

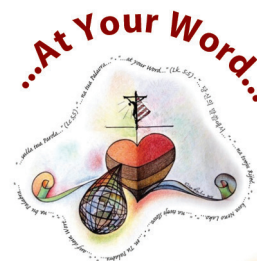
# International Newsletter

## 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)



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### Maria De Mattias and St. Gaspar – a rich encounter

In celebrating our Foundress on February 4, and March 4, we are led to reflect further on St. Maria's human and spiritual experience and to remember her message of Charity toward God and our dear neighbor.

Since her presence is a time of ongoing and meaningful communion for us, I would like to recall the encounter between Sr. Maria De Mattias and Father Gaspar in this regard.

It was Lent of 1822 and St. Gaspar had been invited to preach in Vallecorsa. Maria De Mattias, a seventeen-year-old young woman, was there amid the crowd. She was curious, penitent, open and ready to receive a sign of the Divine, the only One who could comfort her and calm the anxiety of heart that she was experiencing during those years. It was an anxiety caused by inner torment that drove her to understand the meaning of life.

Like the prophets, Gaspar, a man of God, was led by a single desire, that the people of his time, would be fearful of the horror of sin and open to God's love for them and all humanity. In fact, that love cost the Father all the blood of His only begotten Son.

Maria herself recounts to Merlini the most wonderful sensation she had in listening to Father

Gaspar. While he was speaking, she saw him point to the crucifix, and she was aware that the words spoken by the Saint were addressed directly to her. Thus, like a drop of water falling on arid soil, softening it and quenching its thirst, and the seed falling on fertile ground, it was ready to sprout. In the same way, Maria was filled with a new force, that of God's love. She recognized the greatly awaited sign and felt ready to free her heart to give it to the world.

In fact, from that meeting Maria understood what she wanted, who she wanted to be and how.

Our Foundress' experience, like that of many biblical episodes, teaches us that an encounter can be fruitful, can be a needed source for finding the right response in our lives, but especially in our hearts. Therefore, her testimony explains to us that the true substance of the encounter is found in faith and availability, in eyes free from prejudices and acceptance of the new, the different. It is found in openness to grace and confident abandonment to continually lower our nets at His Word to be ready to become the voice and action of the One who is revealed through mysterious ways, but who is always present everywhere.

*Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC*

Editorial

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**Thanks expressed by Sr Nadia Coppa**  
**February 4, 2019**

Allow me to express my greetings! It is a true joy to be here to celebrate the sublime gift of Maria De Mattias together. I hope each year we experience a deep communion established by the Blood of Christ in a more intense way. That Blood nourished Maria De Mattias and made her a disciple, an Adorer and a tireless apostle.

We want to take this occasion to greet all of you and sincerely thank you for having wanted to share the joy of this gift again this year. It is a joy not only for us but also for the Church and the world. We have celebrated a "strong woman, tireless worker, and mirror of Christian virtue..."

We celebrated a "talented and gifted woman endowed with charity, distinctive gentleness, strength and goodness, wisdom and astuteness." Through these decisive and clear, sober but well defined broadstrokes, Father John Merlini described the beautiful personality of this woman who sublimely united her passion for God and her tender love for the world. She was as much a spiritual woman as a human one.

We celebrated a simple, ordinary woman who did not draw back from the more practical things to be done, but she knew how to lovingly respond by living for God because God wanted her completely for Himself and she wanted to be completely for God.

God blessed us with this gift. God blessed his Church and blessed the world for all times.

The deep intuition that made Maria De Mattias a tireless apostle of the Precious Blood is that of being love, of being charity and of collaborating to re-establish the communion God came to establish with His Blood, with the Blood of His Son. It was a beautiful order to be re-established, a beautiful order to collaborate with.

Maria De Mattias indicated that God the Father, through the gift of His Spirit, gave her the heart of the Son, a heart broken open, beating and generating.

During this jubilee year when we celebrate 185 years since the foundation of the Institute, celebrating Maria De Mattias is a very wonderful opportunity to feel united and close together with the same missionary passion.

We are also following the same dream, and

we, like Maria, want to do everything possible with all our strength, with our entire selves, giving that missionary impulse, that enthusiasm, that impetus marked by the Word of the Blood.

Maria's life was transformed, conformed to that of the Beloved, to the Greatest Good, to the Happiness of her heart.

She truly knew how to unite in a balanced way her missionary commitment and contemplation, because each day she was nourished by that relationship that drove her outside herself. We know that we can generate only if we belong to our Spouse and experience God's generative Love that fills and overflows from our hearts.

We want to celebrate St. Maria De Mattias, remembering and making her dream more known as we continue to generate life everywhere and always.

We feel called to motivate and give meaning anew to our mission as disciples and missionaries called to "collaborate with Christ's redemptive work" (LC) and encouraged to "embrace the future with hope." (Pope Francis)

We often say embrace the future. Maybe we are not aware of what we are saying. Because, embracing is a sign of love. An embrace is the sign of a relationship. An embrace is a sign of mutuality. An embrace is the sign of openness. An embrace is a sign of acceptance. Thus, if we need to embrace the future, the embrace becomes a metaphor of our announcing

God wants for this world men and women capable of embracing, capable of being close, of tender love, of transmitting the supreme value of human dignity to everyone. No one is invisible before God. No one is excluded from God's heart.





Therefore, dear Sisters, friends, and brothers, let us feel called to truly embrace the world with the arms of Maria De Mattias, with her long, open, extended arms. Let us feel called to embrace this world sowing more joy, sowing more hope, sowing more actions of humanity.

If we say that the value of the person is important, we make the person visible. If we say each person is worth the Blood of Christ, we get our hands dirty through these situations. That is what Maria De Mattias did, tirelessly ... for her dear neighbor.

Therefore, embracing is making the pain of others our own. Do not be afraid to bring them within, even if it hurts. Be involved in the struggle, to ransom that pain, to make it redemptive.

Maria De Mattias made her heart a place of listening, a place of intimate space where there was room for everyone, and where everyone felt at home.

Thus we recoup this by proclaiming we make room for others like Maria De Mattias did.

At the entrance to Acuto there is a beautiful statue of Maria De Mattias stretching forward to make room for others because she has completely emptied herself.

Let us ask the Lord for this grace, to truly make room for others, not just with words, because we are good at speaking, but with our deeds, in concrete deeds without finding lots of excuses.

Like Maria did and experienced, we are called to have the feelings, emotions, desires, thoughts, tastes, sensitivity and passion that Jesus had. And this is possible if we make room.

Maria was full of room. Completely for God! God wanted her for Himself, and she wanted to be completely God's. This is our wish: to make room for God because it is possible even if it is a going out, Father Emanuele told us. It is a going out and a suffering, but it is possible.

Allow me to give special thanks to Father Emanuele, a Missionary of the Precious Blood who presided at this Eucharist, enriching it with his reflection and experience. The triduum that he prepared for us and for the community that shares the Eucharist with us was very enriching and enlightening. He broke - open the Word, reminding us that our mission is a constant going out ... from ourselves ... to suffer and go out risen desiring the fullness of a life lived in the beautiful order ... Divine Charity.

We thank Father Bill, the General Moderator

of the CPPSs, Father Terenzio Pastore and Father Benedetto of the CPPS provincial administration. We join in the joy of our brothers because on Wednesday, February 6, the beatification process of Father John Merlini will begin in Naples. MDM will be rejoicing in heaven for this!

Greetings to the priests who came and for the CPPS seminarians for their liturgical service. Thanks to all the Sisters of the nearby communities who came to be with us, and special thanks to all the Sisters around the world who joined with us in the sign of the Blood. Thanks to the elderly who live the offering of the difficulties of their illnesses, to the young people who have enthusiastically thrown themselves into this fascinating discipleship. Thanks to the Sisters who faithfully live the hard work of the daily exodus of letting go.

May your friendship continue to be communion and life for all of us.

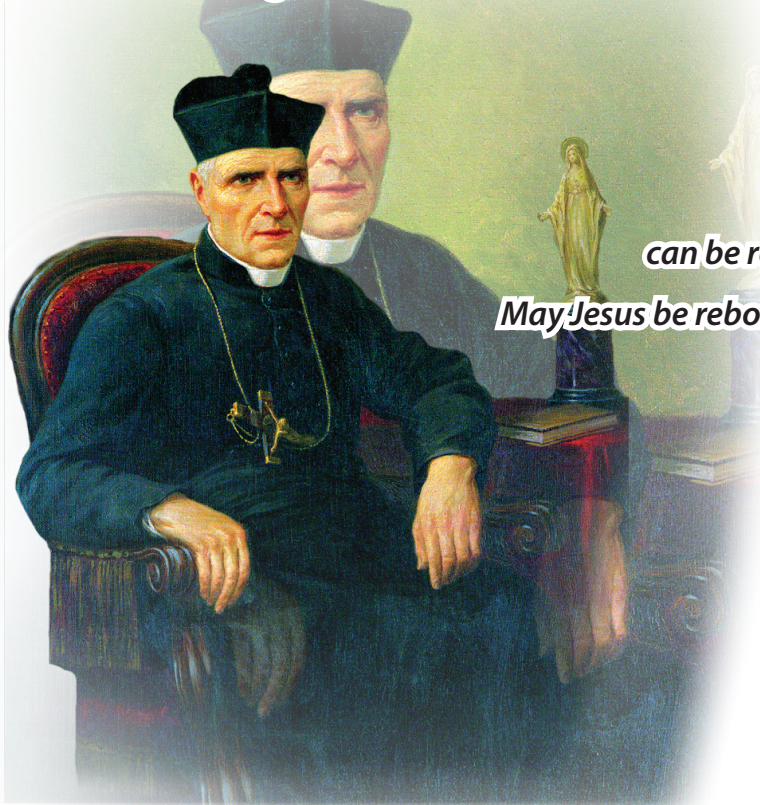
Many loving wishes of holiness for you, our dear Sisters united with us to celebrate this jubilee, to our collaborators, friends, lay associates and all those who through the example of St. Maria De Mattias are committed to follow the footsteps of the Lamb with inner passion.

Let us be accompanied by St. Maria De Mattias as we ask the support of her friendship, whose holiness "attracts and enchants."

**Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC  
General Superior**



**From the general letter of Sr. Nadia Coppa, general superior**



*“What cannot be reached by work  
can be reached with desire. May peace reign. (...)*

*May Jesus be reborn in our hearts and draw us close to Him.*

*I bless you in abundance.”*

*(Father John Merlini)*

The celebration for the opening of the beatification process of Venerable Merlini was held at noon on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at the Archdiocesan Center of Naples. His Excellency Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe was present for the occasion.

After the opening prayer, Sr. Nicla Spezzati, ASC and postulator, presented the request for the opening of the process. The oath and establishment of the Ecclesiastical Court was completed. The Court will have the task of listening to the witnesses in the coming months. These witnesses are people who can share elements helping to prove the declared miracle attributed to the intercession of Father John Merlini.

This first phase carried out in the diocese where the miracle occurred has the character of an investigation, a gathering of evidence. This will be followed by sending all the diocesan-level documents to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. At this point, the second phase will begin and, if the Lord desires, will continue until the final decision – his beatification and subsequent canonization.

It was a deeply moving moment in which we experienced God’s goodness. The Lord is blessing

the Church and the two beloved Congregations cared for by Father John, letting us experience the intercession of our beloved and revered Saint.

A big group of Missionaries of the Precious Blood was present at the celebration along with Father William Nordenbrock, General Moderator, Father Emanuele Lupi, CPPS and vice postulator, and Father Terenzio Pastore, Italian Provincial Director.

We, the members of the General Administration, joyfully joined with other Adorers from several nearby communities sharing in this moment with gratitude and presence.

We give thanks to the Lord for this special gift that fills our hearts with great happiness. The Lord is encouraging us to authentic renewal of our hearts by letting our hearts be enflamed by the Fire of the Spirit and allowing the Father to gift us with heart of his Son. Let us hope that this event may touch us deeply and impart the desire of possible holiness to us.

Let us pray and invite others to pray that Father John Merlini may soon be proclaimed a model of holiness by the Church.

**Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC**





## *The village of hope*

### **Actual Situation and Implementation**

The centre has been in operation since 2002 and has expanded its activity over and above the initial goal and has become one of the centers providing care and treatment to many people affected of HIV in Dodoma Region and outside Dodoma.

The care of our children who are in this moment 153 is provided by 12 family couples and in each family over and above the presence of this couple, there is one supporter who usually a nurse attendant who helps in the different duties and care needed by the children. The couples voluntarily enroll for this role and they are paid an amount decided by the Institution over and above receiving food, shelter and health treatment for ordinary diseases. The couple can stop their presence in the Institution any time when they think it is not possible for them to continue anymore. The rest of the personnel in enrolled according to the rules of the Ministry of Work.

The clinical part is provided by three doctors. One of them visits every morning all the houses where the children live and gives proper treatment if it is needed. If a child needs special attention he/she is transferred to the clinic present in the Institution where he is taken care in a more appropriate way. If the child needs laboratory investigation a laboratory is present in the Institution. At this time, working in the Institution there are a total of 21 including nurse midwives and nurse attendant.

For their education, a primary and secondary school have been built. For the small children a Day Care Center is in the Institution.

The schools are an example of integration between the healthy children and the infected ones; in fact healthy and sick children are attending the same schools without discrimination. The schools have been registered by the Ministry of Education, open freely to all the children, but run by the Institution itself.

The most part of this project has done by Italian volunteers at different stages. Some doctors and lab Technicians were provided for the clinic department by the Italian Hospital of Bambino Gesù. Usually they come twice a year for a period of three weeks. For the construction we have had different groups from Italy like Amici delle Missioni of Bagnolo Mella or Impruneta Onlus and other more. They come for the realization of the different department of the Institute. Usually they come in different number twice a year for period of four weeks. All the roofing, plumbing and electrical installation was done freely by them. Finally we have smaller groups or individuals. They come and stay with the kids in the dispensary or they are helping in different ways according to their skills.

This is a brief outline of some of the activities run by the Institution in favour of the orphans children affected of HIV present in the Institution. The rest of the activities are directed to people living outside the Institution.



## ***Birth of St. Maria De Mattias is a gift to all generations***



On February 4, 2019, ASC Sisters of the Region of Tanzania, Novices, Aspirants, Students, Believers, our Collaborators and All People who love St. Maria De Mattias celebrated her birthday. We and all people recognize the greatness of our mother, which manifested itself through her humility and readiness to accept God's plan and giving totally herself to Him as a sacrifice.

Here in Manyoni this celebration was



launched with a tridium, thanking God for the gift of Saint Mary De Mattias and asking His blessings and grace to enable us to continue to embrace, maintain and implement the charism given to St. Maria De Mattias. The students of Amani Girls' Secondary School prepared with prayers and songs. St. Maria De Mattias is patroness of this school which belongs to the ASCs and students love her very much. They like to read her history and his life, in order to learn and follow her steps toward the holy life. Some of them like to join the congregation after completing their studies.

The celebration was very interesting, the Holy Mass began at 6:30 am, preceded by Fr. Alex Isengwa, CPPS, together with Fr. Thomas Wambura, CPPS and Fr. Dismas Mfungomali, CPPS. Who would think that the birth of this child would be celebrated in many parts of the world by many generations? "We celebrate the birthday of St. Maria De Mattias because she accepted God's plan upon her and fulfilled it." Were some words

given by Fr. Alex, CPPS. Her life is a gift offered to God and to the dear neighbor that is why her birthday celebrated all over the world. The choir of students sung the beautiful songs, inviting all to come to celebrate with joy the birthday of our mother Maria De Mattias.

"Come, come, come raise the voice of joy to Mother Maria De Mattias, is our good Mother, she is exalted in heaven. Come raise the voice of joy, she is our mother, we love her very much!" is the song sung by the students and we joined them to sing it with great joy and gratitude to God for the life and call of St. Maria De Mattias. These are girls who are profiting Maria De Mattias' dream and prophecy, that "In this Institute will be found all the helps needed today and always ...". Letter of MDM, December 6, 1838 (Edition 2005)

St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us so that we may imitate your example of giving totally to the Lord.



***Sr. Rosemary Elias Malele, ASC***



## **Christy Girls' home – Kolar- India**

Aradhana convent, Christy Girls' Home, Kolar, is a home for the most neglected ones of society. It is home for the children of those who are affected by the deadly HIV virus. We cater to their physical, psychological, educational and spiritual needs focusing on the integrated growth of these children, so that they can bloom as beautiful persons with greater potentialities. We have 19 children in different grades who are being educated. The majority of them are good at studies as well as talented in sports and arts.

This year we had 6 new children join us and they all came through the hospital HIV unit where we care for the HIV/AIDS patients, many of whom receive palliative care or surrender to death. All five of them lost their fathers who were affected by this fatal sickness.

We also have many people coming into our home to spend time with children and offer their help to us in different ways. We gratefully remember all who extend their hands and hearts to us in generosity and solidarity. Our children have many platforms to exhibit their talents in academics, sports and arts and have secured great achievements: Children's Day, Champion-in-Me program with many Institutions, other events in the school and in our home.

Our HIV/AIDS unit is running well. The District hospital is providing us all the infrastructure and medicines needed for the patients. We have the possibility of constant medical consultation, sufficient supply of medicine, MRI, CT, X-RAY facilities etc. and the patients are happy for the treatment and express their appreciation for the care received.

We three sisters Chinnammal, Jyothi and myself are engaged in rendering our service selflessly to the needy through coordination and nursing care, children's care, pastoral care in the parish and farm. We are happy for what we can give and render our constant praise to the Lord of our life, the Crucified Master who calls us constantly to live a process of transformation.



**Sr. Beena Thoombalan, ASC**

## **Fear of freedom**

On Friday, January 18, 2019, the awarding of the literary contest edited by our tireless Sr. Emma Zordan, ASC, was held at the Rebibbia prison. Sr. Emma, in addition to the various activities she is involved in, volunteers at the Rebibbia prison, offering support and assistance to the prisoners by involving them in her writing workshop and giving them the opportunity to express their innermost feelings, making them more perceived by the outside world. It is the fourth book presented by Sr. Emma since 2014. The chosen topic was a real challenge for the prisoners: "FEAR OF FREEDOM." What happens when they have served their sentences? What are their expectations and what is the reality outside of prison? It is a book filled with reflection points on feelings, human weaknesses, the responsibility each of us has toward the most broken in society, and on the mercy needed to be shown toward those who have made mistakes. All the writings in the book clearly express the fears that many have of not being ready to deal with the outside world and of being unable to respond to the demands of society. But it especially shows the fear of finding a hard and difficult reality due to financial restrictions that don't allow adequate family support and often of the lack of true and sincere affection. In other words, a fear of the future. Sister Emma wanted to dedicate this volume to Doctor Stefano Ricca who has been the Director of the Rebibbia prison since 2009 and has always supported cultural and artistic activities in the prison, understanding their validity for treatment purposes. Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi, a man of great human and cultural breadth, who had already attended previous editions of the contest, renewed his gratitude for the invitation and for the possibility that such circumstances offer us



for going outside the obvious and everything that does not allow us to see things in a circular way. He emphasized the act of mercy that such meetings represent for both the prisoners and for those relating to them by giving us passages that enrich us and make us responsible, giving us the opportunity and power to evangelize the world through the sufferings of the least. The Cardinal then dealt with the topic of freedom, emphasizing how freedom is a mental thing and not really a physical one, in that one can be free in prison or anywhere, while we can be prisoners even outside the prison. The way of freedom is always open; therefore, such an experience needs to be accessible to a greater number of prisoners and welcomed with love by those reading their stories. Freedom is not a result to be taken for granted and achievable at low cost. It is the promise Jesus addresses to us, "know the truth and the truth will make you free."







Msgr. Dario Edoardo Viganò from the Dicastery for Vatican communications was also present. He has been directing Prison Ministry for years with the "Gospel Inside" program, conducted by Vatican journalist Davide Dionisi. Msgr. Dario Viganò, joined in the thanks already expressed by Cardinal Petrocchi and pointed out how fear of freedom is widely spread today, shining a spotlight on the conditions of hardship humanity is experiencing. He spoke of freedom, associating it with responsibility and risk that always exist in daily choices, a responsibility that makes us human. For this reason, freedom makes everyone fearful. And it is for this reason that people have to carry out a constant selection of their choices. The objective is that of letting the divinity in each of us come out, God is part of us. Another important element is forgiving others and forgiving ourselves in order to be able to reach peace of heart.

Each of the authors was awarded a gift that

Sister Emma had lovingly wrapped and gave to them.

The message that the residents at the prison sent us is clear and evident: help us psychologically and materially for a true rehabilitation into society, to be accepted and loved. This is what makes writing workshops necessary. To give them the possibility so they can write their personal experience, understand their journey, communicate with others and understand the needs of those who do not have much voice in order to be able to express them.

Thanks to Sister Emma Zordan and all those who do everything possible for the implementation of these good works. Greetings to the parish group from Allumiere who attended the meeting, representing the text of Kafka, "The Lair."

**Prof. Maria Teresa Caccavale**  
*Former teacher in the Rebibbia prison*



## VIVAT Spain meeting

VIVAT International Spain is an NGO formed by Catholic religious congregations and accredited by ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) of the United Nations.

VIVAT is involved in its double mission of work in the fields and advocacy in United Nations. The VIVAT mission is carried out in this way:

- Working with people and groups suffering all kinds of poverty by being involved in safeguarding their well-being, dignity and freedom.
- Promoting human rights, sustainable development, harmony among peoples, cultures, classes, religions and beliefs; making efforts in the building of the community and a world that promotes inclusion and participation of everyone.
- Working for ecological sustainability, protection of biodiversity, safeguarding the riches of the planet for future generations.

Since its institution in October 2015, the VIVAT International Spain group has been carrying out the gathering and publication of cases of vulnerability of the human rights of refugees. Our commitment is to bring these cases to the attention of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations, which, in the case of Spain, is scheduled for October 2019.



This is a summary of that report:

1. This is an overall report presented at the 3rd cycle of the UPR of Spain. The report gives information about the human rights situation of refugees in Spain and is presented for consideration of the UPR Work Group in its 35th session January-February 2010. The human right refers to number 9 of the Human Rights

Universal Declaration: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

2. This report is presented to the Justice and Peace Commission of Spain, the Karibù Association, the People United Association, the Refugees with rights groups (Caritas, Justice and Peace and CONFER)) and VIVAT International.



Recommendations:

- Stop the practice of on-the-spot deportation that does not assure the migrants' rights according to international laws.
- Guarantee undocumented refugees the needed resources and information about asking for international protection.
- Propose as an alternative, the protective internment of undocumented refugees for temporary housing in places open to humanitarian hospitality for the time needed to prepare their documents.

I conclude by recalling Pope Francis' exhortation to the European Parliament, "Europe will be able to respond to the social problems of immigration if it is capable of clearly proposing its cultural identity and putting suitable laws into practice that allow for the protection of the rights of European citizens and at the same time, assuring acceptance of immigrants."

**Sr. Teresa Martínez, ASC**



## **Maria De Mattias in Katowice**

You cannot forget October 4. It is a day in our Christian tradition corresponding to the marvelous person of St. Francis, the patron of Italy and true symbol of one who in meeting the souls of Creation, gave life through the hand of the Lord and revolutioned the way of catechizing. Not by chance, on the same day in 2018 a group of pilgrims headed out toward Katowice from Vatican City. Katowice is the Polish city hosting the Conference of the United Nations for discussing climate change. Twenty-four countries from around the world gathered from December 3-15, 2018, to discuss environmental problems. The pilgrimage leaving Rome was organized by Global Catholic Movement and led by the Philippine environmentalist Yeb Sano to be the spokesperson of the Catholic world upon the invitation of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. Sister Dani Brought, member of the General Administration, represented our Congregation and joined the group of pilgrims.

Many newspapers wrote about the importance of this event, including the magazine *Jesus* in its article entitled "Pilgrims of the Environment." It states, "An unexpected meeting with Yeb Saño in Rome inspired Sr. Dani Brought, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, to join the group. (A picture of the foundress of the Adorers, St. Maria De Mattias, given by Sr. Dani to Yeb, accompanied the pilgrims toward Katowice.) She stated, 'Twenty-three years of mission work in Guatemala showed me how much pollution has a great impact on the health of the people. I personally experienced the commitment

of a non-violent resistance movement that led to the suspension of activities of an open-pit gold mine run by a multinational. Every one of our choices has an effect on another and this creates communion among people." (*Jesus*, issue 12, December 2018, page 33.)

We are grateful to the Global Catholic Movement group that is spokesperson for Catholic thought to try to stem the environmental problem and to Sr. Dani Brought who allowed us to be present together with St. Maria De Mattias in accompanying the group to Katowice. Therefore, as St. Francis of Assisi said, "Begin with doing what is needed, then what is possible and all of a sudden you will be surprised by doing the impossible."

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**



**General Administration Calendar**



Sr Nadia Coppa, Sr Bridget Pulickakunnel, Sr Manuela Nocco attend:

**March 1** – meeting with the group of Friends of Village of Hope - Impruneta

**March 2** – meeting with the Project of Tanzania group of Bagnolo Mella (Brescia)

**March 4** – Celebration of the opening of the 185th anniversary of foundation of the Institute

**March 15 – April 12** – the general council will be doing the canonical visitation to the region of Zagreb

**Birthdays:**

**Let's celebrate life**

<u>30</u>	<b>Sr. Kristen Forgotch</b>	03/25/1989	USA
<u>40</u>	<b>Sr. Manuela Nocco</b>	03/06/1979	Italy
<u>50</u>	<b>Sr. Ewa Kleps</b>	03/03/1969	Wrocław
	<b>Sr. Palmina Totaro</b>	03/30/1969	Italy
<u>60</u>	<b>Sr. Fina Ponce</b>	03/05/1959	USA
<u>70</u>	<b>Sr. Fidelis Basić</b>	03/07/1949	Zagreb
	<b>Sr. Jane Gegg</b>	03/23/1949	USA
<u>80</u>	<b>Sr. Ida Meomartino</b>	03/01/1939	Italy
	<b>Sr. Ancilla Vukoja</b>	03/15/1939	Zagreb



***They have returned to their Heavenly Home***

02/02/2019	<b>Sr. Emma Bevilacqua</b>	Italy
02/09/2019	<b>Sr. Elena Palese</b>	Italy

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

..At Your Word..

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*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**