

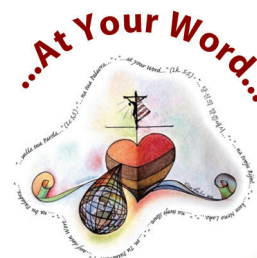
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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

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An Olive Tree to Talk About the Journey

Editorial

To conclude the year of celebration of the 185th Anniversary of the life of the Adorers in the world, an olive tree was planted in the garden of the Casa Madre in Acuto on February 10. The Adorers from different parts of the world who were in Rome to celebrate the 2020 Extended General Council, took part in the event. In Acuto, from the Church of the Casa Madre, in front of the altar of S. Maria De Mattias, the participants moved in procession. Each sister carried a jar containing the soil of her place of origin, while the Superior General, Sr Nadia Coppa, carried the olive tree. It was a rainy and foggy day that discouraged going outside. However, singing and praising the Blood of Jesus, the procession reached the flowerbed prepared to plant the tree. At the prayer of gratitude and blessing pronounced by Sister Nadia, each superior or representative of her own reality poured the soil on the roots of the young tree. In the wonder of observing the variety of colors and substances that the soil presented, we wondered if the tree would take root.

A week later we were notified by the gardener that the olive tree is in excellent health. The strength shown by the

small plant in standing and growing makes us understand how much courage is needed to take risks. In the act of being transplanted into new soil, the olive tree risked not taking root, of not blooming any more. On the contrary, it has shown us that “getting back into the game” gives us the real possibility of being born again and again.

It has also shown us that this rebirth can occur from the nourishment of different soil, of different colors. Colors that enclose the whole world and that make the olive tree an allegory of a new journey, the same that the Adorers, after 185 years of history, want to express.

The call to embrace the transformation process, therefore, also means risking to change ingrained convictions and habits. Since the Lord calls us to a new life, He invites us to make room for the new that is in each of us. And it does so through the Holy Spirit who acts to revive and give new vigor to our charism so that the reality that surrounds us grows, affirms and improves.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



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Meeting of the Commission for the Ratio Formationis (Formation Plan)

Giving us life, the Father calls us to be like his Son Jesus, to be shaped like Him, to take on his sensitivities. Maria De Mattias responded to this call by following Jesus, Crucified and Risen, all the way.

With these sentiments, the General Superior, Sr. Nadia Coppa, and her Council felt the need of reconsidering a text for the Ratio Formationis (Formation Plan.) They appointed a commission for this service, made up of: Sister Danijela Anić, ASC (Region of Zagreb); Sister Beth Simone Almeida Andrade, ASC (Region of Brazil); and Sister Orsolina Griffini, ASC (Region of Italy). Sr Wiesława Pzybylo, General Councilor, was appointed Coordinator of the working group.

The first meeting was held on January 8, 2020 by Skype with the presence of Sr. Nadia Coppa, General Superior, who explained the purpose of the work to the commission.

The Commission met in Rome at the Generalate from January 29 to February 1, 2020. Sr. Nadia's presence was a reason for joy and, above all, encouragement for us to give flavor and light to this service that is so vital for the Congregation.

They were days of getting to know each other, sharing of experiences, clarifications about the guidelines of the meetings that

will follow. We are grateful to Father Leonello Leidi, CP, canon lawyer, who will accompany the Commission for the revision of our Proper Law and to Professor Méthode Gahungu who is available and attentive to give us clarifications about the Ratio Formationis. He indicated the path to walk in writing our Formation Plan and encouraged us to make known the beauty of following Christ.

When you know the direction in which to move, life makes sense, even when you do not have all the answers and with hearts filled with love and fervor, you go searching for the Reign of God.

Let us confidently ask the Most Holy Trinity to accompany us on this path and to grant us the grace to accept the wisdom of our peoples in the spirit of internationality and interculturality. May St. Maria De Mattias make us able to respond to the challenges of our

time and to trace out an itinerary enlightened by the charism of our Congregation for our Formation Plan.

Sr. Beth Simone Almeida Andrade, ASC



A Mission Signed by the Cross

The History of the Congregation, written by Sr. Antonietta Maraone, gave this title to the paragraph on the Adorers in Albania. Following is a brief summary of their history.



The Adorers arrived in Albania in September 1939. They had been invited by the conventual Fathers in Lishnia, a town between Durazzo and Valona, where they would have a great apostolic field. The first four Adorers were: Sr. Palmina Canalicchio, Sr. Pia Garelli, Sr. Elena Boco and Sr. Giuditta Curati, sent by Mother Agnese Maroncelli of the then province of Cagli. In spite of the difficulties of the language and material poverty, the cause of hardships and great sacrifices, they tried to respond to the many material and spiritual needs of the people. In 1941, they had already opened a pre-school and laboratory in the town and took care of the sick. It was the time of communism and so the families were not allowed to send their girls to school, the sick could not make use of the clinic, under threat. The persecution of the Church and of religious by the communists became more and more intense until the Sisters, together with other missionaries, were driven out and forced to repatriate. On March 12, 1946, 86 of these missionaries arrived in Brindisi, Italy.

We have to wait for the 90s and the fall of the Berlin Wall before the Adorers are presented the possibility of returning to Albania. It was Caritas of Apulia with its director, Sr. Maria Bambina Centra, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, to give the Province of Bari the opportunity to return to take care of a people destroyed in its dignity and values due to the fifty years of communist dictatorship. The community of Durazzo and Mamurras, established shortly afterwards, thanks to the testimony of the Italian Adorers who followed and those still working there, but especially thanks to the life witness and apostolic zeal of Sr. Agnese Bianchi, vocational fruits resulted. Today, four ASCs of Albania serve the Albanian Church, bowing over the wounds of their people to give them hope again.

In this ministerial context, with the people and among the people, they suffered a violent earthquake the night of November 26, 2019. It shook this strip of land facing the Adriatic Sea, bringing suffering and death once again.

The General Superior, Sr. Nadia Coppa, called upon the Congregation to make a gesture of solidarity for the victims of this disaster. On Christmas afternoon, 2019, Sr. Nadia went to visit the Sisters just a few days after having returned from Tanzania. She shared the winter cold and hardships as well as the joys of the Sisters and the people because of her presence.

The Sisters, Suela Pepa and Anna De Robertis in Durazzo, and Sisters Natlina Pepa with Anna Carcagnì in Mamurras, were involved in the work of helping the families who lost their homes. The money collected due to the generosity of the entire Congregation, is giving them the opportunity to buy prefabricated house where the homeless families can stay and have privacy. The Sisters are continuing the work of accompanying them and giving spiritual and material support to those who still need it.

Sr. Suela Pepa, animator of the Durazzo-Mamurras constellation, wrote us this letter:

My dear ASC Sisters,

As you know, Albania was struck by a strong earthquake on November 26, 2019 which took many lives and loved ones, but also homes and certainties for the future

More than a month and a half have passed and for the city of Durazzo, Tirana, Lac and the outskirts, still nothing has been decided whether the homes of many people have to be razed or rebuilt. In Thumana there is great desolation. There is a lot of construction work to be done there but no one knows how, where and who will do it. Thanks be to God, the continuing aftershocks are rarer and much lighter and, little by little, they are imperceptible, but the damage they have left continue to be present, even though the government immediately removed the rubble of the collapsed buildings. In some areas, like that where our community in Durazzo is located, where there is not much apparent external damage, the insides of the homes are have serious cracks and life seems to have stopped. The silence of the day and the dark of night give witness to it.

The people housed in hotels are being told they need to leave because they can no longer stay there. Tourist season is approaching and the hotels need to get ready. Many people spend their nights in the homes of relatives, sleeping on mattresses on the ground because of limited space, while others spend their nights in the courtyards of their own homes in summer tents or in make-do plastic tents.

As you can well understand and imagine, in these cold days of ice and strong winds that have at times torn down the tents, the condition of these people is truly sad. It is a difficult situation for the adults and we can only imagine for the children who try to huddle under blankets under the sky.

Like a true family, united not by human blood, but by that of Christ, you let us feel your love and nearness through phone calls, mail, prayer and not just that. We want to thank each of you as individuals and as community who with great generosity and commitment have gathered €10,000 for our mission, brought to us by Sr. Nadia Coppa, General Superior. She came to be with us and touch our reality with her own hands during these days. We are very grateful to you because you did not leave us feeling alone.

We used your contributions to acquire inhabitable modules for the families in the village of Thumana. The people cried when they saw that they had a "house in which to dwell during these sad days for them and especially for the children. They didn't know how to give thanks, offering as gift what little they had, a handful of nuts, a bottle of brandy, a pair of wool socks. And they kept thanking us. The families are offering prayers and blessing for each ASC. The greatest joy for us ASCs who work here is seeing smiles on the faces of the children and the adults again.

Certainly, the needs are many, but we are trying to respond to the cry of the desperate and those without hope, and we are doing what we can together with those who are supporting us.

In the name of the ASC community in Albania and of all the people who were helped, we want to thank you for your generosity and ask the Lord to make us more and more hospitable women who know how to open our hearts to the cry of the poor, the least and those forgotten by everyone else.

Sister Suela Pepa, ASC

Shrine to Stanley Rother in Wichita

Sister Marita Rother is shown visiting the new shrine to her brother, Blessed Father Stanley Rother, in the gathering space outside the Chapel of the Woman of the New Covenant at the ASC Wichita Center. The shrine is an encouragement to continue the daily struggle to give our all to our God.

Marita provided the first class relic (physical remains) and the icon of Father Stan. ASC Wichita Center Administrator Greg Lohkamp made the relic case.

Father Stanley was an American priest serving as a missionary in Guatemala during that Central American nation's civil war. He was killed by three men who entered his home early in the morning of July 28, 1981.

His Cause for Canonization was opened in 2007,

and in 2016, Pope Francis formally recognized him as a martyr for the faith. He was beatified in 2017.



Sr. Fran Schumer, ASC

Change and Transformation

The 2017 General Assembly Direction Statement calls us to embrace the process of transformation. Since we received this call, I've been listening to podcasts, doing some reading and reflecting on this topic. This led to a renewed interest in the Enneagram, the personality typing assessment that I first encountered about 40 years ago. I was surprised to discover that it has made a resurgence among younger generations today. One of the things I appreciate about the Enneagram is that it is an invitation to explore who you are, based on the motivations for your thoughts and actions. It has evolved over the years to include tools for growing in health and wholeness. The goal is to become the person God created you to be. That's what I call the process of transformation.

Suzanne Stabile, in her podcast, "The Enneagram Journey," makes this distinction between "change" and "transformation."

"Change happens when you take on something new and transformation occurs when something old falls away, usually something that seems beyond your control."

She goes on to say, "Our way of knowing ourselves is so comfortable that it has to fall away for us to see ourselves any differently. When we "change," we just add things on top of an already too big a personality. We have to observe ourselves nonjudgmentally and let what doesn't serve us or

others well, fall away."

I've been pondering that distinction Suzanne makes between change and transformation, and have seen evidence of it in recent conversations with a number of our sisters who are considerably older than me. Invariably, in talking about their lives, the struggles of mobility, of remembering, and of stamina are mentioned. While there is certainly frustration around this reality, I also noted a growing acceptance and appreciation of who they are at this moment in time. I heard sisters talk about letting go of the need to be busy. I saw a paring down of the things that surround them. They shared about the simplicity of their prayer, the appreciation for community, and their desire and ability to let go of past hurts. I believe that the wholeness and the peace I witnessed in these sisters is that shift toward transformation. Being in the presence of people who know their truest selves, because they took on the great work of embracing the process of transformation, gave me hope and gives me the encouragement to stay on this path of transformation.

May the gift of this anniversary of 150 years of ASC presence in the United States, be the resurgence of our commitment to individual and collective transformation. May we continue to become who God is calling us to be.

Sr. Janet McCann, ASC

What If

What if it were

Like the kids' books

Where the wolf talks and the trees wave their welcome

Flowers bob and bow just happy to greet you

Goldfish wink and swim away

What if the school building really would say,

"Good morning"

To all the kids

And the sea would smile and call out,

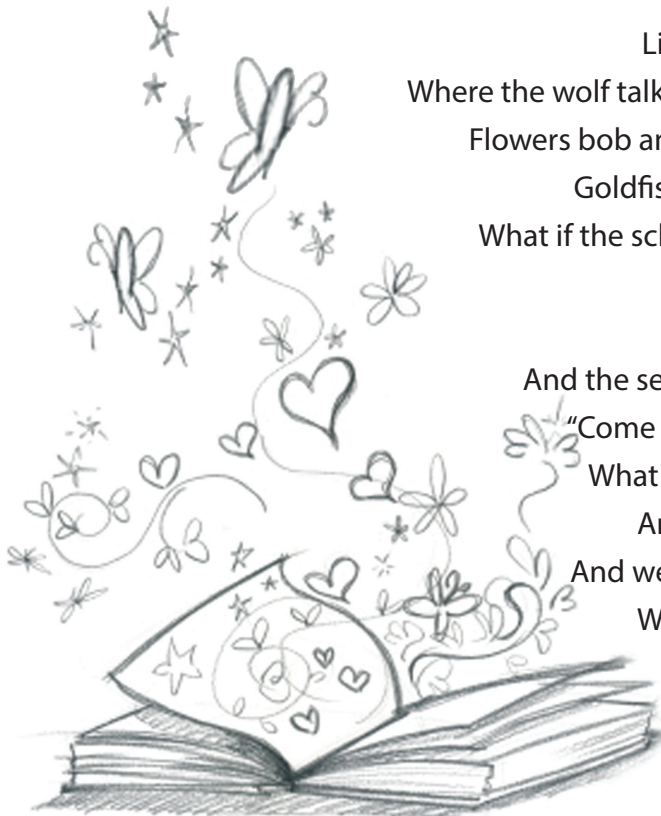
"Come on in and play with me."

What if the earth were alive

And all its creatures,

And we didn't call it "fairy tale"

What if it were true?



Sr. Marcia Kruse, ASC

Remembering...

The United States region this year celebrates 150th Anniversary since the arrival of the first nine German-speaking Adorers in Belle Prairie, Illinois; it was February 28, 1870. Another branch, a sign of God's faithfulness, was preparing to bear fruit. We join the sisters of the United States to celebrate this special event.

150th Anniversary Celebration

Columbia Center
Saturday, **March 28, 2020**

CPPS & ASC Joint Celebration
Saturday, **April 18, 2020**

Wichita Center
Sunday, **April 26, 2020**

Ruma Center
Sunday, **July 12, 2020**

ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST U.S. REGION
Celebrating 150 Years of



Grace Upon Grace
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



Bread and Roses

*St. Elisabeth Regional House,
Schaan, Liechtenstein*



Nowadays many people are in search of religious orientation and religious community. Many also come to the convent because they no longer feel at home in the parishes. They hope for services and religious offerings from us that are true to life and lively and those lead adults, young people and children to a faith that is anchored in life.

As a community we initiated "Bread and Roses" in 2003, following this call. For 17 years now, this has been supported by a leadership team (four sisters ASC and two part-time staff) and many volunteers.

The motto "Bread and Roses" - referring to St. Elisabeth - symbolically expresses the objectives:

Bread symbolizes everything we need every day to live.

Roses stand for love, beauty, reverence, the Holy Spirit

Community is the place of receiving and giving. For each other and together we are bread and roses.

It is our concern to live and convey a joyful, life-affirming faith. It is also important to us to let the interested people have their say and participate in the shaping of the community. With the project "Bread and Roses," the religious diversity in the country of Liechtenstein is to be maintained and promoted. The focus is on liturgical services, extracurricular preparation for First Communion and Confirmation, spiritual offerings for children and young people, as well as lectures, weekend seminars, and retreats for adults. The catechesis on Sunday morning before the Eucharist is particularly well received.

Peter Dahmen



News from Australia



These days we thank God for the rain he poured on our dry and burning continent. Although we were not in direct danger of fire, we could feel the smog burning in our eyes and throats. Sometimes the smog was similar to fog what made our surroundings invisible. The sun and the sky changed the color signalling an imminent danger.

Ten sisters in Australia live in two communities: Adelaide and Sydney. Most of them are retired, but they still do their best by working in many missions. We visit the elderly, the infirm and the lonely. We communicate with the people who ask for spiritual help and counsel. We prepare adults for the sacraments, teach the Croatian language at the Croatian School, and we care socially and spiritually for Croats in the desert parts of Australia.

From the very beginning, we have been present in the spiritual animation and guidance of the people in the "Cardinal Stepinac" Nursing Home. The home is very nice and of very good quality. The elderly and infirm Croats there, together with God's love and reconciliation through God's word and sacramental life, receive health care.

A large number of Croats living in Sydney, have built in the St. Johns Park and Blacktown the "Cardinal Stepinac" Home, two churches and gathering centers. Love for their country of origin they transmitted to the younger generations. Young people sometimes work two jobs in order to earn sufficient money to spend the summer in Croatia.

Living in Australia is different from living in Europe. People in Australia spend all day on their working places. The working places are very distant from their homes, but everything is well organized. Because of that, it is very difficult to bring the people together for singing or for other free time activities and events at the Center. The young people, in addition, have a language problem. Because their Croatian language knowledge is very poor, in order to understand a priest's sermon, most of them, together with their families, go to the English speaking Australian parishes.

Sydney has a population of almost 5 million made up of 150 nationalities. The degree of their mutual acceptance is extremely high. Churches of various Christian communities as well as Hindus and Buddhist temples are visible. It can be said that Australia is representing a small world.

Everybody needs the power of Christ's Blood. All of these people have suffered huge difficulties. Like every Croat, they could write a book of their suffering and problems they had to face and solve.

Today, some other people are refugees, to whom Australia opens its doors and helps them adapt as soon as possible to the new environment, as it once did to the Croatian people.

We have to pray for the Australian country and people, soak everybody in the blood of Christ and serve God in every human being.

Sr. Mara Župarić, ASC

Prayer against trafficking

On Saturday, February 8, the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita, the protectress of slaves, the celebration of the Sixth World Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking was organized by the Union of Major Superiors of Italy. A vigil of prayer and music, testimonies and liturgical readings was held in Rome in the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua. The international formation community of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Rome with the novices participated in the organized program.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, undersecretary of the migrant and refugee section of the Dicastery for Service of Holistic Human Development presided at the prayer service.

Many Sisters belonging to various orders working daily in the struggles against slavery were present at the prayer vigil.

“Human trafficking,” Cardinal Czerny explained, “is manifest in many aspects. Probably the best known is the sexual trafficking, but numerically, exploitation in work is perhaps more important. There is also the cruel and horrible organ trafficking as well.”

There were five candles on the altar, each wrapped in scarves symbolizing the 5 continents. There were three empty chairs in front of the altar to represent exploited women. There were also some boxes of fruit as a symbol of the

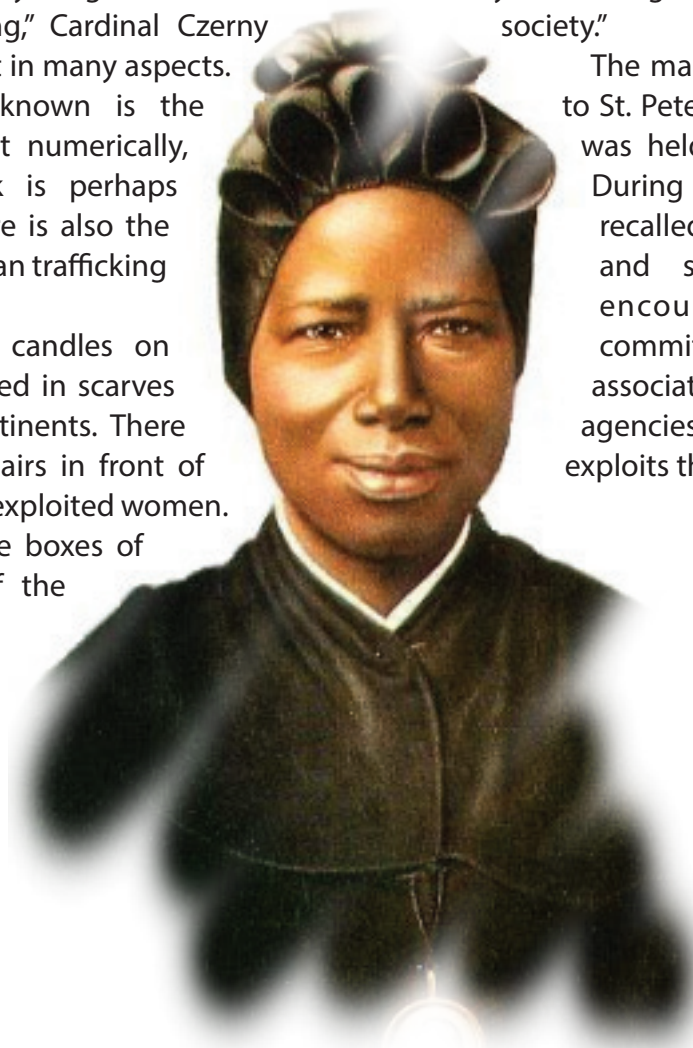
exploited workers on the farms of many countries coming from Asia and Africa, as well as other symbols: an African cloth, chains, a world map and a picture of St. Bakhita, who was a victim of slavery.

The vigil ended with the faithful tying together many colored threads, uniting theirs with that of the person next to them in the pew. The celebrations continued the following day with a march to St. Peter’s Square, to attend the Angelus with Pope Francis.

In speaking through the Roman Observatory, Cardinal Michael Czerny said, “The most consistent response of the Church against trafficking in the first world has always been that of the Sisters. They are the first to approach the victims and offer liberation, if possible, and then rehabilitation and finally their integration or re-integration into society.”

The march from Castle St. Angelo to St. Peter’s Square for the Angelus was held on Sunday, February 9. During his discourse, Pope Francis recalled St. Josephine Bakhita and spoke about trafficking, encouraging “everyone’s commitment, that of institutions, associations and educational agencies” to heal this “wound that exploits the weakest.”

Sr. Danijela Anić, ASC



St. Giuseppina Bakhita

General Administration Calendar



- March 1-7:** Sr. Manuela Nocco, General Treasurer, meets the commission for the study of the long-term use of the Generalate building **(Postponed)**
- March 2:** Sr. Nadia Coppa, General Superior, participated in the UISG constellation meeting
- March 3-11:** Sr. Nadia Coppa, and Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel visit the Bolivia Foundation
- March 4:** Participation in the celebration of the anniversary of Foundation in Acuto
- March 12:** Canonical visitation to the Region of Italy begins **(Postponed)**
- March 23-28:** Sr. Manuela Nocco, General Treasurer, chairs the meeting with the commission preparing the Economic Directory – Book IV **(Postponed)**

Religious Profession

March 4, 2020

50th Anniversary of Religious Profession - Region of Italy

Sr. Giuseppina Di Niro
 Sr. Rita Scognamiglio
 Sr. Teresa Langella

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

<u>30</u>			
Sr. Rosy Bandi	03/26/1990	India	
<u>40</u>			
Sr. Mary Stella Isthaky	03/09/1980	India	
<u>50</u>			
Sr. Matija Pavić	03/24/1970	Zagreb	
Sr. Jandira Nascimento Bar bosa	03/31/1970	Manaus	
Sr. Theresia Daniel Njau	03/31/1970	Tanzania	
<u>60</u>			
Sr. Alina Bilecka	03/07/1960	Wrocław	
Sr. Miriam Ortiz	03/20/1960	Argentina	
<u>70</u>			
Sr. Anđelka Šteko	03/02/1950	Zagreb	
<u>80</u>			
Sr. Dominika Santro	03/15/1950	Zagreb	
Sr. Palmira Aquilanti	03/16/1950	Italy	
Sr. Pantalea (Celestina) Morleo	03/24/1950	Italy	
Sr. Diane Tenbrink	03/27/1950	USA	
<u>90</u>			
Sr. Assunta Fanelli	03/01/1930	Italy	
Sr. Florence Korte	03/15/1930	USA	



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**They have
 returned to their
 Heavenly Home**



- 02/01/2020 **Sr. Marian Russo** USA
- 02/06/2020 **Sr. Elizabeth Determan** USA