



CONGREGATION LIFESTREAM

WE ARE DIFFERENT YET ONE

“The way of Jesus...to walk united with our differences.”

-Pope Francis

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Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, Casa Santo Spirito, Via dei Bevilacqua 60, 00165, Rome Italy



ORIGINAL PAINTING OF FR. AMRHEIN RECOVERED

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A JOYOUS FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

(MONTH OF JUNE: DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART)



CASA SANTO SPIRITO, COMMUNITY, ROME

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ORIGINAL PAINTING OF FR. ANDREAS AMRHEIN RECOVERED

SR. PIA PORTMANN, OSB

(This account was written on *October 12, 2012*
during the *XII General Chapter*)

According to Sr. Bernita Walter it was assumed that the original painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by Fr. Andreas Amrhein did not exist until we got information from Fr. Amrhein's letters that he painted the Sacred Heart by order of Mr. Benzinger, Publisher of Einsiedeln in Switzerland. On October 29, 1903 Fr. Andreas wrote Fr. Thomas Bossart, deacon of the monastery in Einsiedeln:

I painted meanwhile a big picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the first time Mr Benzinger was completely satisfied while repeating: 'this painting I like very much; it shows majestic dignity, clemency, love, vitality, light and warmth. One can pray with it.'

The painting got the title – Jesus, Salvator Mundi. It is signed with Fr. Amrhein's pseudonym, Georg André, and later added the abbreviation of JA.

When Mother Angela in 2010 read about it she asked me to write Benzinger Publisher and to inquire about the painting. At that time I was the house coordinator in Rome. I found out that Benzinger Publisher did not exist anymore, but nevertheless I wrote to the new owner. I never got an answer.

Later M. Angela learnt from Fr. Cyrill, Schäfer, OSB in St. Ottilien that the painting is in the Benzinger Archive. Meanwhile I was already in Norfolk. M. Angela asked me to go to Einsiedeln when I visit my family in Switzerland to find out if the painting is still available.

As my homeleave, before the General Chapter approached, I asked the brother of my sister-in-law, Hans Binder, if he could help me find the Benzinger Archive in Einsiedeln. He contacted Herr Lienhart, director of the Fram Museum and he invited me to come and see if I could find the painting. Fram Museum was only established in 2008 and has 3 main concerns of collection

- Benzinger Archive
- Collection of Meinrad Lienert (writer)
- Einsiedlensia Collection

Main criteria for collection is the close connection to Einsiedeln.

On September 12 at 10 in the morning I had my appointment. I brought our jubilee prayer card of 2010 along to show the picture. After some prayers at the shrine of our Lady, my brother Arthur Portmann, and his wife Rosmarie, sister of Hans Binder, and I went to the museum. After showing Mr. Lienhard my prayer card he said, "*I have seen this painting. I think we have it*". First we went to his computer and watched a series of digitalized Sacred Heart paintings. But we could not find it. Then he gave me three archive boxes with paintings of holy picture, mostly Jesus, Mary, Joseph and many saints, but still I could not find the painting.

Finally, the director came back and told me, "*I have one more idea where to find it.*" He went back to the archive and came with the painting and a letter of EOS Publishing. He and we were overjoyed seeing this great and big painting.

Now we started the deal. The director contacted his boss, Mrs Detta Kaelin, curator of the museum. We learnt that nothing can be given away, but she asked about our budget and told me it has to go to the board of the museum who would meet the following week.

Upon my arrival in Rome on September 17, I received the email from the museum that the board granted our request. A few days later Mrs. Kaelin wrote, "*I am happy to know that the painting found its 'right place'. I could convince the board to sell the picture, although it is against our principles. We unanimously agreed that this picture would be honored with you while it would be very seldom looked at in our archive.*"

My brother Arthur went to Einsiedeln to get the painting with a document of our ownership from the museum. Meanwhile, our Sisters in Ettiswil paid the required amount. Arthur made a special box of press-wood to transport the picture safely. My youngest brother Gebhard was ready to transport this picture on his way to Calabria (7 hours south of Rome), where he spent 2 weeks of vacation. On October 5 he handed the precious painting over to me at the "Autogrill" on the interstate outside Rome.

On October 8 we celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at the Generalate for the outgoing and

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incoming leadership. During this Mass, Mother Angela and I carried this painting during the entrance procession and showed it to the assembly, composed of the chapter delegates and and the Casa community.

The painting has to be restored by a professional and then will be framed at the Casa Santo Spirito in Rome.



*File photo (October 8, 2012): XII General Chapter With the outgoing generalate members, M. Angela and Sr. Pia in procession to the altar with the painting of Fr. Amrhein
l-r: Sr. Salete da Rocha , Sr. Maoro , M. Angela, Sr. Pia, Sr. Adelaida Ygrubay, Sr. Terese Zemale*

NEW LEADERS INSTALLED

- Sr. Rosa Maria Santana, delegated by M. Maoro Sye, installed Sr. Rosa Pascal as prioress of Nairobi on May 15.
- Sr. Terese Zemale, delegated by M. Maoro, installed Sr. Raphaela Mwilo as prioress of Ndanda on June 29.
- M. Maoro sworn Sr. Ana Maria Raca into office as general secretary on June 16. Sr. Ana Maria served the Manila Priory as priory councilor, procurator and superior of two hospital communities.

With heartfelt thanks to

Sr. Terese Zemale for her dedicated service as prioress of Ndanda for the past 8 years and to Sr. Rosa Maria Santana for her faithful leadership as prioress of Nairobi for the past 5 years.



Installation of Sr. Rosa (l) by Sr. Rosa Maria (r)



Sr. Terese (l) and Sr. Raphaela (r)



Sr. Ana Maria receives her document of appointment from M. Maoro



Sr. Cecil and Sr. Angela (next page)

INTERPRIORY...from page 2

- Sr. Rosa Maria Santana from Nairobi back to Sorocaba, her home priory
- Sr. Terese Zemale for a temporary assignment in Ndanda
- Sr. Ana Maria Raca from Manila to Rome
- Sr. Cecil Jo from Rome back to Daegu, her home priory
- Sr. Angela Wausi Ndunda from Nairobi to Sorocaba.

CONGREGATION WEBSITE UNDERGOES RECONSTRUCTION

SR. REGINA TESCH, OSB



In her last common letter, M. Maoro announced that a new website for our Congregation is in preparation, and a new blog was initiated. Before taking this step into the future let us look back to the history of our presence in the world wide web.

Already during the end of the last millennium some priories launched their own priory websites, which were presented during the General Chapter 2000. The delegates, impressed by these developments, saw the need to have a website for the whole Congregation and gave the recommendation to the Generalate, that is, to design a website for the Congregation and update it periodically. Sr. Edhilt Fasel took up the challenge and worked out a website for the Congregation in German, English and Portuguese updating it regularly.

In 2012 the General Chapter being aware of being *in the midst of the "digital continent"* saw the need to renew and re-launch the Congregation website with new technology for more efficient collaboration. After the XII General Chapter a new website was designed and launched by Sr. Gaudia Koh.

As technology is constantly and with increasing speed changing, we see again the need of renewing the present website, re-using the material, and making it more easily accessible for the user. Nowadays, most of the users access the website through their mobile phone. Therefore, the website must be able to adapt to the smaller screen. Sites have to be easily found and opened without much delay.

The objectives are still the same as given during the XII General Chapter. The new website shall be an

instrument of evangelization. In the web, where there is so much bad news, we want to take some space to spread Good News, share hopes and joys experienced in our community life and apostolate. Nowadays, young people interested in religious life, will first view the websites before deciding to make a face-to-face visit. An easy, simple, and interesting site can attract attention, thus, open a door through which many can join religious life in their search for God.

We wish that our website with the blog can be increasingly a medium for inter-priory networking with space for comments and communication. To present the whole Congregation, we want to link the Congregation website with the websites of the priories / generalate district (gd) houses. This will encourage those who do not yet have a website to develop one. We also ask for written materials, photos and videos from all priories and gd houses, which can be used for the Congregation website (please send to reginatesch64@gmail.com). With those and other resources the website can become a treasure box to all who want or need to share information about our Congregation, be it in lessons for formandees, vocation animation, work with oblates, partnership, or other occasions. For the design we involve a professional, who with his expertise will help us to get a website, which is simple, clear, and attractive. Probably the new website can be launched in 4 months. In the meantime, a blog was designed, which can be easily reached through our old website or directly <https://osb-tutzing.blogspot.com>. Also, the blog is a kind of website, which is free of charge, fast, but limited in its design. On the blog the information last uploaded appears first. For the website instead we will need to pay an annual fee. It will be more stable, better structured and organized than the blog. To combine the advantages of website and blog we keep both, linked with each other. With all these efforts we hope that in future all those interested in news about our Congregation, be it our own sisters, friends, or associates, can find them easily in the internet. Others, who do not yet know us, may be attracted by finding our site and inspired to support us in whatever way. It is our desire that in all things, also in our blog and website, God may be glorified!

PHILIPPINES MARKS 500th ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIANITY

Pope Francis has granted a jubilee year with the inherent plenary indulgence for the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines. The faithful can receive plenary indulgence when they make a devotional

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pilgrimage to one of the designated jubilee churches until April 22, 2022.

The Pope also celebrated mass on March 14 at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome with several representatives of the Filipino Church, including Cardinal-Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.



Pope Francis listens to Cardinal Tagle's expression of gratitude for the Holy Father's Philippine mass.

CASA JOINS MARATHON ROSARY PRAYER TO END PANDEMIC

SR. VANIA MARIA TOSCANO

May, month-long marathon rosary prayer. This year, with the theme: "From the whole Church, incessantly prayer ascends to God", Pope Francis invited the Catholic world explaining, "*Guided by the shrines around the world, in this month of May we pray the rosary to invoke the end of the pandemic and the resumption of social and professional activities*". (audience on 5/5/2021)

Our Casa community, every Thursday, joined this marathon of prayer. We prayed vespers earlier, and by 6 pm we were connected somewhere in the world, via online. Thus, we were with the Brazilians in Aparecida, with the Portuguese in Fatima, with the Cubans in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of Cobre and with the Ukrainians in Zarvanytsia. To close the marathon on May 31, we joined the Holy Father in praying the rosary in the Vatican Gardens where he turned to Mary, the Undoer of the Knots .

I decided to go on taking the complete tour, all the way, through the sanctuaries of the world. It

was a rich experience full of diversity every day. From very simple shrines like Myanmar we moved to much more structured shrines like Lourdes and others; from modest ways of singing songs with popular melodies, we went on to hear the voices of singers and choirs like the boys of the oldest School of Music in Europe in Montserrat. In many shrines, the cultural expression of the place was visible through people in traditional costumes. There was no lack of creativity. There were visible a variety of cultural expressions as well as different ways of praying the rosary. That I could not even imagine before. For the recitation of the mysteries, there was no lack of rotation among entire families, the elderly, young people and children, as well as people with physical and intellectual limitations.

Some details are unforgettable. In some places, the faithful committed themselves to pray the living rosary with many variations. Groups of people of different ages, including religious, priests and bishops, went to the microphone to pray just one Hail Mary. In Mexico, each person who prayed took a rose to put alternately in two vases, which at the end were filled with beautiful flowers. The one in Lebanon was the longest of all, lasting an hour and 37 minutes. There was an entrance procession moving around the church until a large number of young men and women, dressed as acolytes, were positioned at the center of the huge sanctuary. They represented both the

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Pope Francis turns to Mary, the Undoer of the Knots, at the Vatican Gardens.

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Hail Mary and the Our Father, not forgetting the beads at the beginning of the rosary from the creed. The movement of each one was to kneel when his turn came. Touching was the rosary prayer in Nagasaki, Japan, the shrine of which is built on the rubble of the church destroyed by the atomic bomb. The image of the Virgin on the main altar bears the mark of the destruction with the black flames of the fire even in the socket of the eyes.

Thus, thousands of faithful from around the world joined together to plead for the intercession of the Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic.



SR. REGINA TESCH, OSB

Sr. Regina Tesch participated in a two-day meeting of the International Team of AIM in Vanves, France on June 15-16. It was a joy to be together with 5 members physically and three more members via zoom. The time was used for sharing news, working together on the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and to listen to other Benedictines around the globe, namely from India, Argentina, and Senegal about the situation of monastic life in their region. It is good to work together in solidarity with the whole Benedictine world, to listen to each other and share.



CONGRATULATIONS. Sr. Anima Kim returned to her home priory, Daegu, on June 26 after finishing her licentiate in psychology at the Gregorian Pontifical University, Rome

CASA THANKS EMPLOYEES

SR. ANTOINETTE ADELMAN, OSB

The summer season allows us a cautious step outside of the COVID 19 limitations. In January and February, immediately after the closure of the guesthouse, a gracious farewell to our employees was not possible, but the promise for it would come after restrictions are lifted.

June brings *arrividerci* to Rome. So as summer begins, the Sisters packed into the 22 June evening an outdoor barbecue supper and appreciation evening. Our Sr. Cecil Jo returns to Daegu Priory after six years of directing our guesthouse ministry. In her company returning to Korea is Sr. Anima Kim who just completed her 4-year psychology studies. In addition to enjoying an evening with past and present employees, the time now allowed the Sisters an occasion to express our appreciation. After enjoying a relaxing outdoor supper in the shade of the Casa, the guests and sisters moved to the big hall for a program of cultural numbers, video clippings into the blest life of Sr. Cecil, Sr. Anima and employees, and finally a night prayer. The occasion was a hallowed evening enjoying the company of others who are gifted with a variety of talents.



Outdoor supper with employees



- July 4-16: Torres Novas Visitation (Portugal and Spain)
c/o M. Maoro Sye and Sr. Vania Maria Toscano
- July 14-24: Haus St. Benedikt Visitation
c/o Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca and Sr. Regina Tesch
- July 21-24: M. Maoro joins the Haus St. Benedikt Visitation
- July 26-31: Motherhouse, Tutzing Friendly Visit
by the entire Generalate

EXCERPTS FROM THE MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Source: ROME REPORTS

June 22, 2021

...It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And "God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth" (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social

friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will live once the storm has subsided. All of us must "take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies" (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

.... You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others... I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others." [4] He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.



1. Ndanda, May 8



2. Jinja, May 1

1. l-r: Sr. Katarina Nakei, Sr. Bahati Mshanga, Sr. Terese Zemale (Prioress), Bishop Titus Mdoe, Sr. John Paula Felix, Sr. Paskalina Duhe Matiya, Sr. Winfrida Mdakama
2. l-r: Sr. Sylvia Namulawa Sr. Augustina J. Akampuriira, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Akinyi
3. l-r: Sr. Francine Kyakimwa Kavota, Sr. Rosa Pascal (Prioress), Sr. Mary Gabriel Ndumia

MFP ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. Thomas Brendan, OSB confirmed that the Monastic Formators' Program (MFP) will take place from March 14 to June 6, 2022. In Rome it will be based at Sant' Anselmo for about seven weeks, followed by five weeks at the Oasi Sacro Cuore in Assisi. Application forms are available on the website www.monasticformators.org. Applications should be in by the end of September 2021 as places are limited.

REST IN PEACE

- + Sr. Jacinta Mwangangi, 55, died in Nairobi on May 20.
- + Sr. Mary Daniel Park, 83, died in Daegu on May 23.



3. Nairobi, May 22

**THAT IN ALL THINGS
GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED.
THE GENERALATE**