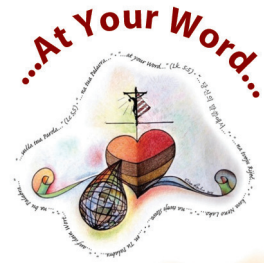


International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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Communication is Mission

Editorial

Communication means entering into relationship, and today, thanks to the many media possibilities, we can do it in many various ways, using all the tools technology makes available to us. Defining communication as mission, however, requires an additional step, since it is not just a possibility left to the freedom of the individual or to his or her gift, but it is presented as a responsibility, a call to enter into the world surrounding us.

As the Church's document (*Redemptoris Missio*) says, the world of communications represents the new *Areopagus* to be evangelized. In fact, it is not only a tool for spreading the gospel message, but the very voice of the gospel language. Even if we feel the discomfort of the pressing advancement of a technology that makes us always keep up with the times, we cannot let that discomfort justify our action, for the Word of God is embodied in the present day of history and, here and now, calls us to be a Presence.

The presence we are talking about is not just any presence, nor is it one of the many that are suggested to us. No, it is the PRESENCE that speaks, opens the heart to hope, lets a PATH be

identified, among the many, that does not attract with easy seductive promises, does not promise paradise on earth, but teaches us to live the daily concretely.

In fact, Jesus Christ testified to us, first with his Incarnation and then with Redemption, that we are no longer alone in our life journey. He walks with us along the roads of history, in the Areopagi, the gathering spots where people meet, think, choose, live and suffer today. When Christ walks with us, we believe we are called to encounter him and discover his face in each person and event, even if it is a website, a Facebook page, etc.

The media space is a virtual, but real place to dwell. The challenge is that of being open to this world and learn to interact with it, bringing and living gospel values, not in an unwary way, but as citizens who inhabit our history.

Therefore, technology is a sign of divine wisdom, which God fearlessly shared with humanity. Thus, our mission is that of putting technological communications at the service of the human and spiritual growth of humanity.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

Summary

Editorial

- ◇ Communication is Mission
- General Administration Space**
- ◇ Passionate for Communication
- ◇ Aima – Blood
- From the ASC World**
- ◇ Updates from Liberia
- ◇ Gratitude for the 50th Anniversary of the Adorers' Presence in Tanzania
- ◇ We will be grateful to those we serve
- ◇ Sharing Maria De Mattias with Precious Blood Seminarians

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | ◇ On World Missionary Day... | 7 |
| | ◇ New Wine ... In New Wineskins | 8 |
| 2 | ◇ My God – My Favorite | 9 |
| 3 | JPIC/VIVAT Space | |
| | ◇ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan | 10 |
| 4 | In the Congregation | |
| | ◇ General Administration Calendar | 11 |
| 5 | ◇ Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life | 11 |
| 6 | ◇ Regional Assemblies | 11 |
| | ◇ They have returned to their Heavenly Home | 11 |
| 6 | | |

Passionate for Communications

Passionate for Communications was the theme of the seminar organized by UISG in Rome October 17-19, which I attended. The speaker, Sr. Annmarie Sanders, IHM and director of the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious), presented communications as mission in the today of history.

The time in which we live, often defined as critical and ambiguous, puts religious life and the values of which it is spokesperson in contradictory positions. However, it is also thanks to media communications that religious have the opportunity to be present in a different, more effective way, proposing themselves as an alternative life choice and as a new way to witness Christian values.

Through media, in fact, we are called to tell not only our mission, what we do, but also the essence of religious life. We communicate who we are, how we pray and live, how we seek the best in our neighbor and in what surrounds us, how we are able to forgive, what sustains us in our vulnerability, focusing not just on doing, but on the values and the being of consecrated life.

As S. Annmarie said: "The ability to tell, to tell each other, helps to emphathize and reawaken not only the cognitive part, but also the affective and corporal. Our person reacts in its entirety out of sympathy or empathy. Who better than religious women have so many stories to tell how a charism is embodied in a context today?"

"The second reason for telling each other is that of reflecting together. If a specific place of religious women exists in the digital world, it is precisely this: to become voice, image, sound and face of that beauty discretely born in those places where everyone sees only suffering and violence. To become digital, a digital view recounting the good news, becoming a listening network so that other may share. If we

women take care of life, it will be natural for us to take care of what flows on the net. It is no less true, it is only lived in another sphere."

Therefore, communications is an effective means for responding to the spirituality need of the world, especially of Christians and youth.

This reality challenges each of us to deepen our interior life and make a real transition from rational knowledge to deeper reflection, which makes us able to read the presence of the transcendent in the ordinary in order to transform it into the extraordinary. In this is the true meaning of communication, understood as mission.

The seminar offered activities for this purpose allowing us to practice various reflection techniques and ways of asking questions about essential life issues. It was a very meaningful experience for me that gave me the opportunity to deepen the responsibility of communicating, but above all to know how to communicate.

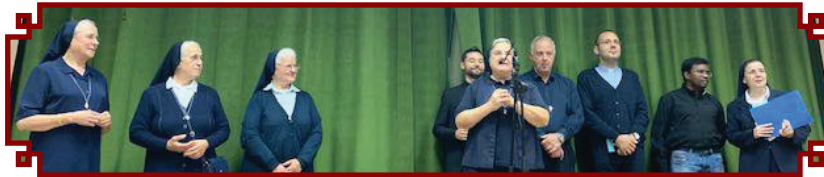
As Adorers, how do we really want to inhabit this space? What is the image we want to leave in the world today that can become effective tomorrow?

The answer lies in the challenge to which we are called, that is, to treasure the present time, to be able to live it from within in order to bring out the Truth necessary to transmit in our world today.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



Aima – Blood



Jesus' Blood helps us build relationships ...

This sentence lets us enter into the spirit of the day spent in Bari Carbonara on October 13, 2019 with the laity, our friends and associates of the Blood of Christ who came from many parts of southern Italy (Apulia, Calabria, Basilicata.)

With Sr. Nadia, General Superior, and Sr. Dani, General Councilor, I had the joy of meeting about 300 people connected to the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and led by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

The theme of the meeting was *Aima, On the Streets of History*. It was done in a spirit of reflection, celebration and sisterly openness.

Sr. Francesca Palamà, ASC, and Father Enzo Napoli, CPPS, joyfully and enthusiastically directed the day in a lively way and with themes that effectively introduced us into the spirituality of the Blood to live in our daily relationships.

It was truly enriching to see the hall filled with young people and adults around the "chalice of communion" and admiring their interest and participation in the program divided into various moments. There were the steps of the dance of praise, comments of Father Luigi Maria Epicoco on the Blood of Christ, the musical of the theatrical workshop "To the Last Drop" The company of Miracles with the direction of Gianluca Gibilisco, CPPS, and the witness of the participants.

Our moment of communion and relationship in the Blood of Christ was lived to the full by everyone during the Eucharist at the Basilica of St. Nicolas of Bari, with Oliviero Magnone, CPPS, presiding.

After the Mass, there was a flash mob by a group of Union of the Blood of Christ youth from Precious Blood Parish in Bari, together with a parish dance group directed by the teacher Katia Laguaragnella. The martyrs of charity, the Adorers killed in Liberia in 1992, were the subject of "To the Last Drop."

The day we spent in this way enriched us and gave us an impetus to continue the path with greater enthusiasm and with the desire to deepen the spirituality of the Blood of Christ in our relationships.

Sr. Matija Pavić, ASC



Updates from Liberia

Greetings from Sisters Zita and Therese from Liberia on a very rainy Saturday (September 28), concluding a week of rain. The rainy season is late but the amount of water is high. Great for the water table but not for recess for the children or harvesting the rice that is ripe.

The last week of August the faculty met for a one-week workshop in preparation for the new school year. This was a first as usually there has been one day of four hours. The reward for daily participation was a hot meal at the



conclusion.

Evaluations were positive with requests to do this each semester. Most of the teachers have a secondary education and are teaching as they were taught. The week was planned to be practical and professionally helpful. Content presented by the more experienced teacher-administrators included: curriculum (Liberia guidelines), tests, grading, classroom management, administration and lesson plans.

Sister Therese served on the planning committee and guided the first day on a review of the meaning of education, mission and mission statements, and using national and diocesan handbooks. One happy conclusion to the week was the adoption on Friday of a mission statement for St. Patrick's School.

A new principal was named 10 days before school began, a priest who has been teaching secondary but has never served as principal. He begged S. Therese to teach religion 8 and 9 the first six weeks until he gets his "bearings," so to speak. Therese is back in the classroom with the students

she taught last year. Father is working diligently to create a learning environment with less noise and traffic during classes. A helpful and refreshing change.

Sister Zita continues with her three sewing classes and is using some of the time to teach baking skills to women who want to bake bread. Between classes, she is busy mending or sewing new shirts or blouses for school uniforms and other sewing. In return, the students do some work on the compound.

Sister Therese continues to work to make the library functional again since it has been 25 years since any real work on it has been done. Some students are sent to help as punishment for bad behavior. They are dusting and stacking the books for sorting, a time saver for Therese who has begun to shelve by grades the teacher resources for the various subjects. The goal is also to have a section serve as a community library for Grand Cess.

Weather is exceptionally cool and we are enjoying it immensely. Many of the natives are cold.



The U.S. visa application process for the young boy scheduled for corrective surgery on his club foot and his father has not gone well. We finally have an interview appointment on November 27 but the original appointment at the hospital in St. Louis was November 7. Fortunately, we were able to change the appointment to February 6. Please pray that the visas are granted.

We continue to meet in prayer across the miles.

Sr. Therese Wetta, ASC

Gratitude for the 50th Anniversary of the Presence of the ASC in Tanzania

September 21, 2019, was a day of great joy for us ASC Sisters in Tanzania to celebrate the 50th anniversary (1969 - 2019) of the presence of our Congregation in Tanzania. It was a day of thanksgiving to God for all his blessings in these fifty years. Preparations to celebrate this occasion began with daily special short prayer since January, seminars from the CIS Leadership, various visits by our communities to various groups bearing the name of St. Maria De Mattias, parishes and sub-parishes, community and personal preparation and finally a three-day prayer (Triduum). It was a good time to "reflect on the past with a grateful heart, to live in the present with a cheerful heart and to embrace the future with a heart of hope." We wanted to share not only this occasion but also the love of God that over the past fifty years has been manifested through the life and ministry of the ASC, especially our sisters the first Adorers missionaries in Tanzania (Sr. Angelina Palmigiani, Sr. Delfina Gnerre, Nicolina Scattaglia and Sr. Romana Sacchetti, who gave themselves totally to God to ensure that the love of God that flows from the Blood of Jesus reaches out to all, especially the poor.

This event has encouraged us and inspired us with a great passion to move forward, to promote and share the charism of St. Maria De Mattias, to develop the mission set up by our sisters and to continue to read the signs of the times, to listen carefully and respond to the cries

of the poor and marginalized. It has encouraged us to be witnesses to the blood of the New and eternal Covenant, the mystery of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

The Holy Mass of the Jubilee was presided over by the Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya of the Archdiocese of Dodoma. There were many priests. Many believers and other people participated; they were about one thousand people from different parts of Tanzania. The Bishop insisted to follow steps of St. Maria De Mattias. He focused on the upbringing of young people and children

from the family level and everywhere, all of us are responsible for the upbringing them so that God can be given first place in our lives, and not things, because things cannot give us true joy which was announced by St. Maria De Mattias.

We thank the General Leadership of our Congregation and all you dear Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ all over the world for your participation and prayers.

May God continue to bless us so that in this Congregation, people can receive "aids at all times and in all places."



Sr. Magdalena George Chipanta, ASC

We will be grateful to those we serve

The charism of St. Maria De Mattias has brought fruit to the land of Bolivia. Each Adorer of the Blood of Christ joyfully offered her life, expressing the compassion of Jesus toward all the very poor with their health ministry, caring for at-risk girls, families in rural areas and in educational centers, with catechesis to the children, young people, adults and families also in the poor barrios, in chapels and parishes with formation in the spirituality of the Blood of Christ.

We carry out our educational ministry in the schools with the children and youth by witnessing our Christian faith. The Blood of Christ Holistic Center for Health cares for the children through a program of scholastic support, a program for the elderly and a center of rehabilitation for children with special needs.

The other ministries in which we are involved are: social ministry, cafeteria for children, teens, and the homeless, and a youth ministry missions

in the rural areas. We share life and mission with the associates of the Blood of Christ.

In truth, Bolivia is going through a very difficult political situation. For this reason, we are invited to continue to spread the spirituality of the Blood of Christ as a sign of reconciliation to re-establish peace in our country.

Sisters of the Bolivian ASC Foundation



Region of the USA

Sharing Maria De Mattias with Precious Blood Seminarians



The Precious Blood men in Latin America who are preparing for incorporation go through a formation year of study, prayer and missionary activity. This year, the five men in special formation are here in Guatemala. Two are from Colombia, one is from Peru and two are from Guatemala. Their director asked me to give them a day on Maria De Mattias and our spirituality.

I called on some of our sisters, Mary Kevin Rooney, Joan Hornick and Maria Hughes to share any ideas they might offer. Actually, Mary Kevin came up with a

complete lesson plan that made me think she should come and I could be her translator. But the time frame was a bit short! Hopefully there might be another opportunity.

The only stipulation I made before agreeing to the day was that there would be a service component. St. Maria embraced the "dear neighbor" and her spirituality that flows through us in the world today expresses itself in compassionate presence, especially among the neediest. I wanted the teachers and students at the Maria De Mattias Institute to have an experience of "priests and future priests" as servants, men who stand alongside the people of God and know themselves to be one with them. And so after a full morning of input, sharing, prayer and reflection, we spent the afternoon painting, planting, building and installing tree fences.

So, hopefully, as we were building and beautifying, the spirit of Maria planted a desire in them to find ways to be about that "beautiful order." And as most of us know, the praying, planning and preparation for the day was the true gift.

Sr. Kris Schrader, ASC

On World Missionary Day ...

On Sunday, October 20, 2019, while the Church was celebrating World Missionary Day, we officially began our mission in the diocese of Teggiano-Polcastro. We reside in Bellosguardo, a small town at an altitude of 500 meters in the mountains of Alburni, in the national park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano, but we also serve in Roscigno another nearby town.

When Bishop Giuseppe De Luca came to visit a little before the Eucharistic celebration of welcome, he informed us that soon an educational project toward welcoming will begin in Bellosguardo. This project began as a collaboration of the Diocese with the town council and with the University of Posillipo. He wants us to collaborate in it as well, to the degree that each can do so. In fact, two large communities of Muslim immigrants live in Bellosguardo and in Ottati, the town on the hill facing ours. Among the objectives of the project is that of growing in skills of mutual acceptance and deepening the value of multi-culturalism.

Meanwhile, as we find ourselves still involved in organizing the house, we begin with little things: doing the shopping, going to Church, meeting with the people who come to help us organize things. These are all opportunities to begin weaving relationships. Participation in the ministry meetings and catechesis involve us in the ordinary pastoral ministry activities and lets us experience the goodness of small-town living.

Just a week after our arrival, we remember the various stages preceding our official coming with joy and wonder. The first was September 29, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the patron of Bellosguardo. We attended the solemn celebration of the closing of the festivities, at the end of which the pastor, Father Antonio Romaniello, introduced us to the faithful and gave us a few words of welcome.

The following morning we returned to Rome eager to begin this new life path as soon as possible. In the days that followed, Sr. Miriam De Michele and Sr. Milena Marangoni made sure the preparations of the house were completed and in anticipation of our arrival, they spent some time in Bellosguardo setting things up and cleaning the house. The presence of the members of the regional council who came to town every once in

a while, aroused the curiosity of the people who, in seeing new faces, wondered who were the three who were to remain. The evening of October 20 there were seven of us, the three of the community accompanied by Sr. Milena, Sr. Miriam, Sr. Lucia Resta and Sr. Bruna Menichelli. The Bishop came to pick us up at home and we went to the parish church with him and Father Antonio where many people from Bellosguardo and Roscigno welcomed us.

Among the concelebrants was Msgr. Orazio Pepe, a diocesan priest and native of Bellosguardo who works in Rome. It was at his insistence that we owe the opening of the community. Among the faithful were the civic authorities and elementary school pupils with their teachers who welcomed us at the end of the celebration. The children sang "The heavens have no boundaries," a song that invites everyone to welcome everyone else as brothers and sisters. The welcome ceremony concluded with supper in the square and the new arrivals' cutting of the cake. Now we need to and want to begin with simplicity and trust.



**The ASC community of Bellosguardo
Sr. Genesis Nave, Sr. Maria Chiara Maselli,
Sr. Patrizia Pasquini**

New Wine ... In New Wineskins

Together in a Synodal Journey



**Opera di
Carmela Boccasile**

The first session of the IV assembly of the Italian Region was held at the generalate of the Passionist Fathers in Rome on November 1-2, 2019. The elected delegates participated, but with the intention of beginning a process involving as much as possible the nearly four hundred Sisters giving life to the ASC Region.

The underlying idea is that of undertaking a process of synodality with great conviction, which, through the successive collegial

and plenary session, can give a great number of Sisters the opportunity to contribute effectively for our life and mission. In the plenary assemblies each participate will have the opportunity to express her opinion, share her ideas and offer a consultative vote about the orientation to be taken.

The theme that was proposed by the regional administration draws inspiration from the CICLESAL document published with the approval of Pope Francis on January 6, 2017: *New Wine in New Wineskins*. Thus, we are reflecting on this topic

Have we produced new wine from our grape harvests?

Have we provided for new wineskins? (cf. Mk. 2:22)

The today of our ASC Family

The logo by which we feel represented is the image of a woman peering into a bright horizon whose brightness does not allow her to see well. In fact, we know well that we are living in great epochal change where consecrated life, and we along with it, are experiencing a deep sense of disorientation and uncertainty about the future, even though God does not stop guiding us with

His light.

However, with confidence in the Lord we want to ask ourselves 'who we are and who we want to be' so that we are witnesses of Christ and our work in the Lord's vineyard produces an abundance of new wine, which the Father desires.

In the afternoon of the first day of work, after preliminaries and a beautiful opening prayer to the Assembly, Sr. Nicla Spezzati, regional superior, presented a very concrete picture of our reality. In her report, *The new wine: the great challenge of consecrated life today*, she framed our reality as an ASC Region within the context of society and the current Church, showing us our strengths and weaknesses. Without being discouraged by the difficulties, she encouraged us to believe that the future is possible, but in a different way from how we have dreamed it up to today. She concluded with the famous prophetic words of Benedict XV, "A Church that will have lost a lot will emerge from today's crisis. She will become small and will have to start again more or less from the beginning. But, in spite of all these changes, the Church will find what is essential to Her again and with great energy. (...) The process will be long and tiring. (...) In their unspeakable solitude, people will discover the small community of believers as something totally new. They will then discover it as hope for themselves, the response they have always sought in secret (...) the Church will experience a new flowering."

In the sharing that followed during the work around the various tables, reflection was based on faith experience and our experience of personal and community mission. It led us to identify some experiential processes upon which we can focus. We are just at the beginning of a process that will now need to be deepened in plenary assemblies and shared by everyone.

Sr. Patrizia Pasquini, ASC

My God – My Favorite



A collection of poetry entitled “My God – My Favorite” was published this fall in Zagreb. It is the work of Ana Marija Miskulin, a 24-year-old woman with cerebral palsy.

The poetry collection was edited by and prepared for publication by Sister Tomislava Ćavar, professor of Croatian and head of the Editorial Center of the ASC Zagreb Region. The foreword was written by Sister Cecilija Milković, program director of the Maria De Mattias Foundation, which organized the presentation of the book. Design and graphics for the cover were done by Petra Ćurković, a student. The entire project was done in collaboration with the *Ruah* Humanitarian Association of Samobor, which promotes initiatives and programs to help children with permanent disabilities, problems with development and special needs.

Two years ago, in the fall of 2017, the Maria De Mattias Foundation made possible the publication of Ana Marija’s first collection of poetry and spiritual texts entitled “My Beloved God,” which was also edited and prepared for publishing by Sr. Tomislava.

The presentation of the book was on September 23, 2019, in the meeting hall of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Miramarska house in Zagreb. Friends of the *Ruah* Association and the MDM Foundation came to the event, along with many ASCs. A musical group of the *Ruah* Association presented music and songs to make this time together a true celebration of friendship and joy.

Sr. Sunčica Kunić was mistress of ceremonies for the program. In introducing the author, she said, “Ana Marija writes texts that express the greatness and beauty of God’s love. She lives in the St. Vincent De Paul Caritas home in Oborovo. She

herself said that since she has encountered the Lord, her wheelchair has become a blessing for her and the St. Vincent home a place she would not change with anything.

In speaking about the poetry collection, Tomislav Šovagović, theologian, journalist and writer, stated among other things, “Ana Marija expresses herself with the sincerity of a child, which is a prerequisite for any poem. Addressed to God, her poems are truly prayers and the collection is a real small prayerbook. Writing to God during times of sickness, anxiety, and suffering is a great testimony, but when these conditions are permanent, daily, then her prayer and poetry is made more powerful. (...) This is why the “My God, My Favorite” collection is, at the same time, an invitation addressed to all of us to stop complaining and crying, but to direct our words to Heaven because we are enriching the world, just like Miskulin’s second poetry collection .

In referring to the book, Sr. Tomislava Ćavar states that God gave Ana Marija a very difficult cross, from which most of us present would certainly flee! But Ana Marija does what each of us should do in difficult situations: she searches for clarity and asks why, squabbles with God, but does not flee. She accepts the suffering and tries to give it meaning. “I thank the author for having witnessed that God is everything for her.” And she recommended, “Buy a book and search for God’s word for you and God within you.”

The words of the author, pronounced with difficulty by Ana Marija herself, were warm and deeply touched everyone present. Our encounter with her evangelizes, encourages, and awes. She expressed her gratitude to all those who supported her and made the publication of the book possible. At the end, the *Ruah* musical group sang the song “Almighty God,” using the words written by Ana Marija. The audience enthusiastically enjoyed the song.

Sr. Vesna Abramovic, ASC

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) is a nation-wide campaign in India for the period 2014 – 2019, that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, towns, urban and rural areas. The campaign's official name is in Hindi and translates to "Neat and Tidy India Mission" in English.

The campaign was officially launched on October 2, 2014 at Rajghat, a significant day for Indians as it is Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday and October 2, 2019 is the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji.

To join this campaign, St. Maria School, Chund (Ranchi) organized "Swachhata Abhiyan" a Cleanliness Drive along with the teachers and students. We selected a particular village named Thakurgaon, a few kilometers away from our school. The students were very happy and excited to make posters and banners for this purpose. They also brought along with them brooms, shovels, sickles etc, to use for the clean up. October 2, 2019 is a remarkable day in the history of St. Maria School, Chund. We started from the school at 9:00 am and reached the village by 9:20 am. The president of Thakurgaon village, two police personnel and few parent representatives were all present there to support and guide us.

At first we made a parade holding the posters and banners and reciting the slogans in order to give awareness to the people about keeping their surroundings clean. Thereafter, the students were divided into small groups and started to clean up the roads and streets by removing the plastic waste, dried leaves and sweeping the roads. Some of the residents and shopkeepers of that area also joined us in this cleanliness drive. We came back to the school by 11:45 am.

It was indeed a great success. Students were very happy to be the part of this great drive and the people of that area appreciated very much this initiative from the school. It was a unique experience for all of us.

Sr. Mini Vadakumpadan, ASC



General Administration Calendar



December 4-10: Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo is in Croatia to work with the regional secretary.

December 5-22: Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel are in Tanzania to accompany the Election Assembly of the Region.

December 15 – January 11: Sr. Manuela Nocco is in Tanzania to work with the regional treasurer.

December 22: Intercongregational Christmas Concert at the Generalate in the Precious Blood Church.

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life



30

Sr. Lazara Silva Indi 12/17/1989 Guinea Bissau

40

Sr. Mariana Wegoro Peter 12/18/1979 Tanzania

60

Sr. Maria Elena Bilbao 12/01/1959 Italy

70

Sr. Edita Janko 12/13/1949 Zagreb

Sr. Maria Mercedes Redondo Gutierrez 12/22/1949 Spain

80

Sr. Antonietta Ciuffreda 12/16/1939 Italy

Sr. Esperanza Razura Villarreal 12/17/1939 USA

Sr. Rosa Pereira Teles 12/25/1939 Manaus

Sr. Maria Poppa 12/26/1939 Italy

Sr. Maria Caruso 12/28/1939 Italy

90

Sr. Lucia Pacifico 12/23/1929 Italy

Sr. Alba Falcone 12/28/1929 Italy

100

Sr. Bernice Taylor 12/25/1919 USA

Regional Assemblies

December 14- 18

Election Assembly in **Tanzania**



They have returned to their Heavenly Home

- 11/08/2019 **Sr. Marianna Konefat** Wrocław
- 11/13/2019 **Sr. Raffaella Colucci** Italy
- 11/16/2019 **Sr. Michelina Miletta** Italy

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