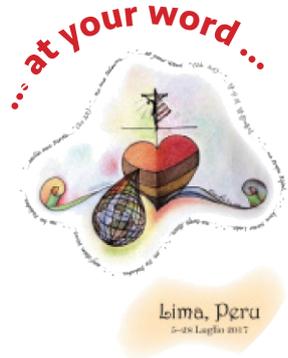


International News

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Year XXI - N. 7 - May 2018

ASC International Communications - Head Office - Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183, Rome
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editorial

AN OPEN WINDOW FOR THE FUTURE

We have to throw open the window to the future by planning together, daring together and sacrificing together. There is no journeying alone anymore...

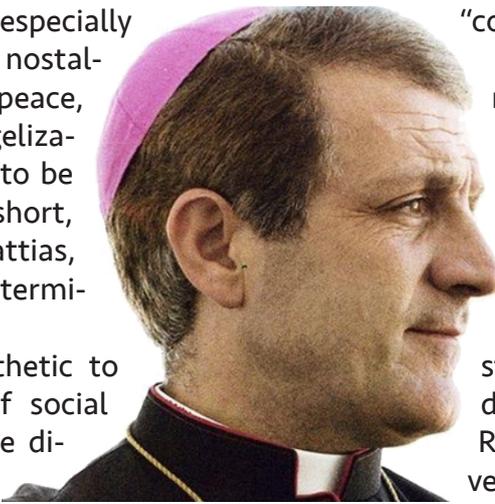
These are the words of Father Tonino Bello, one of today's prophets who already twenty-five years ago indicated a new path for men and women with the scent of the Gospel.

This challenge to journey ahead, or rather to journey up to the cross and beyond the cross without turning back, especially without gushing forth with nostalgia but projecting schools of peace, centers of culture for evangelization, is a concrete invitation to be "in the heart" of history. In short, in the manner of Maria De Mattias, to say it with contemporary terminology!

It is about being sympathetic to those living in situations of social hardship, with women whose dignity has been usurped, with the young people who

often live in the precariousness of the future, with the immigrants who do not feel welcome. It is a challenge to leave our secure niches, to lift up our eyes together in a rainbow that traces out bridges between different cultures and nationalities. It is a challenge to dare to find paths of hope that go beyond the logic of economic globalization in order to defend the rights of the poor and limit ourselves in thinking that our ancient Europe as a common home has also become a "common coffer." (Father Tonino)

May Mary, a woman of Nazareth and mother of the future, help us to be aware that Jesus is risen and that we are called to discern the signs of the future in order to make choices for renewal. May she make us aware that we must journey in history without taking steps backward and tearing things down because working for God's Reign means giving of our own lives, energies and talents, strongly believing in a new humanity.



d. Tonino Bello

Sr Mimma Scalera, asc

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General administration space

THE SPIRIT OF OUR ORIGINS SPEAKS AGAIN TODAY



In March, Sr. Nadia and I went to visit our sisters of the Schaan Region. And now I want to describe a bit about the environment where our Sisters of this Region live.

The mountains, snow, fresh air, blue skies on cloudless days, the green that is reawakening after its winter sleep are the special things that characterized the ordered and peaceful landscape of Liechtenstein. Nature invites one to enter into communion with her and enjoy the beauty of the Creator reflected in creation itself.

“Roots and Wings,” - I think many Adorers remember this slogan. This was the title of the

seminar for sisters near perpetual vows in 1989.

You might ask me why I am recalling this now. I remember the echo of these words resounding again today. I recall it because in visiting the Region of Schaan, the memory of our history and the meetings that remind us of our roots were reawakened within me. One part of this seminar in 1989 took place in Schaan. Being with the Sisters of this Region, we rediscovered that this experience of life was beautiful and incisive. Even if we did not have the joy of attending it, we felt the influence of this profound experience that the participants told us about.

General administration space

This convinces me about a truth: we all have the same roots, live the same charism, breathe the same spirituality of the Blood of Christ that has given us and continues to give us wings to witness God's life following the example of Maria De Mattias and the Adorers who have preceded us on this earth....

Sr. Nadia and I spent a very intense week in this Region that is so dear to our Congregation. We experienced great richness in our meetings with the Sisters and their local communities. We breathed a spirit of peace and contemplation. We experienced strong emotions and also great grace in Steinerberg, the place of Teresa Weber, Pauline Schneeberger and many other holy Adorers. Their spirit of love and sacrifice for God's Reign is still very real.

I was especially moved to see the gentleness with which the Sisters each day are attentive to

their communal life and the spirit of adoration in an atmosphere of profound silence that appeared to be almost like a hymn of Redemption "sung" in union with all the Sisters who wove the history of this Region and with all of the world.

Even though there is the reality of the reduced number of sister, the Schaan Region is still alive and wants to continue living by sharing the spirituality of the Blood with all the people who come to encounter them, that they serve and with whom they collaborate.

Sisters of Schaan, thank you because you welcomed us with generous and open hearts, you made us feel a vital part of your reality. Thank you for each moment of sharing, communion, trust, prayer, richness of you singing, and also for each individual attention you lovingly showed.

Sr. Matija Pavić



CONTINENTAL AREA: AFRICA Region of Tanzania

THE EXCELLENT CARE FOR CHILDREN, THE BEST FUTURE NATION

The scholastic year for pre and primary schools here in Tanzania begins in January. Preparations begin early in December. Usually, these preparations are done by the parents, children and the owners of the schools. Parents prepare school uniforms, books, exercise books, mathematical sets, and all necessary needs for their children. Children, on their part, prepare themselves by doing little things, homework and other activities which help them to prepare themselves well to begin their lessons. The owners of schools also prepare the conducive environment for children so that they will be able to learn well as much as possible. All these preparations are done for the purpose of building the best future nation.

The ASC Region of Tanzania has four Nursery schools and three primary schools. We also have to make preparations for the purpose of providing a good education to the children. In December 2017, our sisters who work in these schools did their preparations well to begin the new scholastic year.

In order to help the sisters to prepare themselves well in this field, the Region administration gave a special opportunity to two sisters (Sr. Lilian Sr. Kasembe and Sr. Restituta G. Mrema) to participate in the seminar concerning Children's Rights. The seminar began on 17 December and

ended on 22 December 2017.

This seminar was provided by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Montessori College, in Mtwara Region. Those who benefited from this seminar were teachers and guardians of children in pre and primary schools and daycare centers.

The aim of the seminar was to improve the



knowledge of teachers and guardians in order to provide better care for children, to help them find out more rules, policies and guidelines that protect the child, to help them identify the authorities providing child protection services and security, to develop the capacity to provide intellectual,

body and knowledge training for children and so on.

The sisters were very happy because they got a variety of knowledge and training techniques that would help them to provide good service to children in our schools. It is our duty to nurture and give good training to all children, as it is their right. St. Maria De Mattias loved children; in her times she worked hard to serve them well. We like to continue the spirit of St. Maria De Mattias through this mission; we believe that, through it we can build a better kingdom not just of this world but also the Kingdom of God.

Suor Lilian Stuart Kasembe, asc

From the ASC world

CONTINENTAL AREA: THE AMERICAS US Region

WELL OF LIFE-GIVING WATER

**You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.
(Isaiah 12:3)**

About five months ago, the Adorers' Charitable Giving Committee received a grant request from Sr. Hang Pham on behalf of a family with three children living in a remote province of Vietnam. The request was aimed at helping the family drill a fresh-water well on its land.

The family's only source of water was rain during the rainy season and when the rain stopped, it had to buy water at a very high price. The family is very poor and often there was not enough money to buy food or water. So they definitely could not afford to drill a well. The Charitable Giving Committee understood this urgent need and approved the request.

Who would have guessed or imagined that five months after learning of the need as a committee member, I would have the honor and privilege to meet this family in Vietnam?

Sister Hang works with the Ai Tam (Loving Heart) Educational Organization that provides educational services for marginalized and underserved students in South Vietnam in and around Ho Chi Minh City.

This year, the organization celebrated 10 years of service. Since the Adorers have made donations to Ai Tam in the past, Sr. Hang asked if some ASCs could come for the celebration. Sr. Therese Anne Kiefer and I were asked to go to represent our U.S. region.

While we were in Vietnam, Sr. Hang made arrangements for us to visit this family. When we arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tuan Thuong and their three children, the Isaiah 12:3 quote came alive for me.

As the father turned on the switch to the well and the water came clear and fresh from the hose, I stood in holy awe at the joy on the family's faces, which showed rejoicing at the miracle of that clear, clean, pure water flowing from the well.



On the cover of the well, the family has written:

Living water!
The source of loving kindness
In gratitude, in gratitude
Jordan River
Dedicated January 8, 2018

We visited with the family for about an hour, listening to their story of struggle and strong faith, optimism and gratitude. They have two

From the ASC world

school-age girls who sat quietly with us listening to all. The Ai Tam organization has provided scholarship money so the girls can continue to go to school. We also enjoyed the antics of their 3-year-old son who was shy but playful. Sister Hang had to translate the words of their stories to us, but their gratitude and faith needed no words.

The visit with this family and the experience of the 10 days spent in Vietnam sharing in the ministry of Sr. Hang and meeting those who so

graciously serve the poor has indeed blessed and enriched my life.

Meeting the Thuong family has deepened my sense of awe at the gift of water, the abundance of it that we so take for granted and the life that is in every drop.

Now when I turn on the faucet, fill my glass with clean, clear water, I drink with joy and gratitude.

Sr. Jane Gegg, ASC

AREA CONTINENTAL EUROPE Region: Italy

A PROJECT FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

In order to respond to Pope Francis' continuing call to meet the need of refugees, as an Italian Region we readily joined the diocese's "Taking shelter in my home" project. We made one of our buildings available. It is currently hosting two entire families (one family of five and the other of three with one on the way) and two young people from Mali. I asked the family from Aleppo (Syria) to tell us their story, to tell us about how they came to Italy and to our house of Velletri (Rome), a former elementary and pre-school building.

This is their story:

It was a gray day, like all the others in Aleppo. The loud noise of bombs and airplanes responding to the launching of mortar shells had all become very familiar sounds. Joe (eight-year old Joseph), like his grandfather, had become an expert about weapons, military jets and geopolitics, cried out, "You want to kill me!" He was crying and refusing to go to school. And it was a new school to which he had transferred after we moved to



a house in a more secure area. But his very first day there, a rocket hit the school courtyard and amid the shouting and crying the students had to hurry down to the cellar for safety. Fortunately, there were only a few injuries, but Joe wanted nothing to do with it. Therefore, he stayed home to play with his bike well inside the house.

It had been years since he had played outside. The roll-up window shutters were always closed to prevent bullets from coming through the window like had happened at the house they had abandoned. They had gone to the house of a relative who had escaped abroad. Patty, a ten-year old with cerebral palsy due to complications at birth, was lying there as usual and not doing very well because the pediatric specialists had left the country. She could not leave. Violet, Viola to her friends, remained at home and went to work in the afternoon as an accountant at the engineers' union. Samir, also an accountant at the St. Louis Hospital, one of the biggest private hospitals in the city, was at work when he heard a loud explo-

From the ASC world



sion. People were running. He was trying to go back, because it was the Dabbit Maternity Hospital right across from their home that the terrorists had struck.

All the windows were broken at home, but no one was there. Viola had miraculously been able to get the children to safety in the bathroom where they had hidden. She had snatched Patty with one hand and pulled Joe with the other.

That day Samir and Viola decided to leave. They were going to abandon the house, their belongings, family members and friends, quit their jobs and leave the life they knew in order to try to build another life, especially for their children, for what would be. And Viola was six months pregnant.

There was a long wait in Libya, fear of not being able to leave after the threats of seeing their request denied. The request was cancelled by the birth of Stephanie in Beirut. Now they are a family of five leaving for Rome.

After many denied requests, doors slammed in their faces, hands raised as sign of inability and lack of wanting to give practical help to Rome, a

surprising positive response from Caritas came. There is the possibility of being hosted, but only in Velletri.

The openness and kindness of those at Caritas struck all the family, in spite of the mistrust, initial problems and logistical difficulty. In moving to Velletri, there will be distance from the family of Grandmother Georgette, an 80-year old who moved to Rome a year before and especially from Samir's brothers who have been living in Rome for a year. Amal, a cultural mediator, and Naman, a journalist and TV reporter, who, in addition to their fraternal love, are involved in giving a hand and concrete and practical help.

The possibility of finally having a safe roof over their heads in a tranquil and silent place, the beauty of the house, its location and the inner garden and space for the children to play immediately bring an extraordinary joy and sense of peace in the family. Being welcomed into the house of the Sisters who immediately showed their interest in getting to know the family and help out with little and big gestures show Samir and Viola that they are not alone and restore their sense

From the ASC world

of belonging to a large community like that in which they had grown up and were always involved in their Franciscan parish. Having the Sisters' permission to use the main entrance to the house and the wide stairway resolved the problem of access to the living area for Stephanie's baby carriage and Patty's new wheelchair, the first she has ever had.

The biggest problems in Velletri are getting around the hilly streets that are not suitable for wheelchairs and their often having to walk to the train station.

Within the building, the living together with other guests is quite tranquil, even though their needs are often different. The division of the spaces has given a bit of privacy to the family and a secure place for the children. The kitchen downstairs is a challenge for Viola who is constantly going up and down the stairs in order to prepare food for the children. But she has been able to create a small place where she can also prepare snacks for Samir and wash the dishes.

The beginning of school marked a change for everyone. Joe has returned to school. With the help of Caritas he enrolled in the nearby school and has become a part of his class in spite of fear for his understanding of the language. But only a few months after beginning, not only has he obtained only very good grades, but he got an "A" in Italian. It won't be long until Patty will be involved in school with a para teacher and for the first time she will return to being a normal girl.

From the beginning, Samir and Viola's love and union let them challenge their destiny and overcome so many difficulties; it has given them the courage to abandon everything to begin again from nothing. For now, they are taking an Italian course in the hope of being able to find a job as soon as possible that will assure a small income, allowing them to build a better future for their children and live on their own and in dignity and return to being a truly normal family.

Sr. Tarsha Family from Aleppo

AREA CONTINENTAL EUROPE Region of Wrocław

HOW GOOD IS OUR SAINT!

During Lent I felt Jesus was challenging me and sharing the life experience of His Word in daily life. Father Krzysztof Surwaniec, CPPS, and I prepared a series of retreats based on the spiritual figures of St. Gaspar del Bufalo and St. Maria De Mattias, as well



as the spirituality of the Blood of Christ.

Together we guided the "At Your Word" retreat for the young people in Ożarów Mazowiecki from March 9-11. The main theme was reconciliation with

From the ASC world

oneself, with God and with family. I was aware that often there is a deep hunger to be loved not only within them but often to be understood behind their appearance of self-esteem and self-sufficiency. It was a challenge to deal with the rebellion and mistrust of the young people. I think that my most important task in this retreat was simply that of loving in the small things because only in that way could I convince them that God truly loves them. God wants them to rise from the tombs of their sins and weaknesses.

Talking to the young people about God's tender love also requires me to show affection for my beloved ones.

Being a catechist in a special school for children with mental and psychological problems has been an important experience for me. During the retreat I told them about Maria De Mattias. One very special moment for me was that of talking about her habit. The children were very touched by her appearance. In learning about her they understood that she was like the suffering Jesus, in everything (her veil, like a crown of thorns, her belt and sash, like his outpoured Blood.) One girl said, "This veil brought her pain like Jesus' crown of thorns." Often these children are treated like undesirable people by a part of society. The children deeply felt the meaning of Jesus' suffering, his love and care. Our Foundress did not seem strange to them, but was a good and beautiful saint. The enthusiasm and joy of these children became a lesson for me

about simplicity and the true Gospel.

Father Krzysztof, CPPS, Father Sebastian Pietra, CPPS, and I also prepared the retreat for the youth of the technical school. The catechetical topic was chastity. Apparently, this topic seems antiquated and boring; now this virtue forgotten by the young people seems to be something irrational, but it is also a real problem. Recalling chastity and the care with which Jesus treated the prostitute, his determination and

mercy were a great challenge for us, but also a joy to be able to share our faith.

Father Krzysztof and I guided a parish retreat March 25-28. We prepared homilies and catechesis for the children and youth. Talking about

God's presence in our daily lives was very important

for me. We talked about the passage of the Gospel about Mary and Martha and we also spoke about our Founder and Foundress. During these days, it was important to show the meaning of our ordinary activities such as cleaning, cooking, professional work, and doing the laundry, just like doing things to bring us closer to God and thanks to prayer they become a place of encountering the One who loves us.

This retreat time was fruitful thanks also to the support and prayers of the Sisters of our community, for which we are grateful. Each of us in her own way responded to Jesus' call and His Word.

Sr Tatiana Studentowa, ASC



WATER: A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH, SAVE IT PROTECT AND PROMOTE LIFE!

Water is, quite literally, a matter of life and death. Universal access to safe water and sanitation is a cornerstone of socioeconomic development. Water is also a vital ingredient in (among other things) food, energy, health, industrial development, livable cities, and the biodiversity and ecosystems around us. Pressure on water is rising and action is urgent. Our planet is so profoundly dependent on water that when scientists search for the possibility of life on other planets, they search first for evidence of water.

More than two billion people are compelled to drink contaminated water, resulting in a child dying every minute of every hour of every day.

Four and a half billion people lack safely managed sanitation services. Without safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, it is harder for women and girls to lead safe, dignified, productive, and healthy lives.

About 2.5 billion people (36% of the world's population) live in water-scarce regions where more than 20% of global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is produced. By 2050, more than half of the world's population—and about half of global grain production—will be at risk due to water stress. Intense water scarcity may displace as many as 700 million people by 2030.

While water stress is growing, farmers, busi-

nesses, and households often have few incentives to consume less, maintain water quality, or allocate it to ecosystems or social objectives. In many areas where water is scarce, it is used more wastefully and inefficiently than in areas where it is abundant. This is often a consequence of inappropriate policies and incentives that condone waste and over-use, instead of efficient and prudent use of scarce water resources.

Over the last 20 years, the overwhelming majority of disasters (90%) have been caused by floods, storms, droughts, heatwaves, and other weather-related events. By 2050, desertification alone will threaten the livelihoods of nearly one billion people in about 100 countries.

Water pollution resulting from human activities has clear health and socioeconomic impacts and is associated with biodiversity loss, reduced ecosystem functioning, and diminishes the availability of water often with impacts that are irreversible.

For the first time in history, more than half of the global population lives in towns and cities. By 2050, that proportion is expected to have risen to two-thirds, creating an unprecedented demand for reliable and safe water supply.

We need to value the water we have – in all its social, cultural, economic, and environmental dimensions – to educate especially our children



JPIC - VIVAT Space

and women, to reduce wastage and pollution, ensure water is available for our priorities, reduce risk, and to make water services more sustainable.

Too often we take water for granted. As a result, we waste it, pollute it, or ignore its destructive power. The opposite of taking water for granted is to value it, in all its dimensions. Valuing water requires recognizing the full range of direct and indirect benefits and risks associated with water, which may be cultural, spiritual,

emotional, economic.

Let us commit ourselves to promote education and raise public awareness about the intrinsic value of water and its essential role in all aspects of life, beginning in our own homes. Let us ensure adequate investment in institutions, infrastructure, information and innovation to realize the many different benefits derived from water and reduce risks.

Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel asc



In the Congregation

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION CALENDAR



May 12 – 15: Sr. Nadia and Sr. Wiesława will be participating in the 10th anniversary of the election of Maria De Mattia as patroness of Boleslawiec.

BIRTHDAYS: LET'S CELEBRATE LIFE

Sr. Ivana Husnjak
May 12, 1988 Zagreb 30th birthday
Sr. Francesca Coimbra de Carvalho
May 10, 1978 Manaus 40th birthday
Sr. Teresina Capobianco
May 16, 1948 Italy 70th birthday
Sr. Anna Augelletti
May 12, 1938 Italy 80th birthday
Sr. Joan Shalopin
May 22, 1938 US 80th birthday
Sr. Marilyn Rupp
May 13, 1928 US 90th birthday
Sr. Mary Anthony Mathews
May 1, 1916 US 100+ birthday



ANNIVERSARIES OF PROFESSION

65th
Sr. Helen Lindsley
Sr. Helen Ridder
70th
Sr. Rita Robl
Sr. Rosina Mies
Sr. Tarcisia Roths
80th
Carmelita Blick
80th +
Sr. Leona Riebel 83th
Sr. Florentia Riebel 84th

THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HEAVENLY HOME



Region of Italy April 1, 2018 **Sr. Nicolina Meola**
Region of Italy April 3, 2018 **Sr. Maria Bianco**
Region of Italy April 3, 2018 **Sr. Norma Maria Viola**
Region of Italy April 13, 2018 **Sr. Incoronata Miscio**



Monthly information

through the:

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