



Franciscan Missionary

Sisters of Assisi

In The World

“Telling the tenderness of God”



Japan-Brasil-Korea-Russia-China-Zambia-Usa-Malawi-Philippine-Croatia-Kenya-Romania-Mexico-Moldavia-Indonesia-Argentina-Cuba

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2013

Dear Friends,

"May God bless us and shine His face upon us!" This is the message given by the Holy Father, Benedict the 16th on January 1st., thus wishing peace for all and confirming the urgency to think in depth over the foundations of Peace. In his message for World Day of peace, he underlines what follows: "The very roots of our inner peace dwell in the absolute certainty we have that while we behold in Christ Jesus the splendour of the face of God the Father, we are His children, just like His Son. We shall always feel secure, in every circumstance of life, to be in the loving arms of our Father, who is both powerful and amiable. The splendour of the Lord's face shining upon us and giving us peace is the very image of this fatherhood; He shows us His face, his fatherly attitude, and gives us peace. This explains the meaning of the expression "peace in God" which is the indissoluble link between Faith and Grace. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans writes: **"Nothing can deprive Christians of this peace, not even the trials and sufferings of life.** Actually, these do not wear down our hope, for God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us" (Rm. 5,5). May the Virgin Mary help us and be on our side during the new year so that we, and the Whole world, may be granted the gift of peace".

Our warmest wishes for a Blessed new year to all!

This is how we, in Korea, celebrate the 16th of every month.



THIS IS HOW THE MISSION DAY OF THE INSTITUTE IS CELEBRATED IN KOREA

Every Community in the Province of the Korean Martyrs prepares with great care to celebrate the "Mission Day" of the Institution on the 16th of every month. This is to celebrate the saintly departure of our Founder, the most honourable Father G.A. Marcheselli. The task of organizing the event is given to one of the Sisters, who prepares and animates the Day with much zeal and commitment.



"We have in the Province, a Commission for Mission Animation who prints a Panphlet called "St. Francis' Dream", published every three months. This is good means to keep in touch regularly with all our Korean benefactors. We invite them to share with us our Prayer Day and we illustrate our history and mission. All this started five months ago and we already can see great openings of heart towards the Church Mission, with the blessed assistance of the Holy Spirit.

On September 8th we have organized a mission market: all the Communities have worked for it, giving all sorts of things for sale. This has been a positive experience, both, for the Sisters and lay participants, everybody was full of enthusiasm. We consider these activities as small steps in the footprints of St. Francis, the man whose heart was filled with the love of the Lord, whom we try to follow in our everyday life".

Sr. Martha Yon

(Mission Animator)



ARGENTINA

A challenging Mission

dead would not even have a chance to be buried.

It is difficult to go into Argentina is a Country whose population is composed largely by Italian immigrants of a second, third and even fourth generation. The Country is one of great beauty and immense resources. Having considered its vastity (about 10 times Italy) and having admired all the different shades and beauty of nature, the calmness of its people, its impressive and imposing rivers and well cultivated land, we cannot but consider the amount of commitment and often exhausting labour our fellow countrymen have poured to become integrated and give high contribution to the growth of the Country. They actively cooperated to make Argentina a Country that shows the signs of our people's energy which never gives up to adversities, on the contrary, always finds new ideas for a fresh start to development and reconstruct (just consider the economic situation of the Country 12 years ago) But I do not want to go into further detail about the Country in general, rather, I would like to describe the place where our Sister, Sr. Bety, Sr. Maria, Sr. Paola and Sr. Andreza live and work.

The Mission is located in Concordia, a city stretched along the immense river Uruguay, full of Mystery and beauty. Across the river, a park still reminds us of the visit the Pope made to Salto, on uruguayan side. Concordia is the second poorest city of Argentina and people are happy to have given up the long held primacy of poverty. If we examine the poverty of the inhabitants of Concordia and try to classify the various degrees of deprivation, we understand immediately that the Sisters live with the very poorest ones. The convent is a tiny home, very similar to the other small dwellings of the district. It lies behind a big gate, necessary for security. I am sure St. Francis would rejoice over the simplicity and poverty of this Franciscan convent. It is open all the time and to everyone. Privacy is reduced to a minimum: it is like being visitors in one's own home. Finding precious moments of silence in one's deep self is, in St. Francis' words, creating a space in "the hermitage of one's own soul" to exercise what is vital to missionary life: every day prayer. Quietness is seldom conquered, even at night because of the clans of dogs barking which makes it difficult to find moments of silence. Local people hold the Sisters in great respect and confidence and feel they are part of their group. About 45.000 people live in the area, in all sorts of dwellings, makeshift huts made with any material that can be found: homemade bricks, wood, tin plate and other materials. The limited dimensions of the "houses" make it impossible for the large families to have a decent standard of living. Promiscuity does not make for a dignified way of life. Many families have been deprived of everything by the floods: great responsibility lies on the way the water system of the Country (just like other parts of Latin America) has been interfered with by man thus causing new groups of poor. To survive, they take any available job: seasonal jobs like blueberry or orange picking or recovering whatever can be recycled from the dumping ground, which has become even "richer" because of the new rubbish input from Buenos Ayres, the capital. Viewing the apocalyptic scenery of the people, including young children, searching with their bare hands among the fuming and intoxicating rubble makes one just lost for words. . It is beyond belief to admit that these horrible conditions of life can be endured by human beings. The very presence of the Sisters in Concordia is felt a real blessing, carrying in itself the precious seed of hope, to help the people to look forward to a better future and construct it together.

Sister Paola takes care of the alphabetization of the children and gives special care to those who, at primary school, cannot reach a good standard of reading and writing. Moreover there are many "retarded children" who "Sr. Paola tries in every way to conquer an acceptable level of education to allow their personality to develop and get awareness of their right to a decent standard of life, in line with what is expected for any human being. It is heartlifting to see Sr. Paola going out in the street and always children swarm after her! Sr. Paola also helps with the City parishes.

Sister Andreza is in charge of visiting the poor families, the most deprived ones. She offers her services at the "SILENCE CENTER" where children belonging to the "rubbish area" can be helped with their homework and also teaches them elements of personal hygiene, protection of their health and general education by means of recreation and activities. Sr. Andreza holds great ambitions for "her" children and "her" people and, with the help of voluntaries, carries on an important service for their human and spiritual growth. She is Liturgy animator with her guitar and beautiful voice.

Sister Maria is the veteran of the mission and has a wonderful relationship with the people. She is welcomed by everyone she meets in the street and has a comforting and motherly attitude to everyone. She also gives lessons on the Bible, lessons she prepares with care and people appreciate very much. Sr. Maria reaches out to families living in the country .

Sister Bety is the Mother Superior of the Community, she is quite new to the place but is rapidly getting integrated and leads the mission with great enthusiasm. She is constantly helping at the Parish, bringing the Holy Communion to the sick. taking care of the family of Emmanuel, a young boy who died in a fire in the dumping ground. His father is still recovering

from getting burned all over his body during the terrible event . Sr. Bety is constantly giving cure and relief. She is the "mother" always on call. We went with her to bless the corpse of a poor woman. And there I realised hoe voiceless poor people are: poor people seem to have lost all rights any human being is entitled to: even when they die, if somebody does not get active with the local Council, the poor details describing the might of the mission the Sisters carry out, so many are the different activities that till up any single day of their life. They are the living image of their love for the people God has entrusted them with. I leave Concordia with a deep and new feeling of enrichment and new missionary spirit, which my Sisters taught me. Their welcoming spirit and deep spirit of dedication in serving the Master of the Harvest, have made my life filled with new zeal for the Kingdom of God, for which I am very grateful.

We read gladly a letter of Sr. Paola to Sr. Rosalinda...

"Dear Sister Rosalinda, at the vigil of the Feast of Natividad I answer gladly to your message. I know...I am always late, the fact is that, since you left Concordia, I started running for all the initiatives I had to realize before Christmas: small objects to be sold, to close the school year, and many others. At last, our entrance which serves as school, has now a floor and we also look more civilised. I had put aside some creams and other small objects for the children, so I made nice small parcel to distribute at Christmas. I wish you could see the joy of these children when they saw a parcel all for themselves! They were waiting for this small feast with joy and enthusiasm and would often ask for days if "tomorrow was the day", because for them it was supposed to be a special day. When the day came, they arrived, clean and in order. The greatest joy for me was to see them happy, leaving with joy for the affection they had experienced and the fact of being recognized for the good work they had done during the year, specially, improving in reading and writing. A small battle won! Thanks God! A small boy has learned how to do divisions with two numbers!!! Yet, thinking that I am an ass in mathematics, I feel it is a small miracle!!! Your visit, very fraternal, has been very important, above all because you helped us to see things from a different point of view, opening us to new hopes and to see new ways to help people. Yes, I believe I need more patience in seeing time belonging to God who knows when "the fullness of time comes". I have entered into contact with new people who want to help: a real blessing, even though I feel the responsibility to have to accompany them, humanly and spiritually. In my head new ideas are coming up and I entrust them to Jesus who has at heart these children and I know that, if it is His will, everything will be accomplished. I am happy to here in this mission and I feel God wants me here. The promise to be supported by Assisi Solidale ONLUS is of great support for us and we are trying to buy the small house next to ours, where we can have some small classes for various activities for children and adults. What a dream!

May Jesus be held in the arms of everybody at this Christmas!"



Ecology.

Trying to extend the subject of Ecology, I will now try to explain the concept of "renewable and ecosustainable future", since at present Man easily investigates all the secrets of matter, the elements of which have already and completely been described.

But the crisis of energy we are facing, with its social and environmental emergencies, reminds us that sustainable development does not stem from human intuition, but is connected to the rules of our Mother Earth. We cannot use at our will energies that may ultimately harm us, or just run out, depriving our successors of the vital resources for their survival.

Renewable energies are produced by special sources which have the propriety to renew themselves at the same rate they are consumed. Moreover, they never exhaust themselves and do not let poisons into the atmosphere, thus warding off climate change.

They are commonly defined "green energy". Their use will not compromise the future generations. They are alternative to the traditional ones, i.e. coal, oil etc. (non-renewable sources). Eco-sustainability is the term used to describe their characteristics: that is how the world can transform itself in a cyclic way. This is the only method we have to respect the fragile balance of the Earth.

Eco-sustainability is any practice that uses just the right quantity of resources to allow the next generation to get the same quantity of resources we have been left by our predecessors.

These, and many others, are the issues we discussed at the International Meeting for "Sustainable Mobility for the Protection and Care of the Creation" which took place in Assisi on September 20, 2012, with the participation of Mr. Corrado Clini, Secretary of the Environment. The Meeting chose St. Francis as its Patron saint.

When Mr. Clini was asked to explain the details of the Meeting, he answered that "there is a general effort to reduce the consumption of natural resources and opt for "clean energy". We pursue the goal to reach a wiser consumption, by means of improving our energetic efficiency. This can only be done using new technologies and adopting a more eco-sustainable way of life.

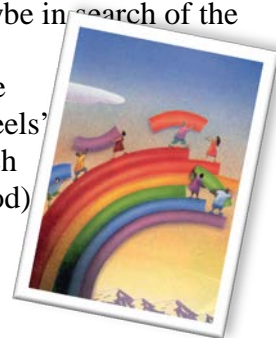
This is our wish, so that our Mother Earth may gradually be restored to her original and unpolluted beauty, as St. Francis celebrated her in the Canticle of Brother Sun.

January 16th — *We pray that our Communities and Groups active in the Missions may cooperate actively to build Peace with positive actions, having peace in their hearts first and then bringing peace in the world, guided by the words of the Holy Father:* "The Year of the Faith will be the right opportunity to exercise love and kindness. Remember St. Paul's words: ". . .and now these three remain : Faith, Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love" (Cor. 13,13) With even stronger words, James the apostle says: ". . .What is the use of having faith if one does not have the deeds? Can his faith save him? If a brother or a sister have no clothes or food and somebody tells him/her "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed" but does not give them what they need, what good is it? In the same way, if faith is not accompanied by action, it is dead. On the contrary, someone will say: "You have faith, I have the deeds — Show me your faith without the deeds and I will show you my faith by what I do" (James 2, 14-18)."



February 16th — *Let's pray so that we may be active in the New Evangelization and, by being evangelized, we will be able to evangelize anyone the Lord will put our way, thus entrusting our brothers to our responsibility. We will then say with St. Paul: " Woe to me if I do not evangelize!"*

Let us listen again to the Pope: "Everyone has the right to know about Jesus Christ and His Gospel and it is every christian's duty to announce the good news. For those who do not any more live the conditions of baptism, the Synod has given them special attention: these Christians are to be found in all the five continents, especially in the most secularized Countries. In order that the joy of the encounter with Jesus may be renewed for them, ..." new ways of expression, new pastoral methods more appropriate to every single culture will be found and applied. The Truth of Jesus Christ will be offered with God's fundamental element: Love, in fact God is Love" Pastoral creativity shall not fail "to come near the people who have drifted away, maybe in search of the sense of life, happiness and, ultimately, of God" from the City Missions to the "Genteels' Yard" (Benedict 16th speech on closing the Bishops Synod)



NEWS



MEXICO- A family of benefactors has offered the funds to build a Day Center for children and young people living in the streets, as well as the Sisters convent. This will allow the Sisters to give educational and moral formation to many needy children. The Center will also care for disabled children.

KENYA-At Tarasaa, a place some 80 km. from Malindi, terrorist groups have prevented up to now the construction of a school at the mission. This means that the children have to walk as far as 15-20Km to reach the nearest school. We hope that the next elections will bring peace to the coastal region, which is seeking independence.

MOLDAVIA - — In this small Country, Sister Daniela , Sister Magda and Sister Maria carry on their mission with the poor. They especially care for old people living on their own, for whom winter is a great enemy because of the freezing temperatures. They also help young children whose families are too poor to provide them with education.

INDONESIA - ZAMBIA — Del Conca, a Company located in San Marino have activated a project for a number of years up to now for the poor children of the Third World. Del Conca, in full agreement with their staff, give the amount of money that was originally intended for the staff yearly bonus to build the "Children's Home" at Medan, Indonesia and now for a project in favour of St. Kalembe Mission, Zambia, to build a Pediatric Unit at the Mission hospital.

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