



*Nel Sangue di Cristo... «nuove tutte le cose» Ap. 21,5*

*In the Blood of Christ... «all things new» Rev. 21:5*



## From the new General Superior

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GA 23 LEARNER



“We journey together into the future, confident that through our love and obedience in community the Spirit of God will guide our apostolic life and mission in the Church.” Life Charter # 39

It is only with great confidence in God that I am able to say yes, to this service as general superior. I am so overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and prayers from across the entire congrega-

tion. Together we will listen deeply to the small and great whispers of the Spirit calling us to faithfulness and mission according to our charism as Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

I come among you as your sister, human, vulnerable and open to transformation and conversion of heart. I have been a professed member for more than 45 years and have served in a number of areas. I have been an elementary teacher, a school administrator, formator, director of a program for formators in the USA and currently serve as a regional councilor.

As I reflect on the theme of this General Assembly, “All things new in the Blood of Christ,” I feel deeply the call to communion in a world that is so polarized. We as Adorers stand as witness to the redeeming love of Jesus that is made known through the preciousness of all life. During this Assembly our facilitator, Sr. Mercedes, invited us to a time of presence to one another. We moved through the hall Sister to Sister, in the spirit of “Namaste” honoring the mystery of God present in each one. As I made my way, I was so aware of the oneness among us, the “holiness” of the moment. Everywhere, there is an Adorer, there walks the “holy mystery” of God. We are agents of reconciliation and peace, we reverence the diversity that is ours as gift and celebrate the reality of Christ as the radiant center of our life together. By “being” who we say we are, we become those living images of Divine Charity, St Maria De Mattias spoke so much about.

I am so very grateful to Sr Nadia Coppa and her Council for their

service these last six years. They faced many challenges, including a global pandemic. Sr Nadia and the general administration have sought to respond to the signs of the times and listen to the Spirit's particular call to us as Adorers. Many blessings upon each one as she completes her service.

Together with the new general council, I greet you all and look forward to knowing better each sister and the realities in which we live this great call given to us as Adorers of the Blood of Christ in the Church and World.

Your sister,



*Sr. Maria Louise Hughes, ASC*



## The New General Council

*Sr. Wiesława Przybyło*



Dear Sisters, I would like to thank you for your trust. Today's Word of God reminded me once again that God is writing my story in many ways that surprise me.

I want to respond with my whole self to God's call and give my life to the One who shed His Blood out of love, through the mission I will continue to carry out in our ASC Congregation "for the glory of God and for the good of our dear neighbor."

I come from the Polish Province, where I have done various tasks, from housework to catechesis, from formation to work in the Provincial Council. I have been on mission in Ukraine and witnessed the regaining of freedom in this country after 70 years of communism. This mission experience, although it lasted only three years, had a profound impact on me: I saw people regain their faith and begin to recover their dignity. There I fell even more in love with my vocation as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ.

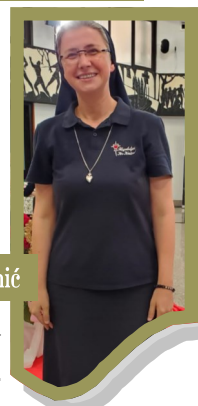
I carry each of you in my heart and with each of you I stand before God - Merciful Love.



*Sr. Patrizia Pasquini*

I joined the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Florence, my hometown, in 1984. I have worked in parishes, taught in our schools and in state schools. I have had government experience as a counselor and secretary. Today I am living a new beginning and I am about to take steps with a desire for communion, listening and dialogue. I will try to do the best I can. Please pray for us.

I was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Zenica and live in Croatia, in Kutina. I studied in Rome where I obtained a license in vocation pedagogy at the Faculty of Human Sciences. I had a three-month experience in Siberia. Currently I teach in a high school, and at the University of Catholic Theology I conduct some classes for formators. For six years I was in charge of postulants. I have served as a regional counselor and have various experiences in service in the diocese, bishops' conferences and conferences for consecrated life in Croatia.



*Sr. Danijela Anić*



*Sr. Florida Evarist Malenda*

I was born in Tanzania on 04/17/1980. My faith has been rooted in Christ since my family upbringing through the sacraments and moral formation. Following my religious call, I joined the Adorers in 2001 and made perpetual vows in 2012. During initial and continuing formation, I was influenced by our foundress' saying, "Let us strive to give everything to God..." with a strong passion for holistic human formation. I have experience in government as a member of the Regional Council; I have performed catechetical and youth education services in the school and parish; I have worked for the protection of children and the protection of the vulnerable.

Trusting in God through the intercession of St. MDM, I will collaborate in the General Council in fidelity to our charism and spirituality.

# God's word at the beginning of discernment

July 16 homily by Fr. Alfredo Rava, Capuchin



Today's gospel gives the parable of parables, to which we can give many meanings.

The sower went out of the house and sowed. Jesus went out from the Father and sowed the word of God, there was acceptance but also failure: the word was either rejected or went unheard.

This experience is reflected in the parable of the seed falling on different soils. The word is addressed to all, but it can meet with resistance, indifference, be lost without fruit because of the superficiality or inconstancy of listening.

Jesus at one point explains to the disciples why he speaks in parables. It might seem that Jesus himself decides to whom he makes known the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven and to whom he does not, but in fact it is listening or not listening that gives access to understanding Jesus' words.

He, in fact, respects the freedom of his listeners and to those who do not want to listen he does not impose himself.

In this sense, the parable of the sower can be understood as a further call to listen, not to let the heart become insensitive, impenetrable to the action of the word, which in fact, if it is heard, leads to bliss:

The final part of the gospel contains the explanation of the parable. In six verses the verb "to hear" returns five times and the verb "to understand" twice.

The parable of the sower is thus revealed to us as the parable of listening to God's word, or rather of his "not listening": three times out of four listening does not come to produce fruit.

Yes, indeed listening is what is needed to get the word into the heart, but then this word must be understood.

At the beginning and end of these verses there is the term "understand" as if it were a summary. But what meaning can we give here to understand?

It means "taking in," preventing the Evil One from taking away the treasure that is laid up in our hearts.

Listening is most important, but it is the first step, then the word must be taken with it, it must be brought into our communities, into our places of work or service, into our lives.

So that it can be treasured in our hearts and bear in us and around us the fruit that each of us desires, and before that God desires for us: bliss! That is, happiness.

For you in this general assembly, as for every religious Institute, it is important to listen to God's word and understand what he is calling you to do, how to

fulfill his will as an Institute: his will is not something already determined and that we have to hope to guess and then to fulfill...

No... it is a more complex thing... for a Religious Institute you have to take into account its own charism, what, based on the values of the Gospel, has been lived through the choices made up to now and guarantee a certain continuity of charism and governance so as not to risk throwing away the good and what has been built up to now, not closing yourself however to the new things that the Spirit may arouse.

At the end, it is trying to give evangelical and ecclesial responses with your life and choices to the situations that each of you and the whole Institute will gradually experience.

I conclude with a prayer: our Lord Jesus Christ, you have sown the word of God in our hearts: give us ears that hear and hearts that can understand and keep it with love and intelligence, and we will know the happiness of communion with you and the Father in the Holy Spirit, now and in eternal life.



## Proper Law Work

The review, discussion, and decisions related to this 60-page document are important to our long-term stability as a congregation. We are adapting our Statutes and By-laws reflecting the changes of recent decades in the Church, religious life, and our ASC congregation. It is true that the law follows our lived experience. It is also true that our lived experience needs to be articulated in a framework understood and accepted by others. Are we credible witnesses?

The words and concepts that create our Statutes and By-laws need to be clear enough to give us direction and general enough to name our ideals without judging our present abilities. Canon Law provides the guidelines for these words and concepts asking us to be clear about our values, commitments, and desires. Sister Kelly Connors, a canon lawyer is with us to help us find our way through the documents, our opinions, our vision, and our reality.

The ASC women of the 2023 General Assembly are working together well, bringing an amazing array of cultural diversity to this important task. There is a time to review, to discuss, to share meaning and appropriate translation, to propose changes, and to deepen our shared understanding of our congregational documents.

The spirit of these delegates promises good results for the work of our ASC Statutes and By-laws.

*Sr. Vicki Bergkamp, ASC*



## Family of the Precious Blood



On July 12, 2023, Sr. Wiesława and Sr. Bridget presented to us the processes that the General Administration initiated in this regard during their term. It is amazing how many conversations, encounters, meetings in person or online have taken place among the members of the Precious Blood Family in the past years. It seems to me that the seminar in September 2022, to which all the leadership of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood were invited to Rome, deserves special mention. It was a surprise that some Sisters of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (founded in Poland by ex Missionary of the Precious Blood, Fr. Winfried Wermter) also participated. What touched me the most was that the encounters at this seminar triggered a very important and healing process of reconciliation between the Adorers and the missionaries in Poland. What a wonderful fruit! After this meeting, the leaders in the regions/provinces gathered to strengthen the "family bonds" with common actions in the respective realities. It was very gratifying to hear how many lay groups in all the different cultures express a great love for the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and draw strength from it for their life and ministry.

Sr. Wiesława also shared the processes that have taken place with women who have shown interest in new forms of membership and who want to align their lives with the spirituality of the Blood of Christ. These discernment processes have led to the fact that there are now possibilities for new forms of consecrated life, a consecration to the Blood of Christ. Two women have already made this consecration. One of these women participated in our sharing online and also shared her journey, her personal experience in this process. Love for the spirituality of the Blood of Christ is taking new forms and spreading throughout the world!

*Sr. Elisabeth Müller, ASC*





## Joy Joy Joy everywhere... Love Love Love in every heart!

This Joy and Love was experienced very much during a short visit to the Regional house of Italy. We really appreciated the hospitality, simplicity, and openness of the sisters. It was a good opportunity for all of us to refresh the history of our congregation. Sr.Ines Paul explained to us some of the specialties and importance of the Regional House. It was a surprise for some of us to hear that Sr.Catherina Pavoni made her perpetual Vows in the same house. The dinner was arranged in the courtyard and in the garden. The garden was illuminated and decorated to welcome us. All of us could enjoy the presence of God in nature, where the harmony and beauty of creation are reflected. We created an atmosphere of feast and celebration. We admired the quietness of the surroundings, cool breeze, beautiful garden, plants, and trees. We really appreciated the hard work of Sr.Giusepina Di Niro the superior of the community under the guide lines Sr.Milena and all the councilors who organized this agape together. We had a lot of fun and laughter. Yes, we strongly believe that in the Blood of Christ everything is New. We expressed our love and Joy by singing. Joining of our hands and hearts we thanked God for this wonderful day.

*Sr. Rani Padayattil, ASC*



# Chronicles

July 13, 2023

The next three days the Assembly will review, reflect and consider the revisions of our Proper Law. We are accompanied by Sr Kelly Connors, PM a canon lawyer who works with the Dicastery. These conversations touch the heart and values of our life in communion.



July 14, 2023



Our review and consideration of our proper law continues. We are grateful for the accompaniment of Sr Kelly Connors, PM as she continues to help us clarify and understand how our documents can support life and mission now and in the future. Sr Mercedes, our facilitator partners well with Sr Kelly. Please keep us in prayer.

July 15, 2023

The Assembly with the help of the commission (Sisters Ana Maria, Ivana, and Bridget) and Sr Kelly brought forward a synthesis of our previous work. Conversation and clarification continues as the Assembly seeks what is best for our congregation now and for the future.



Dinner in the Regional House



July 16, 2023



This week our General Assembly will be in a time of discernment for General Superior and Council. We ask for your prayers that the Spirit may be upon each and among all. May we have the freedom and courage to listen deeply to God as we seek the way.

We will not be posting until there is an announcement of each leader discerned.

July 17, 2023

Sr Maria Hughes the new elected General Superior of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.





Today we are in discernment for the election of the general councillors .



Today we have a General Council. We gratefully welcome Sr Wiesława Przybyło (Poland), Sr Patrizia Pasquini (Italy), Sr Danjiela Anić (Zagreb), Sr Florida Malenda (Tanzania). May God give them the grace to lead and accompany the congregation into a future full of hope.



This morning at the end of Mass, the general administration concluding its term of office, presented the newly elected sisters with an apron, a symbol of service.



Prayer concert with songs by Sr Piera Cori, JBP and arrangements by maestro Maurizio Sparagna.

