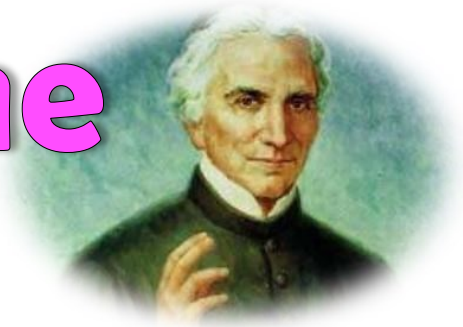


# Vivere Insieme

## Family of Providence



XVI ORDINARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOP 4-29 October 2023

First session

A SYNODAL CHURCH IN MISSION

### PROCEEDING ALONG THE JOURNEY – final part of the Synthesis Report

*“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?” (Mk 4:30)* The Word of the Lord takes precedence over words of the Church. The words of disciples, even those of a Synod, are only an echo of what the Lord Himself says. Jesus chose to speak in parables in order to announce the Reign of God. He found images to speak of the mystery of God in the ordinary experiences of human life: the natural world, the workplace, elements of the everyday. In this way, he let us know that the Reign of God transcends us yet is not distant from us. Either we see God’s Reign in the things of this world, or we will never see it.

Jesus saw his own destiny represented in a seed falling to the earth, something of no value or significance destined to decay, yet possessing the dynamism of life, a dynamism that is unstoppable, unpredictable, Paschal. This is a dynamism destined to give life; to become bread for many; bread destined to become the Eucharist.

Today, in a culture where people struggle against one another for dominance and become obsessed with what is visible, the Church is called to echo the words of Jesus, to bring them to life again in all their potency.

*“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?”* Our Lord’s question throws light on the work that now lies ahead of us. It is not a matter of dispersing ourselves over several fronts, reducing everything to a logic of efficiency and proceduralism. Rather, it is a matter of grasping, among the many words and proposals of this Report, what appears as a small seed, yet one that bears the

future, and of imagining how to bring it to the soil that will enable it to grow and mature for the benefit of many.

*“How will this happen?”*, Mary asked herself in Nazareth (Lk 1:34) after hearing the Word. There is only one answer: remain in the shadow of the Spirit and allow yourself to be enveloped by his power. As we look ahead to the period between now and the Second Session, let us thank the Lord for the journey thus far and for the graces with which He has blessed it.

We entrust the next phase to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey, and to that of the Holy Apostles Simon and Jude, whose Feast we celebrate today. We

are all invited to welcome the small seed that this Synthesis Report represents. *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus!*



# SYNOD is also LISTENING

*This page presents a summary of the relationship that Father Luigi had with his two priest brothers, Father Carlo and Father Giovanni Battista.*

*We can read these lines as an example of his 'knowing how to listen' to the life experience of the two brothers, their intuitions and orientations towards charity, remaining in the shadows, but giving his all, he wanted complete what had been initiated by both, without ever boasting any title of importance.*

*The Synod reminds us how much richness gushes forth in the Church from very fact of 'knowing how to listen' to each other!*

*Father Luigi* had a more filial than fraternal devotion towards his stepbrother priest Father Carlo Filafarro (18 years older to him), endowed with great ingenuity, highly praised by the bishop of Udine, Monsignor Lodi, who defined him as 'learned and pious'.

Since in 1822 Father Carlo had taken over the direction of the House of the derelicts, Father Luigi joined him in this work in 1827 as a very humble and active collaborator.

And since 1822 Father Carlo himself, an ex Philipino, worked for the Congregation of the Oratory, in this which his brother founded his aspirations and efforts, managing to realize them only after his death.

He had a profound veneration for his brother priest Don Giovanni Battista, who first dedicated himself with burning zeal and enthusiasm to the ministry of preaching, and then was arch-priest of Sacile, from where he had retired in 1866. Then Father Luigi welcomed him into his mission in Udine, but wanted him to have, before the Public Census, the honour and role of head of the family. And when his brother was dying he wrote of him: *"He dies as a saint, as he has always lived as a saint, having always had the sole glory of God in his mind and actions."*

Don Giovanni Battista Scrosoppi died on 10 August 1879.

The affection and veneration towards the brothers and the humility of Father Luigi were such that he showed discontent when the Sisters of Providence called him their Founder *"Oh no - he said - I was not the founder, I only*

*assisted the work of my brothers, Father Carlo and Don Giovanni Battista"*. His extraordinary spiritual height shines from the fact that it emerged on the two brothers, despite being so pious and zealous for their fullness of virtue and works, he to perfection what was impetus and aspiration in his brothers.

After the death of Father Carlo, which occurred in 1854, Father Luigi implemented the restoration of the Congregation of the Oratory, which he held from 1856 until its suppression in 1866. For thirty years (from 1854 to 1884) he directed the House of the Derelict, the Sisters of Providence and the Institutes that arose around them.

But his zeal was not consumed within these 'inner circles'.

He was the animator of every diocesan activity for the preservation of the faith and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

*Taken from ' Positiones et articuli' on the virtues and miracles of Father Luigi Document of the apostolic process for beatification and canonization.*



# Thanksgiving Hymn to Providence

## for the 40th anniversary celebration of the Children's Home of Rome

Hymn composed by Sister Marcella Marello and proclaimed by her  
in the Thanksgiving Mass celebrated in the parish of the Guardian Angels  
on 6 September 2023



ENTRANCE TO THE HOME

**To you,**  
**Divine Providence,**  
the hymn of gratitude and love for the 40th anniversary of the Children's Home! In these 40 years of history you have been the protagonist, the guide, the guardian, the supporter, you have been the common thread of this same story. And you've seen it all... and you fought passionately to reach

your goal, always giving precedence to what was essential and lasting.

Already back in 1983, the year of the promulgation in Italy of law 184 on foster care and adoption, you worked hard to implement it in terms of temporary families. And, in view of a necessary environment suitable for reception, you sought and found strong hearts and arms to give the OK to the renovation of the Sisters' building in Via Moncenisio, 4 which for years had been a nursery school.

**You** have worked hard to bring together the minds and hearts of lay people and religious with the intention of creating a living community, capable of offering a valuable service of welcome, care and protection to minors, the most fragile, the weakest and

to families in difficulty.

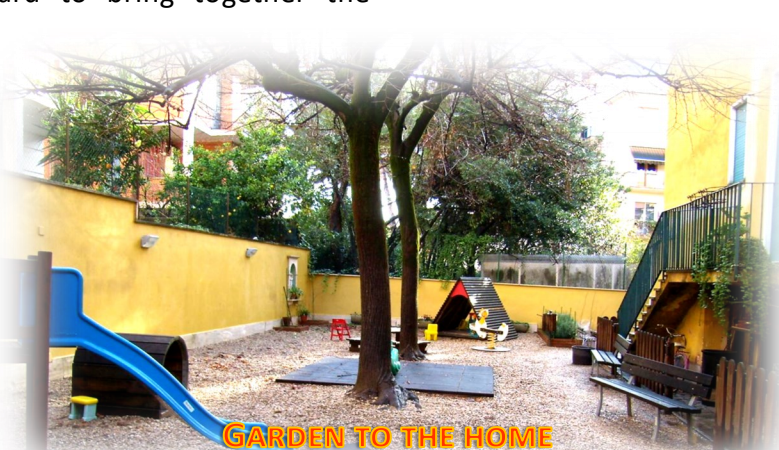
This is, in fact, the aim of the 'Moncenisio 4' Association, the aim to which it has always and constantly wanted to return and still today continues to live its implications with generosity and tenacity/thoughtfulness, in the name of hope, trust, love.

Because your invitations, **o Providence,** are pressing: you spur us on, you encourage us to search for the best, for something that is tailor-made for little Antonio, Anna, Thomas, Nicola, Luigi, Angela... for almost 300 little ones who have lived in the house... And you didn't stop to give light only to the pioneers, good and courageous, to the founders, to the avant-gardists. You didn't stop in front of enthusiastic and thoughtful parishioners, at the solicitude of the priests of the parish who often went shopping for the children and filled the car with basic necessities: potatoes, pasta, sugar, tomatoes... how much solidarity and sacrifice!

**You** always surprise us! You are special, **Providence!** Over the years, you have never abandoned anyone, neither little nor elder, on the contrary you have bent down, silently and respectfully, up to the ear level and will to many operators, members, presidents, friends, volunteers, collaborators, benefactors... whisper suggestions and advice of considerable importance, in order to identify ideas,

paths and projects that can be implemented in favour of minors and their growth to achieve the pre-established educational goals. We ever remain grateful to you!

Among other things, **You** have not forgotten to



GARDEN TO THE HOME

function within the walls of the house "the family spirit", spirit of daily life, of simplicity, of non-grandeur, of joy... such a spirit lived and wanted by Father Luigi, protector of our children. Oh yes, we have so much to thank you, **O Providence!**

In the daily and nightly toils, who is it if not you, **Providence**, who gives strength, instils courage, gives wisdom and inventiveness to be able to overcome obstacles, fears, mistakes, anger, disappointments... endless bureaucracies, dangers...? Who, if not **You**, gives the desire to smile in the face of a child's smile, and concrete gestures of generosity from many hidden and silent donors who, in different ways, help children recover the joy of living?

Therefore, our thanks to **You, O Providence**, divine excellence, for your presence in good and bad times, during extraordinary and ordinary events.

Thank you for the many good results on difficult matters...

4 Thank you for your daily company, thank you because in the evening of every day you don't disdain taking in your hands the "hot potato" that we pass to you in a hurry so that you will take care of what to do!

## **Providence, flagship of the Heart of God!**

Thank you for your continuous invitation to seriously consider that "good must be done well". Thank you because even today you never tire of urging to welcome civil and Christian consciences... and you breathe into the hearts of many people

feelings of solidarity, altruism, courage, humanity!

Ultimately, there has been no action, no event, no result in which **You** have not made your contribution by offering pieces of wisdom, help, consolation... Your gifts are without coloured paper, but they are gifts to be savoured with the heart.

Yes, it's true: hard-work, efforts, commitment and ardour have been invested on the part of each individual in welcoming minors and assiduously using the mysterious key of love... but **You, You** have worked and sweated more than all of us putting together. For this THANK YOU!

To **You**, therefore, the honour and applause, **O Providence**, flagship of the Heart of God, we entrust ourselves to **You**.

We offer **You** the stories of our children, the history of Children's Home.

We put the past of 40 years, the present, the future in your hands! AMEN!



## **WYD Lisbon 2023 A providential ecumenical experience**

**At the beginning of August** the XXVIII WYD took place in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. I participated in this event as a member of the Youth Ministry commission of the diocese of Chisinau, in Moldova; together with a priest from the diocese and a Salesian we accompanied a group of 30 young people. There were also three priests and two nuns from other Congregations with us.

Everyone knows the profound experiences that involved the participants, precisely because Portugal had focused its attention on the WYD events in these days of August.

In this short article I would like to underline some enriching details of this experience, I had the opportunity to get to know the young people of the group better. They are young people, made up of Catholics, Orthodox and some previously belonging to other religions and denominations from the regions of Moldova and Transnistria; a Ukrainian couple (she's Catholic, he's Orthodox) residing in the Moldovan capital who started attending our church also joined our group. Therefore, the group was full of sensitivity, spiritual openness and desire for communion, carrying in their hearts dreams of ecumenism in this country with varied spiritual roots.



## The group



What remains in my heart?

- ◆ **of WYD I will remember with gratitude** the gaze and smiles of the people we met who accommodated us, the spontaneity of welcoming the stranger with joy, of investing one's time freely for others;
- ◆ **of WYD I will remember with nostalgia** the walks, the warmth, the songs, the exchanges, the evenings spent in prayer, sharing, and happy moments; everything that helped to me realize how much my daily life is filled with providence and to be grateful for the little things;
- ◆ **of WYD I will remember with joy** all the young people gathered there with their dreams, desires and hopes. I will remember the difficulty in remaining united, moving together, waiting and looking for each other, but also the joy of having shared an experience that will remain indelible and will mark the lives of all of us. We know that words and beautiful speeches, even if they pass like the water of a fast-flowing river, leave their mark inside, penetrating and nourishing the hidden expectations of the heart.
- ◆ **of WYD I will remember with gratitude** the concrete examples of dialogue and testimony that urged us to break down the walls of ideological divisions, united by the thirst for spirituality, seeking what led to harmony and focusing on the common roots of the Gospel. In fact, all young people were invited to the catecheses to listen to each other and dialogue, in synodal style, on three central themes of Pope Francis' pontificate: integral ecology, social friendship and mercy which are pivotal of ecumenism.

The visit to the Sanctuary of Fatima, at the end of the WYD, was for everyone an experience of encounter with the motherhood of Mary, the Mother of God. A visit that was like going to the weekday school of holiness with the Madonna as teacher. In these days of pilgrimage we have felt Her protection and Her presence which had its concrete expression in the prayerful conversation in this lovely place which until now had only been imagined by everyone. Fatima was a moment of encouragement to give God his place and became for everyone a symbol of hope and peace of our time.

I wanted to share with you just a few drops of memory that still quench the desire of young people and I do so with the words that Pope Francis pronounced at the end of the final Holy Eucharist of the WYD to summarize the Lisbon event: *"We, in this event of grace, have received and now the Lord made us feel the need, upon returning home, to share and give in our turn, testimony, with joy and generosity, of the goodness that God has placed in our hearts"*.

I pray that each of the young participants will commit to following and sharing a more significant path of their Christian life towards the future of this local Church, to be the holy people of God who walk in the joy of the Gospel.

*Sr. Mihaela Mihăluț*



# The space of the life

*"The show "The space of life on earth" was born as a dream that came true little by little, thanks to the dedication and work of many people. It was a beautiful and precious experience of communion and enthusiasm.*

*The CEFEC family provided essential support for this demonstration of talent and joy. In fact, all the laboratories of the Centre have worked for a whole year to build this dream; All costumes, artefacts and sets have been designed and thought out with care and creativity. Ultimately, it was an occasion that motivated everyone to give the best of themselves and certainly made them experience peace and harmony, building a new world, according to the proposal of Laudato Si'.*



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## The space of the life

*When friendship* is intertwined with passion for a special project, incredible stories are born. That's exactly what happened almost two years ago when my dear friend Lia called me looking for help in coordinating the logistics of a very unique project. We had to bring Rodrigo and a group of young Brazilians to Italy for a special tribute to Sister Antonietta De Francesco. But that's just the tip of the iceberg, and today we want to tell you the story from behind the scenes.

## The Hidden Directors

*It all began* with two extraordinary women: director Lia Beltrami and Sister Sandra, Mother General of the Sisters of Providence. These two exceptional figures represent the beating heart of this project, but they often remain behind the scenes. However, they are the ones who dispense valuable advice and give clear directions in every situation. They are the essential gears that keep this perfectly oiled machine running.

## The protagonists

*The first meeting* took place through a video call. On my computer screen appeared Lia, Sister Sandra, Rodrigo for Brazil, Luca and Mariapia for Rome, Sister Michelina and Brother Enrico for Scampia, Don Andrea for Camerota, me for Trent together with Don

Cristiano, Andrea for 'Aurora Vision' together with Marianna and Don Roberto of Don Bosco in Pordenone. Later, we were joined by Federica from Montebelluna, Loredana and Stefania from Bergamo.

These people allowed me to embark on an amazing journey to Italy in the spring of 2023. I wanted to meet them in person in the places where the Brazilian youths would be welcomed. It was an unforgettable experience and, for that, I can't help but thank everyone for their hospitality.

Thanks to a "tip-off" from Don Roberto, I know Loredana who joined our group "Laudato Si'", a mother and entrepreneur from Bergamo who lives and works in the area near CEFEC, the Educational Centre for Training, Education and Culture. This bond proved to be crucial for the logistics of the show tour created by Rodrigo in the S. Paulo area. In Brazil, the maternal figure of these children is Sister Maria, who together with the other Sisters of Cefec prepared them for the journey. Thanks to the effective coordination in Brazil among Loredana, Sister Maria and the Brazilian team, everything went smoothly.

This project is much more than a show. It is a story of friendship, collaboration and passion for culture and sharing. Behind the scenes, extraordinary people have worked tirelessly to make a dream come true, creating a special space for the reception of Brazilian children in Italy. Thanks to Lia, Sister Sandra and the whole

team Laudato Si' who collaborated, this show became a unique and unforgettable experience.

I owe a special thanks to Lorenza, my wife, who followed, helped, corrected and guided me throughout the long journey of preparation.

I would like to underline that the team of Lia, Andrea and Marianna & C, with Aurora Vision - Lia's production company - have been constantly present in this journey... They will amaze us with the movie: *Amazonia. The space of life on earth...* always directed by Lia Beltrami.

My heartfelt thanks to all those who made this extraordinary adventure possible. First of all, I thank the Lord, who has guided me along this path and allowed me to have wonderful experiences. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet so many amazing people and to dedicate my time to serving others.

## Thanks

*I would like to thank* in a special way Lia, who literally accompanied me to Pope Francis; Sr. Sandra and Sr. Ana, who welcomed me like a son into the House of Providence in Rome, Sr. Michelina for the warm welcome in Scampia. A heartfelt thank you also goes to Sister Antonietta's friends and relatives in Predazzo, who offered us a delicious dinner before the show.

I can't forget to thank Luca, Mariapia and their fantastic group for the impeccable organization of the Roman days. Loredana and Stefania, with their constant presence, have been a precious link between Marcos Moura and Italy. A special thanks also goes to Don Roberto for his availability and patience, thank you because he made us live unique experiences in Trieste and Venice.

And a big thank you for organizing the reception, pampering and welcoming the youths at Don Bosco in Pordenone. Of course, I can't forget Don Roberto's mother, with whom we spent a wonderful morning at St. Peter's.

Thanks again to all of you for making this adventure so special and meaningful. I am grateful for the opportunity to share these experiences with amazing people like you.

May the Lord bless you all.

*Fausto*

## *Veremos novamente!*

### *We'll see each other again!*

*It was 1st May*, when my son Marco Antonio told me: "Mom, they are coming". "Who?" I asked. "My Brazilian brothers".

The word brothers struck me a lot. Marco Antonio is a shy boy and with this answer he meant that he cared a lot. So, despite my commitments and driven by his affection, I got involved. He was drawing up a calendar of appointments for the kids to experience (he was in charge of minibus transport) and every time a driver was missing he took me as driver.

At first I was scared of so much commitment. But then, later I blessed him.

They arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> May and I already felt like I knew them all and loved them like 'children'. Marco had spoken to me passionately about their 'lives' and their difficulties. I was totally fascinated that I had learned their names from a small photo placed on the status of Fausto's cell phone.

And so, amused, when I met them, I tried to guess and associate the faces with the names. The boys helped me, so we broke the ice that day by visiting Rome.

They were like children: different from us, with incredible strength within them. We had dinners together, we went to Assisi, in an audience with the Pope in St. Peter's Square. That was the greatest thing ever. In the morning at 6.00 they were sleepy and tired, but in great expectation. Then, suddenly we saw them dancing with an energy never seen before.

In the end, hugs, compliments and smiles were together. They were delighted. I will always carry that moment in my heart. A great opportunity for them and for me.

Then towards Northern Italy; when we left there was a lot of nostalgia, but we will meet them again, and so we live in great expectation.

"Mom, get ready for the farewell dinner on June 6th." He could not be present, because he had left on a business trip. "I'll be there, Marco". That evening they were truly happy, the initial unfamiliarity disappeared and they were one with us.

And at the last hour I greeted them with this little phrase that I had learned earlier from Google translator: '**Veremos novamente**' accompanied by a powerful hug.

*Mom*

*Maddalena Notarmas*

Parrocchia  
San Pio X  
Roma

O ESPAÇO DA VIDA NA TERRA  
LAUDATO SI'  
UM ESPETÁCULO DE ECOLOGIA E ARTE

Lo Spazio della vita nella Terra  
Uno spettacolo di ecologia e arte

## The CEFEC of sister Antonietta arrives in Predazzo!

*In the spring*, the Missionary Centre of Trento contacted the missionary group of Predazzo for the local organization of this event.

The group involved the Pastoral Council and the NOI association for bureaucratic and economic issues and for the practical aspects of the organization.

The collaboration of other groups of the parish and of Sr. Antonietta's family members contributed to obtaining a beautiful organizational result gratified by the smiles and hugs of the children and adults of CEFEC.

The show "The Space of Life" performed in the theatre was very well attended, lively and joyful.

The young people conveyed to us all the Brazilian enthusiasm, but at the same time they also underlined the problems and difficulties of the people of the Amazon who believe and live in nature so much and want to safeguard it for the benefit of all humanity.

Certainly, the meeting that will remain in our hearts was the one we had in the Aula Magna of Casa Maria Immacolata with these young people, with their stories and above all with the memory and poignant nostalgia of Sister Antonietta, which involved those present to the point of tears.

We thank CEFEC for their valuable visit and the Missionary Centre of Trento for giving us this opportunity.

This event renewed in our community the spirit of sharing and mission so dear to Sr. Antonietta.

*Pastoral council of Predazzo*



## Admiration and respect

*I have received* an invitation to participate in Rome in the "Laudato Si" event promoted by young indigenous Brazilians, on the basis of Pope Francis' Encyclical.

The Holy Father expressed the need to take care of Creation, as a gift received, with particular attention to the poorest.

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence has been caring for Brazilian families in situations of extreme poverty, crime and violence in the State of Paraiba for many years, through the establishment of CEFEC.



Sister Antonietta Defrancesco gave her all to try to transform the lives of these minors.

Rodrigo Baima, a young man who, from the many years of assistance he received within CEFEC, putting his talent to good use, has himself educated these young people, not only to fight poverty but to take care of nature!

With the enthusiasm transmitted to them, Rodrigo was able to create a "show" expressed with dances and reflections.

The result was not only a show but a deep energy for these young people and for those who followed him.

I am the mother of Father Roberto Cappelletti, a Salesian missionary in Brazil and the Amazon for about ten years, and I have always had in my heart that population, nature, traditions, environment, unfortunately often battered.

So much cooperation, so much mutual help! Attending the audience with Pope Francis and looking at the expression of those young people

Rodrigo  
with the children of the Amazon



(aged between 12 and 20) who are so participatory, so joyful, so respectful, I thought: they really have the values of the Aboriginal communities in consideration.

In front of the Holy Father, who watched the spectacle in his honour from the steps with evident emotion and the hugs he exchanged with all the young people and collaborators, joy was unleashed.

How much we need to learn from Pope Francis!

There are many people who have contributed to the realization of this Event, to whom goes not only the thanks but also the merit of having strengthened respect for Creation.

May the Good Lord give credit to the Sisters of Providence for their Work.

During this event, always hospitable, caring, smiling even in the natural overcrowding

A personal thank you, a hug, a prayer.

*Mariagrazia*



## *New community in Vokutime: a gift of love and hope*

*The opening of the Vokutime community* was a new gift of loving and divine Providence for our St. Cajetan province of Africa. Its beginning reminds us a bit of the history of Orzano, because they have some aspects in common, in particular the attention, care and promotion of the most fragile youth, the enhancement of the work of the land and the care of the environment to offer a place of spiritual enrichment.

The village of Vokutime is located in the Vogan region, 47 km from Kouvé, Togo.

The characteristic of this area is that more than 55% of the population is made up of young people under 20 years of age. Families are large, also due to polygamy, which is still widespread. To take care of the children it is mothers who, in general, are always very brave and tireless women working in cassava fields to make flour or tapioca, but who live in a precarious situation; in addition, 80% of them are still illiterate.

Children, however, are often left to fend for themselves and are unlikely to complete their education or training, due to a lack of financial means and family support. A high percentage of young people leave for Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Benin and Ghana, hoping to find work. More than half of the girls in this area drop out of school and hoping for a better future, go to live in Lomé, the capital of Togo, or in Cotonou, the capital of Benin, where they look for work as domestic servants in families or as 'portefaix', girls who carry the heavy luggage of those who go shopping at the market. It is a very difficult life and, unfortunately, most of the time they fall into the circle of prostitution. That's why 70% of the girls in this area become mothers at a very young age.

The main cause of the exodus of boys and girls and the trafficking of children is poverty and the lack of the possibility for setting up small income-generating activities on the spot to meet their basic needs.



*Providence* led us into this context through the gift of a 4-hectare agricultural land received from the family of one of our sisters. Firstly, thanks to a project funded by the province of Trento, we have built 2 dormitories, 2 laboratories and a multipurpose room for the therapeutic camps for children with AIDS and for their parents or guardians. The environment, in fact, is suitable for these painful and difficult paths of re-reading and acceptance of their personal and family history.

Subsequently, with the help of many people of good will and the collaboration of the parish, we rehabilitated and expanded the small home of the owner of the land and on August 1, 2022, the community was opened which, since September, has also welcomed postulants. The official opening with the blessing of Bishop Isaac Jogues Gaglo took place on February 1, 2023.

The first mission of our community is to offer those who come to us a serene environment, imbued with spirituality and closeness to the poorest. The work in the fields involves not only the whole community, but also the young people and some mothers of the village who can thus earn what they need to continue their studies or to meet the daily needs of the family. In this area we are still at the beginning, but we can say that the progress we have made is positive and opens us to new horizons. The biggest difficulty is the strong climate change that destabilizes the work schedule and impoverishes the harvest.

Around our house there are many small clusters of houses that have been formed for the work in the fields. The population is still very much rooted in fetishism and

animist traditions. With the postulants we often go there for catechesis and the proclamation of the Word of God, on foot or by motorcycle, because the roads are in very bad condition; it is a beautiful missionary experience that helps us to become more and more aware of the importance of deepening and living our Creed in order to evangelize cultures and bring people to Jesus.



*First of all our thanks goes to the Lord for his daily protection; to the Religious Family for accompanying us on this new journey; to the different associations and people who have supported us in various ways. May God's blessing reach everyone every day!*



*Sisters of Province*

## **ABHILASHA NIKETAN**

*The words in the title* of this article are certainly incomprehensible to many readers of *Vivere Insieme*, since they are in the Bengali language... but let's explain straight away.

We are in the Province of 'St. Joseph- India' where the sisters began the service for lonely and abandoned street girls, already in 1996, in the 'Providence Bhavan' (Providence House) in Kidderpure, in collaboration with the Salesians fathers of Don Bosco. The inspiration for this specific ministry comes from our beloved Founder, Father Luigi, who worked tirelessly for the abandoned and derelict girls of Udine, dedicating his entire life for them.

From the beginning, therefore, Father Luigi was the model and guide for the sisters engaged in this ministry over the years.

Over the years, however, the situation of the girls accommodated at 'Providence Bhavan' made us to understand that it was necessary to have a better atmosphere for them, i.e, a living space and structure more suited to their needs, so that they could feel it as their own home.

For this reason, in 2005 the Province opened its own house in Barasat, on the outskirts of Calcutta, to welcome street girls and derelicts; this new house was very large, capable of hosting up to 40 girls and was called 'Providence Home', because it was truly a provident mother for many girls.

However, the experience of 18-years at 'Providence Home', and the result of an analysis and evaluation that we have carried out together, have also pushed and encouraged us to change our methods of service in this increasingly complex and delicate educational and political scenario. We felt, therefore, the need to give greater importance to personal attention towards each of the girls that the Lord entrusts to us, to strengthen educational paths so that they are more avenue for personalized and interpersonal relationships.

Hence the decision of the Province was to renovate a building located right near Barasat's current home, to welcome the girls in a smaller, family-type environment.

Here's the title: **ABHILASHA NIKETAN** is the name of the new house which means: **'HOUSE OF DESIRE'**.

Why this name? Because it is the desire of the human heart to enjoy the loving welcome of a family.

The Abhilasha Niketan was inaugurated recently, precisely on November 9, 2023, the day of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica. It was a joy for us to have Mother General, Sister Sandra Del Bel Belluz, present at the ceremony, who always supported and encouraged us towards this much-needed change.



Mr. Alfredo Valle was also present with some young Italians, representing Solidarmondo and the numerous friends/benefactors of Italy, our sisters, friends and neighbours.

Through the blessing of the premises imparted by Fr. Sunil Rozario and Fr. Leo, we asked the Lord to bless every little guest who will live in the new house and every sister who will be called to be as good as a mother, wise as a teacher and vigilant like a shepheress for them.



**The photographs that accompany this short article say that we experienced a beautiful moment of celebration.**

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*Sisters of Province*



# Argentina - Santa Fé

## 25 YEARS of MISSION

### community S. Joseph



### The Beginnings

**On September 27, 1998**, the Sisters of Providence arrived in the city of Santa Fé, in the Barrio Santa Rosa da Lima, a place with many challenges of violence and lack of material things, but were open minded, eager to share and receive the message of the Gospel.

The sisters who began this beautiful adventure were: Rosana Rezende (who came from the Province of Brazil), Mabel Cuello and Rosa de Souza, both Uruguayans, the latter replaced in 2000 by Sister Matilda Socciu, from Romania.

From the very first moment, Providence was extremely generous to them. The Sisters, who arrived from Uruguay thought they have to buy everything they need for the house, but to their surprise! At the arrival they found the whole house equipped with the smallest detail! How much kindness from the part of the parish priest, the local religious congregations and the people of the neighbourhood!

The day after their arrival, the new mission was officially inaugurated with a solemn Mass presided over by the Archbishop, Monsignor Storni, concelebrated by the parish priest, Father Strina, many confreres of the neighbourhood, and by some religious of the archdiocese as well as.

### A Light of Hope

**Twenty-five years** have passed since February 27, 1998, and I cherish in my heart the memory of all the sisters I met.

Sister Rosana, with her cheerfulness and fraternity, would make you feel part of her family; Sister Matilde, a simple, humble and upright sister who always

available and attentive, which was very much visible in her way of being and doing; Sister Mini conveyed sympathy with her beautiful smile and her tireless nature; and little Sister Leonarda was all joyful and rendered her service with affection. Each of the sisters who lived there has left a little bit of herself.

Our neighbourhood was made up of humble and hard-working people, eager to progress, but who also suffered the consequences of chemical addictions, violence and many spiritual and material needs; they had the grace of being blessed by the presence of the Sisters, a light of hope, which reawakened in many, trust in God's Providence.

We have lived through two terrible floods in which many have lost everything, literally everything. Well, in that chaos, the Sisters were always present, accompanying, consoling, and helping.

They encouraged personal development, the improvement of the situation of children, adolescents, young people and adults, care and attention to the sick. Parish, chapels, oratory, and day centres. The sisters were and are present in everything, encouraging and transmitting love and mercy of God.

There was no cold or heat that could stop them from going out when someone needed them.

The Sisters of Providence have been with us for many years, they are part of our life, our history, and our family.

The opportunity to get to know Father Luigi Scrosoppi, through the Sisters, has filled my life with gratitude, trust in God's infinite love and joy in service.

Today we are accompanied by Sr. Mabel, Sr. Claudia and Sr. Vanere: who are special!

Thank you, Father Luigi, for your daughters, the Sisters of Providence.

*María Esther Villalba  
Educator at the "Corazón de María" Day Centre.*



## Signs of Providence

**In 2003** our community was made up of four sisters, all from different countries: Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Romania. Although from different cultures, they lived in communion, united by the one culture, that of the charism, which Father Luigi left in the Church and which has also reached this corner of the earth.

On the same year, April 29 night, due to heavy rains, the Salado River overflowed and almost completely covered the northern suburbs of the city of Santa Fé, where our community is located.

In our house, the water reached more than two meters high and we had to leave the house, going out through the windows on the first floor and being taken by boats 1 km away, and we took refuge in the school of Sisters of the Sacred Heart. We stayed there for a whole night, but on the second night, two of us returned home by boat, for the thieves had already arrived on the roofs of the houses, and the window through which we had gone out had remained open.

The community's premises were flooded with more than two meters of water that remained stagnant on the territory for two weeks. The families, with a two-story house, stayed in the neighbourhood, the others made tents on the roof of the house and continued to stay to take care of the little they had.

The neighbourhood was only accessible by boat. We also joined some lay people and went out with boats to bring food and blankets to those who needed them, because it was cold and there was no drinking water and electricity. We shared life and suffering with people. To this day, they remember and thank us for accompanying them in those difficult times.

Finally, when the water receded, people began to return to their homes and we always received food and basic necessities: God's Providence was never lacking!

It is good for us to remember that the paper poster of Fr. Luigi, which was at the entrance of the house, underwater for two weeks, was not damaged; on the contrary miraculously remained intact and is still there, in the same place. We immediately experienced this fact as a clear sign that his will for us was to remain in this

neighbourhood, among the simple and needy people.

We are very grateful to the Lord for the help we have received in difficult moments, in which unity between the laity and sisters has been strengthened, and unity with the local Church.

Thank you, Lord, for your Providence.

*Sister Matilda Sociu*

## A lost sheep returns to the flock

**I have known** the Sisters of Providence 25 years ago, when they arrived in the neighbourhood of Santa Rosa da Lima. I am a Christian, but I only went to the parish of Santa Rosa when my mother told me that they needed help with repairs, because I am a mechanic and a maintenance expert.

In 2000 I experienced a very difficult situation: I was separating from my wife who had left, me alone with my four children. I had a big debt that was very difficult to cover because I wouldn't be able to pay even with my entire salary. I was desperate and began to get depressed and wandered aimlessly on the streets.

One day, wandering around, I arrived at the parish where the priest was celebrating Mass; I went inside and collapsed at the foot of the altar until the end of the Mass.

Finally, a friend named Fredy approached me and, without saying anything, took me by the hand and led me to a parish hall where a group of people I did not know were gathered and with them was Sister Rosana; Fredy took me by the hand and with the other hand grabbed Sister Rosana's hand and handed me over to her, saying, "*Sister, here is a person for the group.*" At that time I didn't understand anything, but that's how the nuns came into my life, and from then life began to improve.

With the advice and help of sisters, my family was strengthened and grew. The debts I had, almost without realizing it, disappeared and I began to know the charism of Father Luigi.

Today I am fine with my family and with my wife, who have returned home. I continue with the sisters and in the parish community, growing in my faith and helping others.

*Juan Echeverri Layman of the Family of Providence*

### Providence is your mother

*This phrase of Father Luigi* has become a constant reality in our daily life, in this Mission in the Barrio Santa Rosa de Lima.

We have always had the paternal presence of Father Rubén Strina, who was the Bishop's intermediary, so that we could settle in this place. In fact, the most powerful experience I had at the beginning was the protection we received from drug addicts and violent young people, whom Father Rubén had asked, to protect us and our home too.

Another experience was the help from people in the neighbourhood who were close to us in various ways. One of those who strengthened my trust in Providence was Mr. Carmelo, An entrepreneur who at the beginning gave us a bicycle and, when we started to create the football team with the children, he provided us with the necessary materials to make bread, which we then sold to pay the expenses of equipping the children, training the coaches, traveling, etc.

It is true that Divine Providence has always sustained us... The boys participated in the championships with other groups outside the city, which required paying for transportation. With the support of friends, we experienced Providence in a wonderful way. We were able to introduce many kids to football and some of them continue up to this day in other teams in Santa Fé. This effort has helped many teenagers to move away from drugs and make choices according to true values.

Let us glorify the Lord who "does all things well", for the good of those he loves: the poorest and neediest.

*Sister Mabel Cuello*



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## MYANMAR

### our thoughts and our prayers



- for a beautiful territory rich in cultures and natural resources, tormented and reduced to exhaustion and almost to despair
- for the sisters of our communities: even if they are not in direct combat zones, for almost three years they have suffered for their brothers who fight, for the innocent blood of so many young people who have paid the price for their courage, for having to escape on the mountains or in the forests, for the destruction caused to houses, churches, countryside...
- for the families of some of our sisters who died in the war, for elderly parents or young families with children: who had to flee their village and did not know when they would be able to return and even at their arrival, will they still find their houses standing, as they have lost their assets and live in a serious emergency situation

*Let us never get tired of raising our prayers together to the Lord God,  
Prince of Peace, so that he may have mercy on this people:  
He alone can transform the noise of weapons into songs of peace.*

# LAUDATE DEUM



'Laudate Deum' is the sixth apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, published on October 4, 2023, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

It is an urgent call for all of us believers to join forces against the climate crisis. Pope Francis is extremely concerned about the dramatic urgency of this crisis and the role that unfortunately we human beings are playing in provoking it. 'Laudate Deum' does not repeat or replace anything from Laudato Si', but it is very precisely crisis-centered, "Avoiding a one-tenth degree increase in global temperature may already be enough to spare many people from suffering." It is a heartfelt appeal in defence of the environment with an eye to COP28, the 28th United Nations conference on climate change held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12 in which the Pope was supposed to participate.

But Pope Francis invites each of us "to accompany this path of reconciliation with the world that hosts us and to embellish it with our own contribution, because our commitment has to do with personal dignity and great values." Our Congregation is sensitive to this appeal of the Holy Father: we are all aware that we can and must do everything in our power to respond to it.

In fact, in our works, though simple but significant, various initiatives and programs have been launched to care for the environment: we are pleased to share them through these pages.

## Africa

We regularly carry out Laudato Si' activities through the cleanliness of our living environments. Youth and children are the ambassadors of Laudato Si' in the family, at school, and in their play environment. A community has been involved through door-to-door outreach in the neighbourhood, in the parish and especially with the girls who live with us.

An attempt was made to raise awareness among the pupils of a school with an initiative entitled "School without bags". So every morning the papers are collected and put in the trash. Next year this activity will be extended to the whole village; This is the goal of the community.

On June 1 of this year, many trees were planted, especially the shea tree.

Much remains to be done to change habits and contribute to a healthy environment, but together, in the footsteps of our Father Luigi, we know that we can also proclaim the joy of the Gospel through the protection of nature.

## Brazil

The Brazilian show on Laudato si' has conquered the world and the heart of the Pope.

A group of young people from a social project in the State of Paraíba presented a show entitled "Laudato si'. The Space of Life on Earth", to the public of Brazil, France and Italy, up to St. Peter's Square and to an exceptional spectator: Pope Francis, on May 24, the day on which the encyclical on the care of our common home turned 8 years old.

Rodrigo Baima, a faithful and grateful pupil of Sister Antonietta Defrancesco, our sister whom the Lord called to Himself two years ago, is the creator and choreographer of this show and says: "We wanted to create it to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical on the care of our common home; people must be able to love and respect the planet also through dance and culture."

## India

During these months, all the communities have organized various initiatives inspired by Laudato Si'. Especially on International Environment Day, we planted trees, declared a "Plastic Free Zone" in our schools; We taught how to recycle paper and plastic waste, doing different art works, building compost, etc.

A community has also organized meetings to inform people about the damage that pesticides cause to the environment.



## Italy

In general, our communities have welcomed the proposal for a commitment to the care of creation, aware that its protection also depends on each of us;

- we are careful to make conscious choices in our daily lives: in our diet, the use of water and energy, the separate collection of waste, etc.;
- we receive a lot of food as Providence, this is a gift that we also share with the poor, it allows us to reduce food expenses and helps us to know how to be content with what Providence gives us, paying attention to educating ourselves, together with the laity, to a modest consumption of things, recycling and avoiding waste and useless expenses;
- we engage in community prayer for the care of creation with the Rosary, the Way of the Cross, and the prayer of creation, even if occasionally for the overlapping of other moments of prayer in different liturgical seasons, or in other events or needs;
- we take care of the vegetable garden to plant vegetables and flowers for the chapel, so as to avoid expenses;
- we try to open the dialogue on ecological culture whenever the situation requires it, both at a personal and community level. We therefore adhere to specific educational projects for ecological education: e.g. "Saving the Planet", "I will take care of you" etc. to develop in children the responsibility of care towards what surrounds them and establish positive relationships with people, the environment and animals; all of us, young and old, pay great attention to taking care of the environment, the home, the things we use and all that the Lord continues to give us every day and this with a sense of responsibility and gratitude;
- but let us first of all try to humanize our fraternal relations.

## Romania and Moldova

Every day, through example and words, we try to sensitize staff and children to the correct use of things. We try to economize on the use of electricity, water, gas, diesel and all useful goods. We know that the Planet gives us if we take only what is necessary, so in community we try to use only what we need and even less: Through small gestures we try to create among ourselves and around us the mentality of saving, with a simple and sober way of life.

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With the pupils of the school we experienced a special week called "Green Week" on issues related to the environment, which engaged children and parents with very nice activities.

## Thailand

We have built a vegetable garden and a garden fertilized with an organic compost that we ourselves have built with leaves and with everything possible, to grow vegetables, flowers and fruits without the use of chemicals.

We have carried out other initiatives with recyclable material, for example the wheels of machines to build ladders or contain the soil from landslides or to make other useful things for the garden. We also use solar light which, in addition to illuminating the statue of Fr. Luigi, allows the girls to play in the evening in the play areas and in the garden.

## Myanmar

We are aware that children easily accept everything we give them, so as a first step we have included in our kindergartens the care of the environment and the care of nature, and then arrive, little by little, to the parents of the children.

To this end, we gathered the teachers of our school and explained to them the text of the Encyclical Laudato Si': in this way we tried to improve the cleanliness of the environment, the collection of garbage, the care of seedlings and flowers, the relationship with animals.

We are moving on this in our kindergartens, but we also try to raise awareness among the children of the villages that are around our communities.



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