

16 July Let us spray for the new community that has been opened in Indonesia, the first community is composed only of Indonesians. We also pray for the sisters of the new community in Malindi - Kenya, which was opened in the month of July, and it comprises of sisters from Zambia and Kenya.

Indonesia is made up of more than 17.000 Islands which extend from Asia to Oceania, with a population of 260.000.000 habitants, the majority being Moslems (87,2%). Their national motto is "Unity in diversity", creating a community that is tolerant and sociable, despite the 350 years of Dutch domination. Jakarta is the Capital city, the most populated in the southern-east Asia. St. Francis Saverio was the first evangelizer in this land, where the Church is still the minority (there are more than 700 spoken languages or dialects). Malindi, a tourist city beccause of its white beach, on the coast of the indian ocean, is composed of about 120.000 habitants, with a tourism mostly from Italy which enables many families from various parts of Kenya to earn a living. Our community is located on the side of the airport, where many families occupy temporary houses for casual workers is search of work. The parish never had the Eucharist until the time when the sisters came, who will be taking care of the church, where a capuchin priest celebrates Mass only on Sundays. The Church, Mother Antonia, that was donated by a Piovan family, will offer a daytime service to the needy children together with their families.



16 August Let us dedicate a day to offering and prayer for Zambia where they will have an intercapitular Assembly in August. That the Holy Spirit may continue to show them the way to go towards the realization of the project.

The religious community in Zambia continues to grow and to affirm itself in the local and universal Church. With the two Delagations in Kenya and Malawi, is composed of 120 sisters, 8 novices, and 8 postulants. We have the first sister from Malawi who made her temporary profession in January this year.

The sisters render educational, health and pastoral services. Zambia has a population of about 13.000.000 habitants, 29% being Catholics, 10 Dioceses with about 300 diocesan priests, 400 religious priests, 1 permanent deacon, about 600 religious men and 1700 sisters, with 280 parishes.

The Franciscans have been present in the Zambian Church since 1930. The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi, on the other hand arrived in 1960 and they render their services in three dioceses: Ndola, Lusaka and Solwezi.



FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ASSISI

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We are present: Italy - Corea - Cina - Russia - Zambia - USA - Cuba - Malawi - Filippines - Croatia - Kenya
-Romania - Mexico - Moldavia - Indonesia - Argentina - Japan - Brazil - San Marino - Germany - Vietnam



Dear Sisters and Friends, Peace and Goodness!

We are at a time when Sr. Bernaveta Ciobanu, who used to render her service at the Missionary Secretariat in Assisi, was elected in the Provincial Chapter in Romania as Provincial Superior of the said Religious Province. We would like to thank her from deep down our hearts for the six years of generous service, lively and profound fruit of the missionary spirit. It is my prayer, dear Sr. Bernaveta, that you carry out your new mission with the same spirit of goodness, joy, serenity which has always characterized you. The needy families in Assisi remember you and they are grateful to you for the help receive which was never a burden to you, even in moments when it was really tiresome. You have left a space full of meaning. It is our wish that you always know how to fill the souls of the people you meet, with that light which you always know how to give. Best wishes, dear Sr. Bernaveta! Be a Missionary always!

Thank you for your service which has left a big mark in the Missionary dimension of the Institute.



from Brazil... a community that evangelizes.

I would like to describe the witness and the mission of some of my sisters here in Brazil. I will talk about Sr. Deuzelia. At the moment, her community is composed of elderly and young sisters. At various times, Sr. Deuzelia contributes in various assignments in the Province, she is also incharge of vocational discernment and she is partly responsible for the formation of the young women. She spends most of her time in a special way with people from around the community, in particular, with those who are most in need, especially the sick, those in need of medical attention, for example the situation of Giovanni, a blind elderly man who suffers from diabetis, and has a malignant tumour in the bone marrow. Sr. Deuzelia does everything possible to alleviate his suffering. Giovanni's wife repeats quite often that Sr.

Deuzelia will certainly go to heaven, seeing how much love and dedication she has for those who suffer. The presence of Sr. Deuzelia is really a blessing from heaven! In the Community, Sr. Deuzelia, is sustained by her sisters, it's a community that is very united in this fraternal commitment for the poor, especially the sick: "All that you do for the poor, you do it unto me". Amen





Vocational promotion that continues to surprise usl

By Sr. Liubica and Sr. Ana, from Croazia.

During the holiday season, we offered an encounter for young women, entitled "Lord, are you really calling me?" Sr. Ana, who works in a parish in Vinkovci, brought five young women with her from there, for we could not have accommodated more than five in our small apartment. Even for the group, we left our beds free for them and we slept on the floor. The space is limited, but our hearts are big and open. The encounter proceeded in a spirit of welcome and the reciprocal of goodness. We read some passages from the Old Testament together and reflected together on the theme of joy, as well as the greatness of the call of God and one's responsibility to respond to God's call. These young women had many questions to ask us, especially about God's call and our response; among them, we noted that some continue to run away from what intrigues them, and they just keep running. Prayer, song and dialog filled the apartment where we live, creating joy even in our neighbors' residences that are so close to ours and that were aware of our initiative. Love really surprised us! Even an offering of a large box of food, given to us by one of our benefactors, surprised us in its very abundant portions!



This whole experience led us to gratitude to the Lord for these feelings for He accompanies us in this journey, even through these persons who assist us.

Praised be you, my Lord, for all those who help us with whatever they share: both material or spiritual goods!

The first community of Indonesian sisters in Iakarta.

Since February 2017, we have opened a new community in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. This community is composed of three Sisters: Myself, Sr. Teresa Nadeak, who is writing, Sr Elsa, and Sr. Irma. We are very glad to offer our services here, in this place where we see that there are a lot of people in need of our assistance. There are many sick people, children and elderly persons in this area. Their presence is a gift to us from God: it is their presence that prompts us to be present to God's people. For me personally, I am living a real and true experience of life here that is enriching me spiritually.

Our apostolate is within the Church as well as in our own neighborhood. We live in a rented house. From Monday through Fridays, two of us are involved at the elementary, middle and high schools. Another Sister works in the Parish, primarily to assist in liturgical functions. During the afternoons, or in the evenings, together we provide catechetical classes for children, youths and adults.

Here, the presence of different religious can become problematic. In the society, as well, divisions grow: the rich get richer and the poor remain poor or, actually, they get poorer. For this reason, we feel that our presence here is important.

We can be concerned about helping the Catholics who are economically deprived as well as those who are poor in spirit.

We are always united in prayer. May God bless us always and accompany our service to the Kingdom of God.



Sr. Teresa and The children of Medan .

Trip to Sambia!

by Rita Berardi

At the end of March 2017, as a representative of the association, I decided to embark on a journey to Zambia to check on the progress of the many projects which "Carità Senza Confini" sustains in this wonderful Country with the indispensable help of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi, many thanks too to the many sponsors from San Marino and the surrounding areas.

It's always so complex to be able to express in words the emotions which are demonstrated during these journeys, but with the help of Luca Debora, who had accompanied me, will try to transmit to you the experience we had. The two weeks were guiet involving both on the physical and emotional level, however, the amount of love that we had received in exchange from all the people we had met, had re-payed our tiredness!! We arrived in Lusaka on Saturday 25th March and we were accommodated in the rooms that were constructed beside the San Marino Bakery. During this short period of time, we were able to understand exactly how the bakery functions, by having close contact with the young men who work there, and with Piercarlo, an Italian volunteer who is incharge of the management of the activities. The dependents are 11: 7 bakers, 3 sales clerks and a gardener and we have transmitted to them the aim of this project, that is, to give an impulse to the stagnant economy of the community, creating employment opportunities, distributing free bread to orphanages and prisons.

Through the close contact we had with these people, we came to understand that there was a series of needs on the part of working mothers, in this regard we were prompted to start a new project of microcredit "THE FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF THE MOTHERS". In the first two days, we visited two structures that are sustained by the association: an orphanage for the disabled and a prison. If the first visit had filled our heart with the love



he school in the compound

and affection that we had received from the children who are hospitalised in very good conditions, the second visit was agonising because we had seen with our own eyes the inhuman conditions in which the prisoners are forced to live (110 young men sit close to each other in a cell of 6mx6m, without windows, for 23 hours per day). We then visited two small schools in a compound where we came to learn that the school fees are 10 kwacha (1 Euro) per month, which unfortunately some families cannot manage to pay, and that the monthly salary of a teacher is 500 kwacha (50 Euro). We were filled with so much joy after verifying that in one of the structures there's a teacher called Eddy, a young man without the art who was in San Marino some years back for medical attention.

Thereafter, we visited St. Anthony's orphanage, a nutrition centre in Chililabombwe (where on a monthly basis, thounsands of children are given a meal per day), the paediatrics clinic in Makeni which was inaugurated towards the end of 2015, a hospital in St. Theresa's mission, and Yola laboratory.

-Yoli (managed by Liberato Zambia 2001 of Ancona, sustained by the association, where they produce supplements for combating malnutrition in children) and a leprosarium (a village occupied by almost all the ex-lepers and their families who support themselves with agriculture and farming).



United States: - beginning of July, Sr. Chiarina Maione left, after serving for more than 20 years as a missionary in the US. She was able to visit the tomb of Sr. Maria D'Angelo, who died in March, after an exemplary life and death, who left a big gap in the community in the US.

Russia—Sr. Jacinta Roca, from Romania, returned to Russia after 10 years of service to the religious Province. The city of Kaluga awaits her, to joyously welcome her, especially the poor people of the city whom she served with so much love and generosity.

Zambia—In the month of July, Sr. Ornella leaves, after having participated at two international meetings on infant neurology, on epilepsy. She stoped by her family to see the father who underwent a heart surgery, and he is recovering well. Our best wishes for you as you go back on the mission in favour of the many sick children.

Kenya – The great drought and economic social situation of the country, continues to worry the missionaries in Tarasaa, in the diocese of Malindi. There are old people who die slowly of hunger. The Piovan family made a donation of € 10.000,00 which have become rice and a basic need for thousands of people who are severely tried. Drops that revive those who don't know where to turn to.

New Mexico - Sr. Juliana Malama, made a visit to this new mission, where we have two of our sisters from the United States of America. She confirms that it's a very particular and very beautiful mission and which is worth investing new energies into.

Zambia - On 15th July they celebrate 125 years of the foundation of the Catholic Church in the Country. The first group of Missionaries were Jesuits, White Fathers and the Franciscans. Today the Church has more than 4.000.000 Caatholics, in a Country that has a population of more than 12.000.000 habitants. The autochthonous priests are about 1.000, while the religious are more than 2.000.