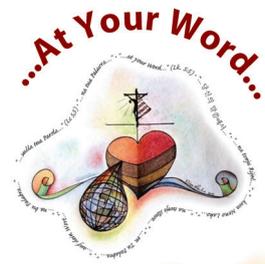


International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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Maria De Mattias' Holiness in the Time of the Coronavirus

Editorial

This year, in spite of the special context that requires physical distancing for safety's sake, we celebrated the Anniversary of the canonization of St. Maria De Mattias by putting ourselves in a listening mode toward her completely feminine and deeply human holiness.

The ability to accept, the patient waiting for fulfillment, for the maturation that life requires to flourish and develop in its fullness, and that is fully reflected in one of Pope Francis' four postulation of *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG): "Time is greater than Space," are feminine characteristics but also deeply human and evangelical. So is intuition, that subtle perception which, united with affection of the heart, gives rise to passion. Passion, zeal can come about only from a personal experience with Love, which cannot be withheld since, by nature, it is gift, a sharing, and proclaiming.

The situation of poverty and limitation present throughout the world calls us to treasure our humanity -- the same humanity lived by Maria De Mattias who continues to be our inspiration and guide.

Her holiness invites us to go back to Christ as

a person with whom we can relate in our daily lives to have a personal experience of His Love. This is in abundance for each person already from the moment of Creation. It is welcome around the table; it is hearing ourselves called by name. In fact, being holy means letting ourselves be completely seized by Christ and live like Him, each in her own reality. Holiness means being like Jesus Christ in everything: in our thoughts, our feelings, our words and actions. (Novo Millennio Ineunte - JPII 2011) Only in touching the fire do we become flames capable of inflaming others.

In a time where faith is in the crucible of trial, the figure of Maria and her holiness continue to be a challenge for us Adorers today and for all Christians. In the sharing of the Adorers and our friends that we find in these pages once again testify that going back to re-appropriate our humanity, that of Christ and his Gospel, is the only way of hope and salvation of humanity.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

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Canonical Visitation During a Special Time

As the Church teaches us, a canonical visitation is a time of grace for the region being visited and an experience of charity for those called to carry it out. Faith makes this a special and, therefore, long-awaited, well-prepared and organized time in order to experience it responsibly as a sign of Christ's passage. Participation of the Sisters, presence, meetings, time together, and listening are necessary elements to accomplish this purpose.

However, this year the coronavirus caught us all by surprise, requiring us to evaluate and re-invent our life to safeguard our values. After a nearly two months' delay with regard to the programs and after a long time of careful listening to the reality, of dialogue and discernment between the two administrations, and overcoming the anxieties and concerns for everyone's health, the visitation began on May 7. Sr. Nadia, together with Sr. Bridget and Sr. Manuela Nocco, went in the afternoon to the regional house, St. John's, to meet with the members of the administration of the Italian Region and officially begin the canonical visitation of the Region.

There was a new and flexible way of responding to the needs for safety of the moment: to allow the two groups to listen and participate, it was necessary to connect online through the interactive Zoom platform. All the members of the General Council participated in the videoconference. Sr. Nicla Spezzati and her entire council welcomed the General Superior, her councilor and the treasurer in the large ground-floor meeting hall while keeping safe distances. Amid the practical problems due to methodology and insecurity, the opening meeting gave way to the joy of the encounter, to dialogue and sisterly listening and it was done in the span of three afternoons, during which the councilors had a rich sharing

Listening to the Sisters left a feeling of peace in spite of the fact that the Italian Region, like the entire country, has been involved with the pandemic. Faith in the Lord Jesus who died and rose is the seed

upon which rests every hope in this time of trial.

On Sunday, May 10, Sr. Nadia and Sr. Bridget began the visitation to the ASC communities in Lazio, and the General Councilors, it is hoped, will be able to reach the other communities in the country. The visitors will be traveling by car and will have to maintain safe distances and wear masks and gloves to protect and safeguard the health of the Sisters they will be visiting.

We thank Sr. Nicla Spezzati, Regional Superior, and the members of the Administration for the openness and dialogue with which they fostered discernment. We will responsibly follow all the government directives for avoiding infection and we will adopt choices that will accompany the development of this current situation. We ask everyone for the support of your prayers.

Sr. Maria Grazia Bozzamazzo, ASC



Joy of Easter and Corona Virus

In the time of the joy of Easter, when we reflect on our redemption, which was obtained at the high cost of shedding the blood on the Cross, we are riddled with anxieties, fears and many questions that life is in crisis. Every day there is new information on this Corona virus, whether or not the number of patients have increased or some have died.

In early March 2020, the whole country of Tanzania was in a state of shock after the first patient was diagnosed with coronavirus infection. The patient traveled from Sweden and Belgium and returned to Tanzania with infection.

The government, through the Minister of Health, urged citizens to take precautions against the disease as the infection was already in the country. They emphasized **a v o i d i n g unnecessary gatherings:** such as celebrations, **m e e t i n g s**, congestion in the

market. During the period we were contemplating the sufferings of Christ, (Lent), the Church through the Council of Bishops invited us to pray for this disaster. A special prayer was offered by all believers; every Parish, organization and other Religious Churches had special devotions praying for the world against this scourge. Patients continued to get worse from day to day, when the transmission was to those who came from abroad and returned infected. In early April, we had a major shock after the Minister of Health announced that the virus was now in the community. That is, Local transmission with more emphasis on people taking precautions,

including staying at home, washing their hands and checking for signs of infection.

The government closed primary, secondary schools and colleges, as the patient population increased. The Government continues to provide services and Community Education, inviting religious institutions to continue educating believers and practicing worship in a positive light. Worship should not be too long and people should not go together. The President has strongly encouraged people to pray more in accordance with their beliefs, giving three special days of prayer.



For us Adorers, we welcomed the invitation of the people to pray, since this crisis began, joining the whole Church. We have set aside special days for Eucharist Adoration and Prayer which the people has requested. Regional leadership has been closely following the restrictions provided

by the Church and Government. The collaborators in our homes have remained in their families until the crisis is over. So the Sisters are doing all the community activities at this time since the student Sisters are home.

Despite the fears, we still hope in the Risen Christ who will save us from this trouble. We pray for families who have lost their family members; may God comfort them and welcome the dead to the eternal rest in heaven.

May the blood of Christ protect us from danger.

Sr. Maria Mathias Mrema, ASC



COVID-19 and the ASCs of the Region of Brazil

We, in Brazil, have been in “social isolation” for more than two months as decreed by the government of the States of Pará and Amazonia for the purpose of avoiding infection of the coronavirus (COVID-19.)

Our community of Belém is made up of Sr. Maria José, Marlene and Jocilene. Sister Marilia, assigned to Manaus, was not able to move because of the COVID-19 and stayed in the Belém community where she wrote this article.

Zaira Magalhães, the niece of Sister Ivone, ASC, is living with us and works as a psychologist in Our Lady of Guadalupe Hospital. She is in contact with patients infected with the virus and uses PPE (Personal Protective Equipment.) The pandemic exposed the difficult situation of healthcare in Amazonia, with its lack of doctors, hospitals, beds for the sick, PPE for healthcare workers and even medicines.

This is a fundamental but painful experience for Zaira as she is called to work to keep the fear of the sick and their families under control while putting what she has learned to good use: “this virus is demanding a more human world.”

The drama of humanity involved with the coronavirus is that this virus undergoes mutations that create other illnesses and, in order to defeat it, science has the problem of preparing a vaccine against this invisible enemy. In regard to Brazil and especially Amazonia, the chaotic situation that has been created requires a superhuman effort!

Quarantine and social isolation are difficult for everyone, however, we ASCs understand the need, noting the daily increase in the number of infected people and deaths due to COVID-19. The political problem has been aggravated by the coronavirus, because the president of Brazil does not accept the prolonged closure of factories and other workplaces and blames the increase in unemployment on the holders of this law.

Imbued with our charism in this pain of the world, and thanks to Sr. Nadia Coppa’s general letter, the calls of Pope Francis and the worlds of the CNBB (National Bishops’ Conference of Brazil) and the CRB (Conference of Brazilian Religious), and the scientists,

we are trying to contribute in these ways:

- Praying the Chaplet of the Blood of Christ in each ASC community twice a week to ask God, with His immense power, to put an end to this pandemic and to inspire scientists in their research for a vaccine against the coronavirus.
- In some communities, the Sisters are participating in the collection of food that the diocesan Caritas is organizing to help the sick, the unemployed and the poor.
- We are using online means to spread the prayer to Venerable Serafina, asking her intercession for the sick and victims of the virus, as, for example, the relatives of some of the ASCs in Amazonia.
- The ASCs of Santarem, Pará, who had begun making masks that are so needed, are continuing to make them and give them away, and the CRB (Conference of Brazilian Religious) of Santarem is joining the project. Some congregations are furnishing the materials and others are making them.
- Sr. Marilia wrote a poem on the current situation. One is entitled Igreja Domestic, (Domestic Church) about the value of prayer at home, which is very important now that the churches are closed.
- Physical exercise at home to prevent illness, such as those for breathing recommended by an immunologist through WhatsApp.

“The coronavirus reminded me of the evocative expression FELIX CULPA (O Happy Fault) attributed to St. Augustine and used in the beautiful EXULTET sung during the Easter Vigil: “O HAPPY FAULT SORELY NEEDED! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ...” and the coronavirus was necessary to bring about the generosity and engagement of the various realities for the fight against the pandemic – for example, the health professionals who risk their lives in the care of those suffering from COVID-10.

And I say the same when I see in many people a growth in neighborliness, in family life, in creativity, in solidarity, in reconciliation, in sharing and in mutual help. Then I say: “O HAPPY virus!”

Sr Marilia Menezes, ASC



You are Worth the Blood of Christ

You and I are worth the blood of our beloved Lord Jesus Christ. Beginning my testimony with this statement is a joy and at the same time an attitude of courage, because I truly will be saying how the Spirituality of the Blood of Christ brought renewal into my journey. And saying when the Spirituality of the Blood has done and has started new attitudes regarding life in my life as a daughter, sister, catechist, public worker and especially as a baptized Christian.

Some years ago, I began working at the Maria De Mattias Institute. I am a public worker and work in this situation. During these years I learned much from each Sister who lived here and from those remaining here, and something greater that makes a difference are the meetings and activities that lead us to reflect upon the spirituality of the Blood of Christ. During these times of reflection, I learned that, regardless of the role one has, each is appreciated in her essence because we are called to love our dear neighbor, like St. Maria De Mattias said. Everything is shaping me and bringing me to encounter the other, initially with some hesitation, but first with a greeting, then some words, a smile and then crying together when emotions take the upperhand or simply in listening. Each encounter offered me made me see that I am precious and I need to take God to the other person, a God who gave his only son to redeem us from our sins and each drop of blood poured out was poured out for me and for you because you are precious in the Father's eyes.

I clearly remember the two Circles of Reconciliation I had the opportunity to be a part of; how much I grew spiritually. I am moved when I say this because after this experience I was much better, after the sharing of the entire group helped me to overcome the bit of anguish I have been carrying within myself. They were situations that had been deep within me since birth. The spirituality of the Blood of Christ makes me listen lovingly and prudently to the cries of the Blood that are expressed by my mother, my brothers and sisters, my catechists, and my work colleagues and

so many people I often do not even know.

Experiencing and especially living this spirituality means tasting God's love and, above all, giving flavor to people's lives. During this time when the world is facing this COVID-19 pandemic crisis, it is a favorable time for me to reflect upon my attitudes. I confess that at times I feel overwhelmed by fear because of so much information, but I stop to think that I am loved by God and the fear cannot paralyze me. I have to act prudently to nourish the faith of many people who at this time feel "lost." In my reflections I believe that God has a purpose for each of us and this moment will be used to make us become better people, capable of understanding that God is the Lord of all things. God is not only in our midst, but is visible in every sister and brother needing our help now.

Today, at the beginning of Holy Week, we proclaim the Lord by shouting HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID, which means: SAVE US, Lord. Lord, save us from temptations, from afflictions and from the pandemic. Now I am aware that even without the people attending the celebrations in the Church, they can celebrate in the home church, which is our family. And this Holy Week will be different since it leads us to reflect on the true meaning of the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To conclude, I state that many changes I have made up to today are graces of our Good God and the experiences of the Spirituality of the Blood. The Spirituality of the Blood poured out by Christ is great and is a mystery, since he is divine and human. And with the power of the Blood poured out by Jesus Christ, I feel like a Christian laywoman strengthened to take on my mission with courage and joy.

Hérica coutinho de araujo

*(Collaborator of the Maria De Mattias
Institute in Altamira - PA)*

My Love Story

So many of you have offered thoughtful Lenten and Easter reflections. I will not duplicate those efforts, but I would like to share with you my Love Story.

For me, the deepest reality is the boundless Love of God in our world. I am not talking about an abstract reality, a theory or doctrine. However, I speak of the vibrant energy, a moving of Love, from the Father to the Son and poured out on us through the Spirit.

Some theologians call this a dance. Whatever we call it, it is something or rather, someone, very real and active within us. My response is to receive this love and share it with others and to keep the flow of love moving.

But you and I are not the only ones in this sacred circle of love. All of creation, all that is, is here also.

Being blind, my prayer usually does not take the form of written prayers. For example, this morning, when I heard the first song of the birds, my prayer was one of awe and wonder as I listen to their perfect response of love. Yesterday, it was a sliver of the moon that I saw early, or it could have been a star, or the sun, or a raindrop. All are giving perfect praise to God, through instinct.

But one thing really confuses me in this Sacred Circle of Communion with God. And that is the presence of the coronavirus, which also is in this Circle of Love. The coronavirus is also being held in the loving Embrace of God. What a mystery!

It is not for me to solve the Mystery. It is not for me to judge or complain about the rare species that accompanies me on my life's journey.

My response is simply to sing and dance my Love Song.

Sr. Anne Irose, ASC



Beyond COVID-19

My heart is wound weary -- another undocumented victim of COVID-19 among billions throughout the world.

I'm weary to my core and my strength is spent beyond endurance from hearing about restrictions, death tolls, burnout, shortages, and ignorant and dangerous disregard of consequences.

Not that I have no compassion. If anything, perhaps I have too much – if, indeed, there can even be such a thing. Not that I don't realize the monumental destruction caused by the invisible, ravaging beast raging among us. Perhaps I see it far too vividly, feel it far too sharply.

So, it's not indifference that makes me turn aside.

It's the wounded weariness, frustration, and helplessness of a spent heart that makes me walk away, shut my ears, and ponder questions.

There must be more than this. There must be

an opposite force to balance the suffering. There must be more than the pictures my TV screen shows nightly and the solemn tones of what the newscasters tell me.

But what? What more? And where is it?

I go to where I've gone before, into the dark silence after strength is spent into numbness. A Voice I know quite well tells me: "Go deeper into the silence. I'm there. I'm waiting for you, and I will never leave you."

Gradually, the darkness melts into light, and all I can say is, "My Lord and my God." I have found the opposite force and it gives me new strength. Then I turn once more to those who are suffering.

There are things that COVID-19 can never invade and destroy.

Sr. Clare Boehmer, ASC

Moving Forward

Little did we know when we started the new year of 2020 that life could change so dramatically in only a few months. Not only are the changes around us dramatic, but it is clear that we will not be going back to the way things used to be. All attempts to resume the activities of January and February will have to be thought through and adapted to provide safety and good health.

Most of us have been in some kind of “stay at home” mode for four to five weeks. As governments try to move society back into some new level of activity, we are reminded that the second wave of the deadly flu pandemic of 1918 was much worse than the first one. So we will venture out eventually, but we will need to be very careful.

The worst of this new disease is not over. It is still to come. We may be recovering from the first shock that such a thing could happen to our world, but we need to prepare for a world we cannot really understand at this time.

Therefore, we cannot really wait for this to be over. There is no hope for that until a vaccine is developed in a year or so. We need to find ways to move forward.

Moving forward can mean so many different things, so we might need to start sharing ideas with each other. Some ideas may seem minimal, but sometimes this is the hard work of life. Often these are referred to as “soft skills.” I believe these soft skills are the ones that really create the energy of life. They may be soft, but they are mighty and they are often hard work because they change and allow us to be present to life in new ways.

What are these soft skills? I will venture to start the list:

- Starting each day grateful for life and eager to enjoy the day;
- Focusing on relationships even if we are physically distant, i.e. a smile instead of a hug;
- Being willing to learn and be curious;
- Being mindful of all those who are suffering and in need of prayerful thoughts;
- Enjoying nature and engaging with it;
- Being ready to respond to the needs we see around us in our circles of interaction;
- Listening to those around us to learn what is important to them;

- Listening to the stories of life told (and sometimes retold), stories that often help us remember the good and process the notso good;

- Laughing at humor or just because we are together and life is good.

Let us invite each other to move forward even though nothing is very clear about the coming months. Let us prepare ourselves for the future by not waiting for the way things used to be to come back. May all activities of the past that begin again have a new look to them, a new feel, a new sense of possibility.

Sr. Vicki Bergkamp, ASC



I Stay at Home # ...

... to show my love for those struggling in various ways, through a telephone call to someone living alone who is anguished and discouraged; to hear from relatives living in the red-colored areas of Covid-19 infection to comfort them and at times to joke with each other to ease their concern; to prepare coloring materials about the Sunday Gospel for the primary school children in catechism class; short conversations on Whatsapp with the youngsters in the eighth grade who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation; to telephone Sisters and laity who are sick this Lent; to message our Syrian friends who have been involved in the after-school project and embroidery workshop; to share remotely about missionary projects and dreams whose implementation will most probably have to be changed; to make order and clean the house and community shelves; to read, write, listen to music, to cook, but attention, always in the company of bleach and Amuchina (a disinfectant gel) around everything and washing my hands often and thoroughly.

#ISTAYATHOME# for a different attention to the poor hidden behind a margination that has always been there in order to delight in the presence of those near me and rediscover the deep motivations for my consecration, by attending live-streamed Eucharistic celebrations that help me maintain a solid and deep communion with the Pope, the Sisters of my congregation, the parishioners and priests, by praying and interceding the power of the Precious Blood and adoring day and night.....

Certainly, it is boring and obvious to everyone to list a series of activities to put into place during this time of undeclared war. But, I like to think about and live this Lent as a love adventure with God, a honeymoon cruise on a ship from which we are suddenly not allowed to disembark under pain of physical and spiritual death. A honeymoon trip is enthusiastically undertaken because of love and with the hope of fruitfulness, with desire and passion for the beloved. Therefore, with much time dedicated to listening to the beloved, sharing plans and insights stirred up by the Spirit who makes the heart pregnant and its joyous fulfilment. It is a trip with more room given to the creativity that only the Spirit can arouse, with the

awareness of a call to embrace the daily cross and only thus to embrace hope. It is a constant call by the Beloved to develop stronger spiritual skills that can overcome the temptations of the always lurking enemy... suddenly the storm is unleashed and it is dark! Many brothers and sisters succumb in this bacteriological war, the waves of the sea are impetuous; the storm is violent. Everything around is fear, discouragement, fear of perishing, and there are times of tears of pain for the loss of loved ones, but the one at the helm knows where to lead ... and when you are with the Beloved, there is no fear, He constantly reminds me of it.

Looking around we see different attitudes. There are those who trust the helmsman; there are those who distrust and close themselves off in selfishness. There are those who lash out against Him because they think he is sleeping and does not care if they perish. There are those who try to earn his benevolence as they have never done before during the journey. There are those who see an enemy in their brothers and sisters who are fighting their own battles alone. But the lover completely abandons herself to his action and is certain that she will land on safe shores and, in the meantime, she rests in his arms not wondering why... when... where. In deep and fruitful silence, she opens the ears of her heart to hear every word whispered by her beloved and gazes into his eyes, seeing the glorious goal reflected in the pupils of his eyes.

Traveling amid waves and breakers, storms and terrors, but together with Mary! As in every special moment of my life, during this imposed quarantine I rely on the Virgin Mary who I feel is very near to me and says to me, "I guard your hope, do not be afraid!" So I use part of my physical and spiritual energy to reflect, study and prepare the realization of a work dedicated to Her, called "Mary, Guardian of Hope." May hope be in the heart of each ASC and each man and woman awaiting new shoots of life. The travel continues ... together with Mary, and it is already Easter in the company of the Beloved who died and is risen, because together with Him fear and death are conquered!

Happy Resurrection!

Sr. Rosalba Facecchia, ASC

We Stay Home

Well, here we are, everyone at home, with vitality and good humor in order not to “fall down” and to keep afloat. It is strange, but all of us have been eating lunch and dinner together for weeks and our meals have lasted longer and been more enjoyable. No one comes or goes from the house anymore and this is really strange for us. The home of a missionary family that is always ready to welcome friends and that wants to communicate and proclaim and talk and give of ourselves. Now there is none of this anymore and day after day we are trying to adapt to changes. We are taking on a rhythm, but we continue to be missionary.

For the Easter season many things were already made by the missionary team to which we have belonged for seven years. There were little chicks and colored eggs that were to liven up the palm branches that would have been offered to the parishioners. Palm Sunday experienced as a sign of unity and sharing, where the joy of being together is mixed with the desire to do something for our neediest brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, all this will be put off, like all the other mission initiatives we had thought about doing. It matters little ... we will come back stronger than before and with great strength to deal with the challenges that this time is putting before us.

Now we have to be “missionaries” in our families and this is what God is asking of us. Do

everything well at the present moment. We parents are becoming better at managing our on-line work and our dear children are doing the same with their school work. We admire the teachers when we hear them urge them to pay attention, even from afar, and to ask questions. They help fill up this empty time. Francesco Pio, then, is a real nuisance when he asks us to tape his violin practice. Our poor ears! We often sit and watch a film.

We are all there together on the couch. Until a month ago, that seemed impossible. Even keeping them at the table an extra minute was an impossible feat. We are discovering that the only way to deal with adversity is to stick together. Even prayer has become more and more an integral part of our days, like the evening when Miriam fell asleep in front of the TV praying the rosary. We take everything that is and that this virus is giving us, in spite of everything. Our time now is more filled with meaning. When all this is over and we will be outside again, we will carry our closeness and our love and mutual helping each other in our hearts. And then, we will discover that staying in place has changed us for the better because when everything seems to be wavering, the only great strength is to stick together in a time filled with love, which becomes a time of eternity.

Anna, Antonio, Miriam e Francesco Pio



“So Much Good is Awaiting Me, that Any Suffering is a Pleasure to Me”

St. Francis

During this time, it is my faith that supports my fragility. I thank the Lord!

When you're born into a rural family like mine, raised with awe of God and not fear of God, you inherit priceless attitudes you become aware of at the right moment. I would say to all those whose faith is wavering, “Be courageous, do not be afraid” even when everything seems lost. Though I am weak due to a serious illness, I feel strong for these feelings and I put everything into the hands of Jesus. I look to Him and think about Him.

Sr. Lina Zurlo, ASC

Life During the Time of the Corona Virus and an Earthquake

- House of Formation -



I want to share with all the ASCs in the world the experience of God's Providence, goodness and nearness with the people we have experienced in this time. Our Region has four houses in Zagreb and the house of formation was one the most damaged during the earthquake. But it was embraced by the goodness of the people and by God's nearness. The chapel remained intact. From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic our chapel has been open for personal prayer, while respecting the instructions and recommendations for protection by the civic government. The external entrance directly into the chapel, disinfectants and large green space around the house facilitated the possibility of spiritual and social support. Various people testified to us that at the beginning of the implementation of social distancing, in passing near the house and knowing that the Sisters lived there and there was a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, they were encouraged to deal with this new situation. God has been very close to us. We had the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist each day, adore and pray a lot personally and as a community.

The Sisters tried to stay in touch with the people through phone calls and also with the young women in vocational discernment. Thanks to virtual communication, we proclaimed the Gospel and testified to God's nearness to the people who called and asked for prayers.

Mutual love between the ASCs and the people was felt in many ways. We prayed for

the needs of the world and the people let us experience their love and concrete help in various ways. Love and faith overcame every fear. ASC Associates and members of the Blood of Christ Prayer Communities came together every evening to pray the Litany of the Blood of Christ, and sewed protective masks to give to those who had none. Risking their own health, they worked in the parish Caritas to prepare and distribute packages of food for the poor families for Easter.

When warmer days came they gave us a gift. Knowing that we have a big garden, they brought a small chicken coop with four hens and one rooster. Now we are enriched with new residents in the neighborhood.

We are united in these extraordinary circumstances, when new life is born and when members of the faith community leave without our being able to celebrate funerals. Truly, we have experienced the paschal mystery together. We do not know what else awaits us, but we can say we have passed the test of the communion of faith and humanity. Taking care of each other, loving God and our neighbor, we have grown in humanity and faithfulness, in adoring and redeeming love; we have grown in the life of the Gospel.



Sr. Danijela Anić, ASC

News from Zagreb: Human Life is Like the Grass ...

In many parts of the world and in our communities the crisis caused by the spread of the coronavirus infection unexpectedly upset all our established plans and our “normal” lives.

In order to respect the various measures imposed by competent institutions for all of us, we were asked to adapt and think of creative ways to continue to live the mission of the Adorers in the extraordinary circumstances. We suddenly found ourselves having to face fundamental questions, rediscover and restate the reference points of our personal and community lives. Most of our communities had the opportunity to celebrate the daily Eucharist, but all the communities had to change their daily schedules, in addition to intensifying personal prayer, they assured privileged time for being together as community before the Lord in adoration and intercession for the needs of all the world. The Sacred Circles of prayer by the communities of Adorers were broadened through the ASC Associates, members of the Blood of Christ Prayer Communities and all those who collaborate with us by embracing the ASC Congregation and the entire world.

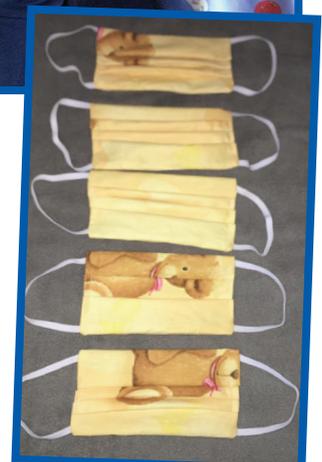
This is an especially busy time for the Sister nurses who work in hospitals or homes for the elderly. The Sisters who teach in schools or in other educational institutions had to adapt their work to the new situation and organize online lessons, while many pastoral activities were temporarily suspended. The temporary impossibility of meeting people face to face did not stop us in isolation. Through virtual communication means the Sisters try to be in touch with those in need of being listened to, who need support and encouragement to pray together.

In addition to prayer and spiritual support, there are many creative and concrete examples: sewing protective masks, shopping for the sick and elderly, leaving food at the doors of those in need, solidarity and sharing with the poor.

With all the problems caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the serious earthquake struck Zagreb last March 22. Many families were left homeless, the cathedral and most of the churches at the center of the city, the convents of

various religious communities and many public buildings were seriously damaged. Our Region has four houses in Zagreb, but we did not have serious damage. We want to take this occasion to thank all of you for your prayers, love and nearness we experienced from Adorers throughout the world.

ASCs of the Region of Zagreb



The Pilgrimage of Santa Maria De Mattias through the streets of the city



When the coronavirus locks people in their homes and in fear, the Saints go out into the streets to encourage them through their presence. One day we received a phone call with a request: if it was possible for the relic of St. Maria De Mattias to cross the streets of the city, because the inhabitants of Boleslawiec were nostalgic for her, they wanted to go to the chapel to pray and meet their Patroness as always. We got one phone call after another. They asked again. When do you go and what time? The people of Boleslawiec quickly got organized and at exactly the same time as the sisters were crossing the streets of Boleslawiec with the relic of St. Maria De Mattias prayed to the Blood of Christ. We in the car with the relic prayed the litany of the Blood of Christ, but we also prayed spontaneously for the people we met on the streets... It probably became the simplest (and at the same time the longest) litany in my life...

Saint Maria De Mattias look

- on the left is a clinic and the wonderful people who work there
- there's a market, lots of people visit it and buy lots of things.
- Mr. Piotr works here (mayor of the city)...
- and this is the school our boarding school girls attend.
- remember the travelers, who leave and safely return to this station
- this is our parish



- Asia and Jarek live there. You know them.
- there's a girl in this store who's bravely trying to make ends meet...
- help this elderly gentleman who is struggling to ride an even older bicycle
- a hospital, one and the other... sick people and doctors need your support...
- the Sisters friends, the Fathers, you know what they need...
- kindergarten empty of children

...and so for almost an hour... we invoked our Saint's intercession.

Some people from the car windows recognized the relics of Saint Maria De Mattias and made the sign of the cross, while others sent messages to confirm that they were praying with us at the same time.... It may seem that the epidemic has taken away our ability to do activity... This is not entirely true. We can be close to people, support them in many ways that a few months ago would never have occurred to us ... as the "pilgrimage" of Saint Maria De Mattias through the streets of her city and the desires displayed on the fence on the night of the resurrection, so that all those who were near the house of the Adorers could read that ... JESUS IS ALIVE. HE WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

Sr. Anna Mikołajewicz ASC

In the Footsteps of the Divine Healer



“The Lord nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health.” (ps :41:3)

It was May 13 2019. I was on morning duty at the neurological ward with 21 beds. I noticed a mother who looked preoccupied and was standing as if looking for someone to listen to her. After having finished my work I approached the mother, patted on her shoulders and asked her what was bothering her. Then immediately tears began to roll down her face. She narrated her ordeal with sobs and tears.

Her 12 years old son, then one time was completely normal and active. One fine morning she found in him some imbalance in walking. They rushed him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with malignant brain tumor. After a few days he became unconscious. The mother was shattered and yet with deep faith and trust in God she waits for her beloved son to return back to normal life, even though the doctors have given up hope. The pathetic health condition of her son worries her deeply and yet she continues to believe in God’s healing intervention.

For a while I took in all that unfolded before my eyes. I considered in wonder, her faith and perseverance in prayer. The painful situation thrust on her and yet the firm hope of this mother challenged me to reflect upon my life and it was a call to witness God’s tender love and compassion in my mission. I am grateful to be a servant of God and very glad in being a NURSE to witness God’s love to His people.

When we look at the life of Jesus and His apostles, we realize that healing was an important and integral part of their mission. We Adorers are called to participate in the adoring and redeeming love of Christ. Having all these challenges, we the sisters here at Palidoro are actively involved in the healing ministry at Bambino Gesù Hospital. The example of our foundress spurs us on to commit ourselves with the same zeal and enthusiasm and to dedicate ourselves to caring for the sick.

The challenges of the patients and their families comprise various aspects like physical, psychological and spiritual. In these suffering moments of their lives, our presence brings them hope. The illness of innocent children impacts the family in other ways, too. For example, the parents who remain with their sick child for long periods in the hospital are not able to contribute on raising other children at home, apart from encountering economic problems and the possible separation of parents from each other.

We also come across different kinds of parents. There are parents who don’t accept their child who is ill and neglect to meet their child’s needs and yet are forced to care for them because child receives benefits from the government. On the other hand, there are also parents who accept with serenity even three or four disabled children and nurse them in all their needs. As we bring hope to these suffering parents due to ill health of their children, we also learn from them to face the challenges of our own life with steadfast faith and courage and learn to live joyfully.

The prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola is appropriate here: ***“Teach us good Lord, to serve you as you deserve: to give and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will.”***

Sr. Arockia, ASC

General Administration Calendar



June – Continuation of the Canonical Visitation of the Region of Italy

Religious Professions

June 21, 2020

25th Anniversary of Religious Profession - Region of Italy

- Sr. Nadia Coppa
- Sr. Piera Romano
- Sr. Cleopatra Subiaco
- Sr. Pinuccia Zagaria



BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Birthdays: Let's celebrate life

30			
Sr. Josephine Agnes Dhurai Raj	06/04/1990	India	
Sr. Martha Veedhi	06/15/1990	India	
50			
Sr. Laura Marangoni	06/02/1970	Italy	
Sr. Milena Marangoni	06/02/1970	Italy	
80			
Sr. Bogumila Karaban	06/10/1940	Wrocław	
Sr. Lucia Lombardi	06/15/1940	Italy	

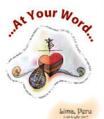


They have returned to their Heavenly Home

05/17/2020	Sr. Maria Alteri	Italy
05/21/2020	Sr. Ruth Timmermeyer	USA

International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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