

INTENTION OF PRAYER ON THE 16TH OF EVERY MONTH.

October: Let's pray for the new Community in China. We pray for it may become the good seed for the evangelization of that immense Country craving for God.

(The Community is active at Bajiacum, running a clinic with doctors and nurses, Sister Angela Jeong (who has already worked at the Shaanxi leprosarium) with Sr. Maria Kim. There are 4 chinese novices and two postulants (now in Korea to complete their formation program) while Sr. Lucia Song is in Italy attending a 4-year course to become a teacher to the Chinese young Sisters at the Claretianum in Rome.

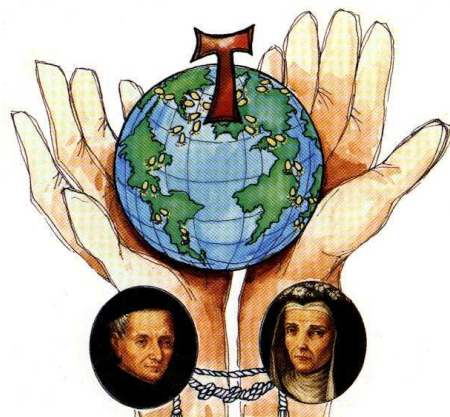
November: Let's pray for the doctors of the group "Liberato Zambia" who are now starting their mission in Zambia. For the Nutrition Centre and for all the sick waiting to undergo abdominal surgery.

(The group of Liberato Zambia was formed in 2001 at Ancona. They are active supplying teaching, sanitation and sponsoring. They refer to the Assisi Franciscan Sisters in Zambia. They have already carried out a number of projects in the sanitary and nutrition field. They have just started a new one, called "Plumpy-nut" to produce a new food from peanuts to fight malnutrition. The idea is to provide new jobs for the young handicapped of the Da Gama school while implementing the project)

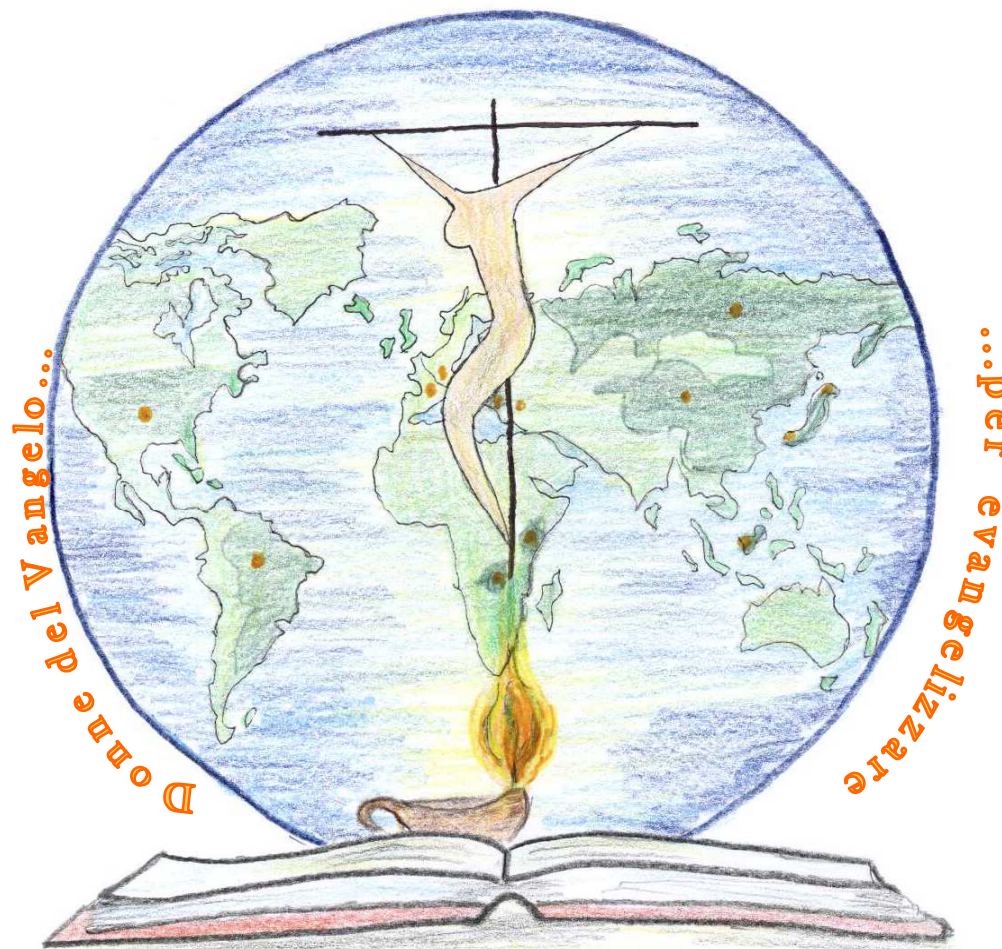
December: Let's pray for whatever outcome will follow the trip of our Mother General to Mexico and Cuba to open a new Mission.

(Mexico has a permanent Church and a very promising economic future. There are signs indicating Mexico as becoming one of the world's strongest economic powers in the next 40 years. But this unfortunately makes the gap between the rich and the poor grow bigger. The Country has 62 local dialects. 87% of the people are catholic, 6% protestant, plus a small number of other religious groups. Mexico is one of the largest and more populated Countries in the world)

(Cuba has a good economic growth prospects and is second Country in the world for standards of Education. State atheism has been abolished in 1991. At the moment the State only is laic. 50% of the people declare to be atheist. The most widespread religion is Catholicism. 50% of the people are practicing catholics, in addition there are some Afro-Cuban religions as well as some native African religions).



Foglietto Missionario - October, November, December 2008



**Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi
in the World**

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Dearest Sisters, Dearest Friends,

Peace!

*It is well said that, “when horses are missing, asses are made to run”, thus, you are getting the old **Foglietto Missionario** back, as a means that will allow us to keep in contact and journey together in the field of missionary, by exchanging experiences that will become common richness.*

The simple magazine will be published every three months and will need the cooperation of each Sister in the Congregation: “Only when faith is shared, it increases”, says John Paul II. Thus, I am kindly inviting you to narrate your own experience of faith, the experiences of your lived life, the dreams and expectations, which are always very meaningful and will be welcomed with joy and gratitude by all. The same invitation is for friends and all those who share our charism in one way or the other. Please, give us the gift of your lived and shared faith!!! Thus, our experience becomes richness for many and will be a lesson for life. Let us remember St. Francis, who after having sent his friars to different places, would wish to see them ardently and share what the Lord had worked in them and through them: it is what we want to do, too.

Let us start again to live in a special way the monthly Mission day (16th. of each month), the day that reminds us of the birth into heaven of our Founder, Fr. G.A. Marcheselli. The day has to have a missionary tone in order to live in communion with each Sister around the world and all those who share our life and mission.

suor M. Rosalinda

The first incitement comes from the young Sisters coming from different Countries meeting in Assisi to prepare for their final profession. For them.....

“....to be a Franciscan Missionary Sister of Assisi today means living the evangelical values by reading the signs of our times, conforming to the poor and crucified Christ, leading a simple and humble life. The FMSA lives her fraternal life with joy, loves intensely the mission that God entrusted to her and, being converted, proclaims the values of conversion.

Compassion and benevolence fill her everyday life. She gives expecting no reward, answering God’s call, she sustains her Sisters in their common journey, she drinks at the source of life by her prayers, always faithful to her consecration. She is a woman of prayer and tireless service.

She lives in harmony with the Universe and takes upon herself “*the struggles, the suffering, the joy and the hopes of mankind*” through her personal commitment and prayers.

She lives in community and strives to focus the problems of our society, such as lack of the sense of living, individualism, racial intolerance, ethnocide, through the communion that leads to the dialogue and to universal fraternity. She lives the “*assisanity*” as something that brings a gift to mankind: **the perfume of Francis, our Universal Brother**

Brazil: The 25th anniversary from the foundation of the Franceschino Community of reception has been celebrated this year in the areas of Eustafa and Ubatuba, alongside the sea shore of Sao Paulo.

The sisters who arrived to the Mission on February 10th, 1983 were Sister Flavia, Sr. Maria and Sr. Leninha.



The man who started this charitable action was Father Pio Populin, who has now reached his ripe age, but is still very active in the Brazilian social reality. The work of the Community is focused on the social promotion of the families whose members are often single parents, e.g. mothers obliged to find a job, leaving their children without care while at work. The “Casa” provides these children with full education and complete assistance in order to give them all they need for a serene and healthy upbringing. The Sisters give their loving attention both to mothers and children. Mrs. Gigliola Armellini from Rome has sponsored all the 90 children. This means a continuous flow of care for them.

Providence has never been absent during these 25 years. The children clearly show the amazing results of being loved and well cared for. They certainly have a good start in life and hopefully they will grow up in the right way. May God – in His immense goodness – reward Mrs. Armellini and all those who have cooperated to improve the Centre and make it a very pleasant place. *Sister Leninha.*

Japan: We wish to thank our Lord and all of you and share with you our joy on the 50th anniversary of the Mission in Japan. The celebration has taken place on May 17th, 2008. The Eucharistic thanksgiving has been held at Kamari church in Tokyo by the most Rev. Bishop Petro Sirayana-gi, with Father Bernardino Hagiwara and 12 more clergymen. The Mother general, Sister Juli Malama and Sr. Albina Lee, the Provincial of Korea, a number of Sisters, seminarists, some postulants from Vietnam, together with relatives of the Sisters, old friends from the beginning of the Mission, many acquaintances and the Parishioners.

Father Hagiwara, during his homely, thanked the first three Sisters, Sr. Leonia, Sr. Lauretana and Sr. Roberta for having brought into being a brand new reality and for their precious work. He has also thanked all the other Sisters. He has especially pointed out the fact that St. Francis continues to build the Church everywhere in the world by the work and sacrifice of his followers: they lead a simple life, in poverty, helping each other in a brotherly way, setting an example to our selfish and competitive society. The Rev. Taghiwara has encouraged us to follow Francis’ spirit in our life, while thanking us for our help and our friendly attitude toward the people of this area. His words have touched our hearts.

Father Bernardino, who visited Kamari in 1958 (when the place was just a rice-field) would never have imagined a convent being built in such a place. In reviewing the history of the Community, Father Bernardino pointed out the changes brought about in Japan during the past 50 years. In a biblical way, the year of the Jubilee is a “Year of Grace”, during which “all should be re-consecrated to God”, starting anew towards a future filled with Faith.

No matter the decreasing birth-rate, the ageing population and the lack of vocations: what really matters is making a fresh start, and this is our intention. The celebration went on with a dance performed by our postulants from Vietnam and the group of the Young Ones. We have concluded with our new slogan “Let’s start from scratch”, let’s throw our nets, we are full of faith in Him who makes our history. He will do wonders!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

60 millions of bride girls

Their age ranges between 8 and 14 years.

The report comes from the United Nations. Usually the wedding takes place when they are 12/14 years old, sometimes even before. Often the husband is an old man, whom they have never met before.

Njoud, an eight year old girl presented herself unaccompanied at the court-room declaring that her father forced her to marry a 30 year old man who beat and abused her all the time.

8th American Missionary Meeting in Ecuador.

The meeting took place in Quito, from the 12th to the 17th of August and focused on the theme “*America, together with Christ, listens, learns and announces*”. The meditation on the missionary discipleship of all baptized induced us to meditate on the figure of Paul of Tarsis as a model of discipleship. A very good speech by Cardinal Rodriguez: “Everyone should undergo a *check-up* for we are all suffering from missionary cardiac weakness and badly need a pace-maker implanted by the Holy Spirit so that our hearts can palpitate with the words “Heaven help me if I don’t evangelize” = Heaven help us if we fail to be missionaries”.

Romania

Seven Romanian Sisters who have taken their vows underground have celebrated the 25th anniversary of their profession of Faith on September 14th at Halaucesti. Among them there was who had made their profession in a sacristy, who made it in a confessional, or on top of a steeple. All these are strong evidences that continue to give life to a rejuvenated and lively Church.

Kenya

Our Sisters informed us that the consequences of the riots broken out a year ago at the time of elections are still there. Many families have been separated, are bewildered and a number of sponsored children still cannot be traced, with all the consequences resulting from the situation.

Indonesia

Two postulants have left to Korea to start their novitiate. Four other postulants live with Sister Susanna, Cristina and Paola at Medan, where the construction of the convent and building to house the children in hardship has just started.

In a muslim Country, the presence of the Franciscan Sisters is a blessing and is already producing its fruits.

Rome

The 23rd Missionary Assembly, organized by the National Franciscan Missionary Centre – OFMConv. Took place at “The Seraphicum”. The meeting was very well structured, with valuable contents and lively testimonies. A fresh new air could be breathed in connection with the Franciscan Mission realized together by the First and Third Franciscan Order. Especially significant was the new missionary vision for Italy: gone is the time of missionary “animation”: **we are now in a land of mission with an urgent need for converted missionaries, ready to convert.**

FROM THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER ON THE MISSIONARY WORLD DAY 2008-10-23

Some excerpts from the message you may find on the site www.chiesacattolica.org.

On the event of the World Mission Day, I would like to invite you to meditate on the continuing urgency to proclaim the Gospel in our times. The missionary mandate continues to be an absolute priority for all the baptized, called to be “servants and apostles of Christ Jesus”

His is the Pauline Year, which offers us the opportunity to become familiar with this great Apostle who had the call to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles: “Go, I shall send you to the Gentiles” (Acts 22:21)

Mankind needs to be liberated and redeemed. The Creation is suffering, Mankind is waiting for real freedom; it is longing for a different and better world; it is waiting for “redemption”. And deep down it knows that this new world implies the presence of the “children of God”.

There is, moreover, a constant threat regarding the man/environment relationship due to the indiscriminate use of natural resources, with heavy consequences on the physical and mental health of human beings.

With concern we ask ourselves: Is there any hope for the future, or rather, is there a future for mankind? The answer to these questions is Christ: He is our future, his Gospel is a “life-changing” communication that gives us hope and throws open the dark door of time, throwing light on the future of mankind and the universe.

By looking at St Paul’s experience, we understand that missionary activity is a response to the love of God. His love redeems us and spurs us to the *missio ad gentes*. It is the spiritual energy that can make harmony, justice and the sense of communion grow among the people of any race: and this is everybody’s wish. Only from this source, care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality, availability and genuine interest in people’s problems can be drawn as well as all the other virtues necessary for the messengers of the Gospel to leave everything and give themselves completely

And unconditionally to spreading the perfume of Christ’s love around the world.

It is important to reaffirm that, even in the presence of growing difficulties, Christ’s command to evangelize all peoples continues to be a priority: No reason can justify its slackening or stagnation because “the task of evangelizing all peoples constitutes the essential mission of the Church” (Paul VI). Today there are countless people waiting for the proclamation of the Gospel. People who are thirsty for hope and love. There are so many who are deeply touched by the call for help that rises from the people. These leave everything to go and bring Faith and Love for Him to the people!

Dear Brothers and Sisters, “*duc in altum!*” Let us set sail in the vast sea of the world and, following Jesus’ invitation, let us cast our nets without any fear, confident in His constant aid.

From the Vatican, 11 May 2008 Benedictus PP. XVI

INTERVIEW with Missionaries:

Sr. Gemma Pak came to Italy because her Visa in Russia is valid only at 50%, pay two, receive one!

☞ For how long have you been in Russia? How do you feel?

Have been in Russia for more than five years. I enjoy it. I like to stay there: I love the people, who are very good. I like the nature, the environment, everything, everything is beautiful, especially during the spring”.

☞ Isn't it difficult for you and your community not to be able to do much apostolate?

Absolutely not. A missionary has to be, not only to do. We should remain in Russia because our catholic community has the right to receive the gift of consecrated life.

☞ In which way do you evangelize?

The government maintains that the Catholics are diminishing in number, but other sources say the contrary. They try to discourage us and we are considered a sect, but we want to be a presence that clarify this position as well. Our evangelisation is love, patience, presence.

☞ A dream?

To give freely everything we have and possess to our people in Russia. We address this provocation about our mission by continuing to give witness through our fraternity, our Faith and charity.

☞ What is important to you and your community in this moment?

Continuing to be that presence that makes us feel we are “mothers” for the people. The “small flock” of Kaluga considers us as mothers and this is the most beautiful thing for us.

☞ Do you think that there should be more SFMA in Russia?

Not necessarily. An adequate number of sisters is sufficient to form a serene community. From this point, we hope to have local vocations to carry on our charism in Russia. If this is the will of the Lord, He will send us new vocations. Up to now we have been praying, but it seems that the Lord is sending them somewhere else...

☞ What would you like to say to the Sisters of our Institute?

I would like to say that, those who feel the vocation to the missionary life, should manifest it to the Superior and then leave their own Country...leave without fear and much trust. What should we fear? There is Jesus alive in the Community.

No doubt about it, thank you, Sister Gemma!

FLASH EXPERIENCE OF SR. ORNELLA IN ZAMBIA

The images of Africa are still in my eyes, vivid with their vibrant colours! Woods, huts, street, people, and, above all, the children!

The girls of the Da Gama Home are passing from one to the other a white little hat, taking turns to take photos from their wheelchairs, head bent to the shoulder and a sweet smile. The sad eyes of the little orphans who run to welcome you, and want to be touched, hugged or want to hold your hand. The boys and girls who live in the leprosarium take the opportunity of our presence to or-

ganize a dance. The oldest run to get the drums and immediately the music begins. A girl from the Nutrition Centre is stopped at the door by one of the volunteers: “Why didn't you finish to eat your piece of chicken?” “I'm taking it to my Grandmother”. The hansenian who asks us to take a photo that he will never be able to see, still wants to wear an immaculate shirt. A man takes us to visit a sacred place and tells us that, once printed, the photos of the rocks will show lions instead. Sister Josephine shows us with pride her banana plantation and her chickens answering to her call.

Memories and emotions, but also admiration for what the Zambian Franciscan Sisters manage to accomplish. There are only 100 of them, but they are carrying out an enormous number of projects. The Sisters minister in schools and hospitals, in the farms and the city surroundings, in the nutrition centres, the orphanages and leprosarium. In the educational centres for disabled children, in the orthopaedic clinics both in the city and in the rural areas. A real Missionary community Thank you, Zambian Sisters!

LET US KNOW EACH OTHER...

Significant stories: A story of a life and a death that opened an outlook on the greatness of her existence: Sister Colomba! While we try to overcome the sadness for her departure, this narration wants to be a thanksgiving to the Lord “Who has done great things” in this creature. Humble, sweet-natured, with an acute and strong mind, she had the ability to draw the best from every encounter, spreading around her only peace and goodness. She spent forty-eight years of missionary life in Zambia in the formation of many Zambian Sisters, through her example of life and constant service to the poor. They all say she was a real mother to them. They called her “Mayo” (mother), so did the Bishop of Ndola, too, during his farewell discourse. She was as humble in life as she was great in her death, which confirm the holiness of her life. Her last gesture when she became unable to speak was to kiss the hand of the Superior Provincial.

For three days at Saint Theresa's Mission the people prayed spontaneously: there was a perfect spirit of peace as if some “magnetism” had united heaven and earth together. The “Mayo” of the religious province and the “Mayo” of the poor had left, but they were not alone. The life of Sister Colomba will continue to get through and raise new missionaries for this land blessed by God but challenged by political and economic situations which prevent it to feed its children in an adequate way. Thank you, Sister Colomba, for all you gave us, especially for the inheritance you left us: to be instruments of Peace and Goodness!