

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

At Your Word

Editorial

At your word, Lord,
people have dared things that seemed senseless.
They've begun
where from the beginning
it seemed no success was possible.

At your word, Lord ...
Only this was the journey and the bridge,
direction and light,
security with everything was dark
and seemed to fall apart.

At your word, Lord,
Abraham went into a foreign land.
He went even further
when he set out
to sacrifice his only son;
he placed the promise
into your hands.

At your word, Lord,
Moses went to Pharaoh
and spoke with those
with closed hearts and ears.
With your power you led
your enslaved people
through the desert,

even if they were reluctant.

At your word, Lord,
the prophets announced the words
you had given to them,
even if no one wanted to listen to it.

At your word, Lord,
some returned from Babel
to the promised land.
They hoped against every hope
in your Reign.

At your word, Lord,
Mary said her Yes
the morning of the annunciation
and the evening of the cross.

At your word, Lord,
the witnesses of faith
set out on the journey
and allowed themselves to be led
where they did not want to go.
They lost their lives
and found them again in you.

At your word, Lord ...
Do not allow me to be deaf
to your word!

Summary

Editorial

At Your Word

General Administration Space

Interculturality is a process

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In the Congregation

General Administration Calendar
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**No path toward inter-culturality exists,
inter-culturality is the path**

On Monday, October 24, together with Sr. Dani, I participated in an interesting conversation promoted by the International Union of General Superiors on the theme, "The intercultural challenge in consecrated life." Sister Maria Theresia Hörnemann, General Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit, facilitated a very meaningful reflection on one of the most enthusiastic challenges of consecrated life today: interculturality. We often thank the Lord because we are diverse! God the Father, in his incredible imagination, created each person different from everyone else ... unique and deeply loved. But we know that differences are also a source of difficulty, not only in our communities and congregations, but also in our multicultural world of today. The multiculturalism we live in the globalized world is a daily challenge, but it is also a great opportunity. Most of the people present at the meeting belonged to congregations with members from different nationalities and cultures. It was very interesting to share and recognized ourselves within the same journey of transformation.



The international community at the Generalate is a very significant experience where we experience each day the blessings of the community of life, but also its challenges. We

live together as members from different nationalities and we have always been considered an international community. In these recent years, urged by a global reflection, the topic of interculturality has become ever more important for us as well. The word interculturality has almost replaced the word internationality because we also know that even members of the same nationality have very different cultures.

Culture is a way of life typical of a group; it is a system of symbols, meanings and thought patterns transmitted through symbolic codes; it is collection of adaptive strategies for survival linked to ecology and resources. We need to recognize that culture is learned, shared and that it is a dynamic process that helps us see the world with different eyes.

The topics we dealt with allowed us to reflect and become aware of our prejudices regarding other cultures; therefore, we have to help each other realize that there are easily visible aspects of culture (language, art, food, body language) and there are other, deeper aspects that are seen with greater difficulty (values, traditions, prejudices, fears, dreams, feelings....) Generally these latter, if not known and if there is not a true awareness about how they are lived, are those that create greater resistances. Culture does not sprout up, but is learned, and differences should be considered an enrichment



General Administration Space



and not a threat. We recognize that living IN and WITH other cultures helps us grow in an awareness of our own culture, understand that no perfect culture exists, and distinguish what is cultural from what is personal.

As consecrated women we need to feel called to look at cultures in the light of that of the Gospel.

This conversation certainly opened many other motives for reflection that we want to welcome to help us grow in unity.

In the 2017 GA Acts we state “we embrace the process of transformation” having “a strong wil-



lingness to go forward as one,” ... and committing ourselves “to international and intercultural formation...” (Direction Statement in the 2017 GA Acts)

We can ask ourselves:

1. What are the blessings and the difficulties we experience regarding interculturality in our communities, groups and congregations?
2. What has helped us in intercultural life?

Certainly the answers we can give will broaden the often limited horizons of our way of living interculturality. Small steps toward communal horizons....

Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC

From the ASC World

*International Community
Generalate*

The colors of interculturality

Since October the community of the generalate has changed its outward appearance. The new general administration has replaced the previous administration, but there is also newness within the group of ASC collaborators and guest sisters.

Sr. Giuseppina Di Niro, treasurer of the generalate during the 2011-2017 term, was elected a regional councilor of the Region of Italy and has therefore moved to San Giovanni regional house. In her

place, Sr. Kochurani Vaghese, asc, came from the Region of India. Sr. Barbara Perali, asc, came to be part of the generalate community with the duty of specialization on an academic level in the service of translator and interpreter and contributing in various needs of the community.

The sisters of other congregations who are our guests for the current academic year come from Benin: Sr. Laure and Sr. Fleur, from Korea: Sr. Pio; from India: Sr. Lucy, and from Italy: Sr. Daniela. They are studying

or teaching (Sr. Daniela) at the theological universities of Rome and are fully involved in our community life. The veteran ASCs, Sr. Teresina Veronese, Sr. Lucia Lombardi, Sr. Marcia Kruse, Sr. Soccorro Moreira Rocha and Sr. Loreta Stipić are continuing their services respectively as community animator, archivist, musical accompanist and receptionist, helper in practical things at the Vatican Departments and receptionist, sacristan and flower arranger.

There are 19 of us in all, coming



From the ASC World

from 7 nations. In our community planning meeting we decided that we would all feel responsible for the good quality of our being together and in appreciating the qualities that each can put at the service of the common good. We have already had several opportunities to discover the gifts we have and with renewed wonder to be aware that our differences color our life and allow us to look at things from other perspectives, offering us enrichment and openness of our horizons.

In particular we had a very interesting meeting for sharing, in which, following the meeting of Major Superiors (UISG), Sr. Nadia and Sr. Bridget suggested a reflection on interculturality. Seated around the same table we were each called upon to pre-

sent a special object characteristic of our individual cultures to which we belong. One brought a special product from her land, someone else brought clothing, others brought objects or photos. We were aware that



even from the same nation there are difference and we all talked about some of the visible differences that are easily identifiable at first glance. At this point Sr. Nadia invited us to delve deeper and look beyond appearan-

ces. Each world culture can be represented by an iceberg. The visible part of the iceberg is much smaller than the hidden part, which, in fact, ships have to be attentive to if they want to avoid running aground. In our living together we want to be attentive not only to the diversity of our languages and customs, but to share more about our way of understanding values, traditions, the meaning of authority and obedience, our same religious consecration in order to put into action the circle of giving and having that always demand each of us to renounce ourselves in order to build something new together.

Members of the international community

Renovated Generalate House

Upon my return to the generalate house after a rather long absence, I was pleased to see it renovated and transformed. In fact, the areas near the part of the house being leased were closed off for several months for the renovation work and are now once again accessible.

The international community can benefit from four bedrooms with baths, it again has an inviting chapel for community prayer, and is gradually getting the library ready for use. The offices and bedrooms of the previous administration were

repainted and tastefully decorated, by simply moving furniture and positioning pictures and knick-knacks in a different way. Now the telephone system and the WIFI function better and internet is accessible everywhere in the house. Since, last winter the bathrooms on third floor were completely redone and painted and the basement area was redeveloped, it can be said that the house has truly been quite renovated and has become more beautiful and comfortable.

On the other side of the courtyard, where the school had been located, work is proceeding and



From the ASC World



generalate, I hope to be able to sit comfortably in the library to read a good book and see our neighbors across the courtyard who are satisfied with their hard work and involved in a service of honest and useful hospitality for the inhabitants of the neighborhood as well.

Sr Patrizia Pasquini, asc

it is hoped that by the end of winter the work will be completed. Recently the sign above the main entrance on via Taurasia (former school entrance) was put up: Hotel San Giovanni opening soon.

When it happens that I return to the



*Continental Area: the Americas
USA Region*

Beyond Tolerance

At the Beyond Tolerance Rally at Wichita State University on Sunday, April 30, participants took ribbons to tie around trees.

Sr Nylas Moser had sung in the Beyond Tolerance Choir of 50-plus voices, bringing home a set of ribbons.

Several Sisters joined in the ribboning of a tree in the Wichita Center parking lot. Sisters Bernadine Wessel and Nylas did the ribbon tying. Sisters Bok Soon Kim, Jeannine Bahr, Francella Bahr, Mary Kevin

Rooney, Denise Schwarz, Renee

Kirmer, and Ursula Schones also attended.

Administrator Greg Lohkamp not only served as photographer, he brought red and yellow ribbons to add to the ribbons provided. While the ribbons were being tied, Sister Ursula read the Unity Ribbon Movement words of encouragement:

“Let’s transform our community by respecting all colors of humanity. Let’s keep tying black, brown, and white, (yellow and red) ribbons around as many trees as possible as a visible

symbol of unity.”

The Beyond Tolerance movement began in the days following the mass shooting of nine people at prayer on June 17, 2015, in a Charleston, S.C. church.

Organized by two local pastors, a citywide rally, pulpit exchanges, a ribbon-tying campaign, and the Beyond Tolerance Amazing Dinner Dialogues have been held with great success. It is the goal of Beyond Tolerance to transform communities throughout Kansas and the nation by building relationships



From the ASC World

and respecting all people through truth and justice.

Shown in the photo are Sisters Bernadine Wessel and Nylas Moser (on either side of the tree); Sisters Bok Soon Kim, Jeannine Bahr, Francella Bahr, Mary Kevin Rooney, Denise Schwarz, Renee Kirmer, and Ursula Schones (front row). Unfortunately, the sun hid behind the clouds during our brief ceremony.



Sr Nylas Moser, asc

Senior Sister Retreat



Triduum and an anointing for their Triduum “walk” with Christ. (Even Toby, their cat, got an up-close look at the symbols!)

Sr. Sara Dwyer, asc

The Sisters living at St. Anne’s Retirement Community had a special Holy Week retreat, April 10-12, facilitated by Sister Sara Dwyer. The theme was “Witnessing the Way of the Cross Today: Are You All In?”

The presentations compared our aging process with the reality of “walking the way of the cross” with Jesus, the Christ, every day.

There were prayers based on the Scriptures and the symbols of the



From the ASC World

Continental Area: Africa
Region of Tanzania

Graduation ceremony at the Amani Girls' School

The graduation ceremony was held Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Amani Girls' Secondary School. A total of 85 students completed fourth form this year.

Guest of honor was the district commissioner of Manyoni and Ikungi, Honorable Miraji J. Mtaturr. Parents, guardians and other invited guests began arriving at 7:30 in the morning.

The celebration began with the Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Thomas Wambura, pastor of Ascension of the Lord Parish, with Father Eugene Nchimbi concelebrating. In his homily Father Wambura exhorted the graduates to behave well during their vacation and to continue with further studies. The choir, made up of graduates, sang well, making the Mass beautiful.

After the Holy Mass, the guest of honor accompanied by the Council and School administration went into the arena with a special parade, led by the school band. The band invited the people to sing the national anthem and the school song. The principal, Mrs. Laura Nchupa, greeted the invited guests, parents, board, staff and students. The president of the school council, Mr. Focus

Mushi, introduced the guest of honor.

Various performances were presented, including the tradition dance



called "the threshing floor and the tribes of Nyaturu". The students were proud of their culture. Some of the parents and guests joined in the dancing! The purpose of the performance was to give messages to the graduates who were preparing for their vacation. The outgoing students

crowned their presentation with a talk that pointed out some of the aspects of their academic life and they also spoke about some of the challenges they faced during their studies. The guest of honor directed his words to

the students, inviting them to behave well in returning to their families and remember that now, outside the protective gates of the school, they will have to deal with other challenges. He also spoke of the development of Amani Girls' School and the importance of beginning the project of the construction

of a new school for study up to level A6. His talk was supported by

many parents and other guests. At the

end of his talk we presented the scholastic magazine "Voice of Amani." Copies of this were available for sale. The proceeds will go to the fund for the building project of the new school

The guest of honor conferred the certificates and other testaments of merit to the students who had completed their studies. The certificates of merit were given to those who showed excellence in academic, sport, discipline and liturgy presentations.



From the ASC World

Finally, the members of the scholastic council, the school administration, the graduates and their parents or guardians invited the guests to dinner together. It was a marvelous day!

Thanks to the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of



Christ who with great love take care of us and prepare us well for our future. May God bless them.

Amani Girls' Secondary School

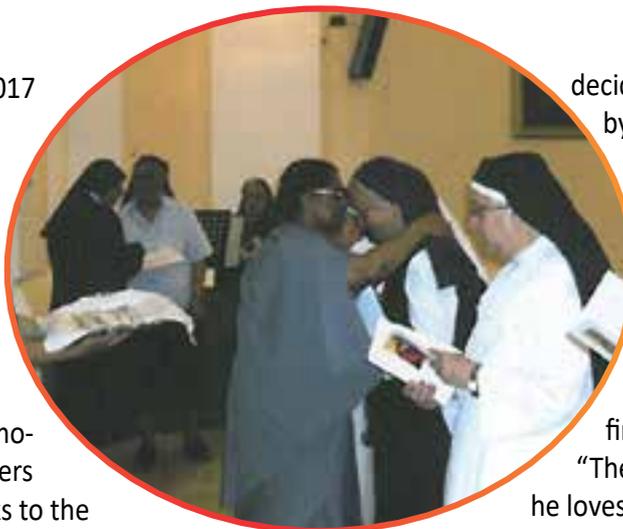
*Continental Area: Europe
Region of Italy*

Fusion of the Daughters of Mary, our Guardian with our Congregation

At 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2017 during first vespers for the solemnity of the Sacred Heart in the chapel of San Giovanni Regional House in Rome, we had a moving celebration with His Excellency Msgr. Palmigiani, Bishop of Tivoli, presiding. This celebration marked a moment of growth for us Adorers of the Blood of Christ thanks to the addition of a precious flower, the fusion of the Sisters "Daughters of Mary, Our Guardian" with our Congregation.

Each step and individual moment of the day was dedicated to these new sisters. All the community of St. Giovanni experienced great joy for this fusion and we were greatly moved.

What struck me positively and edified me was the courage, yes, courage of these sisters who for love of the Lord and their vocation



decided to risk all, in a journey by taking this important step that required giving up to make the choice, an end for a new beginning: living consecrated life in the spirituality of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, following the words of the first reading of the liturgy, "The Lord chose you because

he loves you." (Dt. 7:7) Because the call of God is privileged love, trust, choice.

It is love of sharing that He calls us to be involved and has us do our part.

Dear Sisters, the Lord Jesus loved you, loved us, and in loving us, chose us, and it was precisely in order to continue to live this love to the full that the eight Sisters, Daughters of Mary, Our Guardia, made this choice, by deciding to join us, taking on our spirituality.

The liturgy was well-prepared and well-participated



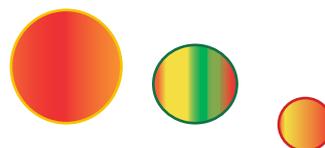
From the ASC World

in. The church was lovingly decorated that morning, thanks to the help and willingness of all the sisters present. Each Sister contributed her gift, thus offering the Lord the picture of a true, big family. The participative singing let each person experience the celebration more intensely and this was possible thanks to the help and participation of our Sisters from the Generalate who came the evening before for a song practice. The giving of the "heart and chain," the symbol of belonging to our Congregation, was an especially moving moment. This gesture ratified and marked the union of these eight sisters with us, enriching us with their charisms and lived experiences. At the end of the celebration there was a time of agape that gave freedom to celebrating the gift received with this union. It was an opportunity for everyone to share their feelings, emotions, fears and made possible that the addition of the drop of water to the ocean made



it even more a ocean, just like the Daughters of Mary, Our Guardian, from that time on, joined with us, are Adorers of the Blood of Christ. With deep admiration, we thank these Sisters who gift our congregation with an important teaching with their message of courage, humility and perseverance, and also of continuing with consistency their journey and choice of life, that of consecration, because the power of witness happens through an important attitude, that of consistency! Let us welcome them, be ready to live important and meaningful experiences together along the path traced out by the Lord, in following the footsteps of Maria De Mattias, entrusting to the Lord our cause in order to complete His work.

Sr. Monica Rini ASC



From the ASC World

Continental Area: Europe
Region of Zagreb

The richness of living our asc charism internationality

As a part of sabbatical year, which I was allowed at my workplace, it is desirable to gain a certain international experience at some university abroad. Earlier, I had an experience of internationalism through my postgraduate studies and I have often observed differences in openness and the way of approach between colleagues who have had an international experience and those who have not moved out from the Croatian context. We are an international community. But how much do we actually live our international dimension, an essential element of our ASC identity? I made a distinction and decision, so I decided to ask my superiors for permission to spend some time in the ASC community of Wichita, USA, and in the Social Work Department at Newman University. I wanted to share both my ASC charism and my professional experience within the general social work field in an international context. That really happened during the 40 days of my stay at the Wichita Center. After the bustle of life that accompanies midlife in general, as well as my different work and apostolic activities, I came to an oasis of peace and silence, the oasis of a spiritual atmosphere that was like a balm to a wound. The Wichita Center is filled with a spiritual atmosphere and



dynamics of the ASC community, those who serve the Lord and testify to being sisters and friends by expressing respect, love and dignity in hospitality and dedication to all who come to their home. I felt very much welcomed and very well accepted. For me, it like returning to my time as a novice, but with a very different perspective than when I was 18 and 19 years old. I had a lot of time to think, share, pray...I noticed differences in the cultural context. Cultures are simply different, and their diversity enriches us indeed as ASC community. I observed the different approaches to spirituality: the elements of tradition and living the deep spiritual dimension of religiosity and of the spirituality of the Blood of Christ. I was very impressed by the chapel itself, which speaks quietly and at the same time very loudly the spiritual dimension. I came to recognize a very accentuated ASC charism in Wichita, which is lived through unconditional love manifested in different ways, especially in respect



From the ASC World

for life. I will tell more about that along with sharing about their apostolic activities. But what I want to emphasize is the dimension of community which manifests itself as an apostolic testimony. I experienced beautiful moments of communion in prayer, sharing, recreation and play. I experienced beautiful moments of communion and sharing with the elderly Sisters in Caritas. But I also had the opportunity to share fellowship with all age groups, from the candidates, novices, middle-aged to the elderly... It was all grace and a gift...

Through and at Newman University I had a deep experience of God's intervention and providence. The openness of the sisters and their cooperation with the Holy Spirit in carrying out such a useful apostolic action impressed me. Eighty-four years ago, that work was started by a great woman, Beata Nedermeyer, and as I read her biography I found a fascinating person who, together with her associates of that time, believed in God's providence and was not afraid of the risk of starting with high education. That same spirit I found alive today in the ASCs in Wichita. They strongly rely on God's providence and are united in the development of that work, each of them contributing in her own way to its progress. Today it is a modern and prestigious University with many different areas: natural and social sciences, as

well as various artistic courses. The ASC charism and spirituality is integrated in the University and it is felt as its predominant feature. That can be seen at the symbolical level in the chapel, that is given an important place in the university space, finding within the character of



Maria De Mattias and lamps for each region, representing our international communion in prayer for the Newman University. The lamps are the same as those in Acuto, from where Maria De Mattias had spread literacy among children and women of her time. At that time it was what was needed to create a better world, just as at Newman today various scientific disciplines are studied in order to transform society and create a new world. And

indeed, the Catholic values and knowledge gained at Newman have a resonance not only in the state of Kansas, but throughout America, Europe and all over the world because these concentric circles are widening and absorbing the entire world. It is the very yeast that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel. It was also wonderful to see the other apostolic works and occupations of the ASCs of the US Region. I experienced their commitment to the deprived and the poorest in society. Sisters do not know retirement, but work and are active in their apostolate until the end of their life. Just as MDM in her time recognized the needy ones of her time and stood for them, the sisters in Wichita do the same thing today, being active in working with immigrant families, homeless people, women victims of violence, the elderly and the sick. I have observed all that through the charism of the Blood

of Christ, which gives birth to life and sustains life where it is endangered in its fullness. One of the essential attributes of the apostolate of the Wichita Center is the group of Associates. The Associates are very alive and active, indeed together with the sisters, they pray and work and contribute to the Kingdom of God.

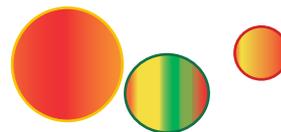
Sr. Zdrawka Leutar, asc



In the Congregation

November 16- 18, 2017

Sr. Dani Brought participated in a seminar organized by JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) for animators of Justice and Peace within their Congregations. The topic of the seminar was “In the spirit of non-violence: a political style for peace.”



General Administration Calendar

November 20, 2017 – February 15, 2018

Sr Manuela Nocco is spending a time of work and education at the Wichita Center for her service.

November 24, – December 15, 2017

Sr. Nadia Coppa and Sr. Wiesława Przbyło are in Tanzania to meet with the regional administration and visit the communities.



On the happy occasion of the upcoming Holy Christmas I fulfill my duty of wishing each of you a most happy one. May the God-Child fill your hearts with all those graces you desire.

MDM, December 4, 1856

They have returned to the Father's house



Region of Italy
November 16, 2017
Sr Carolina Basile

