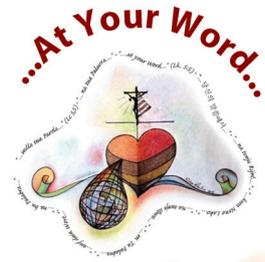


# International Newsletter

## Adorers of the Blood of Christ



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### **“All Brothers and Sisters”**

*“I am giving this social encyclical as a humble contribution for reflection so that, in the face of the various current ways of excluding or ignoring others, you can react with a new dream of fraternity and social friendship that does not just remain as words.” (from Pope Francis’ comment on Twitter)*

On October 3 of this year, Pope Francis signed his third encyclical letter, “Fratelli Tutti” (“All Brothers and Sisters”) on Fraternity and Social Friendship at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi, thus continuing the path he has followed since the beginning of his pontificate. It begins with these words: a poor church for the poor, care of creation and peace. We have already found these words in his two previous documents. This document is the first he signed outside the Vatican and during this difficult situation of our world history.

The title is a quotation from St. Francis of Assisi’s sixth admonition: Fratelli Tutti and indicates a universal brotherhood and sisterhood. In its structure, this encyclical has 8 chapters and 287 paragraphs. All are under the inspiration of St. Francis’ thought and have an ecumenical slant.

Pope Francis invites us to continue along this path together, in an “open fraternity,” as expressed in the first chapters. Using a simple and colloquial style, he communicates his worries for a “closed world.” Some of the characteristics of this world in crisis that he shows us are: individualism, loss of an historical awareness, desperation, lack of trust, a use-and-throw-away culture, human trafficking, inequality of rights, war, insecurity, globalization, weakening of spiritual values, the Covid-19 pandemic, selfish economy, migration, illusion of communication and

others. He asks us not to forget these.

At the same time, he shows us that not everything is lost. He says that there is still hope, the hope of God who never abandons the fallen and he asks us to look for hope in the deepest part of the human being. He exhorts us to “walk with hope.”

In the face of this desire, he searches for a light for this, dedicating a chapter to the parable of the Good Samaritan and in a re-reading of it, he leads us to ask ourselves how our heart is. Is it open or closed before a world that shows us day by day that we are all connected and we need each other in order to live? This is why it is so important to be brothers and sisters, “fratelli tutti.”

To have an open world we have to change our mentality. He tells us we must grow in love by creating societies open to love, a love that is integrating, without borders, that keeps vigil over the common good, grows in solidarity, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and in a religion that tries to be a crafter of peace.

This encyclical leaves us clues for discerning which path we want to follow. Rediscovering our value as humanity, knowing that brotherhood and sisterhood is the way, a way that has already been walked by many men and women of faith from a deep experience with God. A close example is our foundress, Maria De Mattias, and her concern for her dear neighbor.

I merely put some broad strokes down about this social document to bring it together in its depth. May the Holy Spirit guide us on this journey.

**Sr. Katty Collana, ASC**

Editorial

### **Summary**

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- ◆ The Voice of the Pope and the Church

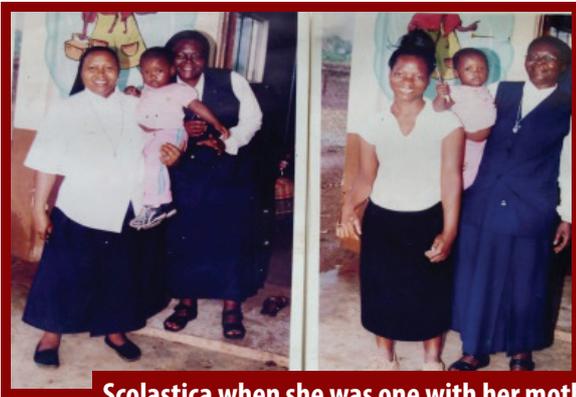
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## **Fruits of the ASCs in Mozambique**

When Marsela Ernesto Samo was born she had a deformed leg and hands. Her mother died when she was ten and she was taken care of by her aunt. One day a Missionary, arriving in Mafuiane, Mozambique prior to the arrival of the Sisters, found this girl digging through the trash to find something to eat. (In fact, the child had been abandoned along the street.) The missionary took her to a care home for the elderly. The girl remained there where she was taken care of, grew up and later gave birth to a baby girl whom she named Scolastica.

The Adorers, present there at that time, including myself, Sr. Yohana, lovingly took care of the mother and her daughter. Since the paternal grandparents rejected the girl because she had polio, she was given the name of her mother's parents, that is, Scolastica Ernesto Samo. With God's help the child grew up and is now 11 years old and her mother is 36. They no longer live at the home for the elderly but in the village. Scolastica continues her studies, though at this time the schools are closed due to the coronavirus.

**Sr. Yohana Amu Malley, ASC**



**Scolastica when she was one with her mother, Sr. Scolastica and me.**

## Remembering our Years in Belém



After living for fifteen years in this city of BELÉM, capital of the state of Para in northern Brazil, I will be leaving for Manaus (Covid permitting) during the first weeks of October in response to the Lord's will, age and health problems. In response to some of the Sisters' requests, I will talk about some of the activities I was involved in during these years. I tell the story in all humility, thanking our good God for this time when, through His grace, I tried to contribute to the growth of our charism as Adorer-Missionaries.

### A sick brother

After my brother, Msgr. Geraldo Menezes, was left nearly blind following an attack by a thug, I came to Belem so that I could help him along with the assistance of my older sisters who were not in good health. I stayed there for 10 years. It was a beautiful and holy experience that led me to write a book in which I recounted aspects of Geraldo's life. The income from the sale of the book was given to our ASC Region.

### Vice-Postulation of Sister Serafina

While here, I gave a short course about the ASCs and our Sister Serafina to the Latin American seminarians at the request of Father Luiz Gatica, CPPS.

I was able to conclude other research on the reality of the Transamazonia and send it to Sister Maria Paniccia in order to speed up the part of the "documented biography" of the Sister Serafina's process begun in Manaus. In 2013, I rejoiced to

receive the news from Rome of the approval of the "Heroic Virtues" of Sister Serafina, which conferred the title of Venerable on her. In addition, because of my transfer, on September 12, 2020, we shipped three boxes of documents, most of which were with the files of Sr. Serafina Cinque, to the Region House in Manaus to keep them there.

### In the University Environment

In 2006, in collaboration with other people, I published the book, Amazonia and the World, containing poetry about the Amazon area and some of the towns where I had been. I entered several literary competitions of the Literary Academy of Belem on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the city, winning three awards of praise. This gave me the satisfaction of being called to collaborate with some university professors in research to guide some students to complete their doctoral dissertations on Amazonia and on the work of my father, Bruno de Menezes, about the black race, literature and folklore in Para. Once in a while, I accepted the invitation to speak at two universities on these topics just mentioned. In this work, I developed great friendships with people working in the sectors of journalism and literature. Some of them, grateful for the support received, wanted to print at their expense at St. Paul Editions a small book with the literary data I wrote on these topics. It will be ready in October. Sr. Alessandra, our Regional, and I consider this small volume an HOMAGE to all the ASCs who have worked and continue to work in Brazil and in Peru.

### MASS-MEDIA

In interviews I have given to the "Nazaré Foundation" press (TV, radio and newspaper) of the Belem Archdiocese, and also to the national press, I spoke about the above-mentioned topics as well as about the Cause of Venerable Sr. Serafina.

I thank my sisters in community for the support they have given me during these years of work when I always felt inspired by the words of our beloved Foundress Maria De Mattias to all of us: Be "Women of the Word in serving the Lord."

*Belem, September 26, 2020*

**Sr. Marilia Menezes, ASC**

## **Asylum Ministry Ends**

As the Greyhound bus pulled out of the Wichita Transit Station at 4 a.m. on October 3, Sister Diana Rawlings and I realized we were seeing the close of the asylum ministry at the Wichita Center.

A piece of my heart has gone with each of the six families when they left, but I feel a special loss with Didier, Sandra, Beni and Mark leaving us. They had been with us since January of 2019. During that time, Mark was born and celebrated his first birthday, and Beni celebrated both his third and fourth birthdays.

Since August of 2018 when our first family arrived, I have learned much about topics such as the Congolese culture; unrest in the Congo; the goodness, faith and strength of the Congolese; the suffering people will endure in order to come to the United States; the desire of immigrants to work and to learn English; the love they have for family and how cousins are called sisters and brothers; the difficulty of honest communication when you do not speak the language or know the culture; and on and on. I have also learned more about the generosity of the sisters living at the Wichita Center and of sisters from other congregations.

I have had to attend immigration court and prepare legal papers for asylum applications, and work permits. A part of these experiences had been my growing frustration with the U.S. government and the unrealistic expectations it places on those who come seeking to escape rape, horrible mistreatment and death for themselves and their families. However, we have been greatly blessed by pro bono legal services and discounted medical services available in Wichita.

I cannot possibly list all of my learnings and all the joy I have experienced in interacting with the children and their parents. Nor can I thank all the persons and organizations that assisted us in this ministry.

However, I want to give special recognition to members of the core committee: Sisters Bernadine Wessel, Diana Rawlings, Fran Schumer, Joanne Stuever and Patty Owens. I also thank Sister Francine Schuster who served as midwife for Sandra, and Greg Lohkamp who provided support in a multitude of ways. None of us could have done this alone. As Diana keeps reminding us, "It takes a village."

So many other sisters helped as they could, Sister Diana added. That included tutoring, driving families to appointments, playing with the kids, helping families practice their English, teaching the kids how to ride bikes and attending school functions.

In all, 27 people received care from the Adorers.

The Monza family left so that Didier could pursue a job in the eastern U.S. Sister Diana noted that the family spent a few hours visiting some of the sisters in the Wichita Center before leaving. Sisters enjoyed witnessing the antics of 4-year-old Beni and the walking skills of 13-month-old Mark Gregory, who was named for Sister JoAnn Mark and Greg Lohkamp who were instrumental in helping the family get settled.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Didier told the sisters:

"This family (the sisters) did everything for my family. I will continue to be your family. If you come to visit, you will have a place to stay. I don't want to leave Wichita, to leave this family, but I must go because of my family and work and school. From my heart, I like this family very much. I thank God for you. My God bless all of you, protect all of you. I thank you for everything."

**Sr. JoAnn Mark, ASC**

*(Sister Diana Rawlings contributed to this report.)*



## The Voice of the Pope and the Church



### Congregazione delle Cause dei Santi

About noon on August 1, 2020 nine were named for the Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

The press office of the Holy See announced today - the Pope counted among the consultors of the pontifical organ Sister Nicoletta Vittoria Spezzati, previously under secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; Bernard Dompnier, member of the Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences; Pierantonio Piatti, official of the same Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences; Matteo Nacci, History of Law professor at the Pontifical Lateran University; Giselda Adornato, collaborator of the Milan Diocesan Historical Archives and the Paul VI International Institute; Simona Negruzzo, professor of modern history at the University of Bologna.

Our warmest congratulations to Sister Nicla for her service to the Holy Church.



On September 25, 2020, the Archbishop of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie communicated appointments and transfers to the diocesan church. *After adequate discernment carried out with the involvement of the organisms of participation and through valuable discussion with the priests and deacons concerned, I announce the following dispositions regarding several appointments and transfers relating to diocesan positions and offices: Sister Domenica Scalera, ASC, is appointed Episcopal Delegate for Consecrated Life.*

We wish her fruitful service for the aforementioned portion of the Church.

Region of Wrocław

## “ASC Charism: a Flame for New Life ...”

**“The Blood of Jesus grabs us; Love, of which this Blood is expression, measure, and pledge, urges us”**

Sr. Caterina Ronci, ASC

My stay in Italy was accompanied by the Gospel passage of the “multiplication of the loaves of bread.” I often remember it, but not for the number of people fed or the baskets of leftovers. I thought about that boy who brought five loaves and two fish. It seemed like a joke, like nonsense. In the face of such need, there is someone so poor and insignificant as that boy. I felt like a little girl.

In my sharing of the experience of participation at the seminar for Sisters close to final vows, it is not a matter of setting up a clear division between “extraordinary” and daily life, “normal” life, that is, during and after the seminar. In looking back, I think of finding a balance between the ideal and reality. For me in this search, the experience of INTERNATIONALITY was important. The older Sisters gave me the hope that you can live well as ASCs without losing that initial enthusiasm. This is a witness for me of being immersed in the Blood of Christ, from which the constant desire of working for the neighbor is born.

In a quickly changing world, it is easy to think that our ideal of life as ASCs, our lifestyle, our spirituality are outdated, not current, that we have nothing more to give ... due to Covid-19, because we are getting old, because there are no vocations.... There is the temptation of

watering down our charism or closing in upon ourselves. But, the exaltation of the frustration does not belong to the DEEP IDENTITY of the ASCs. The experience of INTERNATIONALITY revealed new horizons of beauty to me that are present in the diversity of cultures, mentalities, ways of looking at the world. There is no fear in this, because our paschal joy reaches us more in the depths of death and leads us to the resurrection.

Every generation, including my own generation of ASC WOMEN, believes that in the current times there is a specific apocalypse. And this is true. This is the effort of embodying the ideal of life every day, of listening to the cry of the Blood of Christ. It is not easy, but it is possible to do it. Living the ideals as ASCs does not depend on our age, nationality or education, but by the state of our hearts that are in love with Christ who poured out all of His Blood for us

At the end of this reflection I want to quote a passage from Thomas à Kempis, “Who, having humbly approached the very source of sweetness, does not bring back a little bit of sweetness; who, standing next to a big fire, does not feel a bit of its heat? Now, you are the always-full, always-overflowing source; you are the ever-burning fire that never goes out.”



Sr. Tatiana Studentowa, ASC

## ***A Time for Creation***

The Season of Creation is a time for awareness and reflection to renew our relationship with all creation and the Creator through celebration and common commitment. During this time, we unite in prayer and action for the care of the Earth, our common home.

The Christian Churches have proclaimed September 1 a Day of Prayer for Creation and the World Council of Churches has extended this celebration from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

This year, among the crises caused by the pandemic that has shaken the world, we are moved by the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and among people. During the Season of Creation in this particular year we want to promote an opportunity for healing and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, which requires radically new ways of living and relating with people and nature.

Pope Francis, in No. 3 of the Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2020 stated that "The current pandemic has somehow led us to rediscover simpler and more sustainable lifestyles. The crisis, in a sense, has given us the opportunity to develop new ways of living. It has been possible to see how the Earth can recover if we allow it to rest... We must take advantage of this decisive moment to put an end to superfluous and destructive activities and goals, and cultivate generative values, bonds and projects," and he invited everyone to promote initiatives at the global and local levels for the care of the common home and the poor.

Among the categories solicited are religious communities.

We are therefore challenged to convert our lifestyles, to work together intra and extra to promote a new relationship with the environment and the weaker sections of humanity, to promote and implement projects to raise awareness of good practices and eco-sustainable proposals, and of course to implement them.

The ASC Region of Italy has always been sensitive to these issues and has always been invited to promote paths of deepening, awareness and conversion of lifestyles, in response to the appeals of the General Assemblies, those of the Church, but also of international organizations (for example the UN) that have long urged us. The Assemblies of the Italian Region have always promoted the diffusion in local communities of an "active" spirituality of creation, made up of awareness, participation, information and implementation of new lifestyles that are more aware and respectful of the environment. There is a continuous invitation to experiment with daily life practices that change the widespread model of consumption and make us aware that each of our actions generates a significant impact on the "created system," to build a network between religious communities and associations to act in favor of the "common home."

Communities have responded based on the sensitivity of the sisters, either by implementing projects and programs in parishes and schools, or by spreading their thinking through social networks to reach as many people as possible. This has happened in a widespread way during the pastoral and school year, not properly during the month of September, since in Italy this month is a time of resumption of school and parish activities and more properly dedicated to programming, especially in this year a little more ... complicated. However, all communities have been invited to pray and find the deepest motivation to expand their commitment to the custody of creation.

***Sr. Maria Teresa Intranuovo, ASC***



**General Administration Calendar**



**November 9-10-12:** Sr. Nadia Coppa attends the Plenary Assembly of UISG

**November 17-18-19:** Sr. Nadia attends the USMI National Assembly

**Birthdays:  
Let's celebrate life**

<u>40</u>	<b>Sr. Jocilene Bentes de Carvalho</b>	11/22/1980	Manaus
<u>50</u>	<b>Sr. Nada Grgić</b>	11/24/1970	Zagreb
<u>70</u>	<b>Sr. Barbara Hudock</b>	11/04/1950	USA
	<b>Sr. Karolina Miljak</b>	11/14/1950	Zagreb
	<b>Sr. Seong Soon Anna Kim</b>	11/16/1950	USA
<u>80</u>	<b>Sr. JoAnn Mark</b>	11/21/1940	USA
	<b>Sr. Serena Downs</b>	11/22/1940	USA
	<b>Sr. Giovanna Goduti</b>	11/22/1940	Italy
	<b>Sr. Maria Orlando</b>	11/23/1940	Italy
<u>90</u>	<b>Sr. Augusta Fessler</b>	11/01/1930	Schaan
	<b>Sr. Gabrielle Rowe</b>	11/22/1930	USA



**They have returned  
to their Heavenly  
Home**

10/01/2020	<b>Sr. Rafaela (Iva) Milić</b>	Zagreb
10/06/2020	<b>Sr. Jadwiga Kata</b>	Wrocław
10/13/2020	<b>Sr. Rosina Fusco</b>	Italy
10/14/2020	<b>Sr. Rosa Esposito</b>	Italy
10/21/2020	<b>Sr. Maria D'Avila Martins Guimarães</b>	Manaus
10/21/2020	<b>Sr. Antonietta Silvestre</b>	Italy
10/31/2020	<b>Sr. Margaret Knoeber</b>	USA

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