

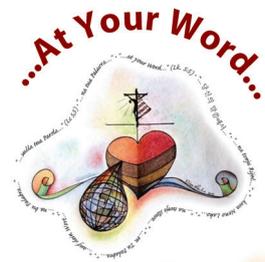
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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

www.adoratrici-asc.org

redazioneasc@adoratrici-asc.org



Lima, Peru
3-28 Luglio 2017

Year XXI – Issue 5, May 2019

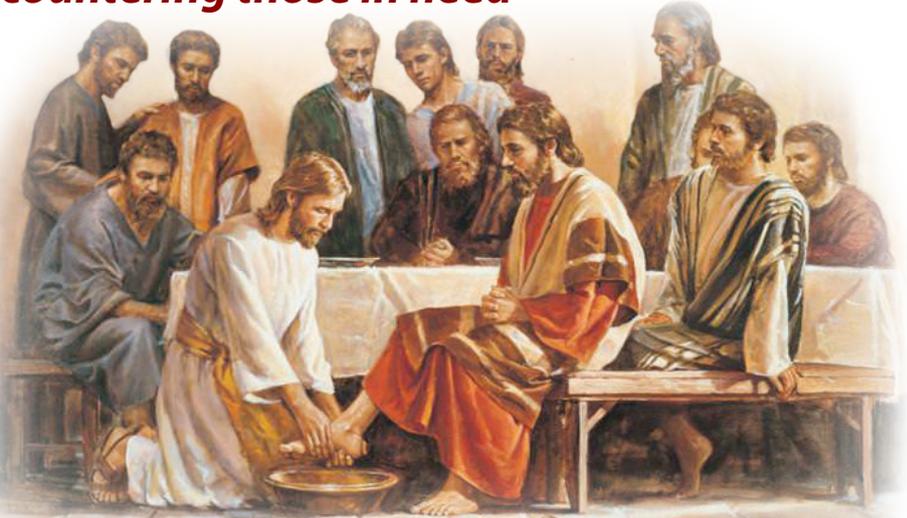
Encountering those in need

In speaking about our apostolic identity, our ASC Constitution reminds us that the realization of our mission of collaboration in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ is in our openness to others, in witnessing God's love and especially in our giving to the poor and outcast.

In our life as Adorers, our encounter with the poor, the voiceless and the invisible means discovering Christ's face. There are many stories we witness each day. Stories of human weaknesses and poverty that become Resurrection events. Our lives, given and open to searching, to accepting, to listening to that face in which we catch a glimpse of Christ, wounded, soiled, disappointed or depressed, become the theological place of encounter, care for the wounds and friendly presence generating hope for those suffering loneliness.

Especially in this issue, the story of the experience of Sr. Serafina Cinque and the Sisters, like Sr. Iolanda and others, testifies that the Spirit makes us holy in service offered joyfully and simply, identifying us more and more with our crucified and risen Christ.

During his recent apostolic visits in the Arab lands, Pope Francis also emphasized the value of human brotherhood as the only way toward world peace and living together, the only door open to the future. Justice based on mercy is the road to travel in



order to reach a dignified life to which every human being has the right.

The gospels of our Lenten days, with the different human stories of Jesus intertwined with denials and acceptance, illnesses and healings, which accompanied us in our preparation journey to Easter, called us to transformation. God's Word reminds us that there is no life without encounter, there is no hope for a new beginning if not in the mutual acceptance that heals us. Remaining trapped in sterile regrets does not help, but becoming like the chrysalis which leaves its cocoon behind in order to be transformed into a butterfly and spread its wings to the joyous warmth of spring, does. Jesus' forgiveness of the sinner woman witnesses that He came so that a new beginning can be found in Him and everyone is given the opportunity of new life.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

Summary

Editorial

◇ Encountering those in need

General Administration Space

◇ Canonical Visitation Experience

From the ASC World

◇ And the dream continues...

◇ Women's Day Celebration 2019

◇ Songs, Clown and Paschal Mystery

◇ Blood of Christ, stream of mercy, save us

1	◇ 185th Anniversary of Foundation	9
	JPIC/VIVAT Space	
2	◇ "We want to be the voice of those who have no voice"	10
	In the Congregation	
5	◇ General Administration Calendar	11
6	◇ Birthdays: let's celebrate life	11
7	◇ Anniversaries of Religious Profession	11
8	◇ They have returned to their Heavenly Home	11

Canonical Visitation Experience

*The Sisters of the Zagreb Region
gladly share their 2019 canonical visitation experience
with the entire Congregation*

My experience of the canonical visitation was like a special gift from God. The General Superior and her Council respectfully and lovingly showed us the things that are not going well and what can be improved. Transformation requires patience and attention.

Everything grows gradually, but God alone makes things grow. Love and effort were invested in this canonical visitation and I participated in the meetings with an open heart. I experienced simplicity and encouragement. We all noted differences but also things in common. I felt how important each Sister is and her opinion and feelings. We all had enough time to say what we wanted. In an atmosphere of sincerity, we made decisions about what we want to put into practice. These small, but concrete steps will certainly help us greatly to grow in community. I thank the General Administration for the preparation and time dedicated to us, for their simplicity, humility, love and genuine concern and interest in each Sister.

Sr. Katica Tušek, Banja Luka

I truly experienced this visitation as an “encounter.” Though I knew that everything had been prepared (materials, tasks, times for personal and communal work, sharing, ...) it seemed to me as if everything was evolving spontaneously, and therefore, it was wonderful and enriching.

Sr. Marija Bilanović, Zagreb, Miramarska

I am very happy and I admired the preparation and the work done by our General Administration. The contents were rich. I was especially happy because the General Administration visited our community of Ražanac. Glory to the Blood of Christ!

Sr. Ana Iveljić, Ražanac

I experienced this visitation with great emotion. I was impressed by their simplicity and approach. The program, rich in content, was carried out well and it was encouraging for me, an Adorer of the Blood of Christ. Our Regional Superior, Sr. Ana Marija Antolović, translated very clearly, calmly and with dignity.

Sr. Virginija Kolić, Bjelovar

The meeting with the General Administration let me experience communion and diversity through the various cultures and symbols of our ASC charism. I admired the ways and richness of living the Gospel in the various realities and missions. I thank God for all the richness I “memorized in my heart” and I ask Him for the grace and strength to live it in my daily life.

Sr. Benita Antolović, Vrsar

I was encouraged by the visitation of our Sisters through the meetings we had. I go forward with renewed desire to deepen my ASC spirituality and communion with all our Sisters and all our loved ones.

Sr. Ljubica Radovac, Okučani



General Administration Space

From the beginning the canonical visitation filled my life with newness. We had a rich experience and opportunity for growth. We are grateful for the journey through which we felt we contribute to the richness of the Church. We are happy because we can witness to God's face in community, to the people with whom we work and those we encounter. The theme of the visitation gave us a clear vision of what our lifestyle has to be. Thanks to the General Administration for having given us this time of communion and interest.

Sr. Ljubica Šumić and Sr. Severina Šokić, Bihać

When I think about the meeting with the general administration, my heart is filled with gratitude and I lack words to express everything I felt. The activities, gestures, looks – everything is etched in my heart and gave me new strength for daily life. "Hearts in communion, Gospel in the world," is a very concrete and current theme. I often go back in my memory to the days of our meetings, to what we shared together. I am especially grateful for the wonderful atmosphere that was created among us, for the openness, freedom of dialogue, and understanding. Our personal and communal wings for our dreams grow in this way. My personal decision, following the group meeting was significant for me. I will committedly try to put the decision into practice in my daily life, this decision representing the true fruits of our group meeting. I am especially grateful to God and to my Sisters for this and for everything!

Sr. Sunčica Kunić, Zagreb, Miramarska

The thought guiding me during the canonical visitation was the Scripture passage of Philippians 2:2-5 (hearts in communion: Gospel in the World ...) We worked personally and in groups with very vital dynamics, which were often current to our life situations. My Sisters gladly participated and wanted to say what they thought. The program included working with symbols. This was the true communication of the image of communion expressed in a very concrete and creative way. For me the international experience was an enrichment that creates new experiences and new thoughts about the charism of communion. The universality of God's saving love goes beyond the pictures of the people, cultures, and religions because it touches each person. The love of the Holy Spirit was poured out in all of humanity to open it and gather it into the true source of love, in the Father.

Sr. Ankica Klepić, Zagreb, Trešnjevka

The canonical visitation was done in a spontaneous and balanced spirit, thanks to the previously done preparation work and the planning of the meetings. I felt that we gathered with Jesus in the field of our experiences of personal and communal life as we were together in communion. The Holy Spirit was acting and spoke through the mouths of each of us. The sharing and listening to others helped me to easily read my attitudes, express my experiences and situations, and remind me of what is important.

Sr. Jadranka Obućina, Sarajevo

In a spirit of joy and expectation, we were all ready to listen to what the Lord is saying to us through the canonical visitation – "Hearts ... in Communion: Gospel in the World." In the times of personal and group reflection and during the sharing of our experiences, we felt the call to spiritual growth and transformation. The meeting with the General Administration left us in joy and peace with the desire to grow in order to have ... the sentiments that were in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 2:3)

Sisters of the Nova Topola community

The canonical visitation was a wonderful experience of communion for me. It encouraged me to an ongoing journey in faith and made me better understand that what I do is for the growth of the Congregation. I was amazed at the readiness of the General Administration to listen to each Sister. They gave time to each person and learned our names. It was demanding but fruitful.

Sr. Zvonimira Borščak, Zadar

General Administration Space



And the dream continues...

In 1970s, our Sister Serafina Cinque began to gather pregnant women of the Transamazonia who had no place to give birth. And still today we continue to try to help in the Divine Providence Home, run by the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, recently under the leadership of Sister Zélia Valentim, ASC.

The dream, which became a reality in the 1980s, has three pavilions:

1- The St. Gaspar Refuge, which receives people needing medical consultations and lab work, has 60 beds. This house is always full of people coming from other towns who have no financial means to paying for housing. Here they receive transportation to go to the hospital and they can have three meals a day: breakfast, dinner and a snack in the evening.

2- Divine Providence Home receives pregnant women with difficult pregnancies. These women as well are not able to pay for health care. Each woman brings someone with her who stays with her in the hospital for the delivery and for the following days.

3- The residence of the Adorers, which is always open to give hospitality to people who ask and especially to collaborators who work in the three houses, cleaning, being receptionist and working in the garden, kitchen and laundry. There are also night guards for the three homes. Felipe, the driver, takes patients where they need to go for appointments and lab work throughout the day.

Nursing services are under the care of the dedicated nurse, Regina, who is always ready to respond with a smile and serve those in need of her help.

After breakfast each day the guests of the Refuge and women of Divine Providence Home go to the chapel for morning prayer and reflection on the day's gospel reading with the collaborators and the Sisters.

Each Thursday Father Lucas Fuertes, CPPS, celebrates the Eucharist at 3:00 p.m. On Sunday the Catholic guests (many are of other religions), and the pregnant women attend the Eucharist in the Parish of the Immaculate Conception together with the Sisters. In this church the relics of our Venerable Serafina Cinque are kept on the altar of the chapel on the right.

We experience how close God is to us, thanks to the intercession of Venerable Serafina. In fact, we continually receive gifts of food and clothing. We have also opened a small shop where the poor can

buy things they can afford. Mrs. Vilma is in charge of the shop. The income from sales is used for expenses of maintaining the house.

One day when we had no meat to cook, a gentleman came to the door and brought us a butchered steer. The same day another man gave us half of a calf he had had butchered. This has been happening for years. Supermarkets send fruit, vegetables and all kinds of food. Divine Providence has never left us wanting what is necessary. This is the greatest miracle of Venerable Serafina: continuing to move the hearts of those who have what is needed to help the most unfortunate.

I was born near the Juruá river, one of the tributaries of the Amazon river, and I know the great variety of fish found in it. I was amazed one day when the police came to bring us three tons of fish, confiscated because they had been illegally caught out of season. The Sisters shared this bounty with all the collaborators and other charitable institutions. The generosity of the people is admirable. We receive no help from local or national institutions. Clearly, the Lord is continuing to listen to the intercessory prayers of our Venerable Serafina. What is lacking for her beatification?

Sr. M. Clara de Albuquerque Silva, ASC



Women's Day Celebration 2019 **Mysuru & Tarikere - India**

On the 8th March 2019, International Women's Day was celebrated by the Social Centers run by the Adorers in different states. The intention for celebration was mainly to educate Women about their status in society.

Thousands of women participated in the celebration in each of the social centers. The entire program helped the women to experience the equality of women and encouraged them to build their lives in a model way. To improve their life and show their talents we conducted sports and cultural competitions. Many of them participated and enjoyed this event. To encourage and appreciate the Sangas - Self-help Groups of women, and have chosen the best Sanga and given the award. There were cultural programs variety of dances and songs. In this program the ladies & girls has shown their talents taking part in it.

Many young girls and women are really appreciating our social centers where they are well trained in many ways to stand by themselves. Through various programs they are able to be good daughters, sisters, wives and mother in their families and build a better society. All the social centers performed the entire program in a colorful way, and the grand success due to the hard work of many people, especially the Sisters of Aradhana convent and the Staff of Navodaya Social centre in Mysuru, Navajeevan Social centre in Tarikere & Maria Nilayam Social centre in Velugodu. Thanks to one and all.

Sr. Jaicy Karukuttikaran, ASC



Song, Clown and Paschal Mystery

That's how the day unfolded.



Monica Brown, renowned speaker from Australia and Hilary Musgrave, clown from Ireland, led us in a profound Lenten Reflection day for English speaking religious in Rome at the School Sisters of Notre Dame generalate on March 23. The theme was Homecoming- the Grace of Transformation. Over 140 sisters attended, few of whose native tongue was English. They were from Iraq, France, India, Indonesia, various parts of Africa, Latin America, and more. So English was spoken with all different accents.

The Paschal Mystery was key. In her presentation, Monica intertwined Scripture and music, two by two sharing, story-telling and silence.

Hilary, the clown Nafur, portrayed tender love, reverence and respect, a heart like God.

Monica spoke of the Cosmic Christ, of God's two revelations, first in Creation and the second in Christ, and that Jesus' incarnation was in the original plan of God, to be sent here out of pure love, to reveal God's Self to us as Love. Jesus' coming was not because of Original Sin. It was not about atonement and retribution. He was not sent to suffer and die, and so to gain our justification. He was going to come anyhow, in order to reveal the immense, divine, tender love of our Creator God who so wanted to be with us that he became one of us. She said Jesus was totally human, and if we deny that, all of Holy Week is in vain.

The Paschal Mystery, she said, is the core of our Christian life. We tenderly and reverently kiss the cross as we reverence the suffering of Jesus and of humanity. Salvation now comes through us when we are present, at one with suffering people. With sincerity and deep feeling, she said that we religious are the comforting presence of God to the suffering. We have the capacity to make a difference. God empowers the universe from within, enabling it to develop, unfold and emerge freely. Grace is not a myth. Grace is the presence of God. Resurrection is the central expression of the self-giving love of God

In Lent we try to come to our senses and come home -- to that embrace of unconditional love.

Sr. Marcia Kruse, ASC

Blood of Christ, stream of mercy, save us



Right now there are three different age groups: infants (5), children ages 2-5 (15), and children ages 6-14 (8). Teachers are assigned to particular groups because the number of children changes often, and work shifts are assigned according to needs.

The children suffer a lot and often rebel. They are angry and irritable when they are taken away from their families. Therefore, various actions are taken to calm them down and smooth over this difficult time so that the time is not wasted. Many artistic, educational and sports activities are used

to offer the children growth opportunities and the possibility of a better life. However, the big attractions are not able to give them what is most important and what in most cases they are not allowed to experience: family warmth.

I would like to share with the Sisters my experience of service in the orphanage at the Center of Care and Education in Wrocław. I began this educational work October 1 of last year.

When I started working there, my presence as a religious was a surprise for all the workers and parents visiting the orphanage. After a while, I think they got used to it. Even though Christian values are preferred, a great lack of experience of faith can be encountered, especially among the guests.

Each time I go to work, I am aware that I am entering into human poverty. Suffering can be felt, the result of people close to them. All the children are together because they are at the orphanage 24 hours a day, but the story of their stay is different. Currently each child has at least one parent. However, what is very sad is that their parents usually quit fighting to get their children back home due to impotence, perplexity, discomfort or addiction.

This orphanage is a place for intervention. Therefore, the children are here temporarily, or in transition, just for a limited time. Some of them are here for a short time while waiting that the problematic situation created in their home be resolved and their parents make concrete changes. Other children are here for a longer time, when there are no concrete prospects for returning home. They are marked for adoption or foster care in a family.

Sr. Beata Płowaś, ASC



185th Anniversary of Foundation

This year on March 4, the 185th anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation, we celebrated in the Precious Blood Parish in Orcasitas, Madrid, with a solemn Eucharist with Missionaries of the Blood of Christ presiding. Part of the Parish community also participated.

We began the celebration by thanking God for the life of our Congregation, taking advantage of this opportunity to remember the past with gratitude, look at the present with passion and accept the future with hope.

Maria De Mattias' dream is continuing in the life and commitment of each of us called to be Adorer-Apostles of the Most Precious Blood.

Maria De Mattias began her mission on March 4, 1834. What follows is what John Merlini, her spiritual director for 42 years, recounts for us.

"It was March 1, 1834. Maria was 28 and had been awaiting this day for ten years. Father Biagio Valentini arrived in Vallecorsa bringing the blessing for Maria that Gaspar del Bufalo desired along with his letter that 'she leave with encouragement and trust in God because everything would go well.' ... Along the way to Acuto, Maria stopped in Ferentino to greet the Bishop and she clearly said, 'Msgr., I am glad to go to Acuto because obedience is commanding me. I am not going just to teach in the school but to found a monastery.' ... March 4 is the first day of the novena to St. Francis Xavier, the protector of the new Institute. God's work was begun that day. This was the birthday of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood."

During the Eucharist we remembered all the Adorers around the world and also those with whom we share our lives in our various ministries.

Following the holy Mass was a reception with the people who accompanied us and we joyfully blew out the candles on the cake.



Sr. Teresa Montiel, ASC

“We want to be a voice for those who have no voice.”

On a cold January day, a young girl named Svetlana called at the door of our house in Dokszyce, Belarus. For the last year there has been a practice in our town that women who become pregnant and think about abortion are directed by a gynecologist to talk with a spiritual person in order to defend a conceived life, so she was referred to us by a gynecologist for an interview with Father Andrzej. This idea was born two years ago during a meeting for health care, which we organized in our house on Saint Luke's Feastday.

Svetlana came for the meeting, but as she had to wait, so she asked to stay with us, and we had the opportunity to learn more about her and listen to her life story. Her mother died when she was 15 and her father was deprived of parental rights because he was addicted to alcohol and could not raise a child.

After finishing primary school, she lived in a student hostel and started studying at a vocational school to be a professional gardener. She worked in a construction company in Dokszyce, but left her job after two years because it was too tiring and hard for her. She found another job in a nursing home as a cleaner, where she worked for half a year. During this time, she did not pay for her accommodations at the student hostel.

One day, when she went to visit her father on Sunday, several men broke into her room and made a big mess. After this, the owner of the hostel ordered her to leave, so she was forced to return home to her father in the village of Kamajsk in very difficult conditions. Unfortunately, people also stopped respecting her. When she found out that she was pregnant, the boy with whom she got pregnant did not want this child and wanted her to have an abortion, so she wanted to solve the problem and abort the pregnancy as soon as possible. She was extremely afraid of her father and his reaction. To give a birth to a child and live with the father would be very difficult. Her father was drinking alcohol regularly and behaved aggressively.

She did not have work or money, so had no option to rent a flat. She often made money by collecting wild berries, forest fruits. Svetlana was distraught and felt helpless. After talking to us and Father Andrzej, she began to hesitate about terminating her pregnancy. We invited her for a dinner and gave her food. She needed support and help that she did not have from her own sisters or her father. She could only count on help from strangers and people of good will.

It was necessary to help her find a flat, some funds for living, and work. After a few days, she came back to us and said she has found a home. A friend invited her to live in his house, which was empty at the time. Conditions were very difficult but she was happy that she had a safe place to live. The house was cold, so we

gave her a warm duvet and warm clothes, because she did not even have a winter coat. Unfortunately, she could not live there for long because the host let her stay in this house only until she found a permanent place. We helped her find an accommodation and a seasonal job at the hospital. Many people told her to have an abortion, but she decided to give birth to her child.

Svetlana started going to the district authorities and ask for housing and a job, but nobody wanted to help her. City authorities are convinced that Svetlana is not capable of raising a child. According to them, Svetlana comes from a pathological family, has a bad reputation and has no money. They tell her: “You have nothing, how do you want to raise your child? We know you and your family.” Everything indicated that she should return home to her father.

We were determined to help her and we went to the city authorities with her. At first it seemed that all this was ineffective. So, we went to people who have a decisive voice in the town hall. After a long conversation, it was decided to give her a flat and a job. It was a very difficult time, but other people and volunteers started helping her: neighbors, our parishioners, and friends. We had to prepare the room and buy everything she needed for the child. Slowly everything was prepared.

The time of birth was approaching. At that time Svetlana needed help, she naturally was afraid of giving a birth. Her relatives were not interested in her life. We tried to help her and give her courage. On September 4, Svetlana gave birth to a baby girl. She named her Natalia. She is worried, however, that the state will take her child away. She wants to raise her child by herself. Unfortunately, there is still a fight over child custody.



Sister Jolanta and Sisters from Belarus, ASC

General Administration Calendar



- May 2-14** Formation commission meeting
- May 6-10** Sr. Nadia attends the UISG Plenary Assembly
- May 15-17** Triduum in honor of St. Maria De Mattias on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of her canonization during this 185th anniversary year of the Congregation
- May 18** Celebration of St. Maria De Mattias' canonization anniversary
- May 13-18** Seminar for treasurers of the congregation led by Sr. Manuela Nocco
- May 19** Theatrical presentation on St. Maria De Mattias by the Vallecorsa theater group
- May 21 – June 15** general council is in Poland for canonical visitation

**Birthdays:
Let's celebrate life**



<u>40</u>			
Sr. Beatrice Hillary Kimaro	05/29/1979	Tanzania	
<u>70</u>			
Sr. Vladimira Galir	05/13/1949	Zagreb	
Sr. Kris Schrader	05/14/1949	USA	
<u>80</u>			
Sr. Filomena De Giovanni	05/07/1939	Italy	
Sr. Amalia Di Nunzio	05/12/1939	Italy	
Sr. Ivana Ćerdić	05/17/1939	Zagreb	
Sr. Leonija Ćuković	05/04/1939	Zagreb	
Sr. Jelena Kančelarić	05/21/1939	Zagreb	
<u>90</u>			
Sr. Angela Vese	05/08/1929	Italy	
Sr. Elena Pannunzio	05/27/1929	Italy	

Religious Profession



May 17, 2019

First Profession – Tanzania

- Coleta John Emanuel
- Joantha Emmanuel Mlyanga
- Maria Anatoli Chanzi
- Rosina Respicius Bombo

May 18, 2019

25th anniversary of Religious Profession – India

- Sr. Mini Pallipadan (Regional Superior)
- Sr. Mini Vadakumcherry

**60th anniversary of Religious Profession
Columbia Center (USA)**

- Sr. Mary Adele Vecchione
- Sr. Mary Peter Chiodo

**65th anniversary of Religious Profession
Columbia Center (USA)**

- Sr. Martha Wachtel
- Sr. Mary Clare Reineberg



**They have returned to
their Heavenly Home**

04/10/2019	Sr. Lucille Kerschen	USA
04/11/2019	Sr. Teresa Kulik	Wrocław
20/04/2019	Sr. Serafina Novielli	Italy

International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Monthly Communication

edited by the
Adorers of the Blood of Christ
International Communications – General Administration
Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 ROME

Year XXI, Issue 5 - May 2019

Editorial Committee
Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC
Mimma Scalera, ASC

Translations by
Sr. Klementina Barbić - Croatian
Sr. Betty Adams - English
Sr. Martina Marco - Swahili
Sr. Bozena Hulisz - Polish
Sr. Clara Albuquerque - Portuguese
Sr. Miriam Ortiz - Spanish
Sr. Lisbeth Reichlin - German