

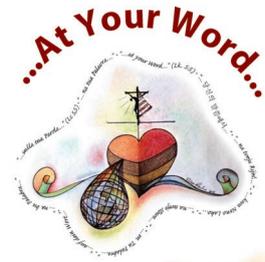
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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

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Love: a Cure for Hate

By definition, medicine is something that counters the power and effect of something harmful.

While I was sharing faith with a dear friend I heard an expression that perhaps has never rung so true before. In the face of the chilling news we hear every day about war, natural disasters and social indifference, we need to remember that Love is the true antidote to division, the only cure capable of neutralizing hate, and therefore, effectively responding to violence. Love is like a sudden breath of fresh air creeping into a long-closed room. It is like a ray of sunshine that suddenly caresses your face on a cold day.

Yes, it is exactly like that. I think, then, of the many biblical passages that repeat this in different ways, through many stories and in stronger ways with the life of Jesus himself. Though innocent, his acceptance of being condemned to death, his refusal to rebel before Pilate, his choice of not responding to the taunts of the “bad” thief and present at his crucifixion are all examples.

Who, today, would be capable of this? In

thinking about the reality of our world, we only hear about revenge, retaliation and bullying. Instead, to speak of surrendering for love is synonymous with weakness. The words of Pope Francis, which continuously call for peace, for choosing a greater good, only seem like an anachronism. It would seem so natural, so simple, to respond and act remembering that we are encountering our brother or sister. Yet, that is not how it is. The experience of limitation, of our insecurity, of what we try to mask behind the ostentation of self-sufficiency, of wanting to solve all problems and having all solutions, have inevitably blinded us, making us unable to welcome the rays of light that inevitably reach us every day.

We find ourselves, thus, increasingly incapable of believing and hoping, of glimpsing the buds of newness, the shoots of good that God generously continues to scatter on our path. We are unable to welcome the newness of the cross of Christ, the only one from which new life is born, the fruit not of our labors, nor of our abilities, but of God’s grace, of his love for every creature God has created.



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The stories of the people rescued from the rubble of the earthquake, surviving after so many days of hunger, darkness, and fear, remind us that despite the evil and drama of the catastrophe, our life is God's mystery. We are not alone and we have no control over it. We are, instead, called to recognize and surrender to the love with which God loves and cares for us.

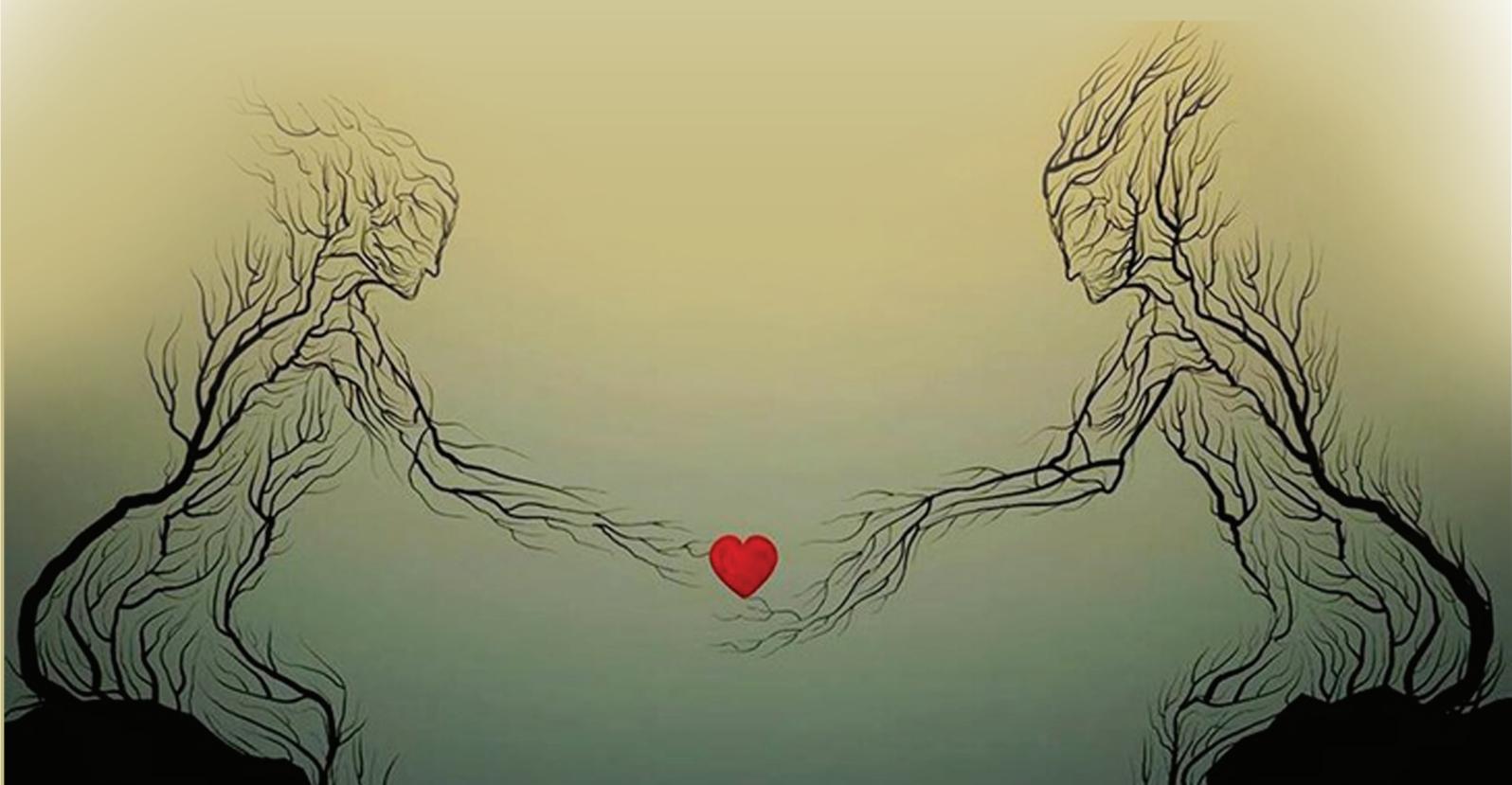
Love, charity, thunders St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, 13, Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous, is not pompous; it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury. It does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices

with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In the face of such a clear description, this time of grace becomes an opportunity to ask for the gift of surrendering to love, nurturing in ourselves the same sentiments that were in Christ Jesus, offering ourselves without recompense, embracing our limitations and accepting that we are stewards and servants, learning to glimpse the seedlings of good, to go down to the depths not stopping at appearances, to remember and spread the hope with which God makes himself present in our daily lives.

From all this we draw the strength to embrace and live every cross as risen people, as people in love.

S. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



Joyful Moments

For the Adorers of the Generalate community and particularly for the two Argentinean women, Elvira Riveros and Alejandra Pagliari, Sunday, January 22, was a special day. In the final week of December 2022, they travelled to Rome to prepare themselves for the realization of a long-cherished dream to dedicate themselves to the Lord by professing the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience and by living the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, that is, by collaborating with Christ in the redemptive work of humanity while living in the world as lay consecrated women.

In preparation for their profession Elvira and Alejandra made a retreat in Acuto directed by Fr. Aldo Basso and Sister Silvana Crolla, ASC, who guided them during their pilgrimage to the places of our origins.

Elvira and Alejandra pronounced their vows on January 22 in the Precious Blood Chapel at 3 p.m. during the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Fr. Emanuele Lupi, CPPS, Moderator General of the Missionaries of Precious Blood. This heart-touching moment of grace and blessings was witnessed by Sr. Silvana Crolla, ASC, and Donatella Acerbi, a lay consecrated woman who had been accompanying these women for a year, the members of the international community, a few other ASCs from close by communities, and the novices. The profession of vows was received by Sr. Nadia Coppa, asc, General Superior, in the presence of the witnesses, Srs. Wieslawa Przybylo and Sandra Paolacci. The celebration was concluded with a dinner accompanied by dance and songs of felicitation in different languages.

We wish and pray that this new shoot of the family of the Precious Blood will continue to grow and add flavor to the lives of many people around the world.

S. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC



Journeying Together



Looking back on the beautiful and emotional days, I want to take some time to express what we experienced and shared in the month we spent in Italy.

At the end of 2018 we began a hope-filled journey to live our consecration to the Lord in a more

concrete and organized way. This journey has not been easy, but January 2023 has arrived and what we had only imagined has become reality.

I had an experience that I will never forget, the excitement of making a retreat in Acuto (motherhouse), of feeling the Spirit and the aroma of our beloved St. Maria De Mattias in that place and in walking the roads and the places that she travelled. I really felt her living presence in my soul ... in my heart, in walking through Vallecorsa, in seeing every street, every corner, in listening to the whisper of her words and her love in my heart.

I experienced the joy of fraternity in every community I went to, the joy of encounter, the diversity of cultures... of languages and customs but with the same goal and the same Love "To give life to every reality and to every brother and sister."

I am grateful to God for all that I have experienced. I thank Sr. Nadia (General Superior) and every sister of the General Council for all the accompaniment, the many ASCs, priests and people who made this time a time of "GRACE".

I cannot leave out all that I experienced

on Sunday, January 22. It was a day of great excitement but above all of great happiness, something I had hoped for many years was becoming a reality. To be able to live my lay consecration with the spirituality of the Blood of Christ and thus to be able to live united with the ASCs from a different place of consecration but always keeping in mind the redemptive value of the Precious Blood of Jesus and from our dear foundress St. Maria De Mattias who is and will always be my guide and who will lead me to the tender Love of Jesus and my brothers and sisters I will encounter on my path.

I am blessed and I thank God for all the gifts I have received during this month I spent in Italy and for everything God has given me every day of my life.

May the Blood of Christ always be our hope. And may I always be able to bring souls to Jesus, as MDM would say to us.

Thank you Sr. Nadia and Council. Thank you to all ASCs.

Alejandra Pagliari



Opening of a new community in Eswatini (formerly called Swaziland)

With hearts filled with gratitude, we thank God for the gift of this holy Congregation founded by St. Maria De Mattias with the task of participating in the work of redemption through our ASC Charism, living Charity toward God and dear neighbor.

By God's grace within our Congregation, and in a special way in the Tanzania Region, reading the signs of the times and the needs of the Cry of the Blood, in February 2023 we will open a new community in the sovereign country of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) in the southern part of the African continent.

St. Maria De Mattias went from Vallecorsa to Acuto with redemptive obedience to sow the seed of the ASC Charism, a seed that we can compare to a mustard seed, but with God's grace and blessings that seed of love and compassion was able to grow spreading to different continents, including the African continent.

With the same obedience that led St. Maria De Mattias to leave Vallecorsa to go to Acuto to respond to the needs of the cry of the Blood in her time, so our three sisters from the Tanzania Region (Sr. Esther James Kiduguru, Sr. Magreth Silvery Ngoi, and Sr. Lilian Stuart Kasembe) have made themselves ready and willing to be sent by the Congregation to plant the ASC Charism in Eswatini, responding to the Cry of the Blood of the poor and marginalized.

We thank Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de León, IMC of the Catholic Diocese of Manzini, for his invitation to plant the Charism of St. Maria De Mattias and evangelize in the country of Eswatini, in Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Siteki.



We thank our sisters for their willingness and missionary spirit. May St. Maria De Mattias, the first adorer, intercede for them so that they may lovingly serve the souls of the people entrusted to them.

S. Magreth Silvery Ngoi, ASC

ASC Community Day in Belleville, Illinois

January 8 was a dark and overcast day until the ASC Community Gathering began to unfold. The event was hosted at the Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine. Hugs, laughter, and shouts of joy filled the Hi-Rise Lounge as more than 60 ASC's greeted each other and shared their stories.



A most impressive musical presentation was given by the Foppe Junior Associates from Edwardsville, Illinois: Kaitlyn, Molly, and Caroline. Violin, piano, and vocal renditions filled us with admiration and wonder.

Then the Befana

arrived on her broomstick, searching for her identity, the Magi and the "Babe." She finally found Him in every creature on the earth. This lovely old witch also checked the behavior of everyone present. Fortunately, we all passed her test and received a lovely Christmas gift from Befana's spacious bag.

Delicious and attractive refreshments followed with delicacies and varieties beyond compare. Eight attendance prizes brought the afternoon to a close, with the goodbyes as demonstrative as the hellos.

As the feast of the Magi came to a close, we ASC's joyfully thanked God and each other for the gift of love and communion among us. We who live at the BLCs are especially grateful for our extended ASC Family who made our Community Day so special.

S. Anne Irose, ASC

Sr. Mary Clare Reinberg Given Star Treatment

On January 11, the scene was set at St. Anne's Retirement Community for the 'star' to shine!

Stars were shining from the lights above, streamers were surrounding the room, Oscar statues could be seen, Hollywood signs were up - all creating a fun atmosphere for the afternoon. The personal care residents could come down for the 'showing' of the movie. Personal care residents had been isolated because of Covid, and this was the first gathering except for meals. Everyone appreciated being together.

The star, Sr. Mary Clare Reineberg, previously known by the stage name Elaine Ryan, was given the red carpet treatment at the showing of *Mr. Belvedere Goes to College*. She was interviewed by St. Anne's Activities Director, Hope Long, before the showing of the movie. Each person had their own personal table with treats of vegetables, chocolates, popcorn, wine, beer, or soda.

Because the controls of the movie were in the hands of the activity department, we saw the scene a couple of times, where a young woman (Elaine Ryan/Mary Clare) slides in front of Mr. Belvedere to answer the phone and have a few

words with him. We enjoyed the scene each time it was shown.

It was delightful.

S. Joan Hornick, ASC



We share an article that recently appeared in the *Alfa Omega* newspaper in Madrid which speaks about the ministry of Sr. Pila Catanñeda Diez, ASC

300 migrants gather in the parish on Tuesday in search of work



The provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, in charge of the parish, is in charge of the welcome.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart welcomes more and more people looking for job opportunities. Since the project began more than 20 years ago, they have facilitated more than eighty thousand people in finding jobs.

*JosécaldererodeAldecoa/@calderero
Madrid*

The clock strikes 9:00 a.m. and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish is already totally full. The impromptu parishioners come from different nations, as well as from the Embassies and Consulates located around the Church. Most of them have come from Latin America and talk about the complicated situation this region is experiencing. "They come in search of a better life, fleeing violence, corruption or hunger," explains Father Paco Franco, provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and parish vicar. He knows the region well. He lived there for more than 30 years "in the diocese of one such Bergoglio," he jokes in dialogue with this newspaper. He has also been to neighboring Paraguay. From the pulpit, he does the 'welcoming, talking to immigrants about dignity and work, since that is the reason why they are all there. He also talks about God, "because this is a Catholic parish." He invites them to pray the Lord's Prayer. "Give us this day our daily bread," they say together. "More than a piece of bread, what we try to do here is to give them work," the priest points out. At the same time, he asks that we not give him medals because he does not deserve them. "This is the work of Sr. Pilar and a group of lay collaborators."

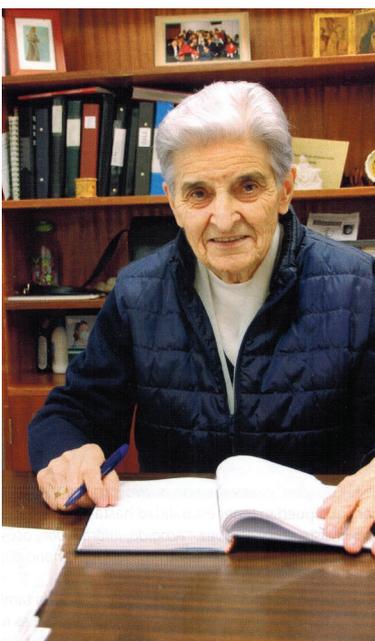
Sr. Pilar, a religious of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, began this project more than a decade ago. "I was called by the parish priest at that time to start an initiative with migrants," she recalls. However, as time has passed, instead of dying out, the 'initiative has grown in leaps and bounds. In fact, "in recent weeks it has been a real avalanche," more than 300 people every day. "Never have we served so many people," acknowledges the sister, who in addition to being 'in charge,' is also responsible for organizing attention through a drawing. Previously, appointments were given for personal interviews in the order of arrival, but this gave rise to small acts of corruption." There were also some people who slept outside so as not to lose their places." With the drawing of lots, all this ended. The chosen ones move on to a second phase: the interviews that are done every Wednesday. The sister talks to them about responsibility and honesty in work. In the end, she delivers as many jobs as were asked for.

The missionaries calculate that the project has employed more than eighty thousand people. Most of the jobs are in domestic service, both inside and outside of the villas around the parish. But not only for these places.

Rosita Espinal, originally from Honduras, is one of the beneficiaries. She arrived in Spain in 2011 and two weeks later she already had a job, thanks to the religious. She worked two years in a home until the woman she was caring for died. So she asked the sister for work again and got another job where she has already been for 10 years. "I owe a lot to her. She is like a second mother to me. Maybe now she is like my first mother, because my mother died. With the job I got, thanks to Sr. Pilar, I was able to take care of my mother in the last years of her life," Rosita explains.

Contractor as well. The number of people for whom this sister was able to find employment is even more surprising considering the unemployment rate, which is 13 percent in Spain. What is her secret? "No secret. Families call me and tell me about their needs. Some ask for a person to take care of a relative, others a person to clean the house..." One thing or another, I always have the client come in. "I meet with them and make it clear how things are. I am the one who sets the social justice rules. I make the agreement of salary, days of work..." One of the conditions is that the employee does not work on Sundays and Thursdays. On Thursdays, the sister meets with the employee in the parish and prepares her, spiritually as well as humanly, a job she does together with the group of volunteers. Their names are Pilar, Elena, Mercedes, Amparo and Susana. The latter, aged 78, has been working with the religious since she was widowed 11 years ago. "Every Tuesday and Wednesday I get up at 6:00 a.m. so that I can arrive on time and thus help all the people who come looking for work," Susana says. She is the one in charge of answering the phone and taking note of applicants' data. They also give training: one of the volunteers does geriatrics classes; another, first aid; and a third does English classes.

Rosita and the parties. After having worked for more than 20 years thanks to Sr. Pilar, Rosita Espinal, from Honduras, wanted to reciprocate for the good she has received by working with the association that trains immigrants who came to the parish and was appointed president. "It's about making our small contribution so that all people feel accompanied," she explains. The association organizes cultural gatherings, regional dances, provides snacks, and celebrates "Sr. Pilar's nameday."



Sr. Pilar

Solemnity of the Presentation of St. Maria De Mattias' Relics in St. Albert the Great Parish in Wrocław-Sołtysowice



February 4, 2023 was a very important date in the lives of the Associates of the Precious Blood, as well as for the entire Parish community. On this day, while celebrating the 218th anniversary of the birth of St. Maria De Mattias, the Foundress of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, we

had the opportunity to experience the solemn presentation of the Saint's relics during the evening Eucharist celebrated by Father Pastor Faustino Zatoka, OFM, and concelebrated by Fathers Wawrzyniec Wojtyra, OFM, and Zdzisław Rabajczyk, OFM.

And here we would like to address our most heartfelt words of thanks and gratitude to the General Superior of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Rome, Sr. Nadia Coppa, for allowing us to experience these beautiful moments related to the presentation of the relics of St. Maria De Mattias in our worship center of veneration in Sołtysowice.

May the life of St. Maria De Mattias, who adored the Cross of Christ, bowing to the human miseries of soul and body, be a source of inspiration for us Associates of the Precious Blood to face the difficulties of daily life by growing in firm faith, unwavering hope and perfect love for the Crucified One and for our neighbor.

From her love for the Precious Blood, St. Maria drew strength, love and courage to help people reach God. So we too ask through her intercession, in venerating her holy relics, that she will help us to embrace each cross through which we wish to be profoundly united with Christ in following him on the way to the Father. May she help us to grow in union with the Crucified One, dying to ourselves each day.

St. Maria De Mattias show us the way to drink from the cup of suffering. Through the mystery of the cross, help us to live in such a way that we always remain a sign of love, joy and hope for those to whom the Lord sends us.

Life is a gift filled with the Precious Blood of Christ who reconciles and forgives. And this, in turn, helps us to heal and enables us to bring healing to others. Forgiveness is a grace; it is a gift. For this gift we must ask Christ to take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh filled with love and warmed by the seed of the positive. By living the Blood of Christ, we have the responsibility to share the joy of being redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ with others. Every member of the Precious Blood Association should remember that **MY LIFE HAS THE VALUE OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST** and take this as a motto of daily life.

In addition, we want to give heartfelt thanks for the presence of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ in the persons of Sr. Ewa Kleps, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Teresa Jaszczyszyn, the national moderator of the Association of the Precious Blood, and Sr. Ewa Brauza. We send many thanks to them for having received the relics of St. Maria De Mattias.

The children of the Wrocław Assistance and Education Center on Lekcyjna Street gave us great joy and a big surprise as they sang a hymn in honor of the saint. Our thanks also goes to Sister Beata Płowaś, who collaborated in this event.

A separate thanks also goes to the participants in our celebration, the members of the Precious Blood Association from the various parishes in our city of Wrocław.

Blest be the Blood of Jesus Christ.

***Director of the Associates of the Blood of Christ:
Barbara Król***

We are doing our part to care for the earth



From November 27 to December 5, 2022, the Seminar: *Nel Sangre de Cristo... Una Ecología Global* (The Blood of Christ... A Global Ecology) was held, which had been organized by CIS and was addressed to JPIC/VIVAT contacts of the congregation.

It was a time of reflection, study, delving into and evaluating the time spent strengthening the commitment to JPIC by each reality of the Congregation.

The participation of the contact sisters was both in person and virtual, but the group felt in communion. From the first meeting, the participants were invited by Sister Nadia Coppa, ASC, General Superior, to reflect and flesh out the values of the spirituality of the Blood of Christ we want to promote for an integral ecology as Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Themes and the proposed program were integrated during the seminar; virtual meetings for information and formation, moments of communication and prayer, visits to open places took place. We were encouraged to delve into the values of the charism and spirituality of the congregation together with

other congregations as a response to the cry for Justice, Peace and Integrity of our Common Home in the service of the Kingdom of God and in the ministry that each Adorer of the Blood of Christ performs, lives and celebrates. Indeed, it is our responsibility and commitment to collaborate with that beautiful order of things that the great Son of God came to establish with his blood. (LC 3).

We thank Sisters Rani Padayattil and Elisabeth Muller, CIS leaders, for their service and accompaniment, the General Administration for facilitating these moments of great richness and growth, and the Generalate community for their companionship and welcome.

Blood of Christ, poured out upon the soil in agony, save us.



S. Saida Haydee Perez Pocoata, ASC



P.A.C.E. (Peace) – To embrace the heart and education



After listening to the needs of the area where there are many immigrant families, the ASCs of Turi (BA) together with the parish priest and social services started a project with 12 children referred from the elementary school on October 24, 2022. The participants are from Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Morocco, and India. For three days a week, two-hour workshops are offered to help the children understand Italian, give shape and color to their feelings and learn to relate with simplicity and respect. Many volunteers have been involved. Here is the testimony of one of them:

Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me." (Mark 9:30-31)

There are rewarding experiences for all involved. And participation in the P.A.C.E. project is one of them.

The aims enthusiastically set forth by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ were to welcome, support, guide, and nurture a group of foreign children, of different nationalities, who have recently arrived in our country, in order to foster their knowledge of the Italian language, an indispensable tool for effective social and scholastic integration. This was an important and ambitious task that prompted me and a large group of volunteers to join. And we did so with joy and confidence, and initially, also some fear.

But meeting the children was a magical moment that swept away all uncertainty and difficulties. Their eyes speak a universal language and human warmth can be felt even if only through a caress.

Children are special; they trust and rely. Children teach courage, perseverance, joy, gratitude. And our children did and do this every day.

The journey so far has been fruitful for them both linguistically and relationally, but also beautiful, intense and fun for everyone. They often sing together—"I am happy because I have so many friends." And we volunteers sing it too, imitating their lightness and sharing their beautiful smiles.

We have learned so much and we are all richer. How beautiful...

Certainly it is the Lord who is directing our steps. It is the Lord who provides for everyone's needs.



***Mirizio Teresa – volunteer
and Sr. Rosalba Facecchia, ASC, project
director***

General Administration Calendar



March 1-3: Acuto - Participation in the Triduum in preparation for the celebration of the anniversary of the foundation of the congregation.

March 4: Celebration of the 189th anniversary of the Foundation of the congregation

March 20-26: Sr. Nadia and Sr. Monica visit the ASC communities in Bolivia

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

30th Birthday

S. Coleta John Emanuel 03/05/1993 Tanzania

S. Anna Aloyce Ngoti 03/13/1993 Tanzania

50th Birthday

S. Mini Pallipadan 03/27/1973 India

60th Birthday

S. Brigita Pušelj 03/09/1963 Zagreb

S. Melania Shirima Joseph 03/24/1963 Tanzania

70th Birthday

S. Bernardica Kesak 03/12/1953 Zagreb

S. Klara Puljić 03/17/1953 Zagreb

S. Mara Kovčo 03/18/1953 Zagreb

80th Birthday

S. Ione Di Giulio 03/12/1943 Italy

90th Birthday

S. Clelia Mencarelli 03/17/1933 Italy

S. Łucja Partyka 03/20/1933 Wrocław

S. Joann Stuever 03/26/1933 USA



**They have returned
to their Heavenly
Home**

02/15/2023	S. Elena Sarro	Italy
02/19/2023	S. Teresa Cellamare	Italy
02/20/2023	S. Admires Castro da Silva	Brazil

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