



ASSISI – The Friends of the SFMA Institute met in the Motherhouse from April 27th to 29th. The group continues its journey of spirituality, led by a Lay Commission and accompanied by some appointed Sisters.

ARGENTINA – The new responsible of the Argentina mission is Sr. Roseni Da Silva, from Brazil. The Sisters present in Argentina are all Brazilian, and have been in the country since 2011, in the District of Intrario.

CUBA – The new responsible of the Cuban mission is Sister Gemma Pak, of the religious Province of South Korea. She was a missionary in Russia for ten years, then in Mexico for five years, and now she moves to Cuba, in the city of Matanzas.

MEXICO – Mexico also has a new responsible of SFMA mission in the figure of Sister Paola Antonielli, of the Italian religious Province, who was a missionary in Brazil, in Argentina, and now in Mexico, specifically, in Mexico City.

SAN MARINO – On March 25th the Solidarity Day was held with the presence of hundreds of people who enthusiastically experienced the formative and informative moments of the meeting, then participating in the solidarity dinner, in an atmosphere of great joy and fraternity.



May 16th – Our common prayer is for a welcome of the Apostolic Letter "Gaudete et Exultate" so that every person may feel the call to holiness alive. We pray for a new rediscovery of our vocation to revitalize the spirit of holiness in the Church.

Perhaps it has never been stressed enough that Father Marcheselli had at heart the sanctity of his Daughters, more than anything else. "This place is for those who want to be holy, who want to die to themselves to want only God. To those who only need to be saved, they will be good for other places, but not for this House". And again, he said: "To make of this House a place of delights for the Lord", where we compete in esteem, where the praises of the Lord are sung without interruption, where spiritual and material works of charity are practiced", a common line with what Pope Francis does not tire of recommending an evangelical life.

Celebrating Father Marcheselli's birth in Heaven, we want to raise our prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of the SFMA charism that adds a piece of holiness to the "outgoing Church" in which we want to be in the front row.

June 16th – Let us pray for the Italian Province gathered in the Chapter from June 20th to July 2nd, so that the Holy Spirit may give new life and renewed enthusiasm to every Sister belonging to this Province and indicate the best path to the Province itself.

The religious Province of the Immaculate comes directly from the first community founded in Assisi, lived the evolution of the Institute, identifying with the General Curia, until 1989, when it broke off to become a Province, with a provincial headquarters in Loreto. The first elected provincial superior was Sr. Lucia Prevedel.

Despite the reduction in the number of Sisters that comprise it, the Province of the Immaculate continues to send missionary Sisters to some realities of the institutes. The Italian sisters are present in the USA, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Zambia.

SUORE FRANCESCANE MISSIONARIE DI ASSISI

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Dear Sisters, Dear Friends, May the Risen Lord give us peace!

The surprises of Pope Francis continue! It really takes evangelical people! He invites us to be Missionaries to "be mission", respectful of creation, holy and immaculate, and this is how, after the "Evangelii Gaudium", the "Laudato Si" on April 9th gave us the Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exultate". Monsignor De Donatis, introducing it, said that "it is not a treatise on holiness but the desire to embody it in the current context; the challenge is to propose to everyone the call to holiness as a destination because to live it means to have a happy and not watered-down life". It is no coincidence that Pope Francis speaks of the "holiness of the next door", that is, following the example of fathers and mothers, who work to bring bread home and grow their children lovingly or, remembering the holy lives of our grandparents, we can all walk the path of a holy life.

I think that Father Marcheselli deeply rejoices in this new invitation from the Pope, he who cherished holiness more than anything else and wanted her with all his heart for his daughters.

Sr. M. Rosalinda

FROM RUSSIA, A MISSION MADE OF SMALL-BIG THINGS

Our feelings are grateful for the commitment of the staff of the Secretariat for the Missions because they rejoice the hearts of so many needy. God bless your mission that is not easy!

Thanks to the help received, we could buy medicines for the elderly and food for the poor, as well as pay some bills from some poor families. For the school camp we bought food for children, educational materials, medicine and gifts, catechesis subsidies. It was a very fruitful meeting. We also supported two young people from Uzbekistan looking for work, until they found work. From the offers received, we could also pay the plane ticket for a child who was operated in Armenia, her home country.



Sr. Jacinta



Sr. Elisabeta

On the occasion of the Orthodox Easter, the poor were given bread, Easter eggs, a little cake to each and a small useful gift.

Really, it would be difficult to carry forward the various needs we come to know, without your support and your generosity! So, we thank all those who have a generous and sensitive heart towards their neighbours. We are grateful to all of you, so that we can help many people and experience how the needy are grateful and pray to God for you all.

Grateful for all the good that you do, we greet you and all the collaborators, bringing you in our prayer before the Lord.

A grateful hug,

Sr. Elisabeta Mircsov and the community

FROM NEW MEXICO, A NEW MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
God is love, just, and humble.

With Sr. Annie Mbewe, we moved to the Navajo Reserve, in New Mexico and, after living ten months in the Tohatchi Mission, we accepted the bishop's request to manage the "Sacred Heart" Exercise House, located in the Diocese of Gallup.



Sr. Sofia

Since I have often hoped to help people who are distressed by the problems in their lives I personally saw this opportunity to do what I have dreamed of doing!

Becoming the Director of SHRC is quite a challenging task: we have twelve buildings, of various sizes, on fifteen acres of land. The buildings are aging, so we need to pay attention to fixing, repairing, and renovating these facilities.

However, my first interest is in the youth

on the Reservation. Since we lived at St. Mary Mission, and got to know the three small parishes on the Reservation, I have gotten to know a bit of their struggles and pains. We want to get together at least once a month, to learn and share together to improve our lives.

Yesterday was the second meeting we had, and I would like to share what I got from them.

First of all, about 20 of us watched a lecture from a world-famous man and had time to share what we learned from it.

For me, the most touching comment came from a girl who is a freshman in high school. She said she learned that "When God sends a gift to us, the gift is always wrapped with problems or pain." If the problem is bigger, the gift will be greater. I know what this girl is passing through in her real life. And my awareness makes me even more impressed by her insight.

One other said: "We always have to stand and walk toward the Sun light so that our shadow will fall behind us." In this comment, I heard that we are to let the past go by and embrace the present because the past and the future are not ours. When we hold onto negative past experiences, we will continually feel sad and/or depressed. Another said: "We must think positive because what we think about all the time, is what we will become." So, if I am thinking about what I want to be and how I can get it, I will become or acquire it.

The last comment I want to share is this: "I will write down ten goals, and I will prioritize them, and act on them." Action orientation is the key to success. This youth knows that when one learns something, he or she has to act immediately in order to make it one's own.

These are the words from our youth group!

I hope and dream continually that these youths can gather together often to work on their personal development. They have little or no support in their households or among their neighbours. God is their Ultimate Supporter, and we can seek God's ways together.

Please, keep praying for the youths on the Reservation.

May God be praised all the time and everywhere!

Your Sr. Sofia Lee



Map of New Mexico

IN THE SIGN OF HOPE - the "Friends from the street" project starts

Every parent, every educator, dreams the best for their children, creating opportunities to build beautiful lives. So, it was my dream and that of many sisters involved in the care and education of hundreds of disabled children in Zambia. In the evening, observing with great emotion, the effort that these children made to get on the bed, after removing the orthopedic appliances, I said: "Come on, one day you will have a better life, an easier future ..." Returning to Zambia, however, I had to note that, apart from a few exceptions of those employed in Ministries, in the School, in small businesses or in commerce, I have met too many of our ex-students living in poverty, begging alms on the sell vegetables or small objects in a world where competition is already difficult for those who can move better. Often, they do not have their own little house and are hosting each other. A reality that breaks



the heart, which forces you to look into their eyes to read the disappointment, the impotence of those who have no voice, the pain of not being able to be parents who provide their children with dignity and pride; it is then that you realize that life has not been generous with them and that you cannot leave them alone. They are forced to beg in areas far from their home, moving with great difficulty, in order not to let their children know that what little they earn is asking for alms. It is a situation that makes you shed a tear, which tells you that "it is not possible", children who have often known abandonment, who have lived their childhood in poverty and marginalization, often rejected by society, marked by finger for their physical or psycho-physical limit, now, must still find themselves in the situation of "waste" in a society that leaves no room for those who go slower and cannot compete. They too dreamed of a better world, accepting their differences, engaged in the study, gave their best to build beautiful lives, but were rejected once they entered the adult world. Rejected from the world of work, humiliated when they "annoy" because they beg for alms, mortified for not being able to offer a roof and the bread assured to their children, unable to have a voice at all levels, their life becomes an unequal struggle because it seems not be there where to look.

If the sadness has a face, I met him perfect in my children in Lusaka, Ndola, Solwezi, Luanshya: "helpless" in front of life.

By entrusting ourselves to Providence, in the last two visits to Zambia, we have gathered together, looking for some solution that could open up to a future of hope. The proposals are there, as well as the desire to work together to provide for themselves and their families. It is focusing on the possibility of forming small productive groups that can have activities that offer a profit that allows families to live in safety. We considered any difficulties in entering the world of the market, but we hope to be able to have voice and



resources, thanks also to the Sisters who have worked with them: Sr. Paschalina, Sr. Maria Goretti, Sr. Clara and, let's hope others, that the provincial Mother does not fail to encourage to support the project.

The proposals are varied and require investment, but also in this, the Lord is showing us how close he is to those injured, in fact, a friend from Australia, with his family, is committed to financially support the project: we are doing the experience of how much God cares about his creatures, especially the weaker ones. In each city, some small

projects are starting to see these young families involved, and by the Sisters who dream with Pope Francis that "there are no more scraps of humanity".

Sr. M. Rosalinda