

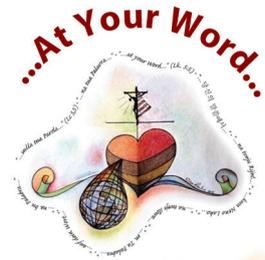
# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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

[www.adoratrici-asc.org](http://www.adoratrici-asc.org)

[redazioneasc@adoratrici-asc.org](mailto:redazioneasc@adoratrici-asc.org)



Lima, Peru  
3-28 Luglio 2017

Year XXI – Issue 2, February 2019

### Encounter is a gift



The word encounter has a very simple etymology. It is the direction of a movement that eliminates the hostile nuance implied in counter. Therefore, literally it means finding oneself in front of...

The first encounter the human person has is with life. And in life the person discovers the first gift, the light of the One who moves toward the person in order to make the person a sharer of God's creation. Since the person's birth, he or she is the unconditioned protagonist of the encounter as a gift.

This gift disposes each human person to recognize the presence of the Creator in a face, a smile, a glance, an action, the beauty of creation, in each small manifestation, and each apparently banal nuance of the world, because everything that exists is given by the miracle of God's Spirit who has granted to the human person what is concretely the greatest and most absolute gift, faith.

For us Christians, an encounter is enriched by a significant profound grace to the mystery of the Incarnation. From that moment on, a Christian lives for the searching of Christ's presence in the

world, in the continuing tension of an encounter that can change his or her heart.

Thus an authentic encounter with another, setting a spiritual process in motion, generates growth. And in such a process God is revealed as a challenging presence to open the path for us to walk. God goes before us to allow us to doubt, remaining steady in the certainty of God's embrace – a visible embrace in the encounter between cultures, differing opinions, colors and voices. Thus, an encounter becomes a comparison and loving tool capable of enlightening the soul and making it ready to accept the gift - a gift that is a sign and that marks. That gift transforms us and makes us capable of glimpsing the bridge to be crossed in order to get to God, to the Father, to God's goodness, to God's magnanimity, to God's infinite beauty.

We Adorers feel an integrating part of this process that leads to encounter, to comparison, to acceptance in order to give, but especially to be able to stay alert and continue to discern God's presence in the signs of the times.

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**

Editorial

#### Editorial

◇ Encounter is a gift

#### General Administration Space

◇ Intercongregational Epiphany Concert – January 6

#### From the ASC World

◇ Update from Liberia

◇ The Village of Hope

◇ Navodaya - Mysuru

◇ Cold Emergency

◇ Peaceful demonstration in front of St. Joseph church in Rankweil, Austria

### Summary

#### JPIC/VIVAT Space

1 ◇ Legal Aid 8

2 ◇ At Your Word ... Charity at the door 9

#### In the Congregation

3 ◇ Timeline for the celebration of the 185th anniversary the foundation of the Institute 10

4 ◇ General Administration Calendar 11

5 ◇ Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life 11

6 ◇ They have returned to their Heavenly Home 11

7

## Intercongregational Epiphany Concert: January 6

For years now, it has been a tradition at the Generalate to organize an intercongregational Christmas concert to celebrate Christmas for what it really is, the welcoming of the Child Jesus who makes all of us sons and daughters of the same Father.

This year the January 6 afternoon concert had the theme, **“Epiphany – a night of Love, following the star.”**



It fully expresses the meaning of this event, of the visible manifestation of God through light. It expresses His coming to the world making it possible for the human person to be able to catch a glimpse of the light and make it an instrument for tracing out his or her path, feeling embraced by the infinite love of the Child Jesus, who, through his birth, enlightened creation by giving new life to the people of the world and a new food for nourishment, faith.

In the face of the Holy new born Child, the human person feels renewed, enlightened and guided in his obscurity. His spirit, like that of the Magi, trusted that Star shining in the night to lead them to the fullness of feeling loved by the Lord.

The Child Jesus opened his little arms to embrace the world in the eternal beauty of His love, in order to also enlighten the most dismal hearts to transform darkness into hope – the hope of being able to encounter Revelation.

God is revealed to humanity through the Son who is made flesh for all of humanity.

In fact, each person is searching for light – the light Jesus brought to the earth so that He could lead souls and discover His presence. This

Presence is hidden in each day we live, in our prayer and our desire to go beyond the darkness, because in spreading light it also pours out His warmth, His infinite and unconditional love.

The theme was organized within the concert with a text written by Sr. Nadia Coppa and interspersed with Christmas songs performed by the various groups of the congregations present at the event and by the Adorers’ chorus led by Sr. Toni Longo at the organ and Sr. Marcia Kruse on the guitar. One of the most moving moments was listening to the children’s choir from Nativity Parish directed by Mrs. Lietta; another was admiring the dance performed by Jessica and Marco, two sacred dancers and our associates. In addition, the Sisters from Tanzania and Benin sang a traditional lullaby to the Child Jesus that took us to the African rhythms and scenes of Christmas. Our Indian ASCs performed a dance of adoration to the Child Jesus, the Son of God.

In a serene and deeply moving atmosphere the parishioners, our friends in attendance and the religious congregations who came to this display rejoiced, prayed and expressed their gratitude at the end. The Light placed at the center of the altar was shown through the participation, love, joy of sharing of that Event that gave new life to the world.

The concert concluded with an exchange of Christmas greetings and a reception.



**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**

### **Update from Liberia**

Because of the generosity of donors in the U.S., we have been able to purchase textbooks for all the classes at St. Patrick's school (government-issued but only available to private schools by purchase). Imagine trying to teach reading to 30 second-graders when only four books are available. This was true for many subjects. I've spent much of vacation stamping the books with the school seal and numbering them. We purchased 50 books for each subject (math, English, science, literature, and social studies for grades 5-9) and reading books for grades 1-5 (there are six for each grade, one for each six-week period). Enough books are ready in each subject for every student to have one as we return to school. The others will be done as time allows.

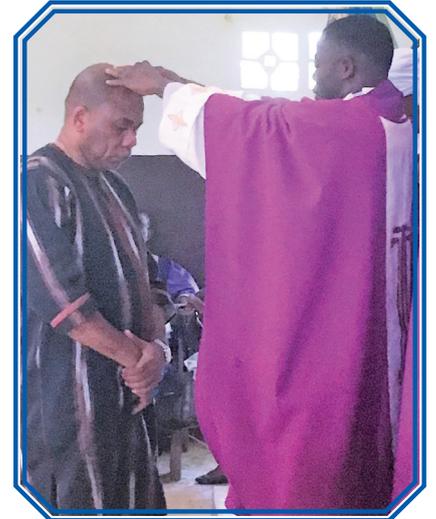
The students pay a deposit to rent the book for the year. If they lose or damage it, they must pay the price of the book. The challenge now is to get the parents to make the deposits. The administration and faculty are so grateful for this gift that arrived in time for Christmas and most of the third six weeks of classes. I keep telling them to pray for the donors. Classes resumed January 7.

Sister Zita left on Jan. 9 for Monrovia and on to Schaan for five weeks. I didn't find anyone who could free herself to come for a week or two, so I will go it solo. The semester ends February 8, and I'll have tests and grading to keep me busy plus working on a shopping list for Monrovia - pantry replenishment time as we buy cartons of

items. The bishop's driver will drive and we will go sometime the week of February 10.

One more item of note. The Senator pro tem for Liberia is a Grand Cess native. The people here are so proud of him. His father succeeded S. Raphael Ann as principal; Senator Chie is a graduate of St. Patrick's. He arrived for 10 days of visiting villages in his county and stayed for Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent, he requested a Eucharist of thanksgiving. Two Methodist ministers and local government officials were present. It was festive and prayerful and a witness to the people of his recognition that God has been and is a necessary part of his life.

A blessed and Happy New Year to all with gratitude for your emails and care during the holidays and, of course, your prayers. Also please pray for the benefactors of our service here.



**Sr. Therese Wetta, ASC**



**Sr Therese and Veronica**



**Sr Zita with Therese and Veronica**

## The Village of Hope

After the visit of Sisters Nadia Coppa, Bridget Pulickakunnel and Manuela Nocco to Tanzania and the organizational work of the Village of Hope, the Region of Tanzania shared, sending readers a two-part text: the historical journey and the project of the Village through the narration of Sr. Rosaria Gargiulo, ASC.

The Village of Hope is an Institution created by the Missionary Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ in 2001 through the dream of Sr. Maria Rosaria Gargiulo, ASC. The reason and goal of such an Institution was to create a place of acceptance for children orphans of both parents affected with HIV. Mainly they come from the Regions of Singida, Dodoma and Morogoro, but also from other Regions, if place is available.

It was subsequently registered as a Children's Home on 1/1/2002 by the Commissioner of Social Welfare. After receiving all the permissions the first three children were admitted to the Institution on 17/8/2002, the official opening day. Only the children sent to us by the Social Welfare office of the different Regions are accepted in the Institution. The project is comprised of three parts:

**First Part:** i) The physical structures of the Village of Hope necessary to carry out the Mission;

- 12 Family dwellings that house the HIV/aids orphan children.
- Dispensary
- A Medical Laboratory to accurately analyze blood values including CD4 counts, viral loads, complete blood count with differential and chemistry profiles.
- A Nursery, a primary and secondary school to educate HIV/AIDS positive children that live in the Village of Hope and the healthy children living in the surrounding area.
- A center to welcome pregnant women with HIV/AIDS while they undergo antiretroviral therapy and become educated about protecting their unborn child from HIV.
- Administrative building and Sisters' House that is the operational headquarters for the Village of Hope Project.
- A barn to house milk cows, poultry and variety of farm animals to sustain adequate amounts of nutritive food for the children and staff of the Village of Hope.

ii) Welcoming all children with HIV/AIDS who have been orphaned or abandoned has been an integral part of the project from its inception. The children live in family style dwellings with adoptive parents with 12 house "siblings." Housing

was planned for a total 109 orphans and 12 sets of parents, but the big number of Orphan children HIV/AIDS surrounding us has force us to reach the number of 163.

The Village of Hope offers AIDS orphans who are HIV/AIDS positive a family focused, nurturing environment, antiretroviral therapy, appropriate medicines, labs and medical personnel to treat opportunistic infections and other illnesses commonly linked with HIV and in childhood, well balanced meals to address their unique nutritional needs and psychological and spiritual support to allow them to grow and thrive despite their challenges.

### **Second Part: "Outreach Program"**

The second part of the Village of Hope is an extension of the above plan to an additional 400 HIV/AIDS positive children and their HIV/AIDS positive family members that live in safe, acceptable situations near the Village of Hope or in the Dodoma area. Orphans with extended family support are also served through the outreach program. Patients are treated with antiretroviral therapy in their home setting after it has been determined that they have caring, responsible and committed caregivers.

### **Third Part: Safe Maternity**

The third part of the Village of Hope is to protect the life of her mother with AIV/AIDS by treating with antiretroviral therapy, preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS to the newborn child and serving the entire family by providing extensive informal education during her course of treatment at the Village of Hope. These women are monitored throughout their pregnancies and receive appropriate treatment and education on an outpatient basis. Women falling into high risk categories are admitted to the Village of Hope for a more intensive treatment course several weeks before their projected delivery date and remain for approximately three months post-delivery.



*Brief history of the Village of Hope given by Sr. Rosaria Garigiulo, ASC, during the Regional Annual Assembly*

## Navodaya - Mysuru

In India we have 95 Sanghas (Sanghas means Self-help groups) in 25 villages, and we work for the development of the women through these Sanghas. We are collaborating with Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) for the welfare of the HIV/ AIDS families, giving them economic help for livelihood and moral support to encourage them to face the realities of life.

We have 10 tuition centers in 7 villages to improve the education of the Government school children. We have organized Children's Parliament in each center, to create in them a participatory method and responsibility in carrying out their duties.



There are good numbers of widows in the villages, so we found the need of supporting them. We organized a widow's group which includes 65 widows and we support them by giving training and financial help through loans.

We are giving training in tailoring and computer for widows, girls, ladies and dropout students in order to help them to stand by themselves through self-employment.

We had personality development training for NTC students and staff of Navodaya and tailoring students were present. Sr. Celine, provincial councilor of Aradhana convent, Bangalore was the resource person.

On October 2nd we celebrated the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. On this special day we had arranged an Art and Craft Exhibition of NTC students, who produced wonderful crafts from waste materials.

On November 1st, Kannada Rajyotsava was celebrated. On this day we gathered the adopted children. There were games, drawing, clay modeling, memory test, quiz was conducted for the children.



Deepavali, one of the most important Indian celebrations held in October or November. It symbolized the victory of good over evil and is called the "feast of lights", were celebrated with 200 students of tuition centers of Navodaya Social Center (children from the villages). We had cultural competitions. Dances, skits and songs were performed. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the cultural competitions.



On December 21st celebrated Christmas with the children from the villages who are attending free tuition classes. The children enjoyed the celebration very much.



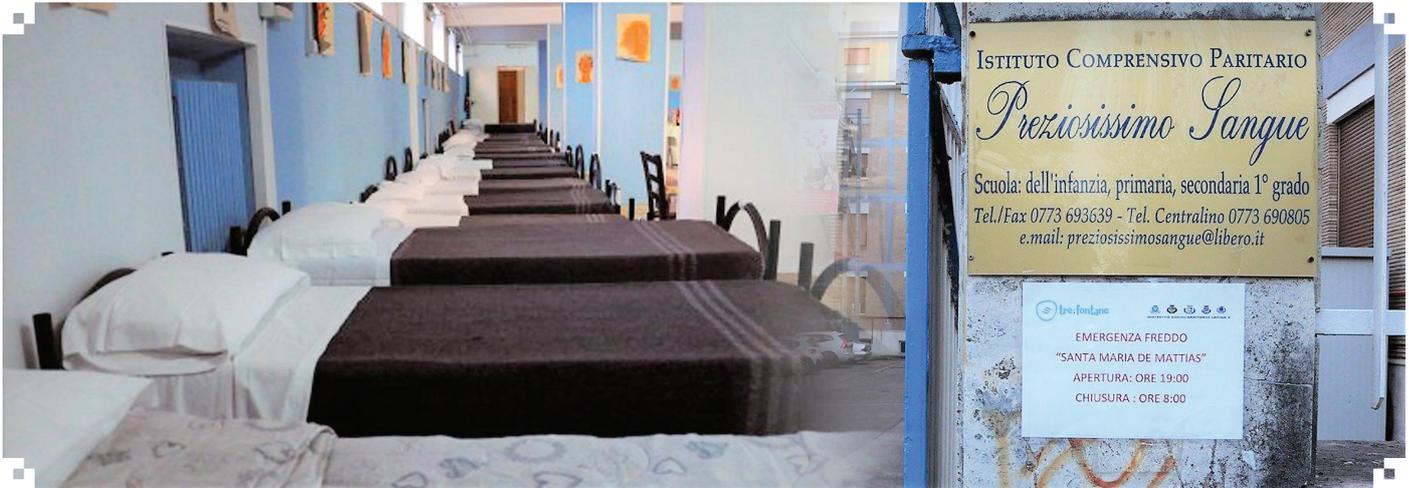
We dream the dream Maria dreamed. In a way we are fulfilling the dream of St. Maria De Mattias, through our wide and large activities. I thank my community members for their valuable support, collaboration and active participation in each of our activities. Together we are able to reach out to the down trodden people, especially the women and children of these localities. We thank God for all the blessings which He showers upon us. Let his love, concern and name be glorified through our presence amidst these poor people.



On November 11th, Children's day and

**Sr. Jaicy Karukuttikaran, ASC**

## Cold emergency



The **Cold Emergency Service and Winter Dormitory** was officially inaugurated on December 6, 2018 with Sr. Nicla Spezzati, ASC Regional Superior, Damiano Coletta, mayor of Latina, Patrizia Ciccarelli, councilwoman in charge of Social Services, and Bishop Mariano Criociata present for the occasion. The service is provided in the former building of the Precious Blood Institute on May XXIV Street in Latina.

The structure will provide hospitality for about sixty needy people and will be open every winter evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. until March. The guests in the dormitory coming from the fringes of society will find a warm environment where they can spend the night, find bathrooms and showers and be able to have breakfast in the morning.

This project was made possible by the collaboration with the Three Fountains Social Cooperative of the Lascina group. The town of Latina awarded this service to them through a public bidding process. It collaborates with the city police headquarters and with the Sisters who are ready to offer hospitality and a smile.

On the big inauguration day, all the participants were excited to see the implementation of a project that witnesses to an "outgoing Church" because it sees the involvement of the enthusiastic Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the political institutions sensitive to today's poverties. These are the words of the mayor: "In the past we have spoken of human rights; today we are doing something concrete by inaugurating a structure for giving hospitality to the least."

There was great joy among the older Sisters who see the initiative as a great opportunity for praying for those coming and going from the Institute and for accompanying the uncertain and worrisome path of these, our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



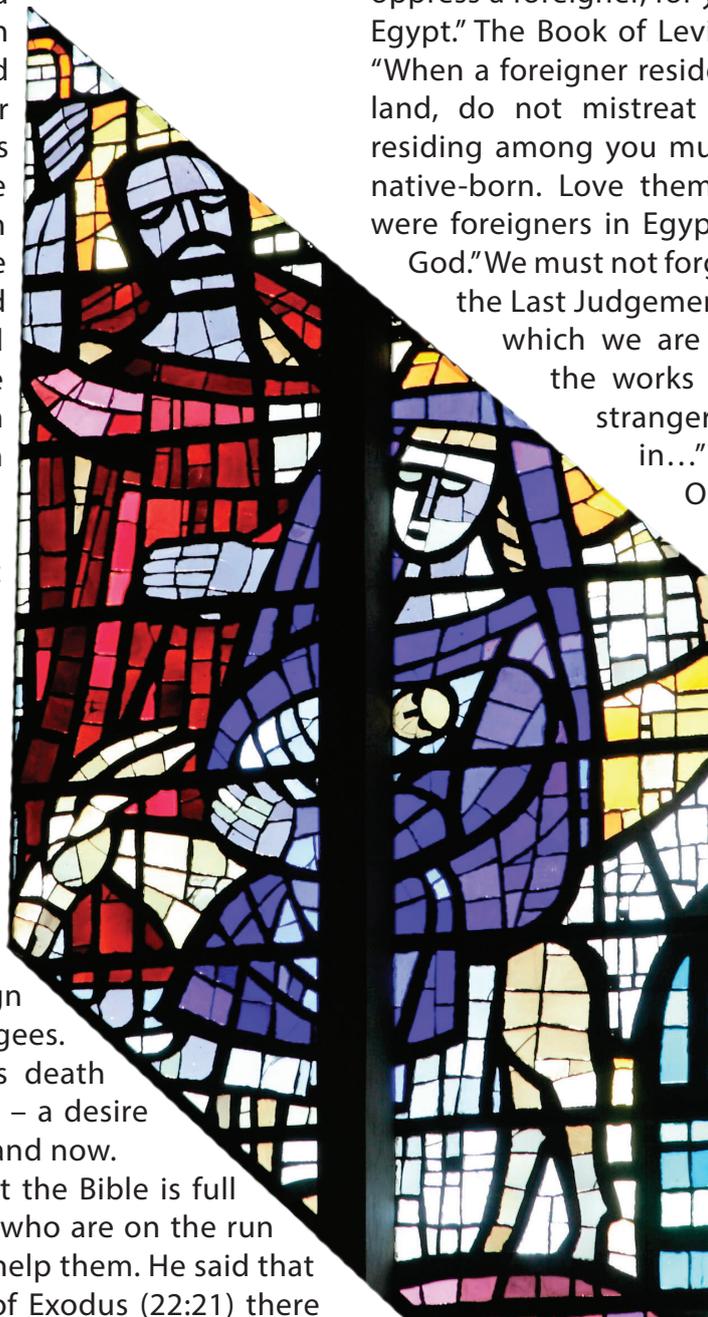
**Sr. Emma Zordan, ASC**

## ***Peaceful Demonstration in front of the St. Joseph Church in Rankweil, Austria***

On November 25, 2018, a peaceful demonstration to spotlight the need for Christians to care for refugees and immigrants took place outside St. Joseph Church in Rankweil, Austria. The priest who organized the event, Fr. Wilfried Blum, friend of the ASC of the Schaan Region, mentioned in his remarks that the stained-glass windows, created by artist Jutz Waldner from South Tyrol, give a scriptural focus to this current world need. One of the windows depicts the Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt due to Herod's search for the Child (Mt. 2:13-15). The Holy Family had to escape to a far, foreign country, becoming refugees. Only after King Herod's death could they return home – a desire of many refugees, then and now. Blum also remarked that the Bible is full of stories about people who are on the run and how God comes to help them. He said that according to the Book of Exodus (22:21) there is one conclusion for people of good will when it comes to refugee issues: "Do not mistreat or

oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt." The Book of Leviticus (19:33-4) states: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." We must not forget Jesus' words about the Last Judgement, the benchmarks by which we are going to be judged, the works of mercy: "... I was a stranger and you invited me in..." (Matthew 25,35)

Our commitment as "people of good will," as Christians, Blum said, is to not close our eyes but accept our responsibility for immigrants and refugees, treating them as human beings and standing in solidarity with them in their search for freedom and a peaceful life. Anything else would be a betrayal of our Jewish-Christian roots.



***Sr. Maria Hammerer, ASC***

## **Legal Aid**

### ***My experience of being a voice for the voiceless***



As a novice I had come across a beautiful article written by a religious woman who was a great lawyer helping number of helpless people, especially those who were never given entry to the court gate as they had no money to pay the lawyer to fight for justice. I was greatly inspired by this great woman who had such passion and zeal to work for the downtrodden of today who still linger in darkness. That thought has been visualized today where I take the lead in helping a number of women who encounter treat emotionally, physically and psychologically.

As a result of my interest in finding means and ways to go ahead in helping, I was motivated to also be a lawyer and be a voice for the voiceless specially women suffering because of domestic violence, broken marriages, the cruelty family issues, the dowry system and sexual harassment.

I fight for justice for them point out injustice done to women and women's rights to ancestral property. As a religious lawyer I go extra mile to help people by finding places for children who are suffering in the family due to the broken relationship of parents. My clients trust me all the more because I am a religious. Now I use legal literacy to help people especially women claim their rights and protect them from exploitation.

I conduct legal literacy programs in different places like social centers, educating the women, widows, and children about their rights. I also teach them how to file an FIR (First Information Report & to register a case) and guide them to the right government office to get access to solutions. I also had an opportunity to conduct a one-hour workshop program for the women on the topic **"Sexual Harassment in the Work Place."**

Being a sister lawyer, I am able extend my service to the people who are poor, needy and exploited especially the women. I, too, acknowledge the opportunity and the support given by the congregation and the community to enter into the legal profession fruitfully. St. Maria De Mattias, our Foundress who was committed to the poor and women is an inspiration and role model and example for my profession as a consecrated person.

The time has come when women have to stand up for their social cause, against child marriage, the dowry system, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

Looking back, I thank God for giving me such an opportunity to do something different for the people, being a voice for the voiceless.



***Sr. Shiny Kayyaniyil, ASC - Advocate***

## ***At Your Word.... Charity at door step***



*Adorers embrace the process of Transformation and renewed by the fire of our Charism, announce the Power of the Blood of Christ to all we meet (GA Acts 2017).*

In January 2018, I had an opportunity, along with Sr. Nadia, to visit the Parish Nativity of Our Lady, where they serve the needy and quench their hunger and thirst. Looking at the realities of these people who were present, my eyes were opened, heart was sensitive and I remained in wonder seeing all types of people waiting for a meal. I happened to interact with a few of the people and came to know that they are refugees and migrants from different parts of the world. Most of them are without shelter, job or food. Some of them lost all their belongings and loved ones, some of them ran away from their countries due to war and natural calamities, some of them are mentally disoriented due to the situations that happened in their life etc...

I asked myself "why did I choose a consecrated and religious life? Is it for my security or for the love of God and for His people?" A transformation took place in my heart to come out of my door. I sought the assistance of the Holy Spirit and took courage to face the challenges. My challenges were ... I was handicapped with the local language, new faces, food and culture. But every Monday and Thursday afternoon there is some energy and enthusiasm driving me towards the Parish. I admire the spirit and zeal of the volunteers who feed all these hungry who are at the door. I learn from them the values of the Kingdom, like Love, Justice, Respect for each person, concern for the weak and excluded, sharing, solidarity, forgiveness, peace, etc. I remember a man named Daniel who one day was drunk and shouting at others, speaking all kinds of vulgar language, and misbehaving, etc.

I was just observing the volunteers' attitude. All of them were very gentle, quiet, compassionate and trying to listen and understand what he really wanted. It was a surprise for me. The bible passage echoes in my ears and heart: *"...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me so to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* (Mt 25:35-36) I carry these words of Jesus in my heart as I serve them and I have a mountain experience with Jesus and the Multiplication of bread and fish. Thousands of people ate and were satisfied and many baskets remained. Every time 400-500 people come to eat at the Parish. Food is served abundantly. Many generous hearts and hands are behind all this marvelous work.

"Whatever you do to your least of your brethren, it is done to me." Yes, to my beloved Jesus. I remain always grateful to God because I am precious to Him and He blessed me with abundance, and the ability to share.



***Sr. Rani Padayattil, ASC***

## Collaborate with Christ in his Work of Redemption

*Timeline for the celebration of the 185th anniversary the foundation of the Institute  
2019 - 2020*

- \* *March 1-4, 2019 - General Administration*
- \* *April 4, 2019 - CIS*
- \* *May 4, 2019 - Brazil*
- \* *June 4, 2019 - India*
- \* *July 4, 2019 - Argentina, Bolivia and Spain*
- \* *August 4, 2019 - Poland*
- \* *September 4, 2019 - Schaan*
- \* *Oktober 4, 2019 - Tanzania*
- \* *November 4, 2019 - USA*
- \* *December 4, 2019 - Zagreb*
- \* *January 4, 2020 - Korea and Philippines*
- \* *February 4, 2020 - Italy and Guinea Bissau*
- \* *March 4, 2020 - CIS*



**General Administration Calendar**



**February 1-3** – Celebration of the Triduum for the Feast of St. Maria De Mattias

**February 4** – Celebration of the feast of St. Maria De Mattias

**February 23-24** – USMI Convention: theme of “Family and School for the Education and Accompaniment of Youth.” Sr. Nadia Coppa will attend.

**Birthdays:  
Let's celebrate life**

30

**Sr. Sarah Harbaugh** 02/23/1989 USA

60

**Sr. Lucja Lis** 02/07/1959 Wrocław

70

**Sr. Giuseppina Debiase** 02/26/1949 Italy

**Sr. Anna Maria Vissani** 02/13/1949 Italy

**Sr. Paula Antolović** 02/25/1949 Zagreb

**Sr. Kochuthresia Akkunnath** 02/20/1949 India

80

**Sr. Filomena D'Andrea** 02/07/1939 Italy

**Sr. Mathild Frick** 02/14/1939 Schaan



**They have returned to  
their Heavenly Home**

01/06/2019 **Sr. Mary Matthew Janciar** USA

01/06/2019 **Sr. Mary John Goles** USA

01/06/2019 **Sr. Dominika Lanz** Schaan

01/09/2019 **Sr. Assuntina Colantoni** Italy

01/12/2019 **Sr. Ann Connolly** USA

01/14/2019 **Sr. Helen Panci** USA

01/29/2019 **Sr. Geltrude Valletta** Italy

**International Newsletter**  
*Adorers of the Blood of Christ*

**Monthly Communication**  
*edited by the*  
**Adorers of the Blood of Christ**  
**International Communications – General Administration**  
Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 ROME

**Year XXI, Issue 2 - February 2019**

*Editorial Committee*  
**Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**  
**Mimma Scalerà, ASC**

*Translations by*  
**Sr. Klementina Barbić - Croatian**  
**Sr. Betty Adams - English**  
**Sr. Martina Marco - Swahili**  
**Sr. Bozena Hulisz - Polish**  
**Sr. Clara Albuquerque - Portuguese**  
**Sr. Miriam Ortiz - Spanish**  
**Sr. Lisbeth Reichlin - German**