

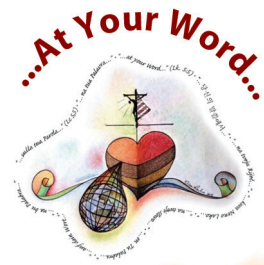
# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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### Daily Christmas

On the streets, the air of Christmas shopping is muddled with the desire to searching for signs of Jesus humanity among us. Thus, every voice, every lure, every look could be that Presence.

Regarding this, a few days ago I was in medical clinic and, while waiting to be called I noticed a mother taking off the little coat of the infant in her arms. She held the baby close to herself with the gentleness of someone aware that she was holding the most fragile and precious thing that exists. I looked at the tenderness that knows how to recognize who, in life, has truly experienced a maternal embrace.

I gathered my courage and asked the child's age. The infant seemed much smaller and more fragile than a two-month old because, as the mother confided to me, she was born prematurely. I asked her what she felt at the moment when she became a mother, and she did not hesitate, saying, "It was an indescribable sensation. Having her in my arms and thinking that she is part of me, that a part of me is in her!" She continued saying that Giulia (her child's name), was born prematurely because of fetal distress and was delivered by Cesarean section. Her life is a gift.

After this dialogue, silence fell between us. No additional words were needed to contemplate the mystery. I began thinking that perhaps God the Father, had felt this same joy, the same indescribable feeling at the moment when He created the human person. The human person

bears His image, is part of the person. If we were aware of how much God truly loves us, of the tender love with which we came forth from His Desires even before from His hands, it would really be Christmas.

Then I was called back for my appointment, during which I had the chance to get to know the lab technician. With tear-filled eyes, he asked me to pray for his grandmother, Filomena, who had died just a few days before on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. I comforted him, testifying to the presence and goodness of the Virgin Mary who is the treatment and way toward redemption.

After the visit, I left. As I was going out of the clinic I understood that the Lord had been present in those two stories of life and death, of Giulia who was born and Filomena who had died. God once again made it clear to me how each day death exists to be able to complete life and that both verbs are a gift of His existence. In fact, Jesus on the cross, only by dying, destroyed death itself.

Therefore, God is present. He becomes present in our humanity, in our desire to get to know each other, to understand the mysteries hidden in each story, to stop and contemplate. This is Christmas, letting Love pass through our hearts to overcome our insecurities, our fears in welcoming the Other every day of our lives.

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**

Editorial

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## Third World Day of the Poor

*The hope of the poor will never be disillusioned*



Hope of the poor does not just mean giving them something to eat and a place to sleep. This is not enough. Each person, including the poor, lives not just on a biological level. He or she also lives with higher values: wants relationships, experiences truth, good and beauty. The organizers of the various events linked to the World Day of the Poor understood well the deepest desires of the people often living on the fringes of society. This is why the endeavors organized for the Third World Day of the Poor touched upon all dimensions of life.

On November 9, composer Nicola Piovani (famous Italian composer of the music for the films "Life is Beautiful" and Pinocchio") and Msgr. Marco Frisina directed the Italian Orchestra of Film and the Diocese of Rome Choir in a concert from the stage of Paul VI Hall. It was a way of gifting a time of music, reflection and hope to an audience of poor and needy brothers and sisters accompanied by volunteers from various charitable associations and organizations. Paul VI Hall was filled to overflowing with the elderly, homeless people, families in trouble and many people undergoing precarious situations who ordinarily would not be able to experience a concert.

It was a concert for sowing joy, not a momentary fun gaiety, because the seed will remain in the souls of everyone and it will do much good for everyone. These were the words used as a greeting by Pope Francis for the first edition of the Concert for the Poor in 2017. This time was also a special evening that sowed joy and offered the beauty of music and rekindled the sense of the dignity in each person. Through the power of music, which has this ability to join souls and to unite us with the Lord by lifting us up and freeing us from our anxieties, a real ray of hope was lavished on the lives of many people. It was a marvelous experience for some of us participating in this event.

Our community at the generalate also joined in the celebration of the Day of the Poor. At the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, November 17, we hosted the volunteers of St. Egidio Community who brought

the poor of our neighborhood to our church. Among the group were the materially poor, but above all, there were many elderly who stay closed up in their apartments or retirement homes each day. We invited everyone to a community agape. Their reaction was enthusiastic. A shared meal with people interested in their lives gave the elderly the opportunity to spend an afternoon in a different way. Their days are usually all alike. Therefore, even a meal of this kind becomes a great opportunity to get out of the daily, empty routine to spend some time in other people's company. The poor are not just those living on the streets, but also the elderly. They are often materially poor, but above all, they are poor because they do not have anyone with whom to speak. It is very difficult.

Singing traditional joyful songs together was a great experience. Laughter, shouting and applause echoed in our old theater. Tears of joy were seen in the eyes of one of the poor men who lives on the streets each day. He came with his "house," that is, with a suitcase and bag containing all his possessions. He had probably not experienced such joy in a long time. One of the ladies from a retirement home who usually doesn't speak with anyone, laughed out loud and moved her hands with great animation to express her joy. This is the meaning of organizing these days.

We are happy we could pour out a drop of hope and joy into this ocean of human needs.



**Sr. Wiesława Przybyło, ASC**

## ***Service to the Dear Neighbor***

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Mafuiane, Mozambique do their ministry among the needy. Sisters provide services in two kindergarten schools, care to the elderly, and catechesis to children, youth and adults. They also provide services to the poor. In their ministry they met two youth, Antoni and Ernestina from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Both of them lost their parents and some of their relatives during the civil war in their country. When Ernestina's parents were killed she was abandoned at the age of five. The two had known each other since they were young and met in Mozambique in pursuit of their needs. They are living together. They found it necessary to get married and were shown the parish of the Blessed Clementina Anwarite in Boane. Priest Parish welcomed them and, since they do not speak well Portuguese language, which is spoken in Mozambique, he brought them to us so that we could teach them catechesis in the Swahili language which they are familiar with.

We were able to teach them and assist them in preparation for their marriage. We encouraged them and made them feel welcomed by us and the community of Sub Parish of Mafuiane. We know the effects of war. These young people, despite all

the horrors of war and seeing their parents' death, remained faithful to their faith. Really, they are very strong in their faith. We thank God who gives us the opportunity to meet such people in our ministries. Not only are they learning from us, but we are learning from them. After their preparation in catechesis for almost a year, in August 2019 they got married at Sub - Parish of St. Frumenzio where we provide services. The believers held a great celebration for them and two families volunteered to be their parents. We were all very happy that day.

We give thanks to God who, through our ministry, continues to unite his people and help them to accept each other and feel one family regardless the boundaries of their countries, and races.

***Sr. Yohana Amu, ASC***



## **The Dawning of a Brighter Day in Bolivia**

*Sister Anitawa, ASC who lives in La Paz, shares her experience during the last reactionary events in Bolivia that particularly involved this city.*

Several days after former Bolivian President Evo Morales left Bolivia for asylum in Mexico, I sense a somber uncertainty in the air. The former llama shepherd from Bolivia's highlands, and the country's first indigenous president, resigned Sunday after almost 14 years in the post. The move followed weeks of protests over a disputed presidential election result.

Looting, vandalism and arson have prevailed. I could see from the window of my house one of the many roadblocks, hear the dynamite exploding and smell the tear gas being thrown to disperse the crowds. Yesterday, I spotted 25 roadblocks as I walked home empty-handed from the market. There is little to buy.

I ate in the soup kitchen of the people's market, which was packed, but the food was delicious. People are testing the freedom of leaving their houses.

Evo Morales resigned when the Organization of American States reported fraud in the October 20 elections and the armed forces finally forced him to quit.

The deputy head of Bolivia's Senate, Jeanine Áñez, has stepped in as interim president until a new election can be held, although some are protesting her assuming power. The atmosphere is tense, with the army now called in to back up the police against pro-Morales demonstrators. The country is paralyzed with schools and businesses closed and no public transportation. People are encouraged to stay indoors.

A true democracy is the dream of the Bolivian people. It has been a privilege to have been a part of their struggle these last few tumultuous weeks. It is their salvation history as well as mine and, "si Dios quiere," (God willing), we will soon enjoy a brighter day. Viva Bolivia!

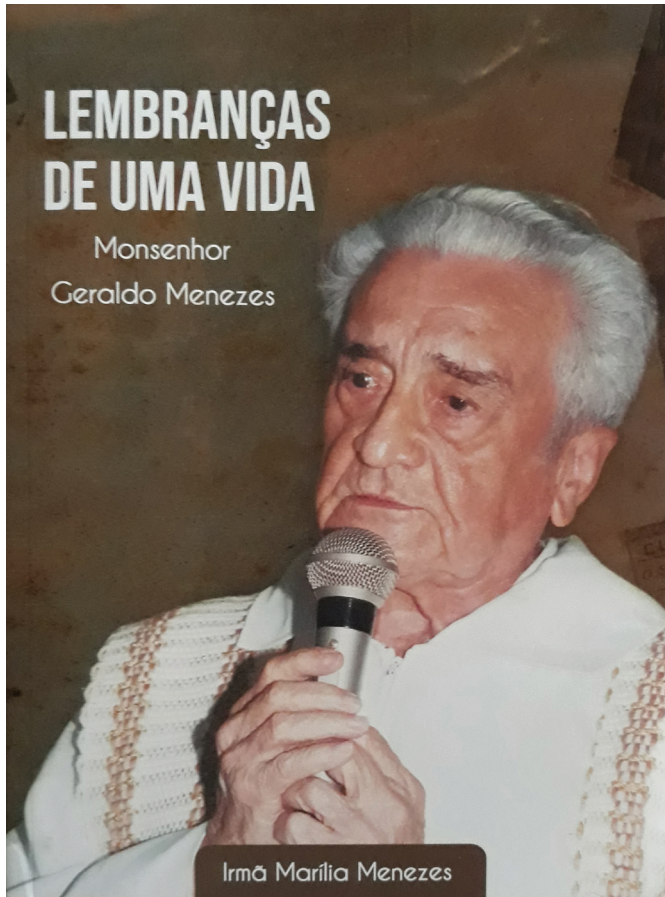


**Sr. Anitawa (Ann) Fearday, ASC**

## **Life Memories**

### **MONSIGNOR GERALDO MENEZES**

*Sr. Marilia Menezes lives in Brazil and wrote a book recounting about her brother priest*



ministry for about 35 years.

In the political arena, Father Geraldo helped a group of young people in Holy Trinity church who were risking being sent to prison during the agitated phase of military repression (1966 – 1987). The youth were trying to better understand what was happening in Brazil where those opposing the regime, whether priests or laity, were tortured and condemned to death.

In the book I also talk about Geraldo's love for the Adorers, when he preached our retreats urging various Sisters, including me, to work for the beatification of Sr. Serafina, etc. The community of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where I live, is helping me to sell the book, in order to do a missionary work and because the money earned from book sales will be used for the social works of the ASC Region of Brazil. The book officially came out on November 29 in the parish church of Holy Trinity, where our Sisters volunteer.

A Brazilian poet said, "A book, sinking into the soul, is like a seed that makes the palm tree grow." We hope it is this way.....

Now I have found the time to fulfill my vocation as writer and, as an Adorer, I want to transmit everything I can with the written word.

Thus, in this 162-page book with the title mentioned above, I talked about some aspects of the life of my brother priest, Msgr. Geraldo Menezes, with whom I was closer to when my provincial, Sr. Rosa Telles, ASC, allowed me to go to the Belem community in 2005 in order to help. He was left almost completely blind after a delinquent attacked him in 1983, shooting him while he was almost inside the church of the Holy Trinity while he was pastor there.

My brother died in March 2018 at the age of 96, leaving an example of priestly life, thanks be to God, a beautiful testimony of service in the Archdiocese of Belem, as diocesan secretary, secretary of the National Bishops' Conference of Brazil, and especially of involvement in family

***Sr. Marília Menezes, ASC***

## **Lobby Day in Springfield**

*Springfield is the capital of Illinois, an ASC sister tells of her experience as an animator for Justice and Peace of another Congregation, during a demonstration in favor of a bill on the environment.*



Late last month, I joined fellow members of the Illinois Environmental Council to rally for a clean energy jobs bill during a veto session at the Illinois State Capitol. About 500 people attended the event on October 29. It was awesome!

The Illinois Environmental Council advocates and educates for environmental stewardship and sustainability. It represents 80 environmental and community organizations and nearly 300 individuals from throughout Illinois. Each of us pictured in the photo has a strong desire to connect with others concerned about climate change and want to protect the planet.

People of all ages from throughout the state attend an evening of training for legislative advocacy either in Chicago or Springfield. We are broken into groups to reflect our constituency.

We reminded legislators that the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act would lead to \$39 billion in direct private investment in Illinois by 2030. Passage of the bill would mean a massive increase in clean energy investment, leading to more jobs and energy efficiency savings, all the while protecting

the planet for future generations.

Many are upset about President Trump's inaction on climate change and policy attacks on the environment. We felt that other voices needed to be heard. As Pope Francis stated in *Laudato Si*, our planet is crying out. Do we hear its cries? Those of us at this rally said, yes, we do care about our Common Home.

I visit the Capitol frequently as part of my ministry as coordinator of justice and peace to the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield.

***Sr. Mary Shaw, ASC***

## **With Love, You are Never Alone**

### *Experiences of the Rebibbia Prison - Rome*

On Wednesday, November 13, the presentation of the book *We Are Not Alone* was held at the Theater Hall of Rebibbia Prison. The book, which is a collection of reflections of some of the detainees of the prison on the theme of loneliness, is the third of a series representing the results of the prison ministry of Sr. Emma Zordan.

In addition to the curator of the collection, Sr. Emma Zordan, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, the following attended the event: Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi, Archbishop of Aquila; Msgr. Dario Edoardo Viganò of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences; Nadia Cersosimo, director of the House of Imprisonment of Rebibbia; and Davide Dionisi, Vatican Radio journalist.

The gathering gave an opportunity for reflecting upon the topic of loneliness. "Loneliness is a complex experience," Cardinal Petrocchi said, because it is not linked to the detention regime, but can be a "pathology" that can strike each of us. How many people do we know who are alone even though they are in the midst of many other people? "You can stand next to someone else without being there with and for each other." Therefore, it is a commitment for everyone to defeat the loneliness within. Each of us has to rediscover the art of living together.

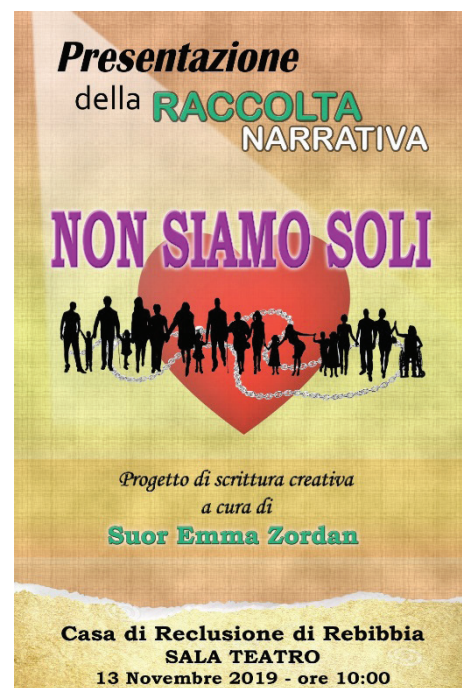
For the director of the House of Imprisonment, Dr. Nadia Cersosimo, "It is important that this written message be proposed outside because it is useful not just as a cleansing form for prisoners, but also to make known how much good there is within each person." Dr. Cersosimo also reminded that those living in the prison are the results of our society and therefore, each of us has to feel responsible for their conversion and redemption, which can also happen in front of a blank sheet of paper and with pen in hand. "Resuming contact also through writings," she emphasized, "serves to remind that behind the crime there is a person who made a mistake but who also has the right to have a second chance," which as Christians we are called to give.

A brief testimony of Eleonora Colasante follows:

#### **"What great emotion!"**

My dear brothers and sisters, I wanted to let you participate in the fact that my dear brother Manolo and I had the joy of attending the presentation of the written collection *We Are Not Alone* of some of the prisoners of House of Imprisonment of Rebibbia. I was so moved because in these words there are all their sentiments and those of their dear relatives. There I personally met very sensitive people and I was greatly moved. They are people who understood they had made a mistake but in not being able to go back, they confide in God and their brothers and sisters. I would have liked to hug them all, also for you, because I am sure that beginning today each of you will make room in your hearts for prayer and remembering those who are experiencing a process of human and spiritual redemption. Heartfelt thanks to Sr. Emma who gifted us with this great emotion. I will always remember those eyes and those words. No, I will never be alone!

**Manolo Pizzoli**



## 90 Years Presence of ASC's in Roethenbach

On October 5<sup>th</sup> the ASC community in Roethenbach celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary since it was instituted. The sisters recall the history of life and ministries in that place.

In 1929, the sisters purchased the house from a couple, together with all the cattle, the meadow and the wood. They dedicated it to St. Joseph entrusting to the saint all their concerns and their future.

The first two sisters worked on the farm. A third one joined them as a cook, and a fourth to take care of the children in the kindergarten. During winter the sisters offered courses in housekeeping and sewing to the young women of the surrounding area.

Care of the sick in their homes was a further call. A nurse went by foot or on the bicycle to the far away houses. Many times they were also called during the night to assist the sick and dying persons. Through all the years, several sisters served in this home service ministry and people appreciated it very much.

During Second World War, the activity of the sisters with children and the sick was forbidden. The community was totally separated from the Motherhouse in Schaan. No contact was possible. Nevertheless, the sisters mastered their life. Their confidence in God's help and the intercession of St. Joseph was very strong. Some good neighbors assisted them in working the land and supported them for any need or advice or help. After the horror of the war, many refugees were knocking at the door of the convent, and the sisters shared with

them from their living .

Caritas started to send people for recovery to the house S. Joseph, because the air of this region was very sound. Slowly, slowly, farming wasn't profitable anymore. Elderly people called for a place where they could spend the last steps of their life. Therefore, the house was rebuilt and enlarged, to have more space and a chapel was constructed becoming a comfortable home for elderly and persons in need of healthcare.

The sisters continued to serve in the kitchen, laundry, house and garden and for several years, one sister accompanied a group of young people listening them and praying with them. By that time a sister was member of the parish council, representing the community and S. Joseph.

Actually nine sisters serve at the switchboard, in the dining room, taking care of the flowers, and are present in the chapel. Those who are in need of help are taken care lovingly by the personnel.

The presence of the sisters in prayer and suffering and their time spent with the sick and the dying is appreciated very much by the elderly, their families, the personnel and the parish.

***In the name of the ASC community  
Sr. Elisabeth Huber, ASC***





## *Caring for Life*



The Values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation are very much reflected in ASC Spirituality. We are called to bring back everything in beautiful order, caring for our Common Home. So when we work for Justice and Peace, at times our life is in risk because it disturbs some of the people in the society. When we collaborate in the redemptive work of Jesus, we may need to give our life in order to give life for many. I realize that we may need courage, compassion for the suffering and a sensitive heart to listen to the voice and cry of the earth and the poor. I have had wonderful experiences working in the Village of Hope.

As ASC Tanzanian Region JPIC promoters we experience Divine Providence through the presence of the Village of Hope, where there is response to the cry of the blood of the children HIV infected and orphans. The life that was close to being lost is now rescued through health care, love and other basic necessities provided to them. With this ministry we help society to realize the importance of caring instead of stigmatizing; in this way the barriers of fear and prejudice between sick and healthy people disappear.

Together with people, especially youth, we have learned a lot, while having the chance to discover different talents. Through seminars, in our schools (Amani Girls' Secondary School and Maria De Mattias Secondary School) the girls have raised awareness on caring for life becoming attentive to the needs of the poor, supporting their fellow students who can't afford some of their essentials. The same awareness has made them help each other in studying. Students' collaboration has raised hearts of prayer and fear of God.

Inspired by the awareness seminars *Caring for Life* that were organized in Chibumagwa parish (Mwiboo sub-parish) the youth were able to form a prayer group known as MARIA DE MATTIAS GROUP. They pray together, make projects for youth development and develop the capacity to work in team. All the groups are eager to learn more about JPIC in order to grow in awareness of caring for life and creation. The JPIC seminars helped some people to understand the effects of marrying to a girl - child and lead them to see the importance of respecting the person.

Children are the future generation of the Church as well as of society. If they are motivated to grow in faith, love and charity, they can build up a strong faith community and transmit the faith from one generation to another. In the Holy Childhood Groups present in Chibumagwa parish and Manyoni parish, the young members learn prayers, and participate in the Eucharistic celebration and in the choir.

The so called "Virgin Mary Girls Groups" from KISASA PARISH and MANYONI PARISH are committed to learn the virtues of Blessed Virgin Mary and to pray the Rosary together. They perform manual works and other activities together in the church. From their example other girls are motivated to join the same group, so they too may grow in the same awareness of respecting life and creation.

**Sr. Grazia Innocente, ASC**

**General Administration Calendar**



**January 9 -10:** Sr. Nadia Coppa attends the UISG Assembly

**January 25:** meeting in Rome of benefactors and collaborators of the Village of Hope: Many Hands ... a single great Heart for the Village of Hope

**Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life**



30

**Sr. Lirie Mëhilli** 01/21/1990 Albania

50

**Sr. Kyung Soon Josephina Lee** 01/16/1970 Korea

60

**Sr. Czesława Maćkała** 01/14/1960 Wrocław

70

**Sr. Barbara Ann Kolonoski** 01/01/1950 USA

**Sr. Ljubica Šumić** 01/10/1950 Zagreb

**Sr. Kristina Jajčević** 01/21/1950 Zagreb

80

**Sr. Olivia Woltering** 01/18/1940 USA

**Sr. Martha Ann Lauber** 01/22/1940 USA

**Sr. Maria Accattoli** 01/27/1940 Italy

**Sr. Palmira Pinto** 01/27/1940 Italy

**Sr. Maria Pompa** 01/28/1940 Italy

90

**Sr. Giovannina Di Tommaso** 01/17/1930 Italy



**They have returned to their Heavenly Home**



- 11/30/2019 **Sr. Isabel Oliveira** Brazil
- 12/03/2019 **Sr. Maria Riggi** Italy
- 12/04/2019 **Sr. Maria Tucci** Italy
- 12/06/2019 **Sr. Lidia Segarelli** Italy

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edited by the

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