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# L'APOSTOLA DEL SANGUE DI CRISTO

SANTA MARIA DE MATTIAS 1805-1866

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«Lord I am yours,  
because you created me;  
I am yours because you  
redeemed me with your most  
Precious Blood.  
Do with me what you will»  
(MDM)

## July 1 Solemnity of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.



“And their voices are sounding in a new song, saying, It is right for you to take the book and to make it open: for you were put to death and have made an offering to God of your blood for men of every tribe, and language, and people, and nation, and have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are ruling on the earth”  
(Ap 5, 9-10)

### CONTEMPLATION AND LIVE

The Blood that flows from the cross is a sound, a phenomenon that becomes a voice: it sings love and declares it as the only possibility for life. “There is no love greater than this: to give one's life for one's friends”.

(Jn 15:13)

Blood is the fire of desire, the voice of mercy, the always lighted truth, the sap of life, the plan for life, the genuineness of freedom for the heart which loves.

There is in Blood an eloquence of life that moves; and the silence of a God who gives Himself without words, but with concrete acts of martyrdom.

In the Blood there is the strength of the loved one who does not withdraw before trials, the silence of one who receives energy and, amazed, astonishes by an abundant outpouring of love.

In that flow of life there are no words that accompany its flowing down till the earth; instead there is a profound silence that envelops the cross and Calvary. It is the silence of divine mercy which still today invites us to pause at the feet of the Crucified One and to turn over our existence, in mute awareness, to the renewal that love alone is able to work. To look at Blood and to hear the subtle murmur of its flowing down to the earth makes one's heart vibrate with the energy of love and accelerates its beating to the extent of weeping with joy.

It is precisely in silence that it is possible to know the Lord's love, to approach the holy cross covered with lifeblood, and to weep to the extent of uniting one's own tears to that flow of red-tinged peace. Words are of no use to those who know how to stay a long time in that river of mercy. We do not even need to cry for help if we are able to accept silently the disconcerting divine freedom that regenerates by dying on a cross.

“In love silence has greater value than a word”, states Pascal. We can verify the experience of that if we are able to relate with a God so eloquent in love, so silent in a relationship with us, as to let us swim with our mouth closed in that river of grace of the Blood of the Son. In our human relationships, love, in order to express itself, alternates speech and silence, without distinguishing, but mixing up every time. Wherever the expression “I love you” resounds, the need for silence increases; and where silence becomes deeper, the words become more delicate and filled with mystery.

Sr. Anna Maria Vissani, ASC and collaborators  
“In the Blood of Christ, Our Freedom”

## THE REDEEMING POWER OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

“Restoring life in the Blood of Christ” is the primary and ultimate reason for the preferential option of the “La Casa” (“Home”) boarding community and the socio-educational day center “Crescere” (“To Grow”) of Neviano (LE), created and conducted by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Italy Region. Our community, composed of 4 ASC and 5 lay people, welcomes at-risk minors, children with family difficulties, with separated parents who for various reasons cannot take care of their children and cannot assure them a healthy, balanced upbringing.

All children have the right to have a family in which to experience the beauty of being accepted with love. Upbringing, responsibility, gratitude, respect, schooling, and spirituality are, for us, the indispensable channels through which to help our little ones reach a full and harmonious maturity.

The boarding community and the socio-educational center absolutely do not intend to substitute for the family, but want to be the “home” that, in a climate of serenity, will help minors to become adult persons. Our task is to stand beside these wounded young people and have them experience how much the Lord loves them, giving Himself to them completely and gratuitously. Every life, in fact, is precious in the eyes of the Lord and is worth all His Blood, as St. Maria De Mattias teaches us!

Restoring dignity to those suffering unjustly is not simple, but not impossible. It is here that the faith of each of us comes into play, and especially the faith of our ASC community; because a life, if it is helped by being enlightened by the love of Jesus, can change. This is the experience that the Lord is giving me personally the possibility of having, calling me to journey with those less fortunate than me, respecting their times, with much openness and much patience, and witnessing joy in belonging to Jesus.

We Adorers of the Blood of Christ, like Jesus Christ who gave his blood for us, are called to give our blood for the life of these children and young people whom the juvenile court has entrusted to us; children who are suffering because they have experienced physical, psychological and spiritual violence.

That is our specific calling: to express the love of Christ daily not only in words, but also in our actions and in the ongoing commitment to take care of the “dear neighbor”.

Many times, however, it is difficult to do

good, because there are situations of death that apparently aren't noted, but which dwell in the depth of the heart of these children whom the Lord has entrusted to us.

Every life is a mystery; and what emerges on the surface does not always correspond to what a frail and defenseless humanity is experiencing. Going beyond the appearances, we often find ourselves facing great wounds that, with shame, dread, fear, and distrust of adults, hide behind false smiles or attitudes of aggression.

It is not easy to bring to light what each one really is living, but experience, and not only that, teaches me that the only way that makes one free is the way of truth. It is the only road, already experienced, toward healing. Almost seven years have passed since the Lord called me to work in this reality; and many are the negative situations that were changed into positive. The Lord has worked great things even using my poor person, thus transforming wounds into embraces or windows of light.

That is the Paschal experience that, like a prodigy, is still renewed today in our time because the Blood of Christ, like a balm, heals and soothes every suffering. In listening to the cry of the poor, sharpening the ears of our heart, we also try continually to give concrete responses to the needs of the territory in which we are working.

Beginning this year, in fact, we have begun a project for the formation of families who are sensitive and open to taking custody of those minors who do not have the possibility of re-entering their families of origin.

I thank the Lord, because on the example of Saint Maria De Mattias, we her daughters, too, bring the redemptive power of the Blood of Christ to the world.

Sr. Monica Rini



# today... living the spirituality of the Blood of Christ

## HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

*Moment of formation for parents and students, organized and led by high school students of the Precious Blood Institute of Latina.*

Many times, relationships between parents and children are difficult because they do not have the courage to speak. They have things to say, but do not find the words. The family is the first experience of community for a young person: it is a community that helps him/her to grow, to form a personality, to learn they have a role... But even within domestic walls there are plenty of difficulties: difficulty of communication between parents and children, natural difficulties due to the fact that parents and children have different mentalities, belong to different generations.

Many boys and girls, then, for dread of expressing themselves, or for fear of not being understood, avoid dialog with adults, parents and also teachers. They choose the route that is simplest for them, that of silence. Precisely based on these considerations, Most Precious Blood Institute of Latina decided to dedicate an entire afternoon, that of April 16, 2011, to talking about the commandment that obliges us to honor our father and mother (cfr Ex 20:12; Dt 5:16).

The goal of a convention is always that of arousing reflection, of stimulating those in attendance to thought and to the topic that is being considered. This "meeting", too, had those purposes, and for the most part, we think we reached them.

However, maybe the absolute real newness was the "meaningful" presence offered by the secondary school students, a presence that was significant for different reasons.

First of all, they chose the topic of the meeting. The entire afternoon was organized



and led only by their activities. Teachers and parents were interested spectators, but spectators. They heard a succession of talks presented by the students, the heart of which was always the fourth commandment "honor your father and your mother".

After Andrea's presentation, Rachele and Elisa told a story. Then Giulia pointed out the value of the commandment on a social level. Some focused on Biblical and poetic passages, like Gaia, Chiara S., Giada, Alessia and Gioiamaria. Others spoke of personal experiences like Alessandro D. and Dany. Alessandro C, on the other hand, reminded us of the importance of family communication. Chiara B. and Carlotta stressed the value of parents for children. Sara S. and Flavia, with a video, responded to a meaningful question: who are parents? Another video shown at the end and prepared by Giammarco, Sara C. and Frederic showed how important and determining the continuity of family values is. They showed pictures of parents and children taken in different times of their life. The discussion, however, was nicely led by Michela.

The evening concluded with the presentation of a symbol by Simone who offered it to the parents as a sign of recognition and gratitude.

The objective that was to be reached was two-fold: to remind the students of the truest value of this commandment, but also not to let parents forget that the Biblical passage presupposes a respect and mutual obligation.

All participated with different but important tasks; no one secondary to anyone. Another great goal: "Because it is only the tongue that equalizes. Equal is the one who knows how to express oneself and understands the expression of others. Whether one is rich or poor is less important. Suffice it to speak." (From Letter to a teacher, School of Barbiana, Publisher Florentine, pg. 96).

In a society where people always try to pass off their own children as better than others, the strong message that was meant is that all are valued and each is special in his/her way.



With the succession of reports, one could read satisfaction, stupor, and marvel in the eyes of the parents present. The children spoke and the parents listened; the parents, then, were moved and understood that they did not have empty and insignificant adolescents in front of them, but young people capable of understanding and capable of moving feelings. If these are the young people, then, it is truly up to the adults to trust them to build a better future.

*Prof. Antonio Grassi, Italia*

## WITNESSES...

### THE JARS OF HOPE

I am a mother who cares for eight children alone; the oldest is 19 years old, the youngest is 3 years. The second youngest, Sofia, who is 6, is sick with diabetes. When she became ill two years ago, I felt very oppressed; I had the impression I could not carry also that burden. I already felt the burden of responsibility for the whole family when this sickness of the little girl was added.

When I understood what this illness entailed, I became frightened. The control of sugar, the fixed times for meals, measuring everything that Sofia had to eat, administering insulin through the pump and managing the medical documentation seemed to

me a task beyond my strength. Besides, I was afraid of the lowering of sugar in Sofia's blood, because this would have put her life in danger.

I tried to overcome the fear by building up faith within myself, and the conviction that Sofia is loved by God and the He himself takes care of her; but I had to reconcile this awareness with the suffering of the child. Still today, Sofia is afraid of injections and she cries every time she has to receive an insulin injection.

I try to support my daughter in every way: I do not eat things that are not recommended for her; at the time of the common meal, when she cannot eat because of a high sugar count, I absent myself with her and we spend this time together doing dif-



ferent things.

What helps me face the suffering of the child and my own, is the deep conviction that God desires the welfare and happiness of all of us and

cares for us with a tender love. I believe strongly that my worries are His worries and my problems with the children are His problems.

The sufferings of Sofia, of my other children as well as mine, every day I immerse them into the stream of Blood that springs from the side of Jesus Crucified; and in the Blood of Jesus I rediscover the strength to carry out my mission.

I feel within me that my daily efforts are filling stone jars and that one day Jesus will "transform" them for the good of my family.

*Anna from Poland*



# Thanks!

We want to express my sincere thanks to all who generously help the dissemination of the Apostle with their offer.

The Adoration of the Blood of Christ  
Editor of the "L'Apostola"