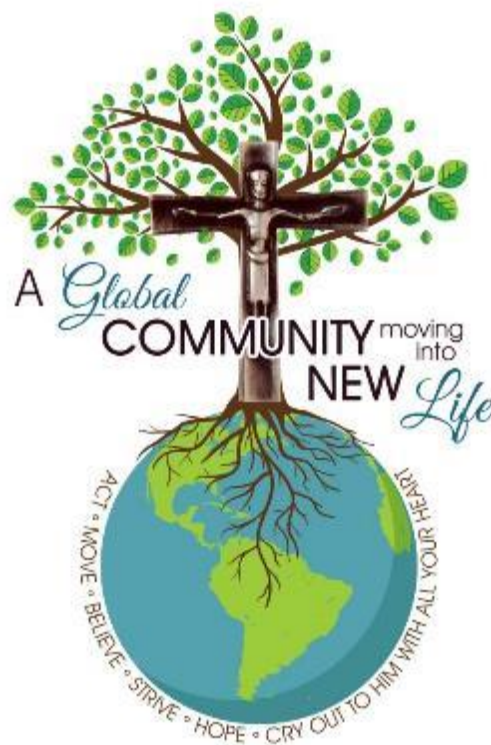


Inter – Ursuline



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*Bulletin of the Ursulines
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Italy

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

“There is a season for everything; a time for every occupation under heaven. There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot what has been planted”. The had words of Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes 3,1-2) may well have accompanied the efforts of recent years in trying to put off the difficult choice, which each of us, Superiors and Sisters, hoped to avoid: the closure of the Community in Rome.”

“We had a number of meetings before and after the decision. The feelings shared the most were of surprise, pain, and questions for the future. In the end, the conclusions which were helped by facing up to the question by listening, by acknowledging the situation and by prayer can be gathered in a few words: **obedience**, because the last say was of the superiors; **grace**, because the Holy Spirit is always faithful in making people grow; **humility**, because to have a role, recognition and prestige no longer, facilitates the innocence of the heart and the humble encounter with the Lord, with brothers and sisters.



2020 was the year of the departure of the Community of Rome. Already reduced in number due to move of some Sisters to the two infirmaries of the Province, the remaining eight Sisters faced, from March onwards, the restrictions imposed by the spread of Covid19: deprived of the Holy Mass with the Priest and of the Confession, the need to follow the sacred liturgies on television, and other prohibitions and obligations common to all the citizens.



The house at "34" was practically empty: the guests no longer come and the university students have almost all returned home and are following lessons online.

In May, the virus infection underwent a decline and slowly we resumed our almost normal way of life, with Holy Mass at home. Thank God, none of us got sick. With a heavy heart, but also with a spirit of faith and a lot of courage, each of us began to pack her bags.

On July 4th Sr Sue and Sr. Ann Marie met with us all in the community room; we spoke for a long time mixing Italian and English, we opened our hearts and we named our fears; we felt listened to, understood and encouraged to do God's will, in a relaxed meeting between Sisters, where there was also laughter and confidence.

During the summer Sr. Patrizia came from Desenzano to help us, Sr. Letizia Tozzi and Sr. Elisabetta



from Setteville; the two novices came from the Generalate to empty the large cupboards full of books. We cannot forget all the boxes that had to be filled, the mess everywhere, the dust but also the moments of relaxation on the terrace, enjoying a nice ice cream.

On August 16th, in the early afternoon, Sr. Florence Marie together with the novices arrived at "34" with bags full of food with the intention of cooking a special dinner to share together after prayer on the cool terrace on the second floor.

On August 18th, Father Francesco, a Consolata Missionary and our chaplain, celebrated the last Holy Mass for us at home. Afterwards, the Sisters who were to remain at "34" would go to Mass in the Parish.

On the morning of 19th, four Sisters left Rome. Father Francesco came to greet them, bless them and gave them a picture of Our Lady of Consolation.



Two minibuses full of luggage left together, one in the direction of Milan with Sr. Domenica, Sr. Enrica and Sr. Cel-

estina, accompanied by Sr. Maria Letizia; one in the direction of Capriolo with Sr. Rita accompanied by Sr. Rosangela and Sr. Patrizia who was returning to Desenzano. Life at "34" continued with four Sisters: the Provincial Sr. Angela, Sr. Rosangela, Sr. Michelina and Sr. Maria Letizia. At the end of October Sr. Rosangela was called to Capriolo, where the virus had entered the community; being a nurse she left in a hurry to lend a hand to the Sisters and nurses, who were also small in number.

Sr. Michelina should have left for Milan, but Covid19 was starting to spread again; and the Lombardy region became a red zone and so she couldn't leave Rome.

In December the Provincialate moved to the Generalate. Sr. Angela, Sr. Michelina and Sr. Maria Letizia were welcomed with great joy and fraternal affection in their new home. Sr. Alina, with the car, one journey after another, helped to move everything: bags, suitcases and other material, from Via Nomentana 34 to Via Nomentana 236.



For the coming two years the activity at "34" has been entrusted to the "S. Angela Domus" Association. This too, after a good start, suffered a severe decline due to the pandemic. However, we must thank the staff who never lost faith, who tried to reorganize themselves to deal with the post Covid and have always taken care of the property.

We cannot speak of the Community of Rome without making a few brief historical references in relation to the birth of the Roman Union.

Febbruary 24, 1688: Foundation of the Community of Rome. The origins of this foundation were at the time of persecution of Catholics in England. Maria d'Este, wife of King James II of England, took refuge in Brussels in the 1680's, near the Ursuline convent. With the mediation of Card. Norfolk she obtained from the Pope the authorization for the new foundation in Rome with six Ursulines of Brussels - Mons. (*)

Starting from 1754, Mother Maria Luisa Schiantarelli, an Ursuline religious of Rome, wrote to all the Ursuline houses for which she could get the address, to get all the daughters of Angela Merici interested in her canonization. It is the first correspondence between the different monasteries. (*)

In 1870, with the unification of Italy and the capture of Rome, an era of persecution against the Church began. The convents were stripped of their possessions. The Ursulines of Via Vittoria in Rome were threatened with expulsion: they were forbidden to receive novices; and when there would be only six sisters left, they would have to leave their monastery. (*)

In 1891, the Religious of Rome, faithful to their religious and apostolic life, made a desperate cry for help. Blois replied immediately and Mother Ste. Aurélie and Mother St. Julien set out for Rome. (*)

In 1896, the Ursulines were finally able to settle in "Villa Maria". The Commu-

nity elected Mother Ste. Aurélie as superior. (*)

On July 15, 1898, the Holy See approved the Blois-Rome-Calvi Union. Mother St. Julien was elected Superior General with temporary residence in Blois. (*)

July 1899. Cardinal Serafino Vanutelli wrote, in the name of Pope Leo XIII, to all the Ordinaries who had Ursulines in their dioceses. He asked them in the name of the Holy Father to propose the Union to their Ursulines. (*)

November 15, 1900. The first General Chapter of the Order of St. Ursula opened at Villa Maria. The time had come to vote on membership of the Union: 63 Communities give their affirmative vote. (*)

November 28, 1900. Leo XIII orally approved the Roman Union. On the 29th the elections took place: Mother St. Julien was elected Superior General. (*)

On December 4, the Pope received the first General Chapter of the Roman Union in a special audience. (*)

On December 31, an international novitiate opened at Villa Maria, the house which the Ursulines bought together with a house under construction in via Nomentana 14 (today "34"). (*)

In 1901, the community of professed members of Villa Maria moved to Via Nomentana, currently at 34. (*)

(*) of "History and Spirituality of the Ursulines" by Sr. Benedicte Rio, third part, chap. II.

Indonesia

QUERENCIA

Virtual gathering of Ursuline school students throughout the world...



The purpose of the meeting was to experience a global family of Ursuline students through working together to create a video, to do it with fun, the way young people do nowadays.

This meeting was organized by students from St. Ursula's Senior High School Jakarta. The meeting went well even though there were some technical problems, mostly because of the internet connection.

The participants were from Australia, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa, Austria, England, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia, Peru, Chile, Brazil, USA; all together around 175 students. On the first round which was held on 14 October 2020 they were divided into groups depending on their time zone (Asia and Australia, Europe and Africa, America). On the 21 October, the feast of St. Ursula, all the participants met together. Beside the students there were some teachers as observers.

Below are some of the comments of the participants (they were asked to give an evaluation):

"I really appreciate how the committee organized this event. Even though there

were several technical issues, all of the committees have tried their best."

"I was very impressed with your organization! I found everything very well done! The arts, the ideas, the divisions ... all impeccable!"

"Related to the sessions and agenda all very organized and good"

"I think our team was perfectly matched, I made lots of new friends too"

"It was really fun, the participants are all fun and cool, the QCs are kind and engaging when it comes to starting a conversation in a group, keep doing what you guys are doing"

"In my opinion, this event is very interesting and very good for all of us, because this event brings many positive influences"



"I'd add maybe one extra session so we could either get to know more people or get closer with our team. But it's ok as it is."

"For a first-time event, it was very well thought out. And some problems such as those with internet connections and what-not simply cannot be helped given our current situation so good job for also handling even mishaps gracefully."

They expressed also what they could take away from this gathering. Here are some of their comments:

“How to work with other people of different schools and nationalities”

“Can increase friendships, share knowledge, and build solidarity among all Ursuline members”

“The union of the Ursulines, the importance of connecting with other people in the world, and the need to lose some stereotypes created.”

The last question of the evaluation was regarding the continuation of these kinds of events, around 96% of the participants indicating that they would attend events like this again in the future. The virtual gathering has enabled us to create togetherness from all over the world without a lot of concern about travel and finance.

Poland

EVANGELIZATION IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

Keep to the ancient way and custom of the Church, established and confirmed by so many Saints under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. AND LIVE A NEW LIFE! (From the Counsels VII,22)

We would like to share with you our experience of pastoral care and evangelization in the recent time marked by the pandemic. In all the Provinces, each of us is experiencing the effects of the rampant covid-19 virus, all the sanitary restrictions and isolation, and thus the difficulties and obstacles in reaching out directly to the people. Saint Angela would tell us not to lose hope, but to seek new ways and means to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. This is what we are trying to do.

In conclusion, this virtual gathering was a success and it will be good if in the future we can continue this program and with other topics.

I joined an online Seminar organised by UISG/USG. The theme was ‘Rebuild the Global Compact on Education’. One of the goals was to connect with each other as a global family – these Ursuline students have done just that.



Thank you very much and I hope in the future that we can do more together. Much love and prayer

Moekti Gondosasmito, OSU

We listen to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and to the advice of our Mother Angela, and we open ourselves in a creative way to new solutions and new ways of reaching out to people and accompanying others on their journey.



We have not given up the ways we know of accompanying people. We



organise, as far as we are able, the traditional days of recollection and

weekend retreats for different groups.

Recently individual retreats have become more popular. We welcome individuals to our house in Częstochowa. After a brief assessment, we organise a retreat on a particular

theme and accompany the participants spiritually, while providing psychological support.



Some of us are also involved in spiritual direction at retreat centres run by the Jesuits, such as the European Centre for Communication and Culture in Warsaw - Falenica. We accompany people on the Internet (social media) and on the phone.

Recently, however, we have become more courageous and opened up to another, virtual contact with people. We try to organise retreats and different kinds of meetings on line, be it live broadcasts on YouTube or instant messengers such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google meet.

We also try to enrich and update our website, as well as uploading various short films, songs and other materials to our Ursuline YouTube channel.

In a relatively short period of time, thanks to the kindness of people we have met from the "Virtual Prayer - Rosary

without Borders" run by the Missionaries of the Holy Family, our channel has gained over 1000 subscribers and we are now able to broadcast the meetings live.

Experiencing the absence of direct human contact, we learn new skills and, by the grace of God, we gain new experiences. "Absence" is a concrete hardship, but it is also, above all, a great blessing, because it mobilises us to think creatively, to be creative and to take risks, to be open to newness.

We encourage and invite all our Sisters to familiarize themselves with our pastoral suggestions by going to www.osu.pl and YouTube: *Urszulanki Unii Rzymskiej*.

We also invite you to share your own ways of evangelizing. It will be a great enrichment and experience of pastoral INSIEME for all of us. We already benefit from the experience of sisters from other Provinces. A good inspiration for us was the Virtual Ursuline Cafe run by the Sisters in Indonesia. We have transplanted this idea into our Province and we hold regular meetings via Google meet: **"Important matters over a cup of coffee"**.

A group of people is slowly forming. At the first meeting we talked about what brings me joy in my everyday life. The next meeting will be about words, etc. We believe that while freely discussing a particular topic, we also touch on important spiritual contents, make new acquaintances, form relationships and, above all, meet people's loneliness.

Our other proposals are: **"Evenings with Mary"** - an hour-long, monthly recollection with Mary (on the Google meet platform). During this virtual meeting, the participants have the opportunity to listen to a short conference, meditate and reflect on the given content. The meeting ends with a common prayer.

The first meeting of the "**Evening with the Word**" series was also held. During these meetings, which are live on the YouTube channel, we encourage people to read the Holy Scriptures and introduce them to the practice of simple daily prayer with the Word of God, that is, meditation.

We also want to update and renew the videos in the series in the near future: "**The Vocation Question**", which has appeared on our website before, but needs further engagement and ongoing updating.



As we try to "open up" to pastoral ministry through the Internet, new ideas come to us. God also "sends" us specific people who mobilise and "ignite" us to evangelise through social media and to acquire and develop new IT skills.

We would also like to mention that all these activities come from an additional prayer, Adoration, to which we also felt urged and called in a special way. During our daily Adoration we want first of all to dedicate and entrust to God all the people we will meet later or who will use the materials made available on our Ursuline website and YT channel.

We thank God for all the inspirations he gives us. We thank St. Angela who continually invites us to act, to strive, to trust and to entrust everything to God. We thank our Sisters who support us in our efforts with prayer, kindness and good advice. **Soli Deo gloria!**

Sr Jana Krogul OSU and
Sr Stella Kafas OSU (Polish Province)

Croatia

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE WEEK FROM 1ST TO 7TH FEBRUARY 2021

On the occasion of the International Day of Human Fraternity, which was marked for the first time this year, on Thursday, February 4, 2021, Pope Francis, in a video message, invited all people in the world to respect each other, emphasizing that we have the choice to be brothers and sisters or we will lose everything.

We are facing the challenge of this century and our time. This is not the time for apathy. We cannot wash our hands of the current situation we are in. Emboldened by this serious call, we as a community of Ursulines, a community that has lived and worked in this multicultural and multi-ethnic environment for decades, joined the week of interreligious dialogue and gave our contribution to young Christians and Muslims.

On February 4, Ursuline Sister Gabrijele Hrgić gave a lecture on the topic: Pedagogy of St. Angela Merici - education for acknowledgment of diversity. The lecture was followed by a discussion in which young people testified that St. Angela is close and accepts every person and that we as Ursulines with our strong charism have something to give to young people and to our world.



We must not forget to point out that a group of young people from the interreligious youth committee in Zenica on the feast day of St. Angela, came to our community to greet us on the holiday and brought a bouquet of fresh flowers to each of us. We were delightfully surprised by this beautiful gesture of young people led by the secretary of the committee Kenan Hodžić, who has been promoting the Ursulines for many years and he testifies that our presence in this city is very important.

Generalate

COMMUNALTE SHALOM

Best wishes for a happy feast of Saint Angela Merici to all the Ursuline sisters in Via Nomentana! We greet you all, after nearly 12 years living in your house. This is a part of our story which we are writing for our own bulletin.

Historically, the physical place where the Comunità Cattolica Shalom began was a pizzeria in the centre of Fortaleza (Brazil), inaugurated on 9 July 1982. It was an environment for meeting young people who do not go to church but who might accept an invitation to eat or drink in a nice place with something special about it... informally they called it "Jesus' pizzeria".

This founding inspiration has always been the light behind our plans for evangelization, pushing us to create "new means and new methods" in order to continue to meet the young people who are most distant from God and the Church. Now, the Community has many projects all over the world, using music, theatre, cultural events, street evangelization, the social sector ... and other new ways.

"Your community was born in a pizzeria for evangelization and you haven't yet opened a similar place in Rome?" This is what some people were asking us. They encouraged us to follow our initial inspiration and do the same thing here. However, we knew that the time was not yet right, that we still had to "take root" in the soil of the city of Rome, letting "the grain of wheat that fell into this ground die and then sprout".

Here, we will tell a part of the history of the planting of the charism of Shalom in Rome which began in 1992, when the first brothers of the community arrived to do their academic studies in the pontifical universities.

There were two of them. There is much to tell about what happened between 1992 and today, but the purpose of this article is to speak about "Il Centro di Evangelizzazione SH82" the most beautiful and vigorous "branch" of Shalom growing in the Eternal City. So, I will keep to some short stories related to this topic.

We carried out evangelization in churches, in the piazzas, in the streets, together with other movements and with the diocesan office for youth ministry, as well as with communities from here and there beyond the city. Only in 2009 did we open a real Community headquarters in Rome, with the Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union in Via Nomentana. It was a larger physical space where we could invite people to "come and see" our life as "disciples and ministers of Peace", in moments of prayer, in community life and in apostolic activities. From this place, the roots of the charism were embedded and grew to strengthen the branch. Time was needed to stand still, to grow, to give stability. It took time...

The years went by and, in 2016, in a wonderful sign of divine providence, a family gave us the use of their home in the Anagnina district, thus actively supporting the university training of members of the community, most of them future priests. They have become more than friends to us ... a part of the "family" and supporters, by their prayer and concrete actions, of the dreams we had together to proclaim Jesus.

It was at the end of 2017, during the retreat for "strategic planning" (*that is the time for listening to God and the brothers and sisters concerning the community and pastoral activities of the following year, followed by the elaboration of an action plan and a calendar*), when God spoke to us about opening an Evangelization Centre.

Personally, today I confirm that it really was the right time, because in the previous year we had experienced a strong process of conversion in our ministry with young people. From that moment on, they were the priority in our hearts and in our actions. The pastoral perspective changed and God made us see, dream, a place for them.

We talked often about this: "Where?", "What will it be called?", "And how to pay?" ... One day, during a meeting of the Local Council, God inspired us to begin everything from prayer, not that we weren't making intercession, but he was asking more of us. So we had vigils, adoration, rosaries for this intention. We felt in our hearts that the first thing to do would be to take the first donation we received for the Evangelization Centre and invest it in buying a monstrance. And that is what we did ... A total of 150 euros was generously given by some people who believed in our dream. They did not know that we would use it to buy a monstrance, but it was enough money. After a few days we communicated to the whole community in assembly this decision to search for a Centre for Evangelization and that we already had a monstrance for the chapel ... we were about thirty persons...

In the meantime, the Pope announced a Synod for young people. Later he himself called it the "Synod OF young people". We were involved in the preparatory work and in the event itself.

The vigils in preparation for the Synod under the gaze of *Mary Salus populi romani*, in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, were part of a divine journey intertwined perfectly with our story. In this Synod, we heard clearly from the young people an important need today. We heard from them in a loud voice: "we want to find in the Church a HOME, a FAMILY, where our lives can mature" How could we not respond to this call, we who are the Shalom Catholic Community which was born especially for them?

There was no lack of enthusiasm; our love for the young people grew more and more; we were making courageous decisions for them ... there was no lack of problems either ... However, certain that it was the right way, we continued the search and, along the way, clearer ideas emerged on where to open the "club". However, we were surprised by another divine intervention: the *Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life* entrusted us with the management of the San Lorenzo International Youth Centre. What a surprise!

Of course, we confirmed our availability. Much of our history, purposely omitted here, as explained at the beginning of this article, takes place here in the "heart of the Church", near the tomb of St. Peter, near the Pope, a place dedicated to young people, and where the relic of the Cross of the first WYD is kept. With this, our path changed, we had to invest much time and energy in this new activity. On 1 October 2019, feast day of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, the Community began the coordination of the San Lorenzo Centre. Nonetheless, the desire for a place near La Sapienza University was still with us, but we had to wait to understand how and when.

Our ears and our hearts were constantly hearing the "cry of the city", and the "cry of the young". The Diocese of Rome was ready to listen too. This cry developed in us, even more, the idea of opening a place where we could have an apostolate of pre-evangelization in the city of Rome. We had in mind those who wouldn't accept an invitation to come to a church or to one of the houses of the community. The headquarters of the Community were relatively close to the San Lorenzo district and, knowing the challenges of this area of the city, in July 2019, we had the idea of renting a place there in order to develop this missionary activity.

We were looking for and visiting places closer to Via Tiburtina instead of the Scala San Lorenzo, given the proximity to the University and the flow of people even during the day, but we found few places to rent and saw that some people were not ready to accept our type of evangelization based in their property. In this search we found a place in Via degli Equi, 10, which despite being small, 80m2, had a great position and would be good for our evangelization work!

“Ask you with all my heart to pray for this intention and not to hesitate to share what is the fruit of your prayer with me and with the other brothers and sisters of the Community. May we form a body that goes out to announce to the world that "Christ is our Peace". And that this Centre of evangelization may be the interface of what happens in our daily life when we meet the Risen Lord." This is what I wrote in a letter addressed to every brother and sister of the Work, of the Covenant Community and of the Community of Life, on 17 July 2019.

The decision had been made! Encouraged by prayers, convinced of what God was telling us, with the support of some benefactors, we went to ask for an appointment to sign the contract. And so

the first step was taken. It was 15 October, the feast day of Saint Teresa of Avila, bulwark of our vocation. Do you remember the first two brothers who arrived in Rome in 1992? They set their feet in this country on the same date. Which is why the foundation anniversary was marked on this day of the year. On another occasion we will tell that story in more detail ... but now let's not get diverted.

We had two months to arrange the space, get the power connection, do the works, and then inaugurate the already named "SH82" during the Shalom Youth Meeting, scheduled for the weekend of 13, 14 and 15 December. The acronym is an obvious reference for those who know the Community, but to those who are looking from the outside it arouses curiosity and seems something modern – this is what the survey carried out with young people told us.

The enthusiasm was such that, on the evening of 31 October, moved by the desire to communicate Life, we had an evening of evangelization in the street, with the young people. It was around the property which did not yet have any light and was just an "ex-gelateria" ... it was empty. In the afternoon we did a big clean up and towards evening some young people began to arrive with battery-powered lamps, others with candles for the improvised oratory. It was clear that evening that the mission of the place was to be light for the neighborhood and for the "darkness" of the city. Those who were arranging the rooms and the chapel had prayed and told us what God had put in their hearts: the Transfiguration of Jesus, "Chapel of Light" ... "all was to be white and only the objects should be coloured" ... We prayed to the Holy Spirit and blessed the place and then we went out in groups of 3 to evangelize.

At the end of November, Moyses, the founder of the Community, came to Rome. We wanted to show him the place and explain the whole path we had taken so far. We went there one evening and, after hearing what we were saying, he invited us to pray. A hymn to the Spirit, a prayer of praise, an intercession. During our prayer, the presence of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, with the image of the miraculous medal, came strongly to him, and this was confirmed by all of us. The rays coming out of that image are the divine graces poured out through Mary's intercession. God promised us many graces! From this prayer we had the certainty in our hearts that there would be many conversions to God in that place.

The two already existing prayer groups wanted to meet there, but there was no electricity ... the works had yet to start, but there was no power ... there was a great battle to activate the meter which lasted three months. And the inauguration was to be during the IGS? We did it! By now we were experts in the use of battery-powered lamps and cell phone torches for lighting, but above all we must thank the neighbours who with great generosity let us plug an extension cable into a socket in their shop. Then, on 13 December we had the official blessing of the SH82 by Mons. Paolo Ricciardi, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome.

What a day was that of the inauguration! All the work done with great dedication by many different people, but especially by Domenico di Giovanni with some of his collaborators!

Thanks to all of you who believed that together we could have the place ready for the launch evening.

Others will give their testimonies and increase the faces of the prism to allow us to visualize better SH82.

Dear Ursuline sisters, you are a part of our story! Thank you so much for your welcome and your friendship!

We looking forward to you coming to SH82 and the Centro San Lorenzo and getting to know them. May God bless you! Shalom!

Fr. Edie Bethlem

Southern Africa

THE ESTUARY RESTORED

The St Lucia Task Force digs deep to preserve the estuary. Thank you to our sisters of St Lucia for sharing this important event with us!

Whilst the majority of South Africans were kept off our beaches this summer one group of determined citizens were given special permission to play in the sand. It wasn't quite sandcastles they were digging, but rather a channel over 1.5 metres deep that would finally allow the waters of Lake St Lucia and the ocean to meet.

After years of debate between locals and the authorities St Lucia's estuary mouth was opened for the first time in years to enable the natural functioning of the estuarine system that is vital to the area's biodiversity.



Monday 4th January 2021 marked the day the recommendations of the St Lucia Estuarine Functional Zone Task Team saw the light of day, when equipment was moved on site to begin the implementation of a short-term solution to help reinstate functionality of the estuary, and re-establish links with the ocean.

The historic moment finally arrived on Wednesday 6th January as the task team eagerly watched the estuarine and sea waters finally merge.

Lake St Lucia is one of the largest estuarine systems in Southern Africa. It falls within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, which is South Africa's first World Heritage site (recognised by UNESCO in 1999). In the recent years, the estuarine system has not been able to function naturally.

The breaching of the river mouth into the sea will have a multitude of benefits to restore function to the system including the reconnection between the marine system and the lake; the reduction of sediment load in the bay; the need for restoration of estuarine functionality; the need to resolve back-flooding into agricultural fields which currently is resulting in agricultural loss; the restoration of economic activity, including tourist attractions; the importance of managing the floodplain and prevention of silt transportation to the estuary; consideration of future plans to maintain the functionality of the estuary.

The action being taken is the beginning of the implementation of the time-bound action plan recommended by the task team, with the intention of restoring the ecological functioning of this unique and dynamic system. The iSimangaliso Authority remains committed to consultation and engagement on this complex issue with any stakeholders and parties accordingly.

United States Central

Two sharings from our sisters in the Central US Province.

ECOLOGICAL REVIEW : CARING FOR THE EARTH, OUR COMMON HOME

We offer you this ecological review from the Ignatian Solidarity Network cf: www.ecologicalexamen.org The website includes a longer and more detailed version.

Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity: An Ignatian Examen

In Laudato Si' Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and to reconcile our relationship with God, creation and one another. Borrowing from the Ignatian tradition of examen, this Ecological Examen asks you to reflect on your personal relationship with creation, to acknowledge and amend your ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm.

Begin the Examen by placing yourself in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways the Spirit is working in you:

Igive thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?

Iask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering. Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?

Iask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?

Iask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.

Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?

Iask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?

Ioffer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

*From the "Earth Our Common Home"
intention group*

SUGGESTED READING: HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST BY IBRAM S. KENDI

My St. Cronan book club is reading this book, and I recommend it to anyone wanting a creative and deeper look at racism.

We all know how to be racist and are constantly discovering new pieces of racism within our own hearts and minds. We would all like to say that we are “not racist”. This is not a book about just being “not racist”. It’s a book about what it is to be **antiracist**. Kendi weaves an amazing combination of ethics, history, law and science with his own story of awakening to racism. I was struck by one of his accounts from his high school years when he describes being with a group of five friends on a street corner encountering a group of some fifteen White police officers. He writes: “We knew that Blackness armed us even though we had no guns or knives. Their Whiteness disarmed them and al-

ready made them victims as we approached each other.”

Kendi takes his readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas from the most basic concepts to the most visionary possibilities, helping us to see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. This is a great read for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to a just and equitable society.

Chabanel Mathison, osu

France/Belgium/Spain

MISSION WITH THE STUDENTS AT “INSTITUT SERVIAM” (PARIS) AND AT “FOYER MERICI” (ANGERS)

This article will be in two parts, the next one will be in the Inter-Ursuline bulletin of September 2021!

In order to perpetuate these two educational facilities and allow young people to continue living the Serviam Spirit, the management of our two foyers will be entrusted to lay people at the start of the next academic year. There will no longer be an Ursuline community on site; the presence of the sisters will be different. Currently, we are working to set up a new organization to promote teamwork in a network, between sisters and lay people, so that Merician pedagogy remains at the heart of our foyers.

“Any programme of youth ministry should clearly incorporate various means and resources that can help young people grow in fraternity, to live as brothers and sisters, to help one another, to build community, to be of service to others, to be close to the poor.” (Christus vivit 215)

Community Life

“May your youthful spontaneity increasingly find expression in fraternal love and a constant readiness to forgive, to be generous, and to build community. As an African proverb says: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of fraternity.” (*Christus vivit* 167)

Guardian angels



“Little furtive steps in the corridors, the sound of sellotape, crumpled paper ... This was the month of the guardian angels during Advent. A swarm of “serviam-ettes”, each more unobtrusive than the next, whose shadows slide along the corridors. And in front of the doors of their protégées are placed treats of sweets, messages and pretty decorations. Over the weeks, the corridors are adorned with a thousand attractions and the doors, once all the same, are now different. And behind the masks, we can imagine the smiles of these young ladies, both guardian angels and protégées.

This is a precious time, when, unknown, we watch over a friend, and it teaches us to give as much as to receive. And there is the joy of discovering some new gift each day, of letting ourselves be touched by the kindness of the other, but also of thinking about how we will, in turn, watch over our protégée. Who will be the most original, the most creative, the most attentive, the most surprising ... Until, on the long awaited day, the name of this secret angel is revealed, in a carefully chosen gift which she knew would delight us. And it

goes without saying that there are great surprises and much joy!”

Emma (Serviam)

A community life which bears fruit years after....

“At the end of January, when we learned that the pregnancy of Aurore, a former member of the foyer, was endangered because of a serious form of Covid, we decided with the “Acti'spi” workshop to pray a novena for this intention. From the first evening there were about thirty of us in the chapel. Following the complications, their two young daughters, Céleste and Faustine, were born very prematurely (25 weeks). To the prayers for their mother were added those for the twins’ chaotic start to life. They weighed 630 g and 650 g respectively... Since their birth a few months ago, we continue to pray for their family, feeling a special closeness to Aurore because we are now at the foyer, as she was before us.

This link was also seen through the support given to her by another former Serviamette, Raphaëlle, who was on an internship in the hospital: she was present when Aurore was intubated.



It was through her that we heard the news of Aurore and her daughters. This is what Aurore told us about this agonizing time for her: ‘Raphaëlle very kindly came by at lunch time... Her face will remain with me; hers was the last face to smile at me and the last hand to support me before I fell asleep.’ A few days before, they did not even know each other; at that time,

only the bond of having lived at Serviam united them!

Regularly, photos and messages reach us through Sister Marie Armelle, and so we are able to continue to accompany their journey by prayer.

Through this testimony we have appreciated the strength of the bond between the Serviam-ettes, past and present, and of the affection that the sisters continue to show us after our departure."

Claire-Marie et Louise (Serviam)

Revisiting the first lockdown at Angers

"During the first lockdown, from mid-March to mid-May 2020, seventeen students remained at the Foyer Merici: one from Mauritius, one from Vietnam, one from Japan, one from China, three from Ivory Coast, one from Burkina Faso, one from Cameroon, one from Ghana, one from Tahiti and six from France! While it was impossible to move from one country to another or even to leave the foyer, the lockdown was an opportunity for the students to experience a more intense community life marked by the diversity of cultures!



Difficult to describe these two months in a few lines... There was the discovery of online university courses and exams at a distance, the organization of daily life (joint shopping once a week, serving of meals and the dish-washing done by the students, etc.), painting, cleaning, tidying up of all kinds and, of course,

times for relaxation: badminton, volleyball and cycling in the garden, film evenings, karaoke, board games, dancing, laughter... Not to mention the applause at the windows at 8 pm for the health workers, an opportunity to see the outside world and the neighbours!



Arhythm of prayer was also established with the four sisters present on site and the Christian students. A comment from two of them: "We have experienced some beautiful moments of sharing and we have made great progress on our journey of faith. In the chapel, we participated in the offices, the times of adoration and the televised masses. But, above all, the long discussions we had together taught us a lot and enabled us to progress.

The sisters suggested that we participate fully in Holy Week: the meals and Good Friday in silence, the Stations of the Cross and the rosaries in the garden,... Then the feast of Easter arrived. We had a beautiful Easter Vigil in the chapel, followed by hot chocolate. It was a great experience of living community that we will never forget!"



Sr

Agnès-Marie, Jeanne et Ninon (Merici)

Openness

“Group experience is also a great resource for sharing the faith and for mutual help in bearing witness. The young are able to guide other young people and to exercise a genuine apostolate among their friends.” (*Christus vivit* 219)

“I arrived at the foyer in 2018 with an image of an aging church that I couldn't see myself in at all. My family is not practising, but I have always been ‘drawn’ to the faith. When I was little, I read the gospels, I went to mass with my grandmothers, but it was not a personal faith.

When I arrived at the foyer, I found it difficult to understand the gift the sisters had made of their lives to God, the commitment of the other girls to the Church, and I was very questioning. During my year of medicine, the girls invited me to discover their faith and the Church through the Eucharist, adoration and reading the Word of God. I began to discover that this faith that animated them was ultimately not so far from my own values of love and sharing.

The experience of the Eucharist, moments of witnessing, in particular the devotion of the sisters who were always ready to listen and to share, and especially a weekend of retreat in an abbey with the girls of the foyer and which touched me in the depths

of my heart – all this made me realize little by little that I too was animated by this faith.

I then asked for the sacrament of Confirmation, and asked to prepare for it with the girls who had supported me from the beginning! The preparation was a very enriching experience both from the point of view of the deepening of faith as well as the questions addressed and the testimonies shared.

I think the foyer has been a real trigger in my entire faith story; being surrounded by girls who listen and the experience of living together have enabled me to discover humility and sharing.

I received the sacrament of Confirmation on 10 January 2021. After receiving the sacrament, I searched with Sister Agnès-Marie for a way in which I could continue to live my faith and for it to continue to grow. And it was during this time that a friend of the foyer asked in her turn to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist, and she asked that I be part of her preparation team. She will make her first communion on Sunday 6 June 2021 on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. My faith life continues to grow, and I can help others now discover their own faith.”

Clémence (Merici)



To continue sharing:

A very big thank you to all those who sent an article and participated in the writing of this bulletin, to the translators... and to all of you who will read it!

For the next Inter-Ursuline bulletin (to be published at the beginning of September 2021),

Please would you send your articles by August 2021

Please do not exceed two A4 pages. Two or three photos are welcome!

The prayer partners is still available on the website <https://ursulines-roman-union.org>

JUBILEES

May - December 2021

May

1	SEF Blandina VLASIC M.Nives	Ljubljana, Provinciate Varaždin, (branch house)	SLOVENIA CROATIA	60 60
3	PRZECODZKA Gaudencja SMIECH Cecylia SONDEJ Margarita	Bardo Śląskie Poznań Kraków	POLAND POLAND POLAND	60 60 60

June

1	EREIZ M.Janja FILIPOVIC M.Ana IMPERL Bogomira	Slavonski Brod Zenica Maribor	CROATIA CROATIA SLOVENIA	50 50 50
5	CHANDRA Agatha Linda HARIMARGAWATI Immaculata SUTINI Pia Yustina	Rome, Generalate Baturetno Jakarta, Juanda	GENERALATE INDONESIA INDONESIA	25 25 25
27	CARREÓN GONZÁLEZ Guadalupe	Puebla	MEXICO	75

July

9	MORAN Maura	Sligo, Temple St.	IRELAND/WALES	70
16	MORAN Rose Marie	Kirkwood	USA CENTER	60
27	MARIJAMIHARDJA Elisabeth SASTRAHARDJA Rudolpha	Bandung, Merdeka Malang	INDONESIA INDONESIA	60 60
30	WEISHÄUPL Maria Francisca	Salvador, N.S. da Mercês	BRAZIL	70
31	O'SULLIVAN Mary ROBINSON Patricia	Ashbury, South Community Concord, South Community	AUSTRALIA AUSTRALIA	70 70

August

2	BARTNICKA Teresa	Poznań, Pokrzywno	POLAND	70
3	GALLAGHER Dorothy KANE Joan	Sligo, Temple St. Dublin, Sandyford	IRELAND/WALES IRELAND/WALES	60 60
5	ALBIN Honorata STOLARCZYK Monika	Kraków Rybnik	POLAND POLAND	50 50
13	RAVASI Orsola	Milano	ITALY	70
14	HOPHANN DÁVILA Irma	Puebla	MEXICO	70
15	FREDERICKS Teresa Mary KREUZINGER Maria LAZNOWSKA Benedykta LEDOCHOWSKA Consilia LUBERDA Klemensa	Barbados Salzburg, Austria Rybnik Poznań, Pokrzywno Kraków	CARIBBEAN SLOVENIA POLAND POLAND POLAND	60 50 25 25 25
16	CAUVAS Anne-Marie	Malet	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60
17	RIGASOVÁ Edita	Bratislava	SLOVAKIA	25
22	BARBOZA Maria da Salette MURPHY Patricia	Salvador, N.S. da Mercês Waterford	BRAZIL IRELAND/WALES	60 70
25	SARICH Theresa	Alton	USA CENTER	70

September

7	ARROYO Nancy	New Rochelle, St Teresa's	USA EAST	25
8	LATAILLADE St.Jacques	Pau	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	75
11	HOURIGAN Aloysius	Thurles	IRELAND/WALES	75
12	BERQUER Bernadette-Josèphe CEREDA Anna Maria	Saint Saulve, Merici Milano	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN ITALY	70 50
17	ROBERT Marie-Augustin	Malet	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	70

October

7	GIEROBA Gerarda	Poznań, Pokrzywno	POLAND	60
	KRAKOWSKA Celsa	Lublin	POLAND	60
21	CLEMENS Josephine	Grubbenvorst, Netherlands	POLAND	70
	ROBERTZ Marie Elise	Venray, Netherlands	POLAND	70
	SANGO M.Rozalija	Varaždin, (branch house)	CROATIA	60
27	SASTRADIMEDJA Sabina	Surabaya	INDONESIA	70
30	MARTINO Rita	Capriolo	ITALY	70

December

14	NDANA Eunice	Lodwar	KENYA	25
30	HAMMOND Marie Vianney	Quimperlé	FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN	60

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PROFESSIONS***HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION:***

Monika Tropper	Poland	25/02/2021
Yovita Yutta Sueng	Indonesia	10/03/2021