

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

www.adoratrici-asc.org

redazioneasc@adoratrici-asc.org

The Beauty of Commitment of Consecrated Life

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple XXVII World Day of Consecrated Life

Our eyes "have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles." (Lk 2: 30-32)

The 25th World Day of Consecrated Life was celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple, the feast of encounter.

For us religious it is a day filled with meaning. We give thanks, recall and renew our commitment to live the single commandment to love God with passion in the diversity of charisms and ministries. The love of God moves us to the unconditional gift of ourselves for our brothers and sisters, especially for those who are experiencing situations of poverty and vulnerability – God's favorites. It is the celebrative event that lets us exalt the beauty of consecrated life and remember the gift and call to a radical and generative following of Christ.

In the East, today's feast is call Feast of the Encounter since in the episode at the temple we observe various encounters. (cfr. Lk 2:22-40) Jesus comes to encounter humanity as humanity is reaching out to Him. We contemplate the encounter with the elderly Simeon, who

represents Israel's faithful expectation and the heartfelt joy at the fulfillment of the promises of old. We also admire the encounter with the elderly prophetess Anna who, in seeing the Child, rejoices and praises God. Simeon and Anna are expectation and prophecy; Jesus is the newness and fulfillment.



Table of Contents **Editorial** ♦ Walking Together The Beauty of Commitment of Consecrated Life ◆ The Blood of Christ Lights the Fire of Love 8 **General Administration Space** JPIC/VIVAT Space In the Blood of Christ . . . Steps of Synodality 3 ♦ JPIC/VIVAT Activities in the Delegation of Schaan ♦ Post-Meeting Reflections In the Congregation From the ASC World ♦ General Administration Calendar 11 5 Crib Finds Another Home ♦ Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life 11 ♦ UHSP Leadership Award 5 They Have Returned to their Heavenly Home 11 Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Venerable John Merlini

By vocation, we Adorers of the Blood of Christ are women of the covenant and are called to be crafters of relationships, ready to live the "mysticism of encounter." At the very source of our vocation there is an encounter and, from the grace of that gaze that encountered us and from the intimate communion set up by the Precious Blood of Jesus, our life has become an unconditional response of love. Since that encounter, our lives thrive in perpetual transfiguration to adopt the heart of Christ in the experience of our unconditional gift of self and to live in newness the call to collaborate in the redemption of humanity, in the generative power of Christ's Blood.

With our gaze fixed on Jesus who makes all things new, we journey in this world in the constant commitment to encourage everyone to the good in order to promote that growth in humanity that we all hope for. By virtue of this encounter, life has become a witness: we are impelled to be promoters of the culture of encounter by overcoming all forms of self-absorption and widening the space of the tent to welcome all.

At this particular moment in history, in the dynamism of the Church, we are taking up the call to live our synodal vocation more intensely and with renewed awareness as we go through a time characterized by obvious forms of polarization, racism, conflict and intolerance, and new forms of poverty that debase human beings.

God calls us to make our presence visible and to give "voice" and concreteness to the gift of our lives, so that the light of hope and prophecy will continue to shine in the history of humanity.

Therefore, on the day dedicated to consecrated life, we wish to reaffirm our choice and commitment to together embrace the future with hope in order to live the Gospel of Jesus with readiness and freedom in the newness of the Precious Blood as we widen the space of our tent to welcome all, especially those who feel

We commit ourselves to support and accompany paths of liberation of people experiencing abuse, violence and all forms of

or are excluded.

exploitation and enslavement, to foster the dignity of every human person..

We wish to translate the Gospel of welcome, solidarity and sharing into concrete, simple, everyday gestures. These values reveal the beauty and greatness of the dignity of sons and daughters of God. We are all its beneficiaries, without discrimination.

We commit ourselves so that every reality we experience may become a creative space of new relationships, of integration among all the diversities that coexist in our country, so that the light of salvation may illuminate all faces and "all may have life and have it in abundance" (Jn. 10:10).

As Adorers of the Blood of Christ, we want to reiterate that true sorority/fraternity is communion steeped with inclusion, the most human place where we are called to grow in the experience of inclusive belonging, aware that we are called to put the word "together" back to its central place. "For it is together, in fraternity and solidarity, that we build peace, ensure justice and emerge from the greatest disasters. ... Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises." (Pope Francis, Message for the 56th Day of Prayer for Peace)

Through our efforts we, too, can bring the light of Christ, which is the hope of all peoples.

Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC

General Administration Space-

ې the Blood of Christ ... Steps of Synodality



At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, the General Administration welcomed five congregations inspired by the spirituality of the Blood of Christ for a synodal meeting with the theme: "In the Blood of Christ... Steps of Synodality."

The meeting was proposed by Sr. Nadia and Fr. Emanuele and designed as part of the triduum in preparation for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Merlini.

The Superior General of the Daughters of Charity of the Precious Blood, Sr. Alfonsa Bove, with a councilor; Sr. Giusy, General Councilor of the Precious Blood Sisters of Monza; the Superior General and two sisters of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood from Poland; along with the ASC General Administration and that of the CPPS missionaries, Fathers Emanuele, Alois and Juan Cuna, arrived almost at the same time. Four other congregations had been invited: two from the United States (O'Fallon and Dayton), the Handmaids of the Most Holy Blood from Manoppello, and the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (CPS), but declined at the last moment.

Sr. Nadia, and then Fr. Emanuele, welcomed the participants and presented the objective of the meeting as a time together to get to know each other with each group sharing about itself, its Institute and the way it expresses its spirituality. It was moving to see the commonality of language and experiences of service to which sharing the same spirituality leads us. Words such as covenant, Paschal Lamb, life, dignity of the person, reconciliation, intercession, chalice, cross, and Eucharist bring us together under one tent. Each congregation is located in a place where the others are not. This guarantees us the presence of the spirituality of the Blood of Christ called to bless and redeem every people, language and nation. In the global worldview, each congregation becomes an extension of the other.

Sr. Maria Grazia led an opening prayer and Sr Nadia shared a PowerPoint reflection on the theme "Enlarging the space of your tent, a synthesis of Synodality." After sharing, the participants tried their hand at the experience of building a real tent, sharing their feelings and reflections. When faced with such an ordeal, it was surprising to discover that there was no instruction manual. To set up the tent we had to rely on each other's intuitions and each other's spirit of initiative. It was a real time of grace in which we got to know each other and were able to relate concretely. We experienced mutual trust, openness, acceptance, the need to be open to other people's ideas, and openness to change our own. We also understood how the need to take risks, the importance of dialogue and the need for mutual presence is fundamental for a project to find fulfillment.

The experience was followed by lunch, a congenial time shared with the international community, and then a time for decisions on the possible path of delving into and getting to know one's own richness. The questions on which the group was invited to reflect were: What is the prophecy of the Blood of Christ today? What synodal paths are there among us and outside of us?

The commitments we made are to prepare a webpage together to communicate and share the experience with other members of our respective congregations and then an online retreat day during Lent. The meeting ended in the late afternoon with gratitude and joy.

Sr. Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC





Post-Meeting Reflections

Responding to the invitation of Sr. Nadia Coppa ASC, Superior General of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, and Fr. Emanuele Lupi CPPS, Moderator General of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, we attended a meeting of the Precious Blood Family (January 10-12, 2023). The goal was to strengthen our communion by sharing the Precious Blood spirituality and experiences that have strengthened our membership in this spiritual Family.

The meeting was attended by Sr. Gabriela Wabnic, Superior General; Sr. Dominika Burnos, General Councilor; and Sr Bernadetta Burek. After a welcome and presentation of the purpose of the meeting by the organizers and an opening prayer, each participant shared information about themselves, the congregation they belong to and their charismatic identity.

The sisters shared how they themselves, personally and communally, contemplate, live and witness the Blood of Christ.

Contemplation of God; the most powerful expression of God's love for us is the Blood of Christ shed on the cross, which we seek to see and adore in our daily lives - the sisters participate daily in the Eucharist and devote at least one hour a day to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Life - community; what unites us is a common ideal, mission and love for the Church. By living the mystery of the Blood of Christ, we make Jesus present in our midst. This is facilitated by meditating on God's Word in community and

sharing the experience of the Word's power in daily life.

Witness-mission; everything is an opportunity for mission: prayer, work, spiritual retreats, days of recollection, devotion in honor of the Precious Blood, encountering others (especially the abandoned and lost).

We are grateful, especially to God and the organizers, for our participation in this meeting, because we were able to experience that we are part of a spiritual family that in so many ways lives out the love of the Blood of Christ. The diversity and beauty of each community enriched us and made us grateful for the gift of the spirituality of the Precious Blood in our congregations and, through us, to the whole Church.

Sr. Gabriela, sr. Dominika, sr. Bernadette



Continental Area: the Americas
21SA Region

Crib Finds Another Home

The maintenance and housekeeping crews at Ruma carefully packed and moved the iconic, priceless, and historic crib to Benedictine Living Community in Belleville, Illinois so that the sisters and other residents could enjoy its unique artistry. Several stories from oral tradition maintain that the crib was purchased from Germany, that it was given to the sisters by the

rector of the Belleville cathedral, and that it was purchased for the cathedral and proved to be too small for that space. It did indeed come from Germany. The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in Donaldson, Indiana, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Louis have similar nativity

Sebastian Osterrieder (1864-1932) was a German artist who specialized in creating cribs in the eastern style. He spent several years in the Holy Land to make his crib figures true to an eastern background. The statues are really small dolls, exquisitely crafted and clothed in material treated to maintain a graceful stiffness. The peace and serenity of the total crib scene are reflected in the expressions of the individual statues.

Pleased to see the familiar Community treasure once again, several sisters commented that they're happy it's at the entrance of the chapel at Benedictine Living Community so that all can see it. One sister remarked that she's delighted it's traveling with us since Jesus was on the move during His life. It will return to Ruma after the Christmas season.

Sr. Regina Siegfried, ASC

cribs.

UHSP Leadership Award

President David Allen, along with the University's Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees, established the University of Health Science and Pharmacy (UHSP): Sr. Mary Louise Degenhart, B.S. '60 President's Leadership Award. President Allen presented the inaugural award to Sr. Mary Louise during Founders' Weekend on Saturday, November 12, 2022, in the presence of community and family members, pharmacy colleagues, and other friends.

The award was created to recognize UHSP alumni who by their actions have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to UHSP and exemplary leadership within the community as well as impacting the profession of pharmacy. This award represents the highest honor bestowed by the University and is reserved for those who share and demonstrate UHSP's values of discovery, diversity, inclusion, integrity, respect, and service. Her commitment to pharmacy has stemmed from her unwavering commitment to people: her patients, her pharmacy colleagues, and those within the UHSP family and alumni community whose lives she has touched.

In response to receiving the award, Sr. Mary Louise commented: "Thank you, President

Allen, for establishing and naming the UHSP Leadership Award in my name and presenting me with the inaugural award. Gratitude to the Board of Trustees for your affirmation.



Those of you who are leaders now, like Paul and Sonalie, those of you who desire to embark on developing your leadership, and I know that it cannot happen on our own. We cherish and give thanks to our family members and teachers for their loving care and support that set us on the path to leadership. Collaborating and networking with colleagues who challenge and question us enables refinement of our leadership style.

"Finding the career path on which we strive to serve wholeheartedly the welfare of others helps bring leadership to maturity. With family and teacher support, colleague networking and career focus, your leadership ministry and work of hands, heart, mind and person will be blest. Thank you."

Sr. Mary Louise Degenhart, ASC

Continental Area: Europe Region of Italy

150th Anniversary of the Death of Venerable John Merlini

To celebrate the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of Venerable Fr. John Merlini, the General Administration of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and the General Curia of the C.PP.S Missionaries came up with the idea of an afternoon panel discussion with the theme: "John Merlini...in the Footsteps of the Blood." Fr Mario Proietti, CPPS, helped us with his beautiful and rich presentation to rediscover the Venerable as an extraordinary man in the ordinary, an extraordinariness that drew from a deep relationship with God and a nourished life of prayer.

Fr. John Francilia, CPPS, presented him to us as a man of government, for which he also prepared St. Maria De Mattias, his disciple for over 40 years. Merlini's being a man of government was combined with a great aptitude for discernment that characterized him from ordinary choices to the extraordinary and more important ones. Sister Emilia Salvi, ASC, presented us with the figure of Merlini united with the art of discernment - an artist of a discernment who always started from listening to the Word of God and aimed at the good of

of the two Congregations. Sister Anna Grazia Di Liddo, ASC, in

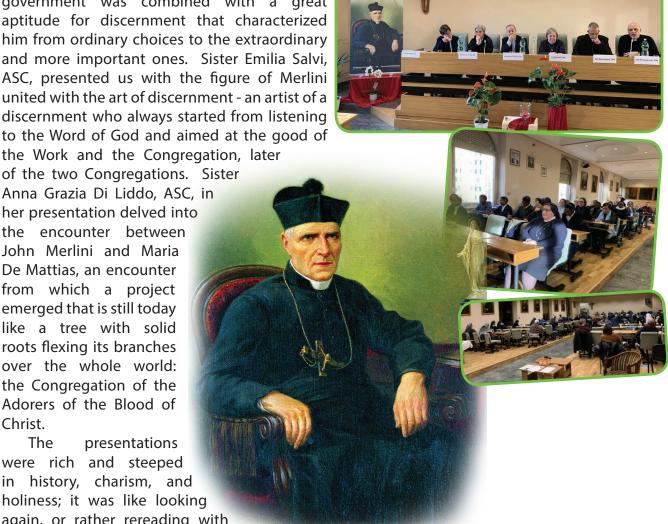
her presentation delved into the encounter between John Merlini and Maria De Mattias, an encounter from which a project emerged that is still today like a tree with solid roots flexing its branches over the whole world: the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of

The presentations were rich and steeped in history, charism, and holiness; it was like looking again, or rather rereading with

Christ.

greater attention and awareness "a family album" starting from the roots, from the beginnings, retracing the labors to reach to our today. We know well the holiness of this man of balance, wisdom, discernment, but also his "character." We hope that as soon as possible he can be set up as a model for the whole Church as a beacon that illuminates and still continues to accompany. Let us make these words of his our own and continue the journey: "The facts assure us that the work is from God and that God wills it, and makes use of a reed such as you....Courage and not bewilderment." (Letter to MDM No. 391).

Sr. Agnese Gizzi, ASC



Walking Together

The 43rd pilgrimage of the Archdiocese of Wrocław, under the motto "Let's Go Together, "to the tomb of St. Jadwiga in Trzebnica, was organized on the eve of the feast of St. Jadwiga of Silesia, which is celebrated on October 16. Jadwiga came from Bavaria and was married at a young age to Henryk I Brodaty, Duke of Wrocław. She gave birth to seven children and was famous for her activities on behalf of the sick and poor.

The motto "Let's Go Together" is meant

emphasize that despite different opinions even on matters related to the Catholic Church, the faithful have a common goal. For believers. the pilgrimage an extremely important event during which they manifest can their faith but also spend time with their neighbors.

The pilgrimage began at 6 a.m. with a service in the Wrocław Cathedral. The pilgrims left divided into more than 20 groups. They had more than 30 kilometers to travel.

On the road from Wrocław to Trzebnica, many families could be seen, even with very young children in strollers. Students walked alongside the Scouts and Girl Scouts; the elderly walked along with clergy and nuns.

The pilgrims were joined by Sr. Teresa Jaszczyszyn, ASC, and Sr. Bożena Matomisz, ASC, who were walking with a group of students from Wawrzyny. During the pilgrimage route, Sr. Teresa shared our spirituality and charism and introduced the participants to the life of St. Maria De Mattias. Together with the pilgrims, we prayed the Chaplet of the Precious Blood for the intentions entrusted to us. Sister Beata Płowaś,

ASC, on the other hand, made the pilgrimage in the Franciscan group with her entrusted persons from the Wrocław Care and Education Center.

The pilgrimage ended with the Eucharist in Trzebnica, celebrated by the Archbishop of Wrocław, Msgr. Józef Kupny. During his homily, the archbishop invited all participants to open their hearts to God, who by entering people's lives with his love, transforms them and gives them the strength to perform noble works of love

and mercy.

He stressed, "In order to be able to say with the apostle Paul, 'But now it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me,' we must first invite him into our hearts. Such an opportunity is offered by participation in the Eucharist, which by its nature is communion, that is, the deepest union with Christ. Through

participation in the Eucharist, we begin to look at the world around us, all the events of our lives, our own families and neighbors, with the eyes of Jesus himself, and begin to feel and love with his heart. St. Jadwiga, who managed to find time every day to attend Mass, is an example for us in all this."

By participating in a pilgrimage, a person can

experience Christian joy, a family atmosphere and the spirit of prayer. Above all, it is a time for singing, prayer, concentration, silence and even simple human conversation. It is a time for God and each other.

Sr. Bozena Matomisz, ASC

Continental Area: Europe Region of Mroclaw

The Blood of Christ Lights the Fire of Love



A formation meeting was held at the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of Christ house in Częstochowa October 21-23. The meeting began with a solemn Eucharist in honor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo with the CPPS Missionaries at the Shrine of the

Blood of Christ. After Mass we were invited to a play about St. Gaspar del Bufalo under the title: The Stranger.

The next day, after Mass and common prayer we listened to a talk by Fr. Daniel Mokwa, CPPS, Provincial Superior. In his talk he spoke about the Blood of Christ igniting the fire of love, illustrating this reality using the experience of our Founders. In the first part of his talk, he emphasized that the life of the Blood of Christ is, or should be, the dominant motif of our life and realization of the Paschal Mystery.

Fr. Daniel recalled that for St. Maria De Mattias, a glance at the Cross was enough to find the inner peace that allowed her to forgive. In contrast, St. Gaspar wrote that one glance at the Divine Blood is enough and it shakes us so that we can act with untiring zeal and a true spirit of God.

One look at the Divine Blood is often not enough for us; we need more glances at the Divine Blood, more prayers. We need to live the spirituality of the Blood of Christ day by day. One could say that living the spirituality of the Blood

of Christ is a way of dealing with crises and difficulties that St. Gaspar recommended to his missionaries. They were to think and remember the Blood of Christ to have strength in difficulties, in daily spiritual and apostolic struggles. Our vocation is to complete "what is lacking in Christ's suffering," that is, to sacrifice for the work of salvation together with Christ, offering our life and blood as a sign of love for God and humanity. For ourselves, to love Christ

Crucified and to give the Risen Christ to others.

Fr. Daniel explained that the term "Cry of Blood" is a call to sensitivity to the needs of others. He encouraged us to seek the answer to the questions, "Where do we hear the Cry of the Blood in our particular situation or social and cultural context?" "How can we respond to this Cry of the Blood in our ministry?" These questions should accompany us in our reflection on our apostolate.

The next part of the formation meeting was led by Sr. Ewa Kleps, ASC Regional Superior, who shared her personal experience of the Extended General Council retreat experience and information. She presented the material to be prepared in the communities for XXII General Assembly as a result of the work of the Preparatory Commission.

During the meeting, the sisters actively listened to the content of the difficulties or challenges facing our congregation. Sr. Ewa invited the sisters to reflect in their communities on the material presented and give answers to the questions.

The last day of the formation meeting coincided with the conclusion of the general visit of the CPPS Missionaries. We had lunch together with them after the solemn Mass and at the end we took a photo as a wonderful memory of the event.

Sr. Beata Płowaś, ASC



VIVAT / JPIC Activities in the Delegation of Schaan

1. Prayer

Our personal and community prayer, our prayer services are very often shaped by our concern for the vulnerable people like the poor, refugees, suppressed people, especially women, marginalized groups and many others. We also have special prayers for creation, in the Season of Creation and other opportunities. We are grateful for the suggested prayers of CIS - VIVAT/JPIC. This unites us with the whole congregation.



2. Awareness raising



In spite of the sisters` ages they are really interested to receive knowledge about the real situation of our world and society. We inform ourselves through different media (newspapers, TV, radio, internet, talks regarding to these topics, newsletter of VIVAT). We share the received information and sensitize each other for the different situations in our world.

The contact person for VIVAT/JPIC shared the received information with the sisters, whenever it was possible. Some sisters could share their knowledge with the laity in seminars. They integrate these topics of VIVAT/JPIC sometimes also in a

holistic way. They invite others to outdoor activities and reflection in our big garden. The sister responsible for catechism also integrated some practical steps in the preparation of the children and young people for First Communion and Confirmation.

3. Sharing with the Poor and the Refugees



We try to live a simple lifestyle and share our goods with the poor. Especially in this time of pandemic we were asked by so many people, groups and organizations because they were in very difficult financial situations. We shared our goods also for projects within our congregation as much as possible.

This year we had to restructure our guesthouse and we invested much time, work and finances to support the poor directly with necessary furniture and many other things to be reused.

We helped the refugees from the Ukraine in sending money to our sisters in Poland to support

them in their big endeavor to welcome the refugees in their houses. Also, the municipality of Schaan donated a big amount to support our Polish sisters in helping the refugees.



"With hearts attentive to the cry of the Blood, we care for our common home, and protect the life and dignity of every person." (GA acts 2017)

In our daily life we try to save energy, water and many other consumable items, for example reducing the waste of paper. We reduce making copies and prints.



We use secondhand clothes and many other secondhand items. We try to reduce the trash and separate it for a better recycling. We started to reduce especially all kinds of plastic. For example, we produce soap, shampoo, toothpaste, creams for the skin with natural ingredients and use it in the communities and we sell it on the market. Hereby we reduce plastic from the containers and also microplastics from the content. And it is also healthier. To sell other homemade products, like jams, liqueurs or spaces, we reuse glass

containers and glass bottles.

5. Biodiversity



Normally we have seasonal and regional food. We plant vegetables in our garden although this is much more expensive, because we need the help of gardeners and also have to pay their salary. But in this way, we also can offer work places.

We also produced big "hotels" for wild bees and insects to support and promote biodiversity.

We participated in a big event within the village with the topic of biodiversity. One of the activities was to create "seed bombs" together with children and youth. These seed bombs can be thrown especially in places in the cities,



where no green or flowers are growing and biodiversity is reduced.

In renovating the house, we decided to heat with renewable energy, a

heat pump and solar panels to make this pump

function. We decided on this big investment although the costs are higher than an oil heating.

We could add many things in which we try to help to protect the climate and our planet and we love to be creative in this activity to care for our Common Home!



Schaan, November 2022

Sr. Elisabeth Müller, ASCDelegation of Schaan

General Administration Calendar



January 26 - February 20: Sr. Nadia and Sr. Bridget are in India

February 4: Feast of St. Maria De Mattias, Holy Mass with Radio Maria



Sr. Kariattil Elsie Sr. Akkunnath Kochuthresia Sr. Vadakumcherry Mary Sr. Kunnackal Mariamma Sr. Muttel Mariamma Sr. Vithayathil Rosamma Sr. Vazhayil Salomie

for their **50**th anniversary as consecrated women religious among the ASCs

> Sr. Jojl Chirakandathil Sr. Josephine Mary

for their 25th anniversary as consecrated women reliaious amona the ASCs

Best wishes to the new administration of the Region of Tanzania

Sr. Lucina John Gadiyet - Regional Superior

Sr. Florida Evarist Malenda - Regional Councilor

Sr. Suzana Damian Maingu - Regional Councilor

Sr. Caritas Aloyce Kilawe – Regional Councilor

Sr. Anastazia Floriani Kondrad- Regional Secretary

Sr. Stella Joseph Ghamayu- Regional Treasurer

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

40th Birthday

<u> </u>		
Sr. Veromina G. W. Julius Kisiri 50 th Birthday	02/03/1983	Tanzania
Sr. Michelle Woodruff	02/23/1973	USA
<u>70th Birthday</u>		
Sr. Alfonza Duspara	02/01/1953	Zagreb
Sr. Ana Iveljić	02/21/1953	Zagreb
80 th Birthday		
Sr. Joan Weiler	02/26/1943	USA
90 th Birthday		
Sr. Teresa Forese	02/04/1933	Italy
Sr. Maria Sabatina Luongo	02/04/1933	Italy

They have returned to their Heavenly Home

01/08/2023 01/08/2023

Sr. Bina Fioretti

Sr. Teresa Cellamare

Sr. Orazia Melillo

Sr. Ann Frances Gross

Italy **USA**

02/09/1933

02/19/1933



Monthly Communication

edited by the

Adorers of the Blood of Christ International Communications – General Administration Via Maria De Mattias, 10 - 00183 ROME

Year XXV, Issue 2, February 2023

Editorial Committee Maria Grazia Boccamazzo, ASC **Debora Brunetti**

Translations by

S. Renata Vukadin - Croatian

S. Betty Adams - English

S. Anastazia Floriani - Swahili

S. Bozena Hulisz - Polish

S. Clara Albuquerque - Portuguese

S. Miriam Ortiz - Spanish

S. Johanna Rubin - German

Italy

Italy