

International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Year XXVI – Issue 4
July - August 2024

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

www.adoratrici-asc.org redazioneasc@adoratrici-asc.org [Adoratrici del Sangue di Cristo/Adorers of the Blood of Christ](https://www.facebook.com/Adoratrici-del-Sangue-di-Cristo/)

Time and Space

A beautiful season has begun, at least in this part of the Northern Hemisphere. A time that is usually characterized by long, sunny days and, now increasingly, by heat that tests our endurance. It is also a time when one feels the need to pull the plug from the usual routine, from work, from school, from the various commitments one carries on all year round. One feels the need to rest, to relax, to do something different from the usual.

In our case, we consecrated women feel the need not only for physical and mental rest but also for a spiritual one. I do not mean that we need to take a 'vacation' from prayer, but, on the contrary, to perhaps experience another dimension of it, a more intimate and personal one that can be listened to and experienced away from daily commitments and the worries of chores to be done.

Besides the beautiful season, I wish you all time and space to dedicate to yourselves to the integral care of your persons. I wish each one to rediscover the beauty of an encounter with Jesus 'outside' of community time, whether for five minutes or the whole day. I wish you a time of rediscovering the rhythm of your heart resting in the shadow of God's. I wish you, dear sisters, to enjoy life in its wholeness and to discover all the reasons to thank the One who has given it to us.

Sr. Barbara Perali, ASC

Editorial

Table of Contents

Editorial

♦ Time and Space

From the ASC World

♦ Precious Blood Week in Kisasa Dodoma

♦ Study Visit

♦ Mission in Indonesia

♦ Temal Regan Becomes a Member of the Catholic Church

♦ Giving Voice

♦ A Marvel to Open Eyes ... Contemplating Creation and Its Creator

1	♦ Discernment Weekend	7
	♦ Days of Study and Recreation on Krk Island	7
2	♦ XXVI Ordinary Regional Assembly	8
3	Special Events	
4	♦ Pilgrimage in Italy	9
5	In the Congregation	
5	♦ Religious Profession Anniversaries	10
	♦ Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life	10
6	♦ They Have Returned to their Heavenly Home	10

Precious Blood Week in Kisasa Dodoma*Blessed Be the Blood of Christ!*

We thank God for the opportunity we had to participate in the Precious Blood Week Conference held in the parish of the Virgin Mary Queen of the Precious Blood in Kisasa, Diocese of Dodoma. The sisters who attended belonged to the Miyuji Community, Sr. Erica Thadei, Sr. Getruda Faustus, Sr. Agnes Andrea, Sr. Leticia Charles and Sr. Anjelister Erasmus, and the Hope Village Community, Sr. Maria Mathias, Sr. Delphina Thomas and Sr. Mariana Peter. The main topic was the Lamb:

- The Lamb in the Old Testament - presented by Fr. Sosthenes Ndendya, C.P.P.S
- The Lamb in the New Testament - presented by Fr. Benjamini Mwinuka, C.P.P.S
- The Lamb in the Holy Mass - presented by Fr. Abel Misanga, C.P.P.S
- History of the Servant of God John Merlini - presented by Fr. Simon Aloyce, C.P.P.S

The first day we started by offering Mass presided over by the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Fr. Vedastus Ngowi, C.P.P.S.

We learned that human beings prayed to God, sacrificed animals and even asked for forgiveness for slaughtering a lamb. We also saw that in the Old Testament, the kind of sacrifice they offered to God was a SACRIFICE FOR SIN, OF ATONEMENT, OF THANKSGIVING, OF PRAISE AND OF REDEMPTION. We also saw that the Lamb is a symbol of PEACE. (Isaiah 53:7)

On the second day we saw the Lamb in the New Testament, Christ himself, who restored to us what we had lost. Christ is the Lamb blessed with intelligence, who taught us to have a heart of RECONCILIATION, SACRIFICE AND PURIFICATION. Christ does away with all sacrifices in His body and unites us to make us one in Him. He is the peace and hope that we can give ourselves together with FAITH.

On the third day we saw the Lamb that is Christ Himself in the Mass offering Himself as food for people. People sacrificed animals, but Christ sacrificed Himself on the cross for redemption. During Mass when we proclaim the mystery of faith we remember and relive the mysteries given on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Then we love and participate in the Holy Mass.

On the last day we retraced the story of the Servant of God, John Merlini who was secretary of the C.P.P.S. Congregation and spiritual director of St. Maria De Mattias. Fr. John advocated to the Holy Father for the extension of the feast and devotion of the Precious Blood to the whole Church and throughout the world. We thank God that thanks to the miracles he performed he will soon be declared blessed. We continue to ask him to pray for us in our needs.

The conference ended with Holy Mass celebrated by Tanzania Provincial Secretary Fr. Felix Mushobozi, C.P.P.S., followed by a dinner for the priests, ASCs and Blood of Christ Associates.

*Sr. Erica Thadei, ASC
Community of Miyuji*



Study Visit

In the region of Morogoro

On June 20 and 21, a study visit was held for some students from Maria De Mattias School in Dodoma. The students were taken by school buses from their places of residence as arranged by the school administration, and once everyone arrived at the school, Father Eugene Nchimbi, C.P.P.S., led a moment of prayer before starting the journey. A total of 251 students and 17 staff and teachers left at 1:30 a.m.



At about 11 a.m., the group stopped in the Dakawa area to allow students to get in touch with and remember the death of Edward Moringe Sokoine, the former prime minister of the first phase of the Tanzanian government. Once they arrived in Morogoro, around 2 p.m., the students had lunch before visiting the farms of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) where they witnessed fish farming. After visiting the college (SUA), the group visited the home of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ and ended the first day by visiting the waterfall at the edge of the Uluguru Mountains where there is also a wildlife farm. Also in that area they learned about the behavior of wildlife and wild birds in the area.

On the second day, June 21, students and teachers woke up early in the morning to begin their journey to Mikumi National Park, accompanied by tour guides who told the history of the Mikumi Reserve and more. The students also saw wildlife and were instructed on the wildlife's behavior. They were very happy to see different environments.

After leaving the Mikumi reserve, the students and teachers had lunch and then returned Dodoma, where they arrived around 4 p.m. Parents were waiting for them at the school and greeted them with cheers and shouts.

The study visit to the Morogoro region was a successful event. Students were able to learn about the history and commemorate the death of Edward Moringe Sokoine (former Prime Minister) and gained insights into agriculture and fish farming. The overnight accommodations were good as well as the meal arrangements. The children and staff could also benefit from the health care of a nurse

in case they needed it. The school staff was punctual from early morning and performed their duties with great care and professionalism. The experience was also possible because of the reliable transportation service, which was essential since cars were not available.

*Sr. Eva Thobias, ASC
Sr. Beatrice Hillary, ASC e
Sr. Mariana Peter, ASC
Community of the Village of Hope*

Indonesian Mission

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your insight. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. [Prov. 3:5-7]

The dream of the India Region came true when three of us, Sr. Mini Vadakumchery, our Provincial; Sr. Mini Vadakumpadan and Sr. Renita travelled from India to Indonesia on April 21, 2024 at 7.15 pm. We reached Flores Island, Indonesia on April 23, 2024 evening. We experienced many hurdles and difficulties on our way before reaching the destination. We were staying at St. Camillious Social Centre for the first 10 days. Sr. Jisha, a Sister belonging to the Congregation of Divine Love of Jesus was supporting us from time to time when we landed in Indonesia.

We had gone different places to look for a house, convenient, spacious; and at the same time, at a reasonable rent. After a few days, we found a house for rent for our stay. Thereafter, we were busy in cleaning the house and setting up things and also buying various items like utensils, furniture, provisions etc. The house was blessed by Fr. Romo Datus, the Parish Priest on May 5, 2024 at 3.00 pm. Fr. Luiji, the Director of Camillious Social Centre, Fr. Donato, the Rector of Stymatine Novitiate House; Divine Love Sisters and a few candidates, our neighboring families were all present for the blessing. Thus, we began our ASC presence in Indonesia.

Almost 55% of the total population of Flores Island is Catholic and 90% Christians. There are lots of vocations every year to different Congregations. 48 Deacons are to be ordained in the coming days. We are surrounded by Catholic families. We started to go to the families every day to pray the Rosary with them and have meals together sitting in a circle and eating from the same plates. This was a very good experience. We did not know what language to speak to them and neither did we understand what they spoke to us. We observed everything in silence. From day one forward, we started using Google translator. Their food, culture, customs – everything was unknown to us, totally new in all respects.

We were feeling home-sick and lonely for few days in the beginning. It was mainly because of lack of communication with these people and we were also not able to connect to with other ASCs, friends and family members due to very poor internet connection. But we trusted in the Word of God [Jos 1:9] and St. Maria De Mattias' words: "Let us love the cross very much, for it is there that we discover our life, our true love and our strength in our greatest difficulties".

Strengthened and encouraged by these words, we continue to go ahead with learning a new language; getting to know their culture, custom, food etc. We thank, from the bottom of our hearts, our Regional Administration and all our sisters for accompanying us with their prayers and making us feel their love through phone calls.

We truly believe that the ASC charism and spirit are alive in new soil through the root of India Region. May St. Maria De Mattias intercede for us.



ASC Community in Indonesia

Tamal Regan Joins the Catholic Church

God's astonishing Spirit descended profoundly upon the faith community at the Wichita Center's Woman of the New Covenant Chapel on May 18 when Tamal Regan experienced his Rite of initiation into the Catholic faith.

Tamal expressed his deep faith by choosing to become a member of the Catholic Church, consequently, receiving three Sacraments: Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation on Pentecost. His witness was a significantly graced moment for the sisters. For some sisters, this moment reminded them that hope and new life is all around, as our own active ministerial diminishment is embraced.

His mother, Marguerite, is an Associate Professor of English and the Director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Newman University and has been at Newman for more than 18 years. She has strong, extensive roots with the Adorers. Marguerite expressed her feelings to the sisters.

"I am so graced and blessed that my dear son made all three sacraments on Pentecost in the chapel of the sisters. Wow! Your chapel has long been a welcoming, inclusive place--dear to my heart--since I arrived at Newman 18 years ago. As for Fr. Tom, he guided Tamal who was struggling to appreciate the value of his multi-racial and multi-religious family roots, and he helped the young man to discover his chosen space of belonging in this complicated story.

"A fun fact. I heard Sanctus bells ringing at the very moment that Fr. Tom and Fr. Immanuel were elevating the host and chalice. Maybe you heard them too? At first, I thought nothing of it. Then I remembered that those bells aren't typically rung in the chapel, and I was slightly mortified to think it was my cellphone, the volume of which had to be turned up for Sr. Jenny to do the livestream. But then I laughed in my soul to think that these "Sanctus-sounding" bells, triggered by the security camera in my backyard, had rung exactly at that moment. The wind had set off the security camera and announced its arrival, demonstrating once again that the Spirit blows where it will. Holy, Holy, Holy.

"I thank all of the sisters for opening your house to me and my family for this most special and joyous moment in our lives."

Sr. Diana Rawlings, ASC

Giving Voice



In the last paragraph of Dr. Connie Zweig's interview "Shifting from Role to Soul" in the winter 2024 Occasional Papers, she addresses younger sisters and says, "Cultivate practices that help you stay connected to yourself, your deeper needs, and your gifts."

One organization that has helped me stay connected to myself is called *Giving Voice*, which is for women under 50 and includes members across the U.S. and some members missioned across the globe.

Zweig's statement fits well with the *Giving Voice* purpose statement which reads, "We seek to live our vocations rooted in our congregational charisms and grounded in God's hope for the future of religious life. We seek to connect with one another to strengthen our commitment, deepen our fidelity to religious life, foster connections that sustain our vocations, and create ways to live religious life in the present and into the future."

I find a lot of life within the group, and I have become more active within the group with participation in local gatherings and joining the core team this past year. We are an international group that eats, prays, plays, and finds life together. In St. Louis, we try to gather once a month and often see each other at Masses or local vocation events.



The core team continues to help me grow as an Adorer and younger religious to find my voice and challenge us to grow and bring as many voices to the table as we can. We continue to find hope and joy in religious life and support each other in the daily happenings of life. *Giving Voice* helps me to take some words of Connie Zweig, find attunement with myself and help me keep uncovering what is next for me.



Sr. Kristen Forgotch, ASC

Europe
Region of Italy

A Marvel to Open Eyes ... Contemplating Creation and its Creator

With youth and children

On May 18, 2024, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ organized a day of spirituality in Acuto with the theme, "A marvel with open eyes...contemplating creation and its Creator." About sixty youth and children from different neighboring towns participated in the event.

Between the "Casa Madre" of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the pond, the young people experienced several significant moments. The encounter with St. Maria De Mattias, through the

visit of the places, led them to the 19th century, a century of great ideals and changes... precisely in that period when the figure of this woman emerged, the "obedient rebel," the "woman of the Word," the "apostle of the Blood of Christ," the "witness of Love."

The fatigue of walking to reach a goal, the pond, made them reflect on how tiring it is to reach a goal, and in that very place at least they were able to taste how beautiful it is to conceive of life as a wonderful vocation to love, listening to witnesses and engaging with Love, Jesus Christ. In agape and shared joy they were able to experience the beauty of being together in fraternity.

We thank all those who made this event possible: the priests, Fr. Bruno Durante and Fr. Francesco Frusone, the mayor of Acuto, Augusto Agostini, and all the people who generously helped us.



Sr. Cleopatra Subiaco, ASC

Discernment Weekend

From May 17-19 this year, a spiritual retreat for girls who are discerning their vocation in life (and we also had a boy) was held at the Monastery of Mary Coredemptrix in Ivanečki Vrhovec (Croatia). During the days spent together we played, prayed, meditated personally and shared together on metanoia, that is, the change of mentality. Following the Gospel text, we asked ourselves like the rich young man, "What do I still lack?" (Mt 19:20). With the vigil of Pentecost, we welcomed the feast of Pentecost and, with hearts full of the abundant graces received, we await and rejoice in all the fruits that God has already begun to sow.

Gabrijela Ćurić



Day of Study and Recreation on Krk Island

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for sisters to live together!" (Ps 133)

This awareness, the words and exclamation of the psalmist in Psalm 133 were experienced and witnessed by the novices of seven different religious congregations, as well as by their formators and the sisters who accompanied them on the day of study and recreation held on May 23 on the island of Krk (Croatia).

Our first destination was the monastery of the Benedictine nuns, who have been on this island for no less than 800 years. Sharing her story, one of the nuns encouraged us to surrender ourselves completely to Jesus and His guidance, as He always brings everything to a good end.

After a quiet walk and refreshment beside the blue sea, the most beautiful moment of the day soon arrived: Holy Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Krk, Monsignor Ivica Petanjak. Inspired by the gospel of the day and his personal experience as an educator, he moved our hearts with his simplicity and encouraged us to live religious life radically.



In the same cathedral, we had the opportunity to pray at the tomb of God's servant, Bishop Antun Mahnić, a fervent reformer and patron of this diocese.

As is often the case among us, there was no shortage of jokes and laughter and especially singing together, all of which fully reflect the beauty of communion.

Marija Stojanović, ASC novice

XXVI Ordinary Regional Assembly

On June 1, 2024, at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Convent in Zagreb (Miramarska cesta 100), the second plenary session of the XXVIth Ordinary Regional Assembly was held on the theme: "Making every season of one's life fruitful by living the paschal identity in the Church and society."

The work of the Assembly began with Holy Mass with Monsignor Nedjeljko Pintarić presiding. His words in the homily remained deeply imprinted in our minds and hearts, because they invited us to announce and witness with actions instead of words.

Keeping with the Assembly's program, in the morning we focused on the "triple evaluation" of the Guidelines established at the first plenary meeting. Sister Zdravka Leutar, regional superior, presented the results of an anonymous survey in which the sisters had the opportunity to answer questions about how they personally experienced the Guidelines. The second step of the evaluation focused on our joint projects, while the third focused on the decisions made for the care of elderly and sick sisters.

Afterwards, the project for the implementation of the online community of the Blood of Christ for youth, in collaboration with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, was presented.

In the afternoon, the work of the Assembly focused on the 2023 GA Direction Statement and Acts, followed by work in groups based on the feedback from the in-depth study of the 2023 GA Direction Statement done in the communities prior to the plenary assembly. An attempt was made to identify the innovations and challenges we see in our Region as we approach the upcoming Elective Assembly.

Based on the results of the work presented in the plenary, an ad hoc committee proposed the text of the guidelines which, after a discussion, was approved.

The work together was concluded with an evaluation and prayer of thanksgiving to God, blessing each other.



Sr. Marija Bilanović, ASC



Pilgrimage to Italy

The Faithful from St. Maria De Mattias Parish Mivumoni Dar Es Salaam-Tanzania

From April 21-27, 2024, 45 pilgrims from Saint Maria De Mattias parish participated in a spiritual pilgrimage in Italy as part of the preparation for the parish's 10th anniversary. The main objective of this pilgrimage was to visit the three important places in the life of Maria De Mattias, the Patron Saint of the parish.

The first place was Acuto, where St. Maria De Mattias began her evangelization and instituted the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. The second place was Vallecorsa, where Maria De Mattias was born and grew up, and received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The third place was the generalate of the Congregation in Rome.

This pilgrimage was a great blessing to us as we visited these places where Saint Maria De Mattias lived, experienced and proclaimed the Word of God to children, women and men.

In this pilgrimage we discovered that Maria's faith was enlightened by her father's faith and role during her childhood formation. His teachings laid a strong foundation of faith and enthusiasm in her vocation.

As a teacher to the children and foundress of the ASCs in Acuto, Maria was courageous and very creative. By her example, we too feel strongly called to make use of our intellect and talents in our daily life as believers, parents and professionals in building God's Kingdom.

In general, Maria De Mattias teaches us the importance of faith in serving others with love and humility, and to give value to education and truly commit ourselves to what we believe in. She is an excellent model of how a life dedicated to God and others can have lasting benefits in our Christian life.

In all the places we visited, the sisters' love and generosity was unique as they devoted themselves lovingly and kindly to explain the life of St. Maria De Mattias, the history of their congregation and their mission around the world. They neither showed boredom nor anger to our many questions especially aimed at understanding more about St. Maria De Mattias.

Therefore, we really listened to the melody of her life and we were touched by the beauty of the congregational mission that we experienced wherever we went through the love, generosity and publications which the sisters shared with us.



Pilgrims

Religious Profession Anniversaries

July 1 – Belleville

70th Anniversary

Sr. Genarose Buechler

Sr. Martha Wachtel

Sr. Rose Anthony Mathews

75th Anniversary

Sr. Elizabeth Kolmer

Sr. Mary Rachel Lawler

81th Anniversary

Sr. Dolores Ann Rapp

82th Anniversary

Sr. Leona Luechtefeld

July 1 – Schaan

60th Anniversary

Sr. Zita Resch

70th Anniversary

Sr. Ruth Moll

July 8 – Wrocław

25th Anniversary

Sr. Elżbieta Mróz

Sr. Ewa Wąsowska

July 14 – Wichita

50th Anniversary

Sr. Diana Rawlings

Sr. Barb Smith

August 15 – Zagreb

25th Anniversary

Sr. Ana Lipovac

60th Anniversary

Sr. Fabijan Jagodin

Sr. Renata Piličić

Sr. Virginija Kolić

Sr. Lucija Grgić

August 18 – Zagreb

50th Anniversary

Sr. Ana Maria Antolović

Sr. Ankica Klepić

Sr. Magdalena Šokić

Sr. Marinka Tadić

August 25 – Columbia

65th Anniversary

Sr. Adele Vecchione

70th Anniversary

Sr. Mary Clare Reineberg



Our Best Wishes and prayers

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

July

40th Birthday

Sr. Shiny Kayyaniyl	07/08/1984	India
Sr. Genesis Thomas Baraka	07/14/1984	Tanzania

90th Birthday

Sr. Carmela Azzarone	07/01/1934	Italy
Sr. Maria Marrano	07/05/1934	Italy

August

40th Birthday

Sr. Immakulata Michael Sayumwe	08/24/1984	Tanzania
---------------------------------------	------------	----------

60th Birthday

Sr. Bernadetta Pajdzik	08/07/1964	Wrocław
Sr. Elsie Auzier Vinhote	08/24/1964	Brazil

80th Birthday

Sr. Ivone (Raimunda) Alves de Freitas	08/18/1944	Brasile
Sr. Renata Piličić	08/25/1944	Zagreb

90th Birthday

Sr. Cecilia Hellmann	08/07/1934	USA
Sr. Leonora (Waldelira) da Paz Pinto	08/11/1934	Brazil



International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Bimonthly Newsletter
edited by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ

International Communications – General Administration
 Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 ROME
Year XXVI, Issue 4, July - August 2024

Editorial Committee
Barbara Perali, ASC
Debora Brunetti

Translations by
S. Matija Pavić - Croatian
S. Betty Adams - English
S. Anastazia Floriani - Swahili
S. Bozena Hulisz - Polish
S. Clara Albuquerque - Portuguese
S. Miriam Ortiz - Spanish
S. Johanna Rubin - German

They have returned to their Heavenly Home

06/10/2024	Sr. Ione Di Giulio	Italy
07/08/2024	Sr. Lucia Ramunno	Italy
24/07/2024	Sr. Lucille Kern	USA