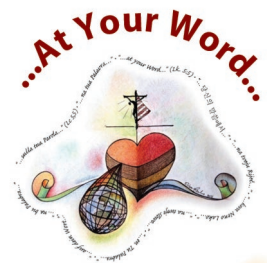


International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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

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A Rising Star: the Word Made Flesh Enlightens the Way

Editorial

The Christmas season concluded a short time ago and the announcement of Easter that we heard on Epiphany still echoes in our ears. God became flesh, the Emmanuel, like a rising star from on high to overcome our darkness with the power of his Mystery of death and resurrection.

With the week of prayer for Christian Unity this year we take up the theme of the luminous manifestation of God. The passage given for the reflection of all the baptized is taken from the Gospel according to Matthew. It indicates to us the star that comes from the East to enlighten the path for all peoples: "We have seen his star appear in the East and we have come here to honor him."

The texts prepared by the Christians from Lebanon highlight the theme of the light of Christ that comes to us from the East and overcomes the darkness of division and evil. The incarnate Word of God is the true light that lets us discover God's benevolent plan for history. That is why it is necessary to listen to His Word and, allow it to become embodied in our daily actions, to make

us light for others. Then we will be like stars in the world to overcome the darkness of division.

The Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time) is intersected in this invocation of unity. It occurs this year on January 23. Pope Francis strongly wanted to dedicate a day each year to the Divine Word and he wanted it to be held in conjunction with the liturgical celebration of the conversion of St. Paul, the Apostle to the gentiles. His life witness as minister of the Gospel who found in the Word of God the instrument that penetrates to the core exhorts us today to dig out the treasure in the Gospel that opens the doors for us of the meaning of existence and history. St. Jerome states and Vatican Council II reaffirms, "Those who ignore Scriptures, ignore Christ!"

May the light of the star and the light of the Word be two lamps that guide us, in Christ, in our pilgrimage this new year.

Sr. Patrizia Pasquini, ASC

Summary

Editorial

- ◇ A Rising Star: the Word Made Flesh Enlightens the Way 1

General Administration Space

- ◇ "Synodality: Constitutive Nature of Consecrated Life. How to Balance Service in Authority and Faithfulness to the Charism Today" 2

From the ASC World

- ◇ Hearts ... in Communion, Gospel in the World 4
- ◇ Every Experience is Unique and Different in Each of its Origins 6
- ◇ St. Juan Bosco Parish, Summer Time 7

- ◇ Formation Seminar for Associate Group Leaders 8
- ◇ Parish Retreat in Advent 9

JPIC/VIVAT Space

- ◇ Coffee with Literature 10

In the Congregation

- ◇ General Administration Calendar 11
- ◇ Religious Professions 11
- ◇ Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life 11
- ◇ They Have Returned to their Heavenly Home 11

“Synodality: Constitutive Nature of Consecrated Life. How to Balance Service in Authority and Faithfulness to the Charism Today”



In spite of the uncertainty of this unprecedented time caused by the pandemic that continues to worry us, we celebrated the annual assembly of the Rome Constellation of UISG on January 11.

It was a great joy to be able to be personally present after so long a time: to tell each other about ourselves, to rejoice in the presence of the others, to look each other in the eye and experience the joy of being together. The remote opportunities offered by the Constellation and by the International UISG during these two years of pandemic were certainly a blessing, but presence makes a difference in everything. The marvel of the fruitfulness of encounter!

The theme chosen by the leadership group, after consulting with the assembly members saw all of us participants involved in a very current topic of great interest: “Synodality: constitutive nature of consecrated life. How to balance service of authority and faithfulness to the charism today.”

Sr. Tiziana Merletti sfp, canon lawyer and UISG consultant, facilitated the morning with an inspiring sharing on the proposed theme and then elaborated on several considerations that had surfaced from the table sharing.

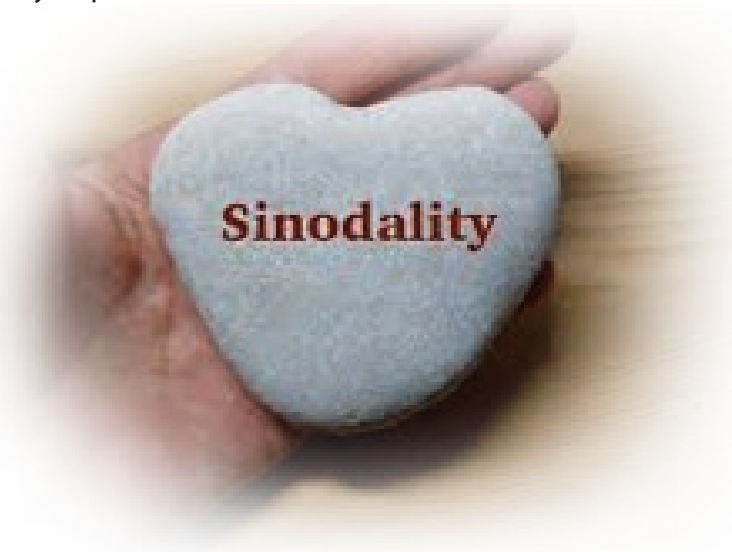
Sr. Tiziana began by saying that consecrated life is a par excellence “synodal” component of and in the Church. The underlying criterion of this

constitutive nature is precisely communal life as an essential element for identifying the essence of discipleship and the following Jesus.

Fraternal life not only invigorates missionary activity, but also the awareness of acting communally in the name of Christ. Therefore, by their essence, Institutes of consecrated life live the reality of synodality of the Church in an absolutely prophetic way. In the Church as communion, we discover the beauty of togetherness, of being together, of walking with others.

We are aware that synodality is a dimension to be continuously embraced because it is not a status but a process. It is a dynamic to be continuously renewed and nourished as with many educational and formative processes.

Sr. Tiziana also reminded us that the exercise of synodality is the style of the communal vocation of consecrated life and is a difficult conquest because, in addition to being a dynamic of grace, it is a method of sharing, participation and missionary commitment. If synodality is not a principle, but rather a method for experiencing mutuality and concern in the ecclesial reality according to the style of evangelical nearness, then fraternity will need to be lived as a synodal mystique.



The synodal way is neither simple nor comfortable, but it can help us to grow in the spirit of the Gospel, beginning with trust in the Spirit who guides the Church and each faith community and who acts in all of them. It helps us reject the logic of power and dominance to adhere more and more to the proposal of service and humility. (Cfr. Mk. 10:35-45) Although it may seem a slow and inefficient way, incapable of keeping up to the speed that characterizes this time and, therefore, inadequate, synodality is generative because it develops the participation and co-responsibility of the members.

Synodality is walking together, having the same goal at heart: the Trinity, paying special attention to the personal work within a process of continuous transformation, facing challenges within, cultivating fraternal relationships to change and agreeing on rules to be respected. Fraternity and synodality, therefore, refer to each other and are intrinsically connected.

After having outlined several characteristics of a sister called to service in synodal authority, Sr. Tiziana underlined that the synodal process is a method to be learned. Consecrated life is experiencing a time of profound transformations and, after many centuries of history marked by other models, we are called to re-appropriate that

style of co-responsibility that characterized the apostolic community. We are aware that there is an initial effort to be reckoned with, a chaos we have to go through to start those processes that will allow us to learn and progressively assume that style. It is the sign of community that tries, that begins, that sets out.... The rest will come about because, if we set out, the path "opens step by step."

Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC



Cuori...in comunione, Vangelo nel mondo



with hearts and minds open to understanding and living the best of ourselves and the other sisters. We were resolved to begin a more authentic process of conversion in order to be able to continue to grow as ASCs in communion and in mission to proclaim the Lord in the light of the Blood of Christ.

The world is changing, the means and ways of life are changing, but the changes are useful and make us grow only if we improve our journey, our performance and for us our unlimited donation to Christ in the mission and in the proclamation of God's mercy for everyone.

With this introduction, I will let you gather other things from the brief statements of the young ASC professed sisters who express and show how the Spirit scrutinized their hearts and sparked new processes of interior personal and community renewal. Here they are:

"Hearts in communion ... Gospel in the world" was the theme that accompanied us during the time of the canonical visitation of the General Administration. The visitation was held in our Foundation of Guinea-Bissau, from October 30 to November 12, 2021.

The general superior, Sr. Nadia Coppa, together with councilor Sr. Matij Pavić, guided us in meetings of discernment, meditation on the Word, examination of the situation of the mission and in personal and community reflection. They used simple, but impactful dynamics that helped each ASC to reflect within herself, into the heart itself of her community living and her being an active and creative member of the Foundation.

Following the ad hoc schedule drawn up, the superiors visited and stayed a few days in the three communities of the mission: Bissau, Bula and Ingorè. They led specific meetings in each mission house and visited the places and ministries of each ASC.

In addition to the specific meetings with the Foundation Council, the local superiors and treasurers, the sisters with temporary vows, the postulants and aspirants, on November 9 in Bula we had a meeting of formation with all 14 ASC members of the Foundation.

They were times of grace and truth, experienced and expressed in sincere fraternity,

"During the canonical visitation, I experienced great joy and had a deep experience of love and charity... The three moments of the canonical visitation that especially touched me are: that with us temporary professed, that in our community in Bissau and then that in the Foundation.

"These times of the visitation completely transformed my feelings, because everything that was said to us in the meetings was of use for my spiritual and human life as a member of the ASC family called to embrace the same sentiments of compassion and forgiveness that Jesus felt.

"I felt I have to make a process of growth in being more attentive and accepting with my sisters and living more in communion with them so that I can pass it on to my brothers and sisters outside.

"I feel that many things have changed in my life after the canonical visitation. I am very grateful for this and for what I received and I am sure that God, "the author and possessor of all good", will help me to live the intentions I made during the canonical visitation. Infinite thanks, Sisters!"

Sr Tânia

"The visitation was important for my personal and community life. It helped our Foundation very much to be aware of needing to grow in communion, especially in our way of loving each other, living empathy with reconciliation, forgiveness and mutual respect of my sister just as she is.... Finally I add that after the visitation I notice signs of changes both on a community level and level of Foundation. May God bless you! Thank you for everything you gave us...."

Sr Victória

"Your canonical visitation, Sisters, was a special time and opportunity for our Foundation and for all 14 of us ASCs present in the Mission in Guinea Bissau.

"We had times of deep reflection and discernment about our charismatic identity and our daily living in our mission community, of sharing, mutual help and joy.

"The strong call for all of us was that of renewing our living in fraternal communion, of being more sincere and honest with ourselves and our sisters. Communion is God's gift for personal and community transformation to be able to live our consecration intensely, in unity and diversity of ethnicities, races and colors.... Being united in mission, supporting each other in ministries, in proclaiming as our constitution says and thus witnessing God's love for everyone.... For this reason, communion, responsibility, consistency of life, mutual respect among us are important elements to grow as ASCs in the Foundation and in the world where we are called as consecrated women "living the same sentiments as Jesus," (Phil. 2:2ff) in order to be a sign of the love of the One who shed all his blood to save us.

"I should say many other things, but I will end by giving heartfelt thanks to you superiors for the help, encouragement and affection you gave us during the days of the canonical visitation. May God reward you and the Blood of Jesus protect you."

Sr Numò

The brief testimonies highlighted some touching points of the visitation. The rest will be completed by the work of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Blood of Jesus who frees, purifies and strengthens every open and sincere heart. Continue to lead us!

In the name of each and every one of us, I, too, give heartfelt thanks. We will continue together on the same path of holiness as traced out by Jesus and our holy Founders, with living faith and working hope in charity for every creature, even the most distant. A virtual, but planetary embrace to each ASC in the world.

***Sr. Maria Cifelli, ASC
and Sisters of the Foundation***



Every Experience is Unique and Different in its Each Origin

On 4th of February 2020 we began International Novitiate in Rome, Italy. We were seven of us from three different countries: India, Croatia and Italy. We rejoiced in the presence of the Lord among the Adorers of the Blood of Christ from different nations. It was a pleasant and enriching moment to be the part of Asc family. During our novitiate, we had different experiences in visiting the origins of our Catholic Church and congregation. As well as to walk where our Foundress St. Maria De Mattias lived and gave her life totally to Christ and to her dear neighbor. "A communion of love in which people of every tribe, tongue and nation are united." (LC. # 6, 2).

Immersing oneself in a different culture is an eye-opening experience. It was a special time to know, to live and to share intercultural



relationships and opened the way for us to appreciate different cultural settings with their own beauty and diversity. Living in these unique cultures are blessings for us to create unity in diversity.

We consider this as a time of grace and joy to worship God and to experience Him personally. We glorify God and promote unity in the Body of Christ through multi-lingual, multi-cultural worship resources in order that our lives be transformed and to bring nations together to worship God. It was a great opportunity to enlighten ourselves through different topics which could help us to deepen our knowledge of Christ, of ourself, of others our the Congregational documents. We also had the possibility to connect with different Regions, Foundations and the Missions of our congregation through online and by presence. This gave a special experience and wider vision of our congregation.

"Life is a gift and we have to be a fragrance of life all around us." Living in the Novitiate community helped us to realize that each one of us is precious gift from God. The gift that we share with each other is giving one's own whole being generously for the common life of the community. The presence of one another sometimes also was a personal call to change oneself for the good of the other and taught us to readily participate in the ordinary interchanges of daily community life. We remember with gratitude the formation community who accompanied, molded, taught and encouraged

us to grow in all levels of life where we could be real, sincere, human and religious persons. In spite of our differences we enjoyed being supported, collaborated with and helped by each other

to be a fragrance of life all around us.

We remain with gratitude to Superior General Sr. Nadia Coppa and General Administration, Sr. Mini Pallipadan and Regional Administration, Sr. Mariamma Kunnackal the Novice director and Sr. Joan Stoverink the assistant Novice director, the novitiate community and all the Asc's around the world who accompanied us in our formation journey through your valuable prayers.

Mary Priya, Padma e Swarnalatha
2nd year Novices

St. Juan Bosco Parish, Summertime!



St. Juan Bosco Parish is a parish of the Poor Villas of Greater Buenos Aires. The ASCs have been in this place since their arrival in Argentina. Since our service is dedicated to the very least, we have never left it.

After the difficult time of the pandemic, this summer we began retreat days again for the women, men and youngsters. We began the year with a retreat for the women. There were about 90 attending. We had a rhythm of prayer, peaceful sharing, and time at the beach that made it possible for women of lower backgrounds to enjoy an interior journey that filled their hearts and souls and also restored their bodies.

These are not “formal retreats” like we Sisters are used to, but considering the hard work these women did throughout the pandemic (cooking, taking food to the sick, sanitizing the areas of the chapels and streets of the neighborhood, etc.) this retreat was an opportunity to offer them a different experience: like an experience of “God’s caress to the soul.”

After the group of women left the place, it was the turn for a group of recovering addicts with their leaders. This experience was also very positive. The last group that enjoyed the sea was a group of adolescents between the ages of 11 and 14. They had planned activities of prayer, reflection, games on the beach and going into the sea. There were about 100 youngsters in the group and for some of them it was the first time they had seen the sea. The same was true for the group of women. While this may be something banal for those living near the sea, for those who live in a small urban area, the sea is fullness and infinity, just like the mountains.

All these activities are an expression of God’s love and they give us ASCs living in these

“marginalized cultures” the opportunity of experiencing the joy of offering to these poor people what so many others experience as something normal and common.

On Monday, January 17, we were supposed to leave with the youth for Tandil, leaving the sea behind, but the growing number of cases of Covid in Argentina put a stop to this camping trip, where they would have been staying in tents.

It is to be noted that the place where we go to the sea, called San Clemente, was begun by a priest, Father Francia, many years ago. He would bring the youth of his parish in the Diocese of San Martin here, just a few meters from the sea. It was a family property. One time there was a strong wind that blew the tents away and during the 1970’s, Father Francia began thinking about building something. So, little by little, today a big building called Mt. Calvary, is here just a few meters from the sea and is capable of housing many people. It is a very rudimentary structure, like a concrete school camp, but is very adequate for the ministry with the people from the Villa.

Our parish helps with the maintenance of this place, not even asking a donation from the parishioners who attend the meetings.

We take everything along: food, first aid kits, cleaning supplies, money for the propane tanks. The participants are responsible for their personal stuff. A spirit of community is created which celebrates the vacation-retreat and lets them also have time to make plans for their parish life, looking toward the future, beginning from the radiant center uniting us and calling us, Jesus.

Sr. Patricia Atara, ASC

Formation Seminar for Associate Group Leaders

Following a meeting the General Administration had with the lay associates of the Congregation, the desire developed to organize a formation seminar for group leaders, both laity and sisters, from the various parts of the world.

The task of conducting this endeavor was given to Sr. Anna Maria Vissani, ASC in charge of the *On the Mount of Castelplanio Spirituality Center* (Ancona, Italy) and expert in the field of lay formation for spiritual life.

The first session of the Zoom Seminar of Living the Paschal Mystery Today was held last November 28 with the theme, *The Ways of the Precious Blood*.

There were seventy connections to the zoom meeting, but the number of participants was greater because in some cases more than one person was connected with the same computer.

Sr. Nadia Coppa, general superior, introduced the session emphasizing that the project came from the desire of the laity to grow in the life of the spirit and to live it in the sign of the Blood of redemption.

With her talk, Sr. Anna Maria invited the participants to travel along three paths:

— THE WAY OF THE MIND called to imbue the memory of the Spirit in the blood to give form to a new person: to thinking, deciding and acting according to God.

— THE WAY OF WITNESSING as a call to take charge of one's own life to freely give it to the point of giving blood: taking our sisters and brothers by the hand to support, console, witness and accompany them.

— THE WAY OF THE HEART as a call to let our hearts be filled by God's infinite vitality so that it may permeate our whole being.

The second meeting is scheduled for February 27. The third will be on June 26.

We will miss Sr. Karolina Miljak at these last two meetings. She worked so hard with our associate friends and now she will accompany us from the eternal dwelling where we hope she is already enjoying the fullness of the fruits of Redemption.



Sr. Patrizia Pasquini, ASC

Parish Retreat in Advent

The custom of doing parish retreats during Advent and Lent has become part of Polish religious and devotional practice. They usually last for four days, including a Sunday. They begin with Sunday Mass with a special homily by an invited preacher. At the end of the retreat there is the usual opportunity for confession.

This year the curator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Victory in Brdów (400 km from Częstochowa) asked me to preach the Advent retreat. The Pauline priests serve at the shrine – the same who are at the Black Madonna shrine in Częstochowa.

The retreat began on Saturday, December 4, and concluded on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The main theme of the retreat was Advent “housekeeping.” What kind of putting things in order was it about? The main idea was to put our faith, our families, marriage and relationships in order.

Five Masses were celebrated at the shrine on Sunday, December 5, and another one in the small parish chapel. On the

other days there were two meetings according to the retreat schedule: one at 9:00 a.m. and the other at 5:00 p.m. There were another two formation meetings for parents with children preparing for the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion, and for parents of youngsters preparing for Confirmation. There were three Masses on the feast of our Lady and the Hour of Grace function. During each liturgy I did retreat catechesis in preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas 2021 and especially for encountering Christ who will return in glory to judge the living and the dead.

On Tuesday, after Holy Communion during each Mass, the married couples present at the liturgy renewed their marriage promises and stated their desire to build a renewed relationship. There were lots of emotions, good feelings and sincere words during this activity. God gave the grace to forgive, forget and love the person again like they had given before.

On those days, many people washed their garments in the Blood of the Lamb, approaching the Sacrament of Penance. It was truly a great apostolic effort, but especially a time of grace. During these days, many people left their domestic chores and came to the shrine to put their lives and their relationships with God and neighbor in order.

Sr. Gabriela Janikula, ASC



Coffee with Literature



A few months ago a lady from the parish spoke with me about her husband's situation and her concern for their health. Her husband is a retired administrator with diabetes and is suffering from depression and the Covid-19 pandemic situation is not helping him. In listening to this situation I began thinking about how I could help them without their leaving their house. I remembered a psychologist friend in Brazil who in recent years had created a book club. I had already participated a couple of times by Zoom.

After having planned how and for whom the project would be focused, I asked about possible dates and invited friends. I decided to create two book clubs: one for women and the other for retired folks. What began with a small group gradually grew not only in numbers of participants but also in richness of sharing. Many of the people did not know each other, but in the course of the meetings and conversations about the book, they were able to create a beautiful friendship.

The book club works like this: we chose a book at the first gathering of the group. We read a chapter a week. The meetings last about an hour with each of us sharing the salient points of the weekly reading, what captivated our attention and what will stay with us the rest of our lives.

The women's group chose the book by Clarissa Pikola, Women Who Run with Wolves. In this book each chapter recounts cross-cultural myths for the purpose of helping women find their strength and connect with their true essence. The second group chose The Keys of

the Kingdom by A.J. Cronin, in which the author recounts the story of Father Francis, from his infancy to the tragic event that reawakens his vocation to do missionary work in China in a turbulent time of famine, plague and civil war.

I called it Coffee with Literature because when we are with friends to chat over a good cup of hot coffee, a warm and friendly atmosphere is created. This is our small group that, little by little, is growing. This week two other members will be joining.

It is a great joy to see how this small group is taking form through conversation. I like to participate at our weekly gatherings by way of Jitsi Meet and see them enthusiastic and listening to the various points of view about their common read and how it enriches our gatherings. Diversity is richness.

Sr. Katty Sarita Collana Estrella, ASC



General Administration Calendar

February 4: Feast of St. Maria De Mattias: Holy Mass transmitted live on RadioMaria at 4:40 p.m. (Rome time)



Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

30th birthday

Sr. Vinnarasi Joseph 02/16/1992 India

50th birthday

Sr. Elizabeth Olivery Mtit 02/03/1972 Tanzania

70th birthday

Sr. Teresa Chabraszewska 02/12/1952 Wrocław

Sr. Magdalena Šokić 02/12/1952 Zagreb

Sr. Zdenka Pezer 02/26/1952 Zagreb

80th birthday

Sr. Antonietta Filippi 02/09/1942 Italy

Sr. Cecilija Glibo 02/11/1942 Zagreb

Sr. Enrica Cinti 02/14/1942 Italy

Sr. Antonia Vizzoca 02/18/1942 Italy

Sr. Julia Ciborro Galán 02/21/1942 Spain

Religious Professions

First Profession – February 4

India

Mary Priya Mari Susai

Padma Vaddeswarapu

Swarnalatha Bandi

Zagreb

Martina Bukarica

Biljana Kostić

Final Vows – February 5

Guinea Bissau

Sr. Fatima Euriza Mario Gomes

Sr. Numo Camarà

Our best wishes and prayers

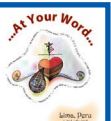


They have returned to their Heavenly Home

01/05/2022	Sr. Lucrezia Colapinto	Italia
01/05/2022	Sr. Jelena Kančelarić	Zagabria
01/08/2022	Sr. Karolina Miljak	Zagabria
01/12/2022	Sr. Lina Contento	Italia
01/19/2022	Sr. Mathild Frick	Schaan
01/19/2022	Sr. Letizia Ferri	Italia
01/23/2022	Sr. Bernadete Machado	Manaus
01/27/2022	Sr. Carmelina Blick	USA

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