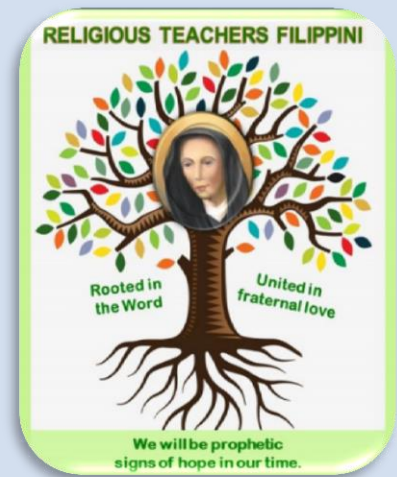


Pontifical Institute
Religious Teachers Filippini
Communicating... No. 8
Generalate
April - June 2021



...Be praised my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness... (Cantic of the Sun)

June 2021

Dear Sisters,

It was rewarding for the Council and me to review the reports you submitted explaining the various ways you were immersed in this past year's study of Laudato Si.' The evaluations from each entity presented the varied ways you outlined your study, the attitudes and concepts that were reinforced, the issues that raised your awareness, and how you plan to make a difference. It is not feasible or necessary, yet I do want to glean from your responses and share one aspect from each entity's response. Why? To express that your work is valued, and we benefit from each other's efforts and ideas.

Sister Frewini, Regional Superior of Ethiopia, reported that the highlight of their discussions centered on the effects of the horrors of war where they experienced firsthand what man can do to destroy God's creation. The loss of people, of animals, the damaged trees, the ruination of nature, the devastation of buildings left them mourning an empty land! What a sad example of the ingratitude of man for God's great gift of creation!

Regina Pacis Region, India, Sister Maria Xavier gave examples of various creative and prayerful nature experiences the Sisters participated in during this year of *Laudato Si'*. One example, a day was set apart where the Sisters were asked to go on a nature walk and experience God's beauty and power of healing in complete silence. On their return, they were expected to bring something from the nature experience that gave them inspiration or meaning to their life. They each shared their experience and the significance of the item they chose. Some of them brought plants, small moving creatures, while others brought soil, water, etc. Experiencing nature in this prayerful exercise was enriching and elevating for the sisters.

In Eritrea, Sister Mebrak Surfiel, Regional Superior, confirmed that as intelligent beings we have the responsibility to use our talents and get involved to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God's creation. If we protect our environment, in return it will protect us. However, our people here are struggling for survival. They do not have the full freedom to speak and propagate environmental protection. They find

their comfort in the Gospel of Matthew 6:31-34 “*Do not worry, and say, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ ...your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*”³³ *But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*”



Sacred Heart Province, Rome: In presenting the outline of their program, **Provincial, Sister Virginia Iamele**, communicated that during the monthly retreat under the guidance and instruction of a priest, the sisters were assisted in their study of this encyclical. The Filippini Lay Adult Group, Lu & Gi Youth Group, and many schools under the expert guidance

of His Excellency Cipollone made this journey of study together. The schools observed and expressed these lessons through art, music, and dance programs. The Middle School in Pescara performed in creative art and dance “*The Canticle of the Sun.*” Decorations and visual signs in their schools demonstrated that even the children were involved and had an opportunity to express their understanding of *Laudato Si’*. In the state schools, Sister Caterina Valentini, Professor of Religion, presented the concepts of the encyclical with a project entitled: “*The Earth in Our Hands.*”

Under the guidance of **Sister Barbara Ranere, Regional Superior, England**, the small community of five sisters celebrated the Season of Creation (September 1- October 4) through psalms of creation and special daily intercessions. They watched the twelve video series of Franciscan, Father Daniel Horan, “*Understanding of Laudato Si’*” and after each session discussed its content. They resolved to live each day in praise, thanksgiving, and appreciation of God, Our Creator, and for His gifts of each other and creation.

Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior of the Saint Lucy Province, USA, virtually incorporated the study of *Laudato Si’* in the year’s community gatherings and monthly days of prayer. Each chapter of the encyclical was expounded by knowledgeable and well-prepared presenters. In addition, from September through February Sister Patricia sent a monthly program for study to each convent. On completion of the study, the sisters were asked to submit a brief Action Plan or Resolution that would impact their daily lives. These are samples of the many resolutions made by the sisters each month:

- Daily or weekly use #Mercy2EarthExamen based on Pope Francis’ message: “*Have Mercy on Our Common Home.*”
- Cultivate a spirit of gratitude that will prompt us to realize that we have received all as “*gift*” and we are called to be responsible stewards.
- Vote on legislative acts that promote life, respect human dignity, and curb the exploitation of natural resources.

Vice- Provincial, Sister Maria Helena de Carvalho MPF, Brazil, shared the attitudes and beliefs that were strengthened through their study:

- The importance of praying with nature, contemplating its beauty and perfection, and becoming aware that without it we cannot live fully;
- The certainty of faith that every man and all things were created by God, as the fruit of His infinite love;
- We are all (man, creation) connected, we communicate and complement each other;
- Responsible use of water, electricity, technologies, and other tools;
- We must take care of and make the environment healthy for today's man and the new generations;
- In Brazil we need to collaborate, even if discreetly, with the preservation of the Amazon rainforest, and raise this awareness among our students, social projects, and the people we meet; cultivate respect for "indigenous peoples" who are threatened by rulers and certain sectors of society;
- Each of us is invited by the Pope to examine our conscience, to change our lives because we are all responsible for climate change and the destruction of the planet.
- The rulers must change and create public policies aimed at concrete actions for the preservation of nature and every living being in all its manifestations.

Sisters, particularly praiseworthy is that you involved your students, workers, and the various groups you serve to become more fully aware that the earth, our Common Home, holds personal responsibility for each of us. How gratifying that we grasped more clearly our communion with God, humanity, and creation and that this realization fortifies and brings greater meaning and appreciation to our prayer of praise and thanksgiving, especially in our daily praying of the psalms.

The fruitfulness, however, will be our implementation of the resolves of this study. The challenge ahead is that our resolutions become a way of life for this study to fulfill its purpose. May our lives, in unison with all creation, continue to give praise and glory to God. This is what it is all about!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

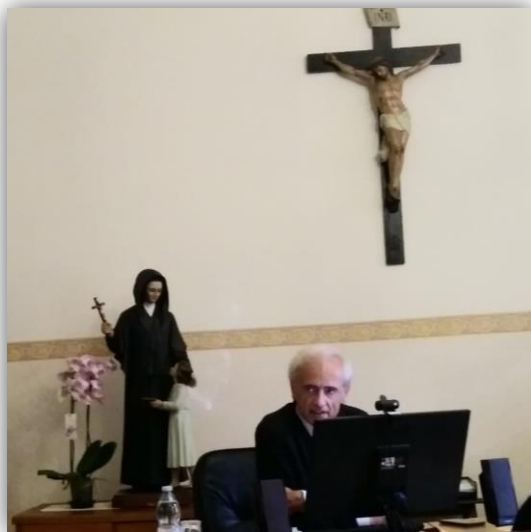
Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF
General Superior



Sacred Heart Province – Italy

Parent Responds to Piero Schiavazzi Training Program

Accepting the invitation from our school's director, with faith and enthusiasm, I took advantage of the prevailing technology that allowed me to listen to the message of Professor Piero Schiavazzi. At this informative encounter, he addressed parents on the theme: *"The Educational and Ever-Present Charism of Saint Lucy Filippini"* through concrete examples of her personal life.



Similar to a father, also a teacher and former student of the schools of the Maestre Pie, Professor Piero Schiavazzi transmitted a new ardor, he reinvigorated our dignity as parents of pupils attending a school that holds strongly to its *Catholic identity*.

Professor Piero Schiavazzi eminently recalled the standard purpose of the schools opened by Saint Lucy in an era of crisis and poverty. Her objective, an integral formation, is aimed at the continuous growth of the person that God has established for each of us in His unique plan.

He warned us against possible idleness of spirit and conscience in the name of indifference, one that denies, rejects, and does not recognize Christianity as a decisive turning point that defines the outline of free humanity.

This, moreover, was Lucy's desire: *"So that God might be known by all gentiles, perfectly believed by all heretics and loved by all sinners, I would spare no effort, nor would I hesitate to give my life a thousand times."*

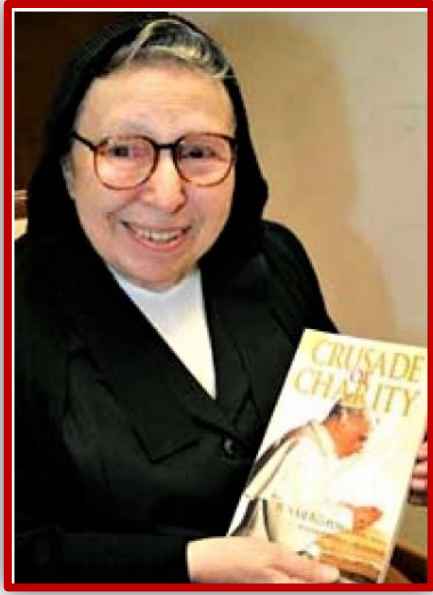
Thank you, dear sisters. I, too, grew up among you. Thank you, Sister Gabriella, and each of you, because with the grace of God you preserve the beauty of this humanity!

Sincerely,

A Student's Mother

Sister Margherita Marchione's Memory Commemorated in Rome

Sister Margherita Marchione, a member of the Saint Lucy Province, died on May 19, 2021. Defined by so many as a scholar, an author, a lecturer, yes, but most importantly, she was a steadfast, faithful member of the Maestre Pie Filippini. It is scribed she



is considered Pope Pius XII's foremost defender outside of the Vatican itself, deserving the title "*Defender of Pope Pius XII*" because of her extensive research defying the allegations of those who claimed he had failed to assist the Jews from Nazi atrocities. Sister wrote several books in his defense in both Italian and English and has been the guest lecturer at universities, television programs, radio, and a presenter in distinct gatherings in Italy and the United States, dedicating all her energy, forcefully struggling for the beatification of Pius XII. Through these many years, her writings and books included other prominent Italian figures.

However, once she began her study on Pope Pius XII in the latter part of her life, this became her sole focus. For her brilliant work on this topic and other scholarly works, her death spread widely throughout Italy on radio, video clips, newspapers, magazines, among them, *Inside the Vatican*, a prestigious journal.

In June 2021, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, superior general, received an invitation from Emilio Artieri, Esq., President of the Pope Pacelli Pius XII Committee, to attend a Mass at the Church of San Salvatore in Rome on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The Mass was to remember Pius XII and to celebrate the 65th anniversary of "*Haurietis Aquas*" (*You will joyfully draw the waters from the springs of the Savior.*), Pius XII's encyclical on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Eminence Cardinal Mauro Piacenza was the celebrant, and this Mass was offered in memory of Sister Margherita. Several bishops, members of the clergy, members of the Pope Pacelli Pius XII Committee, and the nephew of Pius XII were among those present. The solemnity of the Mass, the homily, and the exceptional music accented the magnificence of this event. Before beginning the liturgy, Advocate Emilio Artieri presented Sister Ascenza with a Certificate of Merit that read "*In memory of Sister Margherita Marchione, MPF for the extraordinary and courageous commitment made for the cause of Venerable Pius XII.*" A souvenir with Sister Margherita's photo (above photo) was distributed to all who attended.



After the Liturgy, the sisters who attended had the opportunity to meet and take photos with the Cardinal and also speak with the distinguished guests who had only words of praise for Sister Margherita. Pius XII's nephew went out of his way to introduce himself and to thank the Maestre Pie Filippini for the support the community gives to the cause of Pope Pius XII's beatification and also for our filial affection for his uncle.



Nephew of Pope Pius XII

Sister Margherita has not lived to witness the beatification of Pius XII, but no doubt she continues her battle to intercede for this cause even today before the throne of God. Although a very gentle, kindhearted woman, another side of her was determined, driven, and tireless in achieving her goals. The title of her autobiography, *“The Fighting Nun”* best describes the intensity of her convictions. May we one day see her fight and her dream become a reality.

Mater Christi Region - Medstead, England

The recent death of Prince Philip was highly noted in the UK. Great respect, honor, and tribute were sentiments that publicly marked the life of the late Prince. His life of 99 years was noted in so many positive ways.

This uplifting coverage sparked an idea for us: *Why can't we pay special tribute to each Sister with whom we live?* Therefore, it was decided collectively, that at each Sunday dinner before dessert, we would choose by lottery, one Sister whom we

would honor, and to whom we would pay tribute. Of course, everything had to be positive. Each one of us would take a turn to speak of gifts, talents, and attributes of the honoree. This has been a rewarding experience, something we look forward to weekly, the optimistic affirmation and appreciation of one other!



Mater Boni Consilii, Region - Ethiopia

We Walk With Difficulty, But With Confidence!

For the entire regional community in Ethiopia prayer has been a significant weapon to combat the various problems of our country as a whole, problems that began with COVID-19 and continued with the war.

Our customary activities are still closed. The sisters are grateful to Mother General and to the entire Institute for the prayers, encouragement, and financial help that benefit the sisters and the poor who live close by.

“Visiting the sick was a pleasing and merciful ministry for Lucy... She consoled them in their suffering and exhorted them to trust in the Lord ” (Words to Grow and Live By, page 66). In addition to praying more intensely during this challenging time, following the example of Saint Lucy who endured every difficulty, the sisters visited the internally displaced persons in the camps, visited the elderly and the sick in their homes, and helped the poor. These became the main activities in the most difficult and

frightening moments that the sisters endured. Even though the students were unable to participate, as usual, the sisters went to the hospital to wish healing and Easter joy to the sick.

Center for the Blind “S. Maria del Soccorso”

It was difficult for the *Center for the Blind* that welcomes the blind with their families, to cope during this difficult period. But thanks to the intervention of the Institute, the MAC, and other benefactors, everyone had enough to survive. They received food, detergent, coal, and other necessities. They are ever grateful and pray for all those who contribute to improving their living conditions



"Daughters of Saint Lucy" - Every 13th of the month of this year, the group of the *"Daughters of Saint Lucy"* participated with the community in the Eucharistic celebration in the chapel at Adigrat. They were happy to join in this common prayer, especially to pray for peace in their country during this very problematic time.



Since this article was forwarded to the Generalate, the war has resumed and there is grave concern once again for our Sisters in Ethiopia.

Mater Misericordiae Region - Eritrea

A New Beginning!

Thanks be to God! In Eritrea, after a year of closure of our schools, centers for the promotion of women and spiritual assistance were able to reopen and are already working to provide their usual services. Everyone was looking forward to these days because the period of isolation and closure was long. Above all, Christians have suffered intensely. They were not allowed to go to church and participate in Liturgical Services. Finally, they could celebrate Easter joy and for this everyone thanked God.

The students in the school were divided into three shifts, instead of the usual two for safety reasons. They are strictly following directions to wear masks, wash their hands and keep their distance, and are truly enjoying the return to school after a long break.



Now sisters and lay teachers are very busy trying to make up for the lessons they could not complete last year. In Tukul, Keren and Hamelmalo, the aspirants returned to their communities and resumed their academic lessons and the rhythm of ordinary life. Also in Berakit, the sisters have started their pastoral service in the parish.

In Hamelmalo, there is a college near the convent. Young Catholics of this college used to participate in the Eucharistic celebration and other spiritual initiatives with the sisters. Last year due to the coronavirus everything was interrupted, but now that they returned, they are attending Sunday Eucharist as usual. In addition, in their free time, the sisters give them spiritual lessons necessary for their Christian journey. They are very grateful for this blessed opportunity since there is no Catholic church nearby. The area is predominantly Muslim, so they truly appreciate what the Church is doing through the efforts of the Religious Teachers Filippini.

The socio-political-economic difficulties where the sisters are living continue to question the continuance of our schools. The Lord knows the profound pain of those who, with the simplicity and trust of children, entrust themselves to His hands.

Sister Maria Alliegro, MPF **Co-founder of the Mission in India** **A Passionate Missionary**



The mission in India was founded in January 1987, pioneered by Sister Josephine Di Raimo, Sister Rosey Akkunnath, and Sister Marykutty Manakunnel. A year later, in October 1988, Sister Maria Alliegro, a member of the Queen of Apostles Province, Bristol, Connecticut, USA, was assigned to India and added to the mission's leading pioneers. With the untiring efforts of these four pillars, blending their ideas and talents, willingness to sacrifice, and above all trusting in the providence of the Lord, this small community slowly formed a Region.

Having had leadership experience in the United States, she brought her knowledge of the role of teacher and principal in the school and youth programs, an understanding of the benefits of a collaborative ministry so necessary for the role of leadership.

Sister Maria Alliegro's presence and gifts contributed greatly to the growth of this new growing mission. She was ever grateful to the Province that prepared her for this new challenge.



Sister Maria was forty-five when she came to India; still young, full of life and energy, talented, courageous, determined, filled with joy and enthusiasm. She embraced the budding mission wholeheartedly, offering all the gifts that God had bestowed upon her. A great challenge was awaiting her: a mission land with no house yet constructed; a foreign language and culture; food, customs, and usages different from that of Europe and

America. But nothing seemed to stop Sister Maria from moving forward. Her ever-smiling face radiated the joy of her belonging to God.

Soon she learned a few words in *Telugu*, the local language. Her loving and friendly nature attracted children to her, and she taught them to stretch their arms like Jesus on the cross, "I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH." Each time the children saw her, they extended their hands and repeated "I LOVE YOU THIS MUCH."



The journeys that Sister Maria made "*to and fro*" from Italy to India were countless. long and sacrificing. After arriving at the airport, there yet remained twenty-four hours of traveling by train to reach Janampet. This space of time was tremendously overbearing, especially in the beginning years. Traveling within India when opening

new mission centers, supervising the construction of houses and schools with poor transportation and crude facilities, bearing the extreme, excruciating heat of summer are beyond imagination. Sister Maria's great desire to realize the dream of Saint Lucy "*to be in every corner of the earth*" is the motivation that pushed her forward. Her strong determination to fulfill the duties entrusted to her and her love for the mission superseded any hurdles. She never tired, and never felt that the Lord was asking too much of her. Instead, she moved forward with great generosity knowing the Lord walked ahead of her and opened new doors before her. She worked collaboratively in ministry with the various congregations and dioceses in different parts of India. All this so that Saint Lucy would be known to larger numbers of people. Her exemplary presence and her religious dignity attracted admiration, love, and respect from people of all different walks of life.

Sister Maria loved the poor. Moved with compassion, she searched for benefactors to come to their aid and fulfill their various needs. People from the Villages loved to call

her “*Peddamma*” - “*Big Mother*” not because she was the older member but mainly because of her “*Big Heart*” that welcomed and embraced everyone.



Sister Maria was a Mother, a Sister, a Teacher, a Counselor, a Formator, a storyteller, an animator, an organizer, a facilitator, a community builder, an inspiration, a dynamic leader, a visionary, and a great missionary. Her deep-rooted conviction of Religious life was visible in all the roles she was given.

The Regina Pacis Region is and will ever be grateful to the Institute for having gifted the mission with such a wonderful person. We bow our heads in prayers of gratitude to Sister Maria for her love of the Institute, the valuable and unique contribution to our mission, her tireless efforts for the growth and expansion of the Indian mission, for her wholehearted dedication and commitment to the cause of the Lord, for her countless sacrifices, for enriching the lives of each one of us, and for the love and concern that she held in her heart for us, and above all for being a Mother and a Sister. We thank God for her presence in our lives.

This tribute was written by Sister Mercy Chakkiath, General Councilor and a member of the Regina Pacis Region. Her purpose is to preserve the beginning history of the Sisters in India and to remember the strong impact Sister Maria had in their beginnings and until her passing.

Mater Divinae Grazie - Brazil **The Vice-Province Engages in *Laudato Si'***

Ten Days of Study - *Laudato Si'*

Sr. Brigida Schwmbach, MPF, the teachers, and their employees spent ten days of study and work, precious moments together, finding ways to implement and contribute to giving care to our Common Home. Together they studied passages from the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, learned from experts, and watched "*Laudato Si', the Rebirth of Hope*" a film that referenced the care of our Common Home. From there, they moved to the practical. They planted several native trees of the Brazilian forest and fruits that thrive in their environment in the gardens of the Vice-Provincial House.

By studying the *Laudato Si'* document, they became aware that many daily mistakes can be avoided, and at the same time produce benefits for now and for future generations. Small gestures and some personal attitudes make the difference and help to recover nature.

The group recommends some concrete actions that they engaged:

- Recycle industrialized materials and careful use of water (in personal hygiene, in the reuse of rainwater and others, etc ...)
- Replace incandescent lamps for LEDs, and make use of solar lighting; Use household appliances only when necessary.
- Check the origin of the products purchased to discover if they pollute the natural environment; Give attention to the waste of toxic products, etc.



Translation: Study with the Employees – Vice-Provincial House

The Kindergarten of the "Colegio Santa Lucia Filippini" São Paulo, SP

Postulant, Kamilla Mota de Santana, raised awareness with her students on the importance of nature and the need to care for it, admire it, and thank the Father in Heaven who gives us these great gifts. Each child sowed the sunflower seed, they cared for their plant every day and followed the process of its growth. Eventually, they each brought their seedling home to continue caring for it. The children profited from this nature experience.



Collegio "Our Lady of Divine Providence" Peruíbe, SP

The teachers made pupils aware of the importance of caring for and preserving our Common Home. They were taught responsible use of water and even celebrated *World Water Day*. They also learned to reuse plastic bottles and other materials,

and to use leaves and petals in their works of art. They organized the community garden and planted trees on the school property. Everyone enjoyed this initiative and learned that it is still possible to save the planet with hard work, an appreciation for beauty, and a sense of pride.

Translation - Art and Recycling



Translation - Planting the Tree

Everyone is called to be conscious and do the best one can do. It is not enough to act individually, everyone must unite their efforts and make the necessary changes when human life and the ecosystem are at risk.

*The destruction of our Common Home
is also the destruction of the human being.*