



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

GENERALATE RESUMES VISITATION

The Generalate resumed its official visitation this month of July after Nairobi Priory and Jinja community were visited last year just before the heightened outbreak of the pandemic. M. Maoro Sye and Sr. Vania Maria Toscano visited Madrid on July 4-6, then enplaned to Portugal to be with the sisters of Baltar on July 7-10 and Torres Novas Priory House on July 11-20. All three communities belong to the Priory of Torres Novas. They also met with the oblates of Madrid and Barcelona and the Friends of St. Benedict of Torres Novas.



Torres Novas

*First row l-r: Sr. Fortunata, Sr. Elenice (Prioress), M. Maoro, Sr. Vania, Sr. Luzia Maria and Sr. Frances.
Second row l-r: Sr. Emiliana, Sr. Conceição, Sr. Deolinda, Sr. Teresa, Sr. Margarida*



Madrid

l-r: Sr. Esmeralda, Sr. Ana, M. Maoro, Sr. Teresa, Sr. Vania Maria and Sr. Pachomia

↪ *Right photo: Baltar*

From l-r: Sr. Maria Goretti, Sr. Monika, Sr. Vania Maria, M. Maoro, Sr. Escolastica, Sr. Placida, and Sr. Leticia



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M. MAORO VISITS BULGARIA COMMUNITY

M. Maoro visited the sisters in Bulgaria from August 20-27. On August 23, she had the chance to make a courtesy visit to the newly ordained bishop of Russe, Mons. Strahil Kavalenov. Three days after, M. Maoro installed Sr. Abraham Kang as superior of the community in Zarevbrod, Bulgaria. Sr. Abraham succeeds Sr. Maria Agnes Cerina who served as superior for 3 years, Sr. Maria Agnes returns to Manila, her home priory on September 15.



M. Maoro hands a token to Bishop Kavalenov



*l-r: Sr. Ma. Agnes, M. Maoro, Sr. Abraham
Thank you Sr. Ma. Agnes for your service of 12 years in Bulgaria!
Congratulations Sr. Abraham!*



*Community of Bulgaria with M. Maoro
l-r: Sr. Nadya Petrova, Sr. Maria Agnes, M. Maoro, Sr. Abraham, Sr. Ma. Ignatio, Sr. Tecla (Sr. Angela, who is in Seoul for homeleave, not in the picture)*

JPIC UPDATE

Sr. Ana Maria Raca was designated as JPIC coordinator on the congregational level. Her team members are Sr. Katharina Mtitu and Sr. Philippa Kwak. The first JPIC meeting of the team took place on August 23 facilitated by Sr. Regina Tesch who served as JPIC coordinator for the past six years.



l-r: Sr. Regina, Sr. Philippa, Sr. Ana Maria, Sr. Katharina

Thank you Sr. Regina for your service of six years as JPIC coordinator



From August 5, the **Global Catholic Climate Movement** has a new name Laudato Si' Movement. The values, objectives and projects are the same. The change of name wants to give a wide vision of the movement and connect directly with the Encyclical Laudato Si. (JPIC E-News, July 30, 2021)

PERAMIHO PRIORY CELEBRATES 120th YEAR OF BENEDICTINE PRESENCE

SR. MARY PAUL CHINTALA, OSB



July 1, 2021 marked the 120 years of celebrating God’s faithfulness to the Priory of Peramiho with the first four missionaries, Sr. Magdalena Hessing, Sr. Mechtildis Dickhoff, Sr. Constantia Mayr and Sr. Valeria Kuhlmann who laid the foundation of the Priory. With true missionary zeal, they bore patiently the difficulties posed by the tropical climate, unknown diseases, new language and different culture. Despite these, our four pioneer missionaries never wavered in their conviction to work tirelessly for the Church of Tanzania. They were armed with an inspiration deeply rooted on the Sixth Fundamental Principle of our Father Founder Andreas Joseph George Amrhein: *“For a good marriage it is important that both husband and wife have a similar degree of Christian faith and civilization. The Christian education of women and girls, therefore, is also part of missionary work. However, experience has shown that women can perform this task better than men. For this reason, it is advisable that wherever promising missionary activities take place, both monks and sisters cooperate. The women take special care for the education of women and provide in this way an essential condition for Christian marriages and families”*. These initial thoughts, indeed, moved the four pioneer Sisters to start immediately a hospital and a school.

M. Ruth Bartonico, our prioress gave the task of preparing for this big event solely to the

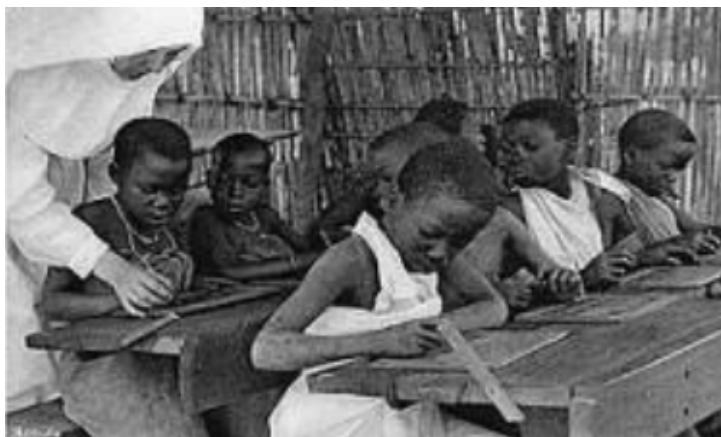
temporary professed sisters because the perpetually professed sisters were having their on-going formation seminar. She challenged them to compose a song for the occasion. The Sisters took up the challenge, organized themselves within a very limited time since there were only a few remaining days till the actual day.

The Big Day started with Lauds with specially prepared psalms and readings that reflected the mercifulness of God. For 120 years, God had journeyed with different generations of sisters in the Priory, a reflection of His gratuitous love for them. Lauds was followed by a vibrant eucharistic celebration. This was highlighted by a moving thanksgiving song composed by the temporary professed Sisters narrating the good works of our pioneer sisters, the people of Peramiho and the Church of Tanzania as a whole. The song also recalls the names of all Prioresses who served the Priory of Peramiho up to the present. It is a short history of the Peramiho Priory and its leadership since 1901.

Some strategic places of the convent reminded the sisters about the event of the day: pictures of the four pioneer Sisters were placed and beautifully decorated at the foot of the altar, albums of pictures of the past years were displayed, and an information board that caught the attention of sisters that inspired them to stop and read.

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PERAMIHO...from page 3



classroom teaching before/ classroom teaching now

After supper, a program organized and participated in by the formandees opened up with a creative narration of the Priory's history and mission and an innovative presentation of the prioresses all throughout the years, some of them wearing the pre-Vatican II habit. After this were portrayals of the work and challenges experienced by the pioneer sisters. The presentations showcased what the formandees learned from their lessons on the congregation and priory's history from their teacher, Sr. Maria Goretti Gast, who was a former Prioress of Peramiho and who has an encyclopediac memory of the Priory's history despite her advanced age. In between presentations, a question was asked about the Priory's history by the emcee and the one who gave the correct answer received a prize.

The final words to end the day were said by Mother Ruth. She thanked the temporary professed sisters who prepared the whole-day event. She encouraged everyone to walk in the footsteps of the pioneer sisters whose

perseverance and endurance bore fruits that the present generations are enjoying such as their ongoing ministries and their joyful coming together to celebrate the 120th year of Peramiho Priory. She challenged the sisters and the formandees to imagine just how much fruits will be borne out of their perseverance and endurance now for the future generation of sisters to enjoy.

Inspiring sentiments were also shared by our three Benedictine confreres during their celebration of the daily Mass with the sisters: Fr. Lucius Marquardt, Fr. Frederick Mwabena and Fr. Francis Shawa. They congratulated the Sisters for this great milestone in their Priory. They encouraged the sisters to keep the zeal and the missionary spirit that the four pioneer sisters of Peramiho Priory had modelled for them.

The unique, memorable and meaningful way of celebrating 120 years of our Peramiho Priory is the sisters' way of thanking God for His ever faithful love and mercy.



PERAMIHO PRIORY 2021

**KOREAN CHURCH MARKS 200TH
BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST
PRIEST, ST. ANDREW KIM
SR. MARIE BRUNO SHIN, OSB**

The 200th anniversary of the birth of the first Korean priest, St. Andrew Kim Tae-geon, was commemorated on August 21 at St Peter's Basilica-Vatican with a Holy Mass officiated by Korean Archbishop Lazarus You Heung-sik, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy. Archbishop Lazarus You planned the celebration after he moved to Rome at the end of July to take up his office as Prefect. The celebration had been suggested that it be held not only in Korea but also in Rome. Rome in August, however, is very hot and so the streets were quiet. People normally get out of Rome to enjoy their summer vacation up the mountains and by the seaside. Under the scorching heat, there were not so many pilgrims at the Vatican Square. After the semester ends in June, the priests and religious studying in Rome also spend their vacations in other cities, and so the Anniversary Mass was attended by only about 50 priests and 120 religious and laity who were still in Rome.

Before the mass began, Archbishop You, smiling gently, came to the nave and greeted each person. Since I knew that Archbishop You had been silently helping dioceses in need of Africa,

while serving as the diocesan bishop in Korea, when his appointment to the Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy was announced, I thought that God who sees hidden things, wanted to entrust more sheep to this pastor for the sake of the universal church.

The anniversary mass in St. Peter's Basilica was majestic, yet celebrated in a simple and sober manner, with only one reading at mass and without incense or a 'Gloria'. Archbishop You, in his homily, emphasized 'fraternal love' as the only antidote for the sick world and he prayed for peace in the Korean Peninsula. Pope Francis also, through his congratulatory message, expressed his deep gratitude and blessing to the Korean Church for the vaccine sharing movement for poor countries.

St. Andrea Kim is the first ordained Korean priest who after his brief, 1-year and 1-month pastoral activity, was martyred in 1846 at the age of 25. The other 102 Koreans who were

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Sr. Rosaria, organist during the mass



St. Andrew kim's portrait at St. Peter's Basilica

l-r: Sr. Hermann, Sr. Philippa, Sr. Marie Bruno, Sr. Marie Johann, Sr. Eun-hye

KOREANS, from page 5

canonized in 1984 along with Father Kim Tae-geon all are martyred saints. They chose to die to keep their faith in the midst of various persecutions over 100 years. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, declaring a year-long celebration for the jubilee of the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. Andrew Kim Tae-geon, invites us to establish firmly the faith of the martyrs at the center of our lives today.

Rome, the land where we had the Holy Mass, was also built on the confession of innumerable Christians who sacrificed their lives amid severe persecution for over 300 years, and therefore this place is called 'Holy City', 'Sacred City'. Whether in Korea or in Holy City-Rome, the reasons why the martyrs were so persecuted and sacrificed their lives for their faith, are not so different. We are all familiar with the textbook answer to this: They were seen as a threat to the religious policy, the emperor worship, and the principles of the state, because they served God as the only God, king, father and the lord of the world; they had become a social challenge that breaks down the social class order and the distinction between men and women, because they followed the transcendent value of human dignity and equality of all peoples, they were considered as an immoral group that threatened traditional values, due to misunderstandings and prejudices against Christianity; they had to be the victim of an invisible political power struggle.

If we integrate the reasons described above with our religious perspective, it would be said that the martyrs were blessed with the grace to recognize the voice of the Lord, the true Shepherd, and to believe and confess Him with their whole being; even though they lived in the world, yet they were able to see the true value beyond the world they lived in; they were given the gift of inner strength to walk with confidence their chosen path to the last moment.

Today, foreseeing the post-corona era, post-human, climate change and ecological environment, many experts and scholars are striving to come up with measures that overcome these challenges. Even in the liturgical field, arrangements for a 'virtual' liturgy are being put into place for the upcoming 'XII International Congress of Liturgy, Rome, October 2021. In this changing world, we may ask ourselves, how can

we preserve and nurture our faith given by grace? How can we discern through faith, the right direction and the true values that we should follow? How can we integrate these true values with those people living in the same era and with all the creatures of our mother Earth?

"I tell you, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18,8)

CASA YIELDS HARVESTS

*"For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to plant and a time to harvest."
Ecclesiastes 3: 1,2*



l-r: Sr. Eliza, Sr. Kolbe, Sr. M. Agnes



Sr. Regina



Sr. Vania



Sr. Katharina



harvested fruits and vegetables offered at mass



Launching of the Silver Jubilee of Missionary Benedictine Presence

l-r: Sr. Mary Rose, Sr. Fausina, Sr. Judette, Sr. Cecille, Bishop Selvister, Fr. Ajeesh, Sr. Rimolda, Sr. Benedicta, Sr. Christina, Sr. Kripa

PUNALUR OPENS TUTORIAL CENTER, LAUNCHES SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION
 SR. CECILLE IDO, OSB

Praise the Lord For Second Chances!
“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm, plans to give you a future full of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11.)

Inspired by this promise, the Benedictine Sisters of Punalur, India, despite the pandemic, have moved on to another phase of its development ... the inauguration and blessing of the St. Benedict’s Tuition Center. At four o’clock in the afternoon of July 12, 2021, the sisters, a few parents and children gathered at the auditorium entrance of Shanti Nivas convent. After a brief orientation on the rationale of the gathering, a simple ribbon cutting followed, and in procession we blessed the office, classrooms and the auditorium.

A special feature of the program was a video



Sisters with some parents and children at the auditorium entrance

presentation on “Who is St. Benedict, Life and Work.” And to cap the celebration, medals and vegetable seedlings were distributed.

One of the parents present commented, “St. Benedict English Medium School (SBEMS) has temporarily closed due to CoVid-19. St. Benedict’s Tuition Center is born to help meet the needs for trained teachers tutor and well run tutorials for an estimated 250-300 million students in India.” God’s plan indeed!

Prayer: God, our Lord and our Provider, bless our plans, our desires and our dreams for the Punalur Mission. Grant that through our daily efforts and the work of our hands, we may do whatever you will for us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The community had community holy mass officiated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Selvister, Bishop of Punalur, and concelebrated by Fr. Ajeesh Ceetus, chaplain of the sisters, on August 22 that served as the launching of the three-month preparation for the celebration of the twenty five years of Benedictine Sisters’ in Punalur.



Blessing by Sr. Rimolda

OBLATES CONTINUE TO WITNESS TO CHRIST'S PRESENCE

Benedictine Oblates continue to witness to Christ's presence during this time of pandemic.

Spain. The oblates of Barcelona and Madrid had their renewal of oblation on July 5 in the presence of the visitators, M. Maoro and Sr. Vania Maria. It was done within the eucharistic celebration held in convent of the Madrid community.

Torres Novas. M. Maoro and Sr. Vania Maria met the Friends of St. Benedict at the big chapel of the Torres Novas Priory House on July 15.

Manila. The oblates joined the mass in honor of St. Benedict at the priory chapel. They pray vespers every Monday, Wednesday and Friday via zoom.

Windhoek. The sisters of the new Betanie .Community have started forming oblate candidates.

Angola. The oblates of Angola had their renewal of oblation on July 11.

Haus St. Benedikt. The oblates renewed their oblation on July 11. at the sisters' chapel on July 11 **Argentina.** New oblates were accepted in Los Toldos and while oblates of Buenos Aires renewed their oblation earlier in April except for one who had her oblation on July 11.



Oblates of Haus St. Benedikt



Spain. Filipino and Spanish oblates of Barcelona and Madrid with M. Maoro (standing, fourth from l), Sr. Vania Maria (standing third from l) and the Madrid community.



Torres Novas. Friends of St. Benedict with Sr. Elenice (Prioress), M. Maoro and Sr. Vania Maria (l-r)



Windhoek: Oblate candidates with Sr. Simon Lee, Prioress (3rd from l) sisters of the new Betanie Community headed by Sr. Beate Schröter, Superior (center)



Angola Oblates



Los Toldos: Oblates with Sr. Timotea (3rd from l) and Sr. Ofelia (center)



Buenos Aires: Oblates with Sr. Salete, Sr. Laura and Sr. Maria Paula



Manila. Oblates with Sr.Pia Lansang, oblate directress.

**CASA HOLDS MUSICAL CONCERT
SR. ANTOINETTE ADELMAN, OSB**

When does an activity/event become a tradition?

The answer to this question might describe the evening concert at the big hall of Casa Santo Spirito, Rome on August 29.

Is it now a tradition?

As last year the talents dwelling among us during the summer simmered into a delightful musical concert under the theme, *We are the Melodies of God*. Sr. Marie Johann Heo orchestrated a 90-minute program. The program included budding talents demonstrating their coordinated skills on the cithra, recorder, guitar, and piano, as well as masterful artists on the piano, flute, cithar and guitar. Tanzanian song and dance, Korean songs, and other creative numbers made for a most enjoyable evening to conclude the 3 Korean Fathers summer stay in our guest wing. Fr. Park Sang Wook (Lawrence) served as our daily Eucharistic celebrant for these past three months and provided thoughtful homilies colored by his doctoral studies on Family Life.

Invited guests for the summer concert included Fr. Timothy (Yeon Jung) Jung, new Rector of the Korean College, three of the Sisters who serve there, as well as our Peruvian gardener, Pedro, and his wife Angela.

The affair was capped with a word of thanks from M. Maoro and the common blessing of the four priests who were present.



African Sisters



Fr. Benedict/Sr. Hermann/Sr. Eun-hye



Sr.M.Johann & Juniors



Korean Priests and Sisters

**MOTHER BIRGITTA KORFF'S
CONFERENCE ON
ONE'S VOCATION**
Septuagesima 1918



In today's Gospel, the Father of the house recruits workers to his vineyard. This reminds us of our own vocation to the great work of the apostolate - to work for the salvation of souls. To what

sublime works the good God has called us. We should never forget it and should not think about it indifferently. The Lord has given us great things and entrusted them to us; He demands great things in return. In addition to our personal sanctification, he expects from us souls that will be saved from eternal perdition through our efforts, through our prayers and sacrifices.

On his journey for conversion, St. Paul had a vision. A Macedonian man stood before him and pleaded with him: "Come to Macedonia and help us. Like this pagan man to the Apostle of the Nations, thousands and millions of pagans stretch out their hands to us missionaries and sisters, calling and pleading: "Come and help us. You are so rich in thousands of heavenly blessings; with us everything is a curse and death. You draw abundantly from the fountains of the Saviour, while our souls suffer bitter hunger. Poor in life, we are poorer still in death. And yet we too are immortal, redeemed by Jesus' holy blood, destined for heaven's glory and carrying hearts in our breasts full of desire for happiness and bliss, just like you. Come, make haste and save us." We heard this cry for help in the world and it was at the same time the bidding of the heavenly Father of the house for the work in his vineyard. We have come and spoken with the prophets the great word: "Behold Lord, here I am. Send me and make me the light of the Gentiles."

O dearest sisters, let us often remember this word "and make me the light of the Gentiles." We

are to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. "Illuminare his, qui in tenebris et in umbra mortis sedent." So, we pray daily in the Benedictus. Let us, after all, always remember what we are praying and pronouncing; and let us think whether we can be considered, as we are, a light that can shine on the poor heathen? A few verses before we pray, "Ut sine timore de manu inimicorum nostrorum liberati, serviamus illi. In sanctitate et justitia coram ipso omnibus diebus nostris." That we, delivered from the hand of our enemies, serve Him fearlessly in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our lives. Only when this is true of each one of us will we be a light to the Gentiles. O the venerable Libermann is so right when he writes: "If our missionaries are holy, they will save souls; if they are not, they will not accomplish much; for the blessing of God and great success are linked only to holiness." Another time, it escapes his heart again so wistfully, and he sighs, "Oh, how I wish that all my dear confreres felt as vividly as I do the necessity of holiness in the missionary."

Who knows, dearest sisters, whether the good Lord did not also let these difficult days of haunting come upon the missions and the missionaries in order to lead them into solitude and to speak seriously to their hearts. To show them where it is rotten in their own soul, where the salt of the earth - what the missionary, the missionary sister is supposed to be - has lost its strength. Perhaps one or the other soul working in the vineyard of the Lord has had to hear the plaintive words of the divine Savior from the secret revelation: "I have against you that you have left your first love. Consider from what you have fallen - from the pure love of God, from zeal, into indifference. Repent and do the first works; if not, I will come and move thy candlestick from its place." Others may have had to hear - and I do not want to exclude us either - the even more serious words that St. John had to write to the bishop of Laodicea on behalf of the Son of God: Rev 3, 14-19:

There have been holy missionaries and holy missionary sisters who have worked, sacrificed and prayed in the mission, but there have also been those about whom it must be said that it would have been better for them as well as for the mission if they had never seen it.

(next page)

MOTHER BIRGITTA, from page 11

Let us make good use of the time of preparation here in the Mother House, dearest sisters. Let us see to it that when the hour strikes that is to lead us out into missionary life, we have then acquired firm principles, solid virtue, and solid piety. That we may then be like a firmly rooted tree, not like a reed that twists and turns in all directions. Like a reed is a sister who has no firm principles, who turns to every opinion, yields to every opinion. Such a sister is good with the good ones, but with careless sisters who do not like silence, who like to judge, criticize, and obey, as long as the orders and the commands suit them, she is immediately infected by such attitudes, but without becoming quite clear about the rightness or wrongness of her way of acting. Others do it that way, too. So I may do it, too. Such souls are not profound, but shallow and superficial. O, would that all of you would strive, dearest daughters, for the true, deep religious spirit. After the spirit of which our most holy father was filled and which animated all true messengers of the faith. Then, and only then, will we be able to accomplish something in the mission and our work will be accompanied by God's blessing, even by the most abundant blessing of God.

Let us thank the dear Savior in the tabernacle once again from the bottom of our hearts for the glorious religious and missionary vocation. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I have set you to bear fruit and that your fruit may remain forever. So says the divine Savior. And in the preface of the professed rite it says so beautifully: "For how could a soul, bound in mortal flesh, conquer the law of nature, the allure of freedom, and the lure of youth, unless you kindled in it that love of virginity in your gentleness, nourished in your goodness that chaste desire in its heart, and gave it the strength it needed."

We want to try to grasp our vocation as fully as possible, to be as fully as we appear to be from our outward religious dress, spiritual people. We want to compete in virtue and constantly try to inspire one another by good example. Oh, if we were all so completely imbued with this spirit, how beautiful, how glorious and delightful that would be!



Sr. Raphaela



Sr. Cecilia



Sr. Victoria

Sr. Raphaela Händler from Ndanda Priory, where she was assigned for 40 years, to Haus St. Benedikt/Generalate District

Sr. Cecilia Munguti from Haus St. Benedikt/Generalate District to Nairobi, her home priory

Sr. Victoria Bulacan from Manila Priory to Peramiho

Sr. Nadya Petrova from Tutzing Priory to Bulgaria/Generalate District

CONGRATULATIONS !



Final profession of Sr. Nadya Petrova Rushina at the Tutzing Priory Chapel on July 11.

REST IN PEACE

- + Sr. Peregrina Kandere, 74, died in Windhoek on July 4.
- +Sr. Annet Namadi, 39, died in Jinja on July 6.
- +Sr. Uta Maria Link, 84, who died in Ndanda on July 20.
- +Sr. Michaelis Spieler, 86, who died in Tutzing on August 5.
- +Sr. Konrada Schlicker , 94, died in Tutzing on August 14
- +Sr.Guntlinda Ganser,89, died in Tutzing on August 16.
- +Sr. Werburga Schaffrath, 90, died in Barbalha on August 27
- +Sr. Maria Goretti Gast, 88, died in Peramiho on August 29

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