

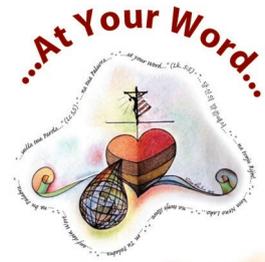
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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A New Look At Life

Editorial

When I was in the Philippines I often stopped to reflect on the particular manner of the banana tree. Different from the other trees that reproduce with seeds, the banana plant, which is really a palm, withers after flowering. But right when it begins withering, right next to it, almost miraculously, a daughter tree begins to grow. The banana tree does not die unless it has already produced new life.

I am always in awe and marvel when thinking again about this extraordinary process because nature itself tells me of the active force of life, of its energy that cannot stay unexploded and of its ability to regenerate before dying. So one wonders what is life? Life is light, it is uninterrupted time, it is bursting power, existing as a miracle, which has to be appreciated every second, especially in everyday reality. Sometimes we live our daily lives with frenzy, depriving life of the time necessary to be able to rise, like bread before being baked. Good things need the right patience. In living our days running here and there, we often forget the real reason for our lives: giving of ourselves because what unconsciously directs us is to respond to the needs of others. Giving of ourselves means, first of all, to welcome

and then accept ourselves, recognizing that the Holy Spirit lives in us in the world. It means making our frailties strengths for others, like the banana tree. Therefore, it means dying and being reborn each day knowing that without the presence of our neighbor, our lives would have no meaning. Many times we feel powerless in the face of uncertainties, of our limitations. But it is in this very powerlessness that we recognize God, the Christ made human who transformed barriers into streams full of hope, our chains of slavery into garlands, all our doubts into certainty, all our questions into answers. Christ was human among humans and left us and continually leaves us visible signs like the banana tree which, in dying, gives life for others.

Therefore, we cannot live for ourselves, remain closed in an insane selfishness to satisfy our needs, but we are called to be gift for others. Remaining firm about this human truth, and even more so about our Christian faith, must be the right gaze to which life is calling us and toward which the Holy Spirit is pushing us.

Life is the strength that gives us hope each day.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC

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International Meeting With ASC Lay Group



Tuesday, May 22, Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC, General Superior, and the members of the preparatory commission, Sr. Wiesława Przybyło and Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, hosted an online international meeting with representatives of the lay groups who live the spirituality of the Blood of Christ throughout the Congregation. Participants from Poland, Croatia, India and the United States attended: 21 laity, 2 priests and 11 Adorers in charge of the various groups. The objectives of the meeting were to reflect on how the laity living the spirituality of the Blood of Christ look toward the future and welcome it; listening to their desires and expectations for greater missionary vitality; involvement of lay groups in a growth process of co-responsibility for promoting the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and its mission as sign of communion in the Church.

The reflection of Sr. Anna Maria Vissani with the collaboration of Father Mariano Piccotti and Mrs. Fernanda Paolini helped us respond to this.

With her considerations regarding this, Sr. Anna Maria helped to gather the seeds of hope that the Blood of Christ has sown in history and especially in the hearts of humans in this time of transformation.

The first sign is that humanity has rediscovered its fragility with the pandemic. Technology has also been insufficient to cure the pain and defeat death. We need a broader vision rooted in the concrete reality of today. The reawakening of our insecurities made new hopes rise up, pushing us to relook at our scale of values.

We are called to learn to live again, treasuring what no longer exists. We must project toward the future. This, however, is not something already prepared, or already existing, but is something to be created every day, as we remain open to grace, to the experience of interculturality of communion created by the Blood of Christ. In fact, as St. Paul reminds us, Christ's Blood poured out passes through borders and barriers to make us ONE. In spite of the distances, it was surprising to hear and touch how even with linguistic differences and the different priorities each culture has, the deep desires of the human heart are the same: the desire for transcendence, for searching because what gives joy and peace is feeling loved by God who is called Father.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo



Testimonies From The Novitiate

At the end of the canonical time of the ASC international novitiate last February, seven novices began to dream about their apostolic period, which would begin as soon as the third wave of Covid-19 would allow, in some of the ASC communities of the Region of Italy.

Between March and April 2021, all arrived at their communities to have their first apostolic experience.

The communities with educational and social service ministries of Ascoli Piceno, Precious Blood Institute in Bari, Fiuggi, Portorecanati and Sora were chosen to host the young women in formation. The Sisters, having prepared for the arrival of the novice, accepted the challenge of being for them a place of fraternal life where they could experience charismatic power and evangelical passion.

Let's let their words tell of their experience:

"During these last two months I had the great opportunity to serve elderly women. I am happy doing this service with all my heart and love, in spite of the language difficulty. Being with them I experience the love God shows for all humanity."

Daily community and personal prayer help me to do this small ministry with patience and to collaborate with everyone. I am also happy to have the Sisters who encourage me and teach me to go forward in my life."

Mary Priya - From Ascoli Piceno



"I was happy for the warm welcome and joyous spirit of the Sisters who welcomed us among them. Due to Covid-19, I could not go to work in the school, but I have the opportunity to be with the elderly women. I feel lucky to be with them and serve and share my happiness with them. With God's help and some Italian classes, I can overcome the language problem. This time and experience are helping me to grow in mission. I am especially grateful to the Council of the Italian Region who organized this experience, which is helping me also to learn about the various realities of the Congregation."

Swarnalatha- From Ascoli Piceno



"I came to the Fiuggi community with an open and willing heart to learn to live more deeply in a contemplative and apostolic way. I am truly filled with joy for the holy place of Acuto which is near Fiuggi. Even though my Italian is very poor, the Sisters are helping me with all their patience and love. I am happy here and I feel at home. I feel this experience will help me in the future to live my life as an Adorer."

Padma - From Fiuggi

"This experience is helping us to know and learn how to live as Adorer-Apostles. Our community is giving us a good example, and we are enjoying the love and compassion of all the Sisters who are making us feel at home. We are grateful to God for this magnificent opportunity of being in this community and living this apostolic time. We also thank the Sisters who are supporting us on our journey. Thanks for this experience you have given us"

*Suchira e Biljana -
From Precious Blood in Bari*



"Being lovingly and joyfully welcomed by the Sisters of the ASC community of Porto Recanati, I immediately felt comfortable. The pre-school and service in the parish as well as the various chores at home take up my days. I am experiencing that I am a part of things!

I am experiencing the beauty and rich gift the Sisters are each day and in spite of the differences and difficulties that can be encountered in sharing life, we are all solidly united in the single Precious Blood."

Romina - From Porto Recanati

"I am in Sora (FR) for my first apostolic experience. The Adorers run a pre-school and primary school here and so I am having different experiences and experience interest and joy. The children, parents and teachers have been very welcoming. I am grateful to the community here who welcomed me so lovingly, making me always feel at home. I pray, study, work, rejoice, and rest with the Sisters and I am growing in an understanding of the spirit and history of the Congregation."

Martina - From Sora



Sr. Lucia Resta and Sr Miriam De Michele, ASC

We Go Into The Future With Mary

During this pandemic experience, everything around us is closed, blocking us and changing our way of relating, even in community life. From April 29 to May 2, 2021, we Adorers of the Blood of Christ of the Wrocław Region had our experience of community during an election Assembly. After the discernment stage, reflection and prayer, we elected Sr. Ewa Kleps as regional superior, and Sr. Teresa Jaszczyszyn and Sr. Maria Grygiel as regional councilors for a four-year term.

The experience of a community of faith, prayer and sharing of meals, the care for the future of the Region and good relationship among the Sisters were the characteristics of the election session of the XV Regional Assembly. Sr. Nadia Coppa, General Superior, and Sr. Matija Pavić, General Councilor, participated and accompanied the election process for the new regional superior and councilors.

During these days in a spirit of faith, we tried to recognize and do God's will. We did what we needed to do and God surprised us and gave us his gifts. Not just in the choosing of people but what the heavenly Father gave us was something completely different. In his unlimited love, mercy and generosity, God prepared "two private audiences" at the Shrine of the Black Madonna.

It all began on April 27. Immediately on the arrival of the Sisters of the General Administration, who stayed in the ASC community of Czestochowa, which is located just 4 kilometers from the Shrine

of the Black Madonna, that is, in the shadows of the Black Madonna. Because of the pandemic, our Sisters were not able to go into the chapel of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa for the Mass because only 20 people are allowed in. In the spring cold the Sisters stayed outside and saw the image of Our Lady on the large outdoor screen. After the Mass, they succeeded in going into the chapel through a "secret passage" to look into the eyes of Our Lady. When the Sisters had not returned from the Shrine, Father Dariusz Nowicki, the Pauline priest stationed at the Shrine, called us and invited us and our guests for the Mass the following day at 8:00 a.m. in the chapel in front of the picture of the Black Madonna. Thus, Sr. Nadia, Sr. Matija and all the Sisters of the community were invited to the audience following the Mass. They were able to look close up into the eyes of Our Lady of Czestochowa in peace and silence. Times like that for pilgrims coming to this place are simply a rare miracle for the time and place.

While we waited to enter the chapel, Sr. Nadia and Sr. Matija were welcomed by Father Arnold Chrapkowski, OSPPE, the General Superior of the Pauline Order. This unexpected encounter was pleasant and very cordial.

Each evening during the election Assembly, we entrusted our plans, intentions and discernment to Mary as we participated in the prayer of the Black Madonna. Since December 8, 1953, every evening at 9:00 the prayer of the Black Madonna is recited. It is called the Appeal of the Black Madonna. This is the evening prayer addressed to Mary, Queen of Poland and Mother of the Church for the needs of our country and those of the Church. Thus, on April 30, 2021 all the people participating in this prayer to the Black Madonna, both in Poland and abroad, prayed for the Sisters of our Election Assembly and for the entire Congregation – for each Adorer of the Blood of Christ. Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Poland, we were presented to God with this prayer.

In Poland, May 3 is a religious celebration and national holiday – a vacation day. In the liturgical calendar the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland, is celebrated, which is a remembrance of the important historical events of the Polish people: the defense of the Black Madonna during the Swedish invasion and the vows of King Jan Kazimierz, who entrusted the



kingdom into the care of the Mother of God.

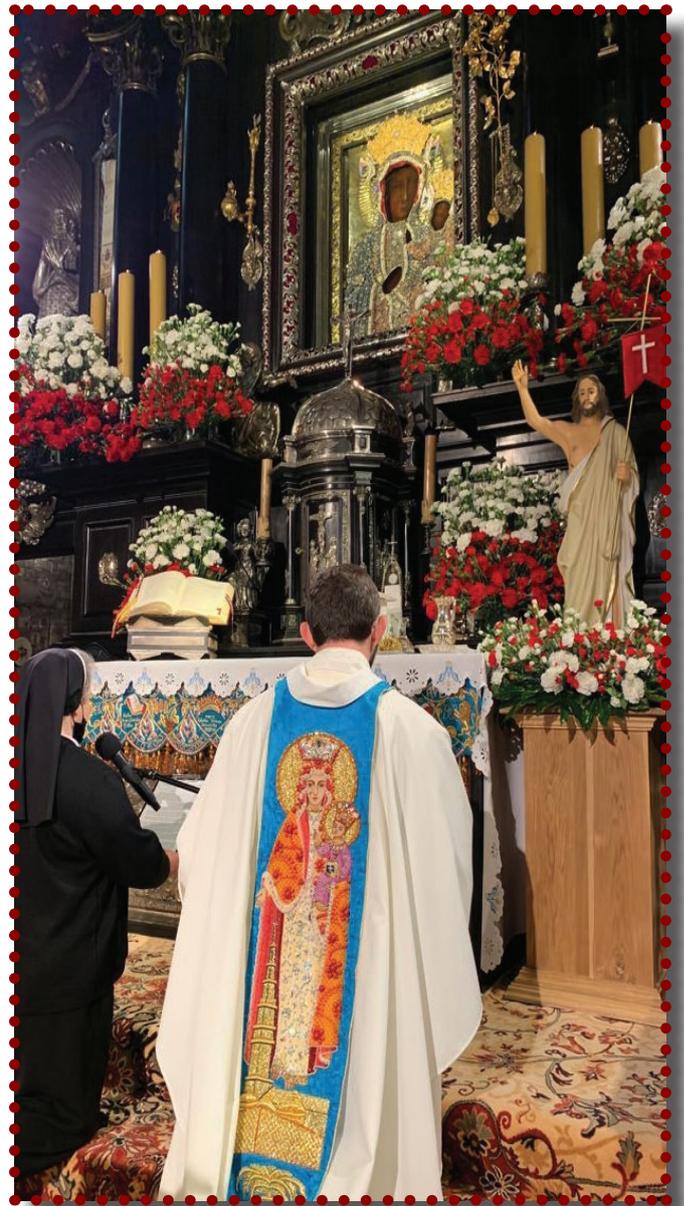
The Adorers of the Blood of Christ gathered for another encounter with Mary at the Shrine on May 3, 2021, at 8:45 in the chapel of the miraculous image of Our Lady.

This time we were all invited into the inner part of the chapel. We were able to look our Mother and Queen in the eyes without having to look through the gratings. Her "Daughters" came to their Mother to thank her for the outgoing Regional Administration and to entrust the new Council and the entire Wrocław Region to Mary.

Father Dariusz prayed for us and invoked the intercession of the Black Madonna and St. Maria De Mattias during the Mass he celebrated for our intention. And in the prayers of the faithful, we asked Mary for the grace of faithfulness to the charism given to St. Maria De Mattias, for the graces needed for the new council, for the gift of new vocations to our Congregation, for the courage of new apostolic calls, for eternal joy for our deceased Sisters and for all the people who are discovering, experiencing and love the Blood of Christ.

At the end of the Mass, Sr. Ewa Kleps, Regional Superior, entrusted the newly elected Regional Council to Mary: all our Region, each Sister and community, our collaborators, associates and benefactors, all our apostolic ministries, our relationships in community, all those who have left the Congregation or who will still be coming. Sr. Ewa entrusted to Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth everything we have and everything we live. She asked Mary for the gift of loving the Gospel so that with hearts free from hatred and rancor, we can take the true joy and peace that comes to us through our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone.

At the end of the Eucharist, Father Dariusz wished the General Superior and the newly elected Regional Council a blessing so that the Region of Wrocław might grow and the Sisters might serve God in a spirit of openness and faithfulness to the charism.



Sr. Gabriela Janikula, ASC

Catechism School of the ASC Junior Sisters

We thank God for the gift of St. Maria De Mattias, our Foundress, whose dream continues in the Region of Tanzania through the Catechetical Mission held at the Maria De Mattias Grade School in the Village of Hope.

In her letter to Sr. Berenice Fanfani (December 18, 1949) our Foundress says, "I wept [...] for my desire to see you with me in teaching the girls the ways of the Lord [...] Let us awaken our faith, my dear daughter, believe me."

The purpose of this mission is to help children experience and be strengthened in their faith to know and love God and to love all people so that everyone can reach the goal of Christian life, holiness.

The children greatly appreciate our presence. What we teach is like the hidden treasure in the field or the precious pearl of the Gospel for their lives. In the same way, the teachers are invited to participate in the formation so they can be helped to know themselves and be more effective in teaching. Today parents are often inattentive to education. In fact, due to their work responsibilities they do not spend much time with their children.

Therefore, our mission as ASC in this society today is a great contribution to today's generation.

Sr. Joanita Emanuel, ASC



Updating Seminar

We missionary Adorers in Mozambique participated in a seminar last April 19-20. The theme was that of developing the rights of mothers and children. The formators were the social workers operating in the region and the participants were the administrators of welcoming centers for children, the elderly, disabled and refugees. It was a seminar for updating statistical data for consideration in the disabilities and also included a practical part on the way to fill out the forms, also the digital forms. This was adopted by all the social centers for youngsters between the ages of newborns to 18, as well as for the centers for the elderly. All those we receive in our centers should be included in the statistics and, therefore, we are called to indicated situations of normalcy and those of disabilities.



Locals in charge of the stations and local workers also attended the course so that the projects are completed and implemented on time. The seminar was held at the center of Mafuiane District. Sisters of other congregations and many laity also attended. Not all the districts were able to attend due to pandemic restrictions.

Sr. Giovana Amu, ASC

Covid-19 and Birthday

Doctor Nelson is the head physician of our district of Namaacha. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, he thought of an original way to thank the Lord on his 40th birthday.

He wondered with whom he could celebrate his birthday because public gatherings are not allowed, much less for a doctor in charge the health of the people of his district.

Doctor Nelson decided to give a gift to the elderly of the Mafuiane Center by celebrating with us and his family. In the photo we are cutting the cake. Sister Giovanna and I took part in the celebration held on March 17.



Sr. Flaviana Alfred, ASC

Children's Day in Rural Northern Bolivia

Friends and co-workers Gonzalo Flores, Magda Navia and I left at the crack of dawn on April 12 in Betsy, our 20-year-old Toyota Land Cruiser, for a four-day pastoral trip to the Camata, an area in the northern part of the department (or state) of La Paz, Bolivia.

I rode "shotgun" up front with Gonzalo, who can see out of only one eye and hear out of one ear. My job was to throw out bread along the way to the scrawny dogs who herd the llamas, alpacas and sheep and also to announce impending disaster—fallen rocks on the road, an animal about to dart out, a vehicle coming around a blind curve.

We did fine crossing the Altiplano, the high plateau where the Andes are the widest, but as we got into the mountains and then dipped into the valley, the fog mixed with rain clouds compromised our vision. We trudged until 4 p.m., not stopping even to eat, so we could make the most of the daylight.

Then suddenly, we heard, then saw a mudslide. A waterfall reaching up several thousand feet had washed away most of the road, leaving muck that made it impossible to go any further.

A few more vehicles, including a bus, soon shared our fate. Even with double traction, no vehicle could get around or through the debris.



My heart went out especially to the passengers of the bus. This rural area has no electricity, cell phone or Internet access, hotels, restaurants or stores and no one would be going anywhere for a day or two, except to backtrack.

Fortunately, my companions and I were fairly close to our destination, so we turned around in the direction of Marumpampa, one of about 18 small communities in the Camata area. There, pastoral leader Doña Marina invited us to limes, avocados and bananas from her trees, freshly ground coffee and hot cracked corn.

The next day was Bolivian Children's Day, a day



the children anticipate almost as much as Christmas. They bring their cups from home to school in anticipation of receiving hot chocolate. Doña Marina provided the hot chocolate and we of Salud Integral, our multipurpose center in La Paz, provided the cookies. Each of the 40 children in the primary grades of Marumpampa also received school supplies. In the rural area, children treasure a pencil and notebook. They do not take such gifts for granted.

During the next three days, we also visited schools in the rural communities of Camata, Tipuaya, Quiñuaya, Llallahuati, Millisí and Coasí where we continued to celebrate Children's Day.

In most of these rural areas, children attend

school only until the 4th or 5th grade. Only Camata and Marumpampa have a high school. Now however, Salud Integral has arranged for four of the best students to continue their studies at a university in La Paz. In return, they give eight hours of community service every week.

Besides praying, playing and celebrating with the children, we also met with the adults, reflecting on how we can be true to our vocation as Church, the Body of Christ, when a priest may come only once or twice a year.

Did I say I was glad to be back in Bolivia? Yes, indeed!

Sr. Ann Fearday, ASC



Path to Citizenship Rally

Sisters Esperanza Razura and JoAnn Mark joined an event that invited the public to learn the stories of struggle and success of our immigrant neighbors.

Sister JoAnn, a Sunflower Community Action board member, spoke in support of comprehensive immigration reform at the Sunflower Community Action-sponsored event, "Roadmap to Freedom" on April 8 at Evergreen Park in Wichita. The theme was Path to Citizenship and the event is part of a nationwide effort to bring awareness of the need for a path to citizenship for all.

A relay across America started March 17 in Washington State. It ended in Washington, D.C. on May 1.

Other speakers included clergy, city council members, county commissioners, DACA recipients, immigrants, and community advocates.

Cheryl Wittenauer



A Time With Angels On Earth



I was in Swanthana, an institute for differently abled children run by the Camillus sisters. For my apostolic experience, it was a golden opportunity for me to serve the mentally and physically challenged children for three weeks during this Corona pandemic. It was an enriching experience to cherish all throughout my life.

I thank God that He has given me this great occasion to be with the children and to serve them. Even though it was a little hard for me to feed, bathe, and clean and to meet all their

hygienic needs in the beginning days, slowly by the grace of God and by good will I began to enjoy serving and being with them.

There are 45 girls in the institution, from one year to 20 years old. Most of them are physically challenged and a few are mentally challenged. They have to completely depend on others. There are five sisters with 15 staff and grownup children also help to take care of other children.

After morning refreshment they have a physiotherapy session. I used to teach songs, craft and art, conduct some games and tell them bible stories. We used to pray the rosary with them and seek the intercession of Mother Mary.

A really great realization for me was that how much more I should be thankful to God because He has blessed me with everything. It was not that I made them happy but they who taught me how to be happy even in the midst of difficulties. Even if they are unable to walk, talk and move they were helping each other with what they could. They were one in heart and mind and could sense each one's need. I was impressed very much by seeing their attitude of helping each other and spreading happiness all around. Along with this beautiful experience I got sufficient time to spend with the Lord and interiorize every incident in the light of the Holy Spirit.

I am grateful to Sr. Manjusha, my formator for choosing this place for me to serve the differently abled children and to share God's love with them.

This experience gave me the great message that even with my limitations I can still contribute something for the good of others. I saw in each one of them an angel on earth suffering and at the same time radiating happiness and joy in this world.

Reshma, Postulant

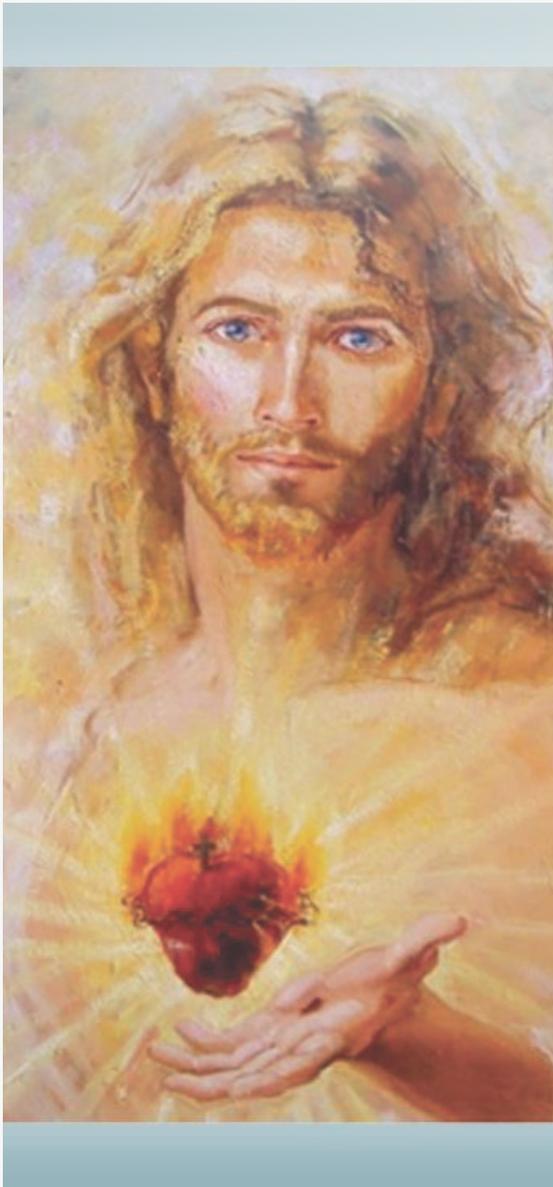
Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 4 : A Heart Open To The Whole Wold

As we continue our reflections on Maria De Mattias and the ways she invites us today to live the values of *Fratelli Tutti*, we again take as our starting point the study guide for this Chapter prepared by the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns. It reminds us that here Pope Francis speaks about “the moral and social implications of having a ‘heart open to the whole world.’”

Francis speaks of the causes for immigration and the very real needs of immigrants upon reaching new shores. He says that nations with open hearts would readily welcome and integrate them into a new culture, valuing the richness of their beings and personal giftedness which they bring to their new home.

He also speaks to the importance of nations collaborating in caring for each other, not forgetting the local needs when confronted with the real global needs, or vice versa. He is calling everyone to see beyond the boundaries of their own nation or region and embrace the whole world in their hearts as God does.

When we look at our Maria, we see the same heart, open to the very real needs of all around her, both the simple and complex needs of the people of Acuto and the surrounding towns and villages. At the same time, we hear her say that “all are worth the Blood of Christ.” Not



just the people we know, those with whom we are comfortable, but all of God’s Creation, even those that make us uncomfortable, who call us to “the more.” Maria’s heart was the heart of God; it had been informed and formed by her time before the Crucified One. She learned there, in the school of the Cross, all that she needed to respond to each and every need and call and desire of her “dear neighbor.”

As I wrote in the reflection on Chapter 2, we can do no less. We who share the charism of Maria De Mattias and the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, are called to be very present to needs in front of us locally in the here and now. At the same time, we are called to always see with a much broader eyesight. And not only see but respond in ways that might stretch us even more than we ever thought possible, for the good of all of humanity and all of creation. We need to speak the truth to power when necessary, always informed and formed by the Word of God that invites us to see, hear and respond to the needs around us with prophetic hearts and voices. Knowing that we cannot do it alone, finding ways of collaborating with others is essential.

As you reflect on the words of Pope Francis, “The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family;” what do you see as your part in making this a reality in the country in which you live? In what ways is God, and Maria, inviting you to a more open heart, one that is all-inclusive, one that gives without counting the cost, one that is ready and willing to lead and encourage others in prophetic ways so that all may truly become one?

Sr. Toni Longo, ASC

General Administration Calendar



- May 28 - June 4:** Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel and Sr. Wiesława Przybyło visit the Sisters in Albania.
- June 10:** Sr. Nadia returns from Manaus, Brazil.
- June 15:** Joint Councils meeting (United States Region and ASCs in Bolivia).
- June 24:** Joint Councils meeting (Region of Italy and ASCs in Argentina, the Philippines, Spain).
- June 25:** Extended General Council session, online meeting.

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

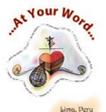
<u>40th birthday</u>			
Sr. Saroja Gantepogu	03/06/1981	India	
<u>50th birthday</u>			
Sr. Domenica Scalera	19/06/1971	Italy	
<u>80th birthday</u>			
Sr. Elisabeth Huber	01/06/1941	Schaan	
Sr. Helen Moore	03/06/1941	USA	
Sr. Barbara Croom	23/06/1941	USA	
<u>90th birthday</u>			
Sr. Anna Di Donato	01/06/1931	Italy	
Sr. Marita Toenjes	16/06/1931	USA	



They Have Returned To The Father's House

1/05/2021	Marìa Mossa	Italy
9/05/2021	Veneranda De Marchis	Italy
15/05/2021	Maria Nalvina Paolini	Italy
16/05/2021	Maria Baldassarre	Italy
19/05/2021	Bernita Marie Leiker	USA

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