

International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ



Year XXVI – Issue 1
January/February 2024

ASC International Communications – General Administration - Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 Rome

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In the Blood of Christ...All Things New



“In the Blood of Christ...all things new” (Rev 21:4). The newness to which we are called by God is a natural dynamic of life that belongs to it and is constantly being renewed. God invites us to become aware that the passing of time is not to be taken for granted, but happens here and now. Sometimes we are in danger of losing that single moment, that irreplaceable one that, if lived with awareness, could become a precious memory, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity or simply, and this is often the case, the present in which we feel deeply ourselves, connected to God, humanity and all of Creation. The newness lies in the now.

Maria De Mattias knew this well and that is why she ‘wasted no time.’ Not because she lived in hurry, in the exhausting rush to achieve goals or carry out projects, but because she took advantage of every moment available to her in search of God’s will, of what newness God dreamed for her and her Sisters. She lived in the present, and this alone explains how she managed to live in balance between prayer and work, between adoration and apostolate. Maria was an Adorer-Apostle, present to herself and watchful to glimpse the newness in the Blood of Christ. Let us be inspired by her aware that yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift...that is why it is called present!

Sr. Barbara Perali, ASC

Editorial

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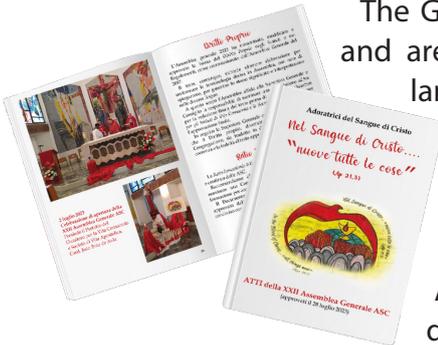
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Some News to Share

In these three months, the General Administration has held each and all of you in prayer as we come to know better our call to service in the Congregation. We feel the urgency of the calls of the General Assembly and at the same time the call to listen deeply, to take the time to understand and to act for the common good.

We share with you some things that have happened and things that are in process.

General Assembly Acts



The General Assembly Acts have been translated in Italian and English and are complete or in the process of translation into all our various languages. This is no small effort and we are very grateful to all the translators and readers. Once translations are complete they will be distributed through the Regions, Delegation and Foundations. Regions with Missions and the General Administration have been working together for the appropriate translations and distribution. A special thanks to Sr. Patrizia Pasquini for formatting the original document and Sr. Barbara Perali for her work with the translators and secretaries.

Now we live into the calls and challenges before us in the next six years, with great confidence and hope.

Congregation Novitiate

Our Novices have completed their Canonical year and embarked on their Apostolic Experience. In conversation and discernment with their Regions, have embarked on a beautiful experience of community and communion here in Italy and some in the Zagreb Region. We thank the sisters who join with them in Community and all committed to prayer for their continued discernment. The Apostolic Experience began in early January and they will return to the Novitiate for a time of Integration in early August



The new group of postulants, soon to be novices are gradually arriving as they receive their visas and travel to Italy. They will have time to continue improving English, getting documents for residence in Italy and settle in. There will be a time of transition to the Novitiate and the Canonical Novitiate will begin in May. A firm date will be announced after all the pre-novices have arrived in Italy and had time for an appropriate transition and immediate preparation for novitiate.

Region of Brazil Elective Assembly - November 14-19, 2023

Sisters Patrizia and Wiesława accompanied the sisters of the Region of Brazil as they met and discerned direction and leadership.

Congratulations and Blessings to the Newly elected Regional and Council (January 2024 - 2028)

Sr. Sônia Maria Pinho Do Matos, Regional Leader

Sr. Jandira Nascimento Barbosa, Regional Councilor

Sr. Sara Angelica Sandoval Pálacios, Regional Councilor and Treasurer

Sr. Jucilene Dalva De Oliveria Sousa, Regional Councilor and Secretary

We extend our gratitude to those who have completed their service with great care:

Sr. Alessandra Soares Pereira, Regional Leader

Sr. Suely Garcia dos Anjos, Regional Councilor

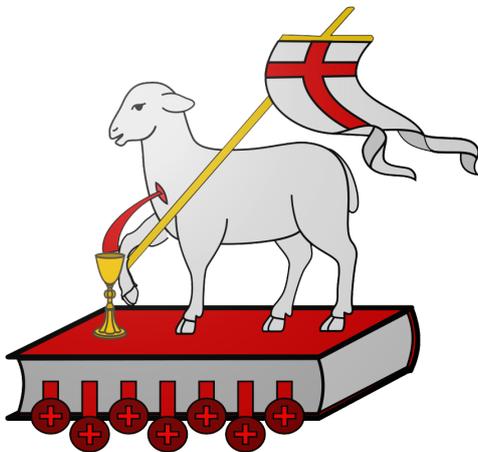
Sr. Ana Jerusa de Castro Feitosa, Regional Councilor and Secretary

Sr. Analice Pereira Vieira, Regional Councilor

Sr. Francisca Coimbra de Carvalho, Regional Treasurer



Year of Jubilee 2025



The Adorers have joined in an endeavor with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood to bring together members of the Precious Blood Family for a celebration in July 2025 in Rome, Italy. Many of the congregations of our family have responded favorably and a commission has been formed to plan for an event that will include the celebration of July 1, 2025. More will be coming on this great celebration. Sisters Anna Maria Antolovic and Ljubica Radovac are serving as ASC members of this commission.

Mbezi Beach

On November 25, 2023, the Sisters of the Mbezi Beach community in Dar Es Salaam thanked God for the 25 students who completed their primary education. The celebration began with a Mass celebrated in the parish of St. Gaspar Del Bufalo in Mbezi by Father Dominic, CPPS, director of Radio Maria in Tanzania.

The guest of honor was retired congressman Nyambari Nyangwine who encouraged the children's parents and guardians in their responsibility to advocate for all children's rights. Mr. Nyambari Nyangwine gave the John Merlini School several books for the children to learn to read, count, write, and learn geography and environmental protection. The 25 children received certificates and first grade books as gifts for when they start the new level in 2024.

After the Holy Mass, a short celebration and various games were held to greet our students. The graduates greeted their younger siblings, urging them to be diligent in learning so that they can be valuable to the nation of tomorrow.

***Sr. Yohana Amu, ASC
Principal of John Merlini School
Mbezi Beach - 25/11/2023***

Epiphany Pageant

The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, which falls on January 6, is one of the earliest feasts established by the Church. Since 2011 it has been a public holiday in Poland, as in other countries.

The Epiphany procession in St. Mary Magdalene Parish was held this year with the slogan "He lies in the nativity scene." The words were taken from the 17th-century hymn "Runs a New Year," thus referring to the 800th anniversary of the first representations of the Nativity organized by St. Francis of Assisi.

In St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Warsaw, where we minister and share the charism of St. Maria De Mattias, the Pageant began with a solemn Eucharist at 11:30 am. After the Mass, all the faithful wearing crowns on their heads left the church and walked through the streets of our parish. A star led the procession, followed by the Wise Men moving on horseback. During the procession, school children performed a nativity play. Arriving at the nativity scene located in the church courtyard, the Wise Men worshipped Jesus and offered gifts: gold - gift of a pure heart and symbol of the royal mission; frankincense - sign of prayer and symbol of priesthood; and myrrh - sign of suffering and symbol of prophecy.

After the homage to the Newborn the celebration began, where we enjoyed pea soup, delicious cakes prepared by our parishioners, tea and hot chocolate, accompanied by the singing of Christmas carols. Children also enjoyed interesting attractions, including rides, cotton candy, popcorn and activities prepared by the fire department.

Participation in the procession has become a tradition for many parishioners. The Epiphany Pageant in Poland is considered among the largest street nativity scenes in the world.



Sr. Aldona Kala, ASC

There is More Good

Żagań is a town located in Lubuskie Province, lying within the boundaries of the diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów. Complex Number 5 school and kindergarten is located on the property of the Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary where I serve as a catechist.

In the school where I have been teaching for the past 5 years, I am the head of Volunteer Services, which initially functioned as the School Volunteer Circle. Since December 2022, thanks to collaboration with Diocesan and Parish Caritas, it has become the School Caritas Circle.

The students' commitment to helping others is amazing, as evidenced by the fact that the volunteer group brings about 50 people together each year. We meet twice a week throughout the school year to get to know each other, take care of our own development, learn how to share, help each other and organize help for others. We also develop our talents: some of us, for example, have been playing the ukulele for about a year. I myself, in order to better manage my volunteering, took a specialized course to become a volunteer manager.

And how do we help others? We do so in different ways, because volunteering offers a wide range of possibilities. Our activities extend to the school, the parish, our city and even beyond.

For several years now, the school has been organizing creative interludes for younger pupils to take a break between classes and at the same time spend time creatively. This activity is led by volunteers from the older classes, who take care of the younger pupils. We also do not neglect the activities carried out by the classes themselves, as we help less able pupils with their studies and homework.

In the school itself we also organize fairs, during which we distribute handmade items, such as Christmas decorations, and the profit always goes to those in need. However, the fairs are not limited to the school building, because for years they have also been held in the parish church, but besides the fairs we do other activities. Every year, participating in the Diocesan Caritas Action with our classes, we organize a "Charity Exchange," in which we pack shelf-stable food and hygiene products for the poorest, as well as warm socks for the homeless.

And how do we help others? We do so in different ways, because volunteering offers a wide range of possibilities. Our activities extend to the school, the parish, our city and even beyond. In spreading goodness, we remember not only the school or parish community, but also those in Żagań who serve others, even if they sometimes go unnoticed. We see them! And every year, on Pharmacist, Dentist or Postman's Day, we prepare greetings and small gifts for them, which is always met with surprise and much kindness.

We do not forget those who also live far away from us. Through collecting bandages for Africa or participating in the "Buy a Brush" Campaign, we support people in missionary countries with bandages and hygiene products.

We do not leave our experience and know-how to ourselves alone. Since we have joined the School Caritas Circles, we have even more opportunities to do so by organizing workshops with the participants of the School Caritas Circles in other places in the Diocese.

It is really a lot!!

Our activities do not go unnoticed. The Diocesan Chapter of Caritas 2023 awarded our Caritas School Circle the prize for the best circle in the Diocese of Zielona Góra-Gorzów and also gave us a cash prize for our activities. I personally received the "Protector of the Year" award. And all this is thanks to the youngest children I am with every day. We are very pleased with the recognitions, even though they are not awards, but they are sparks that motivate us to continue our work for the benefit of others.

We know, however, that the needs are great and we cannot meet them all alone, but we will not stop in our activities, adding our small contribution, because **THE GOOD IS MORE!**



Sr. Marta Majka, ASC

Is There a Place for Me in the World of Artificial Intelligence?

This interesting title was the topic of a lecture by Ms. Marijana Robić, a lawyer, who in recent years has been engaged in exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on various areas of our lives. The lecture took place on November 28, 2023 in our community hall at Miramarska 100 (Zagreb). The young guests of the St. Maria De Mattias Student House and some sisters from our community took part. We have already been surrounded by artificial intelligence for a long time, and its influence on our lives is increasing. We had invited our lecturer so that she could better explain what artificial intelligence is, what it means for me, for my life and for my future.

At the outset, Ms. Robić stressed the importance of becoming aware of the moment we are living in and how technology affects the way we live and the world in which we live. She reminded us that we are inundated with information and data and that this very data, is “the gasoline of the future.” Those who know (have data), provided it is true, valid and correct, will be able to advance in the future. A big problem today is that anyone can publish anything, and that is precisely why we are invited, more than ever, to develop critical thinking. Up until now, we have lived in a world where news has been considered authoritative, and this has been the part of journalistic ethics and honor, as one should not provide false information.

The lecturer warned us that today, on the other hand, the media are bought by various lobbying groups and unfortunately more than 70 percent of the space is taken up by fake news. We may already know all these facts; however, it is very important to be reminded of them again. When we talk about artificial intelligence, it carries a misleading meaning, because, as the lecturer says, it is not intelligence. Artificial intelligence is one of the human capabilities, (but not all!), that machines do better than humans. Here we are talking about trained algorithms, and based on this data that is already entered, more data is created. If we put in the right data, we will get the right data and we can trust it. And vice versa.

Ms. Robić continually emphasized how important it is to be equipped with wisdom, which enables us to understand how today’s world works. If we do not learn what is behind technology, we will have two types of people: those who understand technology and use it (for good or for evil) or those who will just be consumers. The majority of technologies today are based on vulnerability, targeting our emotions, our shortcomings (we are not thin enough, beautiful enough, tall enough...). If we do not learn, we run the great danger of being consumed by it.

Unfortunately, Ms. Robić pointed out that, the problem is that we have to expose ourselves to all this in order to determine whether something is good, right and useful or not. It is important to acquire the ability to evaluate the things that are offered to us because if we do not have an opinion, we risk walking on the wrong path.

To conclude the lecture, she pointed out how it is wrong to think that artificial intelligence is something that is about to happen because it is actually already here.

She illustrated this with an example. If you are late in the morning, you take the Uber. In the office you use Microsoft Office and surf the web. You order food and other things via the Internet. If you don’t know something, you ask Google and before bed you watch Netflix. Artificial intelligence is already here, but in the future there will be much more of it.

At the end of the lecture, she assured us that we all have a place in the world of artificial intelligence because we are already in the new industrial revolution, in which we have to secure the means offered to us to fulfill the purpose we carry within. We must not allow ourselves to be consumed by technology, but rather to be educated consumers. We can achieve this by having an awareness of ourselves, our values, our ideals, and by the practice of paying attention to what we have inside and out by using it for the good of ourselves and others--because that is the only reason!



Sr. Marija Bilanović, ASC

A Journey into the Past



Every year, on the eve or on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, we Adorers in Banja Luka celebrate our Patroness, the Immaculate Virgin, together with members of the army in the Kozara barracks. This is a journey into the past for us ASCs in Bosnia because we can walk in the footsteps of the first ASCs in Bosnia for a few hours and breathe the air of the first "Nazareth." Again this year, on December 7, the eve of the Feast, we participated in the Eucharistic celebration and animated the singing, with Archbishop Tomo Vukšić, presider, and the concelebration of seven priests. After the Mass we shared an agape. It was a special feeling: celebrating Mass, singing and praying together with about eighty members of the military corps, Catholic nation Croats, who are employees or part of the army living in the barracks, while at the same time looking over the altar at the large photograph of our first monastery in "Nazareth."

The Kozara barracks is located in our former Nazareth monastery, expropriated from the Adorers by the Communists after World War II. Along with the monastery building, the land was also expropriated on which the barracks buildings that are still there today were later built. As Mass was celebrated, in my heart, I could hear the silent echo of the prayers and songs that the first Adorers, some German, some Croatian, sent to God from this beautiful building for so many years.

We sisters were especially proud of "our" five members of the Bosnia and Hercegovina Armed Forces, who are guests at our New Nazareth home and who animated the celebration together with us. They are officers with high military ranking and barracks leaders. They celebrate the Eucharist together with us in our chapel every day and are happy and grateful to be able to be with us. We ASCs are also grateful because with great simplicity they help us with the upkeep of the house and the outdoor areas and somehow make us feel safe and secure. They wore their official military uniforms for this celebration and looked so good that we almost didn't recognize them!

We prayed to the Blessed Virgin with great confidence to intercede for all the inhabitants of this suffering country, especially this part of Bosnia, so that there would be mutual respect, esteem and unity among the people. We asked for Mary's protection for the whole world, asking for the peace and security that only God can give.



Sr. Marija Pranjić, ASC

Embracing Diversity:

A Journey of Joy and Compassion in Serving Migrant Families and Youth



In the heart of the vibrant Archdiocese of Bangalore, I am dedicated to serve as the Joint Secretary for the Migration Commission, weaving a tapestry of support for migrant families and youth hailing from diverse backgrounds. This heartfelt journey takes us through the enriching experiences of working with communities ranging from North and Northeast part of India, the tribal villages of Orissa and Jharkhand to the culturally rich Nepalese, Assamese, Manipuri, and African communities.

The joy of this work lies in the intricate threads of diversity that come together to form a beautiful fabric of unity. Engaging with tribal communities from Orissa and Jharkhand brings a profound understanding of their unique traditions and challenges.

Beyond the practicalities of migration, pastoral care becomes a guiding light for those navigating the complexities of adapting to a new life. The Archdiocese's commitment to spiritual support fosters a sense of belonging and solace. Through prayer services, counselling, and community engagement, the Migration Commission extends a compassionate hand to those in need, providing a sanctuary for spiritual growth amidst the challenges of migration.

We give priority to Family Counselling which is a means to strengthen the core of society. Migrant families often face unique challenges as they strive to maintain the cohesion of their family units. The Migration Commission offers tailored family counselling services. Addressing issues of cultural adaptation, communication, and identity, these counselling sessions become a cornerstone in building resilient and harmonious migrant families.

On December 17, 2023, we organized a pre-Christmas event for these migrants at Aradhana campus of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. The festivities commenced with an enchanting entrance procession dance, setting the tone for a meaningful Eucharistic celebration. The atmosphere resonated with joy as participants engaged in an offertory dance procession, symbolizing unity and gratitude. As the day unfolded, the program embraced a diverse range of activities, including a vibrant cultural program that showcased the rich tapestry of traditions within the migrant community. Games added an element of excitement, fostering a spirit of camaraderie among attendees.

The highlight of the celebration was a sumptuous lunch, providing an opportunity for everyone to share not just food but also stories and laughter. The sense of community and togetherness was palpable throughout the event. This pre-Christmas celebration at Aradhana Convent served as a testament to the power of community, cultural exchange, and the universal spirit of joy, love, respect, and hope.

The joy of working with migrant families and youth from diverse backgrounds in the Archdiocese of Bangalore is a testament to the power of compassion, collaboration, and harmony in diversity. Thus, we try to focus on illuminating the path towards a brighter future for all.

Sr. Jessie D'Souza, ASC

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

January

<u>40th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Marija Bilanović	01/10/1984	Zagreb
<u>50th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Siji Madappallikadu	01/04/1974	India
Sr. Shiny Pallipadan	01/20/1974	India
<u>80th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Genowefa Wurzberg	01/07/1944	Wrocław
Sr. Agata Resta	01/09/1944	Italy
Sr. Regina Hassler	01/23/1944	Schaan
<u>90th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Rita Schwarz	01/03/1934	USA
Sr. Speranza Marzano	01/26/1934	Italy

February

<u>60th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Corazon Estrellado	02/08/1964	Philippines
Sr. Bok Soon Agnes Kim	02/21/1964	USA
Sr. Jucilene Dalva de Oliveira Sousa	02/24/1964	Brazil
<u>70th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Becky Balthazor	02/26/1954	USA
<u>80th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Lucia Biscotti	02/11/1944	Italy
<u>90th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Miriam Jaskot	02/02/1934	Wrocław
Sr. Rosa Polvere	02/18/1934	Italy
<u>100th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Ginetta Pannunzio	02/07/1924	Italy

Religious Profession

February 4 - Italy

First Profession

Marika Console



Our best wishes and prayers



They have returned to their Heavenly Home

08/02/2023	Sr. Esperanza Razura Villarreal	USA
08/06/2023	Sr. Noella Blick	USA
09/05/2023	Sr. Raffaella Cesano	Italy
09/05/2023	Sr. Maria Riggi	Italy
09/12/2023	Sr. Angela Capobianco	Italy
09/27/2023	Sr. Celestina Morleo	Italy
09/27/2023	Sr. Attilia Compagno	Italy
10/02/2023	Sr. Bernarda Krišić	Zagreb
10/17/2023	Sr. Fortunata Mauti	Italy
10/26/2023	Sr. Iolanda Prontera	Italy
11/13/2023	Sr. Annette Embrich	USA
11/27/2023	Sr. Cosmina Donnicola	Italy
11/30/2023	Sr. Luisa Di Livio	Italy
12/02/2023	Sr. Luigina Scarpantonii	Italy
12/13/2023	Sr. Maddalena Di Cino	Italy
12/23/2023	Sr. Sandrina Ortolani	Italy
12/28/2023	Sr. Lina Pacifici	Italy
01/09/2024	Sr. Antonietta Morello	Italy
01/27/2024	Sr. Dominika Santro	Zagreb
01/28/2024	Sr. Flora De Guglielmo	Italy

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Bimonthly Newsletter

edited by the

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

International Communications – General Administration

Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 ROME

Year XXVI, Issue 1, January/February 2024

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