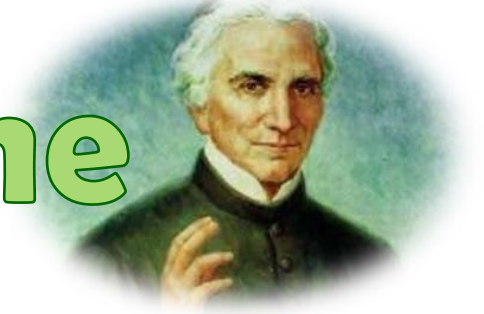


Vivere Insieme

Family of Providence



Pilgrims of Hope

Holy Year 2025



The logo of the Jubilee 2025 represents that we are pilgrims, walking towards the heavenly homeland and, as in every pilgrimage, we help each other to overcome the difficulties, but the one who helps us the most and precedes us is Jesus who, gave us His life on the Cross and continues to give himself to us in the Eucharist. Therefore, the Cross reaches out towards the four pilgrims who represent the humanity coming from the four corners of the earth.

The pilgrims embrace each other, to indicate solidarity and brotherhood that unites them. The first in the line clings to the Cross of Christ, a sign of faith, love, and hope.

We are pilgrims of hope as we prepare to celebrate 2025 years from the birth of Christ. 2025 years of grace, mercy, mission, and holiness.

He alone is holy, but united with Him and with each other, we hope to grow in holiness every day despite the waves that assail us, because in the pilgrimage of life, we are called to face difficulties and sometimes storms, but united with Christ, we will not shipwreck, as the anchor of salvation demonstrates, resisting the waves.

The designer of the logo, Giacomo Trevisani, explained that he *“imagined people of all colours, nationalities, and cultures coming from the four cardinal points and moving forward towards the future, like sails of a great common ship, unfurled by the wind of Hope that is the Cross of Christ and Christ Himself”*.

The colours also have a meaning: “Red is love, action and sharing; yellow/orange represents human warmth; green evokes peace and equilibrium; blue recalls security and protection. The black/grey of the Cross/Anchor, on the other hand, represents authority and the inner aspect”.

The representation of the logo is completed by the motto of the Holy Year 2025, **“Pilgrims of Hope”** in green, which recalls the spring and therefore hope in the new life that Jesus continues to offer us.

The virtue of Hope lived by F. Luigi

From the heroic faith of Father Luigi was born an equally heroic hope. Throughout his life, he trusted only in God, in Divine Providence.

2

"For this trust in Providence -testifies a labourer who worked long in the Institute- we used to say that Father Luigi had written on his back 'Providence'."

And the same unwavering trust comforted him until his last breath, as he loved to repeat on his deathbed: *"To die, yes, but to offend the Lord with distrust, no."*

"Confidence in God, especially in the gravest tribulations: you must not be discouraged, my daughters, but trust in Jesus and repeat: Long live Jesus! Long live Mary!"

Hope, as a sure support in the goodness and help of God in the difficulties of spiritual life, gave his soul such tranquil and persevering linearity of spiritual life and piety, that no one could ever notice in him states of doubt or dryness unless he himself had manifested them.

But he heroically accepted and lived by the Apostle's words:

"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God."

His trust drew heroic dimensions in the certainty of the Gospel promise: *"Ask and it will*



be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you."

His prayer had the vigour and tranquillity of this heroic elevation and projection in God.

He used to send the orphans to the chapel to pray in the most difficult moments with the certainty of being heard, and then send them immediately to give thanks. Here lay the secret of the magnanimity of his courage and his undertakings.

However, to ensure that his prayer was not presumptuous, he combined it with tireless and prudent labour, the offering of all he had, the acceptance of all suffering, all humiliation, and voluntary penance.

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

The service of authority

The 28th General Chapter,
held in Rome from October 13 to November 22, 2024,
elected the Superior General and the sisters for council
for the six-year term 2024-2030.

Our religious Family is a communion of sisters who, in the diversity of roles,
form one body, animated by one spirit.

Among them, some are called to temporarily perform
the task of being a sign of unity and guidance in the common search
and fulfilment of God's will.

From the Constitutions, 88



3

1. SISTER SANDRA DEL BEL BELLUZ - superior general - italian
2. SISTER FATIMA SIMONE CREMER - vicari general - brazilian (S. Paulo)
3. SISTER GRACY SEBASTIAN - second counsellor - indian (Kerala)
4. SISTER HELENE OUEDRAOGO - third counsellor - african (Burkina)
5. SISTER DORES VILLOTTI - fourth counsellor- italian (italian-african)

*To each of you, dear sisters, we wish and pray that you experience in your service
the grace of God's presence, the blessed intercession of Mary and Father Luigi
and the strength of fraternity.*

LOVE and VENERATION for St. LUIGI

In his Udine...

On Sunday, 17 November, 2024, the parish community of 'St. Osvaldo' on the peripheries of Udine, along with many Sisters of Providence, experienced a special ceremony: the reception of a statue dedicated to Saint Luigi Scrosoppi within the church during a heartfelt and well-attended Eucharistic Celebration.

The wooden statue, commissioned by parish priest Don Ezio to sculptor Ulrich Raphael Demenz of Ortisei, is 1.6 meters tall and was blessed by Archbishop Mons. Riccardo Lamba on 5 October, during the liturgical memory of the Saint.

4

The image is very beautiful: it shows Saint Luigi in his classic priestly attire with one of the destitute girls for whom he opened his heart and hands, recognizing the condition of misery and abandonment in which they lived in Friuli, which at the time was dealing with significant sacks of poverty, famines, pandemics, also caused by military and political upheavals.

During the celebration, we prayed and meditated on poverty and charity, on the need to have open eyes like Saint Luigi because even in our society there are poor people, and unfortunately, we risk not seeing them; there is material poverty, but also spiritual poverty. We thought of the poor of our time, many boys and girls who may not lack material things but often grow up in environments morally and

spiritually poorer, deprived of values and secure life directions. Perhaps they are the abandoned who for first ask us for a gaze of sympathy and understanding, along with our ability to draw near to them.

Father Luigi, a holy man of our Friulian land, witness to the Charity and Providence of God, can now be prayed to, invoked, and benevolently disturbed and imitated by the people of this parish with even more affection.

In St. Luigi, everyone can find a living presence, a consoling father who loves, who loves you specifically, who is a creature of God, the "PUPIL OF HIS EYES."



The testimony of the catechists

On the afternoons of Saturday, 12 and 19 October, two groups of young people and children from the Parishes of St. Paul and St. Osvaldo visited the house of the Sisters of Providence in Udine to get to know their founder, Saint Luigi Scrosoppi. Through the words of Sr. Maria Rosa and the kind attentions of Sr. Michela, we listened to Father Luigi's story, interiorized his teachings, prayed in front of the urn containing his remains, and finally visited the church where we found a work that will become familiar in our church of St. Osvaldo: the statue of

Saint Luigi affectionately embracing a little girl.

The visit could not end without a snack prepared by the sisters before saying goodbye. In the rooms we walked through, we encountered a Saint Luigi more alive than ever through the relevance of his teachings, the ministries the Sisters of Providence continue to carry out in the world, and the urn preserved for everyone's veneration. His worn-out garment due to daily work and the shoes worn out on the Friulian roads he travelled begging are tangible signs of the Providence to which the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Luigi is dedicated.

It's surprising to think how, within those walls, in a simple house on the edge of the historic centre of our small Udine, a story of sanctity was born that many of us do not know and that has spread and still lives around the world.

Each of us, young and old, carried home a special memory of this afternoon: the story of the miracle of the flour or the slap received from the one who later became his main benefactor; the construction of the little house on Via Scrosoppi; the living testimony of the shoes and the garment; the profound meaning of the words spoken by Luigi at the moment of death and engraved on his urn "*Charity, charity... Save souls and save them with charity*"; the importance of education and formation which would become tools of empowerment for the weakest; the miracle that led Luigi to be proclaimed a Saint in 2001, the only Friulian Saint 'of modern times'; the passion of the sisters who welcomed us and opened the doors of their home. The story of Saint Luigi Scrosoppi truly deserves to be

known and valued: recalling the words of Sister Maria Rosa, 'we must love St. Luigi' to repay all the good and love he poured out on our city in the recent past. In recent weeks, we have taken a small step, and the upcoming arrival of the statue in our parish church will be another important

moment, hoping that our young people will find in this Saint a model to imitate and a friend to turn to in prayer.

Sara and Andrea

...and in Brazil

Since 1978, the Community Center 'Padre Luigi Scrosoppi' / 'Father Luigi Scrosoppi', located in the Novo Mundo, neighbourhood of Votorantim/SP (on the peripheries of the city of Sorocaba), has welcomed needy children, adolescents, and families. In 2024, the Community Center 'Progetto Alegria' / 'project of happiness' lived intensely from Providence, guided by the evangelical phrase: "Each day has enough trouble of its own." In fact, throughout the year, solidarity manifested in many forms and in surprising ways.

The Criminal Justice of Sorocaba funded the roof renovation with the installation of new tiles. Food was never lacking, thanks to the Food Bank and 'Mesa Brasil', which weekly provided vegetables, fruits, and essential goods. A school in Sorocaba and one in São José of Atibaia contributed various food and cleaning products, while other donations allowed the functioning of the used clothing market. Thus, Providence acted daily, strengthening in our hearts the trust in God, always benevolent, especially in difficulties.

In the second semester, we received a beautiful statue of Saint Luigi Scrosoppi with two children, a boy and a girl, and on 5 October, there was its enthronement in the garden of the Opera. It was a moment of great celebration. It was a special day, full of joy, especially for the children and adolescents.

The choir, formed by our children, moved everyone with a song dedicated to the Saint: *"He left us an inheritance: abandonment and trust. Charity and saved souls. Steadfastness and kindness, faith and docility. Saint Luigi Scrosoppi, pray for us."* Additionally, we witnessed a theatrical representation by the children of the healing of the young Chungo, performed by Father Luigi. It was an unforgettable year, full of gratitude and faith.

The image of Father Luigi arrived at the Community Center in a festive manner, marking his presence along the street that bears his name: Via Padre Luigi Scrosoppi. Since then, people passing by make the sign of the cross and a brief prayer, asking for Saint Luigi's blessing, a sign of their faith.

A significant event happened to Pyetro Dorth, a 5-year-old boy, who dearly wished for a bicycle. Encouraged by his teacher, he prayed for three days in front of Father Luigi's image, asking for his intercession. On the day of the lottery draw, the first number called was his: Pyetro cried with joy, and everyone attributed this coincidence to Saint Luigi, who continues to act for the poorest.

At the Center, the children recite this beautiful prayer every day: *"Saint Luigi Scrosoppi, pray for us and instil your spirit in us. Give bread to those who are hungry and a hunger for justice to those who have bread."*

We experience that every time we seek Saint Luigi's intercession, our requests are granted. At the end of the year, for example, we asked for food to prepare baskets of essential goods for needy families. After a few days, we received exactly the amount needed to prepare three baskets for each family: one for Christmas, one with basic food items, and one with fruit.

This strengthens in us the truth of the phrase that guides the 'Progetto Alegria' / project of happiness: *"The poor are our masters, so they must be served in the best way."*

Sister Aparecida Joana Moreira Responsible of Community Center



Thank you!

For a long time, we had been planning this pilgrimage (June 21-23, 2024) to make all of us, lay collaborators, (of Il Piccolo Sicomoro aps) familiar with the places of Father Luigi: it was a great desire.

Our departure was tested by terrible news: Guido, the son of a colleague, involved in a severe car accident and was fighting between life and death. However, we managed to leave, believing that Father Luigi was calling us and that now our journey had a precise mission: prayer for Guido and his family. We perceived that through the prayer made with faith, our group would gain benefit and richness. On 21 June, we left from Naples, and upon arriving at Trieste airport, our friends from Faedis were waiting for us for a guided tour of the educational community.

6 We were overwhelmed with emotions: the scenery, the peace, the family atmosphere, and the stories of Faedis' projects filled us with enthusiasm. Filled with such positivity, we headed towards Orzano. Here, unanimously, the feeling was the same: despite the "heaviness" we carried in our hearts, we also felt the palpable and living presence of Father Luigi, and the awareness that this is a spiritual place that makes space in our hearts.

The cordial sisters, with their simple charismatic style, provided us with lunch and rooms, and this welcoming style we found in all the places we visited. It had a positive impact on all of us.

In the afternoon, we visited Rosa Mystica; calling it a visit is reductive, perhaps it was a full immersion of stories, tales, and visible divine touch where the choral prayer before Mary was powerful. We visited the

elderly sisters of Cormons: for some of us, it was a phase which we will carry forever in our hearts. Seeing again the sisters who had been with us in Torre del Greco, who had been part of our lives, was a great gift. Being able to thank them for what we received was an immense emotion: as if "time did not exist," as if we had a reunion with our grandparents, highlighting how much we have in common with the elderly sisters, who are our roots.

Saturday morning was dedicated to the formative meeting Sisters/Lay people that involved us all in Orzano. In this meeting, we had the opportunity to get to know the realities spread throughout the European Province, but above all, we were fascinated by how Father Luigi still lives in our missions and unites us like a common thread.

We began Sunday with the Holy Mass at Udine in the church of Madonna delle Grazie and then visited Father Luigi's house, the room of memories, the church of St. Cajetan... Indeed evocative stories and images. Many anecdotes narrated to us struck us, but what emerged unanimously from our group was the wonder of how much Father Luigi was truly a pedagogical forerunner, an attentive educator to his girls, a loving and welcoming father, attentive to the poor, a strong spiritual guide! This pilgrimage, in addition to enriching us in spirit and knowledge of the charism, made us strong in prayer and united as a group! Breathing God and Father Luigi in these places was fuel for our emotional, spiritual, and professional tank.

We wrote this small article to celebrate with all of you, Sisters and lay collaborators of Providence, the great miracle that the Lord granted us. Guido not only woke up from a coma after 40 days but responded so promptly to therapies that every day we can recognize the greatness of God and the strength of prayer. It was a time of great pain but also a time of mutual support where the delicacy of a gesture, daily hospitality, and assiduous prayer strength-



ened bonds and communion within the unique family of Providence.

On 17 December, 2024, our community in Torre del Greco wanted to celebrate a thanksgiving Mass 6 months after the accident to express deep gratitude to God and to all those who were part of this "chain of love."

Thank you!!!

The lay collaborators and sisters of the community of Torre del Greco - Naples



Provvidenza

PROVIDENCE

You have accomplished many wonders in me:

What grace you have given me to feel you here.

I want to sing to the whole world of what You have done, when I think and remember it I feel so glad.

*A lamp of light on the path
blossoms a smile of tranquillity,
blossoms a smile of great joy,
constant belief that You are present*

*Providence can be felt in the air,
something is about to happen
and You are the great weaver;
I know that after the storm the sun always comes back.
I want to be strong with Your presence,
despite the fear. (2)*

PROVIDENCIA

Has hecho en mi tantas maravillas

*que gracia me has regalado de sentirte aquí
quiero cantarle a todo el mundo lo que Tú has hecho
cuando pienso y lo recuerdo me hace tan feliz.*

*Un destello de luz en el camino
hace que brote una sonrisa de tranquilidad
hace que brote una sonrisa de tanta alegría
convicción constante de que Tú estás.*

*La providencia se siente en el aire,
algo va a suceder y Tú eres el gran tejedor
sé que después de la tormenta siempre sale el sol
quiero estar firme con Tu presencia
a pesar del temblor. (2)*

This song can be found in YouTube with the name: Hymn on Providence by Shirley Valiente

This song 'PROVVIDENCIA' (Providence) was composed by Shirley, who from a young age began to frequent our house 'Maria Rosa Mistica' in Montevideo and collaborated there for a wonderful period as an animator of the Oratory, together with other young people. Shirley always told us that with us she discovered the word 'Providence'; and then, little by little, she began to know it and enjoy it through the simple and trusting life of the community, rather than through the words of the nuns. As evidence of this, when she got married, she wanted to choose the name Luis Augusto for her first child, in honor of our father Luigi and all of us, and Augusto in gratitude towards Mother Augusta Weber for her help, support and above all for her example of life.

"The song is dedicated first of all to Saint Luigi Scrosoppi, to all the Sisters of Providence that we have known, and to all those who are in other parts of the world; we don't know them, but we know that with their life witness they demonstrate that the most beautiful and important things are those that the world has not yet seen".

With love, Shirley and family





CARE FOUNDATION

Catalyst
for Awareness
Renewal
and
Empowerment

Care for the Environment and Care for the Humanity

St. Joseph Province India formed an NGO named CARE Foundation (Catalyst for Awareness, Renewal and Empowerment) to pool the social work activities of the Province. Care Foundation has been registered as a trust under the state of West Bengal, India, having the certificate of registration under section 60 and Rule 69 being No 190200676/2023 and Under the income Tax act 1961

The vision Statement:

A society that values human dignity and stewards the environment.

Mission Statement:

To promote sustainable solutions through Awareness, Renewal and Empowerment.

The objectives

- ◆ To work for the social and economic development of underprivileged individuals, groups and communities.
- ◆ To encourage healthcare development and healthy living.
- ◆ To build a future in which people live in harmony with nature.
- ◆ To promote education at all levels.

DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP BY THE NGO

I. Project - Shakti Abhiyan

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

CARE Foundation is committed to be a catalyst of sharing knowledge, to Parents, Children, Teachers, community leaders, Youth, women and elders, building their capacities as active agents of change in their own communities. To this end, we curated a unique platform that facilitates Awareness, Empowerment and Renewal. This platform fosters collaboration and provides opportunities to address the underlying challenges at all levels.

Through this the target group is motivated to work together towards bringing positive changes in their communities and creating sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by them.

We Organize Workshops on:

- Child Rights & Women's Rights;
- RTI Act & RTE Act, POCSO Acts, POSH Act, JJ Act;
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion;
- Drug abuse & Alcoholism.

II. Project - Arogya Abhiyan

HEALTH CARE

Health Care access is a fundamental right, yet for many people in rural areas, it remains a distant dream. In the densely populated rural areas of various states in India, lack of qualified medical practitioners and the prevalence of unlicensed healthcare providers pose significant risks to the lives of the underprivileged. Care Foundation committed to be a catalyst helping many rural tribal population to get access to much needed medical care, introducing primary medical care and treatments, saving the lives of low-income and underprivileged communities. Our approach is holistic, encompassing not only curative medical services but also preventive care initiatives aimed at addressing, high risk and teenage pregnancies, anaemia, home deliveries, chronic lifestyle diseases, food and feeding habits, etc.

We focus on:

- Medical camps/health clinics in far-flung rural areas
- Health awareness on relevant topics and Introduce them to Govt. health care benefits
- Introduce them to Antenatal and postnatal check-ups breast feeding and safe motherhood



III. Project - Vidya Abhiyan *divided into two*

1) REMEDIAL EDUCATION

The objective of CARE Remedial Education program for marginalized school going children is to address and overcome the educational challenges faced by these children, who often come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, marginalized communities, or have specific learn-



ing difficulties. CARE will continue to support deserving marginalized children.

2) **SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASSES:** The Spoken English Classes for Marginalized youth and Young Women is to address the educational needs of marginalized youth and young women who face barriers to accessing quality English language education. The program aims to empower participants with essential language skills to enhance their educational and employment opportunities, thereby promoting their socio-economic empowerment and inclusion Overall, a spoken English program aims to equip learners with the skills and confidence to communicate effectively in English-speaking environments, whether for academic, professional, or personal purposes. The project covers Conversational Skills, Interactive Learning, Listening, Comprehension, Grammar and Syntax with a systematic Progress Tracking.

IV. Project - Chetna

CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

This project is aimed at empowering the unemployed tribal adolescent Girls and young mothers in our surrounding rural areas. The activities are selected and designed suitable for the target group. It empowers them to become upright, self-sufficient and contributing members in their families and society. The proposed project is an integrated approach to Vocational Training and Skill development opportunities aligned with local market demands, the beneficiaries' interests and aspirations and to empower them to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential. All done in view of entry into the workforce or entrepreneurship ventures.

We venture into:

- Re-enforcement of SHGs
- Dress & Detergent Making
- Training on Mushroom cultivation & Organic Pesticide preparation
- Jute handicraft & Soft toy making.

V. Project - Taru Maitri

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

CARE Foundation continues its humble effort to be a catalyst in the unis Decade of Ecological Restoration (2021-2030), by creating awareness among the school students, Rural

population and youth on environmental preservation and protection, biodiversity, conservation and implementation of sustainable development principles.

We Create Awareness on:

- Planting Trees, Global warming, Climate change;
- Careful use of water &;
- Electricity, No to plastic, Safe waste disposal;
- Meaningful celebration of World Environment Day.

During this short period The CARE Foundation has experienced significant growth, through our dynamic and dedicated team. United by a shared determination to drive positive change, we embody values of fraternity and integrity, fostering an environment of continuous learning and feedback.

Our team is committed to creating an impact at the grass root level.

To us,
to be the CATALYSTS for AWARENESS,
RENEWAL and EMPOWERMENT
is more than just a job – it's a calling.

We invite you to join hands with us to be a CARE Man/Woman.

The NGO website will be soon shared with you all.



LIKE MARY...



During November 2024, together with the Sisters of Providence of the community of Santa Fé (Argentina), we had a special experience: the experience of Mary.

We went out to the streets to visit the elderly and the sick, like Mary who left without hesitation and went to visit Elizabeth... Those days spent with the sisters inspired us to go without delay to bring Jesus, as she did, from her womb, to those who needed Him the most—through concrete acts of love, a smile, a hug, listening, and being close. We brought the Eucharist to the sick. What a beautiful and profound experience! We felt like guardians of Jesus on the road! It was moving to see how people were waiting, some with joy, others with pain, but all were waiting for Jesus... I will never forget those gazes! So many people need God! We walked a lot around the neighbourhood and I felt that even in the midst of violence, drugs, prostitution, and much pain from mothers and grandparents, God is present; He loves and restores the suffering hearts. I can say that during those days, the Gospel came to life and, like Mary, I walked with the desire that many people know God's work through the sisters, that many others may become the arms of Providence, and God will generously provide everything that the brothers and sisters need.

10 In the afternoon, I accompanied the sisters to the Corazón de María and Casita de los Niños centers. How hopeful it was to see so many children attending these two centers; my soul was filled with smiles! I felt blessed by God.

This experience touched me, and together we decided to help the sisters with another initiative: to sponsor a child from the Santa Rosa de Lima neighbourhood with a toy to brighten their Christmas.

These children come from the centres run by the sisters. We were certain that if God had entrusted this mission to us, He would give us the means to accomplish it. We put everything in our hearts and prayers, and we already knew that God had touched every heart to obtain the 200 gifts for the kids! In fact, in less than 20 days, Providence made herself present: gifts were coming, people were joining us, declaring their interest in helping. And so, the arms of Providence expanded and put at the service.

We also made some crafts with plaster, and with the money collected, we managed to buy balls for the kids! And when the date arrived, each child received their gift and all were immensely happy.

And since God outdoes us in generosity, there were even leftovers!



Every time we start something that seems a bit crazy, we say that if it comes from God, it will surely come to fruition. Now we can thank God and say: "Mission accomplished!"

Thank you, Lord, for touching so many hearts, which with joy became instruments of Your Divine Providence. Thank you to the sisters who made us happy by involving us in this wonderful mission of brightening a child's heart.

Ayelen Molinas and Silvio Azoge

Togo: Experience that marks and teaches much better than millions of word

Our group went to Africa, precisely to Togo, to introduce life, with the release of approximately 60,000 snails, in to a large first farming set up located in **Vo-Koutime** village, in the southern part of the African state.

My story of this adventure in Togo dates back to April 2022, with whoever invented the world of Heliculture, i.e. snail farming: Dr. **Giovanni Avagnina**, an enlightened veterinarian who in the 1970s, because he was scared of large animals and because he was involved, in 1972, in one of the very first educational days on how to raise snails, right in his hometown of Cherasco (Cuneo), decides to dedicate his entrepreneurial vocation to the world of this mollusc.

In over fifty years of experience, Avagnina has founded snail meat processing companies, to prepare products in sauce, jars, milk or slabs of frozen meat, which can be sold at the Oreca markets or supermarket supply chains and much more.

However, **Heliculture is a sector which, especially in the last twenty years, has been the protagonist of important ramifications, developments and much more.** First of all, in addition to the gastronomic issue, which is of enormous importance, given the great organoleptic and nutritious properties of the meat of *Helix* snails (the variety that is bred in a natural cycle and with complete and exclusive vegetable nutrition) - low in fat, rich in iron and mineral salts - that of **slime** (mucus or helicin), deriving from these molluscs, is now a lively and constantly growing market.

Snails live in symbiosis with this mucus, which we simplistically call Slime (but it is the most functional and direct declination we can give). The slime gives the snail great defensive power, protects it from any type of infectious disease, allows it to slide eve-

rywhere, from a rough or smooth surface, to pass over a razor blade without ever cutting itself, it is also a defence weapon, which the snail often emits as a protection system from possible predators or from environments that do not conform to it.

If the snail has grown and been raised in a natural and controlled environment, such as a field like what was done in Togo, the slime that can be recovered from those snails will be of very high quality and capable of having a great buffering and re-epithelizing power for human epithelial tissues.

Precisely this characteristic was of enormous inter-



est to the Congregation. **The Mother General, Sr. Sandra**, visited this center which had become the national headquarters of the Italian **Snail Farmers Confederation** and the "**Coclè**" **training and development center** in Campania, for over 10 years, wanted to delve deeper into the entire discussion and, identifying an area of the world where the house of the Congregation was present and, where skin problems persist the most (such as the Buruli plague), she offered, to me and Avagnina, the possibility of going for an initial inspection in these lands of Central Africa, in order to evaluate a useful and practicable fund for the breeding of snails. The further aim was of guaranteeing work for the local inhabitants enjoying healthy food, but at the same time recover drool from there, to be able to use it later as a natural healing and soothing form, in dispensaries and hospitals present for example in Kouvé (another place in Togo where there is a house of the Congregation).

For us it was an experience far from any imagination, well above any idea, a direct approach to a world that has always been seen across the board on TV, in documentaries etc., but a completely different perception from reality. We were welcomed with smiles, songs, dances and the unique and iconic sounds of Africa.

The second time that we landed in Togo, it was done with a much larger group coming from many Roman realities, all well-wishers and collaborators with the Congregation.

We are talking about April 2024, a period almost between the end of the hot and dry season and the beginning of the rainy season. In fact, "Providence", with the rain, it must be said, accompanied us in the days in which we had already decided for some time that we would start the first pilot farm in Vo-kotime we would have started the first pilot farm.

12

The Vo-Koutime house, located a few meters from the village of the same name, is the last, in chronological order, to be built in Togo. The two mothers: **Sr. Maria Josée** and **Sr. Emma** looked after us and treated us better than one would do with children..

We left, after thirteen days of stay in Togo, with many shining eyes, joy and melancholy. The return to Italy, at least for me, took a few days to return to the rhythms that initially almost annoyed me, thanks to an experience that I believed, in many respects, to be taken as an example in life.

Our last visit to Togo was recently, just early December 2024.

Part of the group was the one from April, others were brand new, like my mother, having her first experience in a place so far away and different from the comforts of home.

The introduction of the snails, which represented the point of arrival of the entire first part of the work and the beginning of the second, aroused concern and anxiety for a few days: the long transport (almost forty days of crossing from Genoa to Lomé) , the long wait at the customs of the port of arrival...the interminable other waits for the release of the goods and, finally, the transport, have contributed to triggering fears, disturbances and the worst fears...However the snails arrived in splendid shape, magnificently preserved, beautiful and active.

This allowed us to quickly introduce the first breeders into the field the following morning, correct some small inaccuracies improve the shot and start with the opening of the water.





Water was used to a limited extent which allowed the molluscs to wake up and ensure an environment with excellent temperature and humidity for this cute but demanding little animal. On the same day, demonstrations were carried out on a basic and already functional collection of *Helix* snail slime.

Our presence in Togo, this time, however, also had ulterior purposes, going to the dispensaries of the congregation and applying small quantities of Bava on the epithelial tissues of patients suffering from dermatitis, more or less serious burns, or sores. The face of a little girl severely burned by a pot full of boiling sauce that ended up on her will remain in my mind. The doctors, with the help of **Aurelia** (a medical graduate who came with us on this third mission to Africa), and **Maddalena** (my mother), showed the local doctors how to treat the application of the slime on these tissues - come on more serious, to the less problematic. The slime immediately proved to be a valid ally, if managed with dedication, due timing, of the right quality.



We hope to be able to proceed as best we can, now that breeding is fully underway and important goals are being achieved with drool, albeit just at the beginning, on this continent.

However, we are deeply confident and are already ready to expand the ramifications that heliciculture allows, as well as the craft sector, which allows the processing of *Helix* snail shells, personalizing them and making them unique by local artists and artisans.



It is and will be a major undertaking, and we are proud of it. The presence of the now indispensable **Pasquale Grimaldi**, his wife **Ilaria, Maria** and **Carmine**, who also participated in this third mission, gave an added value that further and profoundly coloured the relationship and friendship born with these places.

We would like to give a big thank you to the Congregation for the important opportunity that has been offered to us.





New growth in Myanmar

A part of the eastern area of Shan State, one of the largest in Myanmar, is occupied by 'Region 4', a special region, administered by the Peace and Solidarity Committee (PSC) of Shan State itself.

Out of our 12 communities in Myanmar delegation, two are located right in Region 4. They are: Je Ye and Mong Lar.

But now there are 3 communities in this Region; in fact, on January 12th, a new presence of the Sisters of Providence was started in Bache, about an hour away from Je Ye.

This opening had long been desired by our Bishop, Monsignor John Saw Yaw Han; the sisters willingly responded to the request, also considering the continuity with our presence in these lands which in the past, under the guidance of Monsignor Abraham Than, had been very intense.

With the new community we wish to resume with strength and fervor the proclamation of the Gospel to the people, while dedicating ourselves also to the Nursery School just started by the Diocese and to other services in the parish, dedicated to Saint Francis Xavier, which includes 17 villages.

For now the sisters will live near the parish church, in a house made available to them, until the convent

14 is built. The nearby Christian community is currently made up of 66 Catholic families, but the sisters' service will be extended to all villages.

The people of this area live almost exclusively from agriculture, mainly cultivating tea and the rubber plant.

The welcome of the two sisters, *Sister Benedet Thin and Sister Goretti Nge Phaw*, by the people was very warm. Participation in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday 12th January, the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, confirmed the joy of being able to have the presence of the Sisters and God's blessings descended abundantly on everyone!



On this new spring of life of the Religious Family in Myanmar we invoke the benevolent gaze of Mary, Mother of Providence, and of our Father St. Luigi.



THREE YEARS of the LAUDATO SI' INITIATIVE PLATFORM



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On Sunday 10th November 2024, during the Angelus in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis addressed a significant message of gratitude and encouragement for the global efforts of the *Laudato Si'* Initiatives Platform and said:

"Three years ago the Laudato Si' Initiative Platform was launched.

I thank those who are working in favor of this initiative.

In this regard, I hope that the Climate Change Conference, COP29,

which starts tomorrow in Baku,

can make an effective contribution to the protection of our Common Home."

These words represented an important milestone for the *Laudato Si'* Initiatives Platform, celebrating three years of ecological action on a global level.

In the Annual Report for 2024, the growth, results and global impact of the Platform were highlighted. With more than 10,000 participants representing families, dioceses, schools, organizations and more (nearly 5,000 leaders from schools, congregations, parishes and other institutions, along with more than 5,000 families and individuals), this report shows the collective efforts of the Church in addressing the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. It also documents several significant milestones, including green projects, community collaborations and support for sustainable development.

It is interesting to note that 608 reflections and 826 action plans have been published on the Platform website.

'By uniting the Church and the world, the Laudato Si' Action Platform applies the Pope's 'symphonic' vision, resulting in countless concrete acts of love dedicated to caring for the work of God,' said Cardinal

Michael Czerny, SJ, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promotion of Integral Human Development.

As the global ecological crisis intensifies, faith-based organizations are at the forefront in their efforts to care for creation and all who share it.

The platform has seen a notable growth in the registrations of Religious Congregations, a total of 536, across all continents. This demonstrates a strong recognition of the Platform as an integral part of the consecrated persons' mission of caring for creation.

In 2025 we celebrate the Jubilee, a year of conversion and restoration, focused on social justice, equality and brotherhood: joining the Platform is in line with the Jubilee call to action, embodying the Goals of Laudato Si', to address our socio-environmental crisis and to increase the commitment of religious congregations to integral ecology.

Registration on the Laudato Si' Initiatives Platform is therefore an act of hope for the future we are building together. Institutions, communities and families were invited to reflect on how the Goals of Laudato Si' connect to the core values of loving-kindness, responsible stewardship of our place in creation and care for the most vulnerable.

The participants generously shared their reflections, extending the hand of friendship as a sign of journeying together towards a better future.

Our Congregation is also among these: if we enter the platform website and open COMMUNITY we can find two of our themes for reflection:

<https://piattaformadiiniziatiavelaudatosi.org/comunita/>

Click: View Reflections – Italian language –

Sectors: Religious Congregations and you will find the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Gaetano of Thiene twice with two videos:

- **The Canticle to the Creator by Father Luigi** published on 09/29/2022
- **The Brazilian show on Laudato Si' conquers the world and the heart of the Pope** published on 09/02/2023

The same thing for the Laudato si' plans:

- the first is the action **plan of the Congregation** published on 10/11/2022
- the second is always to be found in the Italian language where it is written Congregation Sisters of Providence of St. Gaetano Thiene, however, being an action plan proposed by Brazil it is in Portuguese. It was published on 02/13/2024.

The Laudato Si' Initiatives Platform exemplifies how the Catholic Church is making efforts to inspire communities to address environmental challenges through practical and spiritual means.

John Mundell, Director of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, encourages us with this call: *"With the unity that brings trust, strength and courage, I exhort you: 'Forward, pilgrims! We are not alone!'"*

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