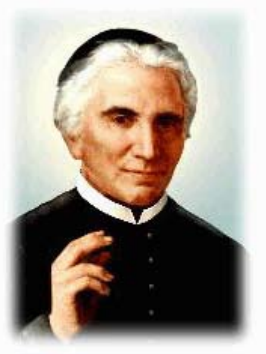


# Vivere Insieme

FAMILY OF PROVIDENCE



## summary

**Year of Faith** page 2  
 The Year of Faith is an opportunity and an occasion for all of us believers in Jesus, to rediscover the faith as an "encounter with an event and a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

**Seeking the glory of God** page 3  
 From the witness of the Sisters who lived with him, emerges the power of faith of Fr. Luigi, which led him to direct his whole life to God and to live immersed in Him: the contemplation of a God who deigns to suffer and die for his creatures, leads to "feel honoured to be crucified with Jesus and for Jesus."

**The recovering people** page 4  
 Walking together with the people devastated by war, and be among them a witness of hope and of God's Providence was a very difficult choice but a choice made consciously by the community of Abidjan which, even in the midst of innumerable difficulties has taken up its mission of charity courageously in the village of Anonkoua Koutè..

**The Providence of God in the Kingdom of Thailand** page 6  
 The Sisters of the community in Thailand make us partakers of their strong experience of God's Providence that comes down to seek His creatures and care for them.

**Service of authority in the provinces and delegations** page 8  
 The new councils of provinces and delegations begin their service knowing that this is primarily a service of charity towards God and the Sisters, done with patience, in peace and joy.

**The new path of Solidarmondo** page 9  
 The association Solidarmondo has renewed its directors to continue its commitment and contribution to "bring about a future of solidarity in the world of tomorrow."

**Among the youth in search of God: Repaju 2012** page 10  
 Living the Carnival with youth in a different way, leading them to Jesus through a joyful experience of faith, fellowship and sharing. This has been possible in Brazil thanks to the combined efforts of the Sisters and lay people, animated by a great love for young people.

**Brazil with a thousand faces** page 12  
 A group of Brazilian youth of Paraiba, through the energy of Afro Brazilian dance, bring to Italy a message of faith and hope and live a deep experience of a provident God and brotherhood.

**The economic crisis and the confusion of a Christian** page 14  
 What is specifically the Christian contribution to the crisis situation? Where is the root of the crisis? What is the specific role of the religious in the contemporary world? The two articles attempt to answer these crucial questions of today's society.

**News in Brief** page 13&16  
 There are significant reports that make us participants in the life and journey of our family.

# Year of Faith



**W**ith the Apostolic Letter of 11 October 2011, *Porta fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Faith. This year will begin on 11 October 2012, on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council, and will conclude on 24 November 2013, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King.

This year will be a propitious occasion for the faithful to understand more profoundly that the foundation of Christian faith is "the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Founded on the encounter with the Risen Christ, faith can be rediscovered in its wholeness and all its splendor. "In our days too faith is a gift to rediscover, to cultivate and to bear witness to" because the Lord "grants each one of us to live the beauty and joy of being Christians."

The beginning of the Year of Faith coincides with the anniversaries of two great

events which have marked the life of the Church in our days: the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, called by Blessed Pope John XXIII (11 October 1962), and the twentieth of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, given to the Church by Blessed Pope John Paul II (11 October 1992).

Faith "is the lifelong companion that makes it possible to perceive, ever anew, the marvels that God works for us. Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present of history, faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world." Faith is both a personal and a communal act: it is a gift from God that is lived in the communion of the Church and must be communicated to the world.

At the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in consultation with the competent Dicasteries of the Holy See and with the contribution of the Committee for the Preparation of the Year of Faith, has drawn up this Note, with some recommendations for living this time of grace, without precluding other initiatives which the Holy Spirit will inspire among Pastors and faithful in various parts of the world.

Suggestions are offered at the level of the univer-

sal church, the Episcopal Conference, at the level of diocesan and parish communities, associations and movements.

Every initiative for the Year of Faith should be designed to aid in the joyous rediscovery of the faith and its renewed transmission. The recommendations provided here have the goal of inviting all of the members of the Church to work so that this Year may be a special time in which we, as Christians, may share that which is most dear to us: Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of mankind, Universal King, "leader and perfecter of faith" (Hb 12: 2).

Thus, the recommendations for the Year of Faith aim to aid both the encounter with Christ through authentic witnesses to faith, and the ever-greater understanding of its contents.

These proposals are intended as examples to encourage a ready response to the invitation of the Holy Father to live fully this Year as a special "time of grace." The joyous rediscovery of faith can also contribute to consolidate the unity and communion among the different bodies that make up the wider family of the Church.

*Congregation for the Doctrine  
of the Faith  
Extracts from Note with  
pastoral recommendations  
for the Year of Faith,  
Rome, 06 January 2012*

# Seek the Glory of God

**T**he whole life of Father Luigi was a relentless journey towards God, to whose sovereignty he meekly and lovingly submitted all of himself and spent all his life in the exclusive pursuit of the glory of God.

His spirit was set around the divine goodness who helps his creatures: he always spoke of "God, our good Father" and of the Providence that guides human footsteps according to his precise and loving design. That required obedience and submission.

Whatever he said was directed to the glory of the Lord: praise or congratulation or a teaching. In every action, even the most common; one must seek to give glory to God and perform them in order to achieve it. Time, health, talent: everything had to be used for the glory of the Lord.

After a public sin, he used to suggest penitence for compensating the glory that was taken away by the sinful act.

For him, the first vocation was to seek the glory of God and the sanctification of souls. The congregation was nothing but a means to promote the glory of God. He used to ask for prayers so that the choice of the work of the Sisters might bring about the glory of the Bridegroom. This was the only motive when he made transfers for the sisters. He enjoyed the arrival of new postulants who would give Glory to God.

When a good deed seemed to fail, he abandoned himself to the Will of the Lord that he

might submit himself for His greater glory.

In the face of the violation of his rights, hardships, expenses, litigations, he submitted himself to God because everything may happen according to His greater glory.

The thought that the glory of God could also result from wrong, the remembrance of the sufferings of the Bridegroom was supposed to comfort in tribulations and should encourage us to work as a missionary among the girls for His glory and honour.

He rejoiced in seeing the zeal of his daughters in bringing about the glory "of our beloved divine Bridegroom Jesus."

The thought of divine presence was dominant in Father Luigi. He wanted that the Sisters remembered this and it was one of his main methods of formation and education.

The awareness of being always under the watch of Jesus the spouse was an encouragement to a holy life and to multiply acts of love during the day. The principle that animated Father Luigi was this: everything was ordered by the Lord for His glory and the salvation of souls. He inculcated this idea in the Sisters.

He wanted them to see that everything is given to them by God for their sanctification; the difficulties as an occasion willed by or permitted by God for the exercise of virtue and become similar to His divine Son. Especially in the opposition one needs to see the wise hand of God which can bring about good even from bad evil. In this light of faith the disturbances will vanish and nothing will upset.

The attitude in front of God must be that of adoration and humble submission which are the source of peace and holiness.

From the meditation of a God who for love of each one of us had suffered so much, comes the following: the experience of pain for one's own sins and the determination to act according to his will; the certainty that a work that was marked by the cross was a work of God and therefore had the surety of its spiritual success and the feeling of being honoured to be crucified "with Jesus and for Jesus."



# The recovering people

*“Rise, take up your mat and walk!” Jn 5.8*



**A**fter nearly ten months of exile, the community of Anonkoua-Kouté reopened its doors on December 14, 2011. Our province has taken this decision after much prayer and reflection, trying to figure out together the meaning of events and to read the signs that could point the way to go.

A very important motivation that has driven us to decide to reopen the community has been the progressive and courageous return of the people and the difficult and distressing conditions of life in which they found themselves upon their return to their homes that were ransacked and emptied.

We then realized that we should walk “together” and we returned to our place, encouraged by the words of Jesus to the paralytic, “Rise, take up your mat and walk!”

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent “post-synodal” apostolic exhortation has said the same words to the whole of Africa.

And it is in this light of faith that the community has been reopened to bear witness to our brothers who are deeply hurt in dignity, and that “it is Jesus who heals, liberates and reconciles their hearts.”

We have therefore put in order some of the places of the Women’s Training Centre to stay there temporarily while be it waiting for the development of the situation or while finding ne-

cessary funds to repair the house because the damages caused are really great. All communities of the province have contributed in various ways to provide the essential things for living here.

Sewing classroom has been transformed into a chapel where Jesus our strength and our life waits for us and protects us everyday.

We have experienced yet again that the name that we bear, “Sisters of Providence”, is not just a simple name, but embraces an evangelical reality that permeates all of our life and therefore also our mission. And the conviction that the Providence rises even before the sun and precedes our every step is now deep within us.

We want to express on this occasion our deep gratitude to so many people, friends and benefactors who have supported us with their encouragement, prayers and financial help. Since the time we returned to Anonkoua we are certain and confident because we know that the Lord who brought us back will guide our steps. We know we will have to face many difficulties and challenges but our day today relationships with people gives us courage and makes us understand better the mission that awaits us.



A few weeks after our arrival we celebrated the great festival of Christmas along with our Christian community.

There was nothing of the usual splendour and pomp of the village of Anonkoua. People were dressed very soberly and, despite the festive songs, so much of suffering was written large on their faces.

The Infant Jesus was laid on a fine traditional fabric which was borrowed from a parish nearby for the occasion.

During the celebration there was a very meaningful gesture: at the time of the Gospel, after turning off all the lights of the church, the women filed up in a procession to the crib holding a lighted candle, a sign of faith which illumines the darkness of what they have lived through with the light of hope and also a sign of their commitment to reconstruct their familial and social bond.

We are only three sisters in the community, and there is need for more. We collaborate in the parish for catechetical and social work.

We are also involved in helping the village to reopen the dispensary where we had worked for 19 years and which before the war received about 500 patients everyday.

We have taken up this commitment in a spirit of love and surrender to Providence, but also in caution because the situation is still so complex.

For the moment we have restarted the medical consultations for children and adults and the maternity service during the day.

Here is our experience of life in brief. We rely on your prayers and move forward with confidence, knowing that Mary, Mother of Providence will watch over us and guide our steps. The task ahead of us is difficult and delicate, but it has the flavour of the origins of our Religious Family.

*Sr. Giuseppina Usai  
Sr. Florence Nayo  
Sr. Hortense Domboue*



*The smile of gratitude  
for the reborn life!*

# The Providence of God in the Kingdom of Thailand

**W**e, the sisters of the community, “Mary, Mother of God” in Thailand would like to share with you a little about our experience during these five months in the land of Thailand. We are a small seed that was cast on this soil and we are living the hope that God will germinate and produce good fruits in His time.

We are in a predominantly Buddhist country, and in their calendar, we are in the year 2555 of the era of the Buddha. The Catholic Church has 0.4% of the population, but the church is very expressive in its being strongly missionary. Therefore we were welcomed by the small Catholic community with joy and hope.

The Thai people are a people characterized by smile and kindness. They are very sensitive: they never want to disturb and would not want to be disturbed either. Thailand, however, accommodates many other ethnic minorities: the Chinese, who are almost the majority in the country, Burmese, Vietnamese and many other original tribes from neighbouring countries. So we have a world to discover and learn in its cultural diversity.

We arrived in Bangkok on October 27, 2011 at a very particular time, because, especially in Bangkok, there was great chaos caused by a flood of biblical proportions, which was right at its culmination point. On the advice of Fr. Adriano Pelosin, PIME, despite everything, we remained in Bangkok to learn Thai language. Thus, in spite of the flood, we started almost immediately to study the language at a school for foreigners located in the centre of town where we live even today.

“Providence is a God who deigns to seek and care for the needy...”

Thus expresses the Thai language the concept of “Providence”, seeing that its dictionary does not have just one word that expresses everything of it.

Looking back at the last few months we can share with you many wonderful things but also the many difficulties that we have to face every day. We prefer, however, to tell you how, in these beginnings of the mission, we are experiencing the Providence in our life every day.

In fact, in these months we have experienced and are still experiencing a God who comes to us in our every need and does not let us miss anything. Every day we come to realize that “one who gives from one’s poverty, receives more than what one has given”, because it is God who in his providence guides our history in the

land of Thailand preceding us to prepare the hearts to receive us and care for us.

## **Virash, a young Thai who became our friend and brother**

Virash is a disabled young man whom we came to know through Father Adriano. He had been at home for three days with his body immersed in water, because of the flood, and when Father Adriano found



him, he rescued him and placed temporarily in an appropriate place. He then entrusted him to us so that we look after his needs. Now that he could go back to his home again, we clean his house, wash his clothes and bring something to eat when he is unable to provide for himself alone, but above all we give him the opportunity to experience the free friendship that helps him to smile in the midst of suffering. He is a Buddhist, but he is now preparing to become a Christian because he says that he discovered the love of God through the love and solidarity of Christians. On the other hand we are also edified by his extraordinary inner strength.

Virash was a normal youth when a severe degenerative disease, which has already destroyed his whole family, confined also him to a wheelchair leaving him little hope of survival. However, he is not sad for he is coming to know Jesus and the Gospel and lives a hope

filled with joy. He rather states that he is discovering the joy of the Resurrection, and that when he dies, he will rise again with a new body, without defects and diseases. His beautiful smile and his simplicity teach us a lot and has been a much greater gift to us than the little that we can do for him.

**We strongly feel that it would be a life shared with the laity....**

In our life here we are meeting so many wonderful people. Without ever having known them before, we have the impression and we feel as brothers and friends of a long time. This makes us think that our Father Luigi had arrived here before us to prepare the way and had already made contact with these people. Some of them have actually become like our guardian angels and help us in every need; be it small or big and even anticipating us.

Already some of them are interested in knowing Father Luigi and to collaborate with our mission. To know more of Father Luigi they browse the internet and ask to be his followers like us. Some have asked for a meeting to hear about him and our mission as Sisters of Providence. We truly feel that Father Luigi wants us on this land and is accompanying us by placing these generous people on our journey so that we can fulfil the mission that has been prepared for us in the service of the children and needy in Thailand.

**A big thanks to the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Paul**

Since we arrived, these dear Sisters have adopted us as their sisters and continue to accompany us with love. It would be long to describe all their concrete,



magnanimous and gentle gestures of love. We are learning a lot from them, who, as a Thai Institute, have shown us the Thai kindness; a kindness which always exceeds what one hopes. Through them we are also enjoying the gift of feeling sisters in the diversity of



gifts and charisms, so that we may be united in friendship and solidarity to seek together the kingdom of God by doing good; the good as willed by our Father Luigi.

**A special thanks to Father Adrian, a Missionary of the PIME**

Father Adriano is an Italian by origin, but is a missionary in Thailand for over 30 years. He has taken us to his heart and helps us and guides us, together with the bishop, for our mission in Mesai. He is a missionary with a great heart who would like to reach every corner of Asia to bring the Good news of Jesus. At the moment he is committed to the training of new missionaries to China. He is relentless in his mission to help those in need, but also encourages and animates the Christians to solidarity and responsibility. We are indeed very grateful to him for all that he is doing for us so that our charism becomes a concrete expression of charity especially for children and needy.



From Thailand we would like to extend our thanks to all of our religious family around the world who accompany us with so much love and hope. We appreciate the trust and every sign of fraternity that we receive from every part of the world.

# The Service of Authority in the Provinces and Delegations

## Three years 2012 – 2015

The Superior General, with the consent of her council, according to the Rule of Life, has appointed the Provincial Superiors and Delegates for the term of three years 2012 to 2015

### **PROVINCIA “MADONNA DELLA PROVVIDENZA” - ITALIA**

*provincial superior* sister Sandra Del Bel Belluz

*councillors* sister Virgilia Bettega  
sister Maria Rosa Presotto  
sister Amalia Faraone  
sister Rita Bortoluzzo

### **PROVINCIA “NOSTRA SIGNORA APARECIDA” - BRASILE**

*provincial superior* sister Ana Garcia de Oliveira

*councillors* sister Irene Chelski  
sister Cícilia Arantes de Souza  
sister Marinalda Ap.da Michelassi  
sister Fatima Simone Cremer

### **PROVINCIA “SAN GIUSEPPE” - INDIA**

*provincial superior* sister Rosalina Myppan

*councillors* sister Thresiamma Karottuthazhath  
sister Annalisa Koonthamattathil  
sister Annis Kottackal  
sister Anna Mary Yanthan

### **PROVINCIA “SAN GAETANO “ - BENIN, COSTA D’AVORIO, TOGO**

*provincial superior* sister Bruna Paravano

*councillors* sister Manuela Panni  
sister Lydie Doucrou  
sister Alphonsa Aracka  
sister Hélène Ouedraogo

### **PROVINCIA “LUIGI SCROSOPPI” - ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, URUGUAY**

*provincial superior* sister Jacqueline de Lisa Niz

*councillors* sister Matilda Sociu  
sister Clara Zurlo  
sister Lilian Ferrao  
sister Remberta Chileno

### **DELEGAZIONE “PROVVIDENZA” - MYANMAR**

*delegate* sister Cecilia Daw Daw

*councillors* sister Teresa Lay  
sister Rose Mary Ne Soe  
sister Martina Keh Phaw  
sister Rita Baby

### **DELEGAZIONE “ROSA MISTICA” - CORMONS**

*delegate* sister Generosa Degaudenz

*councillors* sister Gemmarita Cumer  
sister Josephina Bonollo  
sister Consolata Simonato  
sister Marilia Gonella  
sister Piercarla Trevisan  
sister Cecilia Menamattathil

### **DELEGAZIONE “SACRA FAMIGLIA” - MOLDOVA, ROMANIA**

*delegate* sister Michelina Bettega

*councillors* sister Viviana Radu  
sister Mihaela Balauca

In the letters of Father Luigi there are many references to the superiors to animate them in their service towards the sisters.

Here are some that we want to reproduce for the benefit of the Sisters who have just started their mandate:

*God bless you and give you the Holy patience in bearing the Cross of Superior, for the crosses of the Superiors are very large and also many as I too experience.*

*Continue to be always happy with your daughters in the Lord, thus the cross which the true Bride of Jesus must carry will not be too heavy for you.*

*Patience and holy perseverance, dear Sister, and do not be discouraged if there are difficulties in administration. Patience and Charity: these are the two virtues which the poor superiors have to practice several times a day.*

*The Mother Superior is doing well enough and glory be to God one has to say is the model for the Congregation.*

We publish the letter sent by the secretariat of Solidarmondo at the end of the last meeting held in Rome.

## The new way of SOLIDARMONDO

Dear friends of Solidarmondo,

We would like to keep you updated on the latest news of our Association. As many of you know very well that there was a National Assembly of the Association held on May 20 in Rome. The characteristic of this meeting was very special because it was the tenth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Association and had to elect a new board. Not an easy task!

We like to emphasize first that the participation in the meeting was in good numbers, but it was also lively by the interest the people showed and expressed willingness to continue the journey with renewed commitment.

There was also present in the assembly Sr. Ester Leghissa, the Superior General of the Sisters of Providence, who expressed appreciation for the progress made and encouraged us not to give up when faced with difficulties because every little drop of solidarity will make the world a better place.

After the approval of the budget, we soon passed to the presentation of the special issue of the journal "Mondo Solidale", an issue that summarized the progress and presented in brief the history of the individual member groups, but also the reality in which the Sisters of Providence work and what is the place of their and our commitment. The magazine is

available for those who desire it at the office of the secretary.

We then proceeded to vote for the new board of Solidarmondo in secret and the result of the same is as follows:

Elisabetta Marinatto - President, Marco Maresca - Vice President, Roberto Tosolini, Aldo Bianco, Ester Villotti, Enrico Guerra, Sr. Irmarosia Villotti (Representative of the Congregation)

Auditors: Achille Del Bianco (Presidente), Tullio Nardon (Regular); Marina Ottaviani (Regular); Elisa Martignetti (Stand-in); Lorenzo Carella (Stand-in).

The Assembly, considering the progress in recent years expressed a special gratitude to Marco Maresca for the work and expressed willingness to continue together with commitment and contribution to "give a future of solidarity to the world of tomorrow".

We can therefore continue the work already undertaken, relying on the contribution of all the member groups, friends and benefactors and on the faithful commitment of every member of the Association.

*SOLIDARMONDO – The secretariat in Rome*

*Dear friends of Solidarmondo,*

*I can not tell you how happy and flattered I am upon receiving the charge, but above all else, I would like to thank all those with whom in these last few years I have worked, for they have given me the possibility to experience this journey of life and growth.*

*Firstly, I would like to thank you, Achille Del Bianco, my guardian angel who made me curious some years back by telling me of what you were already doing then and have planted that seed in me that has grown up and gave me no way out but to surrender to the fact that, if that was what the life was suggesting to me, obviously this was my journey.*

*The second thanksgiving, second not in the order of importance obviously, goes to Sr. Irmarosia, who has shown me a different world. Personally I respect and admire her for her foresight, openness to life, respect for others and acceptance of others without prejudice. All these things are, I believe, those which one wishes to see in the people around.*

*A thanks to Marco because, if 10 years have passed surely there has certainly been a key contributor. Thanks also to Cinzia and Marina for their work and also for their personal interest.*

*Thanks a lot to the congregation because it gives us a great chance of life.*

*Thanks to all the groups who contribute their strength to support missions around the world.*

*Thanks to all the people who have worked freely, driven only by the desire to make a contribution to a world of justice and solidarity. Thanks to supporters, thanks to people who have just passed nearby, but who by their smiles have fueled our desire to DO!*

*Thanks to the new board members, who have generously accepted to "get involved" so that the journey of Solidarmondo continues.*

*Thanks to life because it gives us the opportunity to choose. I'm sending this link which you might want to watch. This is my thanksgiving. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mBc7MnFomE&sns=em> Remember ... many little drops make a great sea! And we are many little drops and we have to feed this sea which is for us SOLIDARMONDO. I know I can count on your advice and help, so I do not feel alone. Every guidance and suggestion is precious for me. A big hug to everyone.*

*Elisabetta Marinatto*



# Among the youth

## REPAJ

**W**e, the Sisters and the laity of the Family of Providence would like to share the beautiful experience of Repaju (Youth Retreat) which was held in March 18-21, 2012 in Sorocaba and in Tietê, in the State of São Paulo and in João Pessoa in the Northeast of Brazil. There were about 40 youth who participated in each group.

The objective of this retreat was to give the young people some elements of Christ-centered spirituality, rooted in a social context. Moreover it was also to offer them an experience that will lead them to make a real option for Jesus Christ. The theme of the retreat helped the youth to pray in this way: *“God, where is He? How can I see Him? And how can I listen to Him?”*

The youth, considering the experience of this retreat, above all, expressed their delight at having made the wonderful experience of a God who loves his children unconditionally. One of them put it thus: *“We have met a God who loves His creatures and walks in our history and asks each of us to take a lead in this love by living the fellowship and sharing in a world of counter-values of individualism”*,

Another youth thanked for the hospitality and for the joy and the witnessing of the lay people and Sisters who accompanied them. *“The team passed on to us the spirit of communion, and we were very peaceful and secure. In fact, among all Repaju done in these years, this has been characterized by joy and serenity.*

*The example of the couples, the youth and the Si-*

*sters who accompanied them in the retreat were important instruments to help us to pray and to believe in the joy of being a disciple of Jesus and that it is worth following Him.”*

About 25 lay people of the Family of Providence have helped us. What we have achieved is the result of the grace of God who has lavishly blessed their efforts and willingness in giving their time from the time of preparation to the completion of the meeting. We had met several months before to reflect on the pedagogy of our dear Father Luigi, his way of being a leader and a companion of the young, to be a positive presence with them. And so much effort has been taken by one and all so that the meeting might be successful!

After the retreat, we, the Sisters and the lay people, met at Atibaia to share our experience of Repaju in two different places. I was able to listen to all the feelings of brotherhood.

Sandra and Tati of Sorocaba put it this way: *“A big challenge, a preparation, anticipation, a great retreat and at the end a great joy! In this way, we, the family of Providence, have evalua-*



# in search of God

## U 2012

*ted the REPAJU 2012. From the first preparatory meeting to the last youth who left the venue we have seen the dedication of every person so that everything goes on well. The laity worked together with the Sisters side by side to give the youth a unique experience. The youth and we returned home with great confidence and experience that God is present in everything”.*

Angela and Francesco of the city of Tatui said:

*“We have been blessed to be able to participate in this retreat, which was characterized by the phrase that says: It is when we think of giving something, then I get so much more!*

*We know the importance of giving this time for the young people so that they have the experience of God. When they feel motivated to pray, and after these meetings they show some more courage to be a witness of God’s Love!”*

We could feel that the youth were very happy to be there to make a *“difference in a day of Carnival!”* We heard them say that it was great to be there, away from the noise of the carnival, in an environment of prayer and helping each other by having the experience of loving the others as they

are. We must continue to believe that it is worth fighting for our young people, to dream their dreams, because they are our present and our future! Yes, certainly the retreat has been a great challenge for us, but a challenge worthy of commitment!

We are grateful for the opportunity to witness the sharing of the Sisters in concrete life situation and to live along with them the love for God. Immersed in the atmosphere of brotherhood and spirituality, soon, our anxiety of being in a new place with unknown persons all vanished. We experienced the Providence, love and spirituality growing not only in the youth but also in all those who were involved in the retreat. We are very happy and grateful for having lived all this and to have been part of this Family.

After having narrated and having been part of this wonderful meeting, I too feel the necessity of thanking God, the Provident Father for His abundant love for us. I thank all the Sisters of the Province who support and believe in the importance of this service, for *“the Youth are the apple of our eyes”*.

See you in next Repaju!

Suor Maria Claudia Vila Nova



# The Brazil of thousand faces

**F**rom May 15 to June 7, eighteen boys and girls from the Brazilian mission of Santa Rita, the city of João Pessoa, Paraíba State, have had a unique experience of having been in an Italian reality to give to various groups, in different places the show "Brasile dai mille volti" translated as "Brazil of thousand faces" consisting of various Afro Brazilian dances. The group was accompanied by Sr. Antoinette, animator of the Center CEFEC.

The Young people write:

We were happy to know such wonderful people and things and on our return our hearts were sad to leave the great people we met during our tour in Italy. It was very nice to share this short period with persons who are so different and yet so similar to us, because, like us, they too believe that concrete actions can improve the real life situations.

On our return to St. Rita we were greeted with joy. Our mission now is to share what we have experienced and we, with great joy, have narrated every incident, every performance, every contact and the rapport we created with persons whom we met. Our performances have given us joy and friendship, proving that God, through the little things, does great works.

What has left a deep impression on us is the loving hospitality we



received. We remember especially the visit to Udine and what has touched our heart is the simplicity of St. Luigi, which we have tried to communicate also to our students and friends.

Here below we give some of the quotations of what the youth have said:

*With this mission I have realized that before I was dead but now I live, to love and to be a sign of love for the others. (Tatiana)*

*It was like a seed sown in the earth, and now I'm remembering every face, every school and every show. Finally, I am certain that God was present in everything and in everyone. (Jacinta)*

*Even though Italy is prevalently a cold country, we have received a lot of warmth because in every gesture of people we have experienced humility, love and hope. (Flavio)*

*I, Ruclécio, confess that I am in love with the mission of the Sisters of Providence, for never in my life*

*have I seen others serving with so much love and humility.*

*The values that I will always carry with me are love, mercy, forgiveness, friendship, joy and solidarity. (Lúcia)*

*Living these days for me was like being born again. It is as if my eyes have been opened for a greater mission, and that I entered into relationships that bring me to Christ. (Danilo)*

*The area of Scampia has awakened in me the desire to live a real life. I know that the Lord calls me to his service; the days with Henry, a brother of the Christian Schools, showed me how to be and how to behave. (Lavinia)*

This experience has made it clear that, as the world is big, there would always be someone who believes that with love and dreams you can achieve any goal. The visit to Italy has increased our desire to strive for the good of the people. It is good for us to know a new culture.

We thank God for having seen Him in a people so beautiful and so hospitable.

Thanks also to St. Luigi for having given us such a great chance and finally we thank every person whom we have met in our life who has shown us an example of being good.

We thank all the communities that hosted us, especially our Sisters of Providence who, with the charisma of St. Luigi, have helped us to grow and give a positive future to our society in Brazil.



## The Award

Naples – Rione Scampia, June 15, 2012

*"In Scampia, where no one comes, come Sr. Edoarda and her three sisters, always smiling, ever ready with a word of consolation and encouragement. She has brought about the integration between Italians and immigrants, combating crime and illiteracy, in distress and despair, poverty and drugs. She has sympathy, love and most importantly a great gift of humility and humanness that many often forget. She is also a glaring example of a very high sense of duty and civic sense."*

These are the words with which The National Award "Vigile del Fuoco Carlo La Catena" (A silver medal along with a Parchment Certificate) was given to Sr. Edoarda Pirò, who since twenty years, together with the sisters of the community, renders service in the district of Scampia, a suburb of Naples, a tough area in several ways.

The award is intended to give a public recognition to individuals, organizations and institutions, who, have distinguished themselves during the year in some way in carrying out their duty. The goal is to bring out the positive aspects of the city. A tribute in particular to the common people, the ordinary humble people who abide by the law beginning from small things.

## Paço Lumiar - Maranhão

On February 28, 2012, four Sisters, namely, Sr. Irene Chelski, Sr. Mary Goes, Sr. Beatriz Cittadine and Sr. Maria Luisa Silva left Sorocaba to open a new community in Piramide, a suburban town of the city of Paço Lumiar - Maranhão (Northeast of Brazil).

We were hosted for a few days by Iracema, a poor widow and a devotee of Father Luigi. Everything was very simple in her home, without much comfort, but her heart was so great and thus we had a beautiful experience of poverty and brotherhood realising that it is possible to live modestly and in simplicity.

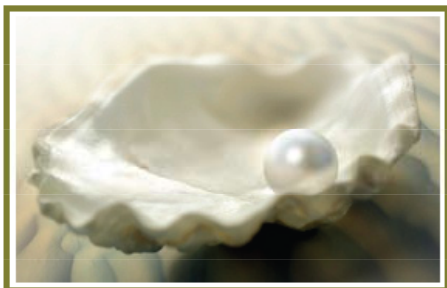
Currently we are in a rented house, waiting to enter into a permanent house.

In this initial period we are busy in visiting the families, for this is an important way to understand the situation. From the social point of view there is so much of poverty. From the religious point of view, we note that there are many protestant denominations who offer many comforts, public welfares and jobs for their faithful who are more than 80% of the population. Therefore the primary objective of our mission is evangelization.

In Paço Lumiar we found Father Luigi to care for us... In fact, in this area already ten years ago in his honour had been built a beautiful church, a true shrine which is for us a sure sign for our mission and it gives us great strength.

This is all the news from us for now as our time here has been very brief... In the next issue of *Vivere Insieme* we shall give in detail the activities of the community. Let us continue to be united in prayer in the same mission of love.

## A Carisma



*From the reflection that the Sisters of the Province of Italy have revived more from 2010 onwards has been born a DVD on charism which provides in a clear way the particular aspects: the focus on Jesus, the involvement and force of the mission, the unshakable trust in Providence, the spread of love etc.*

*The content of the same DVD can be accessed in the website of the congregation: [suoredellaprovidenza.it](http://suoredellaprovidenza.it) in the section of gallery, video. This is an invitation for all of us to deepen our knowledge of our charism and to live it ever more faithfully and joyfully.*

*Father Luigi tells us even today:*

*"Sisters, be creative, courageous and generous in fructifying (making the charism bear fruit) the charism that the Holy Spirit has given us. Let it be for you the precious pearl of the gospel. Sell everything to accomplish the work of charity entrusted to us by the*

*Lord, working joyfully in his vineyard without thinking of yourselves and the worldly things.*

*"Charity, charity: behold the spirit of your congregation: save souls and save them with charity".*

# The economic crisis and the dilemma of a christian

What is the specific christian contribution to the crisis situation?

*You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky,  
but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. (Mt. 16:3b)*



humanity than the one prevalent, that the Christians can make their contribution.

Where is the root of the crisis? To me it seems that it is in the lack of human touch which is an anthropological subject.

The economic crisis revealed the limitations of an economic model that is centred on individual and on profit-based social network. Is this turmoil not perhaps in this overdevelopment of the financial markets? Just the tip of the financial economy reveals its limits, for the speculation of markets break the dream of being easily accessible to all by undermining the rights and exacerbating inequalities. There are no readymade solutions or methods available. Clearly there are two ways. One road leads to extremes of selfishness and injustice: everyone for themselves. So the one who has securities and privileges, even it is just a slice, holds on to it and defends it against all odds. One imprisons himself in one's clan, in one's territory, one's own social group, as if besieged in a fort. One imprisons oneself in one's own identity, identifying the enemies to be hated and fought as in the racism of old. In such a jungle of "homo homini lupus" meaning, man is a wolf unto his fellow man, according to the ruthless Darwinism, man ends up having more and more, and leaving the poor to slit each other's throat in the fight among them.

There is also another way. It is that of solidarity and brotherhood of those who think that they all will together come out of the crisis and that they will find the paradigm for it in the gospel which is revolutionary, paradoxical and universal in character. Not the jungle rule but a bond that includes everyone. The first way increases inequality.

The second shows, as a first step, the direction of a redistribution of wealth and resources, the need to support each other. To believe that this is possible we need hope, which is at times a difficult virtue. And it is a difficult virtue. Moreover, even we, who believe, do not take the beatitudes very seriously, mesmerized as we are about having and being worth.

**H**ow do I feel and how do I face this economic crisis as a Christian? This is a question that is worth addressing if we believe in the words of the psalmist that faith is a lamp to our feet even today. There is a need to be rooted in reality and not just be spiritualistic. One needs to know that the Gospel still speaks to us and is not just echoes of the past. I will not go into issues of politics and the merits of individual measures. These are all technical aspects, certainly important, but in the order of priority they come second. There is a specific perspective of faith that can lead.

Severino Dianich has published a small but relevant book which addresses the point and deserves to become an important contribution to the present reflection. "For the apostles it was not the transformation of society that would spread the gospel, but that the spread of the Gospel would transform society." (Chiesa e laicità dello Stato. La questione teologica, San Paolo 2011, p. 8). Yes, the specificity of the Christian contribution to the crisis situation consists in knowing how to read and address the current situation in light of the gospel, without relying on the principles of authority hidden behind the mask of civil religion. Only by witnessing in one's life that it is in the gospel that there is hidden a particular way of human relationship and a different practice of

The culture of being wealthy has infected to such a point that having a luxurious house or a bank account that grows out of proportion or the use and abuse of power or the ever increasing poverty in our surrounding areas no longer trouble our conscience.

In addition to believing it, we must make this possible by building, in faith, the church as alternative community. "It is a network of relations based on the gospel, which finds itself in a fragmented week, feeble, mostly functional and often conflicting relationships. In such a situation of society the alternative community is "the city mounted on a hill", "the salt of the earth", "the lamp placed on the lampstand", and "the light of the world".

(cfr. Mt. 5:13-16)" (Carlo Maria Martini)

It is not a self-appointed and detached group or even a strong alliance but a discreet and ideal presence of bro-

therhood that can show the fragmented and divided society that there can be free and sincere relationships and that there not just relationships of convenience or interests and that the supremacy of God means to make what is better in the heart of man and society to emerge.

Christian Albini  
on "Tempi di Fraternità"  
no 3 March, 2012.



*From an interview with Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, Professor of Political Economy in the Pontifical Faculty of Science of Education Auxilium, and Economy of co-operation in the Catholic University, Rome. .*

### **What role pertains to the women religious, today, in the contemporary world?**

"I am convinced that life in the private as well as in the public sphere cannot be good, without what is called gratuitous or free service. And there is no gratuitous service without charism. (both the words derive from "charis"). This is the reason for societal poverty like ours, which isolates the charisms (from politics, from economy, from the mass-media...). It is above all the absence of free / gratuitous service and the lack of human touch that puts an end unto itself. It is the scarcity of people who come to us just because we are persons. That's it. The people in search of profit, efficiency and merit do no longer know the word "enough". The market economy is the fruit of fifteen centuries of civilisation and of charisms. It is a tree with deep roots. However, today, this secular tree is threatened by a crisis, which is above all moral and anthropological. The market functions well when it is watered by the lymph of charisms, lymph which is called gratuity (gratuitous service). A market economy which loses contact with the charismatic dimension (which today is very much expressed in the social economy of solidarity and communion...), becomes dis-economy, a place of no-good life, because by losing contact with gratuity, the market loses the human touch.

I hope that we, as Religious, understand the importance of this historic moment: a favourable moment, because today more than ever people are waiting for the sap of gratuitousness, a moment of courageous decisions, a time when we are called to be a "sign" that the most valuable things of life do not pass through the market, because they are priceless.

### **The question of morality is spoken so much in politics and society. Is there a recipe which is ethically practicable in this difficult context?**

"I think everyone has now realized that ethics and economics are not two separate worlds: Ethics is a dimension of economy and economy of ethics. When the economy loses this dimension, then apart from bringing about damage it destroys itself also. This is demonstrated by this crisis, as well as the growing malaise in Western societies, due to a constant increase of luxurious goods which are in some way replacing the relational goods. The cultural and ethical way is above all to make man at the centre of economy: the first banks, lest we forget, were founded by the Franciscans to alleviate poverty.

We must not imagine a world without finance, but there is even today a need for a flourishing of entrepreneurs motivated by ideals and purposes larger than mere profit. It is very clear that the ethical dimension has to be part of the process of production, decision-making in an organization and in businesses and should not be relegated to the redistribution made by the State, especially as states in a globalized world are losing their powers in the economy and finance. There are already well-established experiences which at this moment can become models: think for example in ethical banking, businesses of economy of communion, and the fair trade and in general all the experiences of civil economy. Secondly, the challenge is anthropological and cultural: the current crisis can be an occasion for a deep reflection on Western lifestyles that have become unsustainable. The sobriety (which I would call in continuity with the tradition of charisms, "poverty", a beautiful word of the gospel), communion and the sharing of goods are the way to re-ignite a virtuous cycle: It is the time for commitment of all, an opportune time for a return to the essentials.

Translated from the website: [usminazionale.it](http://usminazionale.it)

## Laity "Family of Providence"



In the month of April, the various groups of laity from Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil came together along with Sisters who accompanied them. The meeting was animated by Sr. Sonia Maria and Sr. Irmarosia who had come all the way from Italy for the purpose.

At first we revisited the story of Providence experienced in our works right from the beginning. The constant and irreplaceable presence of the laity is clearly visible: a fact of closeness, concrete help and sharing of the hard work that involves every beginning. There has been a gradual process of maturation, identification and sense of belongingness.

Then we imagined together, looking to the future, without hiding the aspects that needs improvement: There came about a plan of programme involving Sisters and

lay people for the next two years.

What gave us so much joy was the feeling of oneness as a family united in charism, in the love and admiration of our dear Father Luigi, something that has been there right from the beginning of every mission and which actually comes from the charism. Today we can say that we have the "Birth Certificate"!

Common responsibility is how we can make this Family grow which finds it difficult "to conceive new daughters". There is a strong concern in the heart of everyone of the lack of religious vocations and the commitment to be active in this respect with prayer and action.

We are very happy to see, how the laity enlarge our tents and how beautiful it is to be together in the Lord.

## Together in Fellowship

The annual meeting of the General Council with the Provincials and delegates was ended in Udine on June 30, 2012 which had begun in Rome from June 18.

After reflecting and discussing on topics proposed by the General Chapter of the last year and after having looked for ways of concrete implementation, all the Mothers wanted to be present at the close of the tenth anniversary of the canonization of St. Luigi. In the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by His Excellency Monsignor Andrea Bruno Mazzocato, the Archbishop of Udine, they thanked God for all the good work done in the world today under the inspiration of the charism of Father Luigi and for the innumerable charitable services accomplished by the Sisters and lay people for the poor people.

After the Holy Mass, there was the inauguration of the exhibition on the life of the congregation in the world today, titled: "St. Luigi and the ways of the Providence". With the same title a guide-book was also printed for those who wish to know in Udine the places connected to the various stages of the life of the founder and the beginnings of our congregation.

The meeting ended in a festive atmosphere, a joyful atmosphere of brotherly love, meeting with friends, collaborators and Sisters of neighbouring communities.

