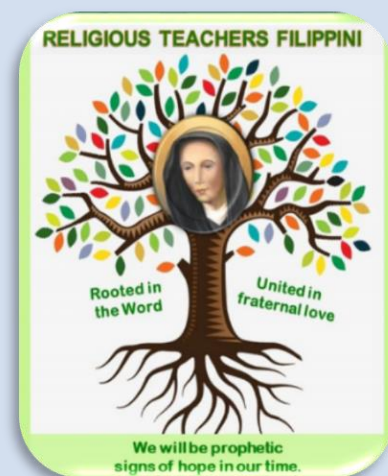


***Pontifical Institute***  
***Religious Teachers Filippini***  
***Communicating... No. 16***  
***Generalate***  
***April – June 2023***



Dear Sisters,

This is my second communication to you that speaks on the topic of the “*Synod on Synodality*.” Once again, I want to reinforce the importance of this Synod which will be well underway by the time you receive our next bulletin. Thus, this letter allows me once again the opportunity to stress the importance of this event, what it means for the Church’s future, to stir your interest, be knowledgeable and even more importantly to invite the power of your prayer. It is said that this Synod could have an impact on the Church and also on our lives moving forward and could be the most transformative event in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council. Let us move forward with open minds, allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to take precedence, and not be distracted or swayed, but always firm in the Church’s teaching. Invite the Spirit!

Pope Francis reminds us that the outcome of this Synod is not to produce documents but to open horizons of hope for the fulfillment of the Church’s mission: “*to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resource that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands and inspire a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel*”. Pope Francis: Preparatory Document – 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly, Synod of Bishops, 07.09.21)

The “*Instrumentum Laboris*” (*IL*) (*working document*) for the Synod has been released and is now accessible to everyone. It is divided into three themes: *Communion, Mission, Participation*. What is different about this Synod is that we were all invited in Phase One to discern what it means to exercise our right as baptized members to participate in the body of Christ. This “*IL*” is the condensed result of all the responses from the listening phase from all over the world. If you look carefully at the working document you will note that instead of presenting the responses that emerged from the people of God as statements, it expresses them as questions for the Synodal Assembly to discern. Their task is to present concrete steps which will enable the continued growth of a synodal Church and then submit these to the Holy Father.

For Pope Francis, it is more important that those involved in the synodal process experience the Spirit during their time together in prayer, discussion, and listening. They are modeling what it means to be church. Sisters, stay informed and prayerful for what

will happen in this Second Phase, Part 1, which begins in October. There will be a Part Two to this Assembly in October 2024.

The process and the key to the fruitfulness of the Synod will come from *listening* to one another. *Listening* is the key at this Synod just as listening is crucial when we gather for Chapters and community gatherings. It demands listening actively and attentively to one another; listening without judging; paying attention not only to the words but also to the tone and feelings of the one who is speaking. How often rather than listening while another is speaking, we are preparing our response. True listening, however, demands emptying our minds in order to absorb what the person is sharing. We pray that this Synod will be a great opportunity for those present to truly listen to one another and to call upon the Holy Spirit. *Communion* is built in mutually listening to one another.

Pope Francis compares *listening* to a choir: *“In a choir, unity does not require uniformity, or monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony. At the same time, each voice in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole. This harmony is conceived by the composer, but its realization depends on the symphony of each and every voice.”*

*(Pope Francis: World Day of Open Communication – January 24, 2022)*

Listening is always followed by dialogue where once again the skill of true listening is vital and is ensued by profound prayer and discernment. Let us prayerfully remember in a special way those who have been personally invited to be part of this process in this Second Phase. With them, we turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance to find our place in seeking, understanding, and participating even from a distance in this shared journey of synodality especially through our earnest interest and our fervent prayer for the Church. May this historical event in the Church fulfill its purpose over time and open for each of us a new dimension of Church where brother and sister can walk together in understanding, respect, and harmony while always with respect and fidelity to the doctrinal teaching of the Church.

Always united in prayer,

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, M.P.F.*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF  
Superior General





## Sacred Heart Province, Italy

### Community Day – Province of the Sacred Heart Sponsored by General Superior and Council

A spirited gathering of the Maestre of the Province of the Sacred Heart took place on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at the Institute of Cardinal Barbarigo, (*Via Trevignano*). Due to restrictions during the two years of *Covid* and the sisters' immersion in celebrating Saint Lucy's Jubilee Year, the Province hadn't gathered for this annual event for the last three years. Thus, the revival of this day strongly manifested itself in abundant gestures of welcome and excitement that extended throughout the entire day.



Mother General's welcome set the tone for the day, "*We Are Called to Be Light.*" The opening Prayer Celebration prepared by Suor Antonietta D'Alessio reflected the theme of light, "*The Light that Sheds Light on Us.*" The lit Christ candle from which each sister lit her candle emphasized clearly that our light comes from the light of Christ. The theme was further emphasized by a dance where the Indian Sisters prayerfully danced with lit votive candles to a hymn

they composed during the Jubilee year in their native language on Lucy's bearing the light of Christ.

The remaining session of the morning was in the capable and prayerful hands of Father Donato Varuzza, former Filippini student, who charismatically pronounced his message of God's immense love for us through sharing God's Word, employing music, and



engaging the group to participate and to be inspired by holy movements. He invited the sisters to come forward by house and to bring their needs and faults and leave them at the foot of the Cross. The gesture of each group joining hands expressed the unity we share with one another. The sisters were reminded of the love that is



portrayed in the washing of the feet. Sister Irene Tabor tenderly washed the feet of some of the sisters. Father reminded the sisters that Easter is a condition of the heart.

*"I give you a new heart."*

Believe this! The morning ended with the sisters each coming forward and having their hands blessed with holy oil, while Mother General implored upon each *"Receive the power of the Holy Spirit!"*



The sisters continued celebrating the joy of being together at a lovely prepared dinner. The movement of the morning's holy experience revealed itself even as the sisters leisurely enjoyed and exchanged conversation. After dinner, the sisters had a short time to be together before attending the Sunday liturgy that crowned a beautiful day that

the sisters spent together. The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter was Jesus on the road to Emmaus. How significant to the experience of this day traveling the road together, and being able to recognize the Lord more clearly as Father Donato called our attention to the breaking of the bread more pointedly.



There were many people to express gratitude to at the close of this day, since it took many hands for the day to move along so filled with meaning. In her words of appreciation, Mother General especially thanked all the sisters who were able to attend because without their presence the day would have held no meaning. Sisters, bring with you, the message of the day, *"Let your light shine."*

## **Sacred Heart Province celebrates the Province Feast!**

With immense joy, the Sacred Heart Province, following the years of Covid was at last able to celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in presence. Although the number of participants was not as large as in previous years, the sisters' communion and closeness were still strongly perceived. Mother General and the Council's presence gave the celebration added joy and significance.



The solemn Mass was celebrated by His Excellency the Most Rev. Fabio Fabene and concelebrant Don Alfredo. Following the example of Saint Lucy, the Bishop encouraged the sisters once again, to embody the goodness, gentleness, and meekness of the Heart of Jesus in today's world, a world that is so torn apart by violence, indifference, and superficiality.

The solemn liturgy was animated by Sister Nunzia Furco who engaged the assembly, and supported by the impressive voice of the celebrant, to sing the *nostalgic chants* of the Gregorian Mass in Latin.

The celebration did not end after this commemorative Mass but was an invitation to continue to enjoy the presence of one another in the refectory where a simple yet plentiful and beautifully prepared supper was enjoyed. This fulfilled the desire of the sisters to find ourselves together again on this special feast of the Sacred Heart.

In her words of gratitude, Sister Virginia Iamele, Provincial Superior, gratefully acknowledged and thanked everyone whose attendance added to the commemoration and return of this Province feast.



### **Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini, Napoli Former Students Come to Say Farewell**

The people of the school community of the Istituto of the Maestre Pie Filippini, Napoli, learned that June 30, 2023, the closing day of school for the summer, would also mark the closing of our Filippini Mission there. The establishment of the Istituto Maestre Filippini Pie began nearly a hundred years ago (1929). Moreover, the presence of the Maestre Pie existed in this region since 1733.



Receiving the announcement of its closure, former students felt it was their duty to gather those who were part of this school community to come and bid farewell to Sister Carmelina, who is representative of all the Maestre, living and deceased, who rendered faithful service in this region.

Numerous former students gathered early evening on June 17th at the Institute. It was an intense and emotional evening filled with warm memories, sentiments of deep gratitude, and sincere affection as the guests expressed these feelings in a mood mixed with sadness.



Sister Carmelina Di Sarli and Teachers, moved by the presence of the crowd, welcomed them as they entered. Sister Carmelina seized this as her opportunity to formally address the group. Below are some precious excerpts from her message that she sadly and emotionally shared with the former students and friends of the Maestre Pie Filippini of Napoli who came:

*“For me, today is a great opportunity to be together, but also a very emotional event to see you once again. ... You bring to light a collection and immersion of memories, that are accompanied with a great note of sadness because you know this Institute will close its doors on June 30...”*

*“I thank God for our holy teacher, Saint Lucy Filippini, who communicated her charism to us. We have shared it zealously in the many years of our educational ministry in this school. In greeting you, my intention is to address these thoughts and sentiments to the many generations who have passed through this Institute. Countless children and young people have received the rudiments of faith and knowledge in this Institute that has worked incessantly since 1929. Moreover, the presence of the Maestre Pie in Napoli has been effective since 1733.*



*“Each of you represents a piece of this history. How many beautiful moments we shared together in the chapel, in the theater hall, in the canteen, in the classrooms... We will revisit these environments together and fix them in our memory, keep them jealously forever in our hearts. May the seeds of good that have been sown in your hearts always bear fruit. Be proud of having attended this Institute... always feel part of this large family, ... Proudly follow the teachings of the Pope and of our Holy Teacher, and be faithful to the Church...”*



*“We will make a brief stop in the Chapel to express our thanks to the Lord for all the good work accomplished here. We will remember the former students, teachers, and caretakers by name who are deceased. Thank you for making today another beautiful memory.”*

After Sister Carmelina gave this introductory message, together they toured the school for the last time. Afterward, everyone lingered and spent time together sharing precious memories and expressing appreciation for all that has been.

## **Saint Lucy Province, USA**

### **Oasis: Day of Prayer for Women**

Over one hundred and twenty women from all parts of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania made their way to Villa Walsh on Saturday, April 22, 2023, to encounter the Lord, and they were not disappointed. The forecasted rain held off until they were well on their way home. Praying near the full-color outdoor Stations of the Cross was not impeded, nor was the recitation of the Rosary that took place near the scenic statues of Our Lady of Fatima.

An Oasis of graces, this day has been a tradition of the Filippini Sisters since the late 1970s. The necessary interruption caused by the pandemic did not hinder the strength of this day, for it clearly satisfied the yearning of many women who were seeking peace, seeking understanding, and seeking fulfillment.



The presenter for the day was Reverend Father Richard Carton, pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Stirling. No stranger to Villa Walsh, Father Richard gave a riveting talk in the morning, a pivotal homily at Mass, and much sagacious counsel during confession. Everything he shared contained pearls of wisdom that any seeker would find helpful on the journey to sanctity. His witness to the awesomeness and

fidelity of the Father, the Eucharistic Presence of the Son, and the magnificent power of the Holy Spirit clearly shone through his teachings, his life examples, and even his spirited sense of humor. One of the most practical takeaways from his discourse was his admonishment to take time with the Scriptures each day. Many women went home and resolved to join his online Bible Study or to connect in person with a group in their own parishes.



The day concluded with a Eucharistic Holy Hour in the magnificent Saint Lucy Chapel. A special thank you to Sister Alice Ivanyo who organized the day, and to all who assisted her. May Saint Lucy's light continue to shine!

## Community Day – Feast of Saint Lucy

On May 13, 2023, the sisters gathered in Saint Lucy Chapel at Villa Walsh where they were warmly greeted by Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior. The celebration began with a presentation on the life of Saint Lucy followed by a beautifully celebrated Liturgy.

Monsignor Robert Coleman, celebrant and good friend of the Maestre Pie Filippini, mentioned several Sisters who had influenced his life and growth as a priest. He then asked: *"If someone sees you, do they see Lucy Filippini? I see Lucy here... praising*



*God. You Sisters carry the treasure of your Foundress and of the other Sisters. You live out your vocation in our changing world with its moral sickness. We need Jesus. He is the measure where we discover our true selves and our fulfillment. Jesus wants us to be close to Him... He awakens in us the responsibility to continue to "Go and Teach." Do not be won over by today's ideologies. Only love brings about unity. "Love one another" is the principle, radical enough to change the world, the core of Lucy's being. See how often she is portrayed carrying her crucified Lord*

*Pope St. John Paul II urged religious: "Always be grateful... The Church and the world need you... Accept your responsibility to spread the Gospel...show that you really believe Jesus is Lord."*

Monsignor Coleman reminded us that years do not matter... Jesus uses us as He did Lucy Filippini. The Holy Spirit will direct us...aligning our hearts with the Gospel... Your faithfulness will speak best... *"By knowing you, I know Lucy Filippini; I know Jesus Christ!"*

A festive dinner was served in the dining room. Afterward, the celebration was made complete by a video that highlighted the special events of the 350th Jubilee Year in both Montefiascone and Tarquinia.

Sister Patricia, in her closing remarks, reminded the Sisters that when challenged, look to Lucy who continued her mission abandoning herself to God. We cannot let any struggle or suffering take away the gift of our love for who we are or what we have been called to be. God brought us to this community for a purpose; each of us with our own unique calling, gifts and sense of mission. God will give us what we need to continue the journey with purpose and courage.





# Mater Divinae Grazie – Vice Province, Brazil

## Mission and Vocational Animation

Sister Brigida Swmback, Novice Formator, and the two second-year Novices began their apostolic experience from February until the month of June, gaining experience in the Saint Lucy Filippini School in the city of Vilhena, State of Rondonia, Mato Grosso, and Peruibe, San Paolo.



The activities included:

- assisting kindergarten children;
- collaboration in the drama on the Passion of Christ realized by the pupils of the Elementary and Middle Schools
- participation in the celebrations of the Easter Triduum in the Parish of Our Lady Auxiliatrice and Saint Lucy Filippini;
- mission in Jauru, State of Mato Grosso;
- mission in the city of Alvorada D'Oeste, Rondonia, meeting girls interested in consecrated life, visiting the sick, and their families, and visiting the different communities of the parish;
- mission in Peruibe, San Paolo, participation in the Parish, and in Our Lady of Divine Providence College.

Enriched by this experience, the novices have returned to San Paolo and are continuing their religious, social, and pastoral formation.





## Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia

### An Effort to Return to Normalcy

After three years of conflict and war, the sisters in our mission in Adigrat, Ethiopia, are eager to let us know that their life and apostolate in the Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia, is slowly returning to normalcy. The schools are reopened and are functioning according



to their usual routine. The hostel children are beginning to return and the other good news is they have four Aspirants in their Formation Program. Gratitude to God and trust in the Providence of God fill their hearts as they move into the future with steadfast courage.

The Sisters of the Region were able to celebrate Easter together this year. They are aware and believe that they need to rise from the past images of war and work and pray to forgive, to heal, and to live anew. With this aim in mind, the sisters are participating in various workshops on trauma healing. They also see the need to meet the psychological and spiritual needs of people of all ages in addition to attending to material aid. We join them in prayer in their attempt to move forward with these good intentions.



## Queen of Peace Region, India

### Reopening and Welcoming Newcomers



After a long summer vacation and time of relaxation, Saint Lucy School, Kerala, India, stirred again with a voice of music and dance. Yes, it was the celebration of welcoming newcomers into the school.



These are the aims and the priorities of the sisters at Saint Lucy School, Kerala:

Character formation	- Our primary concern
Personality	- Our ultimate target
Moral integrity	- Our supreme goal
Religious openness	- Our only prayer
Nation Building	- Our earnest desire

The inauguration of the academic year 2023 - 2024 was on June 1. The newly registered students were welcomed with a traditional entry unto the campus. Parents brought their children to the entrance gate; the school management and staff greeted the children, and other students and welcomed them with a classical dance.



The students stood with decorated umbrellas and balloons on either side, which is typical of the Kerala tradition. The principal, Sister Tessy, PTA president, and parent representative, lit the lamp of knowledge and wisdom.

The parents presented the child, who bowed and touched the feet of the teacher (a traditional way of giving respect to the master.) In turn, the teacher blessed the child and gave a green plant to the parents for them to bring home.

On the first day of school, whether a beginner or one who is new to the school, this is a memorable way of welcoming them. It is a life-changing day for students as they enter into an unknown place without the company of their parents.

In addition to the joy of welcoming these new students, it was also a fulfillment of Sister Tessy's desire to see growth in enrollment for this new school year. And her quota was fulfilled with forty-eight new students!





## Berat, Albania

The month of May marked a series of activities in the school at Berat. Among them, the most engaged was their *Laudato Si'* project inspired by the writing of Pope Francis. The entire school was involved in the project which led the students to reflect on the beauty of nature and followed by the care that every person must render.

Multiple activities were carried out as part of this project: Cleaning of the environment, recycling, care of the school garden. In collaboration with *"Pellegrini Della Creazione"* of Vlora and with the director Don Enzo Zago, the school organized, a *"Peace March"* in the center of the city with



the participation of the State schools. Warm greetings and words of appreciation were expressed by the mayor of the city and the prefect for our school, praising the dedicated work of the sisters, especially for the educating of the city's children in this area.

The fourth-grade teacher, Teuta, and the pupils took part in the *"Nature"* project with *'e-Twinning'*, the European community. The development of the project brought great satisfaction to students and teachers. The participation of our school for the first time in *'e-Twinning'* projects resulted in many beautiful and impressive activities: A drama was presented on the sounds of nature and its life accompanied by the sounds of the earth song. All in all, the learning experiences and the joy of participation will remain with the students beyond this month of excitement.

