



Dearest Sisters, dearest Friends, may the Lord give us Peace!

On September 8th we celebrate the nativity of the Virgin Mary, the very first missionary. On becoming Mother of the Lord, she begins her mission by going to serve her cousin Elizabeth: a true icon! Following her example, Pope Francis, during this Year of Mercy has visited, helped and comforted the poor every Friday. This is how he makes real the spirit of mercy: what a great example!

Considering the Sisters devoted to deeds of mercy, we wish to mention those serving in Loreto, as well as the ones committed at Xian Tou Leper Hospital; also all those who help the young and not-so-young to find their personal path to Faith. More than ever before, we feel the urge to be real instruments of mercy, mirroring the presence of Christ in our world.

We shall celebrate September 8th with deeds of mercy, to mark the beginning of a new spiritual path, open to anyone who has been left alone and is struggling to find a meaning to his/her life. To the hungry not only for bread, to those searching for examples to strengthen their faith.

"Open your doors!" Pope Francis exhorts us "...and give a smile!" We, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi have received a precious heritage from our blessed Founder, the Father Marcheselli: to give our whole life so that many may have a most fulfilling and plentiful one.

Let's take the challenge with a joyful heart!

Sr. Rosalinda and Sr. Bernaveta

WHERE DOES 8 % TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH GO?

This is a question I have been asked many times, and not without prejudice. Well, I first have to say that in the offices of CEI one can find a most open and welcoming atmosphere, in the true spirit of the Church. For the second time, CEI comes to help our missions in China, a Country where nothing comes the easy way. Thanks to CEI, we can help a Community in China, where we hope to complete the Home for old ladies, the "victims" of the only child politics of the past decades.

Moreover, we have just been given funds to restore the Home of our brothers and sisters with leprosy, who now live in derelict homes with leaking roofs, where dampness completes the destruction of their bodies. For them things are even more difficult and mortifying for lack of the comfort to which anyone in sickness is entitled for a dignified and possibly serene life.

The young Sisters share with the sick the hardships of everyday life in such a



poor accommodation, together with Jesus who, in His sacramental presence, has a place in a corner of the home. Here, the Lord shares the poverty of these people "who count for nothing".

At the beginning of this year we entered a request to CEI for the restoration and renovation of the Leper Hospital for 90,000 euro. A new roof, as well as flooring and wall plastering (the old one had rotten away) are needed, and new shower rooms and wc facilities. A few days ago Cardinal Bagnasco has given us communication that the whole sum has been granted. This means that in September all the above jobs will start and the patients of Xiang Tou will have a comfortable accommodation for winter. All this thanks to the caring support of the Italian donors.

The news has been more than welcomed by Sisters.

ABOUT THE COMMITMENT OF OUR SISTERS IN RUSSIA

"As wherever we are there is plenty of work to be done, we must show the love of God through the way we live and work. People here thirst for God: we can see that every time we meet old people sitting by the childrens' playground. They worry if we have been absent for a few days. "Slava bogu" means "Thank God you are here". The same thing happens when we go to the shops or in the street. Every day someone turns up for bread or food. Or they wish to pray with us.

People are grateful for our keeping the church open for them; they often come in for prayer and tell us about favours they received from the Lord.

During July we attended summer camp with the children of the Parish. We are now preparing the spiritual exercises for the families. During the exercises we shall care for the children and entertain them with games.

As the church (a prefabricated structure) is quite small, the parishioners sell fruit and vegetables from their orchards to raise funds to build a new bigger church as well as to support the various activities of the church community, such as the annual feast of the Parish, "Bread for the Poor", and summer camps. We consider all these as small deeds. Still, they enable us to meet many material and spiritual needs of our people.

We keep in touch with the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters and try to cooperate with them. The Mother Superior is our guest every time she visits Kaluga. She will also visit Assisi, where she will meet the Tertiary Group of the Basilica.



Sr. Elisabetta e alcuni ragazzi del campo-scuola

We have been saddened by the loss of dear Sister Piera. We have no doubt she is now interceding in favour of the Russian Mission she cherished so much. Sister Piera was a great benefactor here and the people keep loving memories of her. The Bishop of Moscow himself gave notice of Sr. Piera's death, asking for prayers. Her photo has been placed in the little church for a week and Father Nicola during the celebration of the Eucharist spoke of her as a saint. People kneeled in front of her photo, some were in tears.

Her example prompts us to do all we can to witness the love of God in this place of mission.

We shall say, like Pope Francis: "Please, pray for us!"

Sr. Elisabetta Mircsov

THE PHILIPPINES - A story which is customary and still renews itself every year: the first day at school...

"A story of joy" this is how the Sisters of the Manila Mission House center call it. The Center supplies the children with the necessary equipment for school. After breakfast they leave to school. They come back for lunch and for homework.

First day at school for Mary who goes into a tantrum: she screams and "wants her mum". The sister tries to calm and comfort her, all while Mary yells and sobs...until the sister opens Mary's rucksack and shows her the books. Going through the pages, Mary starts asking questions, a bit uncertain at first. When the sister tells her that she is now a grown up girl and school will teach her a world of interesting things which will surprise and make her mum happy to see how clever her little girl has become. Well, at last Mary smiles!



happy go to school



Maria, the desperate girl

Here, at the Mission House Center the poorest children appreciate how important is the assistance they get from the sisters for carrying out their homework. This would not be possible at their homes. They feel they are considered as individuals and, above all, that they are loved.

Playing games and catechism lessons are also part of the childrens' routine, to help them understand the Christian values which are vital for their growth as individuals.

I wish to mention with gratitude that the Center is sponsored generously by the Felici family from Le Marche, Italy. The two Felici children Benedetta and Francesco are growing up with the same wonderful, open and free heart as their parents.

ECUMENISM: POINTS THE UNITE US AND POINT OF DIVISION



PROTESTANT- This community was born around in 1517, following the spread in Germany, by the Augustinian monk Martin Luther, of his famous "95 Theses" against the papal indulgences that earned him excommunication. Protestantism is concentrated mainly in Germany, in northern Europe countries, in Switzerland and, in part, also in Poland and Hungary. This confession is divided into three main groups: the Lutherans, the Zwinglians, the Calvinists.

Catholics and protestants have a profound division that is characterized by doctrinal and dogmatic differences with regard to the interpretation of Sacred Scripture, the authority of the Pope, the meaning of Sacraments, the concept of Grace and salvation, the sacrificial aspect of the Eucharist, and the after death. With regard to priesthood, the protestants only recognize the universal priesthood of the faithful which consequently abolishes every distinction between the clergy and the laity.

ANGLICANS – Anglicanism arose in England around the year 1531 due to two reasons that have intersected each other. The English ecclesiastical hierarchy was requesting to be independence from the Roman Catholic Church. King Henry VIII, wishing to marry Anna Bolena, asked for the annulment of the marriage with Caterina d'Aragona. The Pope could not grant him this request, therefore, Henry VIII proclaimed himself as the supreme head of the Anglican Church, while primacy resides in the Archbishop of Canterbury. Anglicanism, predominant in England by then, latter spread even in other nations which make up commonwealth English. On the doctrinal, liturgical and organizational level, it has its own particular characteristics. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and her Assumption into heaven, as well as the infallibility of the Pope, divide the Anglican Church from the Catholic Church.

From what we have been able to note, as we have observed, there are many and quiet profound differences among the four groups. In the last ten years, several meetings had been organized with the aim of finding the aspects that the four denominations have in common, unfortunately the results were very scant.

The first attempts of dialogue date from the end of 1700 and they developed during the course of 1800, however, they were looked at with suspicion by the Catholic Church.

The first octavary, in a form similar to the current one, was born from the initiative of two ministers whose letters were related: the english anglican, Spencer Jones and the American Paul James Francis Wattson (American anglicano). In 1907 Rev. Jones proposed an establishment of 29th June every year, as a day of prayer for the return of the anglicans, and all the other christians, to unity with the Roman See.

A year that followed, Wattson expanded the idea, proposing it in form of octavary, a suggestion that was aimed at asking God for *"the return of all the other sheep to the sheepfold of Peter, the only Pastor"*. It is precisely in this year (1908) that the convention was held to officially mark the birth of the present week.

A profound evolution of the spirit of this octavary was due to the French abbot Paul-Irénée Couturier (1881-1953), who is considered *"the father of spiritual ecumenism"*. From 1933 he dedicated all his energies to revitalize the octavary, giving it a different spirit from that of Father Wattson. Initially he made a triduum, thereafter in 1934 he took it back to the duration and to a period proposed by Wattson. Some years after, the name became "the universal week of prayer for the unity of Christians".

During that time within the Catholic realms, the spirit of prayer was that of the return of the brothers separated from the Church of Rome. The main innovation of Couturier was that of orienting it instead to the request of mutual reconciliation among all the baptized in the Christian faith, in order to journey towards unity "which God wants, with the means which he himself wants" with the conviction that "you don't pray for one to convert to a Church, but to Christ".

Sr. Bernaveta Ciobanu

JUSTICE AND PEACE

For the theme of this new edition of our bulletin, we would like to discover more about another very delicate and painful theme in our current society. We focus on this because of the Meter Association Onlus (www.associazionemeter.org) which began in Italy, the work of a diocesan priest, Father Fortunato Di Noto, but has spread throughout the whole world for its response to the global problem of pedophilia.

Pope Francis speaks of it in this way: "A special greeting goes today to the "Meter" Association on the National Day for Child Victims of Violence. And this offers me the occasion to turn my thoughts to those who have suffered and are suffering from abuse. I would like to assure them that they are present in my prayers, but I would like to strongly declare that we must all commit ourselves with clarity and courage so that every human person, especially children, who are among the most vulnerable, be always defended and protected." (Regina Coeli, 6 maggio 2013)

Defense and protection are born out of awareness. "Meter" was born in Avola, Sicily, through the efforts of Father Fortunato Di Noto who, between 1989 and 1991 began to become intrigued by the new technologies: he saw them as marvelous instruments which, beyond their functional and very positive side, also permitted the diffusion of horrors and violence. The images that Father Fortunato found on the internet, even at that time, showed a true, and very real *holocaust* perpetrated thanks to the production and distribution of materials, whose victims were children, and that were either pornographic or, at the very least, very harmful to minors. His finding the first child pornographic images, and his denunciations of the culture of pedophilia, pushed Father Fortunato and others to what would become their very mission: battling against pedophilia and the abuse of children, as well as protecting children and their innocence. The name of the Association comes from word that has roots in the Greek language: "meter." It means "welcome, womb," and, in a broader sense, "protection and accompaniment." This name was born out of the need to root, and promote, the culture of the rights of children, in both ecclesial and non-ecclesial environments. Today, Meter, in the areas of protecting minors and battling against pedophilia and online pornography, represents a significant point of reference for all of Italy, and it is recognized the world over as one of the best authorities (from China to Japan, from the USA to Europe), in the prevention of childhood sexual abuse and the planning of interventions that are seen as a practical help to victims of sexual abuse. On the frontline in the battle against crimes against children, Meter actively collaborates with the CNCPO (Centro Nazionale per il Contrasto alla Pedopornografia Online - National Center Against Online Child Pornography) thanks to the involvement of the Postal Police and other Italian entities of the Government.



On March 15, 2016, in Rome, in the Sala Marconi at Radio Vaticano, Father Fortunato Di Noto presented and commented on the data in the 2015 Report on Pedophilia. We continue now with this report on its findings.



>>> **PEDOPHILIA/METER** presents this 2015 Report, by Father Fortunato Di Noto: “Do you want the numbers? The statistics? Meter will give you as many as you want but, please, before you publish them, I beg you to reflect on them. I believe that it will be advantageous to highlight and emphasize that, behind every number, there is a child who has been violated and used as a sex slave.” In order to be even more precise: “To better understand this question, and to overcome the idea that the pictures and the videos are not just virtual presentations but real events, think about how we are denouncing the involvement of around 700,000 children who have been reduced to sexual slavery throughout the whole world. I repeat: SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND CHILDREN have been reduced to sexual slavery throughout the whole world.” I would like to show you something, but... “I discussed the ontological and penal implications of such a disclosure of this fact with my collaborators, and then we decided to respect the laws and the professional norms: we cannot show you anything: neither the face nor the abuses endured by these small victims because the law prohibits it (for, if we were to do so, the disclosure itself would be the distribution of child pornography.)” “We wanted to show you these pictures, dear friends in the press, to inform you and help you be aware of all of the drama of the abuse of minors. We cannot do so. But everyone can see: there are those who see and turn their backs to it, with indifference. And this indifference makes them accomplices instantaneously.”

We can, however, give you the data: in 2015, we have identified this pornographic material, divided up by the ages of the children involved:

Age group	0-3 years	4-13 years
Pictures	8.745	1.172.164
Videos	4.199	72.001



WHOEVER KEEPS QUIET IS GUILTY – “If the law hinders us from showing the suffering of these little and weak ones, our keeping quiet about this reality would make us guilty of conniving with the perpetrators. We cannot allow ourselves to do so. We would have wanted to insert, in this communication to you, the photographs of newborns who were abused, tortured, and reduced to inhumane conditions. In one word: reduced to sexual slavery. And there are not only pictures of newborn babies, but also children up to the ages of thirteen years. But we cannot show you them.” Beyond that, observe this: “Online, there are those who offer this and other materials and often they are never caught or punished. This happens because the laws are not all the same, because justice in certain countries is hardly ever taken seriously, and because some cultural settings do not have adequate means to translate the battle against pedophilia into, first of all, the defense of childhood, from which such a battle must flow.” And then, “We would like to bring embarrassment and awareness to birth, in all, concerning the fact that nothing is being done to combat the sexual exploitation of children, pedophilia, and child pornography.”



>>>> IMPOSED SILENCE INCREASES THE SHOWS – The silence and the legal censures, however, are paradoxically a gift for the pedophiles. Still, we quote Father Di Noto: “We do not succeed in understanding the reason for the silence, which has become almost conniving and self-approving, concerning the sexual abuse of very small children (even by those who is supposed to be about protecting and guaranteeing the rights of children).” And not only this: “Besides, the pictures and videos that show child pornography are increasing uncontrollably, these images would make any person with good sense, any mother, father, or the whole society, faint. Yet, this flourishes in the guilty and hypocritical silence of all of us,” he concludes.

A SYNTHESIS OF OUR DATA

1,180,909 photographs and 76,200 videos (in 2015) have been identified, 125,000 child pornography sites (from 2003 until today) have been denounced, 9,872 only in 2015, of which 70 are in the deep web, with specific Italian references (and excluding those from other countries), 3,414 communities and social networks, 928 telephonic conferences, 73 cases followed from the Listening and Welcoming Center, and 54 chats monitored.

This reported data has allowed investigations to proceed in Italy and throughout the world, leading to many arrests for the possession and distribution of child pornographic material and for the sexual exploitation of children.

Dear Sisters, it has been said that the one who keeps quiet is guilty! We do not want to keep quiet! Sharing this information helps us to become aware and to move our hearts, as women called to safeguard all life, in our real commitment for the smallest and weakest among us wherever we are. We do not have to remain indifferent before these injustices that put the very heart of humanity in danger. Definitely, this issue asks of us a commitment in prayer: may our voices be transformed into prayers that we cry out for the small ones who, often, do not know how to express what they are experiencing. May we also come to a commitment in practice: attention for those who live around us, an awareness of whatever is shown in the means of communication, a commitment to denouncing evil and caring for, disseminating information about, and educating in these important concerns. Even in our educational environments: schools, parishes, etc., we can do a lot to prevent and battle against this wound called pedophilia.

EVERY WORD HAS CONSEQUENCES. EVERY SILENCE HAS CONSEQUENCES ALSO.

**Ogni parola ha
conseguenze.
Ogni silenzio
anche.**

FOOD: THE WASTED FOOD COSTS ITALY 8 BILLION EURO PER YEAR THE PARLIAMENT IS EXAMINING NEW LAW IN FAVOUR OF DONATION



During a research at the food desk (banco alimentare), 14 out of 100 families cannot manage to have a balanced diet. The minister for the environment said: “the reuse of unsold foodstuffs should be made easier”. But in the House, the law of “Zero wastage” has been proposed. A proposed law is being studied, and on 17th April the study was assigned to PD Maria Chiara Gadda and Massimo Fiorio. The idea at the basis of all this is that of circulating the economy, tenability of the system being at the center, with two priorities; **prevention**, even through lengthening the life cycle of the products and **donation** of the **surpluses** for charity. Among other aspects: **bureaucracy** for the one who asks to donate, involvement in the process of donation by other subjects other than onlus, but also **a tax incentive** as a variable part of **garbage fee** and a prize for the virtuoso companies, that is, those who put in “innovations that reduce wastage in the manufacturing process”. Furthermore, interventions that facilitate the transformation of the products that are no longer usable.

The Council for the **national plan of the prevention of food wastage** is at work, together with the coordination working committee. The law must be passed within 2016.

Even Europa is moving...

In Europa, an assessment of 89 million tonnes of food is discarded every year. The food is wasted at any stage of the food chain – from the farm to the fork, from the producers, the workers, retail sellers, restaurants and consumers.

By ratio, the reduction of food wastage is at its peak on the European Union's institutions agenda. The European parliament has requested for an immediate collective action in order to cut food wastage by half by the year 2025 and the European Commission is working towards this reduction by the year 2020, food being one of the

priorities in the Commission's 'Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe'.

This ambition requires combined efforts from the entire food spinneret. 2,3

Even then, reduction of wastage demands also a change in the attitude of the consumers. In the well to do European Nations, (37 million tonnes).¹ There are inquiries about food wastage in the whole of Europe. Much of the information derives from United Kingdom, with an estimation of 60% of wastage in the families that could be avoided, which on average if converted can be £480 (€565) of savings for every family each year. Furthermore, the estimated environmental savings can be equivalent to removing 1 to 5 machines from the street.⁴

“the annual wastage of food on the planet, from the residual in the field to the production and distribution, to the domestic wastage, is worth 1,3 times the entire Italian Gross Domestic Product, that is 2.060 billion Euros”. The information from FAO is a real alarm bell. To this, the results of the research on food shortage in Italy, presented at Expo by the food Desk, whose description of our Country is very close to Greece in this vain: “one out of ten people is affected by food shortage and is not in the position to have a regular meal, among these 1 million and 300 thousand are minors. Fourteen out of hundred families cannot manage to have a balanced diet with proteins at least every two days. In Greece, the reality is similar (13.8%), while in France and Spain it's 7.4% and 3,5% respectively”. Yet, according to the estimations from Italian association of farmers, “just reducing 25 percent of food wastage by the Italians would make it possible to adequately prepare a table for about 5 million people who are compelled to ask for help in form of packets of food or free meals”. The question is: the struggle for the wastage.

NOTICES



ITALY- Sr Vittoriana Magalizzi celebrated 60 years of religious profession, a very significant step which gives us joy and gratitude. With great passion and dedication, she serves in the Missionary Mostra three times in a week. Her generous and joyful contribution is of great relief, keeping the Mostra open in times when there are a lot of people on Assisi.

INDONESIA: It is a big feast for the first two Sisters who took perpetual vows and these are: Sr Theresa and Sr Alessia. They had been with us in the motherhouse for one year. In Indonesia, the vocations are quite many and this opens a new prospective and missionary presence in this Islamic country.

MEXICO: The first Mexican postulant went to be part of of the community in Merxico called Alejandra. After some months of experience, she was received in the formation house of San Paolo in Brazil.

ZAMBIA: A volunteer from the Liberato Zambia group was in Zambia for a service in the Yola-Yoli centre that produces food nutrients to fight malnutrition. She stayed for two months in Da Gama, Luanshya.

KENYA: A house for children to be known as Mamma Antonia is about to be constructed in the city of Malindi. It will serve as a day centre for children of this problematic area who are in need. The gift is from the Piovan family, in memory of the mother who had the children of Africa at heart.

PRAYER INTENTIONS



16 SEPTEMBER – : Let us pray for Pope Francis who specifically asks each time he closes any meeting: “don’t forget to pray for me”.

Let us dedicate the day of 16th September for an intense prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, whose tenacity and unshaken faith continue leading the Church. His prophetic and evangelical spirit has opened new paths towards the realization of a church according to the heart of God. In this moment in which everything seems concealed, Pope Francis offers humanity an uncontaminated Gospel as a sure way towards a new humanity which would see a future full of grace and salvation, which



not exclude nature, the nature that moans as it awaits the coming of Christ.

With him, many walls collapse, but he asks us to help build bridges; nothing is easy, but he asks a contribution of a prayer of intercession to obtain from God. This period in which the Church is one of the difficult periods, and for that, he asks for the capability to be a Father, a Pastor, a Leader; and Pope Francis feels prayer is what would sustain the faithful.

16 OCTOBER – Let us unite in the universal prayer of World Religions

Leaders who will be meeting in Assisi to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the First Prayer Meeting arranged by Saint John Paul II in 1986.

This preparation will be for three days (18th-20th September) with a theme 'thirst for peace, Religions and Culture in Dialogue. It is been proposed by St Egidio Community, the Diocese of Assisi and the Franciscan families. Hundreds of religious leaders from all continents shall meet in Assisi, together with representatives of the world of culture and of institutions, with the participation of various people from European cities. They will talk about victims of violence and wars, the cry of the people that are victims of terrorism, keeping far away the preachers of hate and working towards integration.

The Mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti declared: ours is a precious city, one of the treasures that guards is the spirit of Assisi. We are found at a difficult world juncture, at a blind terror, but we do not stop here. Assisi stands as a beacon of a new humanism against the globalization of indifference. The Bishop, Mons Sorrentino added: In the face of fanaticism that has come to us and use terror, dialogue and prayer are needed in order to bring about newness in the heart of man. And us daughters of Assisi, we want to intensify our prayer of intercession, feeling protagonists of a message of new peace that reaches the whole world

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Suore Francescane Missionarie di Assisi Via San Francesco, 13 - 06081 Assisi

Tel. e Fax: 075/816825 - e-mail: suore.assisi@virgilio.it