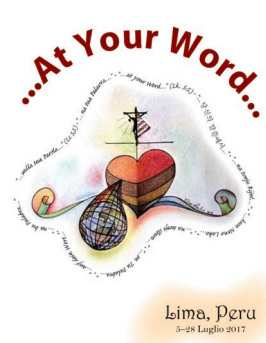


International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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A Transformation Story

Editorial

The universal Church, an expression of the presence of Jesus Christ and His Gospel in the world, has always been a watchdog of the value of human life and the sacred rights of each person. Every day the expressions of the Church, her attention toward the members of the *Mystical Body* suffering the most, the charitable spirit of those keeping the word of God in their hearts, the desire to pass on to others the trust and hope of a better world show this. In recent years, thanks to Pope Francis' choices, this awareness has been called to be expressed more concretely through tangible actions. The call to respect the human person today is also translated into denouncing forms of abuse against women, children and the most vulnerable members of society. Religious communities, together with civil institutions, are called to take up this responsibility without burying their heads in the sand. They are attentive to fighting against the general use of power, which for too long has made the human person an object and instrument of injustice, in a society that is in continuous transformation and that lays the foundation for a sanctioning harmful to the sense of what is humanity.

Countering these forms of abuse requires a demanding and profound work that can only be realized through collaboration and the use of the new means of useful communications. An example of collaboration that has had good results is the *Talitakuim* project that began with the International Union of Major Superiors (UISG) in

2009. It is an International Network of Consecrated Life, of men and women religious in 70 countries working against human trafficking. The project includes prevention programs and protection and denunciation programs for abused women. It develops educational programs of awareness and formation for promoting campaigns aimed at changing the attitudes and habits in the world.

The fact that this awareness is growing hand in hand in the Church and in the civil society and that there is collaboration among institutions is a sign of great hope.

In recent years, the Church, faced with the scandals that occurred within her, in humility has acknowledged herself as both saint and sinner, admitting her errors, and taking responsibility for the consequences, being ready to begin anew with transparency. This prophetic gesture, a dignified epilogue for which Pope JP II had already prepared the soil for in *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela* (from 2001-2004) and taken up again by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 in *Normae de Gravioribus Delictis*. Recently in his May 7, 2019 Apostolic Letter *You Are the Light of the World-MOTU PROPRIO*, expressing himself clearly about the sin against the sixth commandment that offends the dignity of the person and harms and discredits the community, Pope Francis invites every institution, including Episcopal ones and the entire Church to responsibly live the call to be light of the world in defending the weakest and the defenseless and to write up its own guidelines

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for the protection of minors and vulnerable people. He asks every human being to become a transformation of the word of Christ so that it not remain merely written word, but an act of concrete love toward the neighbor. Acting for the good of people and the community implies being aware and makes the difference. This is rooted in the Blood of Christ and inevitably makes us all vulnerable, if it were not for the fact of faith, the only way to salvation and human growth.

The charism of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, the spirit of charity toward God and the dear neighbor, is expressed in various works, some of significant missionary value, through care of relationships, sharing and compassion toward the suffering. In order to offer better protection for all people and all the sisters, as well as for all those coming into contact with our great family, the Congregation has chosen to formulate its own Guidelines. The purpose for this is to orient

our heart as a religious family, our gaze and our works more and more toward the least and the defenseless through a co-responsibility of the shared community with all of the civil society.

Christ's Gospel and St. Maria De Mattias' constant call *to have the poorest at heart*, found us Adorers ready to act in charity and hope in order to respond to a continuously changing world, to a society that wants to be cured of the illnesses such as indifference, selfishness and individualism and to contribute in an appropriate way to the signs of the times and *create that beautiful order of things that the great Son of God came to establish with his Blood*. *As ecclesial women, we are called to collaborate with Christ in his work of redemption. We accomplish this mission by witnessing to God's love and ministering that love to others, especially the poor, the oppressed, and the deprived.* (LC 3)

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



Inter-assembly Congress , July 2021 “Adorers of the Blood of Christ, today”

The Inter-assembly Congress, which we just held in an on-line format due to pandemic restrictions still being implemented, was a very meaningful experience of a Congregation called to rethink, accept and recognize itself for what it is through its beauty of diversity that speaks of dynamism, richness and versatility.

We experienced work sessions characterized by sincere and deep listening that allowed us to continue to grow in a global vision of the Congregation and recognize the unity of our charismatic culture that calls us to rearticulate our mission in a world in deep transformation.

While we give heartfelt thanks to all the participants for the wisdom of their contributions that enlightened and sustained our research and discernment, we express our gratitude for the many forms of closeness and support that came from the entire Congregation and that let us experience everyone’s interest and sense of belonging.

They were days of effective participation and a strong sense of responsibility.

The theme “...Adorers of the Blood of Christ, today” was formed in light of the experience we carry in our hearts and still feel alive on our skin: the pandemic that was a trauma for everyone, including us, women consecrated to the Blood of the Christ. It was a dramatic situation, not sparing anyone.

The experience of this pandemic has forced us to live in uncertainty and suffering. Precariousness is helping us to transform our today into a *kairós*, into a favorable time to take care of our roots, to work upon what is essential.

We are living a crisis that can be growth if we remain docile and open to the action of the Spirit.

We recognize the need and responsibility of remaining open to the Spirit and to unite ourselves to the Spirit’s creative action by revisiting our charism in order to relaunch and revitalize it so as to continue to preserve that youthfulness that makes all things new. From the charism of the Blood we can draw the power and dynamism that impel us to find new forms of presence and compromise and that express this gift in these “delicate and difficult” times. We deeply believe that these events are God’s times that allow us to

see new horizons of possibility.

During the Inter-assembly Congress as consecrated women we shared the condition of our experienced suffering, sickness and loss of sisters and family members: a very strong paschal mystery passage that has transformed our way of perceiving consecrated life and its mission in the world. All the activities that were first postponed and then inevitably suspended were the sign that something unforeseen and unpredictable was happening that had to be reckoned with: a return to the Essential with an intense spiritual life and constant attention to the most vulnerable. [...]



We took up our experiences, but also the problems and issues that have surfaced, placing them at the center of our reflection and we tried to give new and prophetic responses.

We are in a transformation process that has been greatly accelerated by this global crisis. We must take positive advantage of this revolution to change our minds and hearts and be open to the new that we also have to embrace. We experienced that what gives consistency to our consecrated life is not just what we do, what is seen, but the form of evangelical life we profess and live. [...]

In this sense, perhaps the pandemic, by highlighting our weaknesses, is helping us to grow in the humble will to walk with God by following Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

It is certain that in difficult times like experiencing is searching for sources and resources of meaning. The experience of this time may, if not redesign, modify our communities of mission and especially our fraternities.

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The pandemic has brought to light the undercurrent of good we have witnessed. We have witnessed the development of networks of solidarity by people of all ages who in various ways have helped, supported and comforted those in need. And this has been no small thing!

In the daily lives of our communities, new forms of contact with the Gospel have been created: the Gospel of proximity, witness of altruism, self-denial and happy creativity in helping those in need. Listening to the great hope that flourished in the various Regions and Foundations was important.

We shared the sprouts of newness that Christ's paschal mystery has given to our fraternities. And this was a grace.

The Congress was also a space in which we reflected together on the call coming from this pandemic emergency. We must "*become sisters and brothers,*" we must feel in solidarity with and responsible for each other. We must also take care of the weakest of the weak.

To begin again and not simply restart, then: to work intensely to build a fraternal society. We can do it if we accomplish our prophetic vocation with all that entails. The encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* can serve as a guide for us and enlighten us in this ever-patient and delicate task.

Fraternal life in community is an essential element of consecrated life and a living prophecy for this conflicted, divided and fragmented society.

We need to care for our fraternity so that it be:

- *a place of the Spirit: a place where its members live engaged in history, without ever losing sight of the One who called us to Himself. Without a passion for history, a fraternity will never say anything to its contemporaries, but without passion for Jesus, consecrated life has no future and our fraternities will not bear fruit. Passion for Jesus is what launches a fraternity/community into prophecy and commitment in the present moment;*

- *a place of integration of differences that make up our communities of life and mission: generational (the wisdom of the older sisters and the passion of the younger, the prophecy of the latter and the dreams of the former), cultural (to move from being multicultural to intercultural;)*

- *a journey together that is more than simply collaborating;*

- *to do this, we have to foster a culture of being together, of deep communications, of free circulation of words...; a community that wants to be a fraternity and prophecy has to walk together and strengthen communion among all its members;*

- *a response to the cry of wounded and lost humanity.*

Pope Francis invites us "to be architects of universal fraternity, custodians of our common home: of the earth and each creature. (cfr. Encyclical *Laudato si*) Brothers and sisters of everyone, regardless of cultures and traditions, because the future is not "monochromatic" (Ft n. 100) and the world is like a polyhedron that lets its beauty shine precisely through its various faces.

This is the reason we are called to "begin processes to accompany, transform and generate... beginning from our own vocational community to reach every corner of the earth and every creature, because never as in this time of pandemic have we experienced that everything is connected, everything is in relationship, everything is linked". (cfr. Encyclical *Laudato si*)



Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC
(cfr. from the presentation letter of the post-Congress document)

Seminar on Human Trafficking Miyuji – Dodoma, August 17-19, 2021

A seminar on awareness of illegal human trafficking was held in Miyuji, -Dodoma August 17-19. The event was organized by the Tanzanian Conference of Religious Superiors (TCAS). Seventy-seven religious women from various congregations participated and five presenters members of AFJN (African Faith and Justice Network) contributed with their experiences and knowledge on the topic. The seminar was held in the house of the Precious Blood Missionaries: the community of John Merlini, Servant of God.

The main purpose of the seminar was to deal with this problem and find ways to bring about an end to this trade. The problem exists and is spread throughout the world. Its impact upon the victims, business and the perpetrators were talked about. The suffering and the disadvantages the victims face is staggering: separation from family, psychological problems, stress, bad environments, infectious diseases and death.

The advantages for those involved in this business are easy wealth and a comfortable and luxurious life.

Some of these victims are taken by mutual agreement with family or among village leaders on false promises that are only discovered to be untrue after the victims have left. Suffering, sexual abuse, hard labor, removal of body organs (kidneys, heart, intestines, etc.) girls used as stress entertainment for men, beaten while others are

killed and never found again. Most of the time it is poverty, unemployment, lack of education, desire for a better life, false beliefs and corruption that lead to it. The human being is treated like a commodity.

The presentation of these atrocities committed against the human person created in the image and likeness of God (*Gen. 1:26-28*) shook us deeply and called us to the responsibility each of us has to raise our voices in defense of God's creation. (*Is. 1:17*)

Given the gravity and dimensions of the problem, as religious women we cannot deal with this work alone, because these organizations have used broad networks. Therefore, there is a great need to talk with the people in authority to learn the strategies they have adopted to deal with the problem.

During the seminar, we had the opportunity to visit with the offices of the Minister of the Interior, to meet Minister Simbachawene and to hear from him about the program of the Tanzanian government regarding human trafficking. After the presentation, they were happy to see the significant contribution of the Church in the fight against human trafficking.

All the presentations affirmed that this illegal trade is being strongly fought by the government to end it in this country and abroad.

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They also acknowledged that state laws have limitations, especially for those arrested. Their punishment does not correspond to the gravity of the crime. There are no laws to protect and help the victims, such as, for example, programs that provide psychological recovery and integration into the world of work.

Finally, as religious women we decided to unite with our prayer and fasting, to raise the awareness in the community about this tragedy, through the radio, newspapers, the organization of seminars and conferences in schools, strengthening the collaboration between government and the church, visiting the families on a local level to deal with the problem. We have to be courageous and united in condemning this reality, because, according to the saying: a spider's web can tie up

a lion. That means, even though the network of this business is enormous and powerful, being many we can stop it.

We thank the Tanzanian Conference of Religious Superiors (TCAS) for the preparation of the Seminar, which was an inspiration for all of us. We also thank the facilitators of the AFJN and for the CPPS community of the Servant of God, John Merlini for their hospitality toward the seminar participants. We are most grateful to our regional administration for having given us the opportunity to participate.

Participants
Sr. Everegisla Costantine, ASC
Sr. Rosalia Charles, ASC



August, Vocation Month

The Church of Brazil (through the ecclesial community, the Conference of religious men and women and each congregation in particular), celebrated the month of August as vocation promotion month and everyone was involved in various activities. We Adorers of the Blood of Christ contributed by offering our prayer with simplicity, interceding and giving thanks for all vocations and ministries.

The 2021 vocational month, inspired by the Post-Synod Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, had the theme of "*Christ saves and sends us*".

The logo "*Show Jesus Christ who has to be the center of our lives and our mission. Through his example we are witnesses of God's love in the world and led by his Spirit we are witnesses of communion and vocational synodality. Jesus Christ is the great vocation minister who awakens in our hearts the vocational gift offered by the Father. It is he who*



breathes the Spirit of love in our lives so that we can witness to the world the wonders of the Good News of our vocation: "I came that they may have life and life in abundance." (Jn. 10:10) He offers a heart burning with love that has compassion on the tired and discouraged crowds. (Mt. 9:36) He indicates the path of truth and life. He is flooded with love by the signs of his witness of faithfulness and obedience to the Father's vocational plan. The logo inspired our prayers and reflections throughout the month of our vocational journey.

Each particular Church, as well as the Conference of Religious (CRB) in the various regions, inaugurated the month with an opening activity followed by testimonies, charism displays, musical festivals, celebrations, rosaries, prayer services, etc. Most of the time the activities were always done on-line. As always, the activities tried to deepen the call to live our baptismal vocation and the specific vocations of consecrated life, priesthood and the choice of lay life with an emphasis on family life.

In our ASC communities, each had its own and original way; prayers of thanksgiving were intensified for the many women living consecrated life for the Kingdom, expressed in the various vocations and we prayed that each person might experience salvation and feel sent. All this happened through prayerful reading of the Word of God, community recitation of the vocational rosary, sharing of life and mission and participation in the celebrations.

At the end of August, let us place the reflections and prayers as seeds in God's heart so that they may be transformed into life-giving fruits for the world. Amen!

Sr. Jerusa de Castro Feitosa, ASC



A Significant Moment

Sister Jenny Sellaro's professing of final vows in June was a significant moment for the U.S. Region of Adorers. The region's last final vow celebration was a decade ago when Sister Hang Pham professed in 2011.

Sister Joan Hornick, former candidate director, said the witness of Jenny's profession and ceremony prompted many memories.

Joan witnessed Jenny's arrival in the U.S. years ago, and after Jenny discerned in Belleville and in Italy, walked with her throughout her formation and getting to know the U.S. Region of Adorers and living the ASC charism in the United States.

"I experienced Jenny, as a woman who loves Maria De Mattias and is close to her in all of her

center for many years, and when Jenny moved to the Wichita Center, we decided to go to the pool together. At 6:30 a.m., three times a week, we drove together to the pool. It was a great opportunity for the young (30+) and the old (80+) to chat, share our dreams and yes, challenge one another on those cold dark mornings!

"We were rewarded with a deep loving friendship." Sister Sarah Harbaugh, who is on her own formation journey, said she is still in disbelief that Jenny has made her forever yes.

"Wow!" she said in amazement and admiration. "That is the one word that comes to mind as I reflect back on Jenny's perpetual profession."

The two met when Jenny was visiting at the



life's circumstances, a woman who felt called to be an Adorer despite the various turns in her life," she recalled.

"As we witnessed the joy and smile on her face on June 26, and all the delight that radiated from the chapel from all of us, it was indeed a joyous and memorable event in the life of the congregation of the Adorers."

Only a week before Jenny's final vow celebration, Sister Joann Stuever had celebrated her 25th anniversary as a vowed Adorer. It seemed really fitting and a dream come true for both of them, she said.

"Sister Jenny and I are swim buddies," she said. "I had been a member of the Genesis fitness

start of her discernment of entering the U.S. region and Sarah was just starting her journey as a candidate.

"Our relationship has been one of challenging each other through our growth and ideals," she said. "I am inspired by the witness that Jenny has been for her classmates and professors in college, her coworkers at the hospital, and for those of us still in initial formation.

"The joy on her face as she professed her vows will be something I won't forget!"

(the following contributed to this article: Sisters Joan Hornick, Joann Stuever, Sarah Harbaugh and Maria Hughes).

Latino Family Ministry Ends

During Christmas of 2009, Sisters Pat Schlarman and I began visiting the Latino workers of the Henry Dairy Farm in southern Illinois.

Pat, who had recently moved to the Ruma Center, was eager to continue her fruitful ministry with Latino families in southern Illinois. I was still homesick for Bolivia and more than happy to jump into this ministry.

The dairy farm had hired Latino workers to work the milking machines for 800-plus cows. The work was strenuous, but the Latino men were happy to have a salaried job that enabled them to help their families back home. They were equally happy to see our smiling faces and taste the sweets we often brought them.

Pat and I, later joined by Sister Janet Marie Wilhelm, made sure that each worker was welcomed to our country and given thanks for the production of the milk we drink. We spoke to them in their native Spanish, a type of deep embrace with words.

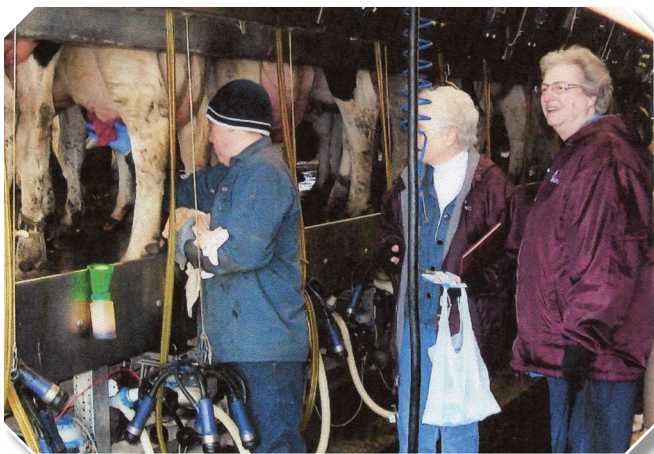
Our friendships deepened and the workers shared their stories and needs with us. Those who came with families asked that their children receive the sacraments. So, we made preparations for baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We got to know their home conditions when we shared the Good News with parents, baptism sponsors and children. One worker was baptized in our chapel at the Ruma Center.

Christmas was always special. St. John the Baptist Parish in Red Bud, Illinois, provided gifts for the families' young children. The Hispanic ministry of the Diocese of Belleville provided a monetary gift for each Latino worker.

We learned last month with sad hearts that the dairy farm was closing.

We hope that our love and appreciation of the Latino families will go with them where they are able to find a job and share their willingness to work.

Sr. Anne Irose, ASC



75th Jubilee of the ASCs of the Wrocław Region

The Polish pioneer ASCs, faithful to their vocation in the land of the former Yugoslavia in the Nazareth convent, returned to their homeland. They said, *"Other countries enjoy the presence of this Congregation, and the Lord Jesus shed his Precious Blood for Poland as well"*. Urged on by this desire, the Adorers arrived in Bolesławiec on August 2, 1946, the feast of Our Lady of the Angels. They were cordially welcomed at the train station by Fraciszka Drochomirecka (an ASC novice who had arrived beforehand with her parents in Bolesławiec) and by a large crowd of people from the place who came to greet "their sisters" with great emotion.

On Sunday, August 1, 2021, the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ celebrated the 75th anniversary of their arrival in Poland. At 11:30, a solemn Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated in the chapel of the motherhouse, the first religious house of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Bolesławiec. The Eucharist was celebrated by seven priests with Bishop Jacek Kiciński, the President of the Commission for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life of the Polish Bishops' Conference and participant of the Pastoral Commission and of the Commission of the Doctrine of Faith of the Polish Bishops' Conference, presiding.

The following participated at the Jubilee celebration: Sisters Wiesława Przybyło and Bridget Pulickakunnel – members of the

General Administration, the Sisters of various communities, our priest friends, representatives of local authorities, citizens of Bolesławiec and nearby towns and many Associates of the Blood of Christ (from Wrocław, Legnica, Lubin, Polkowice, Chocianow.) The celebration began with the praying of Lauds. Before beginning prayers, Sr. Wanda read the names of our pioneers: Sr. Lidwina Sikora, Sr. Jakuba Solawa, Sr. Anuncjata Bolek, Sr. Stanisława Kasińska, Sr. Marianna Kowalczyk, Sr. Maurycja Maziarz, Sr. Ludwika Przydział, Sr. Salomea Szuba, Sr. Bernadetta Welsandt, Sr. Pia Skrzeczek, Sr. Emma Jarosz and Sr. Kalista Zielonka.

Then Sr. Ewa Kleps, regional superior, read the greetings sent by Sister Nicla Spezzati, regional superior of Italy, and Sr. Zdravka Leutar, regional superior of Zagreb. In these greetings, we were assured of the communion among sisters in the prayer of thanksgiving for our presence in Poland. Sr. Zdravka wrote, *"On that day we will be united with you in our prayers, especially in the Eucharist, and we will thank God for you and for all the good you have done during these years in the towns of our dear Poland. We will leave to another occasion the joy of visiting you, in the hope that better times for traveling without problems will come"*.

Sr. Nicla wrote, *"The 75 years of presence in Poland have marked an important stage of a journey characterized by charismatic and apostolic commitment to the spirituality of the Precious Blood of Christ"*.



At the beginning of the Mass, Sr. Ewa Kleps presented the ministries of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ during the 75 years of presence in the Polish land. She assured all present at the Eucharist that each Adorer would sing a solemn *Te Deum* to express her gratitude to God. After World War II, through the Sisters, God fulfilled Sr. Lidwina Sikora's desire that the precious blood of Jesus Christ would become a blessing for the Polish land. Here the ASC sisters and Associates carry His message today. Sr. Ewa, in the name of the Polish ASCs, thanked God for each "dear neighbor" God placed along the paths of the apostolic service of the sisters. In thanking each Polish Adorer, she said, "Today I think of each sister with emotion, especially of those that the Lord has already called to Himself... Each of us has written and is writing the story of God's love with her life, ... a story of God's patient and sacrificial love." She also announced the next event of the jubilee year that the ASCs of the Wroclaw region: a theatrical performance of "We are Returning" prepared by the Song and Dance Group of Boleslawiec at 6:00 p.m. on August 4.

During his homily, Bishop Jacek Kiciński, in recalling the person of Abraham, emphasized that "God's call always surprises people." Through the call of Abraham, he shared that the Polish Adorers, filled with the desire to proclaim the power of the Blood of Christ and experiencing nostalgia for their country, brought the charism of St. Maria De Mattias to Poland.

"God uses our desires and does not destroy our dreams. Our job is that of guiding our dreams to give them a new quality according to God's will."

Each ASC in her apostolic ministry tries to discover the face of Christ in other people through meditation on the Word of God, participation in the Eucharist and adoration in order to acquire the gaze and heart of God in serving her dear neighbor.



At the end of the solemn Eucharist, Sr. Bridget, in the name of Sr. Nadia Coppa, general superior, addressed words of gratitude and a message to all the participants. Sr. Wiesława helped with translation.

Sr. Bridget drew attention to the current problems religious life is going through, a time of trial and bewilderment. In the face of the contemporary challenges, she encouraged the sisters to become greater witnesses of evangelical love, especially in their communities, in order to live in fraternal communion and in renewed service in and for the Church.

Following the Mass was a time of Agape with a reception of traditional Polish food, drinks and desserts. Sr. Halina Cyganowska, regional director of the Associates of the Blood of Christ, led this time with song accompanied by guitar. It was a joyous time of celebrating together.

I would like to end this reflection with the words of Sr. Bridget, "May this Jubilee be a time of praise and thanksgiving for blessings received, and a time for renewing the gratitude and enthusiasm for the mission entrusted to you, with the courage of St. Maria De Mattias. We hope that the Jubilee be a time of grace for each of us and a time of more intense meditation about vocation and mission."

Sr. Gabriela Janikula, ASC



A Breath of Friendship from Vallecorsa

For 27 years, during the beautiful days of August, one of the largest pottery fairs in Europe has been held in Bolesławiec. The event is a cultural landmark among those held in Lower Silesia and Europe. The tradition of the art of the potter's art and ceramics is cultivated in Bolesławiec. Each year about 100 exhibitors, producers of ceramics coming from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, present and sell ceramic products: utility, artistic and jewelry products. Various workshops are held in Bolesławiec during the Ceramics Festival so that those wishing to have the opportunity to personally try their hand at making clay products may do so. In addition, displays and concerts are organized during the festival.

For 10 years, the mayor of the sister-city of Vallecorsa, attends this important event. Mr. Michele Antoniani and his assistants attended this year. "A sister city" since 2008 when St. Maria De Mattias became the patroness of the city of Bolesławiec, it is in this town that the first Polish Adorers of the Blood of Christ arrived on August 2, 1946 from Bosnia to establish themselves in this city. Each year mayor Michele Antoniani visits the Adorers in Bolesławiec, joyfully entering our home.

And so, it happened again this year. On Sunday, August 22, Michele Antoniani, Antonello Palombi, both with their

wives, the president of Bolesławiec Piotr Roman and the accompanying guest Krzysztof Hewak came to visit and stayed with us for dinner. Feeling at home, Michele talked with us with joy and emotion, sharing many things with us. He emphasized the importance of this meeting because it coincides with the anniversary of the death of St. Maria De Mattias, an important person in his life. She molded his childhood and youth. He also gave credit to the ASCs of Vallecorsa, who dedicated much time to him. The Sisters' house was his second home. It was wonderful to hear that our home had also become his home, that he had noticed our openness, hospitality and warmth.

Meeting people from Maria De Mattias' hometown is always a source of emotion. That's right, Maria De Mattias would say: *"I can't be with you physically, but I'm sending you some Vallecorsans ... they are mine ... they know me, perhaps together you will know me better, and therefore, the One whom I loved"*.

In the evening, we attended the concert "Have Hope", dedicated to the doctors and those who have thoughtfully worked during the pandemic. It was a huge THANK YOU that we hope resounds for a long time in our hearts, in our ears and that will always remain on our lips.

Sr. Ewa Kleps, ASC



Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 6 : Dialogue and Friendship in Society

How do the on-going racial tensions that are exacerbated by names and words that cut to the core of a person and lead to unimaginable violence touch your heart? How do images of immigrants and migrants packed like sardines on boats or trying to keep their heads above water amid surging seas affect your dreams, waking and sleeping? Where in your body do you feel the effects of the pandemic with its restrictions, fears, grief, pain, isolation, and separation? To what action does the failure of leaders to respond to the real needs of their people because of political “fallout” or possible loss of position lead you? Or does it?

All of this, and so much more, has become almost “normal,” not even seen or noticed by so many: “It doesn’t affect me and my life...” But yes, it does! Our hearts, shaped and formed by the Blood of Christ, are sensitive to the hatred and violence that is so prevalent in our world today. And not just in the world “out there,” but in the world of our schools, parishes, homes, cities, countries... Our hearts are broken open to allow the pain and suffering of our world “in,” where compassion and healing can be felt, experienced, and shared.

The Maryknoll Center for Global Concerns takes Pope Francis’ words about “Social Dialogue” as the focus for this month’s reflection. The Pope is inviting a new type of conversation - one that crosses perceived boundaries and separations and brings unity in goals and mutuality in working for the common good. He calls it “social dialogue” which leads to understanding and a “culture of encounter” which breaks down walls of ignorance, leading to new ways of being together for each other.

What we say matters. How we say it matters. How we hear words matters. It matters very much. Words can either separate or draw into communion. Maria De Mattias knew the power of words – she used her gift of the word to proclaim the freedom and reconciliation that are ours in the Blood of Christ. She used words to bring about unity and peace. She engaged others in dialog about the love of the abundant love of God enfleshed in Christ Jesus. Her words were not always trusted – at least by the hierarchy of the Church – after all, she was an uneducated woman teaching the mysteries of the Kingdom to the little ones... But her words were the words of Christ, learned in the school of the Crucified, and that they had power to save, to make whole, to lead the community to truth and unity. Hers were the words of God.

Our words matter, too. How we engage others in dialog, in mutual respect and acceptance of both diversity and commonality, when we speak with conviction of “what we ourselves have seen and heard,” our prophetic words will make an impact on society, on the real lives of people. Misunderstandings will happen, as they did with Maria. Sometimes people will not even try to understand the meaning we are trying to convey or even consider entering the conversation, the encounter. But Maria teaches us to continue, to trust in the power of the Word of God to heal and renew, to reconcile and refresh and to bring into our broken and hurting world kindness rather than indifference, and genuine concern for our dear neighbor.

For reflection:

- What would Pope Francis’ “culture of encounter” look like where you live?***
- What concrete steps will you take to make it a reality?***



Sr. Toni Longo, ASC

General Administration Calendar



September 13 - 17: Planning Time

**Birthdays:
Let's Celebrate Life**



40th birthday

Sr. Alphonsina Aleksandri Msale 09.09.1981 Tanzania

60th birthday

Sr. Janikula Gabriela 22.08.1961 Poland
 Sr Rose Hawa Hassan Tantau 10.08.1961 Tanzania
 Sr. Simplicija Šimić 17.08.1961 Zagreb
 Sr. Ataria Patricia 21.08.1961 Argentina
 Sr. Lalitha Varakukalayil 18.09.1961 India
 Sr. Dominga Alarcon 14.09.1961 Bolivia

80th birthday

Sr. Caterina Ronci 16.08.1941 Italy
 Sr. Droszczak Urszula 14.08.1941 Poland
 Sr. Anđela Golub 21.09.1941 Zagreb
 Sr. Gravinese Antonietta 14.09.1941 Italy
 Sr. Cristina Viscio 25.09.1941 Italy

90th birthday

Sr. Giuseppina Monaldi 25.09.1931 Italy

Religious Professions



September 4, 2021

**25th Anniversary of Religious Profession
Poland Region**

Sr. Iwona Wanke, ASC

September 15, 2021

1st Religious Profession Region of Manaus

*Sr. Joice Barbosa Duarte, ASC
 Sr. Benedita Pinto Conceição, ASC*

**OUR BLESSING
AND PRAYERS!**



**They have returned to the
Father's House**

02.08.2021	Helga Vogt	Schaan
24.08.2021	Adelina Zurlo	Italy
31.08.2021	Dalvanira Maria Alves Camelo	Brazil
18.09.2021	Beata Lagundžić	Zagreb
24.09.2021	Giuseppina di Mauro	Italy

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Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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