

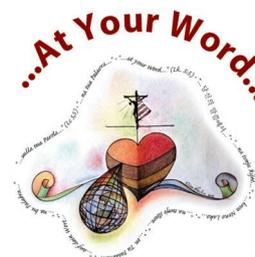
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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

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...Weren't our hearts burning within us... (Lk. 24:32)

Editorial

In reading the articles arriving for the newsletter this month, I clearly felt the sense of transformation taking place, new buds timidly sprouting in the stories described.

As happened for the disciples of Emmaus, the Risen Christ continues to walk beside us, listen to us and then, in the light of Scripture, reads the events for us. From the state of blindness into which we have fallen, sounds, words, stories come to us. But, like the disciples of Emmaus, we are not yet able to give them meaning, to understand. In fact, our eyes struggle to distinguish the dim light from the darkness created by the problems, the insecurities, the instability we experience each day due to the pandemic.

...But our hearts feel, begin to burn. This experience of the disciples seems to indicate that the light we are seeking does not come just from the sky but, it is within us, in our feeling of how immense is the love of the One who died and rose for us.

He is in our burning hearts, Christ our hope is Risen!

As consecrated women in this time of transformation, we continue to ask ourselves

about the prophets we are called to be in the Church and in the world, about the inevitable changes reality is urging us to make, so that prophecy is nothing other than a new way of seeing things, of reading life, reality. Therefore, beginning from the warmth of the Word of Jesus the wayfarer, our travel companion, let our hearts burn with infinite and eternal love so that the Light be fully revealed.

So, what is Jesus' Word that makes your heart burn today, or what event sets you in motion toward the other?

The thrust toward the other, not as a need for personal satisfaction, but as an ability to read the need comes, as we always say, from the fire burning within and which we nourish and feed every day in our encounter with the Risen One. An encounter which, in order to be that, needs sharing of soul, community prayer, unity, solidarity, that is moving in the same direction and that remains pure, simple without pretense and selfishness. Encountering Christ means embracing fraternity, charitable love. It means becoming a witness of the common journey, led by that light that makes our hearts burn within us.

The Risen One revealed himself to the Apostles while they were together. Therefore, let us ask the Lord to make our hearts burn within us as we pray together to recognize him present and alive in our fraternity.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

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◇ "I Am a Witness of Christ's Resurrection"

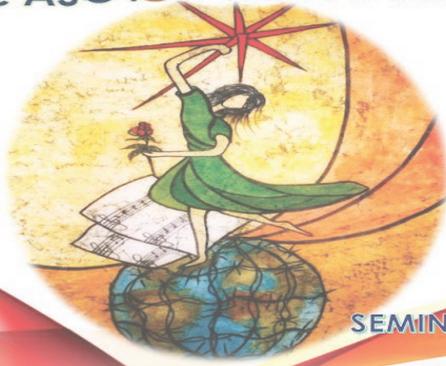
◇ "Open Day" in the Community of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Cristo a Ivanečki Vrhovec

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ASC Formation : *new rhythm for new life...*

Formazione ASC : *Un nuovo ritmo per una nuova vita...*



SEMINARIO DAL 6 APRILE AL 28 GIUGNO 2021

SEMINAR ON 6th APRIL TO 28th JUNE 2021

CIS Formators' ZOOM Seminar

In a period characterized by changes and adaptations, as CIS we had to rethink and adapt a large part of our programming, especially regarding the ways and timing of things in trying to offer meaningful and enriching experiences. This year the most important event on the schedule is the Seminar for Formators, an experience we thought would be held in person, physically together, side by side.

Unfortunately, the global emergency of the pandemic forced us to rethink everything. From this necessity the project of the online seminar was born, a ZOOM meeting to be precise, for all ASCs involved in initial formation and vocation ministry now or in the future. It is a rather ambitious project, born from collaboration with the general administration that includes two three-hour sessions weekly for three months. The webinar began on April 6 and will end on June 28, 2021.

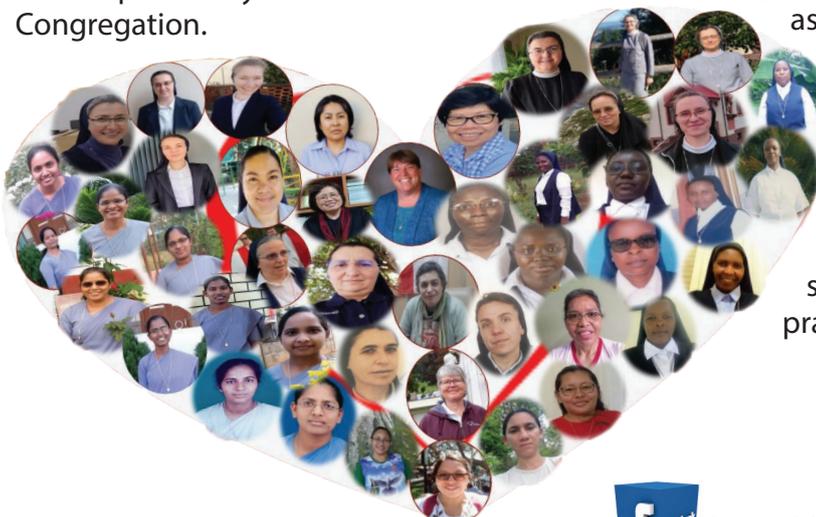
The theme is *ASC Formation: new rhythm for new life*. The logo was chosen from the works of Regina Hassler, ASC, who generously made her artistic patrimony available to CIS for the Congregation.

The logo represents a woman dressed in green dancing on a world wrapped in barbed wire, while holding a rose in her hand and clinging to a star (See the image). We chose it because it expresses the *new rhythm* very well that we are looking for in our lives and for formation – *new life* for each person and for the Congregation in the Church and in the world. There are 40 participants “coming” from 15 countries!

In spite of all the difficulties created by the pandemic and the resulting restrictions, we must still acknowledge the power of technology at its best by using the internet for online meetings using ZOOM. The power of adaptation! We are trying to offer a rich and varied program, taking advantage of the possibilities of a webinar, such as the ability to reach a larger number of participants, the involvement of various religious and lay speakers and using simultaneous remote interpretation. The topics we will deal with are varied, among which are the biblical approach to formation, interculturality, current theology of religious life, holistic formation, Maria De Mattias as formator, the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, the ASC identity and charism, community, mission, the vows, of course, all of this through the lens of formation.

We hope this is a positive experience for all the participants. On our part, we ask you to support all of us, participants, speakers, interpreters and CIS with your prayers and support.

**Sr. Barbara Perali, ASC
for CIS**



Visit of the General Superior in the Region of Tanzania

In the evening March 8, 2021, ASC Miyuji Community gathered together to welcome the General Superior, Sr. Nadia Coppa ASC, we were very happy for her arrival and she expressed her joy in how she saw us happy without fear of Corona Virus. She saw herself entering the new world, because the way she was welcomed by the members of the ASC Region of Tanzania. We thank God for her readiness and great courage to come in this time of pandemic as she was willing to sacrifice for us, this shows the steadfast love and caring heart that she has for us. We have seen all of this in the various activities that she has worked in our Region.

Therefore, by her coming and presence among us we have experienced her maternal love: she accompanied us in sharing our vision of possible ways for the development of our Region and encouraged us in our journey of growth, but she was also very close to us in the various challenges we faced. We pray that the Lord will continue to bestow upon her the necessary graces and bless her ministry in the Congregation.

Furthermore, we are deeply touched by the

way she shared with us in the grief of losing our President John Joseph Magufuli who was an advocate for the oppressed. We went to the prayer service and said good-bye to his body so that he could rest in peace. Her presence among us during this period brought us closer to the Congregation as she prayed for all of us in this time of pandemic.

What we have left from her is a heart of love and patience in responsibility, appreciation, commitment, caring for the dignity and needs of the people regardless of the difficulties or obstacles that may arise, all preceded by the power and love of God.

She left on the evening of March 16th and continues with other responsibilities of the Congregation.

We joined with her in thanking God for the work she has done in our Region and wished her many blessings and good journey. May the power of the Blood of Christ protect her from any tragedy in her ministry.

Sr. Rozina Respicius Bombo, ASC



Adoratrici del Sangue di Cristo / Adorers of the Blood of Christ

“I Am a Witness of Christ’s Resurrection”

Since the Easter vacation was very short, we sisters along with the rest of the students were able to participate in the Triduum of Holy Week and then the Easter Vigil and the celebration of Resurrection Sunday. During these great days we were reminded to reflect on Christ’s love for humanity, of his self-sacrifice (in his Body and Blood) and from there on the value of becoming a servant for others. We meditated on the gift of priesthood, and the deep contemplation of God’s love for humanity, through Christ’s sufferings on the cross. The priest invited us to maintain inner silence to reflect on how to live our Christianity and experience Christ’s love for us, and then to thank God for our actions (invitation to inner change for the individual)

As with the school closed according to the procedure, we Sisters remained with Form Six students who are preparing for the National Examinations soon, but also Form Two and Form Four students who did not reach the average and need more help and time in instruction and study.

For us it has been a unique opportunity to be close to them as we are to encourage and help them as much as possible without forgetting to

point out the importance of the Passover, including encouraging them to share with us all the Holy week services so that they can continue to understand this great mystery in their lives apart from having different religions and denominations. It was a special opportunity especially when they shared in all the services of these important days which concluded with the testimony of Christ’s resurrection at Mass and on Sunday which is Easter itself.

After gaining the whole history of salvation after the sin of Adam and Eve, then the children of Israel and how God intended to save every group from the bondage of sin and then the evil of our time in which Christ is sacrificed to pay for our sins. “The witness of the resurrection is me and you”. Since all who went to the tomb to look at Jesus as the dead did not find his body but he was still alive, they did not witness his resurrection.

Let us pray for the grace of being like Jesus who never gave up on himself despite knowing who would betray him.

Sr. Rose Priva Ngowa, ASC



from left: Sr. Rose Priva, Sr. Delfina Thomas Ntandu, Sr. Fortunata Sumbui, Sr. Oliva Clement.

“Open Days” in the Community of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Ivanečki Vrhovac

The Convent of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Ivanečki Vrhovec, from 19 to 23 March 2021, opened the doors to welcome young women who are thinking about their vocation and who wanted to experience living in a religious community.

The topic of the meeting was: “Should I not drink the cup that Father gave me?” (Jn 18:11b)

Along with the five young women, two candidates for the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Mihaela Vukojević and Marija Stojanović, also took part in the meeting. During the meeting, the participants thought about their life through the symbolism of the chalice, trying to find out what the content of the chalice of their life is, about their readiness to raise that chalice, facing its reality, its sweet but also bitter content and readiness to drink that chalice.

During these days, in addition to thinking about this topic, the participants had the opportunity to meet with the sisters of the Ivanec community who through a joyful, open and free conversation testified to their vocation and the rich experience of religious life. Everyone participated in all moments of the prayer life of the community: Holy Mass, Prayer of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and the rosary.

On Saturday afternoon, participants in the meeting with the leaders, Sr. Laura Cukar and Sr. Ivana Husnjak, spent some time in nature in Prigorac, a place near Ivanec. On the way to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, they prayed the rosary of the Blood of Christ for spiritual vocations. The meeting ended in the afternoon on Sunday.

The participants expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the opportunity to stay in the convent, and especially for the hospitality and openness of the sisters of the Ivanec community. They pointed out that this experience will greatly help them in making important life decisions, especially those on choosing a life vocation.

May the Lord bless the openness of these young people and show them the light and the way in which they will best be able to fulfill His will in their lives.

We also thank all the sisters of the Zagreb Region who accompanied this meeting with their interest and prayers.

Blessed be the Blood of Christ!

Sr. Ivana Husnjak, ASC



Serving Our Dear Neighbor

What I am about to recount is nothing new in religious houses, but for the community of Bolesławiec it was a very clear experience in recent months... life began to be centered on the front door in addition to the chapel.

The pandemic has increased the number of poor people knocking on our door to ask for help. Usually there had only been a few people each day, but now the number of women, men, young people, elderly has increased. They are all bewildered by the restrictions imposed by welfare institutions in the city.



When everything closed down ... there are still the sisters, open, always open. How could it be otherwise? With sandwiches and hot soup, thanks to the help of the traffic police and the Polish Red Cross, we have been able to reach and feed more people.

The Red Cross donated a big quantity of bread and we purchased the necessary food to prepare the sandwiches and the traffic police distributed the prepared food in the places where the homeless live. Each time there were many boxes of food. The collaboration among the tireless sisters who, with sacrifice, prepared the sandwiches and representatives of the institutions had good results.



Working together we can do more. This truth was shown in the community of Bolesławiec through this experience.

In addition to the poor, we also welcome people coming to our house for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and those wanting to make retreat. For now the groups are small, but the number of phone calls and requests for meetings is increasing for upcoming months. There is a great thirst for spirituality among the people wanting to make retreats and have times of silence. The presence of two groups who managed to come was a joy for us. One was the young people with the Jesuits in their School of Contact with God and the other a group of priests ordained this year in the diocese of Legnica, together with their spiritual director at the seminary.

Both of these groups gave great witness with their prayer and, though only temporarily, brought a breath of youthfulness into our community.

Sr. Anna Mikołajewicz, ASC

Signing The Beam

The skies were bright and sunny on the morning of March 20 when Sisters Marita Rother and Fran Schumer headed south to Oklahoma City. It was the first big adventure out of state for both of them in more than 15 months. What would be the cause of such an excursion?

First, a little background is in order. In April 2020, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City broke ground for the new Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine and Museum. The Shrine is located on 60-plus acres of a former golf course in south Oklahoma City. It will serve the needs of the growing Catholic population in Oklahoma City, many of whom are Hispanic.

Blessed Stanley Rother is Sister Marita Rother's late brother. He was a long-time missionary in Guatemala, where he was killed in July 1981. The U.S.-born priest was beatified as a "martyr for the faith" in December 2016.

It is usual when constructing large buildings that persons involved have a chance to sign the last steel beam before it is set in place. During the week of March 14, people who wished had the opportunity to do this for the last beam for the Shrine. That explains the trip to Oklahoma City. It would give Marita a chance to be part of this historic moment.

The Shrine is designed in the same style as the church in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala where Stan served. When completed, there will be a plaza in front of the church and the complex will include a visitors' center and museum and an event and education building. The property also includes a replica of Tepeyac Hill where our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego. There will be green space including 3,000 trees that were donated by the Rother family. Dedication is planned for July 28, 2022.

Following the signing, Marita and Fran drove to Resurrection Cemetery where Stan's body currently lies and then stopped in Okarche to visit with Marita's brother Tom and his wife Marti.

Sr. Fran Schumer, ASC



Unexpected Encounters

It often happens that people lose themselves in dark and unknown ways, abandon themselves to sadness and go to meet narcissism and selfishness. A denigrating feeling of sorrow puts the person face to face with annihilation, without the energy to reflect, and they realize that in this vain and painful wandering they fail to recognize the Light of salvation, the Christ who is beside them. But Jesus' heart is great and merciful. On the day when Divine Mercy was celebrated the Lord surprised a "lost soul" in the same way he presented himself as a beggar at the house of Saint Faustina.

On that day, which seemed ordinary and banal, a woman got on a bus and her cell phone was stolen. However, a man on the bus told her what had happened, and she reacted instinctively, leaving the bus and chasing the thief. She managed to reach him and unexpectedly he returned her cellphone without objection or resistance. Almost incredulous and still surprised in fear, what awaited her was much more. Happy to have recovered her well-being, she realized that the bus had not left, but was waiting for her! And her amazement was much more when she was welcomed with warmth and solidarity by perfect strangers, the passengers, who shared her joy for having succeeded in her quest. At that point, she thanked everyone, especially the man who had alerted her. All of this led her to reflection.

In a world where people are very individualistic, people have become blind to the point of not recognizing the Other in the neighbor, the One who puts us in relationship with ourselves. Jesus

is the One who makes us feel alive and renewed, because he is always present. He is present in the smiles of the passengers, in their solidarity, in their sincere expectation and trepidation. He is present in the unknown man who without thought about himself, alerted the woman of the theft, revealing himself to be an angel. He is present in the miserable looks of those who, like the thief, have a desire for forgiveness and to make amends. The Lord is present in the footsteps of the woman who did not fall while running and who did not rage at a man in need and unable to react to life.

The Lord traces the way of each one of us and illuminates the darkest night, revealing himself in small gestures, in the simplicity of being human, in welcoming the other, in knowing how to forgive and forget. Christ manifested himself on the Cross, asking the world to learn to be humble. He was, is and will be the maximum and extraordinary example of how life passes through human beings, not the opposite, and how in looking down one can discover the whole sky within.

Jesus has been running through humanity and its history for centuries and many times he has been ignored, despised and voluntarily hidden. But he has always existed and tests our faith, asking us only one thing, the simplest of all: he asks us to love him. So, on the day we celebrated Divine Mercy we learned to love Jesus, thanking him in an authentic way for the gift of his Holy Heart.

Rosanna Evangelista



The ASC of Argentine to Hna. Marià Mossa, ASC

Sr. Maria was a very open woman, capable by her humility and freedom to hide the baggage of her culture of origin, to place herself in docile acceptance of the Argentine culture.

To respond the call for renewal of the Church initiated by the Second Vatican Council, she was sent as a pioneer to Argentina with a young group of missionary Adorers. From that moment on, she invested her intuition and creativity in a style of evangelization with an ecclesial character that has always distinguished the presence and activity of the ASC in Argentina.

Sr. Maria gave a strong impulse to Catechesis where she was sent. At *Villa Bosch*, she used the most updated methods of the Argentine Dioceses and introduced Family Catechesis in the School: "the children learn the things of God in the family, around the table." At the same time, with all the Sisters, always as a pioneer group she was involved in parish catechesis, liturgy and whatever was required. Here, for her ministry as a teacher at all levels, she received from the Catholic Education Council of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, the "Divine Master Award" in recognition and gratitude.

Sr. Maria was also at the forefront at the diocesan level, initiating the Catechetical Seminars in the Diocese of San Martin. During her stay in Tandil, she did not lose courage, even though she had to travel many miles to support and start the Catechetical Seminars in the Diocese of Azul, animating as "Teacher" of the Catechists. Through the School, she embraced many children, young people, and families, with the aim of transmitting the Love of Jesus and His Precious Blood. Many activities were undertaken: in addition to the teaching of school subjects, she initiated sports competitions, musical events, offering the possibility for those who wanted to learn to play an instrument to receive music lessons in the after-school hours. She opened the rooms of the College, giving children the opportunity to study languages such as English and Italian. Besides the numerous activities, there were also popular Missions in the city of Buenos Aires and in many Argentine Provinces.

A year after the arrival of the Sisters in Argentina, she had a picture of Maria De Mattias painted and carried it in a procession on a truck, in the company of four girls from the Kindergarten dressed as angels

(I was one of them). The procession started from the Pio XII School of the Josephite Fathers and reached the Parish of Carmen, ending at the new school of the ASC, which had only two rooms, and on whose grounds had been placed the first stone of the future school building.

From the beginning, Sr. Maria was interested in the pastoral vocation. Together with the other Sisters, with the young people in formation, or just with the students of the School, she brought the message of vocational proclamation through the deepening of the calls in the Bible. She visited parishes where the parish priests allowed the proclamation of charism; she organized vocational retreats in the house of the Sisters, inviting all the girls she met in the different parishes. On those occasions she introduced them to *Lectio Divina* and Adoration, offering them an itinerary of human growth and transmitting love for the Blood of Jesus, shed out of love.

Sister Maria was attentive to each sister whom she helped to grow in fullness as a consecrated woman. She had at heart their professional formation and their journey of human, psychological and spiritual growth. She gave her time to each one, listening with a mother's heart to her sisters and to all those who approached her.



She lived as a woman of faith and deep missionary zeal. Her heart led her, without hesitation, to set out for Formosa, 1300 km away from *Villa Bosch* (she consumed only galetitas and café on the trip), to take care of the lives of the sisters who lived so far from the other communities.

Sr. Maria harmonized her femininity, cultivating numerous friendships with the Pastors of the Church, bishops and priests, nuns and lay people. All this made her a woman whose harmony was also visible in the architecture of the *Preciosísima Sangre College*, admired for the originality of its almost circular structure, for its luminosity, for the details that reveal its broad vision of an educational space in the interaction of the city.

Sr. Maria from Heaven, intercede for all of us, especially for your beloved Land of Argentina. We are proud to have had you as a sister.



José León Suarez, May 3, 2021
Sr. Patricia Ataria, ASC





Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 3 : Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

"All of us, as believers, need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love (92)."

This chapter presents the pope's teaching about love, which is essential to his approach to fraternity and social friendship. "The spiritual stature of a person's life is measured by love," he writes (92). This love must grow beyond family and nation to include strangers and all people - into a friendship where the worth of every person is acknowledged.

Fraternity grows into a universal love that promotes others when human connections are consciously cultivated through education in dialogue in order to defeat the "virus" of "radical individualism," as well as recognition of the values of reciprocity and mutual enrichment. Based on universal love and recognition of the inherent dignity of every person, we have an obligation to ensure that every person has sufficient opportunities for integral development. Francis says this requires a "re-envisioning of the social role of property" to ensure that each person has what is necessary to live with dignity.

St. Maria De Mattias had a tremendous love for God and for her dear neighbor. For Maria, every person was precious because redeemed in the blood of Jesus. She loved everyone with Jesus' own redeeming love, and with all her heart, radically and totally. Her love for them was paschal and vulnerable. She accepted the pain that she knew would come from loving and serving but she loved them with patience, with the pardoning love with which Jesus loves us, sinners. Her love for others was tender, warm, deeply personal, and truly virginal. The fire within her never stopped her but pushed her to different places in Italy. At the same time, she encouraged her sisters to be attentive to the voices of crying humanity and respond to their needs. Her enthusiasm and zeal invites all of us to move towards the invitation of this Encyclical to promote the dignity of the persons. Today, the blood of Jesus assists every Adorer to envisage and engender an open world.

The right to private property, Pope Francis says, "can only be considered a secondary natural right" to the "universal destination of all goods," or the idea that God's gift of creation belongs to all. This principle applies to the international sphere as well, where "a territory's goods must not be denied to a needy person coming from elsewhere." (124)

Reflection Question:
In what ways can your local community put human dignity at the center of social and economic life?

Sr. Rani Padayattil, ASC

General Administration Calendar



- May 7:** Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel meets with the Commission on Proper Law.
- May 11:** Sr. Nadia Coppa, Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel and Sr. Monica Rini meet the Committee for the Economic Director.
- May 22 to June 8:** Sr. Nadia Coppa visits the Manaus Region.
- May 22:** Sr. Wieslawa Przybylo and Sr Maria Grazia Boccamazzo lead the Online International Meeting of ASC lay groups.
- May 26 to May 28:** Sr. Nadia Coppa joins the ZOOM platform, from Manaus, to the USG and UISG (Major Superiors Male and Female Congregations).
- May 29 to May 30:** Sr. Nadia Coppa, joins in the annual meeting of the UISG Delegates.

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

<u>30th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Wilma Shalini Crastab	22/05/1991	India	
<u>40th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Restituita Gotifridi Mrema	12/05/1981	Tanzania	
<u>60th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Scolastica George Kadawa	1/05/1961	Tanzania	
<u>70th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Nicolina Manganiello	24/05/1951	Italy	
Sr. Augustina Barišić	14/05.1951	Zagreb	
<u>80th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Rosaria Villani	11/05/1941	Italy	
Sr. Raphael Ann Drone	21/05/1941	United States	
<u>90th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Santina Beltrami	25/05/1931	Italy	
<u>100th Birthday</u>			
Sr. Elisa Cianfoni	19/05/1921	Italy	



They have returned to the Father's House

1/04/2021	Concetta Mancini	Italy
2/04/2021	Anna Maria Campanaro	Italy
2/04/2021	Antonietta Sangregorio	Italy
4/04/2021	Ester Manganiello	Italy
9/04/2021	Sabina Francone	Italy
11/04/2021	Edigna Fehr	Schaan
16/04/2021	Valeria Pilotti	Italy
25/04/2021	Filomena Calabrese	Italy
25/04/2021	Barbara Riebel	United States
30/04/2021	Leona Riebel	United States

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