

News

Kenya – Marcello and Luciana have left for Kenya, to go and live with their 450 poorest children of a particular compound. The couple is committed full time in procuring what is necessary, not only for the school in Karinde but also that of Malindi.

Korea – We have a new missionary by the name of Sr. Crescenzia, who left Korea a short while ago to be a missionary in Mexico. She stayed in Assisi, until recently, where she served in the Basilica of St. Francis.

Assisi – The junior sisters have arrived for a formation program that is expected before perpetual vows. There are six sisters from Zambia, two from China, two from Kenya, and one from Indonesia. They do not all have a common language, in spite of this, it's a cheerful group.

Assisi – Sr. Charles Bweupe, the Delegate of the mission in Cuba, has also come for treatment in order to regain her health. We wish Sr. Charles, who has been a missionary for most of her life, firstly in the Philippines, and now in Cuba, complete healing so that she may return to her homeland.

Catalnissetta – Sister Charity Nkandu, has arrived in her new community. It is a community made of different congregation and they are offering their services to the immigrants. Wishing sister Charity "All the best!" in her missionary work.

Intentions for prayer

16 March – Let us pray for the youths in initial formation, especially our junior sisters who are in Assisi for an intensive preparation for perpetual vows.

There are 11 junior sisters who are currently in Assisi, six from Zambia, two from China, one from Indonesia, and two from Kenya. We know that every radical choice calls for Shared work, trust, faithfulness and it's for this that we want to pray for our

sisters who are preparing to consecrate themselves to God for all their life.

The young women in our Institute who are in initial formation are:

Brazil – 2 juniors, 2 novices, 2 postulants;	Kenya – 4 juniors, 1 novice e 1 postulant and 6 aspirants;
Korea – 2 juniors, 1 novice and 2 postulants;	
Philippine – 4 juniors, 2 novices and 3 postulants;	Malawi – 1 novice;
China – 4 juniors;	Romania – 3 juniors and 1 postulant;
Japan – 1 junior;	Vietnam – 3 juniors, 1 novice and 6 postulants;
Indonesia – 11 juniors, 7 novices and 8 postulants;	Zambia – 21 juniors, 4 novices, 9 postulants and 6 aspirants.
Italia – 3 juniors, 1 novice, 1 postulant;	

16 April – Let us entrust, with our prayers, our Korean sisters, together with all the people of Korea, where it is hoped that a reunification will take place under the bearing of peace and progress.

We know the sufferings and the risks that are faced by both parties, for a division that maybe would not have occurred if "the world leaders" never wanted it.

The President of South Korea initiated a dialogue with the President of North Korea, by proposing 2019 as the centenary year of the invasion, as the date of the demolition of the boundaries. Let us pray that this unity happens soon and that the people of North Korea can finally live in peace. May our Korean sisters continue to be signs of hope and new strength for a journey we wish for, full of progress and peace.



Dear sisters, friends, wishing you a holy Lent!

A special invitation to you all, comes from MISSIO, for the celebration of the 26° Day of Prayer and Fasting for the missionaries who have suffered martyrdom. The theme is "CALLED TO LIFE", in the daily witness of a faith that is lived in love and friendship towards all those who are deprived of life in its fullness, in the world.

We are all aware of the situation of some Churches where martyrdom repeats itself and sows numerous witnesses of faith. In the various places, where there is no freedom of expression, of practising one's faith, together with the political martyrs, there are also martyrs of faith. In Nigeria, the Churches that have been burned down, full of Christians in prayer, become altars of the sacrifice of the many innocent lives.



The data, according to the Newspaper, are dreadful: More than 150 million of persecuted Christians, 200 churches are raided or destroyed every month, more than 70% Christians have fled Iraq since 2003; in Siria, from 2011, 700.000 Christians have been forced to leave their homes, because of civil war.

Tajani reasserts that, "no other community is subject to hatred, violence and systematic aggression than that of the Christians. Their values challenge the dictatorial systems of government, like the case of North Korea, or authoritarian political systems".

An invitation is therefore, made for everyone, to live this day in remembrance of the witnesses who "did not want to accept the divinization of the emperor", all those who suffer for Christ and live under dangerous circumstances, so that all of us can live the faith in Jesus Christ, in the following that can entail the sharing of one's destiny.

Sr. M. Rosalinda

Father Primo Mazzolari describes Easter with the image of "spring", of the re-flowering of all humanity, redeemed by the total and unconditional gesture of love of the Crucifix which conquers death and makes triumph full life. It is with this spirit that we wish everyone: GOOD EASTER!



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A SUCCESS STORY OF GRACE MUTUKWA, ZAMBIA

During the time I worked in Chililabombwe in 2009, I came across a three-year-old HIV positive child by the name of Grace. Grace stays with her maternal aunt since the mother died when she was only one year old. Grace has two sisters and a brother. They all stay together in the Kampamba family. In this household, at that time, were 15 people living in a two-bedroomed house. These include; children, grandchildren and the orphans they keep. The aunt is married and both herself and the husband are just charcoal burners.

God Joins the Dots!!!!

One morning, the aunt of Grace came to cry at our convent door step with a child on her back. She threw herself on the ground to plead me for sponsorship for the child. The child was sick, full of sores and could not even walk. Her skin was peeling off and was simply a sorry sight to look at. I explained to her that she would have to wait until I could apply for the sponsorship and in the meantime just assist her with food from the Nutrition Center which was then in Kakoso. At that time, we had a visitor, Rosealba who stayed with us for a week. Just as Grace and the aunt left the convent, our visitor explained to me that her niece called her as I was talking to the aunt of Grace that she would like to sponsor a child from Zambia. For me this was God's Divine Providence for little Grace. I thought I didn't understand her well, but someone confirmed that it was the right message. I did not hesitate to take her to see Grace. The woman was touched. She took pictures and sent to her niece.

This was how Grace encountered Divine Providence. Grace used to have severe diarrhea such that the aunt felt that it would not be good for the other children to eat together with her at the Nutrition center, so she would just come every day to collect food for her and feed her at home.

As time went by, Grace began to improve and was always given the essentials that she needed through her sponsor and also the nutritious food from the Nutrition center. It was a joy to see the progress of this child. In this picture she had already started improving, though she was still puffed up.

At the age of five, Grace was enrolled in our school which was then rented out. We gave the condition that one sister should be on the staff, then they should give

three free places to some poor children. Among the three, Grace was one of them. When this school started, they only had ten children enrolled and they still took the three children that we identified. The school did all they could to make sure that the three children never felt segregated in any way possible.



Sr. Charity and Grace

It was amazing that Grace fitted in so well after some time. The first time we saw Grace, we were all sure at our community that the child would die in few days' time. Grace is on HIV drugs, ARV's (anti retro viral drugs). After the school stopped renting at our place, they promised to continue supporting Grace and the two other children. They support them with uniforms, all school payments that are needed, they give free of charge a snack every day and allow them to participate

in all the school activities. On the other hand, the sponsor has also continued to support Grace once a year with a lump sum of money which helps the family in whatever way and ensures that Grace has enough food and clothes.

The first time Grace celebrated her birthday, the school and Mother Angela community arranged for a party at school. Grace could not believe herself to look so special and get such a treat. Now, Grace is completing her fourth grade and looks healthy and happy.

Why call it a success story?

I personally want to thank all those who put an effort in our Nutrition Centers. The food that the children eat from there does go a long way and indeed improves the nutrition status of our children. The sponsorship money does help, but as I already narrated that there were (and still is) many children in their home and yet Grace because of her ill health, needed to be given adequate food to help her health status. This is just one of the stories of our children who have experienced Gods Divine Providence.

From school Grace has been helped to understand and know her status and she takes her own drugs by herself with the supervision of her auntie or other adults in the home. She does well at school and we hope that she will complete her school and live long to tell her own story.

God Bless the sponsor, Silvia Righi, God Bless all the donors of the Mother Angela Nutrition Center, God Bless the Wide Eye School.

Networking for the Kingdom of God, brings out better fruit.

Sr. Charity Nkandu



COMING BACK TO BUCHAREST ... Sr. Bernaveta Tancau tell the story ...

"The poor you will always have with you." (Mt 26,11)

These are Jesus' words though they were spoken in a circumstance of pain, in which Judas sold Him for 30 dinars, reveal a reality from every time and place. Jesus' disciple, a missionary and any Christian cannot do anything but loving the poor, as the Holy Father says, opening His letter, during the International poor's Day, with these words: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 Jn 3,18). These words by John the Apostle deliver an imperative that no Christian may disregard. It is not hard to find the poor, it is not enough to see them, and ... be insensitive to them.

I would like to tell you something about my experience regarding the poor.

As I got to my new mission, within the community in Bucharest, I was hearing the Sister who deals, right now, with the project concerning the poor families: "Go because Moraru is looking for you, Nita too ..." and many other names of people knocking on our door, and who I recalled, because they are all "our poor ones". I recalled all the years spent ... still in Bucharest but in the other house of ours, which is in a very poor neighbourhood.

There, within that community, I lived for more than 7 years, being in charge of forming the novices, throughout their training path. In addition to the training program, as a means of apostolate, we have been taking care of and helping the local poor. A Sister or a novice had to answer the door each time someone rang the bell. Thus, I had the chance to know many faces and many names belonging to these needy people.

Now I am in the Provincial House, because the house I wrote about before has become the home of Friars Minor Conventual. Yes, it is their home indeed, but it is still a point of reference and for meeting, not only for the poor of the area but for each and every poor in town. Every Tuesday morning, the needy homeless ones come in blocks to find a plate of hot food, to take a shower and to change their clothes, that got dirty during the week, due to their street life conditions, too.

I am very happy I can pledge my time to help them, to talk with them and to dress their wounds, because Father Bogdan, the guardian of the community, engaged me to verify who amongst them has some

wounds, and to heal them.

About this house, I can still write you, our Friends, Collaborators and Patrons, that missionary work, by Friars, along with us Sisters, covers all the age ranges and social conditions, all the people in need, not only for material things but also for education, spiritual and psychological guidance.

Sister Irina lends a hand to a group of children and young people which get there to be

helped with regards to homework. There is Sister Bety giving her contribution for the days of retreat, organised by Friars for the Tertiaries' group. There are many other secular volunteers who take part to this work, the Tertiaries who collaborate with Friars, both when the poor go to their house, and when they hand out a hot plate in the evening, to the homeless who find themselves in the street ... And all with the trust in Providence.



St. Francis, still today, teaches us that our assets are, and have to be, the poor, as, once again, Pope Francis writes in his letter: The most outstanding example is that of Francis of Assisi, followed by many other holy men and women over the centuries. He was not satisfied to embrace lepers and give them alms but chose to go

to Gubbio to stay with them. He saw this meeting as the turning point of his conversion: "When I was in my sins, it seemed a thing too bitter to look on lepers, and the Lord himself led me among them and I showed them mercy. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of mind and body" (Text 1-3: FF 110). This testimony shows the transformative power of charity and the Christian way of life.

May the Lord's Spirit help us too to make our lives a gift to others, to live like Jesus has taught by His life and because it is in giving that we always receive!

Sr. Bernaveta Tancau