

16 September – Let us pray for the Sisters of the Mission in Cuba, so that they may always be a Lighthouse that brightens the path of this people that has remained faithful even in the mixing waters of contrasting ideologies.

Cuba has a population of around 12, 000,000 people; around 7,000,000 of these are Catholics. It is quickly recognizable as a mission land: there are only a few more than 400 diocesan priests, 250 men religious and around 700 women religious.

With the coming of Castro's Revolution, all of the goods of the Church in Cuba were confiscated, and all of its symbols were profaned or destroyed. The State was first declared as 'atheist' after the Revolution, and then, in 1992, it was declared 'secular.' In spite of this, the Church as survived and become reinforced, somewhat like the mythical bird, the Phoenix, even if the road to take to arrive at a true integration will be long and difficult. There is already a Seminary, for Pope Francis has visited this country already two times; Caritas (Internation) and Catholic Relief Services (from the United States) assist the poor all over the country; Raul Castro, after the visit of Pope John Paul II, declared Good Friday a national holiday, proclaiming that 'if the Pope could continue to reform the Church in this way, the Church here, even after many, many years, can return to prayer.'



16 October – At the end of the celebration of the General Assembly, we would like to entrust, to the Lord, all those who were called to animate and guide our Institute, so that they may always be instruments in the hands of God, who supports, guides and writes our History.

We would like to pray for all of our Sisters who are called to serve as Ministers, with aprons on their hips and sandals on their feet. We expect so much of them, and so much is asked of them, and so they must be sustained by prayer.

Saint Francis, in his letter to a Minister, speaks of the infinite mercy that must animate a superior: "And if you have done this, I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, His servant and yours: that there is not any brother in the world who has sinned – however much he could have sinned – who, after he has looked into your eyes, would ever depart without your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that you may draw him to the Lord; and always be merciful with brothers such as these. And may you announce this to the guardians, when you can, that, for your part, you are resolved to act in this way."

It would not be a bad practice to reinstate the good tradition from the past: praying for our superiors. That was a wise and responsible commitment because it acknowledged that those who serve in that role need to have a lot of moral strength, a spirit of discernment, the capacity to listen, and fidelity.

Sisters, Let Us Begin!!!



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,

May the Lord give us peace!

Maybe there has never been a time than now when the need to pray for peace in the world has been felt. We all feel vulnerable, we are suffering because of these enraged brothers, let's think of the affected families, the innocent victims of a thirst for senseless power. Being a missionary today entails committing oneself for that inner peace that produces peace, just like a fluttering of wings of a butterfly in Brazil can produce a storm in California, in the same way, our lack of peace as individuals and on the family level, can have repercussions in the world as a whole. "May you be people of peace, may you be people of joy", Pope Francis continues to repeat to us, preoccupied about the destiny of humanity.

The feast of St. Francis finds us all to a greater extent, in peace: Happy Feast!



Mission Day of our congregation Heredity that gets enriched

The 7th. September is a day of prayer in preparation to the Feast of the Nativity of our Mother, Mary. A Feast very dear to our Founders, Fr. Marcheselli and Sr. Angela, but very significant for us too. Let us celebrate in a particular good way the 275 years of departure to Heaven of Fr. Marcheselli, reflecting on his "Testament" in order to live it with gratitude and creativity so that our charism may become more and more beautiful and live.



Missionary meeting 20-22 October 2017

There will be a meeting for missionaries which is open to everyone, organised by Sr. Marilena, a Combonian missionary in Equador, with the theme a Missionary:

overflowing joy. It will be held in Assisi, at the Mother House, with a contribution of some available bed spaces in Casa Emmaus.

An interview ti Sr. Natia Ruggero, a missionary in Cuba.

Sr. Natia, for how long have you been a missionary in How has your missionary experience been?

For five years.

What is the current situation of the Country and the

the revolution, from 1959 when the Catholic where not allowed to be given employment if they didn't declare to be atheist, or you can as well talk of the partial freedom of your presence in that Country? worship that now exists. The foreign religious instituted I cherish this land in my heart, like a treasure wrapped up in were sent away.

their faith?

They had no employment and consequently no bread, they What would you like to say to all the sisters of the experienced real poverty, chosen for Christ's sake.

How are the Cubans like?

at home, they open their homes to us and ask us many evangelical flavour, ready to live the mission as well with questions wherever we meet.

It is my first experience and I am very optimistic in the way I live it; I strongly feel Jesus' concern in my heart: "the harvest is rich, the labourers are few". We live among the people with the spirit of minority and we feel that we can do more, speaking of when we were interrogated, sharing Many things have changed, you can just think of the time of everything that has to do with the common call to sanctity.

What does Cuba signify to you today, after five years of

affection; here, I feel at home. This place has given me a sense of belonging and a clear identity, which is a result of And what was happening to those who never renounced being appreciated as a person. I love Cuba as much as I love

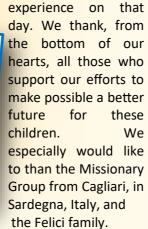
They need to love what they do, receiving all that is They are very welcoming, they always want to make us feel requested of them, as a gift from God, living it with an the same spirit, with the awareness that the Kingdom belongs to him: "freely you have received, freely give!"

The Philippine - The Sisters tell us about the Activities of the Mission House.

Every day, at the Mission House, we welcome tens of children who, if we were not here, would remain on the streets, alone, because their parents leave the residential area in order to look for work elsewhere. "It has been five years since we opened this Mission House and our priority remains the same: to enthusiastically encourage all to go to school, and we reward those who are most faithful in doing so. Many of these children do not have positive self-esteem because they are embarrassed about the situation from which they come. But, with time, they acquire trust and begin to feel happy since they are being offered new possibilities for becoming just like other children. Our initiatives are many as we help them to fall in love with studying: we have a good Library and here they learn how to translate pages from English into their local language, Tagalu; they express their innate creativity in a stupendous way.

Some friends have provided us with computers, and this has allowed us to open the SFMAH Study Net Café where the children can do their research and the Sisters can monitor their homework. They also study the

Encyclical "Laudato Si" together and grow in their awareness of the reality of refuse and pollution in the Philippines. This study also encourages them to adopt a new sensitivity to these issues and we ask them and their families to plant new trees. The children learn how to use water, which is extremely rare in their country; by teaching them how important this element is, they also learn how to use it well, always and wherever they are. There are times when we organize a Bazaar at which the children can acquire food stuffs, clothing, and other things that the bonuses that the children have earned during the year for their good behavior, their acts of solidarity, and for their attendance at Church. The best day is when the parents come to celebrate with the children, when the children can express themselves through some creative projects, including song and dance; it is really moving to see the joy that all





From the mission of Concordia, Argentina, sr Bete writes.

"Reflecting on our presence in this mission, and how we carry out this mission in an area that is surrounded by great poverty, where we also happen to live. Just like the greater part of the other suburbs, even ours is marked by a deteriorating social situation which affects various social, psychlogical, cultural and religious levels... unemployment, drugs, alcoholism... which has fostered violence and consequently, many victims. In this context, we try to be a simple and significant presence, attentive to the various needs of those who often knock on our door. I believe that our style of life and our presence in this city is a positive response, because many people ask why we have chosen to live in this place.

Sr. Bete with some of Concordia's children

Some reasons as to why we feel our presence is a symbol of new life in this

- For more than twenty years, part of our area suffered a great scarcity of water. Us sisters, together with many others in the neighbourhood, organised meetings and signed requests, to the city council so that they can claim the right to water and, after many fights, we were given running water in all the homes: this was a great achievement and the families are very happy.
- With the children and adolescents of our quiet area (shantytown of a mountain of garbage), through handicraft, we reached an integration of various ethnic groups which in turn feels welcomed, they are able to share their sentiments and as a result love grows.
- In the Parish of Our Lady of Pompei, once a week, we render our services at the "Listening center", where drug addicts and alcoholics, come for help in order for them to be helped to come out of the tunnel. It's a way of giving some consolation and encouragement to the families who in many cases get destroyed, with so great a pain that leaves deep
- The fraternal visits that we make in hospitals, where we also provide spiritual comfort, have fostered a profound experience of listening and of trust, on many occasions, from the patients or the families who accompany them.

By God's grace, we are committed to pastoral care, and we collaborate with youth groups, vocation discernment in the dioceses, and catechesis to children and adults. These and many other realities pose a question to us and for each one it's a stimulus/urge to receive everyone with great joy and affection. This difficult reality of a people that has suffered a lot, has made us understand that we have a big field that is entrusted to us for pastoral care which gives us an opportunity to incarnate and live our Charism. It is our wish that we get to carry out other projects, whose clear perception has not yet been attained, for which we ask the prayers of all the sisters, so that the light of the Holy Spirit may help us to discern and that He may guide our ways. With trust in God's tenderness, which has embraced and comforted us in moments of fear and insecurity, and has sustained our hopes and our audacity, I ask the protection of Mary our Mother, St. Francis, and our Founders so that each one of us may follow the footsteps of Jesus through listening to His Spirit.



Assisi – Sister Marina Plesca has arrived in Assisi, at the Mother House, to take the place of Sister Bernaveta Ciobanu in the SFMA Missionary Secretariate. Sister Marina comes from Husi, where she was involved in the teaching of children in the Education Center.

United States – Sister Norberta Petrucci has returned to Italy for some vacation time. Her missionary spirit characterizes her life, even after 56 years of giving her life in service, mostly to those who are alone. Welcome to your homeland, dear Sister Norberta~

Mexico – Sister Paula has returned from Mexico, where she has been living for around five years, and where she has dedicated herself to the smallest children, and others who have not had the chance to learn how to read and write in the usual ways. With her vivacity, she is obtaining marvelous results!

Brazil – Sister Redenta Rondello is also on vacation these days; she has been a missionary in Brazil for 52 years. Leaving one's own land is important; spending one's whole life in a new homeland is a sign of fidelity and passion for one's mission, that is marked by the divine.

Moldavia – Sister Silvia is the new Provincial Delegate of this mission. In Moldavia, our Sisters have found a way to carry out their Mission; they proceed with patience and perseverance, believing that the Kingdom of God has its own ways of measuring time, simply because the plan belongs to God.