



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, Via dei Bevilacqua 60, Rome, 00165

GENERALATE HOLDS PRIORESSES' MEETING IN ROME



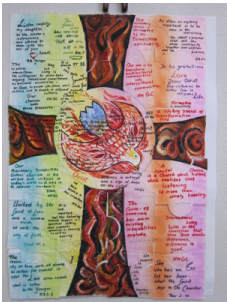
Front Row L to R :Sr. Katharina Mtitu,,Sr.Lumen Gloria Dungca, M. Maoro Sye, Sr. Vania Maria Toscano, Sr. Regina Tesch 2nd Row L to R: Sr. Ruth Bartonico, Sr. Ursula Fuchs, Sr. Abraham Kang, Sr. Raphaela Mlwilo, Sr. Benedicta Yeo, Sr. Rosann Ocken, Sr. Illumina Lee 3rd Row Lto R: Sr. Elenice Ferrari, Sr. Ma. Ignatius Glaser. Sr. Simon Lee, Sr. Antoinette Adelman 4th Row: Sr. AnaMaria Raca, Sr. Christina Moon, Sr. Ma. Madalena Mendonça. Sr. Rosa Pascal, Sr. Mary Thomas Prado, Sr. Ruth Schönenberger

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**GENERALATE HOLDS
PRIORESSES' MEETING IN ROME**
SR. ROSANN OCKEN, OSB

After two long years of Covid-waiting, 22 members of the Generalate and their staff, Prioresses and Generalate District Superiors gathered at our Casa Santo Spirito in Rome for the 2022 Prioresses' Meeting! As the sisters arrived one-by-one there was joy and excitement in the air like a family gathering at Christmas.



Puzzle

The opening ceremony set the theme of synodal listening, caring and bonding. One-by-one our puzzle pieces were united to make the whole picture: we are one Congregation united in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.



Sr. Maria

On our opening day, we welcomed Sr. Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, who serves at Chicago Theological Union as an as associate professor of theological ethics and as director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life. Sr. Maria shared treasures from her recently published book: *Religious Life For our World, Creating Communities of Hope*. Sr. Maria identifies this moment of religious life as one of profound transformation for each of us personally and communally. Sr. Maria believes that our Missionary Benedictine presence can play a critical role in our Church as Pope Francis calls the entire Church to synodality.

The spirit of listening to and caring for each other marked the processes during our two weeks together. Each participant shared her challenges and joys. One sister said, "As we listened to each other, we found our hearts opening to embrace each situation." M. Maoro articulated this sense of unity, calling us to a Congregational perspective.

At one point in the first week, we paused to recognize the ten sisters who died in the past two years due to the Covid Pandemic. May God grant



M. Maoro

them eternal rest. Sr. Uta Maria Link, Sr. Jacinta Mwangangi and Sr. Annett Namadi from East Africa, Sr. Peregrina Kandere, Sr. Anatolia Arugodhi and Sr. Franzisca Kashuupulwa from Windhoek, Sr. Fabiola de Morais, Sr. Domingas Cha and Sr. Rosamaria de Lira from Brazil and Sr. Gratia Balagot from Spain-India.

Through various reports, the members were given updates in the Congregation of the past four years. The international meetings that have been on hold because of the Covid Pandemic were tentatively planned for the next two years: The International Weeks of Encounter, The International Formators' Meeting and The International Treasurers' Meeting.

Dr. Marco Cotogni, the Congregation's legal and financial advisor, gave us a very detailed and helpful explanation of stable patrimony of our Pories and Generalate District Houses can be identified. Defining the stable patrimony of the Congregation and our Pories will take time and commitment



Dr. Cotogni

Sr. Mary Thomas Prado led an interesting brainstorming process regarding a theme for the upcoming General Chapter. The process included a review of the critical situation of our world and the context of our Missionary Benedictine presence at this time of our history. In a sifting process, common themes were identified, and fitting Scripture and Constitutions passages were brought forward.

An integrating process concluded our work. We gathered in four groups; each group made a collective commitment by which each sister will carry the work of these weeks to their Pories and into the future. These group commitments were meaningfully brought before the Lord in the concluding liturgy.

Throughout the days, the Casa Community blessed us with the amazing kindness and gracious hospitality. They crowned our weeks with a delightful outdoor bar-b-q and talent show. A spirit of joy filled the air.

Our Pories' Meeting was a clear opening to a new chapter of grace in our Congregation. Participants returned home with anticipation and hope.

GENERALATE...from page 2



Recreation



One heart at recreation



Compline



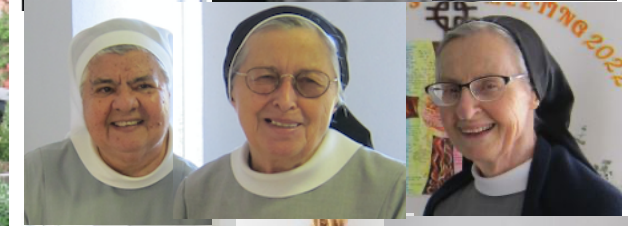
Rogation Procession



One spirit at prayer



Offertory



One smile at break time

One mind in commitments



June 11-July 24: Sorocaba Visitation
 M. Maoro Sye and
 Sr. Vania Maria Toscano
 June 14-17: AIM Meeting in France
 Sr. Regina Tesch
 July 25-August 3: Visitation of Korean
 Community in Sao Paolo , M. Maoro
 August 4- Return of M. Maoro to Rome
 August 12-September 12 Olinda Visitation
 Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca
 and Sr. Vania Maria
 September 5-12: CIB at Casa Santo Spirito,
 Rome, M. Maoro
 October 12-November 3: International
 Formators' Meeting, Rome

UKRANIANS RECEIVE HELP

Priories and Generalate District Houses have included in their prayers and adoration the intentions of peace in Ukraine. Concrete help from Zarev brod Community, Bulgaria and Tutzing Priory have been extended to Ukrainian families.



Sr. Nadya with Ukrainians

citizens in beachfront hotels in Burgas and Varna. The government has been providing them with all material and security needs. However towards the end of May the authorities have made it clear that Bulgaria cannot afford to continue supporting Ukrainian

BULGARIAN REPORT. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 around 200,000 refugees have arrived in Bulgaria. The government has made great efforts to accommodate the Ukrainian

citizens in these hotels due to the start of of the summer tourist season. Some of the refugees have been transferred to state dormitories while the majority are now on their own trying to find means to support themselves. Well-wishers, families, social and church organizations are opening their doors to Ukrainian citizens. In our town in Shumen the Methodist church has offered their social center to the refugees. Apart from accommodating and feeding them, the Methodists volunteers are giving language, art and music courses to the Ukrainians. As Benedictine sisters we have visited their center and given our donations to help especially in buying food. Since we are no longer living in our monastery in Sekirovo we are offering it to the Caritas Bulgaria organization which is now working with the Ukrainian refugees. Caritas is using a big space in our monastery garage to store food, clothing and other charity products. They are also using some of the rooms in the monastery as offices and meeting places.

The monastery compound is also being used as a playground for children. We have also offered some rooms in the convent to accommodate one Ukrainian family .. The place have 2 bedrooms, the kitchen, refectory and recreationroom. The family and the Caritas organization are very grateful to have this space in our monastery. We will try to continue helping the refugees as much as we can do.



Ukrainian children

playground for children. We have also offered some rooms in the convent to accommodate one Ukrainian family .. The

Sr. Tecla Mbevi, OSB

TUTZING REPORT. When we learned in February from Fr. Mauritius Wilde that Benedictine nuns had to leave their monastery, we had offered to take them in. But then it was not necessary, because they stayed in Lviv.

Here in Tutzing a circle of people from different institutions and communities met very quickly with the mayor, where I was also present. We then offered rooms. Since the janitor of the Realschule came from Ukraine and had to accommodate relatives, we gave him the rooms on the 1st floor of our Red
(next page)

UKRANIANS...from page 4

Villa, where 2 women with 3 children have been living ever since. We sincerely hope that with all the trauma they have suffered, they will also enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Sr. Ruth Schönenberger, OSB



M. MAORO SYE, OSB



I was at the UISG (International Union of Superiors General) Plenary from May 2-6 held at Ergife Hotel which is just some

minutes away from our Casa. There was much enriching listening, sharing, talks and reports involved. Around 500 superior generals were present physically and 200 attended virtually online. The theme was *Embracing Vulnerability on the Synodal Journey*. The theme song of the Plenary by Sr. Paula Jordão, FMVD, which expressed well about our meeting and our journey, goes

“Under your cross we stand hearing the cry of your world. Our desire is to embrace the wounds of humanity. You know we are Vulnerable and poor. But we know that your grace makes us strong, makes us new. So, send us out to the world. We will speak your WORD that holds your HOPE. We will live COMMUNION sowing LOVE. We will walk TOGETHER as your CHURCH. Seeking to INCLUDE everyone. We will share our LIVES, our TIME, our DOUBTS. Learning from each OTHER on the ROAD. We will trust the POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT. Knowing we DEPEND on you.....”

We need to embrace our vulnerability as a strength, to open ourselves to Gospel living in service of the vulnerable humanity. We shared our stories and our realities in the synodal dynamics. I felt the process of transformation that took place. We are chosen as leaders with our fragility as well as our competence and authority. Walking together in synodality needs to be lived at the

level of leadership and also of local communities and the Church.

We expressed our deep gratitude for the service of the UISG that has supported and accompanied us especially during this difficult time of the Pandemic. We have grown as people and as leaders, broadening our horizons for the church and for the wounded world.

At the end of UISG plenary, we affirmed our commitment *“to live vulnerable synodality through service as a leader, animating it within the community, together with the people of God.”*

MFP CONCLUDES SESSIONS AT THE CASA

SR. MARIE-THERESE BRODMANN, OSB

After twelve rich and wonderful weeks at Sant’Aselmo in Rome and in Assisi, the participants of the Monastic Formators’ Program (MFP) arrived on Friday, June 3, at the Casa Santo Spirito. Here, we were welcomed very heartily by M. Maoro and the Casa community.

Time had come for final evaluation, thanksgiving and saying good-bye. In the final evaluation we were invited to share one thing that we would take home from MFP. We were filled with gratitude by seeing how rich we were gifted in deepening our understanding of monastic life, human development and spirituality, and in sharing friendship and intercultural living together.

On Saturday evening, after the Pentecost vigil, *(next page)*



Bidding good-bye to MFP participants

MFP... from page 5

we invited the Casa community to our small farewell celebration with games and sketches. The programme ended with the Holy Mass on Pentecost Sunday.

On Monday time we had come to say good-bye, sad, because we grew wonderfully together as a group in these weeks, but happy also to go home to our communities. May the Holy Spirit who was poured out on us on Pentecost continue to guide us and our communities back in our everyday life.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
BENEDICTINE PRESENCE
SR. MARY FRANCES DIZON, OSB**

“When we look at anniversaries, we look into history”, said Rev. Fr. Teodulo Gonzales, SJ as he opened his video message to the Benedictine community. On June 21, the Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing celebrated their 100 years of presence at Holy Family Academy (HFA), Angeles City of the Manila Priory. The school was founded in 1910 and we took over the administration from the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation in 1922. Mother Clodesindis Lücken spearheaded this initiative.

Sr. Crescentia Vesper was the first superior and the pioneer sisters were Sr. Ediltrudis Rottmüller, Sr. Leocadia Josephs, Sr. Pacifica Gerding and Sr. Godfrieda Baumeister.

Throughout the century, the sisters have and continue to render their service to the marginalized members of society and uphold academic excellence to their students.

In line with this, HFA commemorated this milestone with a Eucharistic celebration at the Holy Rosary Parish Church. The Holy Mass was presided by Archbishop Florentino G. Lavarias, D.D. In his homily, he said that gratitude unlocks the fullness of life and the gospel reminds us that it is our duty and our salvation to give thanks to God through Jesus Christ. He also quoted Karl Rahner, “In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable, we come to understand that life here on earth, life in this world, is an unfinished symphony.” He related that a lot of things were attained in the past century, but it is still insufficient; that is why we should continue the journey of serving in gladness until Christ comes. Archbishop Lavarias continues,

*“There are moments that the very things we
(next page)*



Bishops, Priests and Sisters from nearby stations joined the Angeles Community at the Holy Rosary Parish Church

CENTENNIAL...from page 6

attain at times will bring about pain and suffering, but we do not lose sight of the goal that is as we journey, we recognize God's that is as we journey, we recognize God's ongoing work in our midst knowing that fullness can only come through him not through us."

The Holy Mass was followed by the Unveiling and Blessing of the Centennial Marker and a program at the HFA Grade School campus.

SYNODAL MEETINGS IN PUNALUR

**SR. MARIAM BENDICTA
KAVALIPPADAN, OSB**

I am glad to share with you the activities entrusted to me by Bishop Selvester Ponnuthan of the Diocese of Punalur located in the Ecclesiastical province of Trivandrum in India. The diocese has 103 parishes (46 main parishes and 57 substations) served by 59 diocesan priests and few religious priests. The people of the parishes are mostly converts from different religions and migrants from Tamil Nadu state. For the better functioning of the diocese It has been divided into 8 Forane churches

Among the 8 forane churches, I am in-charge of the Punalur Forane. It has 8 main Churches and 8 substations.

During the synodal activities of the diocese , I was fully occupied with conducting synodal meetings. We conducted Family Synod, BCC Synod, Interreligious Synod, Religious Synod, Youth Synod, Widows Synod, Eccumenical Synod, Parish Synod and the Diocesan Synod. This was an enriching experience. At times our own Benedictine sisters came along with me to help and to know the needs of the people.



Sr. Piensia Mfuse & Sr. Kateri Marie Nkale from Peramiho Priory on June 18

Sr. Stella Marie Martinez of Manila Priory on June 19



Sister-animators pose with Bishop Selvester, Fr. Roy Simson, the parish synodality coordinator. Sr. Mariam Benedicta is third from right

REMEMBERING THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

The Feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated with solemnity in all our convents, since from its beginnings our Congregation has been placed under the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (Constitutions III, Norm 310)

Looking back to what Sr. Bernita Walter in her book, *Sustained by God's Faithfulness, Volume I, pages 192-193*, we read,

During the following June Mother Birgitta gave her blessing to the three remaining missionaries destined for Uehe on a most memorable day. The annals reported:

“June 17, 1898, feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Last evening the bells pealed for one hour, proclaiming the great feast which today for the first time is being celebrated as the patronal feast of the Congregation...In the meantime, final preparations were made for a reception into the novitiate, and the postulants put on their bridal gowns... The youngest postulant wore a red rather than a white bridal dress. The material had been sent by the company in error, and there was not enough time to exchange it. Thus the youngest bride was to symbolize the love of the Divine Heart.”

In a footnote, Sr. Bernita writes,

The special solemnity of celebrating this feast was probably related to an appeal by Sr. Maria Droste zu Vischering. Blessed Maria on June 2, 1898, had written from Porto to Abbot Ildefons: “Please have the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the 17th performed with all possible solemnity and with total devotion and confidence in both S.[eckau] and O.[ttilien].” The superior of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Porto impelled to promote the consecration of the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



INTER-PRIORY SHARING

Sr. Ludwig Cho from Daegu Priory to Bulgaria/Generalate District

FILIPINA OBLATES' ENCOUNTER



Sr. Ana Maria (l), oblates & Sr. Luzia Maria (r)

Sr. Ana Maria Raca conducted a *Listening and Walking Together* encounter with the Filipina oblates of Barcelona from June 25-29 with scriptural and the Rule of St. Benedict as references. The oblates had their renewal of oblation in the presence of Sr. Luzia Maria Manalo from the Torres Novas Priory. Sr. Ana Maria then proceeded to Madrid to visit the community and the Spanish oblates who also renewed their oblation before Sr. Esmeralda Navarro.



The Generalate announced that the 2023 International Weeks of Encounter (IWE) will again take place in Rome and Tutzing. The last IWE was in September 2019. Details will follow.

REST IN PEACE

+ Sr. Marie Via Sye, 81, who died in Seoul on June 7.

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