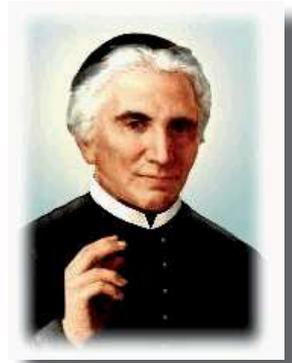


Vivere Insieme



FAMILY OF PROVIDENCE

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Laudato si'...

Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the

air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself.

Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with re-

ason".[19] His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists.

If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.

What is more, Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (Wis 13:5); indeed, "his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world" (Rom 1:20).

For this reason, Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.[21] Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.

From the ENCYCLICAL LETTER LAUDATO SI' OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

nn. 1-2-10-12

2



We must love God because God has loved us

The benefit that we receive from God are so many and such that if we do not love God we are not worthy to exist.

What has God done for us? We were all in nothing. But God thinks of us and loves us from all eternity and for this from all eternity he has decided to create us.

He himself tells us through the mouth of Jeremiah: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." (Jer. 31.3)

We were in nothing, and he from all eternity thinks of us and loves us.

And even as we are the wretched and unworthy in his sight, he thought of us and loved us.

He gave us a soul, gave us a body,
eyes to see, nostrils to smell and ears to hear;
the palate to taste and touch to feel.
God created for us everything that you see in this world:
For us the sun and the stars, the firmament;
for us the mountains, valleys, plains;
for us the birds in the air, the fish in the water, all the animals on the earth,
for us the flowers, fruits, and crops.

All that is found in this world was created by God for us.
He created suitable things to delight our senses.
To brighten our eyes he made the colours and gave various forms to all things;
to give flavour to smell he distilled sweet smells on fruits and plants;
recreated our hearing with the musical songs of the birds;
and to sweeten the palate he distributed various essences in delicious food.

The Heavens and the earth, which are created for us, raise their voice and tell us:

"We love our Benefactor!"

St. Augustine raised his eyes to heaven and it seemed as though the sun and the stars were saying to him:

"Augustine, love your God, for he has created us for you that you might love Him."

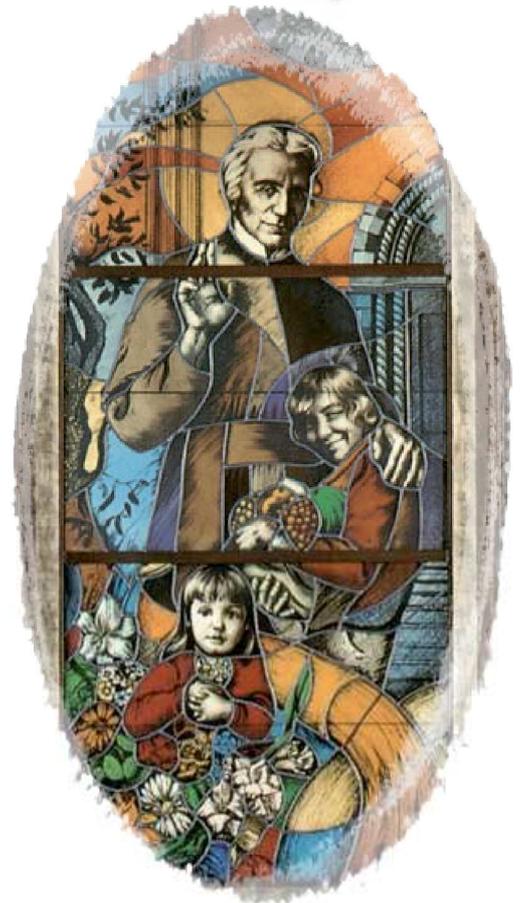
He looked at the mountains, hills and trees and felt as though they were saying to him:

"Augustine, love the God who has created us to serve you so that you might love Him."

And this talking of creatures is heard by a person who while looking at a fruit or a flower contemplates in it the great love of His God. He felt that the creation taunted his ingratitude towards God.

It is good that one feels that way... thus we too will hear whenever we doubt the reason the good God had in creating these creations.

He created the things especially for us to delight all our senses; it is for us that He created the world. How ungrateful would we be if we do not love him with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength!



SISTERS AND FELLOW DISCIPLES AT THE SCHOOL OF JESUS IN A HARMONIOUS DIVERSITY to witness the joy of salvation to the poor

This is the title of the 27th General Chapter, which will be celebrated in the months of June and July 2017.

During 2016, the entire Religious Family has already experienced the atmosphere of Chapter with the celebration of 5 provincial chapters and the 4 Delegation Meetings, which were important events and fruitful for the singular purpose.

It is not possible to report in these pages the experience of individual gatherings... We bring here some of the ideas that have emerged while editing.

The Province of Italy,

in preparation for the provincial Chapter, has used a special plan of action with the aim of personal involvement of all the Sisters. Three meetings were held, each lasting for ten days in which, divided into groups, all the Sisters got the chance to participate and bring in their contribution to the chapter. In this way it became indeed a celebration which we could define it as a plenary meeting, involving everyone.

The reflection, obviously, focused on the theme of the Chapter proposed by the General Council, helped also by the working tool to study the contents.

In Italy today we are facing the reality of refugees who are coming in great numbers on our coasts, or from far away



countries through mountains. To understand better their life and to identify ourselves with their problems and to be truly welcoming as our Father Luigi would have liked us to be we went to Istria to relive the experiences of the refugees as lived by our Sisters who from 1947 to 1952 were forced to leave the beautiful land of Istria and all the works which they had set up with much sacrifice and self-denial, the

works started by Father Luigi and extended in a big way by Mother Cecilia.

Here we bring only a few lines from the book "Le Suore della Provvidenza in Istria" written by Lucia Manzutto which recount the reasons for the exodus, not much different from what is happening today to many refugees:

"For many years, the Sisters faced the hardship of poverty and took over a wonderful job in absolute discreetness. The fruitful life of works went on quietly until May 1945 when the "Red Liberators" came and uprooted and destroyed everything. Secretly some works went on for some time despite the dangerous and continuous traps laid out to Sisters.

The Sisters were subjected

We are in the courtyard of the Old age Home of Rovigno



to harassment and bullying of all kinds to weaken their resistance, so much so, in October 1947, the police raided the convent causing confusion all over.

They instructed the Sisters not to leave the school and in the afternoon of the same day they led them to the Office of the notorious OZNA (police). Who does not remember those hours? It was the mothers and the young girls who rushed to the gate of the check post and cried out demanding the release of the Sisters until a few hours later when the Sisters were left free to return to their home.

After this event, for months, secretly, our people kept an eye on the convent so that there are no deportations during the night. In this atmosphere of terror the school was suppressed and its building was used as a barracks. There was nothing more to do than leave.

The Sisters, led by the superior, left Istria and came to Mother House at Gorizia with a heavy heart".

So we went to Istria on a "Pilgrimage".

We were prepared with a quick overview on the "Chronicles" of the Sisters with movies on the sad history of those years. Then we visited what remained of the many works that were in Pirano, Parenzo, Umago, Rovigno and Pola.

The welcome given by the people everywhere was very touching: There were always still some who recalled the Sisters. Especially the elderly people of the Old Age Home of Rovigno welcomed us singing old Italian songs. The house had been opened in 1900 by Mother Cecilia as per agreements previously made by Father Luigi himself who, on 27th April 1882, had opened in that city a kindergarten. This building is now a secondary school. The religion teacher, with the consent of the principal, asked

Here we are... posed for the photo...
ex Primary School of Pirano



us to place a plaque that would recall San Luigi Scroscoppi as the founder of this school and bear testimony for the uninterrupted presence of the Sisters of Providence there from 1882 to 1947.

In Umago the Deputy Mayor, an Italian, was proud to show us around the town and all the things that demonstrated the "Italianness" that is still there or that has been recuperated, especially the Italian nursery school that still continues its service.

In other cities we saw our houses in a state of abandonment or completely renova-



ted...

We concluded the pilgrimage with the Jubilee in the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Tersatto, near the River, where, according to tradition, the Holy House of Nazareth was for 2 and a half years before being transported to Loreto.

Sr. Lambertina who wrote in the booklet to remember her experience of being there, concludes by saying:

"History unfortunately tends to repeat: we see that what happens in the world today had already happened yesterday. After every war there is always a small or large migration... Today we see men and women who defy the sea, crossing the desert and travel many kilometres to reach a land that they hope is more human and less hostile..."

And at the end exhorts:

"Look with your heart, look inside his bundle
And you will discover that basically he is your brother."

A little tree
painted who knows when...
and by whom...
on the wall
of the Primary School
of Pirano



Sorocaba, Brazil 20-29 June 2016

The Providence, although not the theme of the 10th Chapter of the province of "Nostra Signora Aparecida" (Our Lady of Apparition), was the leading thread that helped us live this event in the experience that it is always the divine grace that moves us and sustains us.

6 The Chapter was not held only in the Chapter hall, but it started right from the moment of receiving the letter of convocation from the Mother General. The communities immediately started to get engrossed and began studying and responding to the proposed questions. During the province meetings we discussed together what the basis of the theme "Sisters and fellow disciples at the school of Jesus, in the harmonious diversity, to witness the joy of salvation to the poor" means for us daughters of Father Luigi.

The celebration of the Chapter was a living expression of the cooperation and involvement of each Sister. We the Sisters, delegated to the chapter, experienced an atmosphere of fraternal love and a deep sense of communion. We have had the

grace of the simple and motherly presence of our Mother General who helped us with her wisdom and experience. It was a true Pentecost, not for the great things, but for the ability to understand the hand of the Lord in our daily life and mission.

The Eucharistic celebrations and other prayer moments were very rich. We can say that the prayer was the driving force that has guided our thoughts and decisions of not only those pertaining to us but of the whole Religious Family. This has made us feel the strength of the communion.

The theme of the chapter has helped us to make a great dive into what is ourselves, i.e. we took stock of the riches, gifts and the limitations of our life and mission. The challenges have disturbed us a bit, but we have considered them in an atmosphere of hope and trust among ourselves. This has also reminded us that we are called to live the surrender to God, the Provident Father.

The international novitiate was a new topic, and even though we look at this reality with a certain concern, we considered and accepted it as a true gift from God, knowing that this is a way to collaborate with our Religious Family and to help the young people to experience right from the beginning of their journey the richness of diversity of the congregation.

Another point that challenges us is the commitment to "bear witness to the poor the joy of salvation": we believe that God calls us to and demands from us a response by continuing our mission of charity among the poorest and facing the challenges of opening new communities in the places of the poor and marginalized.

The experience of the Chapter has filled our hearts with trust, gratitude, joy and with a desire to go to the basics to do what is required of us.

We pray that our beloved Father, St. Luigi and Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, help us to live and work in seeking first the Kingdom of God and His glory, to walk always in his presence, loving and favouring the poor, the chosen ones of God.



We, the Sisters
of the Province of San Luigi,

have lived this event of grace *from July 1 to 9, 2016*. It was a time of sisterly sharing, prayer and seeking to know the will of God.

We wanted our hearts to be renewed to face the new world and we expressed this in the colours with which we decorated the altar during the meeting:

- *Red*: By covering almost the whole altar we wanted to express the vitality necessary for the realization of the mission that awaits us in the world.
- *Yellow*: It represented the sun and was the expression of the presence and grace of God in our history and in the life of the Province.
- *Light Blue*: It emphasized the Providence of God.
- *Blue*: It was the sign of the presence of the Sisters of Providence in the world and it referred to the new horizons, which we propose to the life of the Province.
- *Green*: It was an invitation to hope, symbolizing the whole world in the eschatological dimension with an invitation to

sustain the planet.

We are faced with a new world, which is in continuous evolution, for this the Provincial Chapter was for us another gift of God to help us all to see, accept and live this newness: "New wine in new wineskins." (Mk 2: 22).

Father Luigi continually invites us to have a conversion of the heart and to undertake a journey of profound personal and communitarian conversion.

Oh, how long is the road! We really need new hearts for a new world!



20th August to 1st September 2016

A great event: **the second Provincial Chapter of the Sisters of Providence in Africa**, an assembly of 20 Sisters in representation of all eight communities and 54 sisters currently present in Africa (Benin, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Togo).

We wanted to celebrate the Chapter in Anonkoua-Kouté, the village on the outskirts of Abidjan, which at the beginning of 2011 found itself between the two opposite shootings of guerrillas and where almost everything had been destroyed, including our house, the women's welfare Centre and the Health Centre. Before the Mass in the parish, we explained the reason for the choice of Anonkoua-Kouté as seat of the

Chapter assembly: To bear witness to the hope that we all must have in our hearts always especially in moments of suffering, pain and death, because for those who believe, the last word is always the joy, life and resurrection. It is the paschal mystery that is actualized in every person and in every time.

7

During the Chapter meeting we discussed the theme, emphasising on our concrete life of prayer, fraternity in diversity in the mission and in our works and in their management.

Everything was said in truth and love. Certainly not everything is solved, but the atmosphere of joy with which we lived has made us understand that our thoughts and times are not always the thoughts and time of God, therefore in humility and truth we passionately seek to do the will of God. There was no dearth of colours and dances, both in prayer, liturgy and in the beautiful moments of sisterly sharing. The whole congregation was with us, with their prayers and messages. The lay Scrosoppian groups of our province were also actively present both with the preparation of good meals, and with phone calls and messages.

Thanks to everyone especially to all those who prayed for us; we ask you to continue to pray, for it is now the time to zealously put into practice what we have decided.





The second chapter of the province of India was an extraordinary event during which we shared the richness of diversity of cultures and languages that we have in our beloved country.

We wish to briefly introduce you to some of these cultures, those in which we are involved in the apostolic mission or from where we ourselves come.

Kerala is the southern most state of India and known as "the Land of coconut trees". It has a rich cultural variety, which is also determined by its geographical characteristics and by the influence of the three great religions: Hinduism, Christianity and Islam.

8 It is the state that boasts of the highest literacy rate, gender equality and the lowest rate of mother and child mortality. It is also at the forefront as regards the health, education for all, social justice, law and order and the influence of the press and other means of communication. The rice and coconut constitute the essential part of the food of Kerala.

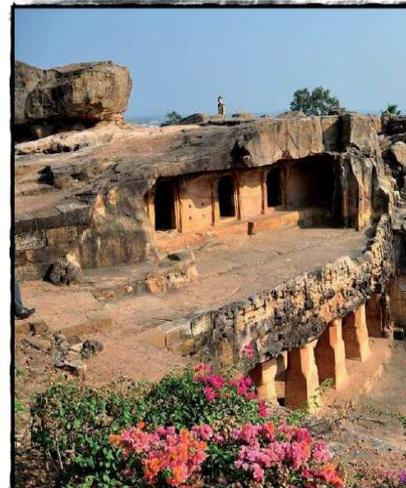
All the spirit of the life of this State manifests itself during the celebrations of the earth and festivities linked to the religions and places of worship. It is a land that boasts of an ancient Christian tradition, dating back to the Apostle St. Thomas and the Christians of Kerala are proud of the apostolic origin of their faith that is expressed with a strong mis-



sionary attitude.

The first Sisters who entered in the congregation belong to this culture that has facilitated their openness, right from the beginning, to the vast horizons of the whole of India.

The North East India is called the land of the seven sisters because there are seven different States, all different from each other, one more beautiful than the other, each with their own cultures and beliefs, each with its own charm and is a region protected by the mountains and, due to the limited accessibility from the rest of the world, has been able to maintain a style almost uncontaminated. The forests of the North-East are a treasure trove of biodiversity and is one of the most important ecological places of the world. The people of the North-East live a very simple life. All the tribes live in perfect harmony with nature, which has a very important role in their survival. About 60-70% of the population is predominantly tribal and resembling many cultures Tibe-to-Burmese, Mongolian and Austro-Asian. Christianity, led especially by the Salesian missionaries about 130 years ago and Hinduism are the more widespread religions in addition, of course, to the animism.



This region was our first apostolic field. It was a real test for our capacity to inculturate the Gospel message and to deal with the diversity. God has blessed our poor efforts by giving us many vocations from this land.

The Santal people live in the states of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya. The traditional religion of the Santal rotates around their intimate relationship with supernatural powers and with the spirit.

For centuries they have lived in relative cultural isolation and have suffered economic exploitation in the hands of loan sharks / money lenders. In this socio-economic situation of misery the missionary activity of the Jesuits was fundamental. The first Maltese Jesuit missionary came and settled among the poor Santals and identified himself with them, embracing

their style of life and battling bravely against the oppressive forces for justice, social equality, human dignity and respect for the poor and the marginalized. Even his successors too continued the redemptive work among the Santals.

The love for the indigenous people, the spirit of adaptation and the pastoral attitude of the Maltese Jesuits was for us a precious heritage and helps us to love our service.

The Odisha culture, which is of the State of Odisha (formerly Orissa), is known for the respect towards people and mutual tolerance towards people of other religions even though recently there were incidents of serious violence against Christians. The religion followed by the major part of the population of this State is Hinduism. Christianity is a minority community, but it has been made strong and alive precisely from the trials it has endured. The first version of the Bible in Odia

(Oria) language was printed in 1808 and was distributed among the Hindu pilgrims in Puri to let them know about Christianity.

The state of Odisha is an important sector of tourism in India with its natural beauty, beaches, temples and mystical monasteries of Buddhism, monuments of art, the many festivals and the beauty of its dances. Several our Sisters come precisely from

this culture even though we still do not have any community in this State.

The culture of West Bengal is considered one of the very rich cultures in India and this State also has the merit of being a pioneer in the cosmopolitan culture in the country. In the course of the years, the culture of West Bengal has emerged as a perfect mix of modernity and tradition. A popular saying goes thus: "What the Bengal thinks today, the rest of India will think tomorrow." This explains the rich genetic heritage of the people of Bengal so much so it has been the homeland of great social reformers through the centuries. The Bengalis have deep affinity toward the arts, crafts and music and believe especially in socialism.

It is a people who love to celebrate festivals. Fairs and festivals are an important

part of all religions of Bengal.

It is said that in Bengal there is a feast for every season, region and occasion. Music, literature and good cuisine are the characteristics of this state.

In W. Bengal you meet people belonging to almost all the religions practiced in India, however Hinduism and Islam are the predominant ones. Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains represent the minority communities. The Bengal, despite the inadequacy of the Christian presence, has become for us the centre of our province because it was chosen as the provincial headquarters, seat of the novitiate and ideal venue for young people to study. Almost all of us speak their language and thus we identify ourselves with their culture.

They are known as **the tribe of Chotanagpur** and live in the state of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Sometimes all four tribal groups or at least two or three live in one village in proximity of one another, sharing the same dialect: the Sadri. Each tribe has a leader and a number of neighboring villages constitute a confederation in which business is conducted by a representational Council. The tribes are exclusively formed by farmers and theirs is a primary economy. Generally they have preserved their design of traditional clothes, but some tribes have been influenced by contacts with modernity. All these tribes are protective of their identity and normally do not marry between different tribes. Parents generally organize the marriage with a genuine contract between families.

They celebrate many traditional festivals, linked mostly to the divinity of the trees. One of these is the Spring Festival, known as Sarhul and is celebrated when the tree of Sal is in full bloom. This also is a sacred tree for the Buddhists because it says that the Buddha was born and died under one of its branches.



Udine - Casa della Provvidenza

200 years

... and it doesn't seem!

The celebrations of the bicentenary Jubilee of the birth of the "Orphanage Home" was inaugurated on 1st and 2nd (Friday and Saturday) of April 2016. The celebrations will last for a year until the beginning of April 2017. This home was renamed with a new name known as "Casa delle Derelitte" and today it is recognised as a "Foundation of the Providence."

After having taken a delicious cake specially prepared to celebrate the unusual birthday party of the of Primary School children, which also coincided on the exact date of the anniversary, the programme of the day was particularly marked by the inauguration of an interesting exhibition of photographs of the age/time and a small conference that included the reports of two aspects namely; the long-lived charitable institution of Udine and a view of its actual status from a purely historical point of view.

At the request of the organizers, I had the honour of engaging myself as the first person. It was a pleasure and a great joy, having spent thirty years of life within these old walls. I could say that it was like my own house and family. But what does it mean to an ex student to have the

opportunity to witness the first Bicentenary of "Providence"?

It is not easy to consider and speak of such an event. Today's journalism would call it "epochal". This old institution of Udine, has gone through period of greatest transformation. In fact, within two years has given birth to the new statute, the new board of administration and the new president of the Foundation have made new scholastic coordinator, new superior, new teachers and new treasurer etc.

Many restricted news of the time could shake many alleged certainties and it also happened to me. More than once it happened that, in its apparent changes it seemed to have not recognised me as a good "master" of the house. But then very quickly, great modifications came about in the course of events. As good historian (this is my true job for several decades working as part-time in the act of "Providence" first as a volunteer then as an educator, and in the end, holding the role as the secretary of the school) while preparing the report of the meeting of last April helped me to "reconcile" with this present turmoil.



Judging by the very positive feedback that I received at the end of the report, I think I can transmit the enthusiasm of mine for a project in which I believe we can and must still believe, and if possible more than before: which was imagined and set by father Cajatan Salomoni two hundred years ago, carried on by father Carlo Filaferro, taken up and re-launched on a far wider scale by father Luigi Scrosoppi (canonized for this very reason) and then being guided until our days by the Sisters of Providence and many of their collaborators.

Beyond any structural modification, of any legislative setting, of any institutional evolution, and of any person engaged inside the "Mother House", the mission to engage oneself with the heart in hand for the children in difficulty we can never say that, is completed or no more. After the orphan girls of eighteenth century, and later the marginalised children of the nineteenth century, and even the suffering children of the twenty-first century that are waiting to be rescued, protected and supported by those who work, by following the guidelines set out by St. Luigi to his first sisters; starting from the invitation to give themselves totally to the most precious "pupils!"

Gabriele Caiazza/Udine



To be present in a region for 150 years is not little.

That's what we are at Cormons from 23rd January 1866. Therefore, the congregation wanted to remember its anniversary and celebrate it in the extraordinary jubilee year of mercy and make it even more extraordinary. And above all, to help to read the event as a history of Providence and mercy: we can truly sing with the psalmist: "Eternal is his mercy."

The solemn liturgy of thanksgiving was celebrated on the 23rd January, at the Shrine of Rosa Mystica, crowded by a big number of sisters joined even by the neighbouring communities and the people of Cormons.

The archbishop, Carlo Maria Redaelli during the celebration highlighted the event with appropriate and forceful words: *"I am sure that I don't make mistake in saying, what I express in few words, that the presence of these sisters for 150 years is truly the mercy of God. Is it not a witness to the word of God; taking care of children, youth, and their human and Christian education? Is it not mercy to make oneself close to the sick, caring, comforting and encouraging them? To give practical and effective attention to the poor, is it not mercy? The closeness and care given to the separated families, accompanying them in their events of life, the compassion towards their particular circumstances, the sharing of their joy at the birth of a baby, rejoicing with the two youngsters who get married, and at an unexpected healing, is it not mercy?"*

A beautiful conclusion. After having remembered the elderly and sick Sisters, the Bishop emphasised saying that, *"We should then give thanks for all the mercy that the Sisters of Providence have witnessed in these 150 years and also thank in anticipation for the witnessing life that they will be giving in the coming years"*.

The mayor, Patat, at the very introduction, briefly recalled the memory of what the Sisters of Providence meant to the people of Cormons saying that, *"the people of Cormons are proud of what the Sister have done and have contributed to the growth of the region,"* he reminded that the Sisters deserve appreciation and gratitude; *"for opening the school and the kindergarten, for the continuous and tireless service rendered to others, for caring the sick, assisting the poor and needy, especially during the tragic years of the two wars, when the families turned to the sisters to have a piece of bread and a bowl of soup!"*. He concluded



saying: *"We are extremely happy that we can still count on them, on their valuable work for our region and towards the needy"*.

Sr. Esther Leghissa, the Mother General, in her speech recalled how the providence wanted us accept the heritage of the Congregation of the Sisters of Christian Doctrine, founded by Orsola of Cave in 1714 and was suppressed by the Napoleonic laws in 1812. From that congregation, the Sisters of Providence, which was accompanied to Cormons on the 23rd January 1866 by the very founder Fr. Luigi Scrosoppi, inherited the convent where they would also spread the devotion to Mary, *"Mystical Rose and Mother of Providence."* There, they resume the scholastic activities of instruction and education of poor girls of Cormons and the nearby places.

But among all the activities that have taken place over time, what Mother wanted to emphasize is the peculiar role that the house plays: since from the very beginning, infact, until now it's a home for the elderly and sick sisters: *"The great mission of charity lived by the elderly and sick sisters who continuously offer their suffering and illness, and the sisters who assist them with a tireless heart and full of love."*

And again: *"It is this house, for those who see it superficially may seem closed and far from the world, but instead it has become the heart of our religious family. Here we come to ask for spiritual support and courage before every new mission. It is here that the young sisters from all around the world come to learn how to be faithful to God and to the Church and to learn from the living testimony of every day, what it means not to be afraid of giving one's life fully for the brethren"*.

As a community we have tasted the joy and thankfulness for these 150 years. We share the title that the diocesan weekly "La voce Isontina" had given to the event: **"A Long 150 Years of Thanksgiving"**. We wish to daily extend our Thanksgiving to the Lord for the time that he gives us, because *"Eternal is his mercy!"* (Ps 117).

Flowering of vocations

During the year 2016, the bounty of God has gifted us some young sisters who have chosen to start or to continue their journey of formation. They are the new sprouts planted in the garden of our religious family who need a lot of love and care in order to grow, to mature and to bloom. May the Holy Spirit help them to walk with joy and love in fulfilling the plan that God has for each one of them.

February 1st. Anniversary of the beginning of the religious family.

Today the congregation enriches by a new postulant, **Sheron** from Uruguay, who begins the first stage of formative journey along with the group of the young sisters in the Formation house of Sorocaba (Brazil).

March 25th. Solemnity of the Annunciation of Mary.

At Keng Tung, in Myanmar, **Rosy** and **Angelina** begin the period of the novitiate, an intense time to live more united with Jesus, listening to His Word and His will.

August 7th. feast of St. Cajtan of Thiene our special protector.

Five youngsters ask to begin the postulancy to prepare themselves to become Sisters of Providence and avail themselves to follow Jesus. Their names are: **Benjamine, Epifhanie B., Epifhanie K., Françoise** and **Marie Reine**.

September 8th. feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Vergin Mary and a day particularly marked for the congregation to remember the special protection received during the war.

Thirteen young postulants request to begin the period of novitiate. They are: **Aimée, Antoinette Carine, Antoinette Marie, Christine, Juste, Marthe** and **Sonia** hailing from Togo, Ivory Cost and Kongo; **Daphilin, Gloria, Grikmera, Martha, Mukta** and **Tresalline** from India.

They have been in the formation house for a period of time and now, they wish to continue to commit themselves forever, following the spirit of Fr. Luigi, that is the spirit of humility, simplicity and charity.

On the same day in Brazil at Sorocaba **Sr. Maria das Dores dos Santos** also make her first profession on the 8th of September.

October 5th. Solemnity of our Founder, St. Luigi Scrosoppi.

Today the three novices **Sr. Alice, Sr. Apolline** and **Sr. Lea** make their first profession.

December 11th will be a feast day at Keng Tung for **Sr. Lucia** and **Sr. Benedetta** who will make their first profession according to our Rule of Life.

With the religious profession, the novices express before the church their choice to belong totally to Jesus through the three vows, thus commit themselves to love, poor and obedient Jesus with an undivided heart, to serve Him with a spirit of sacrifice and joyous dedication in the needy brethren and to live fraternal communion, surrendering themselves to Christ the Lord, in the spirit of our Congregation.

From April to December we have celebrated nine perpetual profession. Precisely:

- **Sr. Juliana, Sr. Eide Paula, Sr. Antonia Vanere** in Brazil (April)
- **Sr. Mhabeni** in India (December)
- **Sr. Michelina, Sr. Maria Goretti, Sr. Immaculata, Sr. Winifred, Sr. Virginia** in Myanmar (December)

We recommend each of these young sisters to the prayers of everyone so that they may always be able to maintain the freshness of their heart, and their love for God and for the neighbor may always be ardent. May their journey be blessed by the Lord, by the Virgin Mary and Fr. Luigi, our Holy Founder.

Canonization of Saint Luigi Scrosoppi: 15th anniversary!

Last June the communities of the Brazilian province "Nostra Signora Aparecida" celebrated the 15th anniversary of Father Luigi's canonization. They presented him as a Christian model who fully lived his faith and proved that the Gospel can be experienced in everyday life. In this edition of "Vivere Insieme" ("Living together") we would introduce you the celebration of the 15th anniversary of his canonization, which took place in the "Providence" School, in Salvador de Bahia.

The "Providence" School is actually a place of mission, a reality chosen by Saint Luigi to set his tent and live among the poor, without race, skin, religion, or any discrimination. He lived among the descendants of the African people, who experience their faith in a different but meaningful way.

Salvador was the first Brazilian capital city. During the 15th century a hundred of ships arrived to its harbour with a multitude of African people: slaves who had to live there. For this reason, our children can feel the cruelty of the past running through their veins. However, thanks to some charismatic leaders like Zumbi dos Palmares and many others, this community has saved its identity and gained freedom, while experiencing its culture and the joy of life.

It is here, precisely in the heart of the city and in the suburbs of Salvador de Bahia - where tenacious people live - that the Sisters of Providence, daughters of Father Luigi, settled their mission 18 years ago serving God among the children, the poorest children. The 15th anni-



versary of Saint Luigi's canonization has been the opportunity to evoke his humility, his simple way of life devoted to God and to serve the poor of his time. For this reason, the "Providence" School organised a Memorial Day with many activities and opportunities of interaction and prayer. This celebration aimed at commemorating Saint Luigi as a model of concrete charity and at lightening everyone's loyalty among the poor and faith in God.

The Memorial Day began with the Holy Mass followed by a nice breakfast fraternally prepared by who joined the celebration. The whole morning was dedicated to a training course for the employees and the participants of the School on the topic "The leadership following the model of Saint Luigi Scrosoppi".

It was introduced by Sister Maria Madalena, who talked about authority and humility in authority following the charity model of Father Luigi, who put his heart into his mission among the poor.

After lunch, many activities for the children were organised in the school gym, which involved the whole school community: students, teachers, custodians, collaborators, and

parents.

It was a great and joyful celebration. In the end, some students under the direction of Claudia, a theatre teacher, staged the miracle of Father Luigi's canonization approved by the Holy Church.

It all started from a miracle done by Father Luigi to an African boy that confirms his great and limitless love. He was truly a charitable man,

a model of humble life among the poor. Afro-American children and young boys identify themselves in this fact because they are all bound to their roots. They are also grateful to those ones who help and serve them according to Saint Luigi's model of love. They consider him a great man of God, who served the Holy Church and the poor of his time - children, young boys and girls, and families - without any distinction.

It is worth mentioning that it has been possible also thanks to the Sisters of Providence and to lay people who daily work and cooperate in this mission of Salvador de Bahia and all over the world.

Thank you, Saint Luigi Scrosoppi, for your concrete presence!



Jubilee of Mercy

The Year of Mercy has been a special and an extraordinary grace for our community. Two are the events that we would mention: The opening of the Holy Door in the Sanctuary “Rosa Mistica” and the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Religious Family in Cormons.

If one wants to see these circumstances under the light of Providence, one should state that it always foreruns and supports us.



On January 11 during a sober but intense ceremony the Archbishop of Gorizia, Carlo Maria Radaelli, opened the Holy Door. It was not the main door, but the lateral one that from the ex-voto corridor leads you to the presbytery. This decision has been made for “pastoral” reasons, and thus to promote this sacred place and to simplify the entrance to our infirm sisters.

There you can find many posters showing mosaics of the cathedral of Aquileia with some considerations and descriptions that encourage the pilgrims passing through the Holy Door and help them in their way towards Jesus Christ.

During the homily, in order to be wrapped by Mercy, the Arch-

bishop suggested to meditate on the meaning of three different “doors”: *our personal door, the door of God, and the door of the Church.*

Our personal door is that of the heart: outside the door there are two different characters that want to “occupy” our heart. The former is the sin that – crunched – aims to enter our life and suggests us an alternative joyful way to God. The latter is Jesus Christ, who is not crunched and does not want to cheat us with misleading promises. Jesus stands in front of the door of our heart, He knocks on it without breaking into because He respects our freedom of choices. He taps on it with His word that should be welcomed in our hearts.

The second door is that of God: from its threshold He carefully observes the path while waiting for His son. And then, when He sees him, He feels compassion, He runs towards him, He rushes into his arms and kisses him, then He clothes His son with the finest dress.

Finally, *there is the Church*, from which we were suggested to exit, not to escape from it but to meet people where they are, right there in their difficulties: an “outgoing Church”, as the Pope says.

There have been many chances to “taste” this special moment, this Jubilee of Mercy that has invol-

ved many communities: the deaneries, the parishes and all religious people.

Every day, in the morning and in the afternoon, there has been the opportunity to find a priest of the



deanery to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation, and every Friday morning, after the Holy Mass, there has been the chance to join the Eucharistic Adoration until 7:10 p.m., time to sing the Vespers.

The inflow of prayers has been incessant, especially to the sacrament of Reconciliation. The whole community has felt particularly involved in prayer, hospitality, and in its silent availability like an “opened door” enabling everyone’s rush into Jesus arms.





The inflow of prayers and the pastoral cooperation with Borgnano, Brazzano, Cormons, Dolegna del Collio and with the deanery made the priest ask the bishop to leave the Holy Door open until April 15, when that one of the Sanctuary of Barbana/Grado was finally opened.

One of the major “fruits” of the Jubilee has been the rediscovery of the sacrament of Reconcilia-

The Jubilee has been a weighty and special moment also for consecrated people, especially for our elderly sisters. In fact, the episcopal delegate, Father Arnaldo Greco, has arranged the constant presence of three priests – one for each ward – for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

The sisters have appreciated such a rich moment, and meanwhile the priests have discovered a new and special reality. It has been comforting for them to hear from the Pope that the door of our own room is a Holy Door.

When I enter my room, when I offer my prayer, or when I join my pain to that of Jesus, the door is a Holy Door of Mercy. This way of seeing things brings light and strength to the consecrated life, especially during difficult situations.

They were also given the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door of the Sanctuary.

On February 6 all the sisters, even those ones on a wheelchair, were welcomed in the Saint Joseph Chapel. Father Paolo, the priest, illustrated the meaning of passing through the Holy Door and they were all full of immeasurable joy and gratitude for the special gift that God granted them.

Afterwards they all went into the central nave and it was a strange feeling to see a “cloud” of white veils, a multitude of wheelchairs. It aroused tenderness among the participants. We all prayed the Holy Rosary. The sisters were really joyful.

Our community celebrated the Jubilee of the consecrated life on



February 2 with all religious people from the diocese.

There were many priests and the bishop presided over the celebration. In the end he gave a candle with the logo of the Jubilee to every community.

This year of Mercy has been particularly involving especially thanks to the priest, who first has passed through the Holy Door at the end of the daily Mass and then invited us to do the same.

In order to keep what has been reevaluated during this Year of Mercy, on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Sanctuary “Rosa Mistica” will remain open for the personal prayer and the Eucharistic Adoration.

On Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. there will be the opportunity of approaching the Confession.

We all pray God to ripen the fruits of this Jubilee!



I was a stranger... and you welcomed me!

In 2014, a few months after the closure of the community of "The Nazarene" in Gorizia, the diocesan Caritas, has asked our Congregation the availability of the property for the reception of refugees coming by land from various countries.

The Province of Italy responded promptly to this appeal, offering a large part of the house freely. It was also prompted by the call of Pope Francis to the Religious to make available the unused spaces with an attitude of charity towards the needy motivated by trust in the Providence of God that distinguish us as a religious family.

Caritas of Gorizia, through the Consortium of Social Cooperatives "The Mosaic," initiated, therefore, the management of this activity which by the passage of time has been consolidated and developed. Here is a presentation by the members of this Consortium itself.

We have already come to the second year of experience in welcoming refugees and each one welcomed into this structure brings with him/her the stories of deprivation of fundamental rights.

16 Daily emerge stories of long journeys, interspersed with more or less long stops in other countries, to reach Italy, in an attempt to escape the high risk to life that forces every day the young and the old to abandon not only the country of origin, but also all family ties.

Many refugees tell us of existing dangerous and harsh living conditions in their country,

often marked by the loss of parents or siblings in internal battles waged by the Taliban and their desire to free itself from a dictatorial system.

After the renovations of the structure in 2015 in

which 90 seats had been arranged, we have just started further renovations (which is unfortunately very expensive) to arrange for 150 seats.

The seats are always fully occupied and therefore the days of our operators are quite busy.

Our work is principally to collect the materials and at the same time listening and identifying the needs of each.

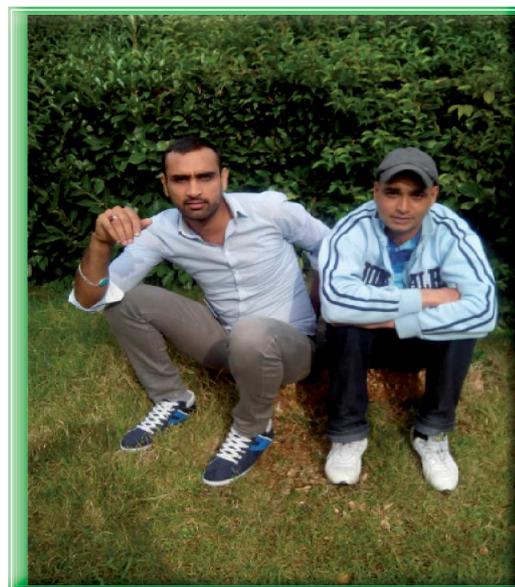
The activity consists of the most important aspect of integration to the new situation, which begins with the Italian language courses.

Presently, two different level of courses are offered to the refugees.

Those who already have a basic understanding of the language, can therefore continue the study of language better in the second level. This, in fact, is a key tool for life in Italy, to search for

a job and more generally for the knowledge of Italian culture. In this way new resources invested to achieve this goal.

Refugees are guaranteed legal assistance, linguistic-cultural mediation, and medical support.



During this second year, the activities are more than the expected and the persons coming in search of the help offered are numerous.

A form of collaboration was set up with a psychotherapist with an experience in the immigration field, to support the refugees affected by post-traumatic stress.

A linguistic-cultural mediation service is enhanced with two workers who manage multiple languages. Thanks to their service through which it is possible to communicate in Pashto, Urdu, Farsi, Dari, Punjabi, German, Arabic and



English.

The asylum is also frequented by numerous volunteers. A painting course and a civic education course are taught by a volunteer teacher in order to give the refugees the rules required to live in the community. This serve to be the basics of an effective multicultural integration.

Following the request of the majority of the guests, many sport activities are also organized. There was the possibility to use a suitable field for cricket, a very popular sport in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Recently our guests together with our mediators, participated in an international tournament of amateur football, winning the first prize. The initiative was highly appreciated and this venture helped all participants to feel part of the community.

In near future, the placement of at least 7 Guests will be completed. We have properly trained them who will be recruited by Fincantieri Monfalcone.

It is important for us, in network with organizations and local associations, to implement projects that provide for volunteer activities by

guests of the Nazarene, who can be engaged in small works of maintenance and/or gardening. Volunteering helps the guests/refugees to appreciate themselves as useful to the community. But at the same time, it is useful in establishing new relationships and links and also helps one to get a minimum of leisure. It is thus becoming our scope to help the disadvantaged people, who otherwise would have difficulty in getting integrated.

In general, the feeling is that the guests feel part of a community both within the House (and this is also seen in the management / daily self-management) within the host city and within Italy in general. This is demonstrated by the fact that, in raising funds for the earthquake victims in central Italy made between all members of "Il Mosaico", many guests/refugees have made their contribution.

It is our belief that, only this way our guests (refugees) can overcome the distrust and gain the respect of Gorizia citizens who, at times, even for fear of what they do not know, find it difficult to get close to a reality so distant from them.

A final consideration. Every time I go to the Nazarene I cannot help but re-read what is written under the kiosk of name holder: "Jesus of Nazareth have mercy on us." I think it is the most efficient synthesis of what is our miserable attempt in front of the enormous needs of this place.



A story of Providence that you touch every day

Community of Rivera
Uruguay



Rivera, border city with Santana do Livramento, is called the "City of Peace" for the harmony that exists between the two cities, where they speak the so-called "Portuñol", ie a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese. Simple people, in very poor streets surrounding large part of the city.

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Our mission of the Sisters of Providence takes place at Rivera that today has about 10,000 inhabitants. But when we arrived, there weren't many. Our start was a continuation of the work begun by two Spaniards, Sr. Monserrat and Fr. Angelo Solano, who died on 17 January. The work was known as the "Guardería (Asylum) Hagia Sophia". Since its inception, in 1972, it welcomed some children, adolescents and young people. It also had an Out-patients department "Mary Health of the Sick" where they were offering some services of general medicine and dentistry, and a chapel dedicated to "Mary Mother of the Church".

For different reasons, the two founders had to return to Spain and Sister Luisella Miragliuolo, who used to go there every weekend from Hospital Rivera for catechesis came to know of the departure of missionaries. She presented to our Provincial, Mother Augusta Weber, the prospect that religious Family could take on this mission. After reflecting and praying, it was decided to accept the insertion in this place of great poverty. It was a way of responding to the spirit in which the the religious family was going. And of course, it was also a response to the call of the Church to the religious to embrace the poorest.

Three nuns were designated: Sr. Luisella Miragliuolo as the animator, Sister Lourdes dos Santos and Sister Mabel Cuello.

In 1986, on the feast of St. Joseph (March 19), putting us under his protection, and entrusting everything to Father Luigi and Our Lady, we celebrated the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Edgardo Mendiolo and we began with a pilgrimage. In fact, we belonged to the parish of San Domenico, 7 km away, which meant that we had to get to the place for the Mass walking, because there was no other means. Some children and others accompanied us.

The atmosphere was very rustic. The windows were covered with nylon and the streets were very narrow. The enthusiasm and the joy of all were obvious. Trust in the Providence of God and the experience of its wonderful concrete gestures move us without break. People, even those who belonging to other religions (which are many and varied) received us with respect and joy and accompanied us all the time.

Years passed, and there came also new sisters, but all brought improvements and innovations. In agreement with the State, the name of the endeavour was also changed. The ministry is now called: "Obra Social Mandubii" and on the coat of arms is brought the rosette which depicts an Indian child.

Each of the nuns who lived in Mandubi was a bearer of the charism that has slowly strengthened, making even grow in the people a firm trust in Providence and the firm conviction that what you want you can.

People started cultivating the land and slowly we began to get donations as well. Thus the activities began to expand. At a certain moment, there came an anonymous donation of \$ 10,000, which made us to recognize that, inspired by Divine Providence, individual lay people and some institutions, together with us, are the real protagonists in this Mission.

The number of children, in time, was increased. Today we serve 167 children from 0 to 3 years among which 92 children (between 6 and 12) and 13 high school teenagers are helped through the projects subsidized by the state. With the help of 42 officials (many of them are professionals), we carry out special activities for infants. We promote human and social values in them, educate them, provide food for them and take care of their health and Christian formation. We also pay attention to provide them with music training, sports facilities etc.

The charism, however, requires us to go even further. So a nun of the community serves about 50 children in the neighbourhood "The Arenera". There, on Saturdays, always with the help of young people and adults, we animate a small oratory.

Another sister goes to a village 74 kilometres away, once or twice a week, to bring the message of Jesus through prayerful readings, catechesis; visiting families etc. She is accompanied by a priest and laity. During these 30 years, it has had a vertical growth. Many families have contributed to

the development of the place by constructing brick houses and thereby bringing improvement in all aspects.

The community can have Mass every day; during the week the faithful present are not many, but on Sundays our chapel is always full.

Everything is Gift and Providence of God. The



Lord expands His Kingdom beyond our limits and... from Italy to this corner of Uruguay the charisma of Father Luigi has arrived and it is already known, admired and implored by many. In fact, there are many non-believers who have changed the expression: "What a luck!" to "What a coincidence!" We thank the divine providence, and so recognize that God never abandons his children, that His mercy is infinite and he pours it abundantly in His Son Jesus on those who trust in his love.

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As we celebrate the 30 years of our presence in Mandubii, we praise the Lord also because it gives us the joy of having a young one of this city in the House of Formation in Sorocaba (Brazil), at the beginning of her journey. We ask you to pray also to the entire family for another girl who, in recent months, is making closer experience with the nuns.

"The Lord has been kind to us": let everything be for His glory and for the good of the Church.





In this Holy Year of Jubilee we had many opportunities to listen and learn various topics related to the theme of mercy. Pope Francis does not cease to help us live with this attitude.

Surely, the Lord has made us also the gift of concrete life situations where we perceived and experienced in person what it means to be merciful.

For us it was nice to find out in our lives those figures, true icons, that awaken within us a sense of wonder for what they are and do, that speak concretely of mercy because they help us perceive something new on the divine life ... especially when we look at things with the eyes of faith, as says Father Luigi. How many beautiful and meaningful icons: our moms or dad, a sister or a brother, a sister of the community who knows to pour the balm of mercy with a great heart, a committed layman living Christian charity, etc ... that are icons, and they will remain forever in our hearts because they never cease to tell us about the merciful love of God!

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Mrs Angela, for example, is for our community one of these people. Angela is a mother with three children, her family is very modest. But amidst her busy activities she has a generous heart when it comes to make a gesture of charity to the poor ... Angela takes care of certain situations of extreme poverty, is touched by them. In a spirit of empathy towards the sufferers, she knows how to find the solutions to everything and everyone. If we are ignorant and confused of the means and resources, she knows where to knock, where to ask, how to talk, with her faith and courage to live the dynamics of love. Angela, in her own words, is convinced that "the Lord has care of the man who suffers perhaps from years and years, he does not leave him alone and sends the caress of mercy at the right time. Feeling enveloped by his Providence, we receive the strength to live after the model of the good Samaritan, which is of God, a style characterized by abandonment, made of trust, of free gratuitous care. "These words reflect the profound meaning of being a Christian.

For example, we experience something divine every time when we go with her to visit Mrs. Elena, an old lady, all alone, with severe breathing problems and other ailments, lost in a distant country 4km from Iasi called Visani; a lady in need of everything.

We experience something divine when we see Angela's interest in Diana, a poor girl of Ciresoia. In fact, Angela is for her was a second mother ...

We feel something divine when Angela tells of Elena, a lady who is undergoing a medical treatment for a tumor ...

We are grateful to the Lord for these beautiful icons of mercy, because they teach us to live with joy and a certain "pride" our charism of charity.

The Iasi community (Romania)

Editorial office
Suore della Provvidenza
Casa Generale
Via Innocenzo IV, 16
00167 Roma
e-mail:
sdp.segreteria.gen@gmail.com

Provincial House
Sister of Providence
Barrackpoore
24 Parganas (N)
700120 KOLKATA - W.B. INDIA
e-mail:
provincialatecompt@yahoo.in