

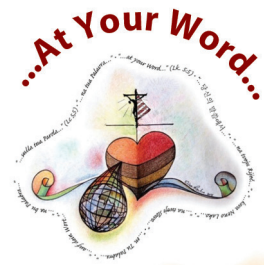
# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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### True Christmas Happiness

Editorial

In the era of consumerism and standardization, when you think of Christmas the idea of gifts immediately comes to mind. During the days preceding Christ's coming, people are running around, hurrying, feeling stressed, worn out from shopping and buying the latest model of telephone or the latest fashion apparel. It's a race for gifts. Christmas has become a bow-adorned package, a table overflowing with food, a day to forget everything to feel happy.

But Christmas is something else entirely. Christmas is a mother praying quietly in a corner of the house; it is a slowing down to be aware of how extraordinary the simplest things are; it is an unexpected wish, a pat on the back, a comforting word; it is forgiveness. Christmas is a synthesis of Light, of the birth of the One who knew how to transform the world with love, of the One who, in being born, gave the entire world hope, presence and remembrance. On Christmas each person is led to come to terms with his or her own conscience; each person becomes an instrument of charity.

Where and how is Christmas experienced? Christmas is in hearts, it is in breaking down the walls of indifference, it is in knowing how to be transformed, it is in welcoming the new day as a precious event, it is in knowing how to be grateful. Christmas is when we are at peace, when we drive

away evil, when we share our bread, when we make God's word our way.

Christmas is not just a day, for Jesus is born in our hearts each time we call him, recognize him. He comes to light in the gazes of those who suffer, in the mouths of the hungry, in the souls of those holding a grudge and He lives and breathes at each consoled gaze, at each mouth fed, at each soul stilled.

In this era marked by the most unusual "involution" of the human race experiencing the pandemic, the birth of Jesus becomes the sign that traces out the way toward the essential. It strips us of what is superfluous, of all the details, because the whole is He who lives in our hearts.

Thus, Christmas is throwing open the doors to let the Light enter, letting in Jesus, the One who conquers darkness and enlightens even the darkest corners of the house, because there a mother is still praying. It is He who conquers the world with Love and teaches us that Christmas is the poverty of earthly riches. Because true happiness is a manger, some hay for a cradle, the breath of a cow and a donkey for warmth, the arms of a mother for protection, a father kneeling as a first servant. It is the heavens flooded with Light.

**Rosanna Evangelista**

### Summary

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## A Special Christmas

My first Christmas in the international community of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Rome during this special time has really been different. Celebrating Christmas during a pandemic and in completely different circumstances, gave me the opportunity to more intensely experience an encounter with the Babe of Bethlehem. The new circumstances also cast new light on my vision of myself and the people around me as well as the way of looking at the world at this present time.

Jesus was incarnated and born in time, and in this, our time filled with uncertainty and fear, his voice from the poor and humble crib echoes more eloquently than ever. God became human and this realization enlightens my life in a new way. As an international community woven from many cultures, ways of thinking and different experiences, we are a perfect refuge for the little baby Jesus. Far from home, surrounded by new and uncertain situations where it is hard to foresee

and plan anything, we have the opportunity to approach Him and give Him the most intimate and fragile part of ourselves.

A special Christmas, Jesus' special birthday also for the richness of the communion of prayers and liturgy that we colored with songs from various cultures. I will remember this Christmas as a great celebration because Jesus came to all of us as He was, without privileges. And this brings true joy that warms our hearts and remains. My wish is that each person may experience this lasting joy and never forget that Emmanuel is God-with-us and always for us wherever we are, whatever our name may be or whatever we have experienced. He is our security and his nearness is the greatest gift for our lives.

**Sr. Ljubica Radovac, ASC**





## **Seminar in Sukamahela**

### **WHO CAN ANSWER THE CRY OF THE BLOOD?**

Each of us can answer the cry of the blood. We, the choir, the small Christian Community, and the new group of women whose desire is to answer the Cry of the Blood participated in a seminar "Who is St. Maria De Mattias?" T Sukamela sub-parish facilitated by Sister Rosehawa, who explained Maria's charisma and Ministry in the light of Luke 10:25-27, the story of the good Samaritan, who showed love for his dear neighbor.

All the participants were happy and eager to sacrifice more as St. Maria De Mattias did. Sr. Rosehawa congratulated all groups for their efforts to imitate their model, St. Maria. Then she invited all the participants to share their feelings or anything that has touched them throughout the seminar. They shared their feelings or anything that touched them throughout the seminar. They shared challenges they faced specially in their village:

1. Failure of their efforts to proclaim St. Maria De Mattias;
2. Bad instruction provided to the young men;
3. Males' weakness in adhering to their Christian faith
4. Some women not being aware of their

responsibilities in their families.

Apart from all the challenges, they believe that St. Maria De Mattias is interceding for them thus, they are capable of being patient and carrying all in love. Moreover, they have set strategies to overcome those challenges. These are:

- To have a group or family prayer for special need;
- More service and volunteering to help the needy
- Promotion of Christian life to the believers so that they live accordingly.

We are grateful to God for such groups of St. Maria De Mattias for their awareness to the current needs within their village and the step that has been taken to collect the marginalized children and supporting them in their basic needs and growth in general.

Through the intercession of St. Maria De Mattias, may they keep on growing in such a spirit and persevere in all the challenges encountered during their ministry. May the Power of the Blood of Christ be with them at all times.

### **Sisters ASC and Pre-Postulants-Chibumagwa Community**





## 25 Years of Service

The Sangre de Cristo Healthcare Project in Guatemala recently celebrated 25 years of service to the neediest in this large sector of communities.

Founded 25 years ago by Sister Dani Brought, this project grew from a single clinic to multiple clinic sites, laboratories, pharmacies, and sites for dental and ecological services.

The project received this note from Dani: "Congratulations for 25 years of serving. What a strong witness and show of goodness for all God's people. My heart is filled with gratitude and love for each of you that has been and continue to be part of the Healthcare Project family!!"

Members of the health care team shared their joy and gratitude by decorating each of the clinics and permanent sites. The day began with a special Eucharistic celebration followed by a lunch on the basketball court that allowed for good social distancing. Many individuals were recognized for years of service and other accomplishments.

Sister Kris was able to attend, both as a Board member and representative of the Adorers, and to share a reflection on why the title of the Project, Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) has such profound meaning for the ministry they do and the outreach they are committed to providing.

What a blessing the Adorers have been to this great work, so often supporting many of the initiatives through grants and donations, and supporting Dani and Kris as "ambassadors of presence and leadership."

And yet, the greatest blessing has been the grace to work alongside such dedicated women and men we now call friends.

You can see much of the work by visiting YouTube and typing in the name of the project.



**Sr. Kris Schrader, ASC**



## **The Wood Project**

In late August, Sisters Michelle Woodruff and Maureen Farrar learned they were the recipients of a *Sisters on the Front Lines* grant of \$1,000 from The Catholic Extension Society. The purpose of the grant was to provide immediate help to people in need.

The greatest challenge was to determine who and what among many people with many needs in and around our home in Crownpoint, New Mexico, on the Navajo Indian Reservation. The decision was made to buy and deliver wood since so many of the people, especially the elderly and those who live in more remote areas, still use wood stoves for both heating and cooking. Many do not have anyone to haul wood for them, much less chop it.

Plans were put in place: a woman in an area where we don't ordinarily work but which has great need, would contact a couple of men who were wood haulers, purchase several loads of wood and deliver a load to each of eight families (out of a list of 72 she'd identified as needing assistance!). Our intent was to assist in the deliveries, but when Michelle tested positive for Covid-19, that wasn't possible, so someone else stepped in to deliver the wood.

We continued coordinating with a couple of wood haulers in Crownpoint and were able to assist them with deliveries to another eight families in the general area. One of the women who received wood told the men who delivered it, "I'm so happy you came! I was about ready to tear some boards off my woodshed to burn because I'm so cold."

**Sr. Maureen Farrar, ASC**



## ***“God’s Grace is the Oil that Fills the Lamps of Love”***

God calls and chooses us to work in the vineyard that He had planned before we were born. God’s love for us is endless, God’s thoughts about us are limitless, God’s grace towards us is boundless, and God’s protection over us is measureless. We were indeed glad and delighted to say a perpetual ‘YES’ to the living and loving Divine Lord. December 3, 2020 was a day for us to enjoy the immense love of Christ who sows the seed of faith in us, the grace of the Holy Spirit and witness to His Precious Blood. In the garden of Jesus we grew step by step to enter into the heavenly blessings of kingdom.

On this special day of our final commitment our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy to God and to one another with an extraordinary sense of being loved and led forward. God has blessed us with the gift of abundant life and grace of our baptismal call and our precious vocation to the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. It is His strength and support that enables us to see this day, to spell out our humble thanks for having sustained us throughout our formative journey.

God filled us with his love at different stages of our lives, so that we may be sustained to carry out his work here on earth. We are fueled and powered by his passionate love for us. Our hearts are oriented and have a disposition in such a way, facing and attuned to God to become an indefinite disciple for His great mission. Faith tells us that no matter, what lies ahead of us God is already there.

St. Maria De Mattias calls all the children of God to live with one desire of “giving pleasure to Jesus” and to commit ourselves joyfully to save “the dear neighbor,” through the powerful intercession of St. Maria we could imbibe the values of Christ Crucified in us. We were edified and energized to walk in the footsteps of Jesus in order to see this remarkable day in our lives.

We do remember our ASC family throughout the world, especially Sr. Nadia Coppa our Superior General and Administration who accompanied and strengthened us through prayers and a deeper sense of sisterly care, concern, co-operation. In the same way Sr. Mini Pallipadan Regional superior and Administration, sisters of

our Indian Region for lifting us to God through your prayers and sacrifice. A word of appreciation to all the sisters and laity who watched the program through YouTube live streaming, may God cheer each and everyone with His grace to be His authentic missionaries.

God’s grace is **IMMEASURABLE**  
His mercy is **INEXHAUSTIBLE**  
His peace is **INEXPRESSIBLE**

With grateful hearts,

*Newly professed Sr.Maya & Perpetually Professed sisters  
Deepika, Fathima , Jyothi, Vinnarasy & Velanganni  
Indian Region*





## **Memorial Day of the Victims – Martyrs of the Civil War**

On November 18, 2020, the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Homeland War and the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Vukovar and Škabrnja were marked in the Republic of Croatia.

The cities Vukovar and Škabrnja are places that have become symbols of suffering in the Homeland War and are symbols of resistance, unity and sacrifice made for the freedom we live in Croatia today.

On the eve of Vukovar Memorial Day and the 29th anniversary of the Škabrnja massacre, candles were lit and prayers were said throughout Croatia to commemorate the victims of the 1991-95 Homeland War and the defeat of Vukovar's defense forces on November 18, 1991.

These days are the reminder of gratitude but also of deep wounds that have not completely healed. Every year, many visitors/ Croats come and participate in the commemorative program.

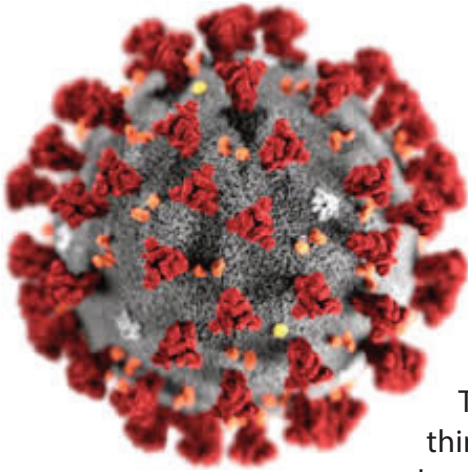
The Adorers of the Blood of Christ, who have been actively participating in the life of the

city of Vukovar since 2003, also took part in the Remembrance Day. Through their quiet presence, prayer and work, the sisters mediate God's nearness to everybody.

Through their apostolate, which consists of parish catechesis, animating the liturgy, working with the Prayer Community of the Blood of Christ, arranging the sacral space, sacristan service, caring for the elderly and infirm in the parish, and hospitality and openness to anyone who comes to the community, the sisters seek to witness the presence of God in their environment and want to be a sign of God's love in the adoration and worship of the Blood of Christ. Every day they present to the heavenly Father the Precious Blood of Christ in the Eucharist for the needs of the people, for the healing of spiritual wounds and for the grace of forgiveness.

*Sr. Lucija Bijelić, ASC*





## ***A New Rhythm of Life***

Each of us is a potential philosopher. Philosophy is not the monopoly of professional philosophers.

To live is to think and reflect and imagine; and particularly at this puzzling moment when COVID-19 has shattered our 'taken-for-granted' world, we are compelled to redefine the very rhythm of life.

COVID -19 called a pandemic by the World Health Organization, is, according to me , a mega pandemic, because no other pandemic has affected people in as many countries as this didi. Nothing in our lifetime has ever caused the world to shut down. Every country that has tried to follow a different path calibrated or otherwise has discovered that a shutdown is inevitable. It was a struggle with pain and confusion, and at times, with prayers for collective redemption.

During this pandemic we are forced to learn new lessons and rediscover the value of some old ones in our life. If any old lesson comes in handy during the COVID-19 crisis it is that hygiene helps. We have all been taught to wash our hands every time we've been to a place that could have disease-causing germs, when we return home from outside and from time to time for good measure. Yet, if the upward graph of soap sales during the crisis is any indication, it was as if we were discovering the value of washing hands for the first time.

We have lived through a lockdown. The availability of food, water, shelter, communication, medicines and education and entertainment on television & the internet has kept us going. The lockdown forced us to ask what we really need to live reasonably well. And the answer in most cases is – not too much. While physiological and security needs have been paramount, many have found ways to learn

new skills or do things they have always wanted to do but couldn't make time for. Families and friends have engaged over video calls and many have "met" members of their family more often during the lockdown than they otherwise do! Despite the lockdown we have discovered many new things which have brought new rhythm to our life.

Meanwhile, in the absence of human touch we are erecting huge walls of separation and exclusion. In order to survive biologically we are living with masks and sanitizers; we are living with chronic fear and anxiety; or we are escaping through all the apps that make it possible to 'work from home'. Even when we are technically alive, we are dead—aesthetically and spiritually. Seldom do we ask what ought to be asked: What is work? What is productivity? What is progress? What is education? And above all, what is the rhythm of life and death?

***Sr. Shiny Kayyaniyl, ASC***





**General Administration Calendar**



**January 11 – February 26:** Canonical Visitation to the Region of India – online

**January 12-14:** Sr. Nadia attends the annual UISG Constellation Assembly with the theme of “Fraternity: a Place of Faithfulness to Charism and Mission”

**Birthdays: Let’s Celebrate Life**

<u>40</u>			
<b>Sr. Laura Cukar</b>	31/01/1981	Zagreb	
<u>70</u>			
<b>Sr. Krescencija Delaš</b>	25/01/1951	Zagreb	
<b>Sr. Katarina Lukačević</b>	29/01/1951	Zagreb	
<u>80</u>			
<b>Sr. Maristela Hećimović</b>	01/01/1941	Zagreb	
<b>Sr. Barbara Borders</b>	03/01/1941	USA	
<b>Sr. Lucia Sarti</b>	22/01/1941	Italy	
<b>Sr. Regina Siegfried</b>	25/01/1941	USA	
<u>90</u>			
<b>Sr. Imelda Rose Hammeke</b>	15/01/1931	USA	



**They have returned  
to their Heavenly  
Home**

12/02/2020	<b>Sr. Blandina Hug</b>	Schaan
12/04/2020	<b>Sr. Elia Siddi</b>	Italy
12/07/2020	<b>Sr. Mary Ann Mueller</b>	USA
12/07/2020	<b>Sr. Agatha Marie Groft</b>	USA
12/08/2020	<b>Sr. Elena Pannunzio</b>	Italy
12/14/2020	<b>Sr. Mary Ann Bahr</b>	USA

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