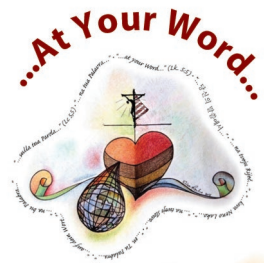


International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Year XVIII – Issue 9, October 2021

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“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”

Editorial

October 10th was a special day for the universal Church. Pope Francis launched the work of the Synod that will conclude in 2023. The theme chosen for this historic ecclesial event is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” With this convocation, Pope Francis is inviting the whole Church to question itself about synodality, which is decisive for the life and mission of the Church herself. In his talk, Francis also poses a question: “Are the poor, the beggars, the young drug addicts, and all those our society discards part of the Synod? [...] Yes, though I do not say it myself, explains the Pontiff, the Lord says they are part of the Church. [...] To the point that if you do not call on them, to hear not what they say, but what they feel, even the insults that they send your way, you are not doing the Synod well. The Synod includes everyone. The Synod is also making room for dialogue about our poverties.”

A key feature of this synod is the process. For the first time in the history of this institution, the Synod will be held in a decentralized manner. The synod process will follow a three-year itinerary articulated in three phases marked by listening, discernment and consultation. The first stage (October 2021 – April 2022) will regard the individual diocesan Churches. The purpose of the next phase, the continental one (September 2022 – March 2023) will be that of dialoguing on the text

of the first Working Document. The final phase of the synod journey will be focused on the Universal Church (October 2023.) Finally, an essential stage of this process will be the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops which will be held in October of 2023 and which will be followed by the implementation phase, once again involving the individual Churches.

In his homily during the Eucharistic celebration of its inauguration in St. Peter’s, in commenting on the Gospel of the rich young man (Mk. 10:17-30), the Pope said, “Celebrating a Synod means walking along the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First he encounters the rich man, then he listens to his questions and finally he helps him to discern what to do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen, and discern. I want to reflect on these three verbs that characterize the Synod.”

[...] “The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry along, or keep looking at his watch to get the meeting over. He was always at the service of the person he was with, listening to what he or she had to say.” Pope Francis continues, “As we initiate this process, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. [...] True encounter arises only from listening. Jesus listened to that man’s question and to the religious and existential concerns that lay behind it.

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He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a pre-packaged solution; he did not pretend to respond politely, simply as a way of dismissing him and continuing on his way. Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. [...] This happens whenever we listen with the heart: people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey. [...] Let us ask ourselves frankly during this synodal process: Are we good at listening? How good is the "hearing" of our heart? Do we allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficulties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being hindered, rejected or judged? Participating in a Synod means placing ourselves on the same path as the Word made flesh. It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others. It means discovering with amazement

that the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking. [...] Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. So often our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another."

Therefore, the synodal journey intends to respond to questions such as: "Today, on the various levels (from local to universal), how do we accomplish that "walking together" that allows the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to her?" And "What steps is the Spirit inviting us to take for growth as a synodal Church?"

Let us accept this invitation with listening hearts and sincere prayer.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo

General Administration Space

Entrance to the Novitiate



On **Saturday, October 2**, the day the Church celebrates the feast of the Guardian Angels, five young women – Agnes, Pia, Marika, Anjelister and Reshma- were formally welcomed to begin their canonical novitiate year according to the Constitution of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. The three Tanzanian novices, who have been in Italy since last January, together with the Italian and Indian novices, finally saw their long-cherished wish come true after having waited so long for this moment due to the difficulties created by the pandemic. The members of the General Administration, the formation community, the Regional Superior of Italy and some of the councilors of the Italian Region and Sr. Melania Shirima and Sr. Salamma Vazhayil, representing the Regional Superiors of Tanzania and India, were present for the celebration. The celebration was prepared with songs sung by the novices, who, at the end, with a presentation of the call of the twelve apostles gave a reflection and Gospel message about the gift of a calling. In commenting on the passage of Samuel's vocation, which was chosen for the celebration,

Sr. Nadia also spoke about the beauty of this mystery. Her words were intense and profound. *"The passage presents very well for us the dynamics of our encounter with the Lord and the mystery of vocation, which is gift and mystery. Samuel is in the temple, the place of God's presence. God calls Samuel during the night; the night is a place of silence. We must go into silence, find silence in order to look for God's face. We must create inner space, withdraw to welcome the Mystery of the Word that is challenging us. God calls Samuel by name. God knows our name. We are not in the world by chance. The most wonderful thing, but also the most difficult, the most challenging is to discover our vocation. Eli, the priest, is Samuel's guide. We must also be helped, allow ourselves to be accompanied in welcoming the Lord. Eli is also about finding ourselves together in a life of beautiful fraternity, because life in community helps us to understand God's call and the response we must give. 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' We must learn to listen and not let any Word of the Lord fall by the wayside. Samuel, as a boy who listens, becomes a man who proclaims, first to Eli and then to all of Israel. The Lord does not just speak for our consolation, but to invite us to collaborate with Jesus in his redemptive work.*

Our lives are prophecy for the Reign if we live the Gospel by trying to embody the attitudes and feelings of Jesus.

We are called in order to call, evangelized in order to evangelize, consoled in order to console. Being missionaries is an integral part of every vocation and of our vocation as Adorer-apostles in the Church."



Thirteen communities joyfully and enthusiastically participated in the celebration online. Following the celebration there was a dinner, which always represents a time of unity and discussion. During the dinner, the community sang songs and gave the novices gifts. Each novice received an icon of the Archangels so that, in this time of grace, under the guidance of the Angels, they may learn to discover and to recognize the "face" of the Father and the Son Jesus, in their own hearts and in each man and woman of our time, to whom God sends us.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo



World Figure Roller-Skating Championship

The Precious Blood High School of Argentina is proud of having had the young Giselle Soler as a student. Giselle was awarded the title of world champion of women's artistic roller skating.

Giselle also performed her roller skating at school.

Having students who succeed in their personal and spiritual lives is always a reason for being proud. May the Lord of Life always journey with her.

Sr. Susana Misermont, ASC



Updates From The Border

I recently completed three weeks of intense work and service this summer at a 500-bed migrant shelter in El Paso, Texas.



In my short time there, my heart burst with emotion and my mind filled to the brim with lots of information. It was tiring, inspiring and a great opportunity to be a peaceful, compassionate, positive presence in the midst of so much suffering, uncertainty and change.

Casa del Refugiado Center or House of the Refugee, was set up two years ago by Annunciation House, an immigrant advocacy group, to serve the influx of migrants, mostly from Central America, but from as far away as Haiti, too.

It is housed in a huge old warehouse divided into dormitories, dining rooms, welcome and intake areas, a clothing room, clinic area, office and telephone space, volunteer sections and storage rooms.

I spent a lot of days and overnight shifts receiving migrants, testing them for Covid, arranging their travel to be with sponsors, serving food, providing change of clothing, and offering a sense of security.

With other volunteers, I scrubbed and scoured bathroom and shower facilities.

The hard work came with a sense of satisfaction of doing something to help make this part of the journey comfortable for those who have been through so much.

At most, Casa is able to welcome up to nearly 800 refugees. Each day, as many as 40 are released from the detention centers or from border police and come to the center for one to three days of transition before moving on to family members, friends or sponsors.

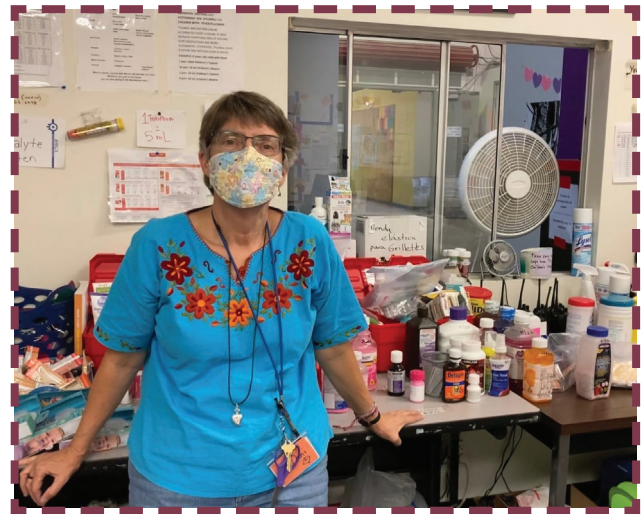
The best part of the job is joining those who are able to leave for their next destination, handing them a travel bag, saying goodbye and waving with a smile and a blessing as they board the shuttle taking them to the bus station or airport.

My recent experience with quiet and shy Elena from Guatemala, eight months pregnant, made me tear up as we walked together to her bus.

She stopped, and reaching out her hand and heart, said "Gracias. Muchas gracias," thanking me for the food and everything else.

Something so simple, sharing of food, yet so meaningful.

Sr. Dani Brought, ASC



**Continental Area: America
USA Region**

The Gift Of "Fraternity"

Our ministries depend upon what we do with our ordinary time in ordinary places.

"We seek to be a presence that is inclusive, loving and liberating..." And fun loving!

On Sunday, August 22, 10 of us gathered at Kris Schrader's and Barb Hudock's place to welcome Michelle Woodruff to St. Louis and begin the celebrations of Jane Gegg's and Barb's jubilees. But mostly, it was just an opportunity to be present to one another, to share food, stories and games, and admire the beauty of the gardens.



We also welcomed Dani Brought who had just returned from service to migrants in El Paso, Texas.

Hamburgers on the grill, corn on the cob, incredible s'mores and breezes allowed us to enjoy one another outside. Avon Skin-So-Soft kept the mosquitoes at bay.

For our meal, we borrowed some chairs and picnic plates that are stored temporarily in our garage for eventual delivery to the many Afghans headed to St. Louis for resettlement.

Use of the collected items was a natural segue into sharing stories and concerns related to the refugees.

No one seemed in a hurry to leave, which made the sharing all the more special.

We are reminded of author and speaker Parker Palmer's affirmation that "The human soul doesn't want to be advised or fixed or saved. It simply wants to be witnessed — to be seen, heard and companioned exactly as it is."

So, there was no advice given, no fixes mentioned and no saving going on. Just a great reminder of the gift of sisterhood, people seeing, hearing and companioning.

Sr. Kris Schrader, ASC

An Invitation to Celebrate

On August 22 a family celebration of the 155th anniversary of Maria De Mattias' entrance into heaven was held in the parish of St. Brother Adam Chmielowski in Czestochowa.

On Sunday afternoon we were invited by Maria De Mattias to celebrate the gift of community that unites us around Christ to discover together the beauty of being together. The theatrical presentation on the life of our Foundress helped us to discover this gift that leads us from our individual stories to heaven.

The text was prepared by the actors of the Theater of William-Es of Wałbrzych with the title "Maria of the most holy Cross". It was a narration of the life of Maria De Mattias told through individual scenes in her life with the music of Georg Gondard. Through their presentation, the actors invited those present to participate in the joyful and difficult moments in the story of Maria, inviting a response to the question: **Who is the Crucified One for you?**

The play was preceded by a prayer led by Sr. Lucia Lis, ASC, and the leaders of the Groups of Associates of the Blood of Christ. The event would have been completely different if it were not for the efforts of Sr. Krystyna Kusak, ASC, who arranged for the venue, invited the guests, procured refreshments and prepared comments during the Holy Mass.

After the Mass, the guests gathered together for refreshments with the pastor Father Slawomir Wojtyseki and Father Daniel Mokwa, CPPS, and the many guests from nearby parishes.

Thinking back to these simple events of prayer, attending an interesting play, the Holy Mass, we can say that holiness is not something exceptional. It is simpler than what it seems, like giving a piece of cake to someone who is sad or inviting someone who is uncomfortable to a meal. In every situation we come closer to heaven the closer we are to ourselves.

Sr. Tatiana Studentowa, ASC



Jubilee Year of St. James the Great in Jakubow

One hundred seventy people came to Jakubow by bus and car from various places on July 25 for the feast of St. James. (A shrine is located there on the Polish pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain) There were five Adorers from Bolesławiec among this group: Sr. Maria Grygiel, Sr. Adela Rostecka, Sr. Bogumiła Karaban, Sr. Lucja Partyka, and Sr. Janina Sygut. Everyone was welcomed by Father Stanisław Czerwiński, the custodian of the shrine. We spent two and a half hours of adoration during which Sr. Halina Cyganowska, ASC, gave a conference on the invocations of the Litany of the Blood of Christ, which we then prayed together.

Bishop Paweł Socha presided at the Eucharist. At the beginning of the Mass, as is done in Compostela, the celebrants put incense in a large thurible that was prepared by the Confraternity of St. James at the Shrine, a very meaningful tradition. During his homily, the bishop referred to the Year of St. James and at the end of the Mass he gave statues of St. James the Great as a sign of recognition to the people who have given service at the Shrine. I was one of those receiving a statue and I gave mine to the ASC chapel in Bolesławiec.

After the Eucharist, the custodian invited the pilgrims to a reception in the style of old Polish hospitality. Why is it worthwhile coming to Jakubow? There are two reasons for visiting the shrine: spiritual and cultural. The spiritual experience of visiting Jakubow is tied to the



person of St. James, to the history of this place and to pilgrimage. The cultural reason is because everything that is told about the place can be seen with your own eyes and touched with your own hands.

Sr. Halina Cyganowska, ASC

Celebrating Thanksgiving

On September 4, 2021, a large number Adorers of the Blood of Christ from various communities of the Wrocław Province arrived in Czestochowa. The reason for this "invasion" was a special occasion: the celebration of thanksgiving for Sr. Iwona Wanke's 25th anniversary as an Adorer.

Many years ago, a young woman named Iwona who was a pre-school teacher emigrated with her family to Germany where she met the Polish Adorers working in Würzburg. And so began the vocation story between Jesus and Sister Iwona.

She has been living in Baumgärtle for 13 years where she ministers at the Shrine of Our Lady of Baumgärtle run by the Precious Blood Missionaries. Baumgärtle is a place of pilgrimage where the people come to pray, to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and to have spiritual direction. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ support the Missionaries in their apostolate by managing the house, welcoming pilgrims and also listening to people in need of spiritual support.

And so Sister Iwona went "from the Shrine of Our Lady of Baumgärtle to the Shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Gora." (The Black Madonna)

continued →



Father Georg Wiedemann, CPPS, (superior of the Baumgärtle community) and Mrs. Jadwiga (leader of the Associates of the Precious Blood from Austria) also came for the celebration.

So, on the first Saturday of September, 2021 the Holy Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at 9:30 in the Shrine of the Black Madonna, in the chapel of the miraculous picture at Jasna Gora. During the Mass Sister Iwona renewed her religious vows. Father Henryk Kleps (brother of Sister Ewa Kleps, our regional superior) presided at the celebration. In his homily, Father Kenryk referred to the words of the Gospel, showing Jesus as the Savior, the only Lord of the Sabbath and of the entire universe, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for every person. He emphasized in his homily that Jesus brings a new law and defines a new quality of life to which he calls new people filled with faith and love. He referred to Sister Iwona's vocation and to that of Mary with her FIAT to God. Those who follow Christ, like Mary, will reach the fullness of life.



The 25th Jubilee of consecration of Sister Iwona is part of the 75th anniversary celebration of ASC presence in Poland.

After the homily, Sister Iwona renewed her religious profession.

A reception was held in the house of the Adorers in Częstochowa. Sr. Iwona had her initial formation in this house and made her first and perpetual profession there as well.

After dinner, the sisters and guests from Germany and Austria participated in a prepared recreation.



A "housewife" coming from Sister Iwona's native region of Poland, Slesia, came to the celebration and conversed with her in their Slesian dialect and made reference to the folk customs and dress of Slesia. The "woman from Slesia" brought a basket of gifts with her, which, after being taken out of the basket had to be ransomed by completing various tasks: singing a song, reciting a poem, saying something good about the others, doing some kind of exercise, etc. There was great joy and lots of laughter during the experience of fraternity. Sister Gabriela Janikula, who is also from Slesia, played the part of the woman giving gifts to the guests and a garland of flowers for Sister Iwona's head.

Sr. Iwona, we thank God for your Fiat and your life given to the Lord Jesus in the family of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. May the Lord keep this will in you. Amen.

Sr. Gabriela Janikula, ASC

First Impressions of the New Candidates

May Jesus always live in our hearts! We are called to work in the vineyard of Christ crucified. Oh, what a privilege we have, weak creatures, that we can work for souls to be happy in the heavenly Jerusalem, where Jesus will one day unite us... Prayer, humility, love and piety. (MDM,265)

On Sunday the 19th of September 2021, the community of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, in Ivanečki Vrhovec, welcomed four new candidates. We asked them to write their first impressions of their arrival at the convent.

"My name is Antonija Radosoljić, I am 29 years old and I come from a small place called Donje Sitno, near Split. I came to the community in Ivanečki Vrhovec with my family and our parish priest, where the Sisters welcomed us. Seeing them cheerful and smiling was a real blessing, one that always gives us hope, faith and love."



"My name is Ivana Kenjereš. I came from Novi Jankovci, near Utkovar. I came to the convent in Ivanečki Vrhovec with Sr. Ljiljana in the evening. I felt overwhelmed with joy. The beautiful sisters are so adorable. Now that I have been here a few days, the feeling of joy hasn't left me. That joy comes from my lovely Jesus and this is why my heart is full.."

"My name is Marija Stojanovic. I come from Krančiči in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I have been in the convent for one year, but I arrived in Ivanečki Vrhovac on Sunday, on the 19th of September 2021. I was very happy to continue with my formation in this community and with the candidates Sr.Cecilija and Mihaela. They drove me, so we arrived first and excitedly waited for the others. That whole day I felt peace and blessings."

"Praise be Jesus and Mary! My name is Mirjana Solomun, I am 26 years old and I came from Sydney Australia. My parents are originally from Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since coming to live with the sisters in Ivanec, I have felt joy and a sense of belonging. I have travelled very far to come, but it was all worth it and I truly believe that God has placed me in this community.."



"My name is Tereza Marelić. I come from Razanac near Zadar. My arrival was so exciting because it was the first time in the Croatian county of Zagorje. When I arrived at the convent, our welcome was beautiful. I felt like I was at home and the atmosphere was full of joy."

On Friday 24th of September 2021, five days after the arrival of our new candidates, we were honoured to have our General Superior Sr.Nadia Coppa visit us, together with sisters Matija Pavić, Wiesława Przybyło, our Regional Superior Sr. Zdravka Leutar and Regional Economist sister Anita Ferketin.

Candidates: Antonija, Ivana, Marija, Mirjana e Tereza

Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 7 : Paths of Renewed Encounter

“Those who work for tranquil social co-existence should never forget that inequality and lack of integral human development make peace impossible” (235).

Pope Francis calls for peacemakers to forge new paths of healing and “renewed encounter” in our fractured world. He begins by explaining that building peace requires “starting anew from the truth,” or facing the reality of the harm done. The Holy Father writes that, in the difficult work of building a peaceful society, *“[there] is an ‘architecture’ of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an ‘art’ of peace that involves us all,” including ordinary people and especially the most vulnerable (231).*

St. Maria describes the importance of reconciliation and its relationship to forgiveness, explaining that forgiveness is central to our community life.

Our ASC Constitution reminds us that at the very center of our lives is the Eucharist. It is a source, a nourishment and manifestation of our communion in love and faith with Church and one another. We need to have the spirit of conversion and repentance because it is a celebration of joy and love; the forgiveness of sin is celebrated and broken unity is restored through the power of Jesus’ Blood. We become a joyous witness to God’s compassionate love and a sign of Hope. She says to the sisters *“remain always united with Jesus in all we do” (Lt.246)*. As Eucharist is the sign of Love and sharing, we grow more and more in Love. This is the new commandment of Jesus, love one another through the grace of God who is Love.

In one of her letters, St. Maria asks the sisters, *“What good can we do to others if we ourselves do not live-in harmony and peace?” (Lt. 332).*

St. Maria De Mattias recalled to the sisters, *“Do not show us depressed and discouraged or dissatisfied because we are called to serve his people with cheerfulness and peace, in harmony and love”*. This encyclical of Pope Francis says, *“Let us first live in the art of building peace within our communities through prayer, reconciliation, forgiveness, patience, love, humility, kindness etc...”*

The spirituality of the Blood of Christ inspires us to welcome, protect, promote, and defend all types of tribes, nations, and tongues thus to build up peace and harmony wherever we are posted and ministered.



Reflection Question:

- ***How can you be involved in the “art” of building peace in your community or society?***

Sr. Rani Padayattil, ASC

General Administration Calendar



October 11, 2021: Beginning of the Seminar on formation to leadership, Sr. Bridget attends.

October 12-26, 2021: Sr. Nadia and Sr. Matija are in Bolivia for the canonical visitation.

October 28, 2021: Closing session of the 2021 Inter-assembly Congress.

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life



50th Birthday

Sr. Davida Dizdar	07.10.1971	Zagreb
Sr. Marijana Pintarić	10.10.1971	Zagreb

60th Birthday

Sr. Hassan Tantau Rose Hawa	08.10.1961	Tanzania
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70th Birthday

Sr. Bernadeta Tomić	20.10.1951	Zagreb
Sr. Stela Kovačević	25.10.1951	Zagreb
Sr. Bukis Elżbieta	29.11.1951	Wrocław

80th Birthday

Sr. Teresa Caponio	15.10.1941	Italy
Sr. Laura Riggi	23.10.1941	Italy
Sr. Therese Wetta	01.10.1941	USA

90th Birthday

Sr. Sparvoli Ester	22.10.1931	Italy
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100th Birthday

Sr. Carmelita Blick	09.10.1921	USA
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Religious Professions



October 21, 2021

**Perpetual Profession of
India Region**

*Sr. Josephine Agnes Mary, ASC
Sr. Rossy Bandy, ASC*

**OUR BLESSING
AND PRAYERS!**



They Have Returned to the Father's House

18.10.2021	Grazia Dalessandro	Italy
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International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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edited by the

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