

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE 16th OF EVERY MONTH:

16th November: *Let us pray for the sisters gathered at Assisi for the work on the new Project of Formation, that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them and support them in the reading of the signs of times, the changing of the generations and in clarifying our mission in the Church and in the world.*

May the Lord give us young people who desire to live the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis and our Founder; Fr. J. A. Marcheselli and Sr. Angela del Giglio. We know that the good result of our consecrated life depends on the positive and total response to the Lord and it is also the fruit of a solid and long lasting formation. The challenge is great and the new Project of Formation cannot, but be deeply missionary, that moves in continuous turmoil together with the Church and the society. Our time is marked by "rampant spiritual desert" (Benedict XVI), which requires not only new methods of evangelization, but more especially, missionaries full of zeal and passion for souls to bring to Christ. It requires a more Catholic – Universal formation, that keeps in mind the geographical changes which need to be accepted and integrated; a formation which is strongly international and the importance of having a common language that creates communion and unity, at this Providential moment of the expansion of our religious family.

16th December: *Let us remember the sisters in Kenya, especially the ones at Tarasaa Mission in Malindi, where besides extreme poverty, there is also lack of means of security.*

Evangelization in Kenya was initiated in the 16th Century, already even before in 1498, Vasco Da Gama put up a cross at the coast of Malindi, which is still visible. In 1631, the Sultan of Mombasa Jeromino Chingulia started a persecution which brought about the martyrdom of about 150 Christians, whose cause for beatification is in process.

This Church had the first Cardinal in 1973, the first African Cardinal Maurice Michael Otunga. Pope John Paul II visited Kenya three times.

Today, there are 4 Metropolitan Seats, 20 Dioceses, 1 military Ordinary and 1 Apostolic Vicariate. There 600 Parishes with 1, 895 Priests and 869 Seminarians. The Religious are 3,732 with 10,354 school institutions and 1,860 social assistance Institutions. The baptized Catholics are 7.735,750, equal to 24.5% of the total population. The level of education is very good and universities, besides being numerous, they are also competitive.

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ASSISI



IN THE WORLD
We are present in the following countries

Brazil - Korea - Russia - China - Zambia - USA - Italy - Malawi - Philippine - Croatia - Kenya - Romania - Cuba - Mexico - Moldova - Indonesia - Argentina - Japan - Peru

NOVEMBER – DICEMBRE 2012

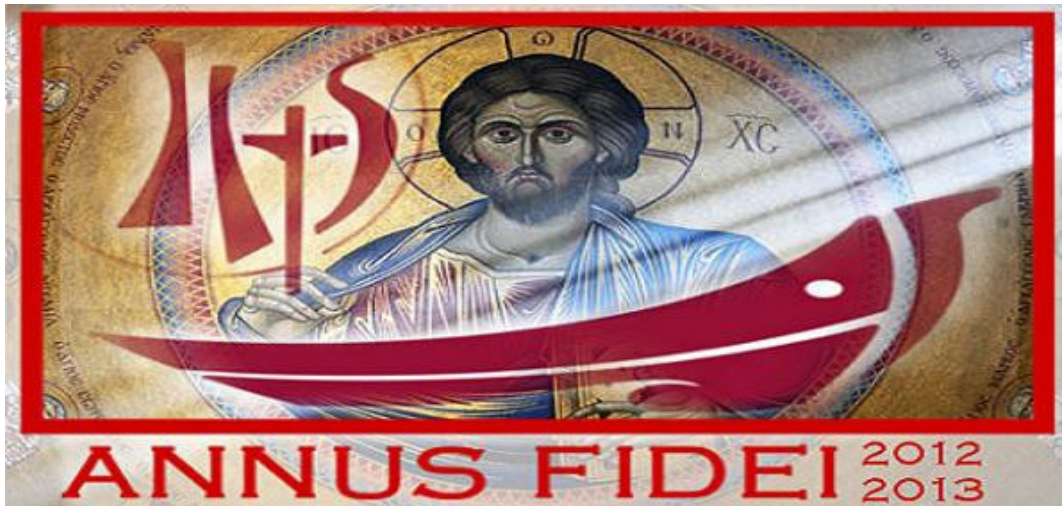
Dearest Sisters and Friends,

May the Lord give you peace!

This year, we have celebrated the World Missionary Day, by giving a new evangelizing presence to the Church in Cuba. Sr. Charles Bweupe and sr. Natia left for Matanzas on 21st October, in order to initiate a new mission. They are those “seeds” which in faith, will have to experience death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, Jesus who continues to send new apostles so that, “many many have life” and become new yeast for the future. Let us accompany these sisters with prayer and all possible support, remembering what our Constitutions say: “We all commit ourselves to a missionary sensitization in the environment in which we live and we keep in touch with the sisters faraway. Communion with them and recognition of their needs and efforts make our prayer and daily commitment alive.” (Const. 97,3).

In line with what our Constitutions tell us, for Christmas this year, we shall give a donation to a missionary community which will carry with it, all our closeness and participation in the mission which they carrying out: it will be a gesture of communion that will bring joy and encouragement to them.

Sr M. Rosalinda



....NEWS...."

CARPEGNA - ITALY - On 23rd September, Don Ottavio Corbellotti, the Parish priest of Carpegna passed way. Since the years of 1980's, his commitment to the mission in Zambia has been untiring. At first, he was helping the sisters, then later on, he formed an NGO called “We for Zambia”. His charity towards all the people was great! He gave up all and died a very poor man, like the people he was serving.



CUBA - On 21st October, Sr. Charles and Sr. Natia left for the city of Matanzas in Cuba. Our Conventual Fathers have prepared a house and a reception for them, which will allow the sisters to begin their new life and mission, supported by the Franciscan friars who have always been close to us in the new missions, introducing us and accompanying us with a true fraternal spirit.



ASSISI - In the month of November, all the sisters engaged in the work of formation in our Institute will gather at the Mother House in Assisi, in order to work on the new Project of Formation, which will be entirely orientated towards a more Missionary formation, having seen the variety of the presences, the international communities and adherence to more specific work of evangelization.



MALAWI - ZAMBIA - Prof. Emidio Grisostomi, with other doctors and technicians have gone to these two countries, in order to go and complete the health projects and to start collaborating with the community of our sisters in Malawi, where the needs are always of emergency. Meanwhile, the hospital of San Marino has donated 60 beds and the group of ‘Caritas senza Confini’ are preparing a container for Likuni Mission.



PHILIPPINES - At Novaliches, the sisters are helping the families that were struck by typhoon last June. Many families have remained without homes and they are now rebuilding their houses with some un recommendable materials. The situation at Novaliches is uncertain because the natural disasters continue to lead people into more poverty which is already there.



Sr. Martha Kalinda narrates to us the story of Samson, a malnourished baby, who has recovered to life by this “miraculous” nutritious product.

The little Samson was born with the HIV virus and was also suffering from tuberculosis. He was born premature from serum positive parents. The baby was very small that the parents refused to take care of it, and the little one was passed on to the grandmother.

He was brought to the Nutrition Center of Kitwe when he was nine

months old and in a

very bad condition. He was weighing only 3.4 kg. Besides treatment, the baby needed also a rich and adequate nutrition. It was a patient kind of work which made the grandmother to become a mother in a wonderful way. The baby, after an intensive care with milk and medicines, remained in a static condition. Therefore, it was decided to try him on “Plumpy Nuts” (a very high protein product, made with groundnuts, vegetable oil, powdered milk, sugar,

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vitamins and minerals). After a month, the baby started changing the features and started growing, such that, after one and half years, Samson recovered, he was physically and mentally well.

The Plumpy Nuts has done wonders, I would say that it is really a “true miracle”. The baby is still under observation even if he has now reached the weight of 14.8 kg. He has also been cured from tuberculosis and he is still being cured for HIV.

This wonderful story wants to encourage all the Nutrition Centers to be using this product of our expert Italian doctors, for improving the condition of many babies, so as our country can become a healthy and strong nation.

AFTER

An interview with Sr. Zenobia, Mexico

ā Sr. Zenobia, you have been in this new mission for the past two and half years, how would you define this country?

Mexico is a country with many faces: the people are calm, with a well rooted popular religious mentality; some are immersed in the problem of drugs with all its consequences; it is a bridge between the two Americas; there are Catholics, but in need of new evangelization so as to be significant, especially for the youths. Our Lady of Guadalupe is their banner.

ā What could be your contribution to the new evangelization?

In this area, consecrated life is not well known because there are not so many sisters who live near us and those who live nearby, they are either Cloistered Nuns or they are engaged in school Institutions. The people are curious to know who we are and how we live. So, we can give our help and our witness by living well our fraternal life (especially, coming from different countries says a lot to the people), by serving the most poor and the needy and rendering our service in the Parish, where about 300 children have received first communion this year.

ā Do you already have a program, a way of placing yourselves among the people with whom you live?

We have welcomed the request of the people, that of being able to give spiritual food, despite the lack of the material one. For this, we are present at the Liturgical celebrations in the Parish and we visit families in order to have a continuous dialogue with them. People come from the countryside, attracted by the mirage of the “city” life, but insertion in it is not easy. Therefore, our engagement is that of taking care of the children who remain alone at home, while their parents go out to look for work in the city. These children and youths can easily have contact with drugs and alcohol, while young girls oftentimes, become mothers at a tender age with disastrous consequences, for which support is needed, even from the psychological point of view and we encourage them to go to school.

ā What future you see for your mission?

I am convinced that, if we remain open to the Spirit, come closer to the people, attentive to their material and spiritual needs, listening to the voice of the Church, we will know how to give concrete responses and to build up a future, which will become more and more a wonderful wedge in the Mexican Church. We have identified some problems which require our presence and active collaboration and for now, we are thinking of constructing a Center where the disabled youths can find a point of reference; at the same Center, we are thinking of receiving children and youths who remain alone at home, without incentive for continuing going to school and without a hot meal. We trust in Divine Providence as our sisters in the arch of three centuries have been doing and “they were never disappointed.”

Mexico City - Sister Rosalinda



Adriana

Towards the end of the month of August, Mother General and I paid a visit to our sisters in Mexico. My first impression of this country was marked by seeing a lot of people, moving about on the streets with a certain easiness and a sense of orientation. Later on, I discovered that among them, there is a sense of education of manners, in that, to give way to another is almost natural. Moving towards the north, in the outskirts called Romero, the vision of the hills with poor houses in the form of boxes, gives the impression of an immense beehive. It is not easy to distinguish a house from a medical doctor's dispensary or a shop from a garage, even though everything looks to be in harmony and beautiful.

The sisters live in a poor rented house, among many poor families where the inconvenient condition is lived with great dignity. The people, even though they lack daily food, they ask the sisters for spiritual food, since religiosity for this people is a great value, lived and nourished with even exterior gestures which gives them a certain identity. They breathe the air of that simple and deep faith which has matured through the centuries and which finds its identity in being deeply connected in a way, to our Lady of Guadalupe, a presence almost tangible which all respect and love. They told me that here, they are all "Guadalupan" because our Lady of Guadalupe is the Mother of all: Christians, Muslims and atheists. Together with the sisters, we visited some families, especially, where there are sick people and the reception is always warm and fraternal. And they are people who do not make

speeches, but they are very present and attentive, and they give you whatever they have.

I met the little Jan who is sick with cancer and the lower limb has already been amputated. He tells me about his desire to live, to go back to school, even if the doctors have told him that he will be able to do so only after five years. When I gave him the rosary, he thanked me saying, "this is what I really need in order to continue the journey." Jan talks about his sickness as if it is a routine thing, to get over soon and return to living. He tells me that he is very happy because he has been prepared by Sr. Ireen to receive first Holy Communion. He says that he was a good soccer player, and that when his family will be able to acquire him an artificial limb, he will take it up again. I saw that the mother was trying to suppress the tears, in order to participate at this moment of joy for the son, the pain which she knows how to hide with much strength of soul, Sr. Ireen tells me that even when she hasn't got water in the house to drink.

We continued our visit with Sr. Zenobia who follows up many disabled children. The thing which immediately struck me, is the acceptance of these children by their families, a thing which is quite rare in comparison with other countries I have visited before.

I like to remember the meeting with Adriana who lives in one of the little abandoned houses, built on top of the hill and in order to reach there, there is a winding, impervious and insidious path and it is full of holes. Arriving at the house, an acrobatic exercise was required of us, on the door we found written: "**If God is with us, who can be against us?**" A concrete exegesis of the phrase of St. Paul, which for Adriana means that Someone protects her during the long hours of solitude which she experiences every day. In fact, she remains alone when her parents go in the city to look for work and they only come back late in the evening. Adriana is a girl of 19 years old, affected by muscular dystrophy, reduced to a mass of bones due to lack of adequate treatment. She has a beautiful face and a beautiful smile which at-

tracts you immediately. She greets us with (flebile) embrace that has all her vitality. Her affection for Sr. Zenobia represents that hope on which she counts: she would like to go back to school, which she left when her father went to America to look for a job. She wants to become a teacher; she dreams about being able to teach children all the beautiful things, communicating her enthusiasm for life. She always waits anxiously for Wednesday, a day on which Sr. Zenobia takes her together with other disabled girls to the convent, in order to pray together, to learn to make some religious objects which are then, distributed or sold. She is happy because she is able to be with Ilenia, who has never learnt to read nor to write, with Martha who does not understand much, but she is happy to be there and together with all the other girls who come to share what they are and how

they live. But in order to do this, it is necessary for the father to carry her lovingly on his shoulders and to walk all the way along that inconvenient path, but he doesn't mind because he does it with easiness and strength of love.

Sr. Zenobia has a great dream of constructing a Day Center where all the youths can be followed up, cared for and helped in a way, to get away from the streets and be helped to live a good life.

I feel that the presence of our sisters in this country is a blessing for many: a great challenge is waiting for them, a part of the challenge has already been confronted with great faith and strong love for these people, a base on which to continue building trust in God who continues to give new vitality to His Church, by calling new zealous and passionate Missionaries.

KENYA - Tarasaa... called to a special mission

All of us are a bit aware of the actual situation in Kenya where the secessionist movement (MRC) want the independence of the whole Coastal region from Kenya. The attacks are against the properties of foreign societies aimed at discouraging foreign investment in the region. The movement want to take away the claim and frustrate the coastal population, the only Province which has the majority of Muslims in Kenya. Our sisters live there, at a very poor Mission around which spontaneous villages are growing because the people feel much more secure near the Mission. It is a big challenge for the sisters who are called to support these fearful and defenseless people. Their stories are very painful: violence, threats, deaths, hunger because the produce of the fields are being stolen or destroyed.

In the area of Malindi, the problem is much greater because of the conflicts which already exist between tribes dedicated to cattle rearing and those who do agriculture and keep land. Recently, the situation has become worse because the leader of the rebels as well as the leader of the Police, Salim have been killed, narrates one of the Muslim young boys, who doesn't want to go back to school anymore because he saw his teacher holding a gun and joining in the killing of masses, during the terrible battle with the ordered forces, in which about fifty people have died.

The sisters are asking us to pray and it is an invitation which becomes a promise on our part.

Suor Elisabeth, with a muslim woman