



International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Year XIX – Issue 5, May 2017

God's House

Editorial

Stella, a three-year-old daughter of Hindu parents, had always heard from her mother and father that God dwells in the heart and that you need to go down into your heart to find him and pray to him. So she had learned to repeat to herself, "God dwells in my heart." And when she prayed she bowed her head toward her little heart.

One awful day the little girl felt strangely queasy and in a short time became very sick. The doctors in the pediatric unit of the hospital diagnosed her with a congenital heart problem that did not give much hope for her survival. One of the doctors suggested a delicate heart surgery, even though there was not much possibility of its being



successful.

Her parents grasp at this thin thread of hope and accepted the suggestion.

The day of surgery Stella was very weak but calm. She said to the surgeon, "When you cut into my heart, be very careful

because that is the house of God and I don't want him to be hurt." The doctor was struck by what she said and, as he placed the scalpel to her body, he continued to think about it. By then the surgery had begun, Stella's heart stopped beating, but the surgeon felt within himself that he shouldn't stop the surgery. Upon putting the final stitch to close the incision he said to himself, "Go in peace, I left everything the way it should be and I did not hurt the One whom your heart protected." The child's body jolted and the child woke up saying, "Thank you! God told me that you are a great doctor; I was sure that you would treat Him well."

What does it mean to have faith?

Sr Patrizia Pasquini, asc

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World Water Day

...Water, an element synonymous with life, is celebrated every March 22 with World Water Day. The United Nations instituted World Water Day in 1992: a 24-hour period during which the member states promote concrete actions in protection of water and are dedicated to the campaign to raise public awareness about one of the most critical topics of our time.

..The Precious Blood Institute could not fail to celebrate it. The youngsters of the Primary School and the Secondary School took part in World Water Day sponsored by the National Library of Bari.

This initiative involved children and youngsters, giving them an active role that saw them as protagonists and in charge of communication addressed to the citizens about the topic of water.

..Our students, in following Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si", reflected on and promoted reflection by those around them on the situation of our planet and on water as a precious resource without which life would not be possible on Earth. In addition, our young people participated in the UNESCO project, Water and Multicultu-

rality." They participated in the "Sister Water" project sponsored by the Puglia Region and carried out in collaboration with the Puglia GISCEL, an Environmental League, and with RES. The endeavor had the purpose of making the children and young-



sters aware of that fact that water is a precious resource that is not to be wasted and aims to make them reflect on the difficulty of stewarding this resource on our planet. It let them understand that we can all be active citizens and do something to improve and protect our planet and its inhabitants.

The "Sister Water" project, concluding partially on the 22nd, proposed an educational path for the citizen that saw the students involved in various activities: making of posters, clay

forms and drawings on the various aspects of water that were then displayed in the National Library.

Throughout the year the primary school children spent time reading two books: "Lina and her Friends from the Sea" and "In a Glass of Water." Because of this, they eagerly participated in the marathon of reading held at the Library. They attended the recitation of poetry and animated reading by the scholastic directors, but especially those by Liliana Carone, the author and illustrator of the books they had read.

Immediately afterwards they recited a nursery rhyme about rain, spoken rhythmically and danced with the sound of the letters. To conclude the day they performed a short skit to the music of Vivaldi's "Spring".

The youngsters of the Secondary School showed their art work and multimedia presentations in the Library Auditorium at the same time. They talked about the history of the Aqueduct of Puglia, the properties of water, how water is used as a means of communication and symbol of immigration, and they described the contents of a book read during the year called "Nawal,



the Refugee's Angel". Then they sang and danced to Justin Bieber's song "Cold Water!"

The endeavor did not end there. On April 22 there was the closing of the works, a conference dedicated to the older people at the end of a project that represented an educational journey for the citizens and the opportunity to remind the adults, youngsters and children about the importance of blue gold!

*Teachers
of Precious Blood primary school*

*Continental Area: Europe
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ASC Associates in Pompei

A national meeting of the Associates was held on April 2 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompei, organized by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

A room filled with the joyful songs of the Acuto Folklore Group accompanied by dances with typical Ciociarian costumes greeted the pilgrims coming from every part of Italy. The room was very large and filled with people. Sisters Maria Paniccia and Gabriella Grossi, ASC, who were in-charge of the entire organization, were there to welcome the

group. The Regional Superior, Sister Silvana Crolla, also greeted them.

The theme of the conference had the title, "Vocation to Holiness. I am a mission announcing the Blood of Christ." It was definitely an involving topic underlining the need to make faith itself more complete by living in harmony with the spirituality of

the Precious Blood and making one's life a gift to become "Word of God", a believable announcing of the Blood of salvation.

Sister Emila Salvi, moderator of the Round Table, introduced the speakers, Father Andrea Biaggi, CPPS, Sister Lucia Resta, ASC, and Sister Nadia Coppa, ASC. The topics of the Round Table were presented keeping in mind the Biblical, Charismatic and Existential aspects.

The morning concluded with a solemn celebration of the Eucharist in the pilgrim-filled shrine, with Father Andrea Biaggi presiding. In





his homily he sent everyone to rediscover the harmony of Baptism and faith.

The Shrine filled with people was definitely a sign of the anxiety and fear that people are experiencing at this uncertain time filled with violence. More than ever there is within us and around us a need for certainty and reassurance. Only the gift of the Eucharist can dissipate

the shadows that loom over our human brokenness.

The participants enjoyed their lunch in the locales around the Shrine. In the early afternoon there was a prayer-filled recitation of the rosary in front of the image of Our Lady of Pompei.

As the participants returned home they took with them the memories of a day filled with hope and devotion that infused

courage in us to live in the serenity of a lively faith filled with promises.

*Taken from an article
by Maria Luisa Costantopulos,
ASC Associatec*

*Continental Area: the Americas
USA Region*

Increase Our Love for the Blood of Christ



Ken Giovanelli, Director of Pastoral Care for St. Anne's Retirement Community, led our prayer day speaking powerfully of the charism of the Adorers and the spirituality of the Blood of Jesus, then facilitating reflection and sharing throughout the day.

He heralded the grace of God which took hold of Maria De Mattias early

in her life: the Love of God shown us in Jesus Crucified, who poured out his Love for us in Blood. Ken shone with the love of Jesus as he related Maria's encouragement to her sisters to "immerse yourselves in Jesus Crucified" and show forth Jesus' Love in service. He described learning to pay attention to God's presence in his own life, and offered instances of Maria's recognition of God's intervention in her own life. Then he invited us to reflect upon our own lives to respond more fully to the direction we find in our daily lives as we too, immerse ourselves in Jesus Crucified as did Maria.

Ken highlighted the mission of St. Anne's Retirement Community as expressing the healing love

of Jesus, the charism of Maria. Called into the spirituality of Jesus' Blood, he asserted, we are called to "drink this cup" of compassion and to offer it to others.

Recalling that this year we remember the 25th anniversary of the ASC Martyrs in Liberia, Ken reflected on their lives and deaths as clear instances of "drinking the cup" of compassion, and sharing it with those whose lives most need that power of the Blood of Jesus. He yielded the floor, too, for a few minutes, to S. Bernice Klostermann, ASC, who shared some of her personal experiences with each of the martyrs, so that we could come to know them better.

We are to be "ambassadors of reconciliation." Ken then invited us to consider how we are called in our own daily lives to drink this cup of compassion and to offer it to others – in prayer and in other ways; and with Maria and Gaspar, how we are "ambassadors of reconciliation," hearing the cry of the Blood of Jesus in our lives right now, and show this in our lives.

Following Liturgy, Bill LaCour became an Adorer Prayer Associate through the Rite of Acceptance. The Rite of Candidacy to become an Adorer Associate was celebrated for Claranne LaCour. We welcome them to our Associate Community and support them with our prayers. During the day, monetary donations toward items for the people



of Liberia were collected. And donations of personal care items for clients of Catholic Charities

Lancaster Day Treatment Program were accepted; all for our 'dear neighbor.' We prayed the Canticle of the Blood of Christ together as we closed out a vibrant, meaningful day of deep spirituality and everyday practicality.

By Eastern Area Associates



Pictured left to right:

Mary Stasiak, Coordinator;
Sr. Colette Tenley, Mentor;
Claranne LaCour, Candidate;
Sr. Helene Trueitt, (proxy for Sr. Anne Marie Meadowcroft), Sponsor;
Bill LaCour, Prayer Associate;
Juanita Mason-Fegley, Coordinator

Tracing the Life of Fr. Stan Rother

Sisters Renee Kirmer, ASC, and Marita Rother, ASC, were on the faculty of Sacred Heart Academy in the 1960s. A few years ago, the Class of '64, which includes the author of this piece, celebrated its graduation jubilee. Since that time, Sisters and alumni have stayed closer in touch. Sister Marita's brother, the late Father Stanley Rother, was a priest of the Oklahoma City archdiocese who will be beatified Sept. 23. He served 13 years in Guatemala before being martyred in 1981.

In preparation for the September beatification, the Sisters and a dozen alumni and spouses made a day of pilgrimage March 21.

The group's first stop was the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City, where a display memorializes Father Stan. His chalice, a college sweatshirt, some of his pipes, family photos and pictures from his years of service in Guatemala are among the many items on display. Sister Marita and Louise Wolfe, a niece of two Adorers who spent a summer in Guatemala, added personal comments and some new information during the presentation.

The pilgrims spent the rest of the day in Okarche, the hometown of Sister Marita and Father Stan. They toured Holy Trinity church where Fr. Stan was baptized, confirmed, served as an

altar boy, and celebrated his first Mass. A display of artifacts in the church includes a bas-relief sculpture created by a fellow Oklahoma priest and artist. A larger-than-life-sized statue of Fr. Stan with a Guatemalan child stands between the parish center and the school, where the Adorers taught him through high school.

The statue was a gift of the Knights of Columbus.

Across the street is the new Fr. Rother Memorial Administrative Building, which will be blessed on May 24.

Father Stan's grave is in the parish cemetery, located a few miles out of town. He is buried next to his parents, the



middle of five generations of the Rother family who rest in

that portion of wind-swept prairie, which, as typical, was being swept by wind that Tuesday. Small stones and other mementoes left by visitors cover his simple headstone. Before leaving the cemetery, the group recited a prayer for Fr. Stan's canonization. Finally, there was the unique opportunity to visit the family farm where Fr. Stan grew up. The parents of Father Stan and Marita moved into the 1920s house following their marriage. Their youngest son, Tom, and his wife still live there. They graciously opened

their home to the group. Sister Marita and Tom answered questions about the family home, describing what it was like growing up on the farm with aunts, uncles and cousins living nearby. A highlight of the day of pilgrimage was lunch at Eishen's Bar, an Okarche landmark and oldest bar in Oklahoma that serves fried chicken, Frito pie and other comfort food. Heading back to their homes in late afternoon, the pilgrims felt gratitude for their graced opportunity.

Sr Janet Rowley, asc

Continental Area: the Americas
Foundation: Bolivia

Pulcini poderosi

Sr. Anitawa started an association in Bolivia for Holistic Health that is concerned with the improvement of the quality of life for the poor. Among its activities, the association also works with nutritional projects for children living in the less-developed and more-distant areas. Here she is referring to one of her many trips along the roughest roads to take materials to the people.

I recently traveled with three others from La Paz to Camata, Bolivia, accompanied by 100 baby chicks that peeped and pooped throughout the 12-hour trip. The chicks were destined for a project to improve the diet of area schoolchildren. Other efforts, such as school gardens, already have improved child nutrition. Our group traveled with chicken wire mesh, bags of cement, stucco, and other items for building chicken hutches. Betsy, our 15-year-old Toyota Land Cruiser, bulged at the seams but made the trip like a champ.



Sr Ann "Anitawa" Fearday, asc



The earth is our mother

“The earth is our mother. We will take care of her ... the earth is our mother ...” The words of the chant filled the hallways of the Ruma Center as we processed from chapel, down the hallways and back to chapel again. It was our celebration of Earth Day on Friday, April 21, and it was the continuation of a ritual of celebration of the earth that we had begun over a decade earlier.

The Adorers of this geographic area of the Ruma Center have a rich history of honoring the earth. Many of the Sisters themselves were born into and raised in farming communities. The Sisters who were pioneers in the former Ruma Province were farmers if not by choice, then by necessity, tending the earth to survive. From that survival has come the creation of land that speaks of peace and a Sacred Presence that is almost palpable to many visitors to the Ruma Center, even some that have come to it for the first time. We live in the midst of holy ground.

So, it is fitting that on a day dedicated to honoring the Earth, that we processed waving banners, bearing posters, and chanting, “The earth is our mother. We will take care of her.” Care for earth is in our history, in our blood.

Sr. Clare Boehmer, asc





To thank...

With the upcoming month of June the publication of the International Newsletter for the 2011-2017 term will come to an end. In fact, during the General Assembly, only communications regarding the progress of the Assembly work are planned.

I want to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks to all the translators and regional secretaries who have helped me in the publication of this simple tool of connection and communication in the Congregation. Their silent work has been a fundamental help to me to be able to send the news gathered from the various ASC realities each month and translated into eight languages: Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Croatian, Polish,

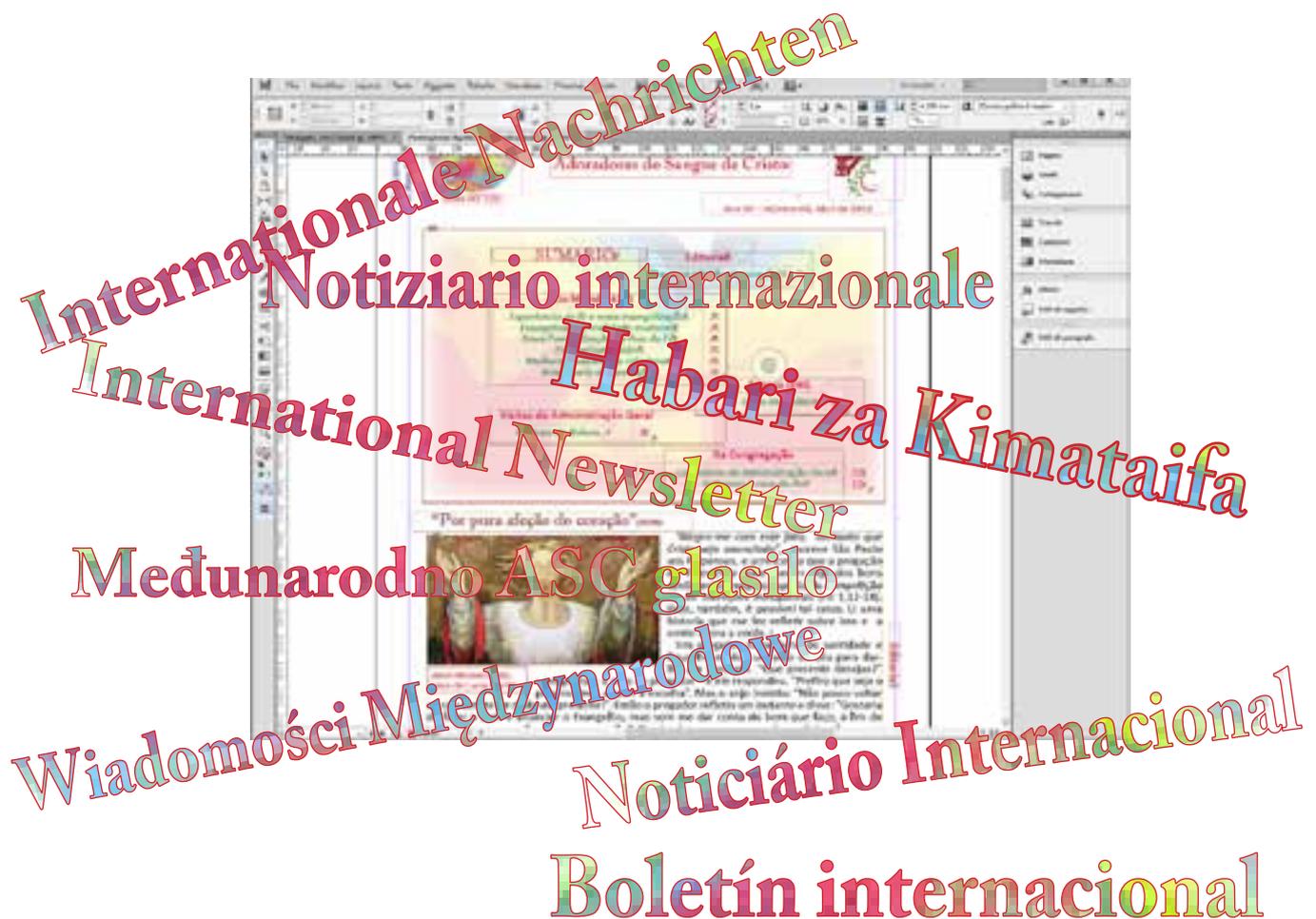
Kiswahili and German.

On my part, especially since July, 2014, following the resignation of Federica La Regina, it has been a big job to which I wanted to remain faithful. Reading your news was good for me. At times it made me rejoice, at others it moved me, but it always informed me of God's action in the history of our Congregation and made me appreciate His providential mercy for us and for those we serve....

I believe the hard work found its reward, at least for me.

Thanks,

Sr Patrizia, asc





General Administration Calendar

May 23 – June 3, 2017: Sr. Mariamma Kunnackal and Sr. Barb Smith will be in Tanzania for a meeting with the new regional administration.

Please excuse me for having omitted the names of some Sisters who have returned to the Father's House. I am adding them now, with the awareness that prayer reaches God through time much beyond our imagination.

They have returned to the Father's House



Region of Zagreb
March 11, 2016
Sr Dobroslava Medven

Region of the USA
March 30, 2016
Sr Verena Gunzelman



Election Assembly in Poland



The ASCs of the Polish Region held an election assembly from April 29 to May 3. Sister Mariamma and Sister Nadia attended it. Sono state elette:

- Sr Ewa Kleps, Regional Superior
- Sr Elżbieta Kurnatowska, Councilor
- Sr Bernadetta Paidzik, Councilor
- The Regional Treasures and Secretary are:
Sr Maria Grygiel, treasurer Sr Bożena Matomisz, secretary .



Best wishes

Sisters, we are obliged to serve all those entrusted to us.

Take courage and have great trust in God. Let us go often to Holy Prayer with faith.

Let us abandon ourselves into our blessed God's hands and fear not.

Maria De Mattias, January 21, 1856

Region of India

First profession
May 18, 2017
Bimla Lakra
Mercy Angela

Best wishes!

Final Profession
May 18, 2017
Sr Lurdu Sagaya Selvi

