



Zambia – In January, Sr. Barbara Donini will return to Italy, after having an experience of two years in the mission of Zambia. She lived in St. Theresa's Mission and St. Kalembe.

Brazil – In December, the religious Province of the SFMA carried out its Provincial Chapter, to elect a missionary sister who will be responsible for the same Province, is Sr. Bete Da Silva, of the mission in Argentina.

Italy – There is a possibility for the youths do have a missionary experience, for all those who would wish to. They would need to be prepared at *Casa Emmaus*. The designated places for such an experience will be Zambia and Peru.

Kenya – Mr. Gianni Monegato, from Padova, who is already a volunteer in Romania, Zambia and other African Countries where there are projects for *Fontaniva* Parish, will now go to Malindi – Kenya, to begin the works of starting a school, which is already named after St. Clare, and till now has been constructed with poles and mud.



16th January – We pray for the new community which will be intercongregational, that will be opened in Catania, so that it can be a light for the so many brothers and sisters in search of peace and dignity. Our prayer goes to Sr. Charity Nkandu in her new mission.

It's difficult to speak of migration, a reality that has always been there in the life of human beings.

Today, what seems to make a difference is the egoism of a human person, the difficulty in sharing the lot which is in the hands of the few, the decadence of relations that have always been marked with trust. It would be enough to look back in the last ten years in order to see how we ourselves needed so much to migrate, so as to be more kind, more understanding, and more welcoming.

Pope Francis is harshly criticised and humiliated for his position which enables him to be a voice for the voiceless, yet, he continues his mission which must become more and more our position, if we really want to be true Christians.

16th February – Let us remember our two sisters, Sr. Annie Mbewe and Sr. Sofia Lee, who live in the new Mexico, where America shows her poor facet. Let us pray that the seed that has been planted can become a vigorous plant in order to give solace to the so many brothers and sisters.

Our sisters live in Navaj, an indian reserve of the New Mexico. It's the poorest State of America, with a particular history which lies within the American Natives and the Hispanic. Our sisters have been in this mission from Autumn 2016, they render their services in the school and in the Parish apostolate; now, Sr. Sofia has taken over the management of the house of spirituality, situated on the peak of one of the beautiful rocky mountains, in the Diocese of Gallup, the poorest Diocese in America.

The population is mainly protestant, with only 44% of Catholics.



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Dearest Sisters, Dearest Friends,

Happy new year! A year that opens in the spirit and under the auspices of peace. The Pope Francis, by his message for World Peace Day, invites us to reflect and to change our outlook towards the immigrants. Some reference points are important because they start from God's word, to get to the teaching of the Church and to the example of holy people: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it" (Eb. 13,2); "If the 'dream' of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees' and migrants' contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true 'common home'" (Pope John Paul II); the Holy Mother Francesca Cabrini, who consecrated her own life to help migrants, taught us how we can accept, protect, promote and help the inclusion of our brothers and sisters.

Listening to Pope's voice, that invites religious communities to join forces for a common effort to meet Migrants' needs, our Institution was opened and has begun to contribute, cooperating with, that made a plea to the different Congregations, asking for sisters for establishing inter-congregational communities which can provide a service to immigrants in Sicily. The project Sicilia UISG was born in 2013 after the shipwreck, that occurred on October 3, off the coast of Lampedusa, where 200 migrants died; in that occasion, the Pope made a heartfelt plea for a practical answer to the actual needs of today's human kind. Such experience of ten religious ones was born to be a bridge between migrants who disembark in Sicily and those who live there, to constitute an actual integration. The bishop of Agrigento, who supported the initiative, requested that „the only thing which sisters have to take with them is a wide heart and open ears and eyes". Three are the already-existing communities and the fourth, to which our missionary sister, Sr. Charity Nkandu, come from Zambia to learn Italian language in Assisi, will belong, is being programmed. We all pledge to support and follow Sr. Charity in this new opening, which is maybe one of the strongest signs of dedicated life, nowadays: living and working with Sisters from other Congregations, to meet a need which get them to take the lead. We pledge to support Sr. Charity, in this new adventure of the spirit, by guaranteeing our close presence, our supporting, our participation to such an important mission, to her.

Sr. M. Rosalinda

Did you know of the existence of SEDOS?



During the Second Vatican Council, nine superior generals of missionary institutions, that gave their own precious contribution to Ad Gentes document, were meeting informally to share information about the Mission of Church. In 1964, the nine Societies felt the need to have a permanent Secretary, that found room by Verbite Fathers. A new pulse came with the Pact of the Catacombs, when 40 Cardinals and Bishops pledged themselves with a sort of vow, to live in poverty, by renouncing to privileges to build a poorer and more missionary Church. And SEDOS, which is a FORUM open to religious Institutions, an Observatory of the Universal Mission, was born. It supports researches and spread information, by the Bulletin and online.

From the United States two beautiful testimonies of Sisters that are spent for the others

Since last August, I have been transferred to Brooklyn's community, to run the Religious Education programs in the Saint Mary's parish. The program is in support of students who attend Public Schools and of the adult ones who didn't go through with the walk of Sacrament: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation.

Students who attend Public Schools don't have the chance of studying Religion, so, the parishes are asked to provide special classes for these students. Our parish has 90 on the list with programs which take place on Sunday, followed by the Eucharist. As a directress, I prepare the opening prayer, for parents and students, which becomes a moment of evangelization too, because many of the parents never went to the Sunday School. I encourage each and every one to take part in Holy Mass, before or after the lesson. It is a participation which is surprising. I help teachers with the teaching and with the practice of faith. Students accept the challenges which they are proposed at school, especially with those who are not faithful and despise Christianity. I encourage them to be strong and to practice what they learn.

There are two other programs that introduce to Christian Rites, both for adults and children. There are 16 of the first ones – the oldest is 60 – and there are 4 adolescents. It is uplifting to perceive the wish they have to receive the Sacrament and to get into a path of communion with the Church; I thank the Lord, because so many wish to live faith deeply. Jesus is always willing to accept everyone. Let's pray all together, you and us, so that many can answer God's call to be active believers.



Sr. Cordilia with the young people

The solidarity is continuing

The Piovan family donated the funds for the new chapel for the community of Ndeke, Ndo-la, Zambia. The Sisters have served for decades in this parish that didn't had a priest, has now become a reference point for a path of community and hence the need for a place to pray every day with the community, but the chapel was missing, the chapel where Mama Antonia will be remembered every day.

Sr. Cordilia Mutale



Chapel of Ndeke

Celebrating the Creation Day...

Earth day was celebrated in the Philippine and in Zambia in that way...



MY PASTORAL EXPERIENCE IN HOLYOKE, MA, USA

Time, place and culture of people have gone a long way in helping me to learn, understand and appreciate the mission of our sisters among the poor.

In a busy world where making more money seem to be one of the best things to do, the majority of our sisters in Holyoke and Chicopee are involved in the ministry of care. They visit and take Holy Communion to the sick in private and nursing homes and sometimes even in hospitals. They also prepare and accompany the dying. To both the community and the larger society in which we live and serve, our sisters have made a difference.

In Holyoke community, we had the late Sr. Mary De Angelo who was fully involved in ministry of care. Her love for the poor she met in the sick, lonely and the dying was life giving. She was selfless and a friend to all.

As a new missionary in USA, and whose work in the parish includes visiting the sick, Sr. Mary was a mentor. Before she started inviting me to visit the sick in their homes, she shared a lot about the culture of the people and in particular the rights and the dignity of the sick. Being an African and a Zambian from an environment where the sick in homes are visited by anybody and at any time, she introduced me to the culture that requires making appointments before visiting the sick. Such was my preparation and a blessing for my experience yet to be.



Sr. Christine with Josephine

Just about a month ago, I had an opportunity to journey with Karl and Josephine an old home-bound couple from their house, hospital and finally a nursing home where Karl met his death. I happened to know the couple through Sr. Mary who once invited me to visit them in their home. They had no children and had lived over 40 years together. Karl, 87, was with cancer and Josephine, 78 years old, has problems with her legs. Despite the pain and sickness which left them homebound, the two had fun and celebrated life.

The day Karl got very sick and admitted in hospital, a dark cloud covered. Josephine was heartbroken and I was helpless. It pained to have nothing to offer to change the situation. One day I decided to get them some bread and cake they often asked me to buy for them. Unfortunately, it was left there until it went bad! I then realized it was my presence they appreciated more than anything else. Day and night, Josephine would phone to talk and ask about my next visit. On arriving, she would cry on my shoulder.

After everything was tried and failed, Karl was discharged and taken into a nursing home to lie in wait for death. For Josephine, the pain of separation and fear of death increased even more. To make it worse, she kept lamenting about the busy world which robbed their nephews of time to visit them. Eventually our prayer was answered when Josephine could not withstand the pain and suffering of her friend. She held his hand in prayer, requested him to let go and move on to meet his creator God. He looked at her, smiled and quietly departed. A beautiful sendoff which left her at peace!

At his burial, Josephine took me for a family member. I was touched and only then realized and appreciated the power of ministry of presence. For me, the ministry of care in which we participate helps to narrow the gap that the busy world and quest for money have created in the lives of the ailing. To all our sisters in the ministry, thank you for your love, time and friendship we are all called to share with the poor among us! May the good Lord remain our source of strength.

Sr. Christine Mumbi