

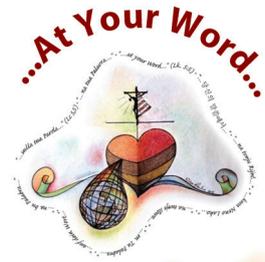
# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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### Like Jesus, Forced to Flee

It is no coincidence that World Migrant and Refugee Day was also included in the Season of the Creation. In fact, the topic of migration is closely linked to the problem of the environmental imbalances that put people in a position of finding the possibility of survival in other places. By now, there is no country in the world that is not involved in this reality. There are those who are called to welcome others and there are those who experience the sadness of having to leave.

This year the reflection topic is inspired by the passage of St. Matthew's gospel (2:13-15, 19-23) – how Jesus was forced to flee from the anger of Herod who wanted to kill him, forcing his family to take refuge in Egypt. This reflection helps us look at the reality of migrants from another perspective, that

of the experience of Jesus who, in his lifetime, challenged the insecurities of those who have to leave everything, hoping to find someone to welcome and protect them. In our day, millions of families can be recognized in this reality. We are called to see in their faces the face of Christ who, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, a stranger, and imprisoned, challenges us.



Editorial

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Faced with this need, we must recognize that we are not always open to putting our time, our surroundings and our securities at stake. It is the call to change, to a transformation that leads us to rediscover that all are sons and daughters of the same Father and, therefore, brothers and sisters, indebted to one thing only: to mutual love. (Rom. 13:8)

This love is called welcome, listening, care, responsibility, involvement, service to each other. Yes, toward others because even the stranger, the homeless person has the richness of a child of God to share with us. It is no longer a call to give what we have, but to accept what the other has to offer to me, because the Kingdom of God, the new humanity Jesus came to establish at the cost of His blood, is built together. (1 Cor. 1:10)

In the *Urbi et orbi* message of April 12, 2020, Pope Francis clearly stated that *"This is not the time of selfishness because the challenge we are facing unites us all and does not distinguish between people."* To preserve our common home and make it ever more similar to God's original plan, we have to be committed to ensuring international cooperation, solidarity and global commitment without leaving anyone out.

For that reason, we want to share the prayer written for this World Day by Father Francesco dell'Orco, Pastoral Assistant at the "A. Gemelli" Sacred Heart Catholic University located in Rome.

*"Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the Child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked. Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.*

*Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.*

*Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.*

*May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home...."*

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**



## **The Canonical Visitation to the Italian Region During the Time of the Coronavirus**

The canonical visitation is a special time when the Church invites us to experience Jesus Christ passing among us. The care and attention required for its preparation speak to us of its sacredness.

The canonical visitation in such a large, numerous and geographically extended Region like that of Italy, with its 61 local communities in Italy and two in Albania, requires an investment of time and physical and spiritual energy. In January, the general administration and the regional one, had already organized a program and schedule calling for zone meetings, meetings with the various ministerial groups and other kinds of meetings, as is usually done on the occasion of these events.

But the lockdown, following the March 4, 2020 Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers (DPCM), changed our lives and also our programs.

From March to May, we tried to draw up a new program, believing we would be able to move around already after Easter, but the time was still not right. Like Noah in the Ark, we also waited for the time when the storm of suffering surrounding us would stop in order to touch dry land again.

With all the problems and uncertainties still present, we decided to begin without a well-defined program, but with what providence would allow us to perceive step by step. Now we have learned that that is the way to proceed. Life is read beginning from our daily experience, not from ideas.

So, finally on June 7, the great day arrived. It is a date that we still remember reliving the same trepidation and same uncertainties of the moment. Not just the date had changed, but also the way of meeting in an unusual way. The general superior with only two councilors went to the regional house, with the rest of the administration gathered as a group and listening electronically. The use of masks and hand sanitation at the entrance were used, as well as other unusual things, especially for us Sisters, like greeting each other without handshakes or touching.

So, after that meeting we had to think of a different way to be able to meet with the Sisters and the only possibility was that of meeting online. In fact, each person could see and communicate with the others kilometers away with her own PC. Between June and July, 7 online meetings by

age groups were held for those from 30 to 80; 3 meetings for local superiors and treasurers and the meeting with the women in formation. Only on July 20 was it possible to have a face-to-face meeting in Trani with the group in charge of initial and ongoing formation.

This online experience was memorable. It spoke of the Sisters' desire to get together and share, which was accentuated especially by the immobility created by the lockdown, but also the content of the sharing bore the weight of the experience that had called everyone back to living the essentials. The visitation to the individual communities was done with a rotation of one councilor going with the general superior. We were able to visit all of the communities of the elderly sisters who had been penalized the most during this time of lockdown. This experience spoke to us about many things. It spoke of the Sisters' spirit of belonging in their desire to feel like participants in the lives of everyone, of the need to communicate and share the way they show the charism and live mission in their daily lives. The welcome experienced everywhere is another sign of the desire to feel like a family.

The change of schedule and program is a reflection of the change of life that was occurring each day under our own eyes. Painful but inevitable transitions, open-ended questions calling for answers while we are together trying to go back to living the essential, the value of COMMUNION, which creates collegiality, synodality, acceptance without distinctions, capability of deep listening in order to be still be the GOSPEL IN THE WORLD today.

On September 5, the two administrations met again to share and bless the Lord, like the Virgin Mary did, for the marvels God continues to work in the life of each Sister, in every person and with them in the story of humanity. The chalice and paten, which the general administration gave to the regional administration in remembrance of the visitation during the concluding prayer of the event, are signs of the offering of the life of each Adorer, who, united to Christ's sacrifice on the altar, continues to be a sacrament of salvation for humanity each day.

**Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC**



## **Mission during the Time of the Coronavirus - Mozambique**

Upon my return from Tanzania to the ASC community in Mozambique, I was quarantined at home for 18 days in a room separate from the other ASC, Sister Flaviana Alfred.

As soon as the quarantine was over, I went to visit the orphan children and the elderly living in the neighborhood and to take food offered and prepared by the Mission of St. Frumenzio.

In fact, St. Frumenzio parish located in Rome, has been supporting the mission of the ASC in Mafuiane, where the Sisters collaborate together with the laity.

Let us thank God for having given us the courage to serve our dear neighbor and all those living on the fringes of society.

**Sr. Yohana Amu Malley, ASC**



Continental Area: the Americas  
Region of Manaus

## **The Most Beautiful Experience**

*On August 20, Sisters Jandervania Serrão dos Santos and Maria Neurice Silva de Oliveira made their first profession. In the following text they share their experience with us*

Dear Sisters, with great joy we want to share with you our experience of preparation for our first profession of religious vows. During our eight-day retreat guided by Sr. Alessandra Pereira, ASC, our regional superior, the Lord blessed us with many graces. The retreat theme was: "In mission for the Trinity." Each day we experienced times of deep relationship with the Lord and had rich sharing on God's action in us, remembering all the calls given to us throughout our lives.

I, Sr. Maria Neurice, want to share the experience we studied in depth one day of the retreat. It is in the calm sea that God comes to encounter us and this demands vigilance from us to perceive the signs manifested in our daily life. To be silent amid the many voices and various noises of our reality is a challenge.

For me, Sr. Jandervania dos Santos, it was an experience of gratitude. Each day I let God act

in me. I reflected on the meaning of detachment, openness and many other fruits, making room within me so that God could continue the work He has already begun in my life.

It is marvelous to perceive how God is leading us, how God's faithfulness and love have been revealed in our stories. On the day of our profession, in spite of being nervous, everything proceeded with great simplicity, depth and emotion. We knew that our families could not be present due to the pandemic, but we experienced with great gratitude the essence of our total donation to the Lord. We praise God for the precious gift of our vocation, the fruit of God's love.

**Sr. Jandervânia, ASC and Sr. Maria Neurice, ASC**

## **Parade of Love**

Sisters who have been sheltering in place at Ruma since March got a much needed emotional boost last month from a caravan of honking cars and smiling occupants who came to Ruma to say 'hi' and share love.

The parade on Saturday, August 22, was the brainchild of Father Stan Konieczny, Vicar for Religious of the Belleville diocese and current pastor at Smithton and Paderborn, not far from Ruma. Father Stan is a former long-time employee of the Adorers and a candidate for becoming an ASC Associate.

Father Stan said in an email that he wanted to organize the parade to lift the spirits of sisters whose movement and social contact have been restricted for months.

He saw it as a way to do something for the sisters, give associates a "pilgrimage," and gather for long-distance hellos and prayer time.

Father Stan reached out to Sister Cecilia Hellmann, who put him in touch with Denny Lutz, coordinator of the Metro East group of Associates. Denny and Sister Barbara Jean Franklin worked out the details.

Fourteen decorated vehicles full of Associates, sisters and friends participated in the parade. The cars were decked out in streamers, signs and balloons.

They made two circles around the driveway of the Ruma Center while sisters watched and cheered from a safe distance on the Ruma grounds. Drivers beeped horns while passengers waved and shouted greetings.

Participants included Metro East Associates, Red Bud Associates, Junior Associates, and Sisters who live outside of the Ruma Center.

Denny's wife, Christine Lutz, made tissue paper flowers for each sister. The flowers were presented in bouquets that Saturday for distribution later.

Visitors and sisters participated in a group prayer and song after the parade.

Sister Cecilia said the masks could not hide the joy of being together again. Together, everyone prayed the Litany of Redemption and sang. The Ruma sisters returned the favor with a spontaneously sung blessing to their visitors.

*Compiled by  
Cheryl Wittenauer*



## **Reflection on My Vows Day**



On August 8, 2020, I had the privilege to profess the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for the first time as an Adorer of the Blood of Christ. As I reflect back on that day, I see it as the perfect day. The only thing that would have made it better was no global pandemic to limit the number of guests who could attend.

I was able to profess my vows at my parish, St. Augustine of Canterbury in Hecker, Illinois, where I was baptized, made my first reconciliation and first communion, and was confirmed. My family history goes back even further in the parish. My ancestors helped to found the parish in the 1820s.

During the planning process, we didn't know how many guests would be able to attend. It was a blessing that I was able to have my parents, siblings, and some aunts and uncles present at my vows. Along with family, sisters from the area joined me. Thanks to the wonders of technology, those who could not be physically present were able to join the celebration via Zoom. These attendees included sisters and friends.

I felt my strongest emotion that day when I stood before the congregation and professed my vows. During preparations this summer, I had read that while this may be first profession, it was important to profess my vows as though I intended them to be forever. As I did this, I

could feel the strength of the cloud of witnesses around me. This included sisters, family members, and parish priests who had helped in my faith formation. I could feel such a deep level of confidence while I stood in front of everyone.

After the Mass, we had a lovely celebration dinner. When we finished dinner, we headed to Ruma, Illinois, to visit with the sisters and celebrate with them. We had a mini parade of cars and entered the driveway with horns honking and balloons flying out the windows. The sisters leading a cheer and offering their support for me greeted us. I felt it was important to visit the sisters and celebrate with them because they are my wisdom figures.

At the end of the day, I was exhausted, but grateful for all that had happened. The day was not how I had imagined it would be when I first requested to profess vows, but it played out exactly as it was supposed to happen. Now, I look forward to how I will live as an ASC. I look forward to starting work on my Masters in Social Work while serving those affected by domestic abuse.

***Sr. Sarah Harbaugh, ASC***



## ***Adorers on Move in the Footsteps of St. Maria De Mattias, Girl in a Hurry...***



To hear the cry of the helpless even amidst this pandemic is a call of the divine. Since the beginning of the month of May I have been out back into the streets to search for the slum dwelling children to place them in a safe home which we call "DIN foster home." I work with a non-government organization called as DREAM INDIA NETWORK, under Bengaluru Diocese, an Inter-Congregation developmental project. Presently I am the director for the foster homes. We have 65 centers in Bengaluru and its outskirts.

We three sisters from three different Congregations comprise a team and we go for field work together to search for rag pickers and slum dwellers, abandoned street children. This year we have opened almost ten new foster homes as we have an increase in the number of slum dwellers.

Once we select these children we have been sending them to our quarantine centers for 14 days of quarantine before admitting them into the foster homes. In the quarantine centers the Covid-19 test are done. After the result is negative they are placed into the respective home and then after orientation we begin with online counselling, group therapy and workshops. We try to get some domestic worker jobs etc for the single parents. We also enroll them in English medium schools so that they can study in NCERT, ICSE, CBSE syllabus.

The foster homes are comprised of one foster mother for 8 children. The children have a wonderful time table where they get the opportunity to learn music, dance, yoga, arts and crafts, etc. The children above 13 are given career guidance and the others receive other helps to develop their talents. I feel great satisfaction

saving few souls for Jesus through this beautiful ministry.

I have also been training the teachers of the Archdiocese of Bangalore to become part time counsellors. We have received many child sexual abuse cases and also child neglect cases. Those students who have completed ten and twelfth are promoted to study further according to their calibre. Thus these little ones grow mature and responsible. We also teach our children to be confident in their skills like cooking, stitching, etc. Even before placing the children we try to find sponsors for them. Once things of the school admission are over we begin with producing the children to CWC (Commission for Women and Child).

During this Pandemic I was also involved in offering our services to the transgender who have been very badly treated in an inhuman way. Whenever they approached people or went to sell out their vegetable people sprayed sanitizer on their face, splashed water, chased them, etc. We have been simultaneously helping some families to get employment. I am happy to do my service in spite of the daily increasing number of Covid-19 infected and affected people all round Bengaluru, the lockdown and lack of public transportation. Trusting in the providential assistance of God I am able to do the ministry with much love, compassion and care like St. Maria De Mattias, for the people of God.

***Sr. Jessie D'Souza, ASC***

## **MARIA NILAYAM Health Care Clinic**

As the Pandemic spreads around the world, India has been affected and infected with it badly, and has brought a lot of impact on families and society, it's our responsibility to support suffering humanity. Covid-19 has thrown an open challenge to all of us, a challenge to change and respond, a challenge to change behavior, a challenge for the health care system to respond. So our Maria Nilayam Convent has willingly taken up the challenge to respond to the victims of life threatened by Covid-19, whom we consider as the neediest of the time, by the virtue of the commandment of love and charism of the Congregation.

The members of the community consider ourselves called to extend our supporting hands to these needy brothers and sisters during this time of Pandemic. It's not only a work of charity, but also identification with suffering humanity. The struggles faced by the people in our locality have opened our eyes to help them and respond to their cry. We, the sisters of the community, together with the financial support of His Grace

Phoola Antony - Bishop of Karnool Diocese, have purchased medicine for the patients.

Though it is very inconvenient to move and meet people, we the ASC sisters took up as a challenge in order to run our dispensary, accept patients who walk in and give medicine to all those who are suffering from all kinds of sickness. By the grace of God and power of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, we are protected from Corona Pandemic. I thank our Regional team who are a great support and encourage us to run our healing ministry during this pandemic period for the poor and needy people.

***Sr. Martha Veedhi, ASC***





## **Looking Back, Looking Ahead!**

*Strength does not come from Physical Capacity.  
It comes from an Indomitable Will -*

Mahatma Gandhi

The newschool year, always a time of excitement for teachers, students and parents, will be accompanied by an additional layer of uncertainty in 2020. Naturally this will bring anxiety for many of us, but it also brings a sense of possibility and the potential for transformation. In Roman Mythology, Janus represented doors, gates and transitions. Often depicted with two faces, one looking back and the other looking ahead, Janus inhabited the in-between spaces symbolising the dualities of past and future, challenge and opportunity, fear and hope. As we pause on the threshold of a new school year unable to reopen school and the challenges faced during this time, it's worthwhile to reflect on what we've experienced and what we've learned, while at the same time recognize the potential for change and transformation.

The Covid-19 situation has dominated all sectors without exception and the education sector is one of the most affected. A majority of states in the country have seen an ease in the lockdown but schools remain closed for the consecutive seven months and they remain closed for good reason. As the new academic session starts, we have included stories which highlight the struggles of the private schools and the ways they are coping with it.

On this note we went ahead with the online classes starting off from June. Sometimes we went ahead with the pre-recorded classes, live classes, we did have teachers putting up presentation. There were challenges we faced during these times but however things got better as and when all of us got used to it. School without students.

Along with academics we also concentrated on various activities, (listed below) keeping in mind to engage our students and also enrich and educate them as well.

Celebrations like Father's Day, International Music Day, Doctor's Day, some of the festivals and Independence Day. They were given different activities, quiz, SA writing and speaking. Apart from this we do have children going ahead with Daily Assembly, where students and parents have

helped us make the days start with a positive note. Students are also taught Praise & Worship songs on weekly basis.

We may have not been able to cater to all the needs from our end but we have tried our best to keep up in terms of technology and delivering the academics in the said manner. However, we will not deny that fact there may have been short falls on our side but we continuously are working to make things better.

Also keeping in mind the economic situation, that all the states in the country are facing a deficit in terms of financial constraints, loss of jobs, personal commitments etc.,. Also includes maintaining the teacher's and all support staff.

- Because of the Pandemic situation people are going through mental struggles and anxiety, which in turn leads to depression, fluctuation of moods and mental upset. The economical crisis is experienced in each sector: family, society and religious communities.

- Some children are in remote areas and in poor condition where they are deprived of the facility in terms of technology for education or for their living sources.

- The great loss of loved ones because of Covid -19 in families is inconsolable- young and old age, it doesn't matter.

- A hike in the price of necessary things made daily life more of a struggle for some, which people are still facing.

- But still we need to go ahead with this current situation, learning to live with a minimum of things and find satisfaction.

- As precaution to face Pandemic situation - usage of masks, sanitation of places in and around our residences or workplace, maintaining social distance. The same has been advised even to our students during their online sessions.

**Sr. Siji Madapallikadu, ASC**

## **A Green Conversion: Back to Origin**



This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. It is an invitation to an ecological conversion as a cure for a wounded land, a land that is our Common Home.

Yes, the conversion is a return to the essential and it is also a process. For an ecological conversion, it is important to reverse our past in order to reconcile it with our future and thus link it with our present way of our doing and speaking.

In this search for the essential, let us look at our ancestors and their philosophy of *Sumak Kawsay - Bien Vivir*, a philosophy of life in fullness and harmony, where everyone lives and coexists in a loving relationship of reciprocity where everything is interconnected. It is beautiful to see how this is still transmitted from generation to generation by our grandparents who with stories or tales opened us up to this world of reciprocity and respect with the "Pachamama or Mother Earth." This maternal figure who cares and feeds her children.

To see again with eyes that heal and accept our rich and coarse past is to heal what separated us from our roots, from our essence is a return

to tread the earth that welcomes us, take a fruit from the earth that feeds us, see the beauty of the creatures around us, is to see the loving face of God who speaks to us through the sounds, colors, smells and tastes that he offers us every day. To look at the past is also to recognize how we were enveloped by a system that trapped us by imposition or subtly in a logic centered on individualism and consumerism, where the value of life is regulated by profit and power, creating structures of inequality and death where almost always the smallest and most defenseless are the ones who suffer.

This going to the Origin is important to see the future, clearly to have roots anchored in the essential is essential to have a future in this land that is our Common Home, take care of it in the present will make us see it alive in the future. "If we take care of it, the land takes care of us." (Grupo Imbaúba)

A few days ago Pope Francis in a meeting related to his experience of Ecological Conversion<sup>1</sup> stated, "During these days I have been meditating on this question, in my life when and how has my ecological conversion been? I am aware of my reality, of what is essential in my life. We are all invited to walk with one goal in mind, that of caring for and protecting our common home, learning from the native peoples that still exist in the Amazon. This is God's desire "...that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn.10:10). In this circle of life, I am called to live and coexist; as my past interconnected by the present to the future."

***Sr. Katty Collana Estrella, ASC***



<sup>1</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/speeches/2020/september/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200903\\_laici-ecologia.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/speeches/2020/september/documents/papa-francesco_20200903_laici-ecologia.html)

## General Administration Calendar



**October 7-17:** canonical visitation to the Schaan Region

**October 19:** online meeting of the joint councils of the General Administration and Italian Regional Administration with the Foundation of Argentina

**October 20:** online meeting of the joint councils of the General Administration and the Italian Regional Council with the Foundation of the Philippines

**October 20:** online meeting of the joint councils of the General Administration and the Italian Regional Administration with the Foundation of Spain

**October 23:** online meeting of the joint councils of the General Administration and the USA Regional Administration with the Foundation of Bolivia

## Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

<u>30</u>	<b>Sr. Deepika Tirkey</b>	10/25/1990	India
<u>40</u>	<b>Sr. Theresia Diku Evaristi Maingu</b>	10/03/1980	Tanzania
<u>50</u>	<b>Sr. Roza Biba</b>	10/01/1970	Italy
<u>70</u>	<b>Sr. Mariamma Muttel</b>	10/01/1950	India
	<b>Sr. Teresa Langella</b>	10/07/1950	Italy
	<b>Sr. Rita Scognamiglio</b>	10/10/1950	Italy
	<b>Sr. Giacomina Rizzi</b>	10/12/1950	Italy
	<b>Sr. Carmelina Signore</b>	10/22/1950	Italy
	<b>Sr. Iuminata Antolović</b>	10/26/1950	Zagreb
	<b>Sr. Rosaura Diez Garcia</b>	10/28/1950	Italy
<u>80</u>	<b>Sr. Carmelisa D'Agostino</b>	10/24/1940	Italy



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**Sr. Miriam Ortiz - Spanish**  
**Sr. Johanna Rubin - German**



## They have returned to their Heavenly Home

09/02/2020	<b>Sr. Anna Di Rosa</b>	Italy
09/07/2020	<b>Sr. Rosa Spano</b>	Italy
09/19/2020	<b>Sr. Mary Jane Schrage</b>	USA
09/21/2020	<b>Sr. Alba Falcone</b>	Italy
09/22/2020	<b>Sr. Clara Smith</b>	USA