

NEWS IN BRIEF

April - July 2014



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Communicating to know

From the Agenda of Mother General

April 28th - Assisi: canonical visit in the community of Casa Emmaus

April 30th - Assisi: meeting with the General Council

May 2nd to 4th - Teramo: canonical visit in the community of Teramo

May 5th - a visit to friar Samuel

May 7th - Loreto: canonical visit in the community of Loreto

May 16th - Assisi: welcomes a group of the laity

May 20th - Assisi: vestition of Maria Rosa Piombino

June 5th - Assisi: greets the junior sisters who started the juniorate international formation programme

June 7th - Assisi: meeting with the general council

June 8th - Assisi: USMI on the diocesan level

June 13th to 15th - Roma: USMI on the national level

June 26 to July 10th - Loreto: Provincial Chapter

July 17th to 22nd - visit to Palermo together with Sr. M. Dolores Caneo, the Vicar general

July 26 - Assisi: meeting with the General Council

From the Acts of the General Government

Assisi – Meeting of 30 April

- Reading and approval of the minutes
- Requests from Italy and Romania
- Brazil – transfer of the novitiate
- Constitutions – revision of some articles according to the indications of the Holy See
- General planning
- Communications

Assisi – Meeting of 8 June

- Reading and approval of the minutes
- General planning
- Communications

Assisi – Meeting of 26 July

- Reading and approval of the minutes
- Appointment of the Legal representative of the Institute
- Updated Constitutions
- Ordinary Chapter of the Italian Province
- Palermo - Villa Adriana (residence)
- Brazil – approval of the Particular Statutes
- General planning
- Communications



In the month of August Mother General will be in USA for the celebration of the Ordinary Chapter of the Viceprovince of the Immaculate conception. In her agenda there is:

- 8 - 16 August - canonical visit to the communities
- 18 - 23 August - spiritual retreat with the sisters
- 25 - 29 August - Ordinary Chapter of the Viceprovince
- 7 September - returns to Italy

Communicating to rejoice together



Entrance into the novitiate

ROMANIA - on 21 april 2014 **Ionela Florentina Pal** started her novitiate in the community of "Santa Rita" in Halaucesti.

ITALY – Assisi, On 20 may 2014 in the Mother house we had the rite of initiation into religious life of **Maria Rosa Piombino**.



Temporar Profession



ROMANIA: On 4 may in Halaucesti there was the celebration of the temporar profession of **Sr. Natalia Tamas** and **Sr. Mihaela Paduraru**.

ZAMBIA: On 7 june, on Pentecost vigil, the two novices **Sr. Patricia Makumba** e **Sr. Prisca Mulomba** Made their temporar profession at Christ the Redeemer parish in Makeni – Lusake.

We bless the Lord for the gift of the young sisters who welcome his calling in our religious family. We entrust their journey in the hands of the Lord, so that they can open their hearts more to his love by being a gift in the fraternity and in the mission.

50° Anniversary of religious profession

On May 31st the community of the Mother house celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass for the 50th anniversary of **Sr. Rosalinda Salmaso**. It was a simple moment in which the fraternity gathered together to praise the Lord together with Sr. Rosalinda for the extraordinary gift of her consecrated life.

On June 29th, the community of Ostia Antica together with the parish community celebrated a Mass for the 50 years anniversary of consecrated life of **Sr. Ausilia Todaro**.

Sr. Liliana Balic, Sr. Marianna Sliskovic, Sr. Agnese Tiric, Sr. Josipa Udovicic e Sr. Celina Marjanovic of the Croatian Province celebrated the 50° anniversary of religious life on the 26th of April in the community of Zabreb.

We thank the Lord for these sisters for the joy of offering themselves continuing to be witnesses through their life and in their communities. Let us entrust each one to God so that He may keep them in His love.



Communicating to rejoice together

Assisi - preparation to the perpetual profession

The formation programme for the juniors who are preparing for perpetual profession was conducted in Assisi from 5 June to 5 August. The greater part of the programme this year took place at the hermitage of the Trinity (our house of prayer), a place that fostered a climate of prayer and fraternity especially within the group. The programme was conducted by Sr. Mirriam Lee and she involved the participants in a journey of knowledge and deepening of the Franciscan charism and of our specific charism. 13 sisters from our Institute participated in this programme and Sr. Chariflo Galleposo of the Franciscans of the good shepherd was willingly welcomed.

It was a profound experience of spirituality with prolonged moments of personal and community prayer. The programme was quiet rich and the contents were offered with simplicity by some of our sisters and other people who witnessed by word and by example, the beauty of consecrated life in its various aspects.

The challenge of building fraternal relations in a multicultural group where communication is done with simple gestures with few words was really an occasion of growth, lived with great commitment and in a mutual desire to know each other. The possibility of putting themselves in each others shoes was offered by the days in which each country had to present their culture and prepare a typical meal together with the others. This helped to understand better the richness of cultural diversity and the beauty of the presence of our charism in different parts of the world.

All this was confirmed by the witness of the sisters whom the juniors met in Loreto and in the other communities, sisters who responded to the Lord with faithfulness and perseverance, who now silently offer the incense of their daily suffering and the daily sufferings which they raise to the Lord for the edification of the Church and of our Institute.

The pilgrimages in the franciscan places, through the footsteps of our founders and those of the first christians, enhanced the sense of belonging to a religious family on a journey towards sanctity, a journey made together, a journey that does not finish with the profession but continues throughout ones life.

We thank the Lord for the great things he has accomplished in each sister during this intense moment of preparation for the beautiful and decisive step in life. Great thanks go to Mother general and to the sisters who planned and sustained this programme in various ways especially the two communities that welcomed the junior sisters: Mother house and the house of prayer.

We continue to accompany these sisters with our prayers, who in a short while will make the profession in their various provinces of origin:

- September 17th - Sr. Teresa Zheng in Korea
- September 21st - Sr. Maria and Sr. Roxana in Romania
- October 4th - Sr. Beatrice in Kenya
- November 1st - Sr. Judith, Sr. Jacinta, Sr. Veronica and Sr. Martha in Zambia
- December 9th - Sr. Teresa Li, Sr. Teresa Zhang, Sr. Teresa Kim, Sr. Julia and Sr. Joanna - Korea





From April 24th - 26th the sisters from the Croatian Province met in the Assembly at Zagreb. The theme was "God loves the one who gives with joy" and the 15 participants showed their deep desire to continue to give with joy their lives to God in the fraternal life and through the humble service in which every day God's love is manifested.

Communicating to grow in the sense of belonging

CROATIA: Provincial Assembly



Two years after the Provincial Chapter of the sisters of St. Maximillian Kolbe Province, the sisters met to have the provincial Assembly. Sr. Ljubica writes:

The goal of the gathering firstly, was to thank the Lord who wanted our presence in Croatia. A small flock, really small among the great many who try to witness the charism given to us by the Institute. The theme of the meeting was "**God loves the one who gives with joy**" and on this occasion we reflected and shared on how we live our vocation and on the witness that we are called to give. The days we spent together helped us to strengthen our desire of continuing to live and work for the Reign of God, by being at the service of the neighbor, in the parishes,

catechesis, with the sick, the youths, the young ones, missionary groups... and also serving and helping the sick sisters. During the assembly Sr. Monica Partac the Secretary general, was present as a sign of unity and bond with our roots.



At the conclusion of our meeting we had the grace to celebrate the religious profession anniversary of 5 sisters of the province: **Sr. Celina Marjanović, Sr. Josipa Udovičić, Sr. Marijana Slišković, Sr. Ljiljana Balić** and **Sr. Agneza Tirić**. We gave thanks for their 50 years of faithfulness to the Lord, to the Church, to the Institute and to our Province. We also thanked them for the witness of their vocation lived among us. One of the guests of honour unfortunately found herself at the hospital during this time. The feast took place in our house in Kraljevac and the Holy Mass was presided over by Father Ivica Radeljak, OFMConv, who is the chaplain and our benefactor. During this Mass we also prayed for the new vocations with which the Lord writes the story of this world with our charism of the SFMA.



The call is a great gift that the Lord gives to the children of man and each person is free to respond to the call. On 18 may **Sr. Terezija Caharija** celebrated her 80 th Birthday. It was a day of thanksgiving for the beautiful and good things that the Lord has accomplished through her, since she had been open to listen to the voice of God. This feast was a call to all of us to always give witness. God is love and mercy for all his creature. Dear Sr. Terezija thank you for having started the adventure with God, and that you have helped to take the seed of the charism of the SFMA to Croatia.





Italy: Provincial Ordinary Chapter

The VIII Ordinary Chapter of Immaculate Province was celebrated on from 26 June – 10 July. The chapter was preceded by two days of recollection guided by the meditations of Fr. Mauro Gambetti, OFM Conv, custos of the Sacred Convent of Assisi. A total number of 31 sisters participated together with Mother general Sr. Juliana Malama who presided over the first part of the chapter.

Sr. Francesca Farina was elected as Provincial Superior on 2 July and a day after, the provincial Council was constituted. It is composed of : **Sr. Giovanna Dugo** Vicar, **Sr. Rosaria Pizzo** Secretary, **Sr. Maria Grazia Marzocchini** e **Sr. Emilia Miraglia** – Councilors and **Sr. Cesarina Garavelli** - Treasurer.

On 6 July in the afternoon the capitulars were invited by the sick sisters in the infirmary who had prepared a part. Here is their speech of best wish:

“Sisters in Christ, we express to you our affectionate and joyful welcome! A reunion helps us to know more and to love more. A meeting helps us to live in joy! Joy fills the life that even us, your old and sick sisters want to witness. Even if the future seems obscure, we are hopeful. Hope, in fact, is the intimate word that burns in our heart, awaiting, like all of you, to be called to live in the inaccessible light who is God, our Lord and spouse.

Beloved, the small things which we made from our hands for each one of you, with the particular contribution of our sisters from this department who have helped us to build and to express, day after day, our fraternity, that which St. Francis desired ardently for his Friars. We can say that, a fraternity is a place where we live and profess our faith together, in prayer and in giving thanks to the Lord for every step that he allows us to accomplish, and also for the beauty of the all of creation. We are together with you, especially at this moment as you live the experience of the provincial Chapter: we feel part and parcel of it and we offer our sacrifices, the most hidden and those which you can capture. The motto of the chapter “Come back to me with all your heart”, we have also made it ours.

Put on the cross, we offer them as a sign of our communion on the joyful or painful journey that awaits us each day. For now, may the Lord accompany and sustain your commitment, whom we believe to be efficacious for our ‘Immaculate province’, for the institute and for the Church...”



From the Writings of our Founder

“You received the habit of Saint, but it means nothing if you do not give up your entire life to Jesus Christ, without keeping anything for yourself, but you should all belong to the Lord and surrender yourself to the Lord. Not for a short period of time but up to the end of your life, forever. [...] It is important that the sacrifice of yourself should be perpetual and as I already said it should be all without reserving something for yourself. This way, in the eyes of men, it may seem that you have a miserable life but I assure you that in your struggles and hardship the Lord will console you in many ways that you will be able to say in the words of the apostle I overcome with joy every tribulation. You will have a happy life. To have a good conscience is a glimpse of paradise. May the Lord give you the grace and his heavenly blessing and make you as holly, as I desire that you may become a seraphim.” (Marcheselli, Scritti p. 625 - 626)



Communicating to share

Journeys and Transferals

From June 27th to July 20th, Sr. Rosalinda Salmaso, Responsabile of the Missionary Secretariat together with Sr. Egidia De Luca visited Zambia and Malawi. They were welcomed with a great joy by the sisters and many friends who kept within their hearts the memories of the missionary service that our sisters rendered in Zambia.

Assisi - Mother House:

- Sr. Giulia Luci from Loreto belongs now to the community of the Mother House.

Assisi - Prayer House:

- Sr. Tereza Ghiunghius returned from Zambia and belongs to the community of the Prayer house.

Assisi - Sacro Convento:

- Sr. Maria Gondos returned to Romania to the community of Halaucesti.

Ostia Antica

- Sr. Tereza Ma is in Roma to study Italian language .

Rome - Ss. Pietro e Paolo

- Sr. Ester Lee has finished her studies and returned definitely to Korea.

Every transferal is a new call to our life it reminds us of being pilgrims in this world. We thank these sisters for their generous respons and we wish them all good.

Sisters who returned to our Father in heaven

+ **Sr. Elena (Mariangela) Piga** from the community of Oristano, died on 10/04/2014. Sr. Elena was born on 29/12/1920 at Padria (SS), she entered to our Institute on 31/12/1951, she began the novitiate on 01/11/1952, she made the temporary profession on 29/11/1953 and the final profession on 13/11/1956. We are grateful to the Lord for the gift of sr. Elena, who lived up to the end faithfully to the Lord even in old age and sickness.



+ **Sr. Maria Bauta (Sr. Serafina)** from the community of Loreto died on 10/06/2014. Born at Camposampiero on 25/07/1923, Sr. Serafina entered our Institute on 8/10/1942. She began the novitiate on 9/10/1944, she made her temporary profession on 14/10/1945 and the final profession on 15/10/1948. Bright and prayerful woman, she showed always her kindness and simplicity in approaching people. She was a wise superior and took care of the sisters with love knowing also how to admonish the sisters without hurting them. She was gifted by a powerful sense of prayer and early in the morning she was the first one to the chapel for meditation and in

her sickness she always had Jesus on her lips.

Sisters who left the Institute

Sr. Helen Chisanga Nkhala - a novice from the Zambian Province left the Institute on April 30th.