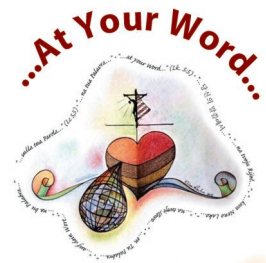


# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Anno XXIII - May 18, 2021

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Lima, Peru  
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## May 18 Chronicle

May 18, 2021 Special

XVIII Anniversary of the Canonization of  
Saint Maria De Mattias

*“Celebrating the anniversary of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias and her holiness gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our call as Adorers and our mission. We want to be enlightened and encouraged by her example as a disciple enamored with Christ and as a model of heroic charity for all humanity.”*

Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC  
Letter of invitation to the celebration

This May 18, 2021 was certainly a memorable day. In remembrance of the 18th anniversary of St. Maria De Mattias’ canonization, Sr. Nadia launched the idea of offering a Eucharistic Celebration for the 20 Adorers who, starting in October 2020, began to die after having contracted COVID-19.

There was great suffering in the communities these sisters belonged to because of isolation, lack of spiritual support and because they had not been able to help their sick sisters and tell them good-bye with a fitting burial. Everything was an experience of the Paschal Mystery that united us throughout the congregation.

Thus it was thought that the celebration could be organized online using the ZOOM platform. The administration welcomed the suggestion with feelings of wonder and enthusiasm.

The awaited day arrived amid trepidation about the preparations and joy for being able to encounter so many Sisters from East to West, from North to South of the Congregation. All of this was possible thanks to the involvement and help of the translators who volunteered to facilitate the understanding and participation of all the Sisters.

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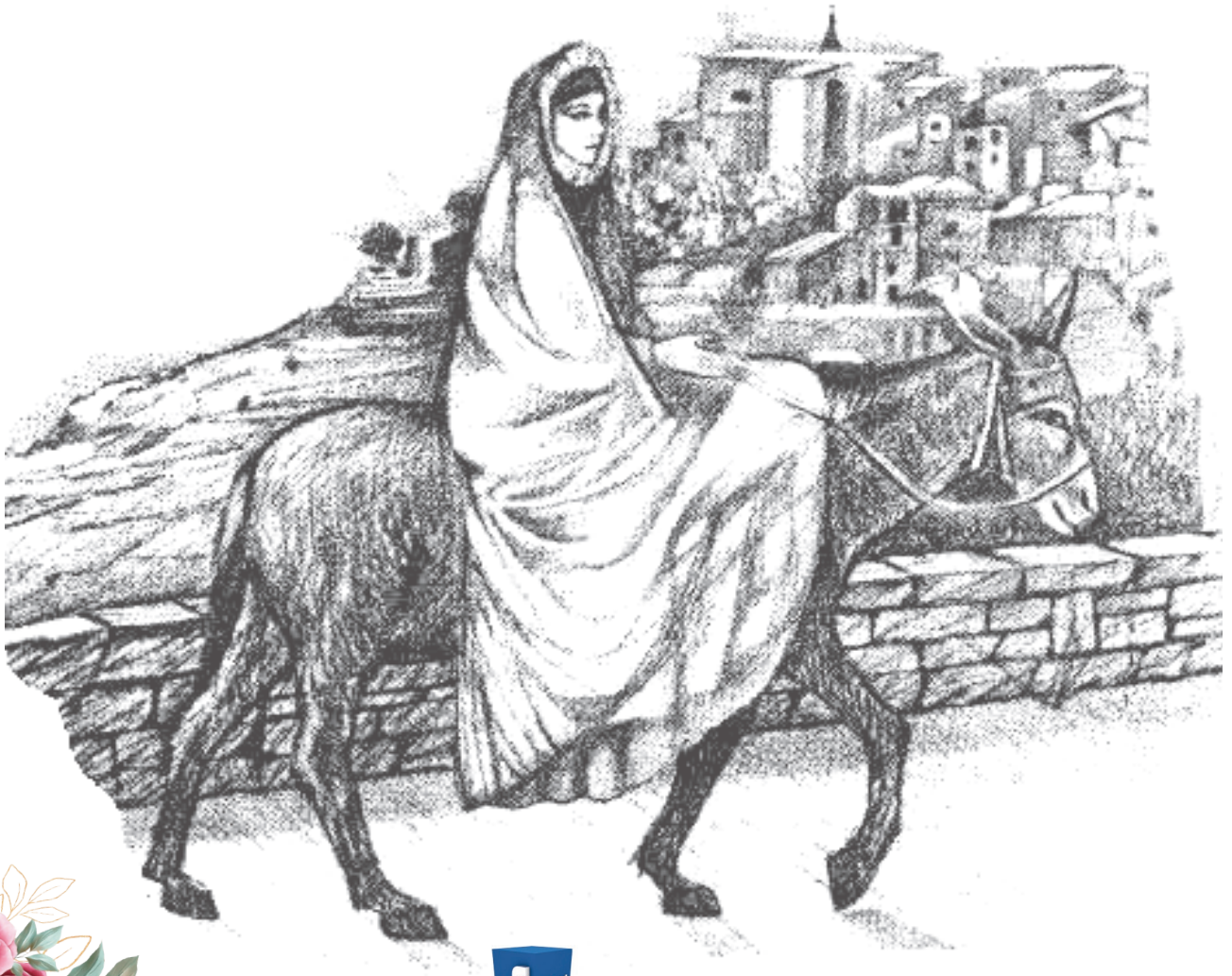
The celebration took place under the banner of internationality: the entrance procession was accompanied by a song to St. Maria De Mattias in Swahili; the readings were done in Italian and English; the prayers of the faithful were expressed in the languages spoken in the Congregation; the offertory was accompanied by a song in Croatian, the doxology was accompanied by a song in Malayalam and a ritual used by the sisters in India, and at the end, after Sister Nadia's words of thanksgiving, the celebration of the Mass was concluded with a song to St. Maria De Mattias sung in front of her urn.

After the homily of Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of CICALSAL who presided at the celebration, we wanted to remember the sisters who died of Covid, thanking them for the gift of their lives with a simple gesture that allowed us to express our love and gratitude for what they have been for all of us. Calling each of them by name, we offered a light, a symbol of their lives as Adorers enlightened by Christ in the footsteps of St. Maria De Mattias. The introductory comment was, "Like the wise virgins of the Gospel whom the Lord found ready to enter with him into the eternal wedding feast, may they sing the glories of the Lamb."

Honoring us with their presence were our brother CPPS Missionaries, two pastors from two nearby parishes (Nativity and St. Catherine of Siena) and the Rosminian priests. There were 187 local communities from around the world connected online.

The evening at the generalate was concluded with a reception.

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**





## General Superior's Message of Welcome

*Good afternoon, good morning and good evening!*

*A warm welcome to all the Sisters who joined us from all over the world, from Australia to Argentina for this celebration. And it is an important event that sees us together today in remembrance of the eighteenth anniversary of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias. A warm welcome to you who are here and special greetings to His Excellency Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz – Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life who, as always, joyfully accepted the invitation to preside at this Eucharist. I thank you, our brother priests who join us here in the especially meaningful day for all of us.*



Eighteen years have passed since that May 18, 2003. Many of us imprinted in our hearts that May 18, 2003 in St. Peter's Square filled with red ballcaps on which was written "You are worth the Blood of Christ!"

Today in this time when much uncertainty remains in us and around us, like then, we want to be enlightened and encouraged by the example of our beloved Maria De Mattias, our sister, friend, mother and foundress who lived her discipleship fully, being known for the unconditional charity with which she loved God and humanity.

During this long year, Covid caught us all by surprise and found us unprepared. Many of our

securities underwent a hard test, right down to life itself. We underwent a true "dark night." The pandemic is still continuing to challenge us, pointing out our personal, community and institutional fragilities and vulnerabilities. As a Congregation we have experienced a time of great suffering, and in some realities we are still experiencing it. I think at this time of the Regions of India and Brazil that are still being particularly hard hit, and the painful unprecedented experience of the healthcare crisis.

This virus has torn loved ones from us: the lives of friends, acquaintances, Sisters. Like a thief it has robbed from us a part of ourselves, violently entering into our lives, our homes, our communities, I would say in a devastating way, bringing much pain. Everywhere we have experienced much suffering as a Congregation.

Various Sisters left us without giving us the opportunity of a last farewell. So much solitude and isolation, so much difficulty in bidding farewell.

However, I believe that the presence of this pain in our communities has served to reconfirm a new awareness that we are pilgrims. We are journeying home. We are journeying toward the Father's house with our eyes fixed on Jesus, or as Maria De Mattias would say, on our Highest Good, the Beloved.

Through grace, little by little, though with bleeding hearts, we have moved from feelings of anger and sadness to acceptance of the reality, of the various realities. We have gotten used to reading this time in light of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus and focusing on what was essential: unending life.

These times of apprehension and concern have weighed down our hearts. Faces streaked with tears, empty words were inadequate in the face of so much pain. It was a difficult time to explain, which only the light of faith could illuminate. I believe they were days when, more than at any other time, we experienced our identity as Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Signed by the Paschal Mystery which we are called to live in a profound way by charism, we confidently handed ourselves over to the Father. And the Lord, who knows the purpose of all things, helped us to live this time in a redemptive way, making us capable of foretasting the new day God wants to give us.

Today, together as a Body, we are here to profess this certainty: we can transform our mourning into a confession of faith. With Jesus, we can truly proclaim that death is fruitful if lived with Jesus.



The experience of the grain of wheat explains the hope that is within us: the seed rots in the heart of the soil to be able to bring new life, new fruit.

Today we are here to celebrate Maria De Mattias' holiness and honor with her twenty of our Sisters, their lives given as gift, their Pasch lived with Christ. And it is thanks to this faith that we can accept death as a symptom of a greater and more consoling joy.

Only faith gives us the certainty that our sisters live forever and are walking together with us in communion. Separation, then, however painful it may have been, is alleviated by the certainty that one day we will all be together in the heavenly home and, as Maria De Mattias said, together before the Lamb we will sing the glories of the Divine Blood. With St. Maria De Mattias, we will celebrate together!

So, the mourning we have experienced becomes a prayer, becomes thanksgiving. We want to give thanks to the Lord the many blessings we have received through these sisters: their apostolate, their service to the poor, their work in areas of emergency, of margination, their lives spent for the Reign. And we want to thank Him for everything they have represented, for their faithfulness, for their commitment. But at the same time we want to ask God for the wisdom to understand the value of our lives, the value of the little things like the preciousness of the days we have so that nothing is lost. To live in the logic of the Gospel, in the style of Jesus, who loved to the very end.

In this very special year, we celebrate the remembrance of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias. In light of her holiness, remembering these sisters allows us to give thanks for the blessing each was for us and let them go with great love and gratitude.

In this celebration, which is not intended to be a funeral remembrance but a celebration, we want to be close to one another. That is why we thought of this connection, to be close to each other, like a Body and say our thanks to the Lord for the faithfulness of all of us in this time of trial. We are grateful for so much courage in suffering, for our calm witness in pain, for our courage in uncertainty that has characterized the lives so many of our communities.

During this Eucharist we bring to the altar the many gestures of solidarity, the openness to new ways of sharing with the least that in many parts of the Congregation so many of you sisters have continued to express. So many loving gestures, such as compassionate presence, everywhere each person has continued to serve at the cost of her own life.

May this Eucharist be an opportunity to embrace the entire Congregation and to pray for each Sister. In order to give thanks to God for the life of each Adorer, entrusting to St. Maria De Mattias the expectations, anxieties and hopes of each of us. In this time of uncertainty, may her presence as friend encourage us to look to the future trusting in *God's promise that makes all things new.*

I hope this celebration is good for me and for each of you wherever you are.

**Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC**



# From the ASC World

Continental Area: Europe  
Region of Italy



***“You make yourself food and drink for us, Lord Jesus, filling us with your divine Spirit”***

*Grant that we may let ourselves be transformed by your living presence in order to respond to our call to collaborate with you in the mystery of our redemptive work for humanity!*

*Best Wishes*

We had so desired to live the event of Maria De Mattias' being canonized.

Finally on May 18, 2003, we were at the solemn celebration in Rome with joy and gratitude. We were there in St. Peter's Square filled with people who had come from all over the world wearing red ballcaps on which was written, "You are worth the Blood of Christ". On the great façade of the Basilica the picture of Maria De Mattias created by the artist Passeri of Priverno (LT) towered with missionary zeal, along with three other saints.

After 18 years, thanks to technology, you let us relive that wonderful day when our blessed Foundress was proclaimed a Saint. Thanks to you, Sr. Nadia and all the Administration, for having organized the special

online meeting with all the Congregation during this time of pandemic. We followed the solemn celebration held at the Generalate very well. Seeing the urn of our Saint, the Sisters, the various participants, following along on the songs and religious dance of our African Sisters, the rite of adoration of our Indian Sisters, was an immersion in the life of the Congregation.

Thank you, dear Sister Nadia. Your greetings filled with spirituality and spoken with suffering touched our hearts. Then, when the Sisters were named who died of COVID-19, it was emotional for all of us. Certainly doing the transmission required work, but it was worth it because we took a deep dive into our dear religious family, being invigorated with our spirituality and regaining our sense of belonging.

***Sr. Sandria Latini, ASC  
and the Community of Velletri***

May 18, 2021 Special





## I Am A Witness Of The Love Of The ASCs

On the 18th anniversary of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias, I felt a sense of nostalgia in returning with heart and mind to the past when as young girls we would go to the embroidery school of our ASC Sisters (the nuns.)

Those were other times, but those sisters were so welcoming and affectionate that we girls really found a refuge when we were with them. They fully obeyed the Foundress who repeated to each of them, "Speak often to the hearts of the girls about God's infinite love in having given His Son; also speak about the great beauty of Jesus and Mary. Use all your good manners to allure them to good. Love them with tenderness and affection, they cost the Blood of Jesus and the bitter sorrows of the Virgin Mary." (St. MDM)

They had formed the group of the "Little Precious Girls" and Father Michele Di Gioia held a monthly catechesis on the Blood of Christ and the life of Maria De Mattias.

The times I'm talking about (1959) were times

when "our Sisters" were the only ones in San Giovanni Rotondo and therefore there were many children attending the pre-school and the embroidery school.

In 2013, with the sisters currently present in San Giovanni Rotondo, we resumed this activity of teaching the art of embroidery and Christian life, but the pandemic forced us to stop. I am sure that it will soon end and we will be able to go back to normal activities and the beginning of the academic year that, with the help of the Lord, we will also begin again.

My heartfelt and affectionate best wishes to "our Sisters" and to all the Adorers of the Blood of Christ around the world.

May St. Maria De Mattias intercede to God for many vocations.

Blessed be the Blood of Christ!

**Emilia Malerba, Embroidery Teacher,  
San Giovanni Rotondo**

## May 18th Reflection

It was a very moving prayer meeting that crossed all geographic borders and made us feel very near to each other, though being at great distances.

St. Maria De Mattias had said, "If it is God's work, God will never stop blessing it."

It was moving to see how the various cultures were interwoven and in synergy praising the preciousness of the Blood of Christ with various body movements and languages and musicality the Holy Spirit suggested and giving everyone the ability to interpret in harmony.

Great thanks to the Lord who continues to bless the work begun by St. Maria De Mattias and to all the ASC Sisters of the General Administration and the Regional Administrations who had the heart to create a moment of deep communion with the ASCs who are enjoying the beatific vision of the Lamb.

Blessed be the Blood of Christ!



**Rosalba Facecchia, A.S.C**

May 18, 2021 Special





## Following Maria De Mattias

On May 18, 2021 we celebrated the anniversary of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias, a person who encountered Jesus and loved him with all her heart. Caring for this loving exchange and making it grow was the program of her whole life. She wanted others to know this Love and that Jesus remain in their lives.

The anniversary of her canonization reminds us that the source of her holiness sprang from the Paschal Mystery and she invites us to attend this school of Love.

The times in which we are living are becoming a "practical lesson," tests of our life of love and the quality of our relationships with God and with others. We have already experienced how important it is in our lives and perhaps we hunger for face to face encounters.

Even if we cannot meet face to face, the use of internet connections has allowed us to experience community in some way. It has helped us to be like a single body, and has offered us the possibility of being united in prayer. We are grateful for the gift of the life of each of our sisters who died of Covid-19. Even though there were some technical problems, the online Eucharist was a joy for us.

**Sr. Ewa Piwonska, ASC**





## Celebration Echos

May 18, 2021 Special

"THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO THAT THIS FESTIVE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION COULD BE EXPERIENCED BY THE WHOLE CONGREGATION. IT STRENGTHENED THE WORLDWIDE BOND AMONG ALL THE ASCS AND FILLED US WITH JOY."

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"WE FOLLOWED THE VERY IMPRESSIVE CELEBRATION IN OUR CHAPEL AND THUS WERE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE ATMOSPHERE OF PRAYER. WE PRAYED AND SANG ALONG AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND WERE ALSO ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BODY OF CHRIST."

"THE RICHNESS AND BEAUTY OF THE DIFFERENT CULTURES WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION AND THERE WAS VIBRANCY PERCEPTIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE DANCING AND SINGING."



"ESPECIALLY TOUCHING WAS THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE TWENTY ASCS WHO WERE VICTIMS OF THE CORONA PANDEMIC. THEIR PICTURES AND THE BURNING CANDLES REMAIN IN MY HEART."

## ROTHENBACH

"IT WAS BEAUTIFUL TO DISCOVER, ON THE MANY SCREENS, DIFFERENT SISTERS WHOM I KNOW AND SOME OF WHOM I HAVE NOT SEEN FOR A LONG TIME. THE GREAT JOY EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF ASCS FOLLOWING THE CELEBRATION WAS TRULY CONTAGIOUS."

"THE COMBINATION OF TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS, THE MEMORIAL DAY OF THE CANONIZATION OF OUR FOUNDESS AND THE MEMORIAL OF OUR DECEASED FELLOW SISTERS, I FELT WAS AN ACTION GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE LENGTHY, IN-DEPTH INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION HELPED WITH UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING AND LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE. IN THE HOMILY, CARDINAL JOAO BRAZ DE AVIZ CONTINUED TO ECHO THE THOUGHTS OF SR. NADIA, AND I ALSO FELT A STRONG SENSE OF FRATERNITY.

THE CREATIVITY EXPRESSED IN THE DANCE, THE SONGS, THE DIFFERENT SYMBOLS IS A STRENGTH OF OUR LARGE INTERNATIONAL ASC COMMUNITY.

THROUGH THIS CONNECTION VIA ZOOM, WE WERE ALL ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AND CELEBRATE.

I, WE AS A COMMUNITY, THANK ALL THOSE WHO WORKED FOR THIS CELEBRATION."





# From the ASC World

Continental Area: Europe  
Region of Zagreb



"I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CELEBRATION AND ESPECIALLY EXPERIENCED IT. IT REFRESHED OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, EXPERIENCED THE MIRACLE OF TECHNOLOGY - THAT WE COULD BE SO CONNECTED. IT BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE CHURCH WHERE I GLORIFIED THE LORD FOR 13 YEARS AND WAS CLOSE TO OUR HOLY FOUNDRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT REMINDED ME OF CELEBRATING THE CANONIZATION AND PARTICIPATING IN IT. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO, OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, ACCEPTED THE INITIATIVE AND PARTICIPATED IN ITS REALIZATION."

*Sr. Blanka Šturm*

"THANK YOU FOR THE IDEA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE CELEBRATION IN WHICH YOU MANAGED TO INCLUDE MANY SISTERS. IT WAS NICE TO SEE THE FACES OF THE SISTERS I KNOW, BUT ALSO THE FACES OF THOSE SISTERS I HAVE ONLY MET ONCE, BUT WHOM I FONDLY REMEMBER. THANK YOU FOR THOSE HEARTBEATS THAT CAME UP WITH A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE CONGREGATION!."

*Sr. Marija Bilanović*

"IT WAS TOUCHING, SOLEMN, UNITED WITH THE HEAVENLY ADORERS WHO ARE IN THE COMPANY OF ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS AND US WHO ARE STILL ON THE PATH. THE EUCHARIST GATHERED US FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN PRAYER AND ADORATION OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, SHOWING THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS FOR RECONCILIATION AND BLESSING. THANKS TO THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR THE IDEA AND ORGANIZATION, WE COULD ALL BE PRESENT, AT LEAST FOR A MOMENT, IN THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME - THE SYMBOL AND CENTER OF THE EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY CHURCH."

*ASC Nova Topola*

## ZAGREB

"AS A COMMUNITY, WE FOLLOWED THE CELEBRATION... WE WERE TOUCHED BY THE CEREMONY, HAPPY BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION. THE BEAUTY, HARMONY AND DIVERSITY OF THE CELEBRATION, THE SPECIAL PRESENCE OF THE BISHOPS. TRULY MAGNIFICENT AND BEAUTIFUL TO BE PRESENT EVEN IN FRONT OF SCREENS. MAY OUR SAINT MARIA DE MATTIAS INTERCEDE FOR US AND GIVE US NEW VOCATIONS THROUGH SUCH CELEBRATIONS."

*ASC Razanac*



"THE CELEBRATION WAS BEAUTIFUL, THE ORGANIZATION WAS AT A HIGH LEVEL, AND THE BEAUTY OF DIVERSITY IN THE CONGREGATION CAME TO THE FORE."

*Sr Ancilla Vukoja*



May 18, 2021 Special



"THE CELEBRATION WAS TOUCHING AND DIGNIFIED. I FELT THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST THAT CONNECTS ALL OUR RICHNESS OF DIVERSITY INTO A HARMONIOUS WHOLE. IT IS A GREAT SPIRITUAL WEALTH, PRIVILEGE AND PRIDE TO BE AN ASC! THANK GOD AND ALL WHO HAVE INCORPORATED THEIR TALENTS INTO THIS TOUCHING AND SPIRITUAL CONTENT OF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION."

*Sr. Benita Antolović*

"IT WAS NICE TO BE A PART OF THE MEMORY AND THOSE JOYFUL MOMENTS. I HAD THE FEELING THAT ST. MARY DE MATTIAS WITH HER ARMS OUTSTRETCHED ABOVE US WAS WATCHING AND FOLLOWING OUR LIVES AND APOSTOLIC WALK."

*Sr. Aneta Andelić*



## ZAGABRIA

"THANKS TO THE ORGANIZERS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL BROADCAST OF THE HOLY MASS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS. IT WAS NICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATION EVEN OVER THE INTERNET AND SEE SO MANY SISTERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF ST. MARIE DE MATTIAS MAY THE LORD REJUVENATE OUR CONGREGATION BY NEW VOCATIONS. ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS, PRAY FOR US."

*Sr. Stela Kovačević*

"THE CELEBRATION OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF MARIA DE MATTIAS WAS FOR ME A WONDERFUL TESTIMONY OF THE COMMUNION AMONG US ADORERS, AND IT HAS A SPECIAL STRENGTH AND GRACE IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. THE CLOSENESS OF ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS AND OUR LATE SISTERS (ARRANGED IN A DROP) IN THIS CELEBRATION IS A REAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO LIVE MY BAPTISMAL CONSECRATION EVEN MORE STRONGLY IN THE FAITH IN THE PRESENT TIME. THANKS TO THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR THIS CREATIVE IDEA."

*Sr. David Dizdar*





Continental Area: Africa  
Region of Tanzania

## Gratitude

We thank God for May 18, 2021 the commemoration of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias, our mother.

Being able to participate in the celebration of the Mass together with the ASCs around the world by internet connection made us very happy. Together we thanked the Lord for the gift of the 20 Sisters who died due to the Corona Virus and prayed for them. We thank God for the sacrifice of their lives and for sharing in the redemptive work of Christ for humanity.

The connection and the greetings from the various places gave us special joy to see each other again, even though only online.

Our participation at this Mass allowed us to show love and gratitude for what our sisters have done for all of us throughout their lives.

We especially thank the General Administration for this idea of participation, which helped us to grow as a single body in love and as an ASC family. We express our gratitude in the name of all the ASC communities of our Region of Tanzania that participated in this special celebration.



## REGION OF TANZANIA



May 18, 2021 Special





## Feedback On The Celebration

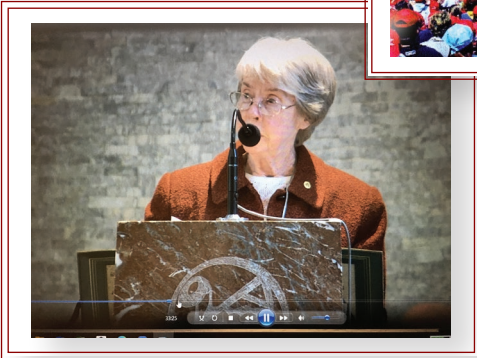
May 18, 2021 Special

"I BELIEVE THAT THIS GATHERING WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IN MANY, MANY YEARS. IT WITNESSED THAT WE ARE ONE FROM EVERY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA, LANGUAGE, YEARS IN COMMUNITY UNDER A COMMON EXPRESSION OF CELEBRATING MARIA DE MATTIAS AND THE 20 SISTERS WHO DIED OF COVID IN OUR CONGREGATION. THERE WAS SO MUCH EXCITEMENT YOU FELT FROM THE TIME PICTURES OF SISTERS STARTED SHOWING ON THE SCREEN. SISTERS WERE SO ELATED THAT THEY WERE RECONNECTING WITH FRIENDS AND NOTHING COULD SEPARATE US. THE LITURGY WITH SONG AND DANCE AND PRAISE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AFFIRMED THE ONE SPIRIT THAT SURROUNDED US IN WELCOME. IT WAS A PRE-PENTECOST CELEBRATION.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO PLANNED AND FACILITATED THIS EUCHARIST AND THE ZOOM CONNECTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOULD BE THE START OF MORE ENCOUNTERS LIKE THIS...THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD CONNECT US FOR THE SIGNIFICANT ENCOUNTERS WITH THE MAIN INPUT SHARINGS OR THE NEW GENERAL TEAM ETC. JUST SOME THOUGHTS THAT COME TO ME."

*Sr. Barb Smith, ASC of the Ruma Center*

USA



"IT WAS LIKE STANDING THERE ON MAY 18, 2003. BEAUTIFUL SERVICE AND CONNECTION TO SAINT MARIA ON HER SPECIAL DAY. WAS NICE TO SEE ALL ON ZOOM ON MY BIRTHDAY.

THANKS FOR ENABLING US TO HONOR OUR SISTERS WHO DIED FROM COVID-19. WE PRAYED FOR ALL, MUSIC WAS BEAUTIFUL. MESSAGE FROM SISTER NADIA AND THE CELEBRANT WAS SPECIAL. BLESSINGS ON US ALL."

*Sr. Edwina Pope, ASC*

"I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE INTERNATIONALITY THAT I FELT THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY. EVEN THOUGH I WAS THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM THE SITE OF THE CEREMONY, I FELT THE ENERGY OF BEING UNITED TO ADORERS AROUND THE WORLD. IT WAS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF NO MATTER HOW DIVERSE WE ARE, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR CALLING AND OUR RESPONSE TO IT."

*Sr. Clare Boehmer, ASC*





"IT WAS WITH JOY AND ENTHUSIASM THAT I PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNIVERSARY MASS VIA ZOOM... THIS JOY AND ENTHUSIASM ONLY DEEPENED AS I ENCOUNTERED THE UNIVERSALITY, THE INTERCULTURALITY, INTERCONNECTIVITY OF THE EVENT. TO HEAR THE CROATIAN SISTERS SING, COME TO THE FEAST...WAS AWESOME. YES, THAT HYMN SEEMED TO CAPTURE IF YOU WILL, THE SACREDNESS, THE REALITY OF THE CALL TO US ALL, "GOD WILL PROVIDE, GOD IS WAITING TO WELCOME, TO SHARE THE CUP ...MY FEAST OF GLADNESS WILL FEED YOUR SPIRIT WITH FAITH AND FULLNESS OF LIFE."

IN CHRIST, THERE IS ONENESS, UNITY AND COMMONALITY...THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION WAS AS REAL HERE IN MY OFFICE, ON THIS SIDE OF THE POND AS IF I WERE IN CHURCH IN ROME. ST. MARIA, YOU ARE STILL CALLING US TO THAT ONENESS AND CHARITY AND HOPE IN THE PRECIOUS BLOOD. THANKS FOR THOSE WHO PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PRESENT WITH YOU ALL IN REAL TIME."

*Sr. Mary M. Shaw, ASC*

"OUR HOUSE PARTICIPATED. I FOUND IT LOVELY TO BE CONNECTED TO EVERYONE. THANKS FOR DOING IT."

*Sr. Joan Hornick, ASC*



**My impressions from the celebration:**

To return to my place of ministry where I served for five years was indeed a joy for me! The chapel where we celebrated brought back so many memories of celebration, prayer, tears, listening, etc., truly a place of grace! To celebrate WITH some of the same Adorers I had celebrated with on the actual day of canonization in 2003 is a "forever" memory!

The Community had arranged for a bus to take us to St. Peter's that day, and we also brought one of the elderly women who graced us daily with her presence at Eucharist in the Generalate chapel. When the bus driver opened the door in the Piazza, everyone ran to get the places reserved up front for us. I realized this elderly woman couldn't run, so I begrudgingly stayed behind to walk with her, berating myself for being so selfish, that this would be what Maria De Mattias would do for someone, that I should be happy to do what she did, etc., etc., etc.

By the time the two of us arrived, our places up front were taken. In my heart I wanted to cry! Not one Adorer was with me to celebrate this most meaningful day, especially for Adorers!

As I was pitying myself, I looked around to watch all the people arriving, a sea of red all over the place!

I saw Elizabeth Mueller from Schaan leading her pilgrim group, so I waved and asked if Zita Resch had come. She replied yes, that she was present someplace in the crowd. Finally I turned back, and there, just three rows ahead of me, was Zita! We saw each other at the same time, and were overjoyed! St. Maria KNEW I needed to be close to an Adorer that day, and there was a friend!

So today, eighteen years later, here was Zita again on the Zoom screen with so many other Adorer friends with whom I had ministered: the young ones (at least in 2001!) who made the three month formation workshop and the Brazilians who were present, my sisters in the Philippines with whom I had lived in 2018, my companions who lived at the Generalate with me from 2000 - 2005, and so, so many friends in whose countries I have been privileged to offer retreats, all of us at this Mass, sharing the same spirituality and charism! I listened in Italian to see how much I remembered after seventeen years!

While internationality and interculturality are such gifts, they are also great challenges. But may we all remember that what is a challenge for us can really stretch us to new growth. Our bond is perpetual in our spirituality and charism! Thank you for making this possible for all of us.

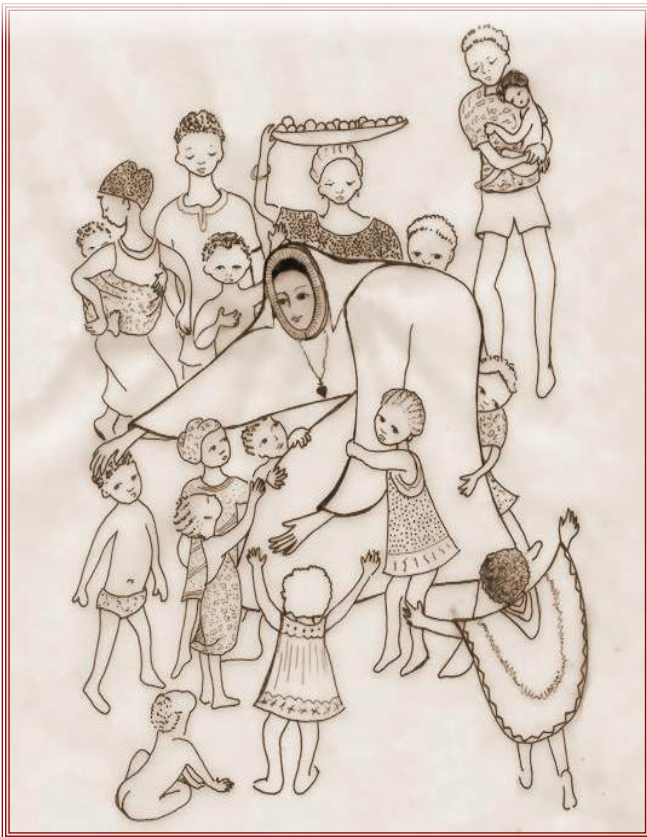
*Sr. Mary Kevin, ASC*

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May 18, 2021 Special



## “Love without Measure”



crematoriums and the nonstop horns of ambulances add fear and uncertainty to our days. In this condition having a celebration or a gathering was far beyond our imagination.

In spite of these unfavourable situations, there is always a ray for hope. When we were not able to have any celebration this year, the unique and beautiful idea of the General Administration to host an online Eucharistic Celebration was appreciated and a sign of nearness for each one of us. I am sure that, like me, hundreds of Adorers who were present also felt the pain of losing 20 of our beloved ASC sisters due to Covid.

Here a platform was created to be united as one family with single mind and heart to express our solidarity with one another, sharing our pain and grief at the loss of our beloved sisters. At the same time, it was an opportunity to remember many lives lost because of Corona Virus, to pray for their eternal rest and to bid adieu with Christian Hope. I believe that this ever living gesture of love and gratitude for our departed sisters for whom we were unable to pay even the owed final salute may be acceptable and pleasing to God. I am sure that every candle that was lit in honour of them here on earth will also be lit in heaven, interceding to the Divine Lamb.

*“Time flies and the scene changes. Have great faith and hope in the mercy of God, in the merits of Jesus and in His Blood.” (St.MDM # 874)*

Eighteen years have flown by since the canonization of our dear foundress St. Maria De Mattias. Every year May 18th reminds us of her life, lived in total submission to the will of God and in selfless love for humanity. Her heroic example, even after 155 years of her death, stands as a source of inspiration for every Adorer. Her words “although I am far away, I am always near you in spirit, my dearly daughter; yes, in the side of Jesus Christ, I tenderly embrace you” (St. MDM #527) is a proof for her love and continual intercession for us and the whole world.

In India, St. Maria De Mattias, is loved and remembered by many people. Usually, the anniversary of her canonization is celebrated in a splendid and meaningful way with the celebration of the jubilee or with the perpetual profession of sisters.

But this year was something different as the whole country is under strict lockdown due to uncontrollable spread of pandemic. The news about lack of medical facilities, uncontrollable death rates, jam-packed

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While we gathered as sisters and friends around the same Eucharistic table from thousands of miles away, I felt that we are one body and called to be united in all circumstances of life. It was a great privilege to see the ossuary of St. MDM on that special day. His Excellency Cardinal João Bráz de Aviz gave us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet through beautiful and meaning celebration of the Eucharist and made a lasting impression in the mind and heart of every Adorer. His homily revived in me the conviction that only our faith in God can give us strength to pass through these difficult times.

His words were a reminder for all of us that as consecrated women our primary duty is to follow Jesus and to have 'love without measure'. This immeasurable love must be expressed not only to God but also in our communities and in turn to the whole of humanity.

From the introductory words of Superior General Sr.Nadia Coppa, I could experience the concern and love that she has as a mother for each member of the congregation. My heart and eyes were filled by listening to her while she was expressing gratitude and appreciation to each Regional Team, each community, and every sister for their service. Her message reminded me once again to count the blessings of God and to center my life on what is essential as our foundress. I recognize that through the words of Sr. Nadia Coppa, St. Maria De Mattias reminded us be 'the grain of wheat ready to die in order to complete fruitfully our pilgrimage on this earth'.

Above all, this new initiative was a sign of great love and support to all of us from the part

of the General Administration during this time of pandemic. It was for the first time that so many of us could participate in the celebration at the Generalate. The beauty of this celebration was that when we were maintaining social distance with our own community members and others, we could be connected in prayer and in spirit to the entire congregation. Where physical proximity was impossible, we could feel the strength and bond of our family united in the Blood of Jesus. In fact, the sight of the chapel, celebrants, our sisters and lay people made me feel delighted.

I express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation



for the beautiful ceremony during which everyone was remembered and every culture represented. I look forward to having such beautiful celebrations in the future, together again.

On the whole, I feel and believe that it was not only the celebration of the canonization but the celebration of our fraternity, solidarity, empathy and support to each other. As daughters of this great saint, we seek her intercession for the healing of all of humanity and to live our call as sign of hope and faith following her example. It's time for us to live our paschal identity and call upon the power of Divine Blood for the entire world. I unite myself with all the ASCs in spirit, and remain grateful to

Sr.Nadia Coppa and Administration for making this day an unforgettable one for all of us.

**Sr. Chithra Pulikakkunnel ASC**







## Thanksgiving of the General Superior



*A brief thanks coming from the bottom of my heart for your presence, your Eminence. It has made this moment very meaningful. It is a visible sign of the goodness of the Church for consecrated life and for our small Congregation. We thank you because you have always shown attention for our Congregation and sharing your wisdom at times with me. This helps me in my service. I am young. And when you are young you look around everywhere for a bit of light, experience, and grace. Therefore, I thank you because your presence is also a sign of the goodness you have for us.*

*Then I thank our brothers. I thank Father Emanuele who is always present as a brother. I thank Father Terenzio, provincial superior of the Italian Province. To Father Vito, one of the Rosminians who are always attentive with us, and Father Paolo, our pastor. Thank you. The presence of Father Stefano, pastor of St. Catherine, also gives us pleasure. This is also a sign of our presence in this neighborhood. It is a presence that is changing over time but, like a small seed, this makes us a praying presence that works and spreads to the world, as Maria De Mattias always dreamed.*

*Thank you to our seminarian brothers who helped us in the liturgy. I thank the many sisters, who are truly many, who have connected with us and thanks to those who translated. We have some sisters who translated into the various languages of the congregation. Therefore, everyone was able, I hope, to understand the beauty of what we were able to share, the rich experience of our faith. I want to thank the Regional Superior who lived through this time trying to coordinate as best as possible this experience of emergency. And I would like to name them because they are present and I truly want to thank them from the depths of my heart. I will name them, not by order of importance, but by memory as as they come to my mind and my heart:*

*I thank Sr. Ewa Kleps and the sisters of the regional administration of Poland;  
Sr. Judith Kuman and the regional administration of Schaan;  
I thank Sr. Lucina John and the regional administration of Tanzania;  
Sr. Mini Palipadan and the regional administration of India;  
I thank Sr. Vicki Bergkamp and the regional administration of the United States;  
Sr. Alessandra Soares Pereira and the regional administration of Brazil;  
I thank Sr. Zdravka Leutar and the regional administration of Zagreb.*

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# General Superior's Closing Statement



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Special thanks goes to Sr. Nicla Spezzati, who is not with us, but is represented by various councilors. I thank her and all the administration of the Region of Italy, who, more than all the other realities was heavily touched by this experience. I thank them for their witness of service, dedication and care for the many emergency situations that exploded, all at the same time, and that truly touched the life of the Italian Region.

Thanks to Sr. Lucia, Sr. Giuseppina, Sr. Bruna, Sr. Antonietta. I also thank Sr. Milena, Sr. Miriam and especially, I repeat, Sr. Nicla for their service. But also all the sisters in the communities around the world who were on the frontlines to protect our older sisters. We have many

communities of more vulnerable sisters and everywhere there was great attention given. Therefore, I truly give heartfelt thanks for the love and attention to these precious treasures who are our older sisters. I give thanks for the love, care and attention we have experienced during this time.

May the Lord grant us the treasure to rediscover and care better for our origins, the freshness of our charism. We need to rediscover the freshness and beauty of the charism Maria De Mattias lived. Perhaps this experience is purifying us, is helping us to go to the essential. I hope this for me, for I need it, but I hope that we may all rediscover that charismatic power which is fire, passion, newness and life not only for us but for the world, the Church and all of humanity. Thank you, everyone.

Thanks to the many friends who have joined us. Here, in a small way but a bit throughout the world, thanks for this wonderful opportunity. Today we are truly one body. I feel close to all the sister, and it is a wonderful experience.

Thank you, everyone!

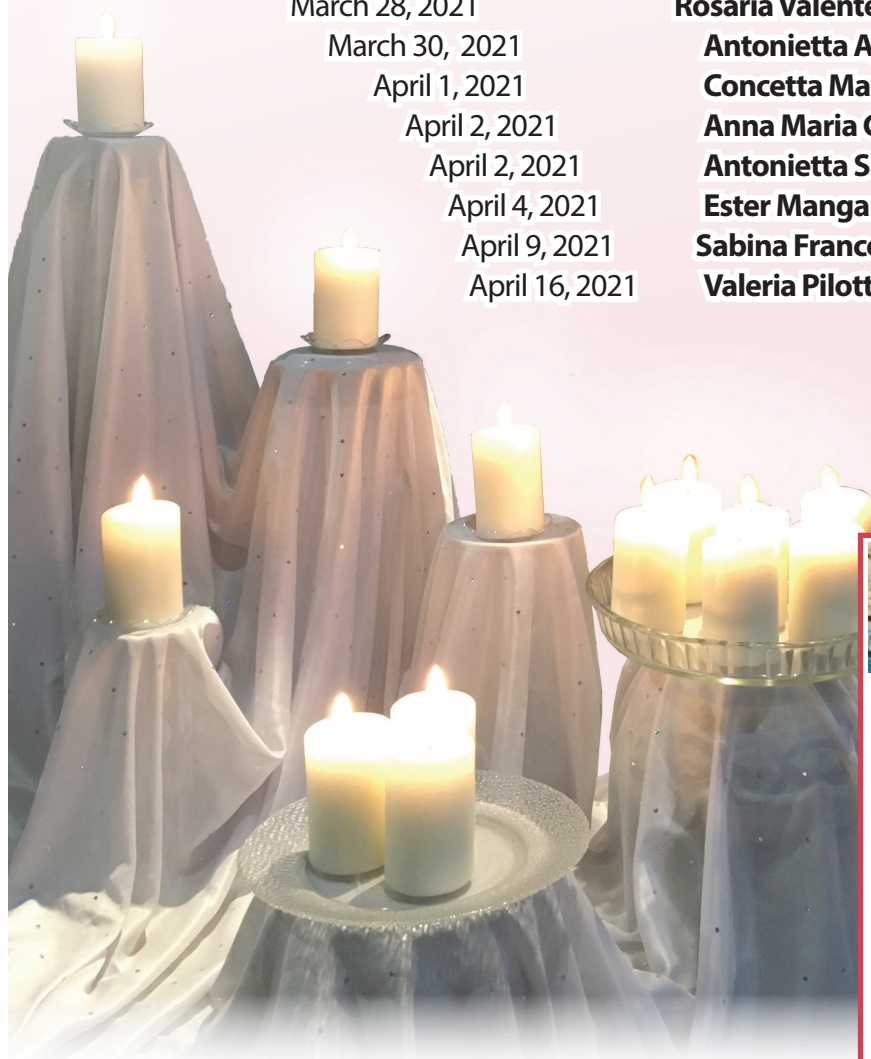
**Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC – May 18, 2021**





## Commemoration of the ASCs who died of COVID

November 3, 2020	<b>Josipa Santro</b>	Zagreb
November 28, 2020	<b>Elia Maurizia Di Salvo</b>	Italy
Dicember 2, 2020	<b>Blandina Hug</b>	Schaan
Dicember 4, 2020	<b>Elia Siddi</b>	Italy
Dicember 8, 2020	<b>Elena Pannunzio</b>	Italy
March 17, 2021	<b>Lucia Spadone</b>	Italy
March 19, 2021	<b>Maria Carmela Tancredi</b>	Italy
March 20, 2021	<b>Maria Zilda Moraes</b>	Manaus
March 20, 2021	<b>Giovanna Valvano</b>	Italy
March 22, 2021	<b>Adele Massari</b>	Italy
March 23, 2021	<b>Natalina Petrilli</b>	Italy
March 24, 2021	<b>Teresa Denticò</b>	Italy
March 28, 2021	<b>Rosaria Valente</b>	Italy
March 30, 2021	<b>Antonietta Agherbino</b>	Italy
April 1, 2021	<b>Concetta Mancini</b>	Italy
April 2, 2021	<b>Anna Maria Campanaro</b>	Italy
April 2, 2021	<b>Antonietta Sangregorio</b>	Italy
April 4, 2021	<b>Ester Manganiello</b>	Italy
April 9, 2021	<b>Sabina Francone</b>	Italy
April 16, 2021	<b>Valeria Pilotti</b>	Italy



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## May 18, 2021 Special

XVIII Anniversary of the Canonization of  
**Saint Maria De Mattias**