

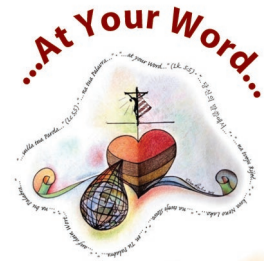
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

ASC International Communications – General Administration - Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 Rome

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Editorial

Processes of Hope

The Theological Institute of Religious Life (TIRL) of the Claritan Missionaries in Madrid once again invited consecrated women and men to participate in the traditional National Week for Religious Life during the Easter Octave. The 52nd National Week for Institutes of Consecrated Life (April 13-15, 20223) was offered both online and in-person. There was a big turnout. The theme was Undertaking Processes of Hope. Sr. Nadia was invited as President of the UISG to speak and emphasized the generative call of consecrated life. **Being a generative womb for a prophetic consecrated life** was the theme of her reflection which had very positive feedback regarding the freshness and depth of her insights.

The talk was developed from the realization that consecrated life cannot shy away from dreaming and investing its energies in witnessing and commitment to “wake up the world,” as Pope Francis urges consecrated men and women.

Added to the current crisis of faith is the crisis of consecrated life: aging, diminishment, fatigue... and we must add that consecrated life has lost its places of visibility. To give effective responses to these challenges, we must take

a “journey to the depths,” to the origins of our institutes. Fidelity to the charism must look to the past, but it must also take into account the present and attend to the future.

If consecrated people lose sight of their mission, they will eventually lose sight of their generativity. Generativity requires being deeply rooted in the Gospel, being aware of our own identity and ready to go out of ourselves to open ourselves to others through a life marked by love, the only reality that can make life full and fruitful.

Becoming generative shifts the focus from doing to being and requires a heart that is in love, passionate, full of desire, ready to put itself on the line and give of itself. Consecrated life must increasingly learn the language of communion. **It is the time to weave new relationships** capable of leading to an encounter with the Risen One, which is the fruit of the commitment of men and women, first and foremost believers and rooted in a mature, authentic faith that encourages them to spend themselves for the Gospel with ethical responsibility by placing the person, who has always been the object of divine love, at the center.

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In today's culture, some scholars, reflecting on generativity and applying it to different settings and situations, infer that it is not an individual fact, but a synodal one. Generativity calls us as a community of sisters and brothers willing to embark on this beautiful and challenging journey, to become a life-generating womb, that is, a place of fruitfulness of love through not only a project, but especially as a way of life. It is no longer about an individual witness; it must be the witness of a community.

Communities must become places where life is generated: communities or rather *koinonia*, places where through daily commitment we become crafters of communion and move from community of life to communion of life. Fraternal life is the preferential way of living and manifesting the synodal style in consecrated life, and in order to accomplish this style, it is necessary to move from simple community life to fraternal life in community through the cultivation and promotion of cordial, loyal and transparent human relationships at the basis of fraternal communion.

If every Christian response stems from an encounter with the person of Jesus, religious life, which has a prophetic origin, cannot arise and grow without a deeply spiritual and mystical dimension. In a world obsessed with the individual's need for

self-affirmation, the fulfillment of the consecrated person passes through that of others. Generative action is an 'outgoing' action: in the gift of self; in the paschal experience, life is generated. And in this movement of losing ourselves, the person, evangelically, finds herself. Our fulfillment passes through that of others: "When we live out a spirituality of drawing nearer to others and seeking their welfare, our hearts are opened wide to the Lord's greatest and most beautiful gifts." (EG 272)

Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

In his Apostolic Letter on May 7, 2019, Pope Francis stated: *“Ensuring the safety of minors and vulnerable people is an integral part of the Church’s mission.”*

In 2019, the General Administration developed a congregational policy for protecting children and vulnerable adults in response to this exhortation. It also requested all the Regions and Foundations to create or update their child protection policies and guidelines to protect people who are in a state of vulnerability.

The word “safeguard” urges us to take action to stop something from happening and consistently act to stop someone from being harmed or exploited.

The term “child” refers to anyone under the age of 18, while “vulnerable adults” refers to anyone over the age of 18 who may need community care services due to a disability, either physical or mental, and who may be unable to fully care for themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

All of us Adorers serve vulnerable adults or children in some way, and it is our moral responsibility to ensure the well-being and safety of these individuals while they are in our temporary care or supervision.

The General Council established a congregational committee in 2022 to oversee the protection of children and people in vulnerable situations. The regional superiors and foundation coordinators were asked to appoint a contact person for each reality, supported by a committee, preferably including a lawyer and a psychologist. The primary responsibilities of the regional and congregational committees are to provide ongoing formation to all our members, collaborators and supporters, to monitor processes, and to have special care to welcome and accompany those who claim to have been victims of exploitation.

During the first meeting of the Congregational



and Regional Committee that was held online on November 14, 2022, Sr. Lucja Lis, ASC, spoke about the various forms of abuse, and Adv. Francesco Lozupone highlighted the duties

and responsibilities of the Protection Committee. Both of them are members of the Congregational Committee. Having listened to them, many of the members present expressed the need for further formation on the topic. Considering the request from the ground, the General Administration further organized another formative session on April 11, 2023, on the theme, *“From protecting to safeguarding minors, vulnerable adults, and the community,”* by Dr. Chiara Griffini, opened her reflection with the question, *“Why is it difficult to observe and difficult to perceive risk factors around us?”* Starting from the etymology of the word *e-ducere* which means to bring out, he said that we are not only to *cum-ducere* ch means to lead, or to accompany but we are called to *ex-ducere* which means to bring to light, to bring out into the open.

Now that we are deeply aware of the RISK and PROTECTION FACTORS, prevention, formation, and safeguarding activities need to go hand in hand.

Welcoming and accompanying those who claim to have been victims of exploitation asks us to walk another extra mile in sensitivity, at the same time engaging in supervision: not only establishing internal oversight bodies but making them fully functional. She gently reminded us to ask ourselves the following questions; *What do we feel we have to safeguard? What do we lack? What resistance is there in our environments?*

We were entrusted with homework to make a sincere evaluation of the child protection policies that have been developed in relation to the responses we give to various forms of abuse that happen in our own contexts.

Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel, ASC

Traveling Toward Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)

At dawn on **March 27, 2023**, we started our trip to the "Royal" land of Eswatini to begin a new community of Adorers of the Blood of Christ in a new culture and plant the seed of our charism in the land of Eswatini. We were accompanied on our journey to our new home by our Regional Superior, Sr. Lucina Johanness, and by Sr. Caritas Aloyce, one of the councilors.

There were three legs in our trip to reach Eswatini: we traveled from Dar es Salaam to Blantyre, Malawi, then we continued to Johannesburg, South Africa, before going on to the international airport of the Third King Mswati, arriving at 5:50 (South Africa time). We were joyfully welcomed to the airport in Eswatini by our indigenous brothers who were with Bishop ***José Luis Ponce de León IMC: Father Ngwenya Zweli, Councilor of the Bishop, and Father Giorgio Massa, IMC (Consolata Missionary).***

After the welcoming ceremony, we headed to the state of Manzini. The next day, March 28, 2023 Bishop ***José Luis Ponce de León*** presided at the Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving to God for our presence in the Church of Eswatini.

The same day we met with the Bishop and with Father Ngwenya Zweli for a conversation. The Bishop shared with us the reality of the Church in Eswatini as well as an overview of the services the Church is already offering to the society. He talked to us about the four other religious congregations already present in the country and that we ASCs represent the fifth missionary group welcomed by the Church of Eswatini. After the session, Father Ngwenya accompanied us on a visit to the different places of Manzini where these activities are carried out.

After our midday meal we went to Holy Rosary Parish in Makayane where we three ASCs (Sr. Lilian Stuart, Sr. Ester James and I) will live for now to learn the language and participate

in the mission of the parish.

When we arrived in Makayane were lovingly welcomed by some of laity and we shared our evening meal with them for the first time in our new community.

We thank God for having led us there safe and sound and we pray that God's grace be with us so we can continue to respond to his voice and serve the people of God in the land of Eswatini.

Sr. Margarita Silvery Ngoi, ASC



New Roles at BLCS

Just over a year since the move to Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine (BLCS), our sisters continue to adapt, adjust, and thrive in their “new” environment. One of the most recent changes is the new roles being taken on by Srs. Angela Schrage and Joan Stoverink, who make up the Community Life Team at BLCS, each with the title of Community Life Coordinator while focusing on a specific area.

Sr. Angela focuses on the Assisted Living and Skilled Care Unit, while Sr. Joan focuses on our sisters who live in Independent Living. The sisters began their new roles a year after the move from Ruma to BLCS for many, and they step in as Sr. Barb Biver steps back from her role as the contact person between the sisters and BLCS staff. Sr. Barb was asked to serve in this position for a year - from around the time of the move until early this year. Now, for Srs. Angela and Joan, continuing to make the sisters feel comfortable at BLCS while adjusting to a new environment themselves is their main focus.

“We work together for the good of the whole,” said Sr. Angela. “We knew this was a very new reality, so we didn’t want to put any burdens on the sisters and wanted them to be open to something new.”

To that end, keeping things more open and less structured seemed the best way to start out. “We didn’t give them much direction. We just said look and see, enjoy, figure out what you need. We didn’t place emphasis on community, and we said you can learn and figure out what works best for you,” said Sr. Angela. “We knew that they would figure out something, and they were very creative. Everyone learned fast some of the givens here. We learned that this is not ours, we are living in someone else’s house, and we learned that BLCS has a spirit of community by itself already, it’s just there. They were excited when our sisters came because they didn’t have very many residents at the time, with 37 of us it opened up new life in the place.”

The chance to be an integral part of the sisters’ lives is important to both Sr. Joan and Sr. Angela. “When I visit with sisters whose short-term memory is compromised, my service consists of ‘creating moments of joy!’ and it is a joy,” said Sr. Angela.

Another given was that the chapel is in use during certain hours, so the sisters need to work around that - including working in evening prayer at 4:00 p.m. because at 4:15 there was another group coming in. There was also an adjustment learning how meals were served, and when. That includes not having a meal served on Sunday evenings. “At Ruma, Sunday evening was a special meal,” said Sr. Angela. “At BLCS, the sisters worked out on their own that they sometimes eat together on Sunday evenings.” To-go offerings are available during the day on Sunday to eat that evening, should a sister prefer to pick something up to have at Sunday dinner.

“It’s something different all the time. I’m learning a lot,” said Sr. Joan. “We have a wonderful activity director. They provide an opportunity for the sisters to go out, there’s an “out-to-eat” day, and they provide transportation.”

Both Sr. Joan and Sr. Angela noted that they were surprised at how easy it has been for sisters to interact with and get to know residents, citing a ministry that they see going on between both groups - sisters helping residents and the residents being good for the sisters - including Srs. Joan and Angela. “I like working with the sisters,” said Sr. Joan. “I am really enjoying it.”



Jeff Stahlhut

Regional Director of Communications

A Special Letter

Receiving the LETTERS of Paulina Schneeberger was a great gift! Many of us here in Columbia heard so many stories about her and our sister pioneers who left Alton to begin a new adventure. In her first letter from Columbia in 1925, she writes to Mother Latina Cortese: "The sisters are very loving and good to each other; all show signs of zeal to become holy religious sisters in accordance with our Holy Rule. We will strive so that the future will harvest the fruits." Let's imagine Mother Paulina returning to Columbia today and a letter she might write:

Dear Sister Nadia, Superior General,

It is difficult to imagine, but the small group of us who arrived in Columbia in 1925, and who having experienced abundant changes ourselves could never have envisioned what those who followed us have accomplished. When I arrived at what was the old Senator Quay Mansion, I found the St. Anne's Retirement Community, truly a sign of God's blessing. I know that your visit was limited because of the pandemic, I thank you for letting me follow with my own.

While small in numbers, I found the sisters filled with zeal for mission just as we were when we first arrived in Columbia. And, I was happy to see the contemplative spirit within them as well. What struck me the most was their care for one another. I arrived on March 4 and joined the sisters who gathered from the area to celebrate our Foundation Day at De Mattias Residence. Sister Kristen led the prayer service using her computer skills to create an atmosphere that invited the sisters into a contemplative experience. Each sister shared her response to the call to live as a consecrated Adorer. Another highlight of my visit was seeing the Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation occupied by Sister Dani on the second floor of the previously owned motherhouse. The sisters take Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation very seriously.

It was beautiful for me to see the infirm sisters at St. Anne's and to join them for a Prayer Service around the fireplace in Personal Care. These Adorers living mission in later life truly understand their role as a "Powerhouse of Prayer" for all those in active ministries and for people around the world. They spoke so lovingly of each of the sisters active in mission.

Summarily, what I saw was sisters caring for one another, loving one another and I was delighted to hear about the ASC Sojourners and Associates that continue being a compassionate presence wherever they are.

On the day I left Columbia, I participated in morning prayer in the De Mattias Residence Chapel with the Sojourners and sisters in reciting the Prayer of the Church. The music, paused reflections and sharing were a wonderful beginning of the day together.

It is a joy for me to tell you that our dream so many years ago is being fulfilled. God remains with us, dear Sr. Nadia.

*Sister Paulina
Adorer of the Precious Blood*

Sr. Margaret Washington, ASC

You are Worth the Blood of Christ – The Window of Life



With joy and excitement I participated in the opening and blessing of the *Window of Life* in our Motherhouse in Bolesławiec. This is a special place where moms in need can leave their unwanted children so the sisters will take care of them. This wonderful event took place on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrated in Poland as Holiness of Life Day since 1998. The *Window of Life* initiative is strongly in line with the beautiful and demanding charism of the ASCs. Human life is precious; it costs the Blood of Christ.

Pope Francis, like his predecessors, reminds us that “every life is beautiful and sacred and should be admired and defended.” Speaking about the courage of truth, he explained that “it is a matter of speaking out and not turning our faces away in



the face of attacks on the value of human life from conception to its natural demise, in the face of the dignity of the human person, in the face of social evils, in the face of various forms of poverty.”

We, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the *Faith-Family-Life* Association initiated the creation of the *Window of Life* in Bolesławiec. The inauguration and blessing of the Window was preceded by Holy Mass in our convent chapel. Participating in the event were the ASCs, the families belonging to the Faith-Family-Life Association, the town mayor, Piotr Roman, representatives of the police and St. Luke’s Hospital as well as invited guests. After the Eucharist, the Bishop of Legnica, Andrzej Siemieniewski, blessed the Window of Life. In his homily he recalled some of humanity’s historical events that can be considered “windows of life.” The first was the creation of the world. Another was the coming of Jesus Christ. Another would be what is described in the Book of Revelation as the gate of Paradise. He compared the opening the *The Window of Life* in Bolesławiec to the opening of a “biblical window” for those in need.

Our spirituality calls us to always defend life everywhere. It encourages everything that promotes life and to be aware of what threatens life. Defending life and being on the side of life is a basic element of our evangelizing mission. **Save a life and you save the entire world!**

Mary, who said yes to God, makes us capable of compassion and attention, of moving us and standing beside another human being in need of our support. To St. Maria De Mattias, Patroness of Bolesławiec, we recommend human life so that our saint will show us a faith-filled, consistent and solid stance whose fruit is the affirmation of life.

Sr. Ewa Kleps, ASC

Lenten Meeting With Children

In many of our parishes, children's meetings are regular. In our Diocese of Banja Luka (Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina), this is a rare and special event because after the last war in the nineties, the number of parishioners was halved, especially the number of younger generations is decreasing. It is a sad reality, but the brave continue and try to do what they can. Among them are Sr. Loreta Stipić, ASC, and religious teacher Blaženka Ivekić, who on March 18, 2023 animated a Lenten meeting for elementary school-age children in the premises of the Diocesan Ordinariate of Banja Luka. Forty children (from 2nd to 9th grade) participated from five parishes. They were accompanied to the meeting by their pastors who participated with them.

After the presentation through the "spider's web", the children got to know the Cathedral of St. Bonaventure where they prayed the Stations of the Cross together. In the hall, through the workshop, they continued to think about the Church and their role in it. After lunch, there was a "tombola". The many hours of happy gathering ended with the distribution of certificates of thanks to all participants. The Bishop of Banja Luka, Franjo Komarica, spoke with the children and expressed that he was delighted with the meeting, the children's joy and the love they have for the Church. The meeting was supported by the Maria De Mattias Foundation from Zagreb with the project "For Life and Family".



We can guess how much the children enjoyed the meeting from their comments:

"I wish we could do this more often." (Ivana)

"Today was great, fun, we hung out and got to know each other. I remembered a lot of useful information that can help me in life: about the sacraments, the cathedral, about our wonderful little community. I had a great time and I want to get together again soon. Thank you for the food and wonderful gifts." (Tereza)

"I rate today's day and today's spiritual renewal as excellent, but also more than excellent. I would like to come again, because it was a lot of fun. About what I knew, I still learned something about it. It was great!!! This will stay in my memory. Thanks to everyone who organized this." (Sofia)

"Today we spent quality time with friends. We learned a lot of new information: we are stronger when we are together, we should listen to our parents, the cathedral is in the shape of a tent, because Jesus camped among us. I hope there will be more meetings like this." (Lucija)

"I want to come to this kind of meeting again, because I like to socialize." (Mateo)

"Thank God we had this today." (Ivano)

"I remembered a lot of interesting information about our religion from today's meeting. We enjoyed the joyful atmosphere. I look forward to the next meeting." (Una)

"I would like to come again, because this day was fun and unforgettable. I met new people, learned new things and had fun. I remembered that we are stronger when we are in community. I enjoyed it and I can't wait for a similar meeting." (Emma)

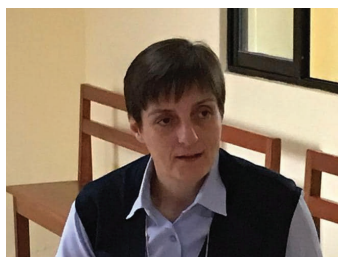
Community: "New Nazareth" - Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

JPIC - Online Meeting Held on March 22, 2023

ASC JPIC/VIVAT Contact Persons gathered on March 22, 2023, to share the Action Plans on JPIC/VIVAT. We began our meeting with a warm welcome hoisted by Sr. Rani Padayatil the Coordinator for JPIC/ VIVAT, Rome. She quoted from Pope Francis, "Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (LS#19). This was also a follow up, after the seminar held in November 2022 and to share the Action Plan which was prepared by each Region/ Delegation/Foundation and Mission.

Sr. Cecilia Milković lead us in prayer. She read a phrase from Bible "people lived in their hardness of their hearts, they did not heed my voice." She provoked us to change our hearts strengthen our faith, and to work for the care of creation, not to destroy hearts but to be witnesses of peace.

Sr. Rani welcomed Sr. Nadia Coppa, general superior, and thanked her for her availability and concern shown to each sister of the congregation.



Sr. Nadia thanked Sr. Rani for her interest and initiatives. She quoted the words of Pope Francis that to grow in humanity and commitment and promote with

other congregations regarding JPIC/ VIVAT. The values of justice and peace need to be lived and promoted wherever we are. We need to live by universal fraternity, communion and solidarity among us.

Sr. Elizabeth Müller from Schaan, Sr. Lourd Susai from India, Sr. Linlee Vios from Philippines, Sr. Cecilia Milković from Croatia and Sr. Fathima from Guinea Bissau shared their Action Plans. This sharing was very enriching and helpful to each one of us.

Sr. Dani Brought from the USA had an opportunity to visit the VIVAT International office in New York City and participate as a VIVAT representative for the US VIVAT branch, in the first 4 days of the 67th session of the UN Commission

on the Status of Women. The purpose of this visit was 4 pronged and based on better understanding: 1) to meet with the VIVAT International representatives, 2) to better understand how VIVAT operates 3) to see firsthand and better understand how the UN functions 4) and to understand better how we Adorers of the Blood of Christ as a member congregation of VIVAT have active and intentional participation in VIVAT at all levels.



S. Dani observed the sessions of the UN in which over 100 ministers/ambassadors from different countries gave their presentations. She said it was interesting to note that each country started by mentioning that gender equality and the role of women has problems in many different ways, and then they proceeded to elaborate on the many ways and programs that their country has put into place to alleviate these problems.

A learning from this experience was that even though she has had uncertainties recently about the effectiveness and the impact the UN can have to make a difference in the world, she sees that each component or each level has its part to do, the UN, the NGOs at the UN, civil society, local groups, and us Adorers in the areas where we are. The process to effect change at the UN level is very slow and arduous but necessary and therefore it is important for NGOs such as VIVAT International to continue to advocate at this level.

Sr. Rani Padayatil reminded us about the importance of Advocacy in our social activities. Advocacy involves challenges but the power of the Blood of Christ will strengthen us. We need to build up networks for effective advocacy. Sr. Shiny Kaiyaniyil and Sr. Flor Manga also shared their experience of Advocacy. Sr. Rani thanked everyone for their active participation and sharing.

Sr. Lourd Sissai, ASC

JPIC/VIVAT Coordinator of the Region of India

**General Administration
Calendar**



May 6: Online international meeting with the ASCs with temporary vows

Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Maria De Mattias

Program

May 7: ACUTO Pilgrimage to Generalate with Concert

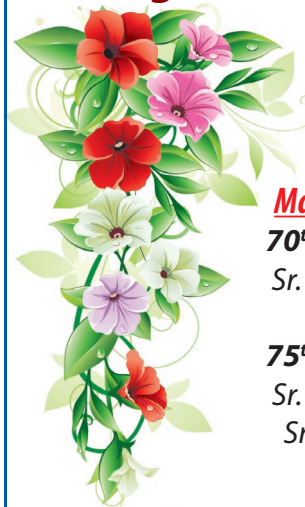
May 13: Online Round Table about MDM

May 14: Celebration with the friends of San Egidio Community – His Excellency Msgr. Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy of Life

May 18: Pilgrims from Vallecorsa to Generalate
5:00 p.m.: Eucharistic celebration with Presider His Excellency Msgr. João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL)

May 28: 20th Anniversary of the Canonization in Bolesławiec (Poland) Attending are Sr. Nadia Coppa, Sr. Monica Rini and Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo

**Anniversaries of
Religious Profession**



**May 21 - Wichita
70th Anniversary**
Sr. Helen Lindsey

75th Anniversary
Sr. Tarcisia Roths
Sr. Rosina Mies

Our best wishes and prayers



Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

70th Birthday

Sr. Gun Choon Lydia Lee 05/17/1953 USA

Sr. Barb Smith 05/21/1953 USA

90th Birthday

Sr. Longina Galek 05/25/1933 Wrocław

Sr. Grazia Chimienti 05/30/1933 Italy

100th Birthday

Sr. Francella Bahr 05/06/1923 USA



**They have returned
to their Heavenly
Home**

04/19/2023	Sr. Giovina Petracca	Italy
04/19/2023	Sr. Irene McGrath	USA
04/28/2023	Sr. Vincenza Carnevale	Italy



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