

Vivere Insieme



Family of Provvidenza

Sinodality



“And now, we take up this journey: Bishop and People. This journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the Churches. A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another”.

First greeting of the Holy Father Pope Francis from the Central Loggia of St. Peter's Basilica on the eve of 13 March 2013 soon after the election

“To walk together is the constitutive way of the church; the figure that enables us to interpret reality with the eyes and heart of God; the condition for following the Lord Jesus and being servants of life in this wounded time. The breath and the pace of the synod show what we are, and the dynamism of communion that animates our decisions.

Only in this way we can truly renew our pastoral ministry and adapt it to the mission of the Church in today's world; only in this way we can address the complexity of this time, thankful for the journey accomplished thus far, and determined to continue it with parrhesia”.

Pope Francis to the Bishops of Italy 22.05.2017

Come, Holy Spirit! You inspire new languages and place words of life on our lips: keep us from becoming a “museum Church”, beautiful but mute, with much past and little future.

Come among us, so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm, dilute the power of prophecy, or descend into useless and unproductive discussions.

Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice!

Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God!

Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.

Concluding prayer from the message of Pope Francis on the occasion of the moment of reflection for the beginning of the Synodal Journey 09.10.2021



Synod = walking together

As always, in Father Luigi the works speak more than words.

Here are a few confirmations, among many, of his capacity for synodality, that is, of his knowing how to walk with others for the construction of the Kingdom of God in the world.

Father Luigi participated with intense zeal in all the religious, educational or practical initiatives of the Archdiocese of Udine, both as an animator and as well as with financial support.

In fact, there was no pious work, of charity, of manifestation of faith, in which he did not want to participate; and there was no tear that he did not want to wipe away, and there was no evil that, being able to, he had not tried to remedy.

- When the *Kindergarten of Charity called 'dell'Immacolata'* went into crisis, he had his Sisters take over its management. He took pleasure in questioning the Sisters in the evening about what they had done that day for innocent children.
- Convinced of the need for a solid spiritual formation of the people to prevent them from going astray, due to doctrines or political movements contrary to religion, *he advocated the establishment of a group of Diocesan Missionaries* for the preaching of the holy retreats.
- For the preaching of the Missions and for the Christian education of the youth, he supported with utmost fervor the initiative of the Archbishop of Udine, Msgr. Casasola, aimed at opening a *Jesuit religious house in the city*. And, since other projects failed, he hosted two Fathers of the Society of Jesus for a year in the Oratory House, without any fear for the hostile acts, not excluding the drop of a bomb, committed shortly before in Udine towards the Jesuits.

- After the suppressive laws of 1866, he worked diligently to find a place worthy of brides of Christ for the *Religious Poor Clares*, removed from their Monastery.
- Full of profound veneration for the ministers of God who, after a life spent in the apostolate, reached old age in painful poverty, he generously adhered to the repeated attempts to *found a House of Hospitalization for them*. And, since these failed, he planned to build one in Cividale at his own expense.
- He also had *the Archdiocesan Seminary* and ecclesiastical vocations at heart, favoring the Work for poor Clerics and sometimes assuming the burden of tuition and dowry.
- The daily economic concern to maintain the hundreds of orphans of his Institute did not keep the saint from assuming serious financial commitments for the foundation of a *Patronage with schools for the children of the people* and of the 'Giovanni da Udine' College equaled to schools for young people of noble or middleclass families.
- *He had a good deal of merit* in creating and supporting a daily Catholic newspaper 'Il Cittadino Italiano' in Udine, to avoid the serious damage caused to souls by other local newspapers of anti-clerical or openly irreligious inspiration and in the foundation of the Catholic typography known as Patronage.
- *He favored and gave impetus to numerous religious associations*, such as: the Confraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the conversion of sinners; the Pious Unions of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Apostolate of Prayer, the Union of the Daughters of Mary, etc.

Cfr. 'Positiones et Articuli...'



When Providence opens the way...

The Providence, in an admirable and surprising way, guided the steps of the European Province to open a new community in Romania, in Reșița, in the south-west of the country. It is also a new reality for us, Romanian sisters, first of all due to the geographical distance from the other communities (about 700 km from Iasi), but also due to the history of this region which only became part of Romania in 1920. Its membership, along history, to Dacia, to the historic Banat, the Kingdom of Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the proximity to the border, means that today people live here in a multicultural context.

*In the diocese of Timisoara
the Eucharist is celebrated in 7 languages:
Romanian, German, Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian,
Czech and Bulgarian.
A great wealth!
But everyone speaks Romanian very well!*

Reșița is a typical industrial town, developed since 1771, in parallel with the large steel mill (it was the oldest and largest metallurgical centre in Europe) and the factory of industrial machinery, especially steam locomotives.

We arrived in Reșița on October 4, 2022, with the desire to place the opening of this small community under the protection of Father Luigi. We were warmly welcomed by the parish community, that saw in us the answer to their prayers. In fact, as soon as we arrived here, we discovered that the parish was praying for sisters even before we got in touch with the bishop of Timisoara.

Surprisingly, we are discovering a small but very lively parish reality, founded on the spiritual life. It struck us that every Friday there



is Eucharistic adoration throughout the day. The laity are very much involved in the life of the Church, eager for spiritual formation, and the various groups present organize many activities.

With a paternal spirit and in a progressive way, the parish priest introduced us to the life of the parish and entrusted us with the catechesis for Romanian-speaking children and adolescents. We participate in all the activities of the parish, which give the rhythm to our days. On Sunday, after the three masses celebrated in three languages in Reșița, we participate together with the parish priest the Eucharistic celebration also in the zonal chapels. During the week, we collaborate with the Association of Catholic Doctors which runs an after-school program for children and adolescents from socially vulnerable families. From next January we will start training courses for summer camp animators, for adults who perform various services in the church and for elderly ladies.

While we thank the Providence for the path that has opened up for us in this land of mission, we always entrust ourselves to her, asking the Spirit for the gift of discernment and humility, so that the seed of the charism can take root here too.

Sister Rosetta Benedetti, sister Monica Bogdanel





Experiences in the Philippine

Dear sisters loving greetings to all!

We are happy to get this opportunity to share with you our short experience here in Philippine. On 19th June 2022 we left our belong countries, India and Myanmar and arrived Manila the capital city of Philippine, there we remained for ten days for our visa work and then on 29th June reached a place called Roxas City belonging to the Arch. Diocese of Capiz, on the island of Panay, one of the 4.000 inhabited islands in the archipelago. We were accommodated in the diocese guest house since our house was not yet ready.

Staying in the guest house we used to go to the house and started cleaning and preparing the rooms, house compound, after a week we finally could enter in our own house and stay peacefully. Our community is just close to the bishop house and near minor seminary.

Initially when we reach here we were only two of us with Sr. Sandra M. general and sr. Rita Baby the delegate of Myanmar delegation. After one month they left Philippine Maria Ne Caw and sr. Ansuma Islary were alone for four months later on 2 nd November 2022 Sr. It has been a beautiful and challenging four months, first of all to get to know the environment and the people and to get to know each other and then to start doing something with the people.

Finally Sister Martha Hkaung Yang, novice Mistress, came along with the four novices. At present in our community we are three sisters and three first year Novices. We are happy because we believe that it is God who has called us to be here, and we know that he is always with us with his strength and his grace.

Our last joy was to be able to have the first celebration of the Eucharist, on January 1st, in our chapel: this is the most important place in the whole house, the place of His silent and almighty Presence! Before Jesus the Eucharist we also bring you in our prayer.

Sister Maria, sister Ansuma



With joy and gratitude, we thank God for this special opportunity to share our life experiences in Philippine. When we were just beginning to journey, we were very excited to go to Phi-

lippine because the first time we went to abroad.

We felt happy and sad because it will be very difficult in new place. But we believe that God is always with us on our life, journey and our faith in Him is strengthened.

After the journey, we realized that our ways are not in our own hands; God, with His loving hands, designs our path, and we are called to take another step in our formation journey, so that we can persevere and experience God's love in our daily lives.

We arrived 23rd October 2022 in Manila, there we remained for seven days for our visa. We planned to go to our community (in Roxas City) on 29 Oct 2022.

But that day numerous domestic flights were cancelled for three days because of Typhoon. When we knew that typhoon occur very often in the Philippine, we were scared but we believe God will protect us in every day, because God is our refuge in the eye of the storm.

Before we saw our community, we imagined that there would be many people around us and it would be interesting to see them, but it is quiet in that area, unlike Yangon where we were used to noise and traffic. After a few days, we understood that, for our Novitiate, we need silence and the time to be with God and with ourselves because the voice of God comes through silence.

We soon adapted with the places and situations, we learnt to manage



the time to clean our compound, pray, study, and spend time together. We discovered that we could relate with other people well by going for attending Holy Mass in different places and some festival.

We were inspired by their simplicity, friendly and hospitality. We have a little problem in communication because they speak more Ilonggo (dialect) than English.

But we are happy and feel blessed by the grace of God. We are expecting enough opportunities to learn many things in here.

We take this special moment to express our heartfelt gratitude

to Sr. Sandra superior general and her team, to Sr. Rita Baby delegate superior and her team and all sisters of Providence in the world for their prayer, encouragement, support, concern, sisterly love. Please continue to pray for us that we may be able to face challenges and difficulties that come in our vocation journey, and we assure that we too will keep you in our prayers.

Thank you, Sisters, for being close to us through your prayers.

*Cecilia, Giovanna, Rose Mary,
with sister Marta*

The joy of living together



Saint also holy on the altar!



On July 11, 2022, the Brazilian parish of San Benedetto, in the city of S. Gaetano do Sul/SP, received as a gift a first-class relic, ex ossibus, of San Luigi Scrosoppi, our Father and Founder.

The ceremony of placing the relic under the altar was performed by the Diocesan Bishop of Santo André, Monsignor Pedro Carlos Cipollini, in the presence of many faithful, religious, priests and Sister Vanere da Silva and Sister Simone Valente, representing all the Sisters of the Province.

This is how the relic reached here.

The parish priest, Father José Pedro Teixeira de Jesus, wished that the parish altar could have the relic of a saint. In fact, although dedicated to St. Benedict, it did not yet have any relics. He took advantage of the fact that a young priest, Don Guilherme, son of this parish, was studying in Rome, to see the possibility of obtaining a relic of any saint other than from the Vatican!

Father Guilherme, knowing the Sisters of Providence, frequented our general house in Rome and offered Father Pedro the possibility of having the relic of St. Luigi Scrosoppi, since in the city of S. Gaetano do Sul there is a presence of the Sisters of Providence in the Externato S. Antonio, where he himself had studied as a child, so it was a house of Father Luigi.

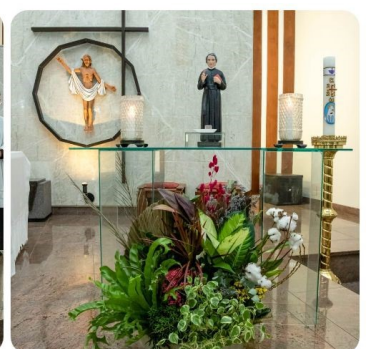
Father Pedro accepted the proposal with great joy and Father Guilherme got in touch with the Mother General and had the request also signed by Mons. Pedro Cipollini, Bishop of Santo André. The request was accepted and a small reliquary with a fragment of San Luigi's bones was granted as a gift, accompanied by the appropriate documents.

Therefore, on July 11, we had the joy of participating in the solemn celebration of the Patron Saint Benedict and it was precisely on this significant feast for the whole parish that the relic of our Saint and Founder was placed under the main altar. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Mons. Pedro Carlos Cipollini and concelebrated by the Priests: P. Guilherme and P. Camilo, while the parish priest, suffering from Covid, participated online.

For us Sisters of Providence, it was a moment of great joy and thanksgiving to the Lord and also an occasion to increase our devotion to our dear Founder.

After 91 years of mission in this Municipality, we are happy to welcome this significant presence of St. Luigi in one of the parishes of the city. People are very interested in learning more about his life and holiness. Sister Vanere, in one of the Masses, briefly presented it to the people and distributed material for prayer and reading to the faithful.

Happy for this gift, we sisters present in the educational mission in the city are committed to being more present in this parish, participating in Masses and making ourselves available to help in evangelization.



Community S. Luigi Scrosoppi at Paudalho - Brazil

The Chapel dedicated to San Luigi Scrosoppi

was born in the poorest neighbourhood of the Parish of the Divine Holy Spirit, in Paudalho, in the State of Pernambuco/Brazil; a peripheral community, where most of the population need help for living.

For many years the Catholics of "Strada dos Ramos", where the community (zonal) of St. Luigi Scrosoppi is located today, being an area with a high rate of violence, were deprived of any type of human and spiritual assistance, due to the marginalization and distance from the parish.

In 2014, when the Sisters of Providence arrived in Paudalho, together with the parish priest and the lay people of the parish, various missions began in the different neighbourhoods, especially in the neediest areas, forming various groups of missionaries, whose goal was to visit the families, proclaims the Word of God and motivate them to participate in the community. The first action of the missionary groups was to animate the Christmas novena in families.

The missionary groups thus gradually organized the small communities, but there were many ups and downs, also made worse by the covid pandemic. The Sisters of Providence, however, have always been alongside the laity, working together, encouraging and motivating the Christian life.

In 2018, a Christian community had not yet formed in the "Strada dos Ramos" neighborhood and the missionary group in that sector was practically extinct. However, the fire of the Spirit was still alive in the hearts of those who had so enthusiastically participated in the group of the first missionaries. Sister Irene Chelski, with a lady, resumed missionary activity in this somewhat forgotten reality. Gradually other ladies joined the group, to the point that they wanted and decided to dedicate a chapel to St. Luigi Scrosoppi, the saint of Providence, as he is known and venerated by them; a small community to help the little ones and the poor. The work of the budding



community was carried out mostly by women who visited the people and the sisters were always present, encouraging, guiding and, above all, forming the hearts of those simple people to love Jesus

and to encounter him in neighbour.

It is known that at the initial stage of a community, the Christian foundations are still fragile and the work is rather demanding, for this reason Sister Irene went in search of reinforcements and had the precious collaboration of the young Jeferson Felipe, a youth group member of the parish. In March 2020 a specific mission took place in the budding community, during which, in addition to proclaiming Jesus and his Gospel, they offered food and clothing to the poorest; everyone was then invited to participate in the first Mass in "Strada dos Ramos", thus giving the official start to the 'St. Luigi Scrosoppi' community. But... the pandemic arrives and everything stops: we can no longer meet and the enthusiasm of the budding chapel begins to lose strength.

At the end of 2020 people were able to gather again for the Christmas novena. *In each of these meetings a 'small chapel' with the image of our Holy Father Luigi was also brought* and thus the faith of the people was slowly revived.

In the first half of 2021, activities had to cease again due to the second wave of the pandemic; this was the period with the highest number of deaths due to covid. The activities then resumed only in August, the month of vocations, but with many painful signs



left by the covid. Among these, one of the leaders of the community risked losing her child in childbirth but, thanks to the intercession of St. Luigi the newborn, despite being premature, managed to survive. Everyone in the community attributes the life of this child to St. Luigi Scrosoppi.

Since then, the small community has begun to gather for the weekly celebration of the Word, in the home of a community leader and it was during these meetings that they decided to organize the first feast of St. Luigi in Paudalho. From 2 to 4 October 2021 the first triduum was held in honor of the Saint, in the filial chapel dedicated to him, and on 5 October the first Mass, celebrated by Father Artur Alexandre, at the conclusion of the Feast.

The theme of the first Feast-Mission was: *"Proclamation that translates into words and gestures"*. This is how the zonal chapel of the parish of the Divine Spirit was officially born, dedicated to St. Luigi Scrosoppi.

In October 2022, the second feast was held in honor of the Patron Saint with the theme: *"Bread on all tables"*. In fact, hunger is always present in the life of our community, since every day we meet people and entire families who need help. For this reason the Christian community continues to improve its organization to become ever more capable of being an instrument of providence with charity.

Our 'dream' is to build a real church for Father Luigi, the Saint of Providence, and we are sure that he himself will think about it. In the meantime, we ask him to pray for us and to instill in us his spirit of trust and love.



Sister Irene Chelski and Jeferson Felipe

8



**50 years
of presence
of the Sisters
of Providence
in Africa**
7 January 1973
7 January 2023
It is with feelings
of profound joy
and gratitude
to the Lord
that our Congregation
celebrates,
during 2023,
the golden jubilee
of its presence
on African soil.

7 January 2023
A day of great celebration for the
province of India which celebrates
the 50th anniversary
of the religious profession
of the first sisters
who arrived in Italy
in 1968 and 1969,
to enrich the family of Fr. Luigi.
Years of faithfulness to the Lord
and a generous 'yes'
from each of them.
Congratulations, sisters!



90th Celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King

CORMONS

On 20 November 2022, the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. With this celebration we want to underline that Christ the Redeemer is the Lord of history, the beginning and the end of time.

Origin of solemnity

In the year 325 the first Ecumenical Council was celebrated in the city of Nicea, in Asia Minor. In that circumstance the divinity of Christ was defined against the heresies of Arius: "Christ is God, light from light, true God from true God".

In 1925, 1600 years later, Pius XI declared that the best way to overcome injustices was the recognition of Christ's kingship. The Pope writes that "Feasts have greater efficacy than any document of the ecclesiastical magisterium; in fact, they instruct all the faithful and not just once, but annually and reach not only the spirit, but the hearts" (from the Encyclical Quas primas, 11 December 1925).

The original date for the celebration was the last Sunday of October, i.e. the Sunday preceding the feast of all saints" (cf. Encyclical Quas Primas), but with the new reform of 1969 it was transferred to the last Sunday of the liturgical year because in this way it appears clear that Jesus Christ, the King, is the goal of our earthly pilgrimage. The biblical texts change in all three cycles and this allows us to fully grasp the figure of Jesus.

Community celebration

The community of the Sisters of Providence of the "Rosa Mistica" Old age home in Cormons, faithful to the magisterium of the Church, to history and to its own tradition, lives this day in the amazement of the Eucharistic mystery and fraternity, emphasizing its relationship with Christian love, both in reference to God and neighbor:

"God incarnate draws us all to himself. From this we understand how agape has now also become

a name for the Eucharist: in it the agape of God comes to us bodily to continue his work in us and through us" (Encyclical letter Deus caritas est - 25.12.2005).

The community awaits with ever renewed joy the solemn celebration which this year is being repeated for the 90th time.

Concretely it is characterized as a Eucharistic day, lived in Adoration. It is the event of the year par excellence, addressed in a very special way to the sisters who live in the infirmary and now also extended to the sick women who are with us. The initiative was conceived and inaugurated by **Mother Adeodata Rizzi** (1883-1960), a holy mother, deeply Eucharistic, who highlighted in the Congregation clear lines of tension towards holiness lived daily as a true daughter of the Church, attentive and faithful in applying the pastoral guidelines. We read in our chronicles:

"... the solemnity of Christ the King of that year (1932) marked the inauguration date of the perpetual adoration in the general infirmary. On this occasion a solemn procession took place in which the Eucharistic Jesus was carried to all the rooms of the sick sisters for their consolation





and spiritual support. The procession is repeated every year, in the same way, on the liturgical feast of Christ the King".

Richness

of the years

Celebrating a sister's 100th birthday is no longer an exceptional event for our community of Cormons. This year two sisters have reached this remarkable age: Sr. Ettoreina and Sr. Nataliria and in the next year, God willing, two other sisters: Sr. Julia and Sr. Rosita, will attain the same goal.

One hundred years! But why celebrate this, so much so as to set the Bishop, the mayor, relatives and friends, and the whole community in motion? For the fame and importance of people? For their long life? For a sense of gratitude for what they have done and achieved? To thank and remember, together with them, the story lived with God and with so many of us?

All valid reasons, although with different depth and relevance, to solemnize this special milestone. But this anniversary helps us to look beyond: it explains the value of time and asks us to give value to the time that God gives us day after day, as long as He wants; it confronts us with the deepest dimension of our existence by discovering the ultimate and deepest meaning

How it takes place

After the Eucharistic celebration in the morning, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and remains for the adoration of the sisters until 3.00 pm. With great emotion remains the procession with the Blessed Sacrament that follows.

The Lord is welcomed, venerated and adored on the three floors and in the various places of the services with prayers and songs. It is an evocative event that nobody wants to miss. It is also open to staff who wish to participate.

Until recent time, before covid, sisters from nearby communities and some parishioners also participated.

The procession then ends in the Sanctuary with the singing of Vespers.

the community of Cormons



They are furrows...

of things and events; it reminds us that every age is precious and must be valued.

We celebrate these sisters of ours because



they were women of profound faith that led them to abandon themselves to God, to make good choices, interweaving their existence of prayer and work, in the unceasing dedication of themselves to that God who called them, in their youth.

Today we look at them with much love. Their physical appearance recalls a desert landscape which however spreads a different beauty and silent peace, it is evocative of a life where the Spirit continues to blow and operate, even in this age.

Therefore they are not useless but, in whatever situation they find themselves, they feel that they are effective instruments for the mission of the Church, for the vitality of our religious family, and for the salvation of the whole world.

And they have the richness of those who have had many years of life experience and history. And those are the precious treasures that have taken shape in the journey of life; and life is always a gift, when it is long, it is a privilege for oneself and for others.

Today we look at their wrinkled faces and hands, almost works of art of the time.

They are furrows formed by a journey of discipleship, of giving and of service for so many brothers and sisters for whom they have bent down with love to care for, support, educate, guide, sharing the bread of their existence with the hungry and the wine of their days

with those whose hearts lacked the joy of life.

They are furrows drilled by pain and fatigue, by so many situations suffered, by fragility and by falls, but made fruitful by the love and fidelity of a long and sometimes harsh journey.

They are furrows with which God has guided them, even when the road with which Providence has led them was not in their thoughts and projects. A path that later proved to be precious, especially that of obedience which, despite difficulties and misunderstandings, has never betrayed and today gives them great serenity and peace.

They are furrows filled with the will of God which, accepted and lived with faith and love, has made their life and their mission fruitful.

They are furrows nourished by trust in Providence which led them to abandon themselves totally to God, as beloved spouses, "even with the sacrifice of their lives".

And if age brings with it so many aspects of loss, detachment, loneliness, the deep trust in waiting for God's promise and the gaze turned to the Crucifix gives them peace, a mystical peace, the peace of the encounter with God.

So it is good to stop and listen to their story, perhaps only bits of history, barely whispered and fragmentary, but capable of recalling God's blessings and faithfulness with deep feelings.

And their smile is a whisper of sweetness and gratitude with the elated soul of those who have lived their lives in God's mercy, despite everything.

Their testimony transmits to us the legacy of a long life experience interwoven with charism, spirituality, mission, in which we can grasp the gratitude to our Religious Family which has allowed them to be who they are.

Sister Annateresa D'Agaro



Diary and excitements of a journey

Mariussi Pigat-Franzolini, Friends of Udine

With Mariucci's permission, we extract some notes from the personal diary she wrote along the journey from Udine to Benin, made together with her husband Danilo on the 45th anniversary of their marriage, and with the other Friends of Udine, bound for 15 years then, to our communities in that country by a deep affection, which translates into concrete, generous and persevering charity.

November 17, 2022 - Packed and packed!

In the two 8 kg hand luggage there was everything necessary for me and Danilo.

The other 4 suitcases are full of everything and more: sweets donated by the children of Friuli to the children of Benin, toy cars, t-shirts, hats, perfumes and earrings, referee uniforms....

It has been 14 years since my last trip to Africa. But now the time has come, the great dream of returning to Africa is coming true!

We leave for Benin, I will embrace that land that has taken a piece of my heart, a bit of my life, an almost daily thought.

Anxiety about leaving is high, but joy is insinuating itself in an overbearing way!

November 18 - Up until yesterday evening, up until my arrival in Cotonou, I wore the dress of a tourist.

Then the plane door opened, and I realized I was back in Africa...

35 degrees with a suffocating heat.

Then the transfer to the Settò mission. Arrival at 1 am. A crush...

This morning, however, the smells, the noises are the ones I remembered so much.

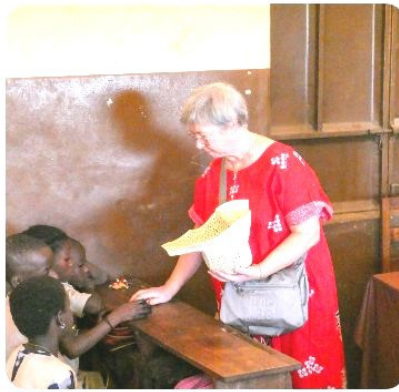
The road is worse than I imagined. There are traits that are like running in corn furrows.

November 22 - It is difficult, very difficult to explain the emotions I am feeling.

The track to reach the villages puts a strain on the body.

Then you arrive and only hear: *Thank you because you come to us, up here!*

We, a small group of the Friends of Udine who slowly over 15 years and with the help of many people and parishes managed to give what is essential for life: water and education.



Gratitude towards us is immense, indescribable.

Several villages continue to ask us for water and schools because they have seen and evaluated the difference that 10 villages for schools and 20 villages for water wells are already enjoying.

23 November - 234 children attending school. I'm excited to hand out five candies each one. I place them on their desk. They look at them and don't touch them. Only after we leave the classroom they put them in their

pockets. Every now and then they eat one, even just suck it a little and, before putting it away, they count it over and over again. Who knows when they grow up what they will remember and what they will narrate.

November 24 - There are villages and villages like that in all over the world... Wakawaka is one of those *super* villages!

In the middle of the cotton fields they want, I repeat, they want their children to go to school.

They built a small school, extended it with a canopy to accommodate a class, they are also using the small church for teaching.

Greatly dignified people, people who teach us a lot.

People who continue to thank us because we have returned to them, because we have not forgotten them.

They treat you like a God on earth... I feel small and powerless instead.

November 27 - Today I am at the first inauguration of a well. What does it mean to be present at the inauguration of a water well?

It means riding tracks in the middle of nowhere. Arrive in the villages made of mud huts. Find yourself among people who sing and dance to show their gratitude.

They explain to you that they have always lived, fought and above all suffered from the lack of this precious commodity. Do you realize how much water we waste with-



out thinking much about it.

Many of the twenty wells we have built have been built in memory of someone who has physically left us but who still lives in that clean gushing water, who still lives in the eyes of those children who no longer have to struggle to go looking for it at kilo meters of distance, in the bed of an already dry river ... How beautiful!

December 1 - This morning at 6 we said goodbye to Kandi. Who knows if I will return.

I tried to imprint all the details in my mind: the flowers, the colours of the stones, the wonderfully starry sky.

"Since we have water there is no more suffering - Thank you for the love you have for us - You never get tired of us - The school brings light and we came out of the dark - Jesus helped others, you too do the same - With your love for each other we have climbed the mountains".

This is what they told us in the villages. When I get home I will carry these phrases in my mind and heart. And of course the sisters' house with their voices, their attentions.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you have given me, that you have taught me and all that you give and do to help those in need.



27 September - 11 October: Togo and Benin

28 September - 11 October: Brazil

Finally, at the end of September, 34 of us, 28 boys accompanied by 6 adults, left for Africa, Togo and Benin, and for Brazil accommodated by the Sisters of Providence at their missions.

We didn't know anything about what awaited us, we had planned some activities through video calls made with the sisters in Africa and Brazil, with the scope of getting to know each other a little more before departure, but nothing could really anticipate what we would experience. In these brief online meetings, to the small

fears or worries, curiosities or anxieties expressed by the boys about what we would do, the response of the sisters in Africa and of Rodrigo and Sister Maria in Brazil was: *"We await you with joy, we just wait for the moment of your arrival"*.

And so the day of departure arrived and our journey began.

What have we done?

We were simply with the sisters, they showed

us their missions, the activities they do in the villages and, through these we got to know the people: women, men, children, where they live, what they do for a living and the impact with the their lives was overwhelming, the emotions felt were incredible.

Each of us arrived there bringing his own experience as if it were a closed, bound book: each page was a piece of us that the time had written, defining our hearts, our expectations, our role in the world day by day.

Arriving in Africa and Brazil and experiencing this journey was like a strong wind that opened the book and made the pages fly.

Our everyday life, so obvious to us, made up of certainties, comforts, possession of things and people, already crumbled in the first days of life there.

A boy in Togo said this trip split his life in two. Some of the boys didn't speak in the first few days of our stay: what they were feeling was so strong for them and they couldn't interpret it.

Another boy compared what he experienced there to a painting by Caravaggio, in which the characters portrayed are not so important as the shadow and light that stand out and reveal the essential.

In the first days of our journey, shadows predominated: seeing the children, the women, the men, the elderly who live in so much and absolute poverty, who struggle to get a little food, to do a job with the few means available, who walk miles to go to school, who die from not having the possibility of medical care,



who try to save themselves from the gratuitous and incomprehensible violence of the streets where they live.

The first few days we lived in a state of confusion, it was like being in a fog and not being able to see the light, to find meaning in what we were feeling.

Then being with the sisters, with Rodrigo, talking to them, making us tell the stories of their life, watching what they do in their missions (nursery schools, schools, hospitals, villages), we understood that their life "is"; in relation to needs of those people, that "giving themselves"; so gratuitously and tirelessly, as another boy said, is their life. And so, in an instant, the fog dissolved, the shadow withdrew and let our heart warm up by the light and that our eyes rediscovered the Essential.

We returned to our homes in Italy happy, with the desire to tell all our loved ones and friends, through what we had seen, our deepest emotions with the hope that that Joy and Gratitude could not only affect the journey, but that may accompany us in our lives, in our simple everyday life.

*For all boys
Mirella Mancini*

*Joy
Gratitude
Essentiality*

SISTERS of the PROVIDENCE

CONGREGATION LAUDATO SI'



Our Congregation of Sisters of Providence HAS REGISTERED TO THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM proposed by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and has invited all the Provinces/Delegations to collaborate in order to achieve the proposed objectives, through local initiatives, significant for their own context.



With this inscription we want to join many other Congregations in responding concretely to Pope Francis' Encyclical, making his appeal our own, *"What kind of world do we want to leave to our children and young people? So I renew my appeal: let us take care of our mother*

Earth... From God's hands we have received a garden, we cannot leave our children a desert." (cf. Laudato Si No. 160,161).

We wish to commit ourselves to the development of integral ecology and therefore we encourage all sisters to make a commitment that is both concrete and prophetic.

We want to be an instrument of hope, therefore, together with many others, we are committed to an integral ecology through the implementation of the seven objectives of Laudato Si'.

Following the proposal of the Dicastery Platform, our Action Plan will be 7 years long.

The first year is dedicated to making our communities aware of the global ecological situation; raising awareness of the "Laudato Si' objectives" and sharing ideas

and resources for an elaboration of action plans.

Five years of concrete actions will follow - and the seventh will be the sabbatical year dedicated to praising and thanking God.

It is true that our Congregation has embraced from the beginning the themes underlying integral ecology, deeply committing itself to caring for the poorest and most defenseless people, celebrating the love of our Creator, and using resources wisely and soberly, but now, following the proposal of the Dicastery, we will take a further path that is concretely realized at the level of local communities through a process consisting of three stages:

Reflection

Action

Evaluation and Celebration

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Reflection

The first year is therefore dedicated to reflection in order to deepen the "ecological conversion" to which St. John Paul II and Pope Francis call us.

Therefore, we propose the following steps:

1. *To know and deepen our knowledge of the Encyclical Laudato Si'.*
2. *Bring out the connections between the charism/spirituality of the Congregation and the objectives of Laudato Si'.*
3. *Create an animation and action plan.*

In subsequent years this plan will describe what we specifically want to achieve, setting goals as far as possible.

Each year we also commit to creating a reflection document, which, together with the action plan, we will upload to our bulletin board on the Laudato Si' Action platform, where it will be published and then shared with all people and institutions registered on the platform.

In the year 2022 we published a video with *“The Canticle to the Creator”* composed by our Founder, a hymn that is certainly inspired by the Canticle of the Creatures of St. Francis, deeply loved and imitated by St. Louis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmmUcFEYnvU>

Action

The general objective that we propose is to make all communities involved in the spirit of the integral ecology of *Laudato Si’* and therefore assume its objectives. But, since the Congregation is present on four continents and therefore on territories that are very different in terms of culture, resources, customs and habits, it is difficult to identify general objectives that are valid for all.

After the period of reflection has therefore elapsed, or at the same time as it is, all the sisters are invited to outline, year after year, objectives based on their own needs and priorities, in line with what is proposed by the Dicastery on the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. Once the objectives have been defined, each Province and Delegation will then decide which Actions will enable it to achieve them: these actions will be shared and can serve as an example and mutual stimulus.



We love our common home!

Editorial office
Sisters of Providence
General House
Via Innocenzo IV, 16
00167 RomE
E-mail: sdp.segreteria.gen@gmail.com

Suore della Provvidenza



Il pensiero a Dio, il cuore a Dio, la mano per Iddio!

San Luigi Scrosor

Evaluation and Celebration

By engaging in this process we will be able to evaluate and celebrate year after year the ways in which ecological conversion is lived in our Congregation.

Each community will actively participate in the Season of Creation, which begins on September 1st of each year and in other similar proposals. The *Laudato Si’* Action Platform will share results on the progress shared among all participants every year on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis and the last day of the Season of Creation. With reference to this Celebration, each Province and Delegation will organize a local event to celebrate their participation in the global ecological movement.

However, celebrations may also take place on different dates significant to us: ex. Feb. 1 (birth of the Congregation), April 3 (Founder’ birth to heaven) etc...

We sincerely hope that this shared journey toward integral ecology will help us, as Pope Francis says, to *“become painfully aware, dare to transform what is happening in the world into personal suffering, and thus recognize what is the contribution that each one can bring”*. (LS. 19)

Provincial House
Sisters of Providence
Barrackpoore
24 Parganas (N)
700120 KOLKATA - W.B. INDIA
e-mail: provincialatesdp@gmail.com