

THINGS WE CANNOT GET USED TO

HUNGER IN THE WORLD – There are 795 million people who have not enough to eat. The vast majority live in developing Countries, where 10% of population are starving. Poor nutrition causes 45% of deceases of children under the age of 5.

SCHOOLING – Children who do not attend school, in the world, are 123 million - 11,5% in preschool. 40% live in underdeveloped zones and where there are conflicts. What is a right for every child becomes a "forbidden" dream for too many children.

HEALTH – In the world, half the population do not have access to basic healthcare, to adequate treatments. The WHO report (December 2017) speaks about over one hundred million people who are forced into extreme poverty because of health expenditure. World Bank asks to be serious when we want to improve health services, but also to overcome poverty, speeding up the efforts for a universal medical insurance.

IMMIGRANTS – Migration flows do not tend to reduce, whilst problems of asylum grow. Nations with immigrants in the world are: USA, with 50 million, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia with about 12 million; then there is Great Britain with 9 million; Italy is ranked eleventh, with 5,9 million.

REFUGEES – Turkey has the highest concentration, also because of war in Syria: about 3 million. Then they are Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Uganda, Ethiopia, Jordan, Germany, Congo and Kenya. Despite being the Country of arrival for displaced people, Italy is amongst the last in Europe, with a percentage of 2,4 X 1000 residents.



July 16th – Let's pray for Sisters from United States who, this month, will live their Chapter of vice-province. The Spirit of the Lord guide the work of the Chapter for an extensive analysis of the reality of Church and American Society, to be able to give evangelical responses.

August 16th – Let's pray for Mother General and her Commission, who are busy preparing the general Chapter which will occur in 2019. May their service always be a light brightening the steps of all the Sisters, of those whom the Lord gives us in our SFMA Mission and those who cooperate to build God's Kingdom.

INVITATION

You are all invited to take part to a **Meeting of Missionary Training** which will take place in Casa Madre SFMA, from 9 to 11 November 2018.

Topic: "The true Missionary is the Saint" RM - "Do not be afraid to aim higher" Gaudete et Exultate

Speaker: Sr. Marilena Genero, who will do a careful reading of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis "Gaudete et Exultate"

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Sisters and Friends Dearest, Lord give us peace!

In these times of deep suffering for what is happening to our brothers and sisters risking their lives, for a better one, we leave the word to two Sisters who live the drama: Sr. Charity from Sicily and Sr Carol, from the USA.

Sr. Charity Nkandu: "As the new government of Italy flips over to the incredible decision about the immigrants, it leaves us who are working with and for them in suspense. It leaves the immigrants anxious, and with very little hope for what the future holds for them.

When they tell their stories of how they come to reach here, it is frightening and takes a lot of courage, faith and hope. They say that when they see the Rescue Boats/Ships on the sea, they know that God has answered to their prayers and the light of hope is flickering again. Now, the rescuers have no landing shore.... Thanks be to Spain.

Last Sunday we asked one boy to explain to the others what the government situation is. We are all praying hard that a miracle can happen to save the lives of those who are in despair in search for peace and tranquillity in this country which had always had a humanitarian face and an accommodating heart. The question is what next to the thousands who are still in the camps awaiting their documents? There are also those who are discharged from the camps and are either waiting to renew their documents or are waiting for their documents.

Italy, our refuge and hope has abandoned our people. Yes Italy, your car be fed up, but in doing good one should never be satisfied, but yearn to do even more. African leaders, a lesson to ponder on... But what a harsh way to punish the innocents. Italy, "The Refugee Camp" can take us in no more... for the immigrants it has been a Mother, a Home and a Peaceful place, not a refugee camp. Is it true that after all illegal immigrants leave Italy will be happier than ever before? That all Italians who need a job will have a job? Our prayer is to disturb the hearts of the heartless so that they can see the face of Jesus in every human being regardless of colour, race and nation. Join us to pray for our immigrants who are having sleepless nights over this unpredictable situation".

Sr. Carol Wood: "It is deeply heartrending to witness the suffering of our people. We, here from the USA, don't share the Administration's positions, because of their outdated Immigration Laws. The latest debacle: the separation of children and their parents, on the border: it is true that they have no papers, but, nevertheless, they are seeking asylum. This situation really affects our parishioners from Brooklyn. Where is the compassion for the foreigner, whom all of us, in the States, heard about, from our fathers and grandparents, who, in the old days, had seen in Italians the urge to build their own lives, with their hopes and struggles?"

From the mission's world – a new missionary talks about herself...

Shalom! I'm Sister Ioanna, from Korea, come in Medan Mission, Indonesia, in April 2018.

As I got there, I understood the necessity to know the language, in order to communicate with local people. I had to contain my enthusiasm, when faced with administrative difficulties in obtaining residence permit and being allowed to attend an Indonesian Language course. Fortunately, soon after my arrival, there came three Korean volunteers, who immediately included me; they are a dentist, a technician



Community Indonesia

and a friend. They, with their devices, had to wait until the bureaucracy could work, too, but – then – they were allowed to use the Office of a local Dentist. They could heal over 120 people, seeing as how elders have neglected teeth, thus their life is put at risk, not being able to digest well. Our community is the Friars Minor Conventual's one, with members from their parishes.

The collaboration of our neighbours was amazing, when it comes to small services, translations and help. The joy was great when they finally had a new set of teeth, or, at least, a comforting treatment. I felt deeply involved in this experience of togetherness and sharing, realizing how I feel close to a people until recently unknown. My missionary life has just begun, but I feel the experience, lived with volunteers and Medan people, have had an impact on my spirit, and I think it to be a good starting point, because I lived and still live the communion. It is my desire to thank the "three angels", come from Korea to freely give a smile to many people. Our gratitude becomes a prayer for them and for their families.

Sr. Ioanna

From Brazil ... a life for the Gospel ...



"... I want to send you a witness of my experience (that will be published) which fills me with life – a life, that's mine, already full of many graces given by the Lord to me. That being said, I want to greet all the families feeling grief for having sons/daughters suffering from addiction. I relieved myself of the duty of remote adoption, that now is Sr. Isabel's, but I keep on taking care of needy people. I got a little older, in Brazil (54 years as missionary), but, inside me, there is much strength, much willingness to always belong to the Lord and to my people, whom I love very much. I sense their suffering for the po-

litical situation, which affects mainly the poor ones. Corruption is quite a lot and nothing is made to remedy the situation of the poor ones, who live wounded existences, since they are bound to be constantly insecure, harmed in their dignity and in their rights, with a failing justice, and the absence of freedom for God's children themselves, who are crying and claiming for a better living.

I firmly believe that we have been called to live the mission with passion, a passion which implicates all our heart, by having love as cornerstone, which it is, because our heart and soul are filled with it.

Looking at Jesus, the Good Shepherd, I understand the full meaning of my life, of my missionary call, of my place in Church and in the world!"

Sr. Redenta Rondello

FROM MEXICO, EXPERIENCES OF LIFE ...

In Mexico, on April 30 Children's Day is celebrated. Our children do not have all the same privileges: many live by their own, begging for alms in the Subway; other live under bridges, a great many do not attend school because they are not registered at birth, then they do not have no means to be identified and, because of this, they are considered nobody's children. The percentage of disappeared children is very high.

This year, we took upon ourselves a small lunchroom, where we offer a hot meal to about 100 children, aged 3 to 14 – children always arriving in advance, lest there is no food. Parishioners help us by bestowing food; the few families to have some money help us by purchasing rice and other foodstuffs,

clothes and other things. We go to the local markets looking for vegetables, fruits, eggs, beans, rice, and people are generous with us, so that we can get the minimum to feed every child. The only problem concerns the payment of water, electric and gas bills. A man paid and installed a solar-powered boiler, which allows the children to have hot water for the shower, too.

People in Mexico are very generous, that's true, but the social climate, recently, has grown extremely violent and dangerous. When we get out, it is essential not to take mobile phones and money with us, because some armed groups may board the buses to assault travellers, especially when people get paid at the end of the month. By now, we are used to this pace.



Mexican child

ON THE MISSION ...

We left from Mexico City, with the Brazilian novice, Kelly, and other sisters and some girls, to Guerrero State, where little Spanish (but much local dialect) is spoken. We immediately began to visit the several chapels, to live Holy Week together with people, sharing the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord. The day started with the recitation of the rosary; at 5:00 there would be the meeting with children and



Sr. Gemma Pak

youth, and then, at 15:00, visiting families would begin. With a grateful heart we thank the Lord for these days of grace and hope, asking for help in being worthy missionaries of His Love among the people.

We pray the Mexican people, who, in July, will elect the Parliament, to choose the one who is receptive to people's needs and who does not look at his individual interests only. We especially pray for the priests, whose life is at high risk: in just one week, three of them got killed.