franciscan joy in the daily life of service.



We were all full of amazement in the joy of being able to see all our communities in their mission realities, happy above all to be able to appreciate how alive our charism is in the Latin American world thanks to the commitment and dedication of each sister who lives responsibly and with joy the consecration to the Lord.

We were also very happy that some sisters who are on missions outside the continent were able to participate, such as Sister Petrona Choré who is in Italy-Assisi and Sister Miriam Oyarzo from the mission in Turkey. They also expressed their joy at this opportunity for a fraternal encounter.



On April 24, a special day, we were able to participate in the solemn Eucharist transmitted from Grotte di Castro, the birthplace of our Founder; our small chapel of the provincial house was the extension of this solemn celebration, we were able to follow the entire ceremony with great joy and devotion. After the Eucharist, we shared a festive and fraternal meal together with the communities that are in Santiago. (Community of Santa Rosa and Community of Santa María de los Ángeles)



This special year continues and we will continue to celebrate it in a spirit of gratitude; all the communities will continue to promote the life of Father Gregory, so that many turn to his word and his intercession as a path of encounter with God.

We can only say; thank you God good Father, for our venerable founder Father Gregorio Fioravanti, for having persevered in front of every trial together with our first sisters at the beginning of our beloved religious family. We ask him to intercede for each of the sisters, so that we may be faithful to the spiritual inheritance that we have received from his fatherly guide and we follow Jesus with holy joy wherever we are.

We also thank with great esteem our Superior General Sister Paola Dotto and her Council, for all this time of hard work in preparation for such an important congregational event, thank you very much dear sisters for encouraging us to live it with the same spirit of a family.

Celebration for Father Gregory in Bolivia

On 23 April the sisters of the “San Francisco” community celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Father Gregory Fioravanti in the just about parish church of “Don Bosco”.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Don Juan Carlos Vargas OFM conv. All the sisters of the “Virgen de Copacabana” delegation participated in this celebration, led by the delegate Sr. Gladys Chávez Pillancari, the Director of the EU “San Francisco de Asís” “B” Msgr. Mercedes Yolanda Tapia, Sr. Maggaly Warthon, the Director of ‘EU “St. Clare of Assisi, the director of the EU” San Francisco de Asís “of Santa Cruz Lic. Marlene Mamani, teachers, administrative staff, students participating in the catechesis of First Communion and Confirmation, lay associates of Cochabamba and three lay associates of Santa Cruz, the Benedictine sisters, three Franciscan friars who collaborate in the catechesis of Confirmation and YOUFRA, and some relatives of the sisters participated the celebration.



In his homily, Fr. Juan Carlos underlined the sacrifice and fatigue that have characterized Fr Gregory’s life since his childhood, which led him to abandon himself totally to Divine Providence, reflecting himself in the paternity and dedication with which he carried out the foundation and how he guided the Congregation with wisdom.

During the Holy Mass, we sisters renewed our vows of obedience, poverty and chastity, giving everyone witness to the fidelity and joy of being totally consecrated to the Lord and to his mission in the world.

At the end of the Eucharist, the announcement of the Jubilee of “Venerable Father Gregory” was



made, and to give a sign of this moment his image was given to each of the presidents of the courses, so that they can put it in their classrooms.

Legacy of Our Founder the Venerable Gregory Fioravanti OFM

Today 24 April 2022 we remember the bicentenary of the birth of our Founder, the Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti ofm, we thank and praise the Lord for the countless wonders he has worked in our Religious family.

We recall some of his teachings that are very dear to us and also precious in the apostolic service in the educational, pastoral and health fields:

- To love and care for fraternal life and to be united by the bond of charity
- Carry out the will of God the Father with humility
- Be faithful and obedient
- Commit ourselves every day to holiness through the humble and passionate fulfillment of our common mission: that of always transmitting the love of Christ the Savior, welcoming in us the voice of each brother who, in many ways and expressions, still await the light and peace.
- Live concrete faith in His loving presence and a spirit of minority, simple and joyful.
- Express an attitude of meekness and modesty.
- Live in authentic fraternal, free and penitent service.
- Show an ardent availability for the Kingdom

Let us ask the Lord for the grace to allow us to discover the footsteps of his Divine Presence everywhere, to bless and thank always the Father's providence, in order to be able to live each day among ourselves and with our brothers and sisters the gift of reconciliation with the redemptive power of the paschal mystery.

With love and gratitude:
Sister Doly Gandarillas Pérez
St. Francis community of Cochabamba - Bolivia

A “SPECIAL GIFT” ...

Parish Virgen del Carmen- Cusco- Peru



The excitement of being able to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our beloved founder Father Gregory Fioravanti, which took place on April 24, 2022, filled us with joy in the Lord as we felt that our entire religious family was united in festal garment.

This moment also gives rise to feelings of gratitude for the charism that drives us to continue to work and do good as Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in the place where we are.

We want to share the joy that as a religious and parish community we have had on the occasion of the celebration of the bicentenary of our Founder. The majority of the relatives of our sisters in Cusco and some people who have been close to the sisters for many years have gratefully welcomed and rejoiced at the invitation to be part of the group of lay people associated with our religious congregation.

The invitation was made during the preparation for the perpetual vows of our sisters, Sr. Judit Mercado and Sr. Paola Cascamayta, since among the guests

there were also the relatives of our sisters from Cusco.

We enquired, asking for opinions on the formation of lay associates in this mission in Cusco-Peru and when the provincial superior Sr. Alejandra Vallejos came to participate in the feast, she made the invitation during her speech. People welcomed the idea very well and with great joy.

The following month, April 24, we gathered the sisters' parents to celebrate the bicentenary of Father Gregory with a solemn Eucharist celebrated by Father Jorge Norato, delegate of our parish priest, Fredy Mesa. More than 100 people participated in the Eucharist. In the end we shared with the relatives of our sisters and



the women closest to the community, as this is an opportune moment to discuss and take up the subject again, the meaning of being lay associates of our Congregation. We asked them if they wanted to be part of the lay associates and all in unison said “yes sister, we would like to” and started registering.

We told them that it was not compulsory but a voluntary commitment; nevertheless, everyone signed up and said that this group is the result of Father Gregory's bicentenary and that from that day they would feel part of our religious family.

When started the formation, we decided to find a name for the group. Many said, “we should call ourselves something that has to do with Father Gregory” and at the end it was decided that the name would be “Laici Associati Fioravanti” FMSC since it was born from the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of our founder, Father Gregory Fioravanti. We agreed that we need to strengthen ourselves more in knowing him and in making his life and history known. At present, 22 members want to continue to take small steps in the formation project of the lay associates of our religious Family.

From the community of Santa Isabel de Hungary in Cusco, Peru.

Thanksgiving, Renewal and Hope!

Nkoabang- Cameroon

Celebrating the birth means, in some way, participating in the work of creation. It is also welcoming the wonders of God's ineffable love and its manifestation in history.

In communion with our entire religious family, we joyfully celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of our Venerable Father Gregory. The outline proposed by the General Council was our guide. In fact, we have given a particular imprint to the celebration at the level of the "Holy Martyrs of Uganda" Vice Province.



We did the Triduum of prayer by reading and meditating: the birth, name, baptism and consecration to the divine Mother of the newborn of the Fioravanti.

An incredible joy emerges in this family and in the parish church because this child is the bearer of a star whose light reflects the four protective stars. Parents presenting their child to the Lord, asked God for the grace of a prosperous future! "Vico understood, without understanding it, that he was truly the king of this house" according to a heroic Franciscan.

On Sunday, April 24, celebrating the feast of Divine Mercy with the Universal Church, we have

associated the intention of the birth of our Venerable Fr Gregory. What a happy coincidence, isn't this a sign of divine Providence? In the afternoon, at 17.00 sharp, local time, we followed the solemn Eucharistic Celebration live from Grotte di Castro, presided over by the Minister General of the Friars Minor, Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, ofm.

The love of the Lord is not exhausted, his grace is renewed every morning, says the psalmist! With him, we can sing in chorus, so that the echo resounds from the four corners of the earth; the Lord has done wonders for us, Holy is His Name.

In memory of the precious gift of the life of Venerable Fr Gregory, our Founder rises the hymn of joy and gratitude to our God, Alleluia!

From the community Fr. Gregory of Kinshasa in the RDC

In commemoration of the birth anniversary of our Founding Father, on 24/4/2022, the Fraternity Father Gregory of Kinshasa in the DRC, had the joy of celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of little Ludovico Fioravanti, born on 24/4/1822 in Grotte di Castro.

As Founder, Fr. Gregory Fioravanti, for his FAITH in GOD, his perseverance in Divine Providence, his fidelity to his commitments ... supported this fragile plant, which was at the origins of its foundation until its return to Heaven.

Our Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Today spread in 22 countries, in 4 Continents in the world: "... He is not only a Father, but a Mother ..."

Yes, Father Gregory was a "mother" for us who conceived us, gave us life, educated and trained us, followed and accompanied us with love, gentleness and patience.

As heirs of the Charism of the Congregation and of our Founder, we are all called to work for communion in order to promote the expansion of our Congregation in the world.

We continue to pray: "LORD make your light shine and glorify your humble servant, the venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti ..."



(Community "Fr. Gregory Fioravanti" - Kinshasa)

**200 candles to indicate one light:
our Founder Fr Gregory**

Let us lift the banner of Jubilee.....

The banner of Jubilee is towering high, as we march towards the grand celebration of the birthday of the astounding Star Venerable Fr. Gregory, Fioravanti, the founder of FMSC.

This extraordinary Stalwart of prayer and sacrifice, was in the mind of God from eternity, but born into the world of noise and haste, 200 years back. It's an apt reason for us to be in jubilation on the day of his nativity, because God has blessed us in abundance, in the laudable person of Venerable Fr. Gregory Fioravanti, an epitome of heroic love, obedience, courage and commitment; he abandoned himself to the will of God even when he was thrown in the whirlpool of uncertainties, fears, utter poverty and many other qualms and afflictions, as tending the little Sprout of our religious family in its initial stages. Constantly in the midst of endless sufferings, he cuddled himself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which is throbbing for the love of mankind.



The Perpetual succour, the 'sweet Mother', to whom the dying Master entrusted the entire human kind, was his constant guide. He taught us to 'confide in God' not in persons.

"Before deciding it to be done, I will resort always to prayer to be illumined." Before taking up any responsibility our Venerable founder prayed for God's enlightenment; and God's will was his bread God answered his prayer enlightenment, in accord with our Foundress' inspiration to begin a congregation. He took up the responsibility of fostering the Congregation, the little sapling entrusted to him by God. Today it is grown into a well-heeled, splendid tree with many branches, inspiring the world through their humble service, to take refuge in Pierced Heart of Jesus, which is longing to give back the lost place of man in Paradise.

At this moment of jubilation, let us feel the presence of our beloved founder, Venerable Father Gregory Fioravanti OFM, like Abraham the great patriarch, blesses his beloved daughters from his heavenly abode.

We the FMSC family, stand in great ovation, with applause of gratitude and admiration honouring him, the archetype of great courage and endurance, for shielding and fostering the seedling of the FMSC.

While we celebrate his birthday with great significance, we pray to our Heavenly Father, to shower his blessings upon us like petals of roses; may our bond of love for our beloved family be strengthened and our interpersonal relationship fortified; may we grow as great missionaries taking the charism of Redeeming Love of Jesus, to the people unknown, till the end of world; May our beloved founder be honoured in the Church as father of a great multitude and many nations.

Our heartfelt thanks to our beloved Mother General and all the Councillors for preparing such a magnificent programme, with maximum perfection.

All the communities in the Province and some sisters individually, as they were in home visit, attended the Holy Mass which was celebrated in the Basilica of Madonna del Suffraggio at Grotta di Castro with great devotion and enthusiasm.

Many Communities have gathered the hostel children, FMSC associates; and in the formation houses all the formees along with the sisters participated this extraordinary event of our Congregation. In order to solemnize the occasion Sr. Beena and sisters of Assisi Convent Bitbuna, have erected a small stage in the courtyard and kept the photo of our venerable father in an elevated altar, adorned with 200 hundred lighted candles.

It was a day of great celebration, raising our hearts in gratitude to God for all the blessings we have received in the church, through our congregation, due to the endurance of our brave founders and their trust and confidence in the promises of God. They stand as the beacon of faith and hope, in this world of uncertainties, where we are fragmented in the slightest rays of sufferings.

The celebration coincided with the Divine Mercy Sunday, where the Church invites the faithful to throw oneself into the ocean of Jesus' Merciful love.

Our Founder Fr. Gregory always recommend us to the Sacred Heart, saying "The Heart of Jesus becomes the first refuge in all our indigence."

The lay participants appreciated the grandeur of the 200 birth anniversary of our founder, and it was an opportunity to many of us to tell them about our Congregation and its birth in the bosom of the Church.



How God used these distinct persons to fetch a new plunge of life in the history to take the Word of God to the people who dwell in darkness of scepticism .

We see the creative but affectionate hands of God, like a potter, in founding the congregation, uses these simple elements of persons, the ‘empty pots’ offered at his behest, But He fills them with graces necessary to give birth to a Charism which is still in function even after two hundred years. The celebration came to an end with a prayer in local language, as the participants were not familiar either with Italian or English. Sweets and refreshments were distributed to all the participants.

We raise our hearts in gratitude to God and our beloved Superiors and all the sisters of Grotto di Castro for encoding such a beautiful and soul touching liturgy.

We would like to conclude with the words of our Venerable father *“God will arrange everything by Himself.... to us it is enough to live according to our Holy Rule. And do to others all that we can, according to our strength”* Rev. Father Gregory Fioravanti founder of FMSC

We firmly believe that our dearly loved Foundress is not away from our festivities and our daily toils to carry on the mission entrusted to us.

She affiliate us to the maternal heart of Mary the mother of our Congregation, of the Church and the entire human kind. *“Mary our beloved Mother, never refuses our prayers made with a humble heart.”* Laura Leroux

*Sr Annie Thomas
Province Holy Family India*

FMSC Lay Associates and the Bicentenary celebrations.

*Let us learn to do good and leave the rest to Providence
(Venerable Fr. Gregory Fioravanti.)*

FMSC Lay associates of Chennai is a group of fervent Catholics who wanted to do something more than that customary catholic practices, to have a personal experience with Jesus, through a form of life, by remaining in their state of life.

They found in St.Francis of Assisi one who heard the call of God which transformed him from a self-indulgent, youth to the Poverello of Assisi.

This Franciscan way of life was appealing to their hearts and under the guidance of the FMSC sisters, on 15. 12. 2019 they formed the Franciscan Lay Associates of Chennai.

These amazing people find delight in spending their time energy and resources to reach out to the poor and needy, as a form of life to sanctify themselves and families.

In the midst of difficulties and problems in our life’s journey, prayer leads us to the deeper faith that we are loved and cared by a loving Father.



This strong conviction brought the FMSC lay Associates together and they gathered every alternative Sunday afternoons, at the sister's residence in St. Antony's convent for an hour of prayer and reflection. Rev. Fr. Josephraj OFM availed himself to guide them with his valuable reflections.

The day 30th April 2022 was a significant day in their life as they all received the Tau as a sign of their commitment to their way of life.

They also were delighted to celebrate the 200th birth Anniversary of our founder Father Gregory Fioravanti.

This extraordinary Birthday celebration disclosed to these people the magnificence of the hidden holy life of our beloved founder Venerable Fr. Gregory Fioravanti.

Sister Maria Goretti the Animator of the community gave a detailed description of the life and mission of our beloved Founder.

It gave an exposure to the path trodden by our founders and our first sisters; a panoramic view of the journey of FMSC under the guidance of this holy man with a heroic dedication and faithfulness to the chosen way of evangelical life. Indeed the people marvelled at the way in which God works in the souls, leading them to a particular style of life and mission that demands great sacrifices and they experience a fulfilment but everything for the greater glory of the Almighty.

The sisters of St. Antony's Convent Chennai have organized the day in such a splendour that the FMSC Lay Associates had a wonderful experience of Franciscan Joy expressed in different forms. Rev. Fr. Josephraj OFM and Fr. Estappan CM, solemnized the day by celebrating the Holy Mass in our Chapel. The day ended with a fraternal agape and exchange of gifts.

"You are here for no other purpose than to realize your inner divinity and manifest your inner enlightenment".





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

Mt. 25, 34



**Sister M. Peter Francis Nolan
of the Holy Spirit**

*Born in Peekskill
on 15.04. 1942
Died in Peekskill
on 24.02.2022*

Sr. M. Peter Francis was the first of four daughters born to Peter and Mary Nolan. She was born in Peekskill on April 15, 1942 and was baptized with the name Margaret Mary. She attended the schools of our sisters who therefore gave her a human and religious formation. In these Christian educational environments, the voice of the Lord was clear to Margaret who responded with joy and generosity.

She joined the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Peekskill on 9 August 1959 and she made her first profession on 14 August 1961.

She graduated from St. Patrick's School in Verplanck, Ladycliff Academy, Ladycliff College, and St. Vincent's Nursing School in Staten Island.

Her first assignment, 1961-1961, was as an educator at St. Joseph's School in West New York, NJ.

After obtaining her RN, Sister ministered at the Kennedy Home in the Bronx, 1964-1966, took charge of the Sisters' Infirmary in Peekskill from 1966-1971, was the nurse on the staff of the Sisters' retirement home from 1971-1974, and returned to the staff of the Sisters' Infirmary from 1974-1977.

From 1978-1981, Sr Peter was assigned to the Assisium in NYC where she taught health until 1982 when she was a primary care provider at Marrs Nursing Home in Mohegan Lake.

On 1986 she went back to

the Sisters' Infirmary as the Director of Nursing until she worked at the Victoria Home in Ossining until 1998. In these last years, she was the Director of the Sisters' Infirmary in Peekskill, as well as the Provincial Treasurer up until the time of her passing.

Sister Peter Francis was very conscientious about all she did. She took her responsibilities seriously, but after hours she loved to dance, listen to music, crochet, work on crossword puzzles, and enjoyed a hearty laugh, a good novel, and her favorite tv dramas.

Her spiritual life was very important to her; you could often find her alone in a darkened chapel, spending quality time with the God whom she loved and served well.

Although the effects of her physical disabilities caused her much discomfort, she made every attempt to be present to the sisters and to the many friends that kept in contact with her. Some of their children called her "Grandma", and she enjoyed being a grandma to them.



**Sister Rosarita Palman
of Mary help of Christians**

*Born in Pesaris (UD)
on 10. 07. 1931
Died in Gemona (UD)
on 22. 04. 2022*

Today 22 April, at 10.00 am, the passing to heaven was also made for Sr. Rosarita while a beautiful group of sisters present prayed the magnificat. We are certain that Mary, the Mother of the Risen Jesus, to whom she entrusted herself throughout her life, accompanied her to heaven to sing the Easter alleluia!

Sr. Rosarita Palman was born in Pesariis (UD) on 10 July 1931, into a Carnian family of which, for reasons of work, some family members chose the path of emigration. Her parents, Filippo and Teresa Tomat, on July 26, accompanying her to the Holy Baptism, asked her to be called Anna.

Her religious vocation blossomed early, at the age of 22, on May 31, 1953, Anna entered the convent of Gemona on the day always dedicated to Mary, to whose protection she entrusted the formative journey that prepared her for the religious profession which took place on May 24. 1955.

Here she receives the name of Sister Rosarita of Mary Help of Christians.

Generous in nature like the Carnians, she lived her entire life consecrated to the Lord with profound conviction of faith and without half measures, despite the simplicity of everyday life.

Immediately after her profession, she was sent to Treppo Grande to carry out the “embroidery and sewing school” service with the young women, a service that even after her perpetual profession, celebrated in the motherhouse on May 24, 1960, continued in various places, Piano D’Arta, Straits of Eraclea, Codroipo Rizzi-UD.

In 1975, having reached the preparatory degree teaching diploma, her mission was carried out among children and families in nursery schools and through pastoral care in the various parishes, Sedegliano, Lancenigo, Castagnole, Ospedaletto d’Istrana, Sevegliano, Solagna, Paularo, leaving a fond memory among the people.

She also played the role of local Superior in various communities.

From 2003 to 2010, he suspended the nursery school service and dedicated himself to the parish ministry.

In 2011 she was called to the mother house where she continued to be useful above all in sewing and, as long as she could, also in the pastoral care of consolation.

Lately, for reasons of health and age, she has been part of the community of the infirmary, continuing to live the dimension of suffering, with great serenity and peace.

On Friday 22 April at 10.00, Sr. Rosarita unexpectedly left this world. At the threshold of 91 years, spent for the Lord and with the help of Mary, she was ready for heaven.

It is natural to raise the prayer of thanks for the gift that Sr. Rosarita was for her relatives, especially for those far away for whom she has always had a particular affection, for us her sisters and for all those she served throughout her life. We do this by turning to Mary with a fraternal heart:

*O Mary, open the door
of heaven
to our sister Sister Rosarita
so that you can enter into
the paschal joy
of your Son Jesus.
And you, Sr. Rosarita,
from heaven where you now
enjoy the presence
of the Risen One,
intercede
for our religious family
the gift of holy vocations
able to offer their lives,
as you did,
so that the Kingdom of God is
established in all hearts.*





PACE E BENE Periodico quadrimestrale
delle **Suore Francescane Missionarie del Sacro Cuore**
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