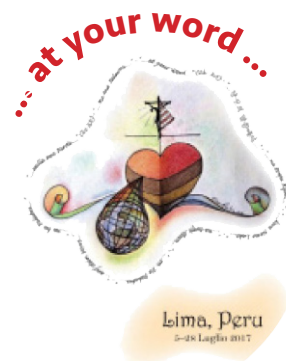


International News

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Year XXI - N. 8 - June 2018

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Lima, Peru
5-48 Luglio 2017

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THE BLESSED NEXT DOOR

editorial



Holiness is a gift. For many it is a costly gift, but, in truth, it is a huge and unexpected gift that passes for a proposal not to be buried but to be spread. In his last apostolic exhortation (Gaudete et

Exultate) Pope Francis indicates to us through the Beatitudes the effective options of holiness that pass through the preferential option for the poor for the purpose of overcoming every form of isolation, individualism and indifference.

Editorial

The blessed of our globalized society of indifference are called to take sides against those who exploit the weak.

They are challenged to look at reality by trying to save the people dying of hunger and thirst, to not forget the homeless and those deprived of instruction and give them their dignity again and work, making the most of what we have that is not being used, because holiness is not virtual; it is real.

The blest do not pay for their choices with money, but with bills of gratuity, throwing their hearts open toward everyone and not wasting time in everyday futility in order to embody the Gospel of joy, undermining the conformist's rationalism which often ends up influencing proposals that are aborted before they are even generated.

Maria De Mattias is a saint because she made the beatitudes her field of action. Hers were a taking of sides, since she offered room for the growth and holistic development of the person, going against the culture and customs of the

times and siding with the exploited women of late nineteenth-century society.

Who knows what she would say today or where she would want her Sisters to be present. Who knows what projects she would carry out in dealing with the killing of girls and women, the perpetuation of the scourge of abortions or the lack of educating toward gospel values.

Certainly, she would say to put on the clothes of the revolutionary women of the Gospel like Mary of Nazareth, or Mary Magdalene the convert or the Samaritan woman who went from being a woman with many husbands to a missionary.

It is also up to us, as the Church of the third millennium, as consecrated women of the "old world" to rejuvenate it with prophetic choices and merciful ones.

We are called to reinvest in our structures, to design faith journeys for our communities, to renew our works and above all to begin to connect the words of holiness with complete openness to the newness of God.

Sr. Mimma Scalera, asc



CELEBRATION OF INTERCULTURALITY DAY: AN INVITATION TO TRANSFORMATION

Intercultural living is no longer an experience that is “good to have” but today, it has become a necessity. Unfortunately, the majority of people are less-prepared for adapting to new cultural environments, understanding people with a different cultural perspective, and adjusting their behavior in ways that are more suitable to the cultural framework of the other side.

A lot of people ask themselves why they should be the ones to adapt. From their perspective, the other side should be the ones to adjust their behavior or, at least, both sides should make compromises. This way of thinking just doesn't work in today's world. Very few people today have had the necessary exposure to other cultural environments and the necessary training in order to think outside their own cultural framework. The person who has the mental flexibility to adjust their behavior is the one who is at the advantage. Having a clear understanding of the other cultural perspective primarily gives you the ability to choose.

The intercultural day celebration at the ASC Generalate was an attempt to introduce to each other the richness of other cultures living in and around our house; offering each one the possibility to feel within and answer honestly “how comfortable am I to something not used to?”. In

other words how flexible am I to enter into a new experience that demands certain letting goes? The day was planned in advance and the invitation was extended to other international communities around. Each national group or individuals

in house meticulously planned with lot of enthusiasm to present a few the elements of their culture, such as culinary art, songs and costumes. While some planned it with compatriots from the neighborhood thus widening the circle of relationships. The house was made very much alive as members started moving to find the ingredients for cooking, practicing songs, decorating the dining room etc. The vibrant presence of the Rosminian seminarians with their dance and music added much color and joy to the celebration.



The day remains marked in our memories for the spirit of communion, friendship and the new windows of understanding that were opened in our minds and hearts. Hats off to the master mind behind this initiative and everyone who welcomed the idea and contributed to it generously making it a enlightening one.

Living in a truly intercultural environment means having discomfort with us as a constant companion. It is a part of the process of transformation that we are going through as we are internalizing a new perspective on the world,

General administration space



rethinking our existing beliefs, integrating old and new beliefs, and ultimately forming a new worldview.

Yes transformation begins with small steps that leaves behind long-term influences.

Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel ASC



From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA AFRICA Region of Tanzania

SERVING OUR DEAR NEIGHBOR



Sabina is the girl in yellow in the middle of the sisters

“Every human being is worth the Blood of Christ”. In this sense, our Region offers various services to the needy. We help the poor so that they can live well in the society. Many poor people are knocking at our doorsteps hoping that they will get help from us. So far we have been able to help by provide them education and other needs.

It’s almost seven years since we have had two children living with us. One is called Sabina who studies at primary school, standard five. Another is called Mary who studies at primary school, standard six. We thank God for both of them. They do well with their studies. Each of them has his own history of life. Sabina was taken by the Sisters of Morogoro community from her uncle’s family. The sisters took her because her uncle’s wife was very harassing her.

Sabina was taken by her uncle after her mo-



Sabina wearing red with Sr. Philipina and Kidashii

From the ASC world

ther married another man. This stepfather refused to receive her and raise her up because she was not his daughter. There, in the family of her uncle, Sabina found herself falling into the hands of a mother who had beaten her and treated her cruelly.

Maria's mother died while Maria was very young. She was brought by her father at the Health Center of St. Maria De Mattias in Manyoni. She was accepted and raised up by Sr. Delphina Gnerre. These are some of the poor children we help. We realize that, they also have a right to grow well and get all the services they deserve as other children. We are working hard to make them feel loved and welcomed.



Sabina



Maria

For their part, they have always been grateful, striving to do well in their studies and in general life. Maria lives in the Novitiate community because she studies at St. Gaspar Del Bufalo primary school which is located near Novitiate. Sabina studies at primary school which is belonging to the diocese of Shinyanga far away from the Region of Dodoma. During her holidays she lives in the Regional house, at Miyuji. We help them and other poor children to grow spiritually, physically and spiritually.

We thank God for them and other children. They are gifts and dear neighbors to us, since through them we serve God, and help to prepare their future. We are committed to help so that they can be able to help their families to eradicate poverty and to live a better life.

Suor Philipina, Roman ASC

From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA THE AMERICAS Region of Brazil

A GOOD EXPERIENCE WITH COUPLES

The association of "Couples for Christ" (ECC) is a movement of the Catholic Church for the evangelization of families and the building up of the Reign of God, present in Brazil and in other countries, which promotes ecclesial encounters on a parish level.

In Brazil, the 'ECC began in 1970 in San Paolo with the priest Alfonso Pastore, in Our Lady of the Rosary parish. It offers spirituality processes for couples centered on poverty, simplicity, joy and prayer.

Its objective is the evangelization of the family- the domestic church – and aims to broaden the horizon of the families from a parish vision to a more global one.

On April 28, the young Zaira Magalhães, a psychologist of Our Lady of Guadalupe Hospital in Belem, and I, as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, were invited by some of the couples of the ECC to coordinate one of their meetings in the Parish of St. George, located in the Marambaia quarter in the outskirts of Belém.

The topic was "stress" as a factor of the family break up. Thirty-two couples attended and beginning with the slide presentation offered their reflections and were involved in group dynamics.

The salient points of the topic presented were: the concept of stress, physical and emotional attitudes, causes, symptoms and personal and family consequences - pathology.



From the ASC world



At the end of the meeting we joyfully celebrated birthdays with a delicious snack. The pastor supported the endeavor with his

participation and sharing of a reflection as a sign of friendship.

Sr. Maria José Dutra, ASC



CONTINENTAL AREA ASIA
Foundation of the Philippines

THE WONDERFUL ASIAN PROJECT WITH OUR TEMPORARY PROFESSED ADORERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

It is Monday morning, April 23, 2018. We are getting ready for our first Skype lesson with the two Vietnamese Adorers at the table, and with two Indian Adorers with us only in spirit. Visa issues keep them still in India at the moment, but we are full of hope that they will arrive soon!

Mary Kevin sends a last minute Skype to Sr. Joan Hornick that goes something like this: "TODAY (of course!) we are getting a new printer, THIS MORNING (of course!) the folks next door are running a buzz saw, AT THIS EARLY HOUR (of course!) it's as hot as Hades, and the dogs are barking in unison (of course!) since the leader of the pack began his fierce watch to protect from whatever frightened him. I tell you IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT DAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

And indeed it was! Sister Joan Hornick began the FIRST ever class with us, and the topic was around TRANSITIONS! Speech was slow, getting our ears attuned to a new accent, and gearing up for what we KNEW was going to be very impor-

tant for our growth in self-understanding, in the humanness of it all, in the wisdom of learning from all the good-byes and hellos that have been in our lives so far.

These women have had more good-byes in their lives that many of us have even dreamed of: going to Korea to learn that language in order to answer that inner call to be Adorers, now learning English in order to participate in this project of further development, and all motivated by that same love language that goes with our charisma as Adorers.

It has been gift to accompany these women in this next phase of their journey in preparation for their final vows.

We include some pictures of our ASC Adventures. There will be more to come! Pray for us.

Suor Mai, Suor Hien, (anche Suor Jancy and Suor Roja), Suor Mary Kevin, tutte Adoratrici

**Suor Mai, Suor Hien, (and Suor Jancy and Suor Roja),
Suor Mary Kevin, tutte Adoratrici**



From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA EUROPE Region of Italy

MY LAST VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES

Six months after my departure from Quezon City, a painful but necessary departure in order to respond to the call to the new ministry entrusted to me, last March 26 I had the opportunity to return to that place so dear to me. The Rome-Manila trip seemed brief to me, in spite of its being a 14-hour flight, and the Sisters were there to welcome me with joy. My stay in the Philippines lasted for three weeks. I knew that time would fly by and that each moment would be a gift to be lived with joy and openness. In fact, I was aware that my task, my involvement and my belonging to the Foundation terminated with this visit. When I got there, all the Sisters present in the Philippines were gathered in the central house to celebrate Holy Week and to make their annual retreat in preparation for the Foundation Assembly. Sr. Mary Kevin Rooney, who had arrived from the United States a few days before, was also with the group. She will be staying until December. Sister Mary Kevin, together with Sr. Manjusha Joseph from India and the two young ASCs from Vietnam and two young Indian ASCs, will form the community of the Asian continental area juniorate.

During the days of my stay as a guest, I once again joyfully experienced how the Foundation is a small but vital reality. The sharings of the Sisters in the Assembly, the choices made during recent years, the decision to extend the ASC presence from the North to the Center of the Philippines, involvement in a new ministry for young people and in service to the local Church all reconfirmed it in me.

Vitality is also expressed through openness to this intercultural and international experience of the continental area juniorate which accepts the diversity of the ASCs from Asia and the United States for a time of formation.



The Sisters of the Foundation show it, not the least, with their daily choices alongside the “little ones,” supporting and serving the girls in difficulty with their social-educational center and their health services for the poor and excluded. In this commitment is their style of involving and sensiti-

zing the people of the more affluent classes so that they might share their goods with the poor in solidarity and responsibility.

Returning there made me think about the journey made during these years that challenged me to grow in acceptance of diversity, an experience that was not always easy. The certainty that new life can be born, only from seeds sown in a land that accepts to die, always accompanied me in moments of resistance, insecurity and risk.

I am deeply grateful to each Adorer of the Foundation for having given me the opportunity to journey together, sharing the joy in successes, enthusiasm in dreaming and encouragement to hope in difficult times.

I am grateful to all my friends, especially to the Franco family, for always having made me feel at home, with affection, support, trust and appreciation.

Sincere thanks goes to the collaborators of the “St. Maria De Mattias” Mission Center, who trustingly journeyed in the faith in Jesus Christ and, believing in the value of life, were open to freely serving the neediest. They helped the patients who, trustingly, gave us the opportunity to serve them with our gifts and limitations, in our attempt to witness that the love of Jesus heals, the power of His Blood saves, and life is a precious gift to be protected, defended and loved because it is always a gift of God.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA EUROPE Region of Italy

THE FEAST OF THE PEOPLE

In an epoch characterized by the encounter of different and often distant cultures, we feel the desire, as an international community, to dedicate a day to the celebration of interculturality. Last April 21, the generalate house gave space and time to the "Feast of the People." Some of the Rosminian seminarians and Sisters from the San Giovanni regional house also participated in the celebration. Each culture chose a dish to represent its country. At the generalate, 8 different countries are represented (Benin, Brazil, Croatia, India, Italy, Korea, Poland and the United States.) On the day of the celebration Kenya and Tanzania were also added. For two days our kitchen was a theater of wonderful and succulent culinary creations ranging from the caipirinha drink of Brazil to the hors d'oeuvres and appetizers from the United States. There was white polenta with fish sauce and bean fritters from Benin and Croatian cevap and pita sa sirom. Other dishes ranged from palappam from India to Italian rustic dishes and grilled meat, from Korean rice balls to delicious Polish apple cake.



The Rosminian seminarians from Tanzania brought a typical Tanzanian banana and beef dish usually prepared for marriage celebrations, while their Indians brought lemon rice.

Our dining room was decorated with flags and colored drapes and the decorated tables were a real celebration for the eyes and for the "tummies."

Besides the taste of delicious food, what made us the happiest was being together and sharing a part of our cultural richness. Each country presented songs or dances and our lay workers also offered us a typical Roman song.

As always, sitting around the table fostered a building of relationships, an exchange of ideas, sharing of insights.... Jesus knew this well and, in fact, sat at table to celebrate Easter, the new and eternal covenant which he then sealed with his Blood.

By our small celebration we wanted to give a sign of openness and mutual acceptance and the desire to grow more and more as an intercultural and international community.

Sr. Barbara Perali



From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA EUROPE Region of Zagreb

ASC DAY IN THE ZAGREB REGION

The practice of celebrating an ASC Day in the Zagreb Region has by now become a tradition of regular gathering not only among the Adorers, but also of our collaborators, associates, former-ASCs, sympathizers, pastors with whom the ASCs work, and all those who follow the Spirituality of the Blood of Christ in some way. Thus, this year we made a pilgrimage on April 14 to Karlovac, to the shrine of St. Joseph, the patron of the Zagreb Region, and to Krasic, following the path of Blessed Alojzije Stepinac.

A thousand pilgrims from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Austria and Switzerland along with 70 ASCs participated. Msgr. Antun Sente welcomed us and blessed us at the entrance from the Holy Door of the shrine and Father Ilija Grgic, CPPS, presided at the Eucharistic celebration together with eight priests on the pilgrimage who work with the ASCs. The liturgy was animated by the choir of Sr. Anna of Bjelovar, directed by Sr. Virginia Kolic with the accompaniment of Sr. Domagoja Ljubic.

Their songs filled our hearts and souls with

peace.

A historic connection exists between the ASCs and the pilgrimage destinations of Karlovac and Krasic. Karlovac is the city that has welcomed ASCs for 90 years.

The community in Karlovac was opened on January 13, 1928 and, until 1945, the main apostolate of the Sisters was a soup kitchen and pre-school. In 1960 following the donation of a house, the Sisters opened a handcraft workshop and sales shop. Since 1999, the Sisters have been living in a new house. Today they work in two parishes, teach catechism in schools and animate the liturgical celebrations in the parish. They work together with the associates in the hospital.

Krasic and its surrounding villages have given the Congregation about 20 Adorers. Blessed Alojzije Stepinac directed various young women to the Congregation of the Adorers, including some of his relatives: Sr. Emanela Jagunic and Sr. Alojzija Zupanac, his niece.

Sr. Danijela Anić, ASC



YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

While thinking about "yesterday," and everything that we, the staff of the "Leptirići" (Butterflies) kindergarten in Glamoč went through and thinking about the article I have been asked to write to describe the current situation, I think that I could probably write an entire book and that is why in this article, I do not intend to reflect on the past. That is a bygone in any case. It has passed. I cannot influence what we have already lived through and that is why I will lock the past away in the drawer of the past...What I can't put away in that drawer is the "consequences of the past," because they are still here today... Today, Now.

A day from God granted to me to live, in His glory and for the well-being of the dear people I will encounter today. Today, I have the opportunity to thank many good people whom God has put on my path in life so that they can help me at least a little, while carrying my cross.

Today I want say a great thank you to Fr. Andrej and the entire Vivat organisation, for accepting to be our Simon of Cyrene and for telling our story and spreading it even to the United Nations to point out all the injustice that we, as a staff have been experiencing for years.

Unfortunately, today the situation is not much better than yesterday because we are living in a state that creates its own laws that makes it possible for those who are working in it, not to be paid decently for their work. According to the Law on enforcement procedure before the Court of BH, in this country (Bosnia and Herzegovina), an individual who has not been paid by the state and even when they manage to prove to the court that they have been wronged, they cannot receive that payment because the Law says that the amount a founder of an institution (in our case, the Municipality) has to provisionally allocate from its budget for possible court judgements, is 0.3% of the planned Budget. Imagine 0.3%!!!

If we take that into consideration in our context, the Glamoč Municipality currently owes our staff 240,000 KM (convertible marks). According to the Law, 0.3% of the 2017 Budget amounts to 7,300 KM. If I/we are to be paid our back pay

owed to us, based on the court ruling according to the incumbent Law, (in my case that is 55 unpaid wages, for the other staff, it is 32 wages), we will be paid those wages owed to us as ruled by the court for the next 30 years. Naturally, if the Law remains in force as it is today. Our future appears to be pretty glorious...

However, I don't wish to think or write about our future as something dark because I know that there is Someone, who will have the final word. He knows why I, why we, why now and how long this situation will continue.

Seeing that in the meantime, in October 2017, the man who was the source of all our suffering passed away, who personally acted in a discriminatory manner toward me with his policies and actions ...we are facing new elections.

The central electoral commission has determined the date of the snap election in Glamoč to be held on 17.12.2017. Party slates have been submitted. Should the candidate from the SNSD party currently in authority in Glamoč be elected, I believe that the situation may improve as his child attends our kindergarten and he is aware of the problems faced by the kindergarten.

One would expect that he should appreciate this situation and that this problem is important for him too, as his child spends 8 hours a day in our kindergarten. As far as I am aware, he is not someone who is radically minded however, politics are an odd game. And that is why nothing is absolutely certain and I can't help but have a little fear that politics may spoil him.

And while waiting for what awaits us tomorrow ... we have no alternative but to place everything in God's hands and live today as it is. However, we don't want to just passively stand by and wait and today we accept and love Jesus in these little children who are currently in my/our care.

Finally, when I meet the Lord of my life, the Lord of history, He will ask me how and to what extent, did I recognise Him today in those whom He has put on my path in life and He will "judge" me.

Sr. Janja Martina Katović, ASC

In the Congregation

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR



May 16-18 - Celebration of the 15th anniversary of St. Maria De Mattias' canonization

May 25-31 - Sr. Nadia Coppa visits the Foundation of Spain

June 17-27 - Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Dani Brought participate in the Election Assembly in the USA

BIRTHDAYS: LET US CELEBRATE LIFE

Sr. Sivia Guthala		
17.06.1989	India	30 th birthday
Sr. Silvery Ngoi Margarita Sita		
06.06.1978	Tanzania	40 th birthday
Sr. Domenica Scalera		
19.06.1971	Italy	
Sr Beena Thoombalan		
15.06.1968	India	50 th birthday
Sr Luisa Pacifico		
16.06.1948	Italy	70 th birthday
Sr Janice Friess		
09.06.1928	USA	90 th birthday
Sr. Oliva Trotto		
14.06.1928	Italy	90 th birthday
Sr. Giovanna Cinque		
27.06.1928	Italy	90 th birthday



ANNIVERSARIES OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

25th

Sr Anna Grazia Di Liddo
Sr Domenica Scalera

REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

21-24 June

USA Election Assembly

THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE



20.4. 2018	Sr Marciana Heimann	USA
24.4.2018	Sr Rosa Damiani	Italia
8.5.2018	Sr Mary Anthony Mathews	USA
12.5.2018	Sr Janis Yaekel	USA



Monthly information

through the:

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
International Communication - General Management
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Year XXI, n. 8 - June 2018

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