

Vivere Insieme

Family of Providence

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Dear young people, you are priceless!

Some words of Pope Francis to the young

at the opening of the Synod on 6 October 2018

Take your path. Be young people on the move, who look to the horizons, not in the mirror. Always looking forward, on the move, and not sitting on the couch. Many times I have thought to say this: a young person, a boy, a girl, who is on the couch, ends up retired at 24: this is terrible! And then, you said it well: that what helps me find myself is not the mirror, looking at my appearance. Finding myself is in doing, in going in search of good, of truth, of beauty. There I will find myself.

2 I am on a journey, but with coherence in life. And when you see an incoherent Church, a Church that reads you the Beatitudes and then falls into the most princely and scandalous clericalism, I understand, I understand.... If you are Christian, take the Beatitudes and put them into practice. And if you are a man or a woman who has given your life, consecrated it; if you are a priest, and want to live as a

Christian, follow the path of the Beatitudes. Not the way of worldliness, the way of clericalism, which is one of the most awful perversions of the Church. Coherence in life. But you, too, must be coherent on your path and ask yourselves: "Am I coherent in my life?"

Then there is the problem of inequalities. We lose the true sense of power, we lose what Jesus told us, that power is service: true power is serving. Otherwise it is selfishness; it is humiliating the other, not allowing him to grow. It is controlling, making slaves, not mature people. Power is for helping people grow, for making ourselves servants of the people. This is the principle: regarding both politics and coherence in your questions.

I will tell you something. Please, you young people, boys and girls, you are priceless! You are not a commodity at auction! Please

do not let yourselves be bought; do not let yourselves be seduced; do not let yourselves be enslaved by the ideological colonization that put ideas in our heads and in the end we become slaves, dependent, failures in life. You are priceless. You must always repeat this to yourselves: I am not at auction, I am priceless. I am free, I am free! Fall in love with this freedom, which is what Jesus offers.

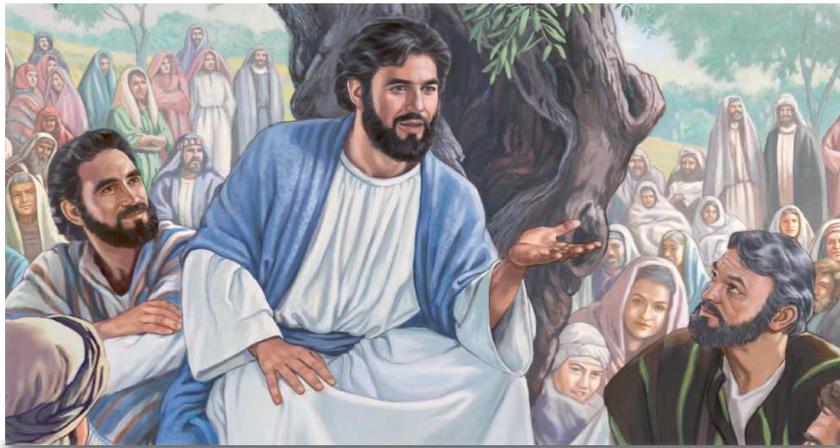
Speak with the elderly, talk to grandparents: they are the roots, the roots of your concreteness, the roots of your growing, blossoming and bearing fruit. Remember: if the tree is by alone, it will not bear fruit. All that blossoms on the tree comes from what is underground. This expression is from a poet, it is not mine. But it is the truth. Stick to the roots, but do not remain there. Take the roots and bring them forth to bear fruit, and you too will become roots for others.



Blessed... Saints

Pope Francis in the Exhortation 'Gaudete et exsultate' (Rejoice and be Glad - No. 63,64) states: So if anyone asks: "What must one do to be a good Christian?", the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives. The word 'happy' or 'blessed' thus becomes a synonym for 'holy'. It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness".

Thinking of the concrete and heroic sanctity of our Fr. Luigi, we can read some brief testimonies used in the apostolic process, in the light of the first beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Poverty in spirit became a synonym for humility in his life.



He exhorted them to learn from the Child of Bethlehem and from the Heart of Jesus.

If the sisters wanted to give glory to God and do good, they had to consider themselves 'servants of all'. At the same time, they had to believe that they served their divine Spouse with true fidelity, serving Him thoughtfully and humbly in their sisters and in the sick. Neither the esteem they enjoyed in the works was to make them proud, because they were nothing but instruments in the hands of Providence who uses us "for His greater glory", and considering us completely dead and incapable of doing good by

ourselves alone.

- *Fr. Luigi did not count on himself. Even with regard to his office he claimed to be the father, not the founder of the Institute, and always sought the last place for himself. Also in the celebrations he gave precedence to other priests. I do not know how he accepted the honours that were given to him, I only know that he said that everything is done for the glory of God. It was, moreover, one of his inculcated principles, also to the sisters he said, "always put yourself in the last place because it is here that Jesus is found".*

- *Fr. Luigi's letters reveal humility; they are marked by great respect, gratitude and humility. If he made his rights heard or those of the sisters, it was always with respect. He thanked for every benefit, even the least and often in advance. He humbly asked pardon for any inconvenience. He greeted and remembered warmly those who showed him some delicacies by giving him hospitality. He recommended himself to the prayers of the priests.*

- *In Jesus, model and teacher of every virtue, Fr. Luigi contemplated humility with preference; and writing to the sisters, urged them to meditate on the acts of humility, to fall in love with it and then to practice it in order to imitate the divine Spouse and become more and more dear to Him.*

- *In his profound humility, when he was at the end of his life, he felt he did not love the Lord as he understood that he had to love him, and he longed to love him; and to the sisters he asked prayers according to this precise end: 'Their prayers are addressed to the divine Spouse to ask Him that I may love Him once as it is my sacred duty'.*

- *Towards the end of his life the thirst for humiliations intensified in him, indeed the need to enter into a state of degradation, but in a completely secret form. Then it was no longer a question of acts of virtue also performed to teach virtue, but it was only a matter of satisfying a new intimate need, of quietly touching the bottom of one's own misery and nothingness. When he was seriously ill, he felt unworthy of the celebration of the Holy Mass in his room. At the time of receiving the Holy Viaticum for the first time in the profession of faith he followed, as was inevitable, a last act of humility. Such was the conviction that in his life there were many faults that he asked God as a grace, to be able to expiate them. And to God he offered his life in expiation of his sins.*

Precious drops of life

We give voice to some young sisters who, in the simplicity of their expressions, give us what they keep deep in their hearts: they are 'little drops' of experience, they are aspirations, ideals, goals towards which they walk with the freshness and enthusiasm of young years of their life.

The call to follow Jesus is a gift and a miracle because it makes us live ordinary things in an extraordinary way. I say 'miracle', because every day Jesus transforms our poverty into riches, weakness into strength and impossibility into possibility. It is worth spending your life with Him and for Him.

To love is to dream ... To love is to venture ... To love is to travel an unknown path, but that leads to happiness.



To consecrate one's life to Jesus Christ means to love and serve the Lord and every person I meet with a joyful presence and attentive listening. Yes, it's true, this life also involves sacrifices, but what is more important for me is what I have found, not what I have left behind. My desire is to love every person I meet and, by loving, build a better world.

I heard the voice of the Lord while I was walking alone in an open space... For me, consecrated life is the sharing of God's love to all people even of different faiths. It is the best and most beautiful thing that the world is not able to give.

For me, religious life means that God speaks to a person in the silence of one's heart, first to love him

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or her more closely and, secondly, to make his or her love known to everyone in the world.

I received God's call and I cannot say it was easy to answer. But even in the various difficulties He gave me strength to move forward. I learned to pray more, to become mature, to remain serene. I often remember that God has called me to take up my cross and follow his steps and I do it with joy. God has chosen me to offer my love in the little things of every day. Thank you, Lord, I will always praise you.

To love is to give oneself. God has given everything for me. He was the first one to love me, so I would like to be a small witness of His love to the brothers and sisters I have received from him.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends". (Jn 15, 13) - This word has resounded strongly in me and it was this love that led me to dedicate myself to the Lord at the service of my brothers and sisters. Yes, consecrated life is the total gift of oneself to God and to others. He asks for sacrifice, but it is beautiful and full of joy.

The Lord calls us even today. He asks us to be his eyes, his hands and his feet; be a reflection of his love alongside all men, especially those who suffer. We are not afraid, we open our doors!

Living the consecrated life is like a family doing the will of God. God's grace is with us, so even if sometimes there are difficulties, we can always live with patience and serenity. This living together is universal, that is, anyone who wants to follow Jesus can live it. I put my whole life in the hands of God, because He is always with me and protects me! I love God serving my brothers with love.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Great is my joy of consecrating myself to God and of being at his service, serving the poorest and abandoned brothers and sisters. To love and serve everyone without distinction, in joy...

"And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me!" (Lk 7:23). Here is the phrase that accompanied me in the difficult moment of the choice to follow Jesus, the Spouse. I always feel as if Jesus told me: 'If you will meet many crosses, do not be discouraged: after the cross there is always grace, hope!' He is also my Good Shepherd who guides me and directs me on the right path, that He has never left me alone and will never leave me.



From the dawn... to the dusk!

Faces furrowed by wrinkles, but luminous with a serene and pacifying smile, eyes that preserve flashes of light in memory, wrinkled and sometimes contorted hands that

hold lovingly the rosary, feet that move slowly towards the chapel and sometimes which necessitates the help of a sister to get in there. So are our Sisters here in Cormons, sisters on the edge of their time, who look with gratitude for their long life and with confidence the passing of their days, waiting with full awareness of the coming of their Spouse Jesus.

Emotion, gratitude and amazement are captured in their simple words when they re-emerge motivations and profound aspects of their life experience that is not a simple narrative of their life story, but proclaim the motive of their religious consecration.

My life? "A strong call from the Lord, a falling in love with Jesus who as a person has conquered me and has always been everything for me;

I had nothing but Jesus. And it is so still, I am in love. And he is the most beautiful of the sons of man, he has always been my essential good,

unique, there are no one else, and it is wonderful".

The bright face of the speaker is that of a person who has nothing to regret, but expresses happiness for the life offered, for a long educational service alongside the little ones and families. The expressions of the sisters are different, but they all focus on how the call and the faithful and loving response was the founding point of a life realized and lived in fullness.

"The religious life has given me fullness and joy. Nothing was missing in my life at home: love in the family, friendships, relationships, work ... but I was not fully happy, I missed the real happiness. And in a convent despite the hardships and 'bad weather' I found happiness".

The call to "leave everything for the Lord" is another positive aspect that has given us wings to be "a gift for others". And the "abandoning the self for Him", and separation from dear and near ones, was a thread that goes

throughout the life until the final landing, but that has given the necessary freedom to be at the service of the poor and to live with trust and abandonment to the Providence of the Father "that always follows us and does not detach us".

Motto of life: "Faith, hope, charity, and obedience to the yes of everyday life. The Word of God has been the constant guide in moments of serenity and in times of difficulty, always giving me peace and courage to continue with fidelity and love. I offer my life to God because He uses me to help the poor and needy".

The most beautiful experience? To make the poor smile with the gift of myself, to look at the other through the eyes of Christ, just because he or she is my brother or sister in Christ, any own brother or sister; he or she shows me the most beautiful face, the face of God".

Difficulties and hardships, worries and problems, doubts and uncertainties have come across in the life of each, but now they are blurred and emerges clearly as the "strength point" that has helped to welcome them, to face them and to overcome them: "God has been my strength since beginning and continues today to be my refuge and support".

And today what remains in life and mission?

There is always Christ and his call. Jesus continues to be the deep motivation, the focal point, the one that gives meaning, joy and hope to life that goes towards the sunset, but to a sunset that opens up to the eternal dawn. Today

the mission is of prayer and of offering, certainly different from that lived with full involvement over the years of active service, but it is equally fruitful, because it embraces the whole world.



Do not miss the train of young the people!

Pope Francis



6 RRome, 20-23 September 2018: International Congress on: Youth and life choices - Educational perspectives, organized by the Università Pontificia Salesiana (UPS).

The chosen theme allowed us to walk in harmony with the Church that celebrated the Synod: *Youth, faith and vocational discernment*.

More than 500 participants and 35 speakers from all over the world presented the theme in an interdisciplinary manner.

The common thread for the sessions, the panels and the shares followed the Synod method proposed by Pope Francis: *Recognize - Interpret - Choose*.

In the first stage of the 'Recognition', the experts let us to enter the world of today's youth and its culture, to understand their life, the models, the styles, the values to which they are oriented in their choices. According to a recent research by a Polish sociologist, young people are:

- bored at the very beginning of their life itself - gifted, but dissipate their energy;
- efficient professionals, but childishly powerless as far as wisdom is concerned of life;
- communicating with the whole world, but unable to come into contact with oneself;
- hunting for sensations without knowing how to capture things as a whole;

- children of God and children of the world, hope of the Church, but also hope of the markets that they see their loyal consumers.

In the second stage 'Interpretation', an anthropologist, a psychologist and a pedagogist have illuminated us on the dynamics of anthropological, psychological and pedagogical influences on the choices of young people, so that they can be free and responsible.

In the third stage, that of the 'Choice', some educational perspectives have been presented in an ecclesial and Salesian terms. In the richness of the proposals it has been emphasized how important are the people and attitudes that support the choices of the boys, especially when their life choices become a challenge and it is necessary to put in place a real and own vocational pedagogy.

The afternoon of each day was dedicated to communications in small groups on the 'Good Practices' used in the Salesian family and on the experiences of various Associations alongside Youth Ministry.

Every evening, then, there was a light moment through various proposals: concert, theatre and show, all made by the young people themselves.

The Congress was very rewarding and fruitful for us who participated in it. It has enriched our gaze, expanded the horizons of our mind and our heart towards the young people. To really meet them we need our heart to be similar to that of Jesus Good Shepherd who is humble, authentic and patient. Above all we must be animated by an unshakable trust and hope for them.

The Pope said that "the heart of the Church is young precisely because the Gospel is like a lifeblood that regenerates it continuously". And we are called to be for them life witnesses, capable to accompany them, guide them and support them in their choice of life.

Sr. Mhabeni, Sr. M. Bambina

Our Centre 'House Lilia' of Chiang Saen, accommodates 32 girls and adolescents in the situation of social vulnerability. Most of them are daughters of refugees from Myanmar came to Thailand, fleeing from poverty or from political and ethnic conflicts among the tribes. Prostitution, drugs and trafficking of human beings are constant challenges that directly affect children, youth and especially girls. Our work is only a small drop in the immense ocean of life, but we believe that it is God who makes it to flourish, to grow good, by making our love fruitful.

There are many beautiful things we have lived together in these six years of mission in this land of Thailand at the boarder with Laos and Myanmar. Among the many, we would like to share with you the story of Nasow, of the tribe of Akha, who in baptism received the name, Assunta.



HELP the sisters to HELP others

My name is Nasow, I am 17 years old and I was born in Burma.

I came to Thailand six years ago with my father, and I remember only my father from my whole family, because my mother abandoned me when I was a child and I've never seen her again, so as my three brothers who have gone with her. I think my mother has abandoned me because she had three other smaller kids and it would be difficult for her to take care of us all still so small. She went away with a new husband, because my father was an alcoholic and drug addict.



So one day my father crossed the border with me and came to Thailand, but then he abandoned me and I was accepted by a family to work with them.

I was there for two years, and I had sufficient to eat and a place to sleep, but I could not leave the house because I was without any document and could not move around freely

out of the village, Akha, where I was at the border with Myanmar, my country.

After two years that family did not want me anymore because I could not speak, I did not know the Thai language and I could not work as they wished. I was very scared because everyone abandoned me and I did not know how to return to Burma.

Desperate I was and I did not see a way out. I was tired of fighting alone, but God in His mercy, sent me the Sisters of Providence, who changed the course of my life.

Before then I had never been with the sisters and I was very scared, but it was not as I thought, because I finally found in them, the mother, the father and the family that I had lost, with a new hope and possibility of life. Since I was already grown up, I could not go to school anymore, so they advised me to learn sewing and embroidery in a Catholic centre and it was already the third year; I am learning and enjoying everything I receive for my life, for now and for my future.

Today I feel happy and safe with the sisters and on every holiday where I come in House Lilia, I feel only gratitude to God and to the sisters who took me by the hand, or rather they took me in their arms when I was lost and not knowing where to go.

I wish an immense good for each of them, which only I know.

I have a project and a dream for my future: as soon as I finish my course, I will return to this Centre, which is my home, and I will help the Sisters of Providence in working with little children and girls; here I know that I can give my life, even without being a sister like them, helping the sisters to help others. Thank you.

Reflections 'homeless'

We really enjoy praying all together and listening to the Gospel. Often there is also a priest or a seminarist with us and we are very glad for that. Sister Domitilla often invites us to discover Jesus among the poor and she always brings us the example of the great experience of St. Scroppio, the Founder of the Order the Providence. All these things make us feel... *sent like the disciples!* ...and after the prayer, we leave full of joy. Of course there is always some advice to give in order to please everyone.

"Guys, I recommend you to give a sandwich each while arriving at the station, but above all we must share smiles and create personal relationship."

"We hope that Francesco has shaved like he promised last week and that he has not drunk so much ... fortunately, it seems that for some time, he manages to remain more lucid and less nervous ..."

Si have been doing volunteering for 14 years and every time I do it I feel a great sense of responsibility towards the people we meet and those ones who hope to get a little relief.

We generally arrive around 9.00 p.m. in the destination areas and we begin to distribute our meals but, obviously, we cannot think that everyone is going to talk and stop with us to get to know each other, but with time and constant presence you can always make breaches in someone's heart and let them approaching you after years of loneliness and despair.

Personally, I really understood the joy of "giving", probably thanks to those smiles that fill your life, make your days lighter and show you that despair will never be able to win definitively over joy ...

Sometimes I wonder if I do some voluntary work for me or for the others, but the answer can only be the same: for the others, but also for myself. I am a laic boy, but I see the presence of the religious as a very important element in this volunteering world. Whenever one of them is with me I feel safer.

I do not think that one could teach Charity or close it into a specific rule. Gospel is the only thing that helps in this context, the only thing that helps us working without leading everything into philanthropy.

Every week we have the possibility to change, to be better than before, to leave our egoism for a couple of hours. Being constantly dedicated let us creating new bonds that will last for ever, be-



8 *"...It is just 10.00 am and I have to wait a whole day to see Antonella, Sister Domitilla, Jacopo and the other Caritas friends again who every week come here at the Central station to bring us something to eat and a little comfort. I always like to be on time, after all it is what I have waited for the whole week... it is nice to see Antonella's smiling face and listen to the sweet voice of Sister Domitilla, it seems that they love me, I sleep on a cardboard and often my smell is perceived from a long distance and most passers-by avoid me..."*

"It is Monday and I am happy because I am seeing my friends soon. I hope they will realise that I have finally shaved and I do not have any holes in my shoes ... but it is still morning though, all right, I will wait here, hidden among the crowds and I will spend my time dreaming of Antonella's face and the gleaming look of Sister Domitilla when they will see my new shoes and my beardless face ... I can not wait!"

"It is Monday and I have a reason that makes me forgetting wine and the need of getting drunk! I must be ready and scented when they will come..."

Monday 8:30 p.m. - Matteotti's Square Naples:

"Guys?! How many sandwiches do we have today? Shall we divide in groups as usual or is there someone who wants to meet a friend in another area? ... Ok, then you go to the port and to the dock area, you to Cavour's Square and to the National Museum and we go to the Central Station. We can start with a prayer and then we can leave for our mission..."

cau-se I perceived the importance of friendship only among the poor and the miserable. Creating new relationships with them without caring about nationalities or religious differences helps us to look at the world in a pure way, it helps young boys and girls to protect their beliefs and not to care about what mass-medias and society want them to live within: ignorance and racial hate.

Volunteering is not always easy... I feel weak or frustrated sometimes... especially when I face de-sperate people crying in need of help or someone who kicks you out. There you realise that the only thing you can do is listening with your heart, trying to see the good, to see God, to see the loving gaze of Jesus Christ in those ones who hit you, only because they were drunk.

The main sneaky risk for volunteers is to lose the reason for helping poor people... the meaning should not only be "handing out" food or nice words like a mere jukebox. You need to involve your soul and think about the reason for what you are doing without any fears of awakening your conscience.

It was death, what clips your wings and makes you lose your hope, that gave me the push to keep on doing something charitable.

One day we met a shabby woman who used to sit inside the central station and talk with only a few people, and I was one of those "few ones". I felt lucky and glad. She asked me to bring her to the hospital due to a pain in her legs. They were in fact swollen and full of worms.

She spent a couple of months in hospital where the whole staff of the first aid department and the volunteers took care of her with love and patience. Doctors decided to amputate her leg trying to avoid blood poisoning (septicaemia) but it did not work: our friend died after a very short time.

When the doctor phoned us, we rushed to the hospital, into her huge and smelly room where she was alone, there alone like a forgotten bag of tools. In that precise moment the Lord showed me the meaning of what we, as volunteers, do: if I had not met her before, she would have been alone once again or maybe already dead. But today after having granted her a christian burial she can rest in peace in the cemetery of Poggioreale.

I remember that I felt very ashamed for what I was doing but while growing I started being proud of this and nowadays volunteering is part of my daily life.

With honour I am going to write some verses from a letter written by Edward, a homeless friend of mine: *"Good evening to you my beloved friend... God bless you and your family. Thank you, Yaku-bo"*.

I would end up this few considerations recalling Paolo Curtaz, a theologian:

"There is no prayer that does not become Service and a service that does not draw energy and strength from the pro-longed encounter with the Lord.

Prayer and action remain the two tracks on which our life of faith runs, woe to neglecting one or to oppose it to the other ... "

The Volunteers of the Caritas of Naples and the Youth Christian Movement of Naples distribute a-round 200 meals to homeless people of the town.

Jacopo Edoardo Pierno

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From Kerala



The flood that brought Kerala to its knees

In August 2018, severe flooding affected the south Indian state of Kerala due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. It was the worst flooding in Kerala in nearly a century.

Over 400 people died, while at least a million people were evacuated from various districts and had to be shifted to make shift relief homes. All 14 districts of the state were placed on red alert. According to the Kerala government, one-sixth of the total population of Kerala had been directly affected by the floods and related incidents.

Thirty-five out of the fifty-four dams within the state were opened for the first time in history. Heavy rains have caused severe landslides and have left the hilly districts isolated.

More than 42,000 hectares of crops are demolished. There were 537 landslides and 221 bridges destroyed. International airport of Kochi was immersed in the water for about 15 days and all the services were interrupted completely.

Very sad to see rows of houses submerged, shops inundated and helpless citizens scurrying around for a shelter. The devastating scale of destruction to houses, buildings, roads and infrastructure is almost unimaginable.

A time of solidarity, fraternity and common effort

If the most devastating flood of the century almost brought Kerala to its knees, it also brought in an army of Good Samaritans who came from all over the State to help people get back on their feet.

Voluntary organizations and civil society in Kerala have responded to the tragedy in an exemplary manner. The population in general did not wait idly for the government machinery to begin the actions. People from all walks of life were engaged in continuous efforts to provide help and support to the needy of every kind. Even when their own homes were water-logged, volunteers travelled to other places to save the lives of people marooned in homes and institutions. They ran rescue missions, set up relief centres to help the people in the best way possible.

The civil administration also worked shoulder to shoulder with the public. The software company had given their staff to work on relief and rescue. Their technical skills were used to the maximum to coordinate the relief effort.

They teamed with the youth in reaching out to various places with medicine, food items, clothing and other necessary things.

The women associations had their own active involvement in collecting food and reaching to relief camps. It was very heart-warming to see all the groups work together without any sense of religion or caste or other divisions.

An army officer hailing from Hindu religion recalls, "I had gone with my men to a church with rations and they directed us to a temple as there were more needy people. This sort of solidarity gives sign that this country has a good future".

A beautiful example of solidarity, religious harmony and peaceful co-existence of different types of people.

The number of fatalities could be reduced considerably also due to the outstanding servi-



ces of our Armed Forces, Police and Coast Guards.

But the fishermen were the true warriors of the land. They formed their own voluntary rescue service and carried their traditional wooden boats on lorries to the disaster area

and rescued a great number of men, women and children from swirling floodwaters.

“You are like our God,” a woman with folded hands told fishermen who saved her along with other female villagers and 30 youngsters trapped in a children’s home.

One of the fishermen who crouched in flood waters, offering his back for elderly women to step on and get

onto rescue boats, has emerged as the hero.

On many occasions they were able to skillfully maneuver their small traditional boats into places when helicopters were unavailable or unable to reach victims because of overhanging trees.

Government officials offered these fishermen an amount of money as wages for their tireless service and to meet the

needs of their poor families, however, they refused politely the offer as they just felt proud of helping their own brothers and sisters in need.

All the religious communities and church related schools and universities were kept completely at the service of people and did everything possible to alleviate the situation. The hospitals run by every religious organizations came forward to extent medical assistance and timely help to save lives at any cost. Truckers drove through blinding rain and flooded roads to reach essential materials to relief camps. Bus drivers put their lives at risk to keep transport lines open. Government machinery worked almost round the clock in the city. Sleep and rest became alien to an army of young volunteers. It was really encouraging to see volunteers, students, doctors, businessmen, housewives braving the bad weather to help out in every possible way. It was an occasion to renew our faith in humanity.

The solidarity of our community of Kudayampady

Our community in Kerala also did our widows-mite to reach out to the people in need.

Our primary school was given as relief camp for the people during the flood till water began to enter in the school premises and they had to be shifted to safer places.

Some sisters from other religious community was also accommodated in our convent as their residence was in danger.

Our school bus was kept available for transporting and distributing the food, sanitary



Our school of Kudayampady

things, sleeping materials and other things needed for the people in camps.

Sisters participated actively in the fasting, prayer services and adorations organized by the diocese and the parish asking God’s intervention and help.

A new beginning

As Kerala is limping back to normalcy after this flood that ravaged the State, volunteers are moving on to the next stage: helping people clean their homes and begin anew physically, spiritually and psychologically.

People everywhere still finding difficult to come to terms with their losses.

A sense of gloom and despair is palpable.

They talk endlessly about their loss, what they were left with and how God played a cruel game by taking away their homes and loved ones, but they also treasures a beautiful and unforgettable memory of humanity, love in action.

Yes, once again the attitudes lived by the people of this state proved that it is truly God’s own country.



CHISINAU: a church in celebration



We wish to share with our sisters and laic members of our religious family what the Holy the Spirit has realized in our small Diocese of Chişinău (Rep. Moldova) in its 25 years of charitable and evangelizing pastoral work using humble and poor instruments.

In the decree of last December the Bishop, Monsignor Anton Cosa, said:

“In the year 2018 we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the institution with the Apostolic Administration in the Republic of Moldova of our local Church, which was the first central structure of our nascent current Diocese. At the beginning of 2001, then, this Administration was chosen as Diocese of Chişinău. We want to celebrate this historic event together with all the priests, consecrated people and Catholic believers who are part of our Diocese”.

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The year 2017-2018 has been therefore proclaimed “Jubilee Year”, starting from the first Sunday of Advent, December 3 (2017), and closing on October 28 (2018). We celebrated it through several spiritual, liturgical and cultural initiatives at a diocesan, deanery and parish level.

We intensely experienced the Jubilee of consecrated people that took place on February 2, 2018 with a Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral dedicated to the “Divine Providence”, in which all consecrated men and woman of the Diocese took part, together with their Bishop, in a significant moment of reflection and fraternal sharing.

Communication among the participants was not easy because of the different spoken languages. But the Holy Spirit gave us the possibility to live the communion by listening to the same Gospel and then, with all our differences, we sat at the same table where we shared our feelings of joy and gratitude to the Lord.

Unfortunately, there are not many sisters in the Diocese: 8 congregations for a total of 26 nuns of different nationalities: Romanian, Malagasy, Philippine, Polish, Ukrainian, Italian and Moldavian. This is a beautiful example of communion in diversity and a concrete sign of the universality of the Church. They serve in parishes, in three kindergartens and

they also help the Bishop.

The presence of the religious men is even poorer than that one of women: only three male congregations with 13 members in total.

Despite this, we do not stop to “sow” in the name of Hope, because we are sure that everything we do is in the hands of the Lord!

The priests lived their Jubilee with the specific celebration of the Holy Thursday, together with all the Catholics of the city.

We would point out that our Diocese only includes twenty parishes with priests of different nationalities: Romanian, Polish, Italian, Indian, Moldovan and Ukrainian. On different occasions they met for moments of fraternity, celebrations and learning. This enables them to create bonds of mutual support and collaboration. In fact, our parishes are far from each other with only a few Catholics (only 0.05% of the population).

The priests, however, are of service for everyone, because the poor are all God’s creatures even in the diversity of their religious beliefs.

Even children and young people joined specific meetings and celebrations.

At deanery and parish level, the preparation has been simultaneously organized with the patronal celebrations, preceded by spiritual exercises as occasions for reflection and prayer.



Some initiatives were concentrated in the months of September /October.

First of all, we had the joy of welcoming the Vatican Cardinal, Mons. Pietro Parolin, who was invited to participate in the XII World Congress of Families that took place this year in our city. On this occasion,

His Eminence warmly urged all participants to answer to Pope Francis' appeal: to fight individualistic culture and to collaborate in the realization of God's plan within families and in married life, places of holiness and devotion to the Gospel.

Another significant moment of his visit took place on September 15th with a thanksgiving solemn Mass for the Jubilee of the Diocese.

There were 4 bishops: our Mons. Anton Cosa, Mons. Miguel Buendia - the Apostolic Nuncio for Romania and the Republic of Moldova - the bishop of Iasi Mons. Pietro Gherghel, the Auxiliary of the same Diocese Mons. Aurel Perca, Mons. Benone Farcas Rector of the Iasi Seminary, delegations of the Orthodox Church and of other religious confessions, representatives of the State, consecrated people, laymen of our Diocese and foreign guests.

The Cardinal's homily was full of food for thoughts and words of encouragement. He was particularly pleased when he expressly brought us the Pope's greetings and blessings with these words:

"I am pleased to bring you the feelings of closeness, affection and blessing of the Holy Father Francis. His constant presence as a near and solicitous pastor is for us all of great comfort in the journey of our faith.

I thank the bishop, Mons. Anton Cosa, for inviting me to preside over this Mass and, together with the greeting of the Holy Father, I express my sincere joy for being with you on this happy Jubilee occasion".

The meeting with our community together with the delegate Sister Viviana was simple and fraternal; the Cardinal entertained us listening with pleasure and interest to the story of our mission. He thanked and exhorted us to continue with courage and trust.

Another Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Lecce (Italy), Mons. Michele Seccia. In his homily he encouraged our bishop and promised him moral, spiritual and economic support. He said that he will not leave us alone, and thus we trust in the value of this promise of solidarity and brotherhood between the two dioceses.

After this solemn moment, the participants gathered to share the journey of charity that has been carried on by our Diocese over the past 25 years.

Thanks to a well made video we could see and experience the wonders performed by the Lord through many charitable people.

Moreover, each association presented in detail how it was able to make the commandment "Love one another, as I have loved you" concrete.

Even our congregation took part as a small piece in this beautiful mosaic of charity.

One sister of the community presented in broad



terms what has been done in the "Home of Providence" (Casa Provvidenza), in the daily senior center that also includes a canteen service and many other activities and also in the "Giovanni Paolo II" Foundation - mainly in the European Center for Preschool Education (Nursery school) which is now in its ninth year of life.

What was and still is most gratifying to us is to notice how so many people of different religions and not just of Catholic confession have been helping us to grow solidarity towards the most needy realities of Moldova. This tells us that good can always live in communion among diversity: it is a concrete testimony of ecumenism and charity of evangelical spirit.

The Jubilee Year ended on October 28 (2018) with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio Mons. Miguel Buendia, our bishop, priests, religious men and women along with all the Catholics of our town.

Chișinău, a small Church of the outskirts, this jubilee celebration is not a point of arrival for you, but it marks a new stage of ardour in your life: we wish this to you with whole our heart.

Sisters from the community of Chișinău

The Caress of 'Nazareno'

HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY LASTING A CENTURY AT GORIZIA WHICH SINKS ITS ROOTS IN THE WORK OF SAN LUIGI SCROSOPPI AND IN THE INSTITUTE HE FOUNDED: THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

The historic building of the 'Nazareno', built in Gorizia in the first years of the '900 to accommodate the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, has changed over the years as the intended use in relation to different historical situations that, from time to time, indicated need of unavoidable charity.



permanent exhibition in the local Nazarene; the exposed panels retraced the salient moments of the path of Charity that is developed in this building.

The exhibition, entitled WARS AND REFUGEES TO NAZARENE OF GORIZIA, consists of two sections:

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Since its rise, it has been an important and significant place for the Gorizia, and not only: its social function of reception and relief in the different dramatic moments of the last century is the emblem of a city that, in its

border position, during the First World War was able to take care of the soldiers and civilians of any ethnic group, Italians, Germans or Slavs, especially when they passed from one day to the next, from citizens to refugees for crossing the boundaries.

Today this place has had to open up to other hospitality, becoming a point of welcome for the shelter seekers coming from the Balkan route.

- the first traces the period from the foundation to the last century, characterized by the presence of so many Sisters of Providence who have made alive the charism of charity of the Founder dedicating their life to the care of the neighbors at Nazarene;

- the second focuses on the current period, from the arrival of the first refugees on the Soča River to today, and recounts the reception work carried out by the Mosaic Consortium.

THE EXHIBITION

The history that took place within the walls of the 'Nazarene' constitutes a historical, cultural and above all important human heritage that cannot be forgotten or ignored, especially in a moment of forgetfulness and confusion like the present.

For this reason the Voluntary Association Buonavia, in collaboration with the Consortium The Mosaic and the Congregation of Providence, wanted to create a

THE FIRST SECTION THE NAZARENE IN '900

The panels in this section document, through vintage photos and the testimony that emerges from diaries of the Sisters, the initial moments of the work and underline the providential character of a succession of facts that in a few years (1902-1908) led to the construction of the building and to its use as a Novitiate House. The exhibition continues to be inserted into historical events, always giving voice to the diaries written by the Sisters. At the



outbreak of the First World War, on 26 July 1914, Gorizia is a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; Italy will enter the war almost a year later, on May 24, 1915.

In August 1914 an Austro-Hungarian military hospital was set up to accommodate the wounded on the Balkan and Eastern fronts. The Sisters of Providence of the General Headquarters of Comons and of the Nazarene are called to the preparation and construction of the premises at the former Seminary of Gorizia. Soon, a series of bombings renders the military hospital premises useless, since 1916, it is transferred to the Nazarene.

Gorizia in August 1916 was reconquered by Italian troops and the Nazarene became the headquarter of the Italian military hospital. After Caporetto, October 25, 1917, the Austrian army regains control of this area and near the Nazarene finds shelter and cures a large number not more of soldiers, but Russian and Italian refugees and prisoners.

In 1919 Gorizia returned definitively Italian and the Nazarene became the headquarter of the civil hospital until 1959; since 1935, moreover, it accommodates the Boarding School for nurses that remains active until 1997.

In the dramatic years of the war and in the period following immediately the sisters always have assisted the wounded and the refugees with dedication and competence. The chronicles they wrote today constitute a very precious historical document, but above all they testify to human greatness and religious nature of this work that the Congregation has been able to sustain in such tragic times.

THE SECOND SECTION FROM 2014 THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW REFUGEES

In Friuli Venezia Giulia in 2014 there is an extraordinary increase in arrivals of migrants, above all Afghans and Pakistanis, through the Balkan route. For hospitality to shelter seekers the Caritas of Gorizia requires the help of the Sisters of Providence who, in April 2014, open the doors of the Nazarene. The Consortium of social cooperatives The Mosaic is involved which stipulates one agreement with the Prefecture and took over management of the Nazarene in September 2014, at the same time creating important structural investments in the implementation of the building and its installation.

In the panels of this second section, after a brief historical illustration, we propose a series of images of shelter seekers involved in volunteer work, training activities and training courses job start. In fact, we want guests to be aware of having been welcomed in a community that takes their hard



work and their needs to heart; and from this it is born often, for their part, a grateful relationship with the community and with the city that welcomes them.



MAGGIO 2018
HAMID ABDUL HAYA
AFGHANISTAN
DIPINGE PADRE
SCROSOPPI

We also wanted to enrich the atrium lobby with a portrait of San Luigi Scrosoppi made by an Afghan painter, guest of the Nazarene: it is a face with intense, deep and benevolent eyes. The background of the painting emanates a light that represents the presence of God, from which the Saint is born and whose light is reflected in the gold that shines in the features of the face.

Also the realization of this work was an opportunity to increase the relationship between the different civilizations and religions in the clarity of an identity that becomes capable of welcoming and serving.

Emanuela Cosatti



St. Luigi, a father who comes to meet the poor with charity

A religious presence that transforms us

It's been a long time since I have known Fr. Luigi Scrosoppi. I was only 5 years old when for the first time a Religious arrived at the door of my house: Sr. Teobaldina, now in the peace of paradise. My grandmother told me that when the sister had arrived, I immediately ran to meet her and to embrace her, although I did not know her. Then I remember that she invited me to be a friend of Fr. Luigi. I heard this invitation repeated many times when I went to the kindergarten held by sisters.

Now, after many years, I realize that the invitation to be a friend of Fr. Luigi came from Jesus Himself, that manifested through the Sisters of Providence who are missionaries in a barrio of Tiscorina, in the city of La Paz, Uruguay. I can say that this friendship with Fr. Luigi was very fruitful, because he helped me to become a catechist of children of first communion and animator of youth, as I am still.

Later, Fr. Luigi wanted me to become a catechist of my own parents, who received holy Communion as adults and now they are engaged in the service of providing meals for the poorest of the city and are also active in the pastoral work of the Chapel, called Resurrection. Many years back the sisters



left our community, however as Christians, we tried not to let 'die' the charism of Fr. Luigi among us. And so God wished that after many years the Sisters of Providence could return to visit us, so that our neighbourhood would resume to breathe the charism of Fr. Luigi; the presence of Sr. Claudia among us, gives us a lot of joy as, on every Saturday afternoon, together we visit families and animate the Oratory.

This new closeness with the sisters, made it flourish the life of the community and of the chapel, Resurrection. A last strong experience: together with the group of young animators, we have visited the sisters of the Community of Mystical Rose of Montevideo who opened the doors of their house for our spiritual retreat. I saw their testimony of serenity and I believe in the strength of their prayer.

Thanks to Fr. Luigi and to the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence who help us to invigorate and revive our hearts towards the little ones and those in need.

Cesar Bentancor 'Comunity of Resurrection', La Paz - Uruguay

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