

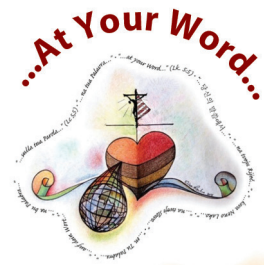
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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The Amazon Synod: a true call to renewal

Editorial

During October, the month dedicated to devotion to the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, there were many movements in the Church attesting to the presence of the Spirit leading us in the process of transforming the world. The most important event was the Amazon Synod.

It was a special time of grace because it was a time of listening to the poor, listening to the **cry of the blood** rising up from creation itself. "All creation is groaning in labor pains even until now," St. Paul reminds us. (Rm. 8:22)

It is the cry rising from indigenous populations who risk losing their identity without any prospect for the future because of the devastation of the Amazon forest, the lungs of essential importance for the life of our planet.

The work concerns the Amazon, but the topics being dealt with, beginning with the announcement of the Gospel to attention toward the least, from the new frontiers of ministry to respect of Creation regard the Universal Church and the entire human family.

We are grateful to Pope Francis for having convoked this Synod because all of humanity is involved with the Amazon. In our globalized

world, we are all invested with the same responsibility of taking care of each other, sharing interest in our mutual wellbeing, moving together because life for one is life for everyone.

Creating the "beautiful order of things" means being in a stance of listening to the roar coming from the rest of the world with all its pain, loneliness, powerlessness and becoming witnesses of hope in the power of Jesus' blood.

Thus, Christ invites us to reawaken the desire of letting ourselves be transformed so as not to stop at the visible, at what fills our eyes but not our souls. It asks us to go beyond despair, the impossible, established certainties, death itself.

In this journey Mary, Woman of Listening, teaches us to remain vigilant with Jesus and in Jesus and, she invites us to have the same eyes, the same gaze, and the same sentiments so that we can live a renewed and transformed life in Him.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

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Fifty years of History in Tanzania

While we have been able to share on other occasions through media, the general administration participated in the celebration of the 50 years of ASC presence in Tanzania with Sr. Dani Brought and Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo.

September 21 was chosen for the solemn Eucharistic celebration preceded by a prayer triduum. It was a time of grace that allowed us to reflect on God's faithfulness in history and to each Adorer, not just the Tanzanian Sisters. As Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya, O.F.M., of Dodoma said during his homily, jubilees are occasions of thanking God for His gifts and His faithfulness, but they are also opportunities for evaluating and deciding to go forward with renewed commitment. The participation of so many people, friends, ministry collaborators, women and children, those benefiting from the service of the Adorers showed not just their gratitude toward the Sisters but their love for Maria De Mattias and the charism of the Adorers.

The honorable Angelina Mabula, minister for urban development, and the honorable Simon Odunga, district commissioner of Chembain Dodoma, gave thanks and emphasized the importance the Adorers' presence has had and continues to have in the territory where they minister. Their commitment to the dignity of the person has contributed to the development and wellbeing of the entire country, and continues to do so.

On November 22, 1969 Sisters Romana Sacchetti, Delfina Gnerre, Nicolina Scattaglia, and Angelina Palmigiani, the four missionary Adorers set out from the port of Brindisi. After a month-long sea journey, they arrived at the port of Mombasa (Kenya). Here the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, who had gone to Tanzania at the invitation of Bishop Anthony Jeremia Pesce, C.P., arrived in a truck to welcome the Sisters. From that moment on in Manyoni, thanks also to the collaboration of the Missionaries, the Sisters began their work of evangelization of the villages, and in the parishes by responding to the "cry of the Blood" that called them to serve the very poor in Tanzania. From Manyoni to Chibumagwa, from Itigi to Dodoma, from Morogoro to Dar Es Salaam, to Vikawe, to Mafuijane (Mozambique) to Cesena (Italy) the Adorers continue to bring the Charity of Christ through their ministries of education, assistance to AIDS victims in the Village

of Hope, and spiritual, human and health-care. They continue to be a welcoming presence and sign of hope everywhere and for everyone, especially for the very poor.

Sr. Josephina Paul also celebrated her 25th anniversary of religious profession on this occasion in a spirit of gratitude, celebration and joy.

The presence of Sr. Marisa Nardoni, a missionary in Tanzania for twenty-some years, "cornerstone" of the region, and responsible for the formation of the first groups of Adorers and the care of the scion of the first twenty-five years of history, certainly contributed to the solemnization of the event and gave everyone the concrete opportunity to experience the bonds between the past and the present. This was a cause for joy and emotion for many.

Today there are 72 Tanzanian Adorers with perpetual vows and 15 with temporary vows living in 12 communities, including one in Italy (Cesena) and one in Mozambique. There are numerous vocations as well.

The Sisters are now involved in the field of education with primary and secondary schools, in catechesis in the parishes and in the care of the sick in dispensaries and hospitals with special attention toward orphan children suffering from AIDS with a program of therapy and preventive treatment for mothers and families today at the Village of Hope in Dodoma.

In boarding that ship, the Sisters probably never imagined what we contemplate today, thanks to God: that of being a immeasurable gift to our dear neighbor and a fruitful tree wherever it is planted.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



A Synod for the Amazon

We can only thank God for the idea of Pope Francis to hold the Synod for the Amazon, bringing together several hundred bishops who carry out their ministry embedded in the Amazon. The Synod attracted the attention of the whole world, due to the enormous problems of the Amazon: political, economic, socio-religious, and above all ecological, in view of the fires that are devastating it.

In our ASC communities, the Synod was followed closely, especially through the Catholic and secular press, meetings of religious communities, and parish bulletins. Our Bishop P. Erwin Krautler, CPPS, has been in the foreground because Pope Francis called him to Rome a few months ago due to his concern for the situation of abandoned indigenous peoples who need so much attention.

The other theme that engaged P. Erwin and Cardinal P. Claudio Hummes, OFM, so much in

the Synod was the request for priestly ordination of married men (Viri Probati) for service in the Amazon; here priests are very few and the people insistently ask for the Eucharist.

Listening to these Bishops, the Pope said: "Please ask the other bishops to mature this idea. And have the courage to put out daring proposals to the whole church on this subject."

I conclude with this song that we sing here.

"Everything is interconnected as if we were ONE./Everything is interconnected in OUR COMMON HOME."

Sr. Marília dos Santos Menezes, ASC

Surprising invitation

One lovely day Sister Mônica Borsa Lima, ASC of the Brazilian Region, received an invitation to a dinner organized by her former pupils of the town of Nova Olinda Do Norte.

The Adorers had served in Nova Olinda for a number of years and Sr. Mônica, who was a nurse, did a little bit of everything, including being midwife at the birth of all the children born during those years. She also served as surgeon when necessary because at that time there were no hospitals like there are today. But, the Good Lord was with her.

Sr. Mônica gladly accepted the invitation because it had been more than forty years since she had seen any of her "children."

She and Sr. Vitoria Zanes arrived for the dinner prepared in the beautiful Amazonas Hotel. There were fifty-some people who began hugging her and introducing themselves and showing her their families: children, husbands or wives. It was a whirl of embraces lasting more than an hour and half because each person wanted to show their gratitude.

The group gave her a beautiful card entitled "BLESSED ENCOUNTER" "The sower went out to sow the seed..." Mt. 13:3

Inside was written:

It is never too late to tell you THANKS, because you have always been in our hearts and in the heart of the members of the Missionary Action of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Your children forever

Two Colonels of the Brazilian military were among those present, as were a 95-year-old woman and others older than 60. Colonel Vitor Alencar thanked her in the name of everyone. It was also an opportunity for many people to meet their friends again, in addition to seeing Sr. Mônica.

The joy-filled dinner was served at 2:00 p.m. and concluded with a fervent recitation of an Our Father and Hail Mary with everyone holding hands.

Sr. Mônica shared that many cried with gratitude to the Lord for the gift of life and friendship. We give thanks to the Lord for all the good our Sisters did and continue to do for neediest of people.

Sr. Clara de Albuquerque, ASC

An Offering of Sweet Potatoes

My parish, St. Vincent De Paul in St. Louis, began Wednesday evening vigils on our church steps to pray for the people and situation at the Border. The half hour of a short reflection followed by prayer provides time and space to call the people at the border into our hearts.

Last week, as parishioners gathered, one of our street residents, with dirty clothes in shreds, shambled up the steps and went through the church doors, carrying a plastic food container.

One of the other parishioners and I followed him into church to see if he needed anything. He quietly placed the container on the offertory table in back of church, declined to talk to us, and left. Greg and I opened the container to discover cooked sweet potatoes. As odd as I thought that was, I was more concerned about finding the person to see if he would like some different clothes from our stash in the basement. He and his tattered attire were shuffling across the parking lot by the time we went outside, so I missed him.

As we sat on the church steps in quiet prayer

communion, listening to Interstate 55 rumble, roar, and speed by just short yards away from the building, I contemplated an offering of sweet potatoes.

That marble-topped small table, usually reserved for the bread and wine, now had a container of sweet potatoes, his unusual gift to the church. Like the Gospel parable of the widow's offering, perhaps he too gave all he really had, even if it were sweet potatoes instead of money or bread or wine.

God, not I, receives and judges the value, worth, and preciousness of the gift. Similar to the people gathered on the steps silently offering prayers for our brothers and sisters at the Border, this resident of our city streets wordlessly left his sweet potatoes, his prayer for the evening.

We'll return week after week to pray for the Border, for the people killed in El Paso and Dayton, for grieving families, and for the street people who grace our parish with the presence of God in our midst.

Sr. Regina Siegfried, ASC



In Rome for the Canonization of Cardinal Newman



The ceremony of Canonization of St. John Henry Newman, together with four holy women of the Church, is now completed; yet the experience of this special moment lingers on with gratitude in the hearts of those of us ASCs graced to witness the event. Our excitement began on the eve of the celebration when the tour group from Newman University arrived at the Generalate. They were truly exhausted

took our seats in the sun and enjoyed several hours of sharing with those about us. To bring the crowd to a moment of recollection, we prayed the Rosary aloud just before the celebration began.

The ceremony of sanctification was quite simple. The Cardinal Prefect for the Cause of Saints petitioned the Holy Father to accept the five candidates for canonization and to enroll them among the Saints. After recitation of the Litany of the Saints, the Pope spoke the simple formula for canonization. The choir sang Alleluia, and we moved directly into the Gloria of the Mass. A booklet was provided for us so we could join in the Gregorian chant with the choir. During Communion, the choir sang the Newman hymn "Lead, Kindly Light" in Italian.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Holy Father climbed into his pope-mobile and circled the crowd twice, smiling and waving his blessing. It was a joyous closing to a grand experience.

Sr. Gabrielle Rowe, ASC

as they had been climbing the hills of Rome since early morning, but held up well through a Mass in English, followed by a festive meal with the General Team and the local international community. We closed the evening at about 9:00 pm with a short songfest and a grand rendition of Frere Jacques in the seven languages spoken in the house.

Early on Sunday we set off for the Vatican, only to discover that our bus route had been cancelled due to a street race in our area, so we had the unexpected experience of a ride on the Metro. We were whisked underground to a station near St. Peter's Basilica where we joined the thousands of people hurrying toward the Square. After going through security lines, we



ASCs "Return" to Morino



The Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ returned to Morino to celebrate the festivities of the town's patron saint. Warm and moving was the welcome of the entire community and still lively and widely shared bonds of our territory with the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood!

It is enough to remember that the house in Morino (closed only a few years ago because of a lack of religious in the institute) was established by St. Maria De Mattias in that long ago November 1841, the third mission house after that of Vallecorsa and Pescasseroli.

In the course of more than 150 years, the presence of the Adorers spread into various sectors: parish activities, school, educational and recreational activities, embroidery workshops, assistance to the elderly, etc. Indubitably, all of that had a social and cultural impact in the territory and in the life of the community.

The closing of the religious houses of Morino and Grancia created the absence of basic gathering centers for the people, especially for the young people, even though opportunities were sought out to maintain contact with the Sisters who had worked in Morino with unforgettable generosity (celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. Maria Mattias in August 2016, periodic visits to Acuto cemetery, etc.)

It seemed completely natural and in keeping with experiences to invite a representation of Adorers to spend a day of celebration in Morino, almost with the intention of continuing an uninterrupted dialogue shared by a majority of the population. The visit took place on September 7, our patron saint's feast.

The Sisters, coming from the houses of Acuto (Sisters Adelfe, Antonietta and Cesida), Sora (Sisters Carmina and Silvana, and from the Generalate in Rome (Sister Teresina) represented the various generations of Sisters who were in the Morino house

throughout a half century!

A group of children led by their catechists, many mothers and other people of our town welcomed them in the parish hall. Father Bernardo, pastor, also welcomed them with a long and joyous pealing of the church bells as they arrived in Morino.

The gathering was in a spirit of festive and familiar simplicity. After an opening greeting and brief recall of the history of the religious institute of the Most Precious Blood – expressed by Sr. Adelfe, the young people were involved in various songs and games. Animators of the group were the Sisters and especially Sr. Antonietta Loreti who boasts of a long and appreciated service of teaching at the pre-school of Morino during the years when the pre-school was run by the Sisters.

The visit also provided for a time of spirituality. The Sisters participated in the solemn concelebration of the Eucharist and the traditional procession through the streets of the town.

Of course, the anniversary of the patron saint's feast contributed to giving considerable visibility to the event. There were many greetings and a veiled emotions in the remembrances emerging from the narration of the people who knew and were able to visit the Sisters' house throughout past years.

A convivial moment was also planned for the day at the nearby Zompo lo Schioppo Waterfall. Some of the faithful attended for a pleasant and unpublished running nostalgic remembrance of images, faces, life episodes, etc.

The Sisters' visit to Morino concluded with the participation at the ritual of removal of the statute of the Child Mary and the recitation of the rosary.

Sr. Adelfe thanked the people of the town in the name of everyone for the love and attention toward the Congregation, witnessed by their periodic visits to the community of Acuto, by their remembrance of the many Sisters, who, in full harmony with the "Rule" of the Foundress, gave of themselves in service for their dear neighbor in the community of Morino that was a reference point for the territory. Morino is cited in the history of the Institute and is known and loved by many Sisters

The event was efficiently coordinated by Professor Santina Ferrera in collaboration with yours truly.

Anna Giovarruscio

Olive Trees of Knowledge

An ancient proverb of the native Americans goes like this: **“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. It is our responsibility to give it back to them.”** Yes, this is exactly our commitment and that of future generations.



At this time, it is increasingly common to hear about climate change due to pollution. The **“Week For Future”** event being held in various countries in these days brought attention on a world-wide level to the damages our planet is enduring due to a disrespectful exploitation of its resources. It is enough to think about the hole in the ozone layer, the melting of glaciers and all the climate changes resulting from it.

Raising awareness that young people are doing is important. The Swedish teen **Greta Thunberg** began a movement on a global level that is shaking everybody’s conscience in the hope that especially the powerful of the earth will begin to implement strategies to safeguard the planet.

The Precious Blood Institute of Bari, under the attentive leadership of Sister Giuseppina Fragasso, has always believed in the importance of raising awareness of the young consciences of the students to respect the environment and care for it. In fact, in her opening address for the school year, Sister Giuseppina emphasized “these children will be tomorrow’s adults who will need to make decisions to protect the world. Therefore, their education is important.” Regarding this, the PBI never misses an opportunity to promote events toward this purpose. In fact, last spring the two classes of first graders planted two olive trees in the school’s garden.

It was a simple action with double meaning, a didactic one and a symbolic one. In a didactic context, as we said above, it’s purpose was to deepen the children’s understanding of nature and sensitize them to its respect. From a purely symbolic point of view, it will recall this new life journey that is the school.

An olive tree was chosen because it is a very important tree in our religious and social culture. The trees were specially chosen from the **“Bambina”** variety, an Apulian native of Alta Murgia, from which an oil particularly rich in polyphenols is obtained, an easily digestible oil with a very delicate taste which, according to tradition, was used when weaning children and was a food for children. Hence the name **“Bambina”** (child), and in a sense, undertaking a scholastic journey is like being weaned.

Two stone plaques created by the artist Caterina Giusy Didonna were put under the two young olive trees to remember this event. The plaques have a number of colored leaves on them representing the number of children from the two first-grade classrooms. During these past summer months, the young olive trees grew in strength and height to the joy and wonder of the children who had planted them. The earth is a gift from God, we must have respect

Let’s begin planting trees not cutting them down.

Giuseppe Quagliara
Parent of a primary student



“Five Lamps of God”

Aima: the Blood from the United States to Liberia of the “Five Lamps of God”

The white façade of the Basilica of San Nicola and the red of the young dancers concluded the day USC (Unio Sanguis Cristi) devoted to the Blood of Christ. From many parts of southern Italy (Puglia, Calabria, Basilicata) groups linked to the spirituality of the Blood of Christ guided by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the month of October in Bari, shared a day of meeting, reflecting, celebrating. About 300 people participated in “Aima”, “Sangue.”

During the morning there was a talk by don Luigi Maria Epicoco, author and commentator followed by the celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of San Nicola, patron saint of Bari, the saint of ecumenism and hospitality.

At the end of the Mass, the young people of the parish of the Precious Blood in Bari, together with the parish dance group directed by teacher Katia Laguaragnella, concluded the event with readings and dances. The red of the fabrics and clothes of the young dancers delicately accompanied the readings on five Adorers of the Blood of Christ who with their lives literally embodied the meaning of the gift. To the red that hovered during the ballet on the notes of the song “The circle of life” taken from the film the Lion King, some readings recalled the life of S. Mary Joel, S. Shirley, S. Kathleen, S. Agnes and S. Barbara Ann,

five American Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ who really gave their lives for love of neighbor. Five drops of blood that witnessed Christ.

The five Adorers are considered Martyrs of Charity: they dedicated their lives in Liberia in the bloody years of the civil war helping children, supporting many women. They have always remained tied to the mission in this African land and it can be said that they were not afraid of violence, of arms, of war to which they responded with love

and prayer. Their good was shattered with rifle shots in an ambush in October 1992 near Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

They represent five lives that have not bowed to evil, have not escaped from that war-torn land, but have continued to treat people, to welcome them. Certainly

they can be compared to five lamps, just like those placed on the stairs of the Basilica of San Nicola, five lamps that will always be fed by the flame of God. Their testimony of “blood”, *Aima* is a sign of for all the faithful to look at life with passionate eyes of love.

Sr. Francesca Palamà, ASC



Voices of the Amazon Heard in Rome

Our home is burning. Our lungs are filled with smoke. Oxygen is being cut off tree by tree. Our water is being polluted; fish are dying. Progress is advancing leaving destruction and death in its wake. Those who resist face arrest or death. Who will hear the cry of the Amazon Forest? Pope Francis says we want to hear it, so he brought together the religious leaders of the countries of the Amazon basin in Latin America to listen.

As the bishops met in the Synod October 6-27, all around town voices spoke to smaller groups on various topics – all open to the public. Many Amazonians come to Rome, some with painted faces and feathered hats. Sisters Rani Padayattil, ASC and Marcia Kruse, ASC heard the “Voices of the Amazon” at the Antonianum University, October 5. The ambassadors of Peru and Colombia to the Vatican, and the ambassador of Peru to Italy gave their assessment of the problems from their perspective. Then we heard testimonies from the people who live and work directly with the people who live in the Amazon territories: a Brazilian Sister, Brother and Community Leader. Their words touched our hearts and moved our minds to be part of the solution to the immense problem.

The fundamental confrontation is in the cosmopolitanism. One side sees the earth as something to be used for profit. The other sees everything as sacred, to be used with reverence and not exploited. One sees progress, where the other, destruction. As the modern world encroaches, parents must decide whether to send their children to school or to keep them home to learn the traditional values of their clan. A speaker told the story of a native who went to Europe and came back saying “Poor people! They have nothing but money.” Another said the Amazon is the lungs of the world, but it has a cancer: exploitation. Sister told of organized crime that operates with impunity as they take over the land, and the victims are accused as criminals. Police stand guard over logging operations, protecting the exploiters. Protesters are arrested. Huge swathes of forest have been cleared for farming, cattle, logging and mining, and much more this summer than any time before.

So we prayed especially during this Synod that the Voices of the Amazon will be heard and heeded, or the cancer will end up killing all of us.

Sr. Marcia Kruse, ASC



General Administration Calendar



October 30 – Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Manuela Nocco: a Skype meeting with the Commission for the study of the long term use of the generalate building

November 3-16 – Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Dani Brought: canonical visitation in Argentina

November 18 – December 1- Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Dani Brought: participation in the Election Assembly in Brazil



Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

70

Sr. Judith Kuman 11/24/1949 Schaan

80

Sr. Maria Cipriani 11/17/1939 Italy

Regional Assemblies

November 21 - 25
Election Assembly **Brazil**



**They have
returned to their
Heavenly Home**



- 04/10/2019 **Sr Maria Armillotta** Italy
- 20/10/2019 **Sr Gabriela Kretz** Schaan
- 25/10/2019 **Sr Anna Maria Amorino** Italy
- 26/10/2019 **Sr Margherita Cristantielli** Italy

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