

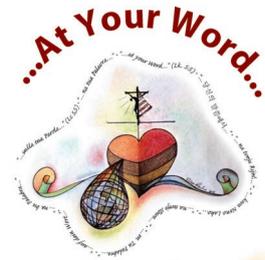
International Newsletter

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

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Celebrating Diversity on the Synodal Path

UISG, May 5, 2023



On May 5, 2023, an international group of 44 formation directors, participants in the UISG Programme for the Preparation of Formators celebrated *Cultural Day*. The Eucharistic Celebration began the day, which incorporated many cultural expressions in song, dance and prayer in different languages. Representing 35 religious congregations in 24 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania, the sisters prepared an exhibit of artifacts from their countries, presented a program of their cultural dances and songs, and provided delicious home-cooked foods, which gave a “taste” of their cultures.

The Theme of the day was **Celebrating Diversity on the Synodal Journey**. Sister Nadia Coppa, UISG President, was invited to offer the inspirational message to the formators and their guests. She said that the day “is an opportunity to celebrate life, an experience to value diversity, and to bless the Lord for the richness and uniqueness of each of you. The formative experience you are having is transforming your personal lives and it will have a very significant impact on the future life of your communities.”

Inspired by the theme of the cultural day, two important aspects were emphasized that we are called to live as consecrated women:

1. ON THE SYNODAL JOURNEY: we are left with the new way of being in relationship:

universal friendship.

2. DIVERSITY: the call to live unity in plurality remains

ON THE SYNODAL JOURNEY: we are left with the new way of being in relationship: universal friendship

We are living in a unique historical moment. We are moved by the Spirit who is renewing our way of being Church, of living community, of being religious. The synodal journey, which we are walking-on with new awareness, urges us to be together, to walk together, to build relationships in a new way.

Synodality is a path of transformation because it calls us to move from the “I” to the “we”. It is a process of inclusion because we can recognize, as Pope Francis has said, that “we need one another, that our greatest treasure, even if most fragile, is our human communion, based on the fact we are all children of God, and that we cannot save ourselves.”

Synodality is not a road mapped out in advance. It requires us to be open to the unexpectedness of God who, through listening to others, comes to touch us, to shake us, to change us.” (Nathalie Becquart - Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops)

Entering into synodality means accepting to set out, to live as pilgrims in a pilgrim Church, to be open to including others in our journey, in our interior life, accepting that this makes us vulnerable but transforms us into newness.

Editorial

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"Synodality is 'a dancing together' in which all, through living dialogue and sharing in trust, move in relationship with each other, listening to each other and to the music of the Spirit in common." It is the art of a Church that allows herself to be renewed to become increasingly relational, inclusive, dialogical and generative.

Synodality is an experience of incarnation that places us in a listening stance to the real, to the cry of the poor and to the needs of the world.

We believe that this cross-cultural experience you are having is a unique opportunity to experience the value of walking together, in mutual listening, participation, and common mission for the Kingdom is transforming you to be ready to share these strong values with others in your reality.

A key element in understanding Pope Francis' vision of synodality is the action of the Holy Spirit and the recognition of the diversity of charisms ... the richness of each person on a synodal journey.

2. DIVERSITY: the call to live unity in plurality

Today we are here to celebrate the value of diversity as an opportunity for growth, recognizing that diversity is one of the fundamental values of our time.

We each have our own language, our own customs, and our own way of living the same values, and I think there is no more beautiful thing in the world than to try to share all of that. What unites us is precisely the fact that we are all different from each other and that we are part of one big family, that of human beings.

Diversity, should not be seen as a problem, but as an opportunity to open up to a new criterion and new way of thinking. It is necessary to understand that the beauty is precisely in being able to engage people who are totally different from us in order to learn, to grasp many new things and to expand our knowledge.

The future of international religious life depends significantly on the ability of each community to live interculturally; to integrate diversity and to welcome every culture. There are no cultures that are better or worse, none that are dominant or inferior. Every culture is an enrichment for the Church body and for individual congregations.

Pope Francis speaks of the richness of the Church, describing it as a wonderful polyhedron,

a many-sided figure. In this way, by learning from one another, we can better reflect that marvelous polyhedron that the Church of Jesus Christ must be. It can attract young people precisely because it is not a monolithic unity, but a network of varied gifts that the Spirit is constantly flows into it, making it ever new despite its vulnerabilities and poverty." (Francis, *Christus vivit*, 206-207)

Living and making space for diversity is the call to deepen communion. In our world today we experience the need for a unity that embraces all humanity and the whole of creation. The challenge is to "accept the world as a sacrament of communion" (*Laudato Si'*, 9) and to live in the fullest sense of this truth. Unity in diversity is the way of the future, a journey for all of us that we begin anew each day. We are committed as individuals and as congregations to broaden our understanding of interculturality and to live mission more cross-culturally.

We realize that living cross-culturally "requires daily new beginnings in dialogue, appreciation, acceptance and humility" to build "relationships of equality and compassion." Becoming intercultural involves new learning and patient listening, seeing with new eyes and engaging in ongoing conversion. In this process, we reach out, grow and become more mature and capable of promoting unity in a divided world. Cross-cultural life is a discipleship, a journey of faith. It is God's mission and together we are called and sent to deepen communion. For in God's eyes we are "united in a wonderful universal communion." (*Laudato Si'*, 220)

I am grateful to God for the richness of each of you! You are a gift to your congregations, to religious life, to the Church and to all humanity. Walk together with others, without excluding anyone, especially those who are struggling.

Be seeds of hope, salt of the earth and light of the world.... Do not be afraid to be a prophetic sign of communion in a torn and divided, polarized and armed world. Be ready to share your life without counting the cost ... but give of yourselves without measure: you are a treasure.

Be simple as doves and cautious as serpents. Be fire that kindles other fires.

*Sr. Nadia Coppa, ASC
UISG President*

Love for Nature

Following the encouragement of Pope Francis and so many calls in favor of Amazonia, the ASCs of the Regional House and the Nazareth House in Manaus are devoting much energy, now more than before, to the care of Mother Nature and with greater commitment.

After considering that there is a large piece of land around the house but few means to keep it beautiful and fruitful, Sisters Edna Braga, M. Claudette Pereira, M. Clara de Albuquerque, M. Augusta de Souza and Analice Vieira... decided to:

- collect fruit scraps to make decorations and to fertilize the land;
- fight pests that destroy plants;
- provide protection for the plants when the weather is too hot or during heavy rains;
- prepare the soil for sowing seeds.

So many people admire our plants and want to buy them, both the ornamental and the medicinal ones.

We have given names to the plants at the Precious Blood convent in Manaus:

- Mary's smile
- Crown of thorns
- Jacob's ladder
- You and me
- Entrance to the ball
- Ball exit
- Desert rose (various colors)
- Amaryllis
- Pink jasmine
- Strawflower
- Lilies
- Four o'clocks



And many others whose names we don't know in Italian. This fills our hearts with gratitude to God for the beauty of creation, the diversity of plants and flowers, fragrances and colors that allows us to decorate our chapel.

Sr. Clara joyfully takes the most beautiful plants and flowers into chapel for Jesus and Mary.

Sr. Marilia Menezes, ASC
Sr. Maria Clara de Albuquerque, ASC

70th Anniversary of the Precious Blood School in Manaus

Even today, the courage of Sr. Julitta Elsen, ASC, is still a source of gratitude and admiration. In 1947, she, along with other Adorers from North America, came to Brazil to start our Mission, beginning many works. Among them is the Precious Blood School in Manaus.

Today we praise God for the 70 years of life of our Precious Blood School. To mark the occasion Sr. Marilia Menezes, ASC, had the idea to interview the current Director and long-time friend of the ASCs, Mrs. Alice Melo.

It was interesting to find out that the parents of Director Alice Melo, were from Coari and that Alice was helped by the ASCs and especially by Sr. Xavier Ponce, whose example influenced her life. It was Sr. Bernadette Machado, ASC, at that time Director of the Precious Blood School, who invited her to come to work in Manaus from her former place of employment, St. Maria De Mattias School.

Alice is married and the mother of two children, ages 25 and 27. She majored in Educational Supervision at UFAM University. In our school she continues to educate and evangelize in communion with our ASC family.

Alice is grateful for the Sisters' welcome and for the trust of the Adorers who have made her feel like a daughter. She thanks God for our mission and prays that we continue with this beautiful work.

In the past, many Adorers have worked in the Precious Blood School. So many Sisters have set an example of love for children and youth by communicating enthusiasm through programs of holistic education.

May the Blood of Christ always bless this work, making it grow!

Sr. Marília Menezes ASC
Sr. Clara de Albuquerque, ASC

50 Years As An ASC - A Celebration in Guatemala

I learned something in April while visiting Guatemala to celebrate my 50 years as an Adorer - it is important to honor our past. And it is important to honor the circles of sisters, friends, and family who have been a part of our lives and, in a very real way, in mission with us in so many ways. Guatemala was a celebration of that shared 34-year mission effort.

It's hard to put into words how simple, humble, and beautiful the ceremony was. I can only imagine the hours of work the teachers put in to make this happen. And the hours of preparation members of the Sangre de Cristo Healthcare Program dedicated to providing hospitality, meals and transportation.

The celebration ended with the unveiling of a tiled plaque from the Education Institute Maria De Mattias thanking me for 50 years of service as a missionary of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. It was placed as a permanent memorial at the entrance to the school office. Pretty humbling and beautiful.

Sr. Kris Schrader, ASC



Sisters Maria Hughes, Kris Schrader, Margo Young C.PPS, Dani Brought, and Barbara Hudock were such an important part of the days we were in Guatemala. It helped the people see that the honor was bigger than my contribution and in everything they said, there was a recognition of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ and our support of the mission efforts.



Sr. Kris

A Visit To Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School

In late April, I had the privilege of visiting Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis, Illinois, where the ASCs have a rich history, and are still there shaping lives today. Looking to hear the story of two current faculty members and another Adorer reconnecting, everyone I ran across greeted me with a smile and was quick to engage. The two faculty members: Ms. Crystal Taylor and Mr. Kenny Nance. The Adorer: Sr. Jane Gegg.

But first, some history. The Adorers have been generous supporters of Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School, through our ASC Foundation grants as well as through individual and community donations. The school was established in 1989 following the consolidation of four remaining Catholic elementary schools in East St. Louis, Illinois (St. Joseph, St. Martin of Tours, St. Patrick and St. Philip). Sister Jan Renz led the consolidation as Superintendent of the East St. Louis Consolidated Catholic School the first year.

In 2004, Sister Janet McCann became principal at Thea Bowman. During this time, the Peacemaker Program, Education Through Music and the Arts, including visual art, praise dancing, violin, and ballroom dance was introduced. Sister Janet served until she was elected to the ASC Leadership Team in 2012.

Having this current group work together in 2023 is another chapter of ASC history as well as a piece of Sr. Jane's teaching journey. Sr. Jane hired Crystal years ago as her preschool aide, while Kenny is a current teacher who was a student of Sr. Jane's as a preschooler. Sr. Sharon Van Horn, also an ASC, has been volunteering in a variety of positions at Thea since 2014. She

currently teaches sixth, seventh, and eighth grades and is the faith formation director.

Sister Jane returned to Thea as a part-time volunteer this year and currently assists in kindergarten and first grade, and has one English learner in the third grade. She seems to be enjoying every aspect of her return.

"Working with Crystal some 30 years ago was a privilege and a delightful experience. We were a team," said Sr. Jane. "She was young and learning about being a teacher. I was too! We really learned together. Even now.....30 some years later, as a volunteer at the school, we still work as a team with the kindergarten teacher. It is so exciting to be a part of this. We seem to be often saying to each other, 'Remember when.....'"

Having Kenny back at Thea Bowman is also a special situation for Sr. Jane, who established the Early Childhood Program for three and four year olds at St. Philip Catholic School in East St. Louis in 1986, continuing there through the consolidation until 1994.

"Seeing Kenny teaching and guiding the fourth grade students brings feelings of pride and gratitude," she said. "Knowing I had a part in his growth and development at an early age, and to see him now involved and successful in the education field is truly gratifying, exciting, and just makes my heart sing."

Jeff Stahlhut

Regional Director of Communications



Remembering Sr. Elena Sarro: a Giant of Charity



These days it may seem strange, yet there are those who quietly dedicate their lives to others with determination and are committed to healing and saving lives and giving hope. They are people capable of building deep bonds of love and friendship destined to last.

Such was the case with Sister Elena Sarro, the sister of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ who ended her last years of life in the "San Gaspare" nursing home in Latina. She left us last February 15.

Sister Elena was 85 years old and had been ill for some time. It was the price she paid for her 18 years, from 1980 to 1998, spent on mission in West Africa Guinea Bissau, in the villages of Bula, Ingorè and Bissau. She dedicated her life to the African people by offering her expertise as a professional nurse to help women give birth, vaccinate children and eradicate infections and diseases that infested Guinea Bissau.

She visited villages, went where help was needed and monitored the growth of children. She was very involved in efforts to promote women. Sister Elena would never have left that land and those communities unless forced to do

so by her physical health. She returned to Italy, first in 1998 and then more permanently in 2005, living in the religious community of Latina, doing her best for her elderly and sick sisters. However, she never forgot her Africa. Her passion was contagious. The lay people who met her ended up sharing her commitment to support the missions in Guinea Bissau.

Annalisa Murri established a non-profit organization "Oltreconfini" (Beyond Borders) that operates primarily in that country; Donata Corti founded and continues to support a kindergarten in Bula; and Silverio Di Monaco, on the other hand, was always committed to helping her with the daily problems of the community for which she was responsible and a nurse; as was the lawyer Gianni Campagna, who made his expertise available to her. All of them will be her friends forever, because Sister Elena was a woman capable of engaging others and leaving her mark with her life.

This was seen on Sunday, April 30, when, a little more than two months after her death, her religious community of "San Gaspare" decided to remember her by dedicating a room to her, the reception room. In addition to the Sisters who were guests of the Institute, all "her children" wanted to be there. Those who shared the African experience recalled how she bent over the wounds of the sick, always available, anytime of the day or night, without sparing herself. She offered not only medicine, but also friendship and hope. "She was everywhere there was a person to be healed." This was her witness of faith and her apostolate. It was an intense life indeed. She was known as a "giant of charity."

She was also remembered by the diabetic children, now adults, whom Sister Elena had cared for in the late 1960s at Palidoro on the Roman coast and at Lignano Sabbiadoro in Friuli Venezia Giulia. Before being missioned to Africa, in fact, Sister Elena was the diabetes nurse at the two centers. Back then, children were dying of diabetes. The little diabetics were housed and cared for at the boarding school for the entire school year, from elementary school through eighth grade and into adolescence. They were educated to recognize and self-manage their disease. It was a very innovative experience of care, but also of community life, advanced for those years. This was recounted by Walter, Giovanna Ugo and Giuseppe, the children she cared for who came to Latina for the dedication from their Veneto region. They did not want to miss it.

It is Walter who takes the floor, explaining the importance of having met her. "She was a true mother who was able to listen to us, and educate us about growth and life, brotherhood and solidarity. She was stern when needed, but always caring, ready for forgiveness and understanding. She dispensed medicine and affection." He chose to become a diabetes nurse like Sister Elena and is now retired. Like her, he helped others. He is moved. He tells of the beautiful facility that housed the 40 sick children, 20 girls and 20 boys. And he recounted the separation from their parents, then the care, feeding, studying, playing, friendship, complicity and jokes of that community of exuberant "40 rogues." At the center of it all is her, Sister Elena. More than 50 years have passed since then, but the memory is very vivid.

Giovanna remembers owing her life to Sister Elena. At night, in the dormitory, when she would suffer seizures, "Mamma Elena" would appear, coming to her rescue. Without her intervention she would not have made it. But she was not just an extraordinary nurse. "We talked with her about everything. She educated us about socialization, and even about sexuality." In those years, the lives of girls and boys were sharply separated. Not so at the boarding school in Lignano Sabbiadoro. "We were ahead of our peers," Giovanna observes smugly. Her eyes well up with tears. There is affection and there is gratitude. Giovanna named her daughter Elena. So did Hugh and so did

others. This sister was capable of weaving deep relationships that were never broken. Now, these men and women "give back" what they have received in solidarity and care for those in need.

For the St. Gaspar's Home community, it was Sister Emma Zordan who so wanted this event and lovingly remembered her. She fondly called her "an anarchist," because she bore little tolerance for rules when they prevented her from serving those who needed her care. "For her, those in need came first."

Now the room that has been dedicated to her is a little corner of Africa. Objects that were dear to her and photos enrich it. There is a group photo with "her diabetic children" and the shots of her in her normal life in African villages. She is seen beaming at the rescued child she holds in her arms, or the one where she prostrates herself at the feet of a leper. This was her ordinaryness as a "giant of charity." A life where there is time and space for love and care.

Her sisters were convinced of this. That is why they broke from the custom and for the first time named a room of the community after someone who is not a "proclaimed" saint. This was explained by the person in charge of the Italian Region, Sister Milena Marangoni. This testimony may help to better understand what Pope Francis' invitation to live "mercy" in daily life is all about. Perhaps it is too ambitious. Perhaps it is a thing for saints. Sister Elena invites us to try. She succeeded.

Roberto Monteforte
giornalista ex vaticanista



Steinerberg

"Every story has an end, but in life, every end is just a new beginning."

Sisters Nadia Coppa, General Superior, and Bridget Pulickakunnel, General Councillor, had the chance to attend the closing Eucharist at St. Annaheim in Steinerberg during the General Administration's recent visit to the Schaan Delegation in the second half of April 2023. It was a time to recall all the wonders God has done through the Adorers in that town and to be grateful for their service and witness.

In her brief message on the occasion, Sr. Nadia recalled how a number of courageous and devoted members from the Schaan Region dedicated their entire lives to the ministry of assisting and accompanying the transition of numerous persons from this world to everlasting life. In the last few decades, Adorers from Croatia and Poland also served at St. Anna. Though we would like to continue our service to the elderly and vulnerable, we are forced to discontinue this ministry as we are encountering several challenges.

Though the Adorers conclude our direct services in the town, we are sure that the persons who take over the ownership of the house will continue to serve the needy with the same attitude and spirit as the Adorers.

Members of the General Administration presented an olive tree, a perennial symbol of inner peace and harmony, to the sisters of the Schaan Delegation (Sr. Elisabeth Müller, Delegation Coordinator, and her two councilors, Sr. Agnes Ramsauer and Sr. Maria Hammerer, Sr. Johanna Rubin, president of the St. Anna association and director of the Board, Sr. Judith Kuman, and Sr. Zita).

One of the most revered and holy trees, the olive tree has a significant place in both world history and the sacred scriptures. It is a sign of

fruitfulness and blessing and a reminder of the fertile lives of so many sisters who given their lives for our dear neighbor. Throughout history, the ASC community in Steinerberg has been a prophetic and generative sign of God's presence among his people, especially in caring for the most vulnerable.

The olive tree reminds us of the fruitful past of the ASC community, whose fruits of tenderness, goodness, care and fellowship have been shared abundantly and will remain written in the hearts of so many people.



This tree, which we hope will be planted, will remain as a grateful memory and will remind every person who makes a pilgrimage to this place dear to our origins, of the sacred history of our community.

We are hoping that the sisters will find an appropriate spot for it on the campus and that the next owner will take good care of it as a token of their commitment and in remembrance of the good accomplished by the Adorers for almost a century. And the tree will be a reminder of ASCs long 96 years of bonding with the town.

Given the history of the Adorers, Steinerberg holds a special place in the hearts of not just the sisters from the Schaan Region but likewise those from other Regions as well, including Croatia, Poland, the United States, and Brazil. Adorers started to journey to these nations and spread out from Steinerberg.

Even though our ministerial presence in Steinerberg is coming to an end, we hope that our deep ties and memories here will continue to inspire future generations. Yes, we are embarking on a new chapter.

Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel, ASC

A Story Comes To An End.....



On April 27, 2023, the last Eucharistic celebration took place at St. Anna in Steinerberg. The main celebrant was the General Vicar of the Diocese of Chur, Peter Camenzid. Three other priests who have always celebrated services in this chapel were present for this “sad” event. Also a handful of invited guests, among them our Superior General, Sr. Nadia Coppa and her councilor Sr. Bridget Pulickakunnel, as well as the delegation leadership Sr. Elisabeth Müller, coordinator and her two councilors, Sr. Agnes Ramsauer and Sr. Maria Hammerer.

From the St. Anna Association the president Sr. Johanna Rubin and the association members Sr. Judith Kuman and Bruno Hicklin were present. One ASC association came, all the others stayed away from the service, hurt and saddened by this sudden closure. The director of the home with his wife and a few others who had been invited. It had not been publicly communicated because at that time the buyer of the property was not to be made known. Two violinists embellished the service and Sr. Johanna played the flute.

Sr. Nadia Coppa gave us ASCs of the Schaan delegation an olive tree as a sign of hope. It will soon find a suitable place and will hopefully grow new and deep roots. Together we sisters received the olive tree and sang *Laudate omnes gentes....* This standing together in this painful moment was a sign that we are one community.

At the end of the service, the relics were taken from the altar. One of them will go to the Episcopal City of Chur, the other of Maria De Mattias will go to Schaan. One of the most moving moments was when the Easter candle was extinguished, as a sign that this room is no longer a sacred space. Great sadness was felt in our hearts.

After 96 years of ASC presence in Steinerberg, a great part of our history came to an end. A lack of qualified personnel was the reason why the St. Anna Home for the Elderly closed its doors forever on March 31, 2023. In a very short time, from December to March, an orderly withdrawal took place. The home’s management made every effort to find a suitable place for all residents, and the employees, as far as they wanted to, found a new job.

Painful for us was and is that much unpleasant talk circulated in public, about the silence, what happens with St. Anna. At the time of the closure, it was not communicated what would happen next with the property St. Anna. It is also painful to walk through the empty rooms, to think of the many sisters who gave their energy and love in this important apostolate for the benefit of the elderly.

The end of Steinerberg is also very painful for our entire Congregation. It is, after all, a significant place in our history. In 1845 a community in honor of the Blood of Christ was founded there, under the leadership of Maria Theresia Weber. It joined the community of Maria De Mattias in Acuto in 1847. The sisters were then expelled and started anew a community in 1927. The leader Sr. Anna Berger bought the “Villa auf der Maur” and started a home for recreation and retreats. Many additions and alterations over the years transformed the house into a retirement and nursing home for 72 elderly people from the region.

Now the deceased remain in the cemetery in Steinerberg and in our hearts the hope that God can write straight with crooked lines.

Sr. Maria Hammerer, ASC



“And Let us Consider How We May Spur One Another on Toward Love and Good Deeds.”

(Heb 10, 24)

Reminiscing about this past year and our encounters we had as juniors with sisters from the General Administration, I can say that we had an enriching and joyful time of being together. Each of our encounters had a topic on which we could contemplate, share our thoughts in the groups first, then unite all those thoughts into one. The topics we had were connected to our call, we observed it as a child that is growing, gradually learning and becoming bigger and bigger, and yet has to grow and learn.

Even before the beginning of these topics we had a chance to get to know each other, since not all of us had a chance to meet before. For us who were part of the International Novitiate it was a great joy to meet each other and also to meet other members of our Congregation. Getting to know our big family of the Blood of Christ and sharing our lives, hopes and dreams is a great opportunity.

As I said, the topics gradually developed. We heard about consecrated life and the vows, in the Blood of Christ, today, about St. Maria De Mattias’ charismatic gift and dream... that continues in all of us, how we are rooted in Christ, and our interior motives for apostolic service and at the last encounter about us being the prophetic sign – missionary disciples, sent to all. Getting involved in these topics and sharing about them with each other, we could learn a lot. It’s not just my point of view, but of all of us that we are forming one body of Adorers. That’s the most beautiful part of this, working together as one and thus growing as one. As in the Letter to Hebrews says: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

One of our meetings was to present our own cultures, habits and apostolic mission of each Region. It was amazing

to see and learn about each other’s cultures, apostolates. We listened to some songs, saw some dances, heard about the encouraging apostolic life of our sisters and how they help the people and vice versa and we even got hungry seeing all the good food some of the Regions presented. Learning about others helps us to grow and appreciate diversity in this world.

Although we had some technical issues we are happy that we could meet with each other, share our thoughts, feelings, dreams and hopes for the future of our Congregation. We shared our desire to stay connected through e-mails, or WhatsApp because we had such a nice time, we would like to stay in contact with our sisters throughout the world.

And last, but not least, a big thank you goes to our General Administration and the sisters who made this happen. Thank you for organizing your time for us and for bringing us together into one joyous community and for presenting these topics wholeheartedly. We are truly glad to be part of this big family – Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

Sr. Biljana Kostić, ASC



Invest in Our Planet!

April 22, 2023 marks the 53rd World Earth Day. It is celebrated across the globe to extend support for the protection of the environment. People celebrate Earth Day by organizing various activities like planting trees, raising awareness, praying together, organizing debates, essay writing, environment cleaning etc. Many events and campaigns are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

The theme for World Earth Day 2023, is "Invest in Our Planet". This theme focuses on the message of trying to save our planet far and wide.



We Adorers also celebrated very meaningfully on various levels, in each Region, Delegation, Foundation and Mission. The concept of celebrating this day was to honor the Earth and maintain peace on it. The spirituality of the Blood of Christ inspires us to respect every living creature in the world. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, brought peace and hope to the people.

Pope Francis says, "Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is it the property of only a few: Creation is a gift...a wonderful gift that God has given us so that we care for it, and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."

"EARTH DAY EVERYDAY!"

Taking Care of our Mother Earth is not a one-day event. It should be a lifestyle. During the Earth Day Celebration, we integrated this into our online ASC Circle of Prayer. We had also a prayer together and an awareness formation for the parents of our students at St. Maria De Mattias' Daytime Socio-Educational Center.

And yet prior to this event, we already integrated this care for the earth in our ministries, as we have said in the beginning, this should be a lifestyle that is consciously and intentionally done. With



our ASC Youth, a cleaning drive in the indigenous community is part of their advocacy, they do it with the children, the future generations of the communities. In our own homes, urban gardening is also another way. We cannot save the whole earth and yet what we do in our little space creates a ripple. *(Sisters from Philippines)*



Casa Madre, Acuto: We commemorated this day more significantly. We began the day with prayer which prepared by Sr. Liana, from the Italian Region. We prayed with the faithful who came to our church. The second act was to keep the environment clean. Sr. Martha and Sr. Rani pulled the weeds out of the garden as the sign of our responsibility to keep the creation of God in its beauty and harmony.



Our third activity was visiting one of the farms in our parish, where they breed various types of domestic animals like cats, dogs, hens, peacocks, goats, sheep, ducks, geese, donkeys, horses, etc. The marvelous thing was that there were no barricade between them. All these birds and animals move freely without any fear. There is harmony, love, respect, and freedom among them. How lovely they are!



The family members are very serene, happy and enthusiastic to take care them. They love them very much. As we entered that farm, we felt that we were in the garden of Eden. We admired the beauty and love of God and reflected on our responsibility to protect and take care of God's gift which is freely given to each one of us. Coming back home, we concluded the day with a short reflection on what is our responsibility to Mother Earth? The prayer was prepared by Sr. Rani Padayattil. The day was very exciting and inspiring. We thanked God who is the Creator of the Earth.

Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region's Land Ethic

EARTH DAY...we celebrate the rhythms of creation; with Mother Earth we live the Paschal Mystery of life, death and new life and, with others, preserve and nurture creation...we listen intently to Earth's wisdom; we respect our interconnectedness and oneness with creation and learn what Earth needs to support life...we reverence Earth as a sanctuary where all life is protected; we strive to establish justice and right relationships so that all creation might thrive.



Sisters from Schaan

On April 22, World Earth Day, we prepared a very special and creative prayer and included the very meaningful prayer of indigenous people to the cardinal directions.

An invitation to all who happen to read

The commemoration of the day focuses our attention on the fact that day by day natural disasters are increasing and people's lives are in danger. Let us be united in one heart and mind to work for a sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future. Keep our Earth green and clean. Love the Earth, save the Earth and be happy!



Sr. Rani Padayattil, ASC

General Administration Calendar



June 1 - 4: Time together in Acuto

June 18: Online Orientation Meeting of Delegates to the XXII GA

Birthdays: Let's Celebrate Life

40th Birthday

Sr. Mary Stell Rachaganadhan	06/06/1983	India
Sr. Maria Mathias Mrema	06/17/1983	Tanzania
Sr. Marta Majka	06/26/1983	Wrocław

50th Birthday

Sr. Alessandra Soares Pereira	06/08/1973	Brazil
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80th Birthday

Sr. Cordula Heizmann	06/26/1943	Schaan
Sr. Isabel Esteban Garcia	06/27/1943	Spain
Sr. Sandria Latini	06/30/1943	Italy

90th Birthday

Sr. Margaret Washington	06/16/1933	USA
Sr. Maria Domenica Chimienti	06/21/1933	Italy

Anniversaries of Religious Profession



June 11 - Wichita
60th Anniversary
 Sr. Betty Adams
 Sr. Therese Wetta

Our best wishes and prayers



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They have returned to their Heavenly Home

05/04/2023	Sr. Gabrielle Rowe	USA
05/06/2023	Sr. Veronika (Mara) Radoš	Zagreb
05/09/2023	Sr. Augusta Zaratti	Italy
05/13/2023	Sr. Gemma Buttinelli	Italy
05/20/2023	Sr. Orsola Cacciano	Italy
05/28/2023	Sr. Argira Tiberi	Italy