



ASC International Communications – General Administration - Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 Rome www.adoratrici-asc.org

Patris Corde

At the beginning of his Pontificate, Pope Francis freely expressed his love for St. Joseph, saying that he has a statue of the sleeping St. Joseph on his desk. In fact, he has experienced the presence of this saint many times in his life, especially in times of need. He has turned to him and concretely experienced his help. The statue of the sleeping St. Joseph has become famous throughout the world.

Pope Francis' love for St. Joseph goes much deeper. His apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, published on December 8, 2020 showed this. It was issued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Catholic Church. During March when the Church celebrates St. Joseph's feast on the 19th, and Italy celebrates Fathers' Day, we want to emphasize some values that Pope Francis pointed out, like precious pearls, to have us be enamoured by a gigantic figure in the story of salvation who often remains in the shadows.

In the letter, he identified seven paternal aspects of St. Joseph that make up an itineray for the faith journey of each of us. Among these are tenderness and obedience. In fact, Joseph teaches us that having faith in God also means believing that God can work through our fears, frailties, and weaknesses. In the storms of life, we need not fear leaving the helm of our boat to God. At times we would like to control everything, but God always has a bigger view that goes beyond the material, beyond the human intellect, beyond the rational. Because of this, Joseph said his *Fiat* in every circumstance of his life.

But in the Holy Father's letter, we also find

values like *creative courage and acceptance* that become sources of unexpected resources for people, especially in times of difficulties. Joseph is the emblematic image of a person abandoning his life to God's will, putting all his faith and undoubting trust in God while following his heart, thus becoming a person who takes care of the beginnings of the history of redemption. He is the true miracle with which God saves the Child and his Mother.

Another important pearl is that of living in the shadows. "Fathers are not born, but made." A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

"Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. [...] When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. [...] In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Mt 5:45) and a shadow that follows his Son."

S. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

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Research Workshop: Being Formed to the Economic Dimension



February 15-19the General Treasurer, Sr. Monica Rini, together with the General Administration, organized an on-line workshop involving the members of

the Economic Directory Commission, Regional Treasurers and Treasurers of Foundations to continue reflecting on the transformation of the economic dimension, in continuity with the seminar held in 2019, "The Human Face of Economics."

The discussion began with listening to the Gospel, thanks to Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel's sharing, which led the participants in a reflection on the parable of the talents. This was followed by the reflection of Sr. Mimma Scalera, ASC, on the indispensible values of the ASC spirituality for prophetic stewardship of assets, beginning with Sr. Maria De Mattias. Mr. Francesco Lozupone, the lawyer, dealt with the topic of co-responsibility and transparency in the stewardship of assets and Sr. Assunta Remossi, OMVF, Head of the Office for the Institute for Governance of Consecrated Life at the Sacred Congregation for Religious Life, CICLSAL, thanks to her experience, shared the way to connect stewardship of resources and the challenge of the works. Finally, Mr. Michele Faioli, attorney, presented the document Economy at the Service of the Charism and Mission and Notary Serena Graziadio.

Sr. Monica concluded the meeting by sharing the elements that came up during the 2019 seminar.

As Sister Nadia stated in her concluding remarks, "We are aware that the economy is much more than simple accounting. Therefore, it is necessary that as a body we rethink this constantly evolving aspect.

Very important choices for life pass through the economy. Gospel witness and faithfulness to the indispensable values of our charism need to transpire through these choices that are attentive to the needs

of our brothers and sisters. Thus, in order for our choices in mission to be meaningful and prophetic we must pay attention to formation in the economic dimension in line with our charism."

As the Church is inviting us to do, it is necessary to provide that our documents include formation processes on economy at all levels (initial, ongoing and professional) by always putting our charismatic values at the basis of our choices. Economic education focused also on values, fosters charismatic growth in that the service of the treasurer is not functional, managerial, but is supportive of the mission.

In spite of the limitations of being on-line, the workshop was a big help also for the formation of the *ad hoc* commission charged with writing the Economic Directory. Probably this experience will open the doors to other possibilities of dialogue with the treasurers so that the directory reports the "best practices" we have at the level of Congregation with procedures that accommodate the various realities.

In addition, the workshop was an event that allowed us to journey together, to feel united as a single body, in researching and studying one of the most significant topics today that is useful for growth in the process of transformation of our consecrated life.

S. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



Continental Area: the Americas
Region of Manaus

The Adorers of Brazil Celebrating February 4, 2021 During a Full-blown Pandemic



The feast of February 4 this year was celebrated in Amazonia in a spirit of faith, joy and unity among ourselves by praying a lovely Triduum. In Manaus at Nazareth house, in the Regional House and in other communities we were very animated with welcome of the proposals prepared this year by the Regional, Sister Allessandra Pereira and her Council. We also remembered the profession of vows of some of the Sisters on this feast day. I applied the words of the first day of the Triduum to them, "When I was young, I learned of your special way that would form my life!"

In the midst of profound sadness that the pandemic has created in us and for the whole world, today there is still a threat of a third variant. Without being able to leave the house, some of the younger Sisters are doing their best to do the shopping, being very careful not to get sick. However, we have learned that at the beginning of February three ASCs of Belem came down with COVID.

We are suffering for many reasons. Because of this, the beautiful city of Manaus is known throughout the world as a region of horrors:

- Hospitals not able to admit anyone due to the complete lack of oxygen; patients taken from here to other states to survive; hundreds of deceased buried in mass graves;
- the Pará-Amazonas border is closed to travel by land, sea and air, and boats coming from various cities are stopped in the port of Manaus and forced to return with their loads of food and

merchandize to where they came from. This has resulted in an alarming increase of hunger among the people;

- the President of Brazil is ill-thought-of because of wrong attitudes during this very serious time;
- with the lockdown, churches are closed and the Holy Mass can only be accessed on TV or radio:

Reasons for being cheerful are:

- the arrival of the vaccine, which most of us have already received; the second dose will be in three months;
- words of encouragement sent on-line to relatives and friends – ours and those of our Sisters – for those who are sick or those who have lost people dear to them; words of concern for the ASCs in other communities hit by COVID.

We are praying more, asking the Blood of Christ to cover us, and many are praying the Mercy Rosary by following the program on the media.

I will conclude this synthetic story by recalling the words of the Salve Regina, "to you we sigh, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears..."

And let us reflect on the words of the Chalice Prayer of this year's Triduum, "Father, I lift up my soul to you so I may be transformed by your peace, your light and your hope. Do not leave us alone!"

S. Marília Menezes, ASC

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance

Walk together children, don't you get weary Walk together children, don't you get weary Walk together children, don't you get weary There's a great camp meeting in the Promised Land.

These sung words were used multiple times during evening prayer on January 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. During the prayer, created by Sister Barbara Croom, we prayed for unity and an end to racism in our country. The ambience of colorful African cloths, two large potted plants, and pitchers of water visually prepared us for and enhanced the prayer that began with the African tradition of libation in remembrance of the ancestors.

The first libation was part of the opening and a Sister poured the water four times, each time in one of the four directions after two of eight African prayer statements were read. The sung refrain was sung as the water was poured into the pots.

The opening libations were followed by a couple of readings followed by five persons reading the names of renowned African Americans. After each completed reading, she poured water into a pot while the song refrain was sung.

The closing prayer was for leaders (composed by Joan Chittister); a prayer used each evening of a triduum of prayer before the inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris on January 20. A day of adoration was prayed on January 19.

Sister Teresa Bahr added decorations in the dining room for the day as another visual reminder of the significance of this holiday.

S. Therese Wetta, ASC



Our Baptism

At prayer, on the morning of the Feast of Our Lord's Baptism, I asked the sisters, in place of the third Psalm, to call out their baptismal date and location.

It was very nice. Almost everyone contributed. Then we had a display in the gathering space (shown in the photo). I invited sisters to bring their certificates, but only two of us had ours.

The doll shown in the photo belonged to Fran Schumer's mother. It is dressed in Fran's baptismal dress.

Happy Baptism to all.

Contributed by Sisters Deborah Schovanec, ASC and Diana Rawlings, ASC



Continental Area: Asia Foundation of the Philippines

Sisters in the Philippines Celebrate 500 Years of Christianity and 30 years of ASC Presence



The Philippine Islands, an archipelago in Southeast Asia, is the only country in the continent with a Christian religion, and where Catholics still represent the majority. Catholicism is believed to have arrived in the Philippines in 1521, when the famous Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan first set foot in what is now the province of Cebu.

With a short message, Sr. Flor Manga sent the general secretary the logo of the event with the message: I feel the passion to share it with our sisters because for me, a Filipino adorer, it means sharing the roots of our faith.

The official opening of the special year will take place on April 4, Easter Sunday, to commemorate the First Mass that was celebrated in Limasawa, the island where Magellan first landed in the archipelago.

In this year of grace, the 30th anniversary of ASC's presence in the Philippines and the 500th anniversary of Christianity, we wish the sisters to continue to be a witness of fraternity, reconciliation and joy, for the gift of Redemption through the Blood of Jesus Christ, because as the logo says, they are in fact a gift to be offered to the world!

The symbols in the logo:

the cross: the Christian sign of redemption

the wave: the wind of the Holy Spirit that animated the missionaries

the boat: the expedition that brought the faith to this land

the sun: it is the same image present in the national flag that describes the Philippines as the pearl of the oriental sea, but here it expresses the new life, the Risen Christ, the hope of salvation.

the fish: symbol of the first Christians

the rosary: represents the deep devotion of the people for the Virgin Mary

the central figure represents the first Baptism in the Philippines.

All of these symbols are placed on a hand, expressed by two accentuated brown lines, representing that of God the Father, which tell how the uncreated Wisdom wanted all of these events to unfold according to His will, giving us the full picture of what we are celebrating now: the 500th anniversary of our Christianity. For we are a gift to be offered, given to us to give....

Message of Sister Nadia Coppa to the ASC in the Philippines

Dear Sisters,

It is a great opportunity for me to greet each of you on this special day: 30 years of ASC presence in the Philippines. It was March 4,1991 when the ASC from Italy arrived in the Philippines. To celebrate this event, is for you the time for counting the blessings, for evaluation and for renewing your covenant with the God of Life!

This event reminds us of another **special March 4, in 1834**, the day when, Saint Maria De Mattias open the school in Acuto, declaring the natal day of the *novel Institute of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood!* She was 29 years old!

In March 4, 1991, the dream of Maria De Mattias became alive again when the Adorers reached a new land, the pearl of Orient, the Philippines. Since the time of their arrival, the first missionary Adorers have been trusting you, walking with you as sisters and friends, reading the needs of the people and trying to respond faithfully to the cry of the Blood which is heard in this land. You are known specially for your choices: simplicity, involvement with poor, and serving those who are left behind.

The care for the children, especially for the deaf in Marikina, the care for the sick, especially the TB patients, in Quezon City, in Bulacan, care for youth and families. In your services you have been always involving people from your own place, because we believe that those who have more are responsible to care for those who had less opportunity in life: because each person is worth the Blood of Christ! And because we are called to contribute with Jesus to build the "beautiful order of things!"

During these years you have known moments of joy and of growth, but also moments of pruning. From the North of the Philippines you have reached the youth in Maasin, Leyte, central part of the Philippines, so through the school ministry more people could experience the joy of being called children of God, because they cost His own Blood.

This year, could be a coincidence, you celebrate both the 30th anniversary of ASC presence in this beautiful land, and 500 years of Christianity. This tells a long story of redemption, of faith, which you are witnessing all over the world. As ASC we are proud of being part of this history, through your YES to God's.

At this moment of your life as a Foundation, as a community, while we count the blessings, we are called to dream big!! The dream of God for you, for us! Do not be afraid to risk, to invest the little energy you have: because Jesus continues to ask the five loaves of bread and two fish, to fill the hunger of the crowd. But we have to put our trust in Him! He is the one blessing our strength, our commitment, our desire to continue to satisfy the hunger of people for love, for justice, for peace, for healing.

As Sisters and friends we wish you a new beginning: growing in the spirit of fraternity and reconciliation to become living witnesses of God's Love and Mercy. We wish you to grow in number and love for Jesus and his people. That is the motivation of our consecration: love for Jesus and for the people redeemed with His Precious Blood!

S. Nadia Coppa, ASC

Justice for Samba Martine



Who was Samba Martine? Samba arrived in Spain in August, 2011 at the age of 33. She was a Congolese migrant held in the CETI (Temporary Determent Center for Immigrants) in Melilla. A lab test determined she was a carrier of HIV. Three months after her arrival on the peninsula, Samba was transferred to the CIE (Internment Center for Foreigners) of Madrid to be deported. After 39 days of being held and after having requested health assistance ten different times, Samba died in the hospital on December 19, 2011 due to an infection that is fatal only if the patient does not receive adequate treatment for an HIV condition. When Samba was moved to the CEI in Madrid under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, her medical records did not reach the new center. The director of CIE did not request CETI in the city of Melilla to send her health records.

When the state deprives a person of her liberty, the state becomes the guarantor of her rights and especially of her life and health. The case of Samba Martine, far from being as exception, shows that the state does not guarantee the rights of these people in CIE. And sadly, since the death of Samba, there has hardly been any change in the protocols of action or in the conditions of medical care, or in the facilities and equipment.

Moral and financial reparation for the family

After nine years of struggle, on November 17, 2020 the government of Spain acknowledged

its responsibility in the death of Samba. Both Sermedes, S.L., the company that provided the medical services, and the two responsible ministries (the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Emigration) will have to compensate the victim's family. Finally some progress was made in the **justice for Samba**, which had been demanded for years.

This resolution is very important because it is a recognition by the administration itself of its responsibility for the death of Samba Martine. This is an acknowledgement of lack of coordination between the two ministries and an acknowledgement of poor medical care. "The resolution recognizes that the negligence in medical care during Samba's stay in CIE was evident," emphasized Cristina Manzanedo, lawyer and signatory of the family's complaint and longstanding member of the Jesuit Migrant Service, who has frequent access to these structures. "This resolution," continued Manzanedo, "also has a very important emotional value for the daughter of Samba Martine, who had traveled with her from the Congo and from whom she was separated in Morocco. The girl was 8 when she was left in Morocco. She never saw her mother again and still does not understand what happened. She has lots of questions. The resolution gives the girl peace, an explanation and financial compensation which will give her some opportunities in life."

"We have achieved something for Samba, which does not happen with many border victims. That is, that Samba is Samba today, that Samba is not Tarajal, is not Lampedusa, is not Lesbo. We have a name, an image, a face, a family that remembers her and a society that claims responsibility for her. We will do justice for the border victims only when they are recognized with their names and not with the place where they died," said Patricia Fernandez, people's prosecutor in the process that was held in 2019 against some doctors who treated Martine in CIE.

"No compensation compensates for the tragedy that happened. But Spain's decision is a very important moral and financial redress, even though it comes nine years late," said Samba's mother.

The limit of borders

Regarding the problem of immigration, the Pope tells us in his latest encyclical, "No one can remain excluded because of his or her place of birth, much less because of privileges enjoyed by others who were born in lands of greater opportunity. Complex challenges arise when our neighbour happens to be an immigrant. Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a

dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment.

Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: **welcome**, **protect**, **promote and integrate**. For 'it is not a case of implementing welfare programs from the top down, but rather of undertaking a journey together, through these four actions, in order to build cities and countries that, while preserving their respective cultural and religious identity, are open to differences and know how to promote them in the spirit of human fraternity.'

The arrival of those who are different, coming from other ways of life and cultures, can be a gift, for 'the stories of migrants are always stories of an encounter between individuals and between cultures. For the communities and societies to which they come, migrants bring an opportunity for enrichment and the integral human development of all."

(Fratelli Tutti)

S. Teresa Martínez Montiel, ASC



Fratelli Tutti Chapter 1: Dark Clouds over a Closed World



"A worldwide tragedy like the COVID-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together (32)."

Pope Francis gives a thorough description of the darkness he sees in the world today. First, political systems are regressing and the profit-based economic model "does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings."

Second, there is a culture of indifference. By employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion, and relentless criticism, one group can dominate and exclude another, creating a permanent state of disagreement, confrontation and even violence. The loneliness, fear and insecurity experienced by those who feel excluded are easy targets for "mafias" (i.e., gangs). Also, human rights are not universally respected, especially for women.

This culture of indifference especially affects the unborn, disabled, and elderly. Though connected globally, we do not see our sisters and brothers as our neighbors. This is most apparent in the absence of dignity for migrants at our borders and for many people impacted by the pandemic.

St. Maria De Mattias writes to Don Biagio Valentini, "the SPIRIT of the congregation is all CHARITY. We have carved this word on our minds and our hearts; I mean, Charity, Charity for God and for our dear neighbor." She could say that every person was precious to her because they are redeemed in the Blood of Jesus. She loved others with all her heart, radically and totally.

The childhood and teenage period of St. Maria's life was very dangerous. The right of girls to attend school was prohibited because of bandits/brigands on the street. This societal situation and atmosphere of fear moved the heart of St. Maria De Mattias to dedicate her life to the love of Jesus Crucified and respond to the cries of the Blood.

Joining with Pope Francis, St. Maria invites each Adorer to strengthen social friendship and social peace in the face of an all-pervasive social violence, which he sees running through economics, politics, and even through social media.

Reflection Questions:

How has the pandemic impacted you individually? Have you experienced a revived sense of community? What does Maria De Mattias speak to you at this moment?

In the Congregation_

ASC STATISTICS BY COUNTRIES										
Updated to December 31, 2020										
COUNTRIES 25	P.V.	T.V.	Novices	Candidates	Moved to Other Congre- gations	Exclaustrated	Left	Died	Communities	Apostolic Presence
Albania	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
Argentina	07	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00
Australia	09	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00
Belarus	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
Bolivia	07	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	02
Bosnia-Erz	38	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	09	00
Brazil	46	02	02	01	00	00	00	02	10	00
Korea	14	01	01	00	00	00	00	00	02	00
Croatia	107	02	02	00	00	00	00	04	19	00
Philippines	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	03	00
Germany	10+	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	02*	01
Guatemala	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01
Guinea B.	07	05	00	02	00	00	00	00	03	00
India	66	07	04	03	00	00	01	00	16	00
Italy	429+	00	01	02	00	00	00	24	48**	00
Liechtenstein	14	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	00
Mozambique	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
Peru	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
Poland	59	01	00	00	00	01	00	01	08	00
Russia	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
Spain	07	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00
Switzerland	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00
United States	154	04	00	00	00	00	00	14	22	23
Tanzania	64	15	00	03	00	00	00	01	10	01
Vietnam	03	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	01
TOTAL	1.068	41	10	11	00	01	01	49	169	29

In those places where you find the sign +, we refer to the total number of communities or Sisters belonging to different Regions.

* The Generalate and the Novitiate is included.

Total

Final vows	1.068
Temporary vows	41
Tot. ASC	1.109
Tot. Novices	10
Tot. Candidates	11
Moved to other congr.	00
Tot. Exclaustrated	01
Tot. Left	01
Tot. Died	49
Tot. Communities	169



ASC STATISTICS BY REGIONS Updated to December 31, 2020 Moved to **REGIONS** P.V. T.V. **Novices Candidates** Died Communities other Con-**Exclaustrated** Left greg. Manaus India Italy 57** Schaan **United States** Tanzania Wrocław Zagreb **TOTAL** 1.068

N.B **The Generalate and Novitiate is added

Total

1.068
41
1.109
10
11
00
01
01
49
169



2020 - Increasing and Decreasing of the Sisters for: First and Perpetual Profession - those who left or died

	Celebrated 1 st Profession	Left with Temporary Vows	Celebrated Final Profession	Left after final vows	Moved to other Congr.	Deceased sisters
Albania	00	00	01	00	00	00
Argentina	00	00	00	00	00	00
Australia	00	00	00	00	00	00
Belarus	00	00	00	00	00	00
Bolivia	01	00	00	00	00	00
Bosnia-Erz.	00	00	00	00	00	00
Brazil	02	00	00	00	00	02
Korea	00	00	00	00	00	00
Croatia	00	00	00	00	00	04
Philippines	00	00	00	00	00	00
Germany	00	00	00	00	00	01
Guatemala	00	00	00	00	00	00
Guinea B.	02	00	01	00	00	00
India	02	01	05	00	00	00
Italy	00	00	00	00	00	24
Liechtenstein	00	00	00	00	00	02
Mozambique	00	00	00	00	00	00
Peru	00	00	00	00	00	00
Poland	00	00	00	01	00	01
Russia	00	00	00	00	00	00
Spain	00	00	00	00	00	00
Switzerland	00	00	00	00	00	00
United States	01	00	00	00	00	14
Tanzania	00	00	04	00	00	01
Vietnam	02	00	00	00	00	00
TOTAL	10	01	11	01	00	49

Increas	ing	Decreasing	
Temporary Prof.	10	Temporary Prof.	01
Final Prof.	11	Final Profession	01
		Death	49
		Moved to other Congregations	00

General Administration Calendar



March 5: S. Nadia leaves for Tanzania, to accompany the Region

March 8: S. Matija Pavić meets with the Commission for the Study of Representation at the 2023 General

Assembly

March 22: S. Nadia goes from Dar Es Salaam to the United States

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

<u>40</u>		
S. Rosemary Baltazari Nyekobe	03/23/1981	Tanzania
S. Regina Mary	03/03/1981	India
<u>60</u>		
S. Elisabeth Müller	03/25/1961	Schaan
<u>70</u>		
S. Lucia Resta	03/02/1951	Italy
S. Josipa Bjelkanović	03/19/1951	Zagreb
S. Ruža Bosankić	03/22/1951	Zagreb
<u>80</u>		
S. Lidija Petrušić	03/06/1941	Zagreb
S. Katarina Vujeva	03/14/1941	Zagreb
<u>90</u>		
S. Rosina Mies	03/03/1931	USA
S. Annita Orlando	03/04/1931	Italy
S. Carmela Iori	03/09/1931	Italy
S. Augusta Zaratti	03/12/1931	Italy
S. Lucia Di Bari	03/16/1931	Italy
S. Rita Schilling	03/22/1931	USA
<u>100</u>		
S. Luigina Scarpantoni	03/28/1921	Italy





ers of the Flood of Christ

Monthly Communication

edited by the

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