

# Vivere Insieme

## FAMILY OF PROVIDENCE

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# Love made fruitful

## From the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis AMORIS LAETITIA

181. [...] Even large families are called to make their mark on society, finding other expressions of fruitfulness that in some way prolong the love that sustains them. [...] Families should not see themselves as a refuge from society, but instead go forth from their homes in a spirit of solidarity with others. In this way, they become a hub for integrating persons into society and a point of contact between the public and private spheres. [...] With this, their affection does not diminish but is flooded with new light. As the poet (Maria Benedetti) says:

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“Your hands are my caress,  
the harmony that fills my days.  
I love you because your hands  
work for justice.  
If I love you,  
it is because you are my love,  
my companion and my all,  
And on the street, side by side,  
we are much more than just two”.

182. No family can be fruitful if it sees itself as overly different or “set apart”. To avoid this risk, we should remember that Jesus’ own family, so full of grace and wisdom, did not appear unusual or different from others. That is why people found it hard to acknowledge Jesus’ wisdom: “Where did this man get all this? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mk 6:2-3). “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Mt 13:55). These questions make it clear that theirs was an ordinary family, close to others, a normal part of the community. Jesus did not grow up in a narrow and stifling relationship with Mary and Joseph, but readily interacted with the wider family, the relatives

of his parents and their friends. This explains how, on returning from Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph could imagine for a whole day that the twelve-year-old Jesus was somewhere in the caravan, listening to people’s stories and sharing their concerns: “Supposing him to be in the group of travellers, they went a day’s journey” (Lk 2:44). Still, some Christian families, whether because of the language they use, the way they act or treat others, seen as remote and not really a part of the community.

183. A married couple who experience the power of love know that this love is called to bind the wounds of the outcast, to foster a culture of encounter and to fight for justice. God has given the family the job of “domesticating” the world and helping each person to see fellow human beings as brothers and sisters. “An attentive look at the everyday life of today’s men and women immediately shows the omnipresent need for a healthy injection of family spirit. [...] Open and caring families find a place for the poor and build friendships with tho-

se less fortunate than themselves. In their efforts to live according to the Gospel, they are mindful of Jesus’ words: “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me (Mt25:40)”. In a very real way, their lives express what is asked of us all: “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed” (Lk14:12-14). You will be blessed! Here is the secret to a happy family.

184. By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith, they arouse a desire for God and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life. Christian marriages thus enliven society by their witness of fraternity, their social concern, their outspokenness on behalf of the underprivileged, their luminous faith and their active hope. Their fruitfulness expands and in countless ways makes God’s love present in society.



# The end of man

*Free transcription of a speech by St. Luigi Scrosoppi*

**W**hen we do something, there is always an end in it. The farmer in his field work, wants to obtain the harvest; an artist seeks a completion of his work and the profit which comes from it.

The merchant in his contracts looks for profit.

The literate in his studies wants to enrich his knowledge.

The man who acts without aim at the end of his works would be rightly considered foolish.

In the same way, when God does something, he seeks an end too.

St. Paul says that whatever God does, He does it according to His divine will. We are nothing and from nothingness God has created us. The hand of God has created our body and soul.

These are the works of the omnipotent God.

For what reason, therefore He has taken us from nothingness and put us in this world?

Is it for accumulating silver or gold, for buying houses, palaces and fields?

No! The riches of this world not all men can enjoy it.

They are not the end of man because they do not satisfy the heart of man and they are perishable.

Perhaps he created us to go after the flesh and pleasures? To dress up sumptuously, to eat delicious food, to drink exquisite liquors?

No, the Lord did not have this plan in creating us, neither these goods can be enjoyed by all. They are perishable and cannot satisfy our heart's desires.

Are we created to enjoy the honors which comes from the powerful, wise, and those who occupy illustrious places?

If yes, what would be about the poor, ignorant and miserable ones?

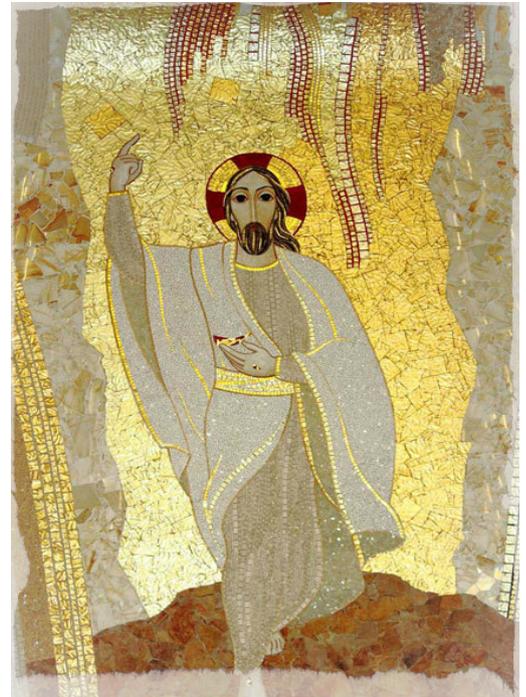
Our end is neither the riches nor the pleasures or the honors of this world. The Lord has created us in His own image and likeness. Our intelligence, will, memory are the images of the intelligence, will and memory of God. Therefore we carry with us this carved divine sign. And what is this sign? It is the sign that we belong to God, that we are of God, He is our master, the sovereign. It means the image of God is carved within us. Let us have a look at the shape of our heart. The top of our heart is towards heaven, it is big and open. But in contrary the lower part which tends towards earth is small and narrow as if God wanted to tell us that our affections must tend towards heaven that is to God, and not to the things of this earth, that is to say, we are created for God.

Our bodies directed to heaven teach us the same thing: we are not born to enjoy the things of the earth, but born for heaven, for God. "Directed towards heaven, man shows that he is not born for the earth," writes St. Gregory.

Therefore, our end is God himself. Yes, we are created for God. He tells us, "I am the one who gave you existence and I am the end for which you are created. What does it mean, brethren, to be created for God?"

From early years our mother Church has taught us that in this world, we must know Him, love Him, serve Him and to enjoy His presence forever in heaven. It is the purpose by which God has created us: we recognize Him as our creator and Lord of all that exist. He has created us to love Him and serve Him with all our heart, all our soul and with all our strength and he rewards us with eternal life if we know and love Him in this way.

Says St. Augustine: "Man is created to know the good Lord, because by knowing Him he could love Him, by loving Him he could possess Him and by possessing Him he could enjoy Him". Great is our end and He leaves to us the freedom to know Him and to love Him, as long as we are in this world.



# The effects of the chapter: from paper... to life

**T**he official closing of the XXVII General Chapter took place on Wednesday, July 26, 2017. The singing of anthem of the Congregation *Ai forti propositi* made our hearts to rise to that height that unites the past and the present and projected us into an open ditch that receives an abundance of seeds generated by this event. Seeds that require, in addition to the enthusiastic receptivity, careful and constant care to mature: It is about moving from paper to life. God ensures fertility and development of the seed on the basis of this readiness. This presupposes that we as individuals and as a community not only just receive the seed but also allow it to grow and mature with all the struggles and hope.

With everyone's participation all had a beautiful experience of the Chapter in different ways. It involved everyone for its realization. Now each Sister of the Providence, as a living organism of the Institute, must put into practice the decisions and the proposed way of life according to her personal inspiration.

## **Chapter - the time of Passing the Baton at the central level.**

July 21 was a day of anxious waiting in prayer although we were prepared for it in peaceful and trusting surrender to

God who continues to guide the history of our family. The day was full of emotional moments: The greeting and thanksgiving to Sr. Ester and her council at the end of their term; the holding of elections in an atmosphere of "sacred silence"; the applause at the election, Sr. Sandra's acceptance of the mandate conferred upon her, the welcoming of the new Mother General, accepted in faith with open heart and renewed gaze, with affection and gratitude for her just pronounced "Here I am" in response to this new call. And then it was the time for festivity with the whole community.

The following day the General Council was complete with the election of the Counsellors: Sr. Lizy Muthirakala, Vicar General, Sr. Ana Garcia De Oliveira, Sr. Helene Ouedraogo and Sr. Bianca Maria Nicoletto. The new counsellors were welcomed with whispered greetings or expressed with emotion, in an atmosphere of communion, joy, family and gratitude to the Lord.

## **Chapter - a time of intense and fruitful work.**

The study, dialogue, reflection, and the comparison with the multifarious existence of our



Family had brought into the Chapter hall not only the "to-day" of our mission communities, but also their "future" outlined in the final document.

- The harmony of diversity arising from the inter-culturality lived out around the evangelical and charismatic values,
- the "call" of communities to give the world a witness of attractive and luminous fraternal communion that expresses a passionate love for God and fellow brethren,
- being poor among the poor to bear witness to the joy of salvation, living in charity, in a simple, sober, laborious and humble lifestyle

Those are the guidelines for continuing to weave the history





of the Scrosoppian charism with in an universal ambience while adapting ourselves to the novelty required by the times.

**Chapter - a time of Fraternity.**

The community that came together during the Chapter has experienced the harmony of diversity in the interaction of different cultures, perspectives and ideas; in the assumption of responsibility towards the whole congregation and in the creation of a communion that goes beyond any personal expectation or that of a particular group. Fraternity was visible during the days of commitment and work in an atmosphere of peace, mutual trust, desire for unity while struggling with examination and walking together. Fraternity was evident: in times of daily prayer, beautifully animated by the choir of the Generalate; during the days of reflection that was animated by Fr. Lello Lanzilli. He made us enjoy Mary in the mystery of the Annunciation, Visitation, Magnificat and at the foot of the Cross. Fraternity was lived with joy and happiness during meals and evening recreation; on the day of relaxation offered to immerse yourself in the beauty of nature and art and during the moments of celebration animated by the sisters of the community.

**A Chapter in which was the voice of lay friends was heard.** Our lay friends, with their years of collaboration, have become a living and fruitful part of our Family. Their presence was felt through their written testimonies, journeys undertaken, suggestions and proposals which

were taken into consideration as “multifarious expression of the Spirit and the richness of the charism”.

The love for our Father Luigi and the passion for the mission, albeit in different ways, are alive in them and they make them a contagious presence, both through the missionary enthusiasm and the commitment to the poor. They also know how to “spread the scent of charism in the world they live.”

**The Chapter now calls every Sister of the Providence** to incarnate this our history which is often contradicted by its many challenges but which is also filled with the thirst for infinity and meaningfulness of the charism given to Father Luigi and to each of us to be lived and to be placed at the service for the good of every brother and sister in the Church.

Therefore, each one is required to nurture faithfully the journey of vocation by steadily persevering in holiness and accepting the call of God that is always new and manifests itself in the signs of the daily life.

**Thus the Chapter for us remains:**  
 as a hymn of thanksgiving to the Lord for all the gifts he has given;  
 as a journey of obedience in faith for the ways shown to us;  
 and as a sign of communion and unity that will make our Religious Family more and more beautiful and holy.

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# LIKE TREES...

**It is like a tree  
planted along the streams,  
which gives fruit in its own time:  
its leaves do not wither  
and everything he does, he does well.  
(Ps 1:3)**

This is the first image that comes from my heart when I think of the many sisters who, in different parts of the world, in this year 2017 celebrated the anniversary of their religious profession. If I do not list them by name, I remember them at least with the years of their consecration:

*75th for two sisters  
70th for eight sisters  
60th for five sisters the  
50th for sixteen sisters the  
40th for three sisters the  
25th for eleven sisters*

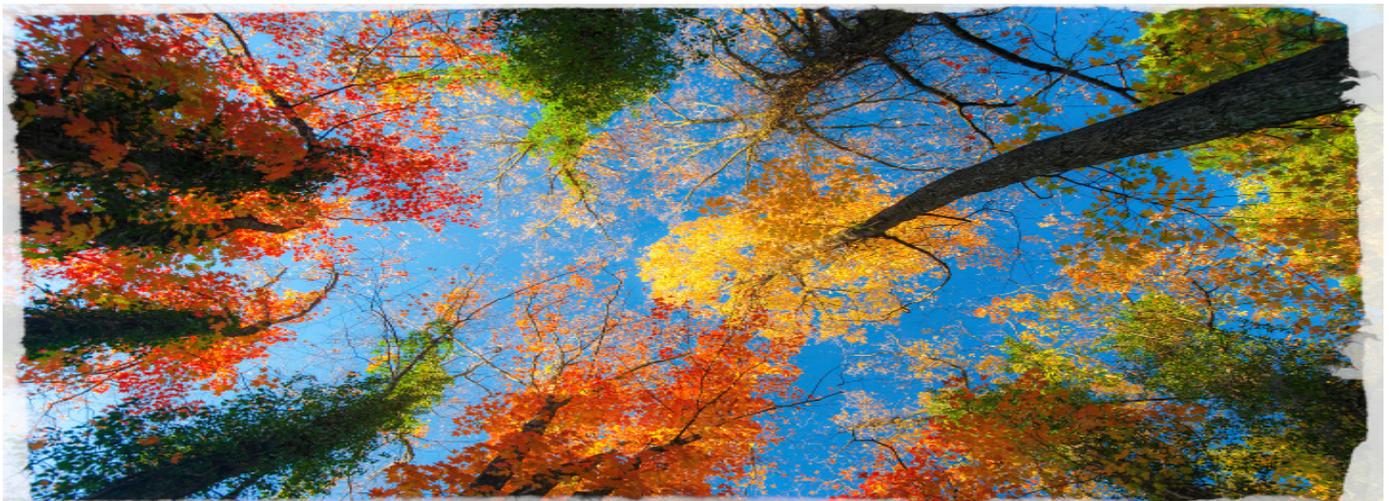
6 And the psalmist's image of the tree suggests some reflections that may also seem simple and outrageous, but expresses at least a bit the intensity of that event.

*A tree planted and grown near the water.* What, if not God, is the water that irrigates, nourishes, grows, preserves, and makes fruit? The water of his benevolence, of his mercy and fidelity. Sinking the roots in this water that irrigates the earth, water that is a source of life, you learn to live more and more deeply and inwardly, to enjoy peace and serenity even in difficult days, pain and fatigue, because rooted in the certainty that the gift of living water will never be less.

*A tree that produces fruit in its own time.* Yes, because the sense of everything is 'remain' anchored in God- in his will, in his love. And so, no scorching, long and strong, can drizzle and drain out our inner energies. The leaves do not vanish and the fruits are there at all times: in the enthusiasm of youth offered, in the fervor of formation, in the ardor of the donation in maturity, in the zeal and in the force of the mission, in the serene acceptance of the decline, welcome of suffering, in the passion of the heart that does not get tired of offering, in pursuit of the final embrace with the Bridegroom ...

*A tree that grows well.* The deeper the roots, the higher the branches can move to the sky. Those who know the mountain also know that tall shaft trees are flexible in order to swing under the pressure of the wind without breaking and have a small haircut to avoid having unnecessary weight and possible harm. A tree so "does well". I see in this metaphor the figure of the consecrated person who lives the qualities of love and that does not allow to break when the bad weather rages: listening, patience, dialogue, closeness, forgiveness. The figure of those who seek only what is really essential, relieves us of unnecessary burdens, lives in the simplicity of the heart and in the sobriety of life, finds wealth in what is and is continually given to it by divine goodwill.

I thank the Lord for the witness of the life of these sisters who, after long years, raising the song for the faithful love of the Lord, they say to all of us, with our heart in the feast: "Yes, it is worth! Looking for you, my God, I seek the happiness of life and remaining in You, I find it and live it! "



## 300 Years of devotion to Mary Aparecida



Here are the translated words of one of the hymns that we use in our celebrations to share with you what we are living and celebrating during this year.

*“300 Years  
of devotion to Mary.  
300 years  
of prayer with Mary.  
300 years  
of adoration of Jesus  
in these hills  
of Aparecida”.*

**Gratitude.** This word expresses how we feel in the face of this historical and religious fact that happened in our lands. In the nets of three poor fishermen in the waters of the river Paraíba do Sul, had appeared a small and unassuming statue of Our Lady.

How many graces we have experienced from the time of preparation and up to the great feast of the Jubilee, celebrated on 12th October 2017, the day particularly dedicated to our “Madonnina Nera” (Little Black Lady).



We feel privileged as a community, because we are in a place, which arouses and invites us to an experience of faith.

Every day we witness that the people have a thirst for God and revert to the Mother of Jesus as a mediator.

During the preparation of the Jubilee, we have had the grace to be also a “shrine of hospitality” for missionaries who had the task of organizing the feast for the pilgrims who came to pay homage to Our Lady of Aparecida.

During the entire month of October one could see frequently the heavy traffic along the main highway that

leads to the city of Aparecida: One could see the pilgrims who walked with long steps along the side of the road or the untarred road... Numerous pilgrims could be seen walking, riding on horses, cycling...

Fatigue on the faces of many due to several days of travel.

However, Everyone had something in common: the feeling of joy and gratitude.

This gave them the strength to continue on the path towards the great national shrine dedicated to Mary. We were also there together with all the people who have participated in the novena, the Triduum and the solemn celebration. The rain, the night, the scorching sun... nothing was an obstacle to the true devotee of Our Lady.

Now this solemn period has ended, beginning a new stage of history... We conclude our sharing with this invitation: “Let us go to the house of the Mother of Aparecida, there we will find many faces suffering, unknown... who feel welcomed by the warmth and tenderness of a God who listens to the supplication of his Mother, the Immaculate Virgin”.

Our Lady of Aparecida, Queen and Patroness of Brazil, pray for us!

**W**e recently celebrated the centenary (24th October 1917) of the Battle of Caporetto (today's Kobarid in Slovenia), in which the Italian Army was defeated by the Austro-Germans. They consequently occupied the Friulian territory.



8 The First World War was given the adjective "world" not only for the several nations involved in the conflict, but especially for the amount of people who died in it. Even Orzano, while being a small village, took part in the war for both its victims and for hosting a military hospital from 1915 to 1918.

In July 1915, as a matter of fact, the Italian Army confiscated our house to turn it into the Military Hospital of Military Health No. 229 with 200 beds. The sisters and the little girls who lived there had to leave. Some of them didn't leave, both to work as nurses in the hospital and to guard the tomb of Father Luigi, who was still buried there. The sisters gave their greatest contribution to carry on these activities.

Our hospital, in a second position if compared to the front, had the task of welcoming and assisting the injured and sick after the great battles fought in the area of the High Isonzo. The hospital also had the job of sorting the sick: those who were cured and recovered could come back to the departments they came from, those in need of care or convalescence were sent to other hospitals, to other regions of Italy and the dead were buried in the cemetery of the village. Unfortunately, we do not know how many people or soldiers were hosted and cured

## THE HOUSE DURING THE

here during the war years. What we only know is the number of deaths buried in our cemetery, whose names were written down in the parish register of the deceased.

On October 24, 1917, began the 12th Battle of the

Isonzo that turned into the defeat of Caporetto. As a consequence, in a few days, the Austro-Germans came up to the river Piave where their military advance was finally arrested.

On those dramatic days something happened in our hospital. But we want you to be told about it by the chronicle of that time. *contare alla cronaca del tempo.*

*«The disaster of Caporetto was over and the sick, due to the imminent invasion, were transported elsewhere: the sisters just started to leave. There was only one nun, who did not want to leave, Mother Pellegrina, who had known Father Luigi very well and had been received by him in the Convent. The task of this pretty shy nun was to work in the kitchen. She continued to tell that she would not leave that house where she had been a watchful guardian of the Father's Tomb for a long time. I will not leave, she said to herself. If the others go I will stay, even alone.*

*Shortly after that fact, an Italian sergeant arrived at the kitchen door and told the nun: "Soon, hurry up, get away from here." Mother Pellegrina, replied, "Get away? This is our home, so I am in the position to decide what to do. And I am not going away."*

*During that morning the sergeant came three times to force her out. Even the Cap-*

# AT ORZANO

## GREAT WAR 1915-1918

*tain of the Hospital tried to push her for leaving but Mother Pellegrina felt so strong and resolute that she would not give up at any cost. She was always thinking of the tomb of their Founder and she felt like Father Luigi was pushing her not to leave the house. Later on she went to her Sisters to let them know her decision. She begged them again to stay with her. At the end one of them, Sister Bonaventura, agreed not to move and to stay in that house.*

*This had been definitely a providential decision but they only knew it in the evening when the sergeant arrived at the house. He told the Sisters he had just come to burn the house so that the Austrians would have found smoky ruins instead of a hospital. While saying this he showed them that he had everything needed to do it. Fortunately, he did not burn the house as a sign of respect to the two Sisters who did not want to leave. He then handed over the same bullets and the oil tanks, which had to be used to light the fire and he finally left.*

*Certainly, without a celestial intervention, shown by the courage and the extraordinary strength of purpose of Mother Pellegrina, there would have been no house in Orzano today but only cumulus of rubble and scrap or sad ruins of one of the most painful times of the Italian history”.*

After the 4th November 1918, at the end of the war, the Italian Army occupied the house arranging the hospital in a new way, right that hospital that during the invasion was a first-aid station and a deposit for the Austrian tools.

The “new” hospital took the name of Ospedaletto Militare (Little Military Hospital) No. 310 where soldiers affected by

illnesses or general diseases contracted for war causes were hosted and cured. The occupation lasted until the end of the year 1919.

*Taken from the Parish Journal of Orzano*

After a hundred years we ask ourselves what the purpose of studying all these past facts could be, just like studying those events written on the history books.

First of all, because they are part of the history of our country, of the lives of our fathers and mothers who lived right where we now live. Another reason is that most of what we see today is the consequence of something that happened maybe ten, or a hundred or even a thousand years ago. Since any current event has its roots in the mistakes and in the merits of those who preceded us, studying history means understanding better the reasons of so many good and even bad situations we are experiencing today. That is why the ancients used to say that “history is the master of life”.

But above all, the act of recalling historical facts helps us to keep our trust in the paternal Providence of God, who is always protecting His children, giving them the courage and not allowing the evil to overcome them.



*TOMB of Father LUIGI - ORZANO  
We can find this transcript on the copper sheet placed  
in front of the empty tomb of Father Luigi*

# Here we are... after 25 years!

**O**n Sunday, April 23, 2017 all the Sisters of the Holy Family Delegation sang to the Lord their hymn of thanks and gratitude with great joy for the 25 years of their presence and service in the Diocese of Iasi and in the Republic of Moldova.

The Holy Mass of thanksgiving was presided over by the auxiliary bishop, Most Rev. Aurel Perca and concelebrated by various diocesan and religious priests.

What can be more pleasing to God than the sacrifice of his Son Jesus? It is He who has illuminated and led us, Sisters of Providence, 25 years ago in this land.

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We had the joy of having among us some of our early Sisters who laid the foundations of the charism in our Delegation: Sister Michelina Bettega, Sister Rosetta Benedetti and Sister Adalberta Osquino.

The feeling that pervades our heart in celebrating this jubilee, is, first of all, that of gratitude. Gratitude is due to God who, through our poverty, has done great things in our Holy Family



Delegation right from the beginning till the present.

Gratitude also to Bishop Petru Gherghel, who welcomed us in his diocese.

In particular, a deep gratitude goes to Fr. Eduard Ferent, who came in contact with our Religious Family during his studies in Rome in the year 1975. Having been attracted to the charism of Father Luigi he had promoted the first Romanian vocations and accompanied and supported them in their settling in Romanian soil.

To these people who were concrete instruments of Providence as well as to all the missionary Sisters who have lived here in Romania at various times, we express our gratitude and appreciation.

We would like to recall the significant moments of our mission in Romania.

In 1992 two Sisters of

Providence, Sr. Michelina and Sr. Rosetta came to *Adjudeni*, a small catholic town of 7000 people: an unknown land, with a recent history of dictatorship and suffering, but with so much need for evangelization and education.

And these needs have overcome every fear. Our pioneering Sisters recount to us with great emotion and love the strong faith they witnessed, a faith nourished by the martyrdom of so many Christians; They would tell us of their joy of meeting so many children and youth who would enter the church like a river; they would tell us of the firm hope they had in God, the one and only who can make possible what is impossible for man!

The beautiful testimony by a diocesan priest, Fr. Iosif Antoci, currently active pastorally in Austria, can enlighten those beginnings. He claims that, as a young priest and a chaplain in the parish of Adjudeni, he learned from our Sisters what true missionary spirit means. Their



total dedication, availability at every hour and every day of the week, true and sincere love for everyone, the effort to seek the best answers to the particular needs, the pastoral and educational work carried out with competence and foresight: all these things have been a great source of inspiration for his vocation.

In Adjudeni the Sisters have opened a nursery school, in which already a few generations of children have passed through.

Among them are many priests and consecrated persons today. Taking care of the sick and the elderly and family visits helped them to know the village closely and seek responses to urgent needs together.

A day-care centre for the poorest children in the area was opened a little later and its activity has been supported by so many Italian laypeople and people of the area.

Since 2014 the nuns are no longer present in Adjudeni, but there has been close cooperation with a group of lay people who have tried to carry on the projects initiated and continue the day-to-day activities and support for the poor. Our departure did not break the collaboration



with these lay people who, at their request, continue to be accompanied and supported to live human and Christian values.

In 1996 a second community was opened in Iași, which in 1998 became the house of formation and a full-time kindergarten. Later, a day-care centre came up for children of poor families in Visani, a neighboring town.

The nursery school today has 103 children divided into four sections. The human and Christian education they receive in our environment has made the school most preferred school by the parents in the area. Father Luigi always inspires us and encourages us to look for and put into practice the most suitable pedagogical methods for the world today that is moving at high speeds!

Pastoral activity with children and youth has been alive right from the beginning in this community: catechesis, summer camps, animators training, vocation promotions, prayer and

human and spiritual formation for various groups of youth and families. In this community there is also a formation house in which a part of the Romanian Sisters is being formed in the consecrated life.

After the fall of the communist regime we had a good number of youth embracing the con-



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secrated life, but today we are also facing a decline in vocations. We entrust to the Lord the young people that they might hear his call and commit their life to make known the beauty of following Christ.

In 2000, our delegation also joined in the missionary venture in the Republic of Moldova, in the city of Chișinău.

The young Bishop Anton Cosa, who knew our Sisters well, en-



trusted us with the coordination of a large and complex socio-pastoral centre called the "House of Providence". Here, every day over 120 poor people receive a hot lunch and, those who are interested could participate in the activities organised for them in the day-care Centre. In the same house there is also a day-care centre for children and young people. During summer the various summer camps for children, Altar Servers and young people fill the house with joy and merriment.

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In 2010, the European Child Education Centre named "St. John Paul II" was opened. We have been entrusted with the managing of the nursery school there. Attention to education has been a constant factor in our delegation and therefore we try to continue this mission, always looking at our dear Father Luigi and our pioneer Sisters who have bequeathed to us their life experience. We can consider the land to Moldova a land of mission: work is often tiring, small steps, but what sustains us is the hope and the faith that here are "the Indies" where our dear Father Luigi wants us to be and where the sowing is always an act of trust.

In 2003, another of our community was born in *Cireşoia*, a small mountainous village, with a forest nearby and a stream that wakes us up every morning with its music; here the Sisters live the adventure of charity!

There is a very strong involvement in the parish community: pastoral work, catechesis, the training of youths in various groups, summer camps for over 200 children and young people, care and concern for the elderly and the sick at home are the daily bread for the Sisters! The testimony of a life of prayer combined with charity makes the presence of sisters among the needy brothers of *Ciresoia* an act of gratitude to the Lord!

All this commitment to charity would not be possible without the help of God, to which we raise

our hymn of thanksgiving every day in the Eucharistic Sacrifice where we receive strength to love and bear witness to Him in and through our daily mission.

Another important factor for carrying out our mission is the presence and help of so many benefactors who, in various ways, but with admirable generosity, support our works and encourage us to move forward; They help us with a great heart even today and together we can praise God and fulfil the mission of charity entrusted to us by the Lord. We thank all of them with an assurance to bring them to the altar in the daily offertory.

This is a simple summary of the stages and activities that we, the Sisters of Providence, have been doing in Romania since 25 years; a story of Providence, generous dedication of so many Sisters who have promised and still continue to try to put into practice the charism of our Father Luigi in the Romanian and Moldavian land.

*The celebration of the jubilee of 25 years has given us a new impetus to our commitment to bringing the Good News. We are called to share with our people the life, the pains and hopes, the desires and the struggles to be a sign of love and providence.*

*The command of Father Luigi, "Save the souls and save them with love" encourages us to live the love with joy and total giving with the hope of being able to celebrate many more years of mission and dedication in this so beautiful land.*



# Unity makes life...!

On October 3, 2017, in the city of Tietê, Brazil, there was the inauguration of the program "Unity makes Life" promoted by the bank SICREDI, a cooperative financial institution, which has signed a partnership agreement with our socio-educational organization, Educandario Rosa Mistica, the first organisation of our Congregation on Brazilian soil founded in 1935.

We had the presence of entrepreneurs, associates, members of the civil community, lay people of the Providence Family, volunteers and other guests; in all 300 participants. There were also some parents with their children who participate in our project. They made a presentation with the song "Blue Planet". Everyone was enchanted by their beautiful presentation and they were happy to be the "protagonists of the evening". Our youth also enjoyed the evening dressed as "small bees" who, at the time of welcoming the guests, thanked everyone who came to the feast.

We have made a video with the story of the origins of the Sisters of Providence: how the mission of Educandario Rosa Mistica was born and how it functions now. Thus those who were present were able to understand better who we are.

Ms. Cassia, the Social Programs Adviser of the bank SICREDI, explained how the program works. Her teaching-learning method helped to stimulate the town-folk to cooperate with each other through the values of entrepreneurship and solidarity. For this reason, they associate themselves with schools and institutions that adhere to this methodology of cooperative work.

Ms. Maura Carrara, the president of the bank SICREDI, stressed the importance of the work of Sisters of Providence, at Tietê, highlighting the fact that some of the values we have promoted are similar to those in which they too believe. For this reason, an agreement has been signed through which we engage in methodological and pedagogical

support so that, by joining forces, we can continue to develop a quality service for



children and adolescents who, together with their families, are in vulnerable social situations.

Another significant moment of the evening was the testimony of a couple, Mrs. Iara and Mr. Eduardo who are known for a

project called "Hunters of Good Examples". They travel throughout the country in order to find out and publicize social projects that "make a difference" in their social context. They also seek to bring together the civil community and motivate them to support such projects. They even threw an invitation to those present at the event to contribute to the mission of Educandario, thus becoming benefactors of our project.

Many people have been sensitized to make donations that same evening, filling out the forms to become active contributors to our mission.

The evening ended with the signing of the agreement

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between the president of SICREDI and the directress of Educandario, Sr. Silvana Alves, along with the other Sisters of the council. After the signing of the partnership, all guests were served a delicious dinner that was enjoyed in an atmosphere of brotherhood and sharing. Our mission is possible because there are so many "solid hands" that believe and support our work and together we help to build a more just and fraternal world.

May the Lord help us to unite more and more forces and to form a great network of solidarity to fight along with the marginalized all forms of marginalization and to overcome the evils that deprive thousands of human beings of their rights.

You can also follow us on Facebook where we periodically share photos of the life of our "Home": <https://www.facebook.com/educandariotiete/>

The Mystical Rose Community of Tietê - Brazil



# The Angels of Providence

Despite a pregnancy characterized by so many mixed feelings that did not allow her to live in serenity, and with a man who could not attend this event and did not hear the responsibility of the love and family that was about to be born in a warm July morning, life explodes in the light and a beautiful little girl is born, who goes to cheer the existence of a girl, who had received little or nothing from life.

A girl, with a childhood afflicted by a thousand of vicissitudes, who dreamt of forming a family, but who had believed in the wrong person.

After some happy days at the clinic, the problem of one after another, was challenging for those who, like her, no longer had a home.

Social services repeatedly stated that they could not afford in sheltering in a family home because the funds were missing.

The thought then ran straight to the untiring Sister Amalia who had long known the vicissitudes of the young mother's family. Not a hesitation, not a perplexity, but only hope: "Give me just a few days, the time to speak to Sister Fiorella" (her sister in that of Udine). In a very short time a door was opened that we would never have expected. A perfect organization: from a distant town of the south, at the first lights of the dawn, a trustworthy driver carries in his car the mother with a baby boy and baby trolley, luggage and essential necessities and accompanies them

to Villa Santina, where she is in a beautiful little house of the mountains awaiting to welcome like a fairytale.

Festoon, balloons and sweets, a real festive joy announced what would then be the whole course.

Life at Villa Santina was joyous and serene, accompanied by the attentive and thoughtful care of Sister Rosetta and her staff, who taught her to be her mother, as well as the young traveling companion she met there, who lived on her own hard work.

The mother and even the little

swimming in the pool. They have been able to teach the sense of duty, responsibility, and acceptance to their creations.

There are no words to express the sensations and nuances that was seen in the climate of Villa Santina's cottage. All this was not just the result of everyday life, but the path of a precise project that would make it autonomous in two years. In fact, the first job came with the transfer to a more central Family House that allowed her to do business. Later another more secure work with better remuneration, along with the car for better mobility and a fully furnished and equipped home.

One could still write a lot about everything that this mom still receives from the "Angels of Providence": presence, friendship, availability, relief at the time of need and more knowledge of many friendly families who with dedication still accompany the formation of

the small and a marvelous child who in this climate grows serenely and with the confidence that will surely bring her a wonderful future.

And we, the foster parents, who have accompanied her life for a long time, with concern and apprehension, could not be more grateful to the Lord for placing people on our way those welcoming people, who make a choice of life.

MARIFLORA



# Once upon a time...

It's the way of beginning any fairy tale, but this time it is ours, became reality through a journey of research and providence, and is named MARIA LUCE.

Well, after waiting for nine long years, she came in to give light to our lives. The exhortation of Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* is indeed very concrete: "The family... does not remain waiting, but comes out in united research".

The decision for following a way of national adoption first and consequently for international adoption was started soon after two years of our marriage. It was a journey which took nine long years... years of waiting, of formation, of hope, of meetings with the team of adoption, lived at times with anger for the unpaired proposals, but never with frustration because whatever maybe, these long awaiting years have been a motive for growth and harmony among us.

Terminated the renewals, we said enough is enough, so one could have concluded the fairy tale like this:

"And they did not live happily hereafter"!

But no, just from this ending, started a marvelous and unexpected life.

Once upon a time there was (and there will be always) the Providence...

On one chilly January morning we got a call telling us that a beautiful baby was born and that she was at present in convalescence in an orphanage. They communicated to us that they are in search of a family for her and that she has the syndrome of Down...

Our response was immediate, said almost jokingly: We are here Amà (sister Amalia, our intermediary of Providence), why search somewhere else?

"LOVE THAT BECOMES FRUITFUL"... Maria Luce,



we were already in love with her even before seeing her, just by the way we replied to the phone call, we said to ourselves: "This is why we waited all these years, she was supposed to be our child and we her parents!"

Having known the day of her baptism, six months after her birth, with a strong will to hold her at once in our arms, so delicate and fragile, but at the same time with vigor, capable of offering light to those who surround her by her marvelous gaze.

Today this Maria Luce is five years old: a strong baby, with overwhelming sympathy, always in search of attention, in search of relationship and capable communicating beyond the words. We are fortunate to be her parents... so much grace received!

Our thankfulness always to Him, Jesus, who first out of His immense creativity, has traced my journey letting me to live alongside the Sisters of Providence and then continued to fulfill His plan for me through them, to the point of allowing us to become the parents of this splendid child.

The love, through them has become fruitful...

*A hug from us  
Maria Luce, mom Paola and dad Sergio*

# The Friendship Ties

In 2016, during the preparation of the provincial chapter, the Italian province has decided to have a pilgrimage to Istria where many of our mothers lived and embodied the charism of St. Luigi even in a heroic way.

The visit to Piran with kindergarten and scuola di lavoro, hospital and hospitalization.

In Umag: kindergarten.

In Porec and Rovinj: kindergarten and old age home.

Last stop in Pula: hospital.

We were warmly welcomed everywhere beyond our expectations. What struck us was the living memory of our sisters, nostalgia of their presence, memory of their activity and their style of charity.

towards the guests. There is a beautiful grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes outside the chapel. The house is being expanded for the reception of around 40 guests including a part of it for those who suffer from Alzheimer's and Dementia.

The friendship, which has grown with all the staff and guests of this House of Rest, prompted the provincial superior, Sister Virgilia to invite those responsible persons to pay a visit. In this way, on 23rd October, a group of 8 people paid a visit to *Belvedere*. Besides the communities they could also visit the nursery school, kindergarten and the premises of St. Francesco Association, which deals with the day care center for the disabled. In the afternoon, the visit they paid to St. Anthony of Padua and St. Leopoldo Mandic, a native of Montenegro, filled them with joy.

Sharing of meals with the community, has opened to them a new vision of our world. The recreational moments of the evening where guest Maria, who is a musician for 80 years and speaks local dialect of Venice perfectly, performed with her powerful voice, "My Friends" in Croatian and in Italian, "La memoria vecchia", "Madonna dell mare", naturally followed by all the sisters in the community and this created a really nice climate of familiarity.

The group was warmly welcomed by our sisters of the Mother House in *Udine* on 24th October. They were very enthusiastic and interested to see the house and to hear the presentation about the life of St. Luigi where he had started his activities and mission. The prayer in front of the urn was really fervent. The shared lunch with the community was indeed a great op-

A closer relationship has been established with an old age home "Domenico Pergolis" in Rovigno.

It is a house with a centenarian tradition, in fact it is founded on 1890 and today it accommodates around 120 guests, old and disabled. The climate you breathe is of serenity, of cordiality and the hospitality to-





portunity for them to speak with the sisters personally.

The group paid a visit to Orzano where they encountered the junior sisters who prepare themselves for the final profession. The young faces of the religious family with multi cultures, which was very much evident there, has awoken in them a kind of wonder and surprise. Sr. Irmarosa with more enthusiasm, has presented the mission of the community.

*Last stop: Cormons.* The group was really interested to see and know the mission as they visited the community of Cormons. They were impressed by the serenity of the sisters and staff, cleanliness and the simplicity of the home. Finally, with a particular prayer they visited the Sanctuary of Rosa Mystica which holds the bicentenary history of grace and faith.

They wanted to take Madonna's imagery and medals even for guests. We are hopefully left with the promise that we will be present at the inauguration of the new pavilion, for next year.

### **SHORT REPORT OF THE GROUP**

*On 23 October 2017, at the invitation of the Sisters of Providence, we, the representatives and a guest of the "Domenico Pergolis" Old Town of Rovinj (Istria) visited the Provincial House in Tezze sul Brenta, seat of the province of Italy. The following day, on October 24, we visited the Mother House in Udine and finally the "Rosa Mystica" at Cormons. We found a lively animation in all the homes we visited on the part of the sisters and employees who work there.*

*For all of us, it was a beautiful experience with the Sisters, a short but intimate and filled with human warmth.*

*We have received from the Sisters such a positive spirit, serenity, sensitivity to the neighbor. We hope that we may be able to look after our Old age home with all what we have received in abundance.*



# A month in Chivimarca



**I** am Nicolas Ottonello, 22 years old, belong to the community of Rosa Mystica in Montevideo, Uruguay. Ever since I was a child, I frequented to this community and I am a former student of this school. My house is right in front of the sisters' convent. I am an animator of the children's Oratory along with other youth who every Saturday dedicate a part of their precious time with children.

**18** This year, after having a dialogue with the sisters, I understood that the Lord wants something different from me. Therefore I expressed my desire to work as a volunteer in Bolivia for a short period of time. I started my work as a volunteer last september in the community of Chivimarca the place which was at 3600 meter altitude.

My experience was indeed unique and very encouraging. One month was too short for me to understand the values hidden within these children. The sisters carried out this charitable work with the spirit of St. Luigi which was very evident in their activities.

Chivimarca has taught me how to value all what I have at my disposal and my readiness to live in a city while these children do a lot of sacrifices for

their studies and the week they spend by being away from their families. One thing I have fallen in love with is silence, in which one can listen very clearly the voice of God in His creation.

I experienced a warm hospitality by the members of this community, especially by all the children. I had an interesting experience over there and also visited other communities, which are spread over the mountains, along with the sisters, bringing the spirit of St. Luigi as a preparation for his forthcoming feast.

I am very grateful to all the sisters who made this experience possible for me both in Montevideo, where I share a part of my life and in Cochabamba which welcomed me warmly and very fraternally and also Chivimarca where I spend my daily life in this very rewarding experience. But I still have a desire to stay back. If it is God's will I shall be back to Chivi to stay for a longer period.

I thank God for His providence, for giving me this great experience and for protecting me always. I thank from the bottom of my heart, all the sisters of providence for their hospitality and love.



# FROM SOUTH AFRICA



**J**OHANNESBURG-Service to the little children in the nursery school every day is the work we do by our small community that is born a little over a year ago.

September 24, the National Heritage Day of South Africa

Another very beautiful and significant service that the Providence has entrusted to us is that which is done every day by Sr. Adeline in the "Look forward creativity Centre" (Il nome giusto deve essere messo qui), which is 12 K.M. from the community. Here the Sister meets poor, abandoned, sick children. Her daily presence there is that of a mother who takes care of their needs, stays, plays and prays with them, hears and helps them...

For the staff of the Centre the presence of a religious is an important help to take care of the spiritual part and to bear witness to the quality of the Gospel service to the little ones.

was a great celebration for our School. The children performed in front of their parents in a recital and showed all their joy in representing different cultures, in a play of songs and colours. The parents appreciated and applauded the children for their spontaneity and skill. They wanted to say that living together is beautiful, because we are all different, resourceful and all equally important.

Certainly the most important messages are conveyed through the kids!



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*We present the flag of South Africa with the explanation of colours*

**Red** symbolizes the blood of the struggle that the people have endured against oppression.

**Blue** represents the sky and the water of the two oceans that surround the country.

**Green** indicates the fertility of the earth.

**Yellow** expresses the richness of gold and minerals.

**Black** is the pain of the past.

**White** symbolizes hope for the future.



# *Family, you're beautiful and I love you!*



One more brief yet significant testimony.  
Like that on pages 14 and 15, which tells us the beauty of giving one's life  
with gratuitous love, the source of fruitfulness.

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The family is a temple where everyone grows together, big and small.

Today I understand that the family can also be a cage, a body in itself, far from others if it remains closed in itself. If it opens its walls instead, there can be an unexpected world that opens towards infinite.

Sometime back we had welcomed a beautiful baby girl and we understood more the meaning of love, we have found even the persons who followed us and follow these little ones with love, affection and dedication without ever abandoning them in their own obscure world. For her, we renounced the bureaucracy to have at any cost a baby to hold in our arms.

Our little angel is eight years old, but is in need of much attention and unconditional love, of more security and reassurance. She needs a total dedication and this makes us forget the need to have a baby of our own to cradle. With her, we understood that being parents is to contribute in giving life or to render life to anyone who could not have it fully from the beginning.

Thank you little one! Today, thanks to you, we are a family!

*Annamaria*

