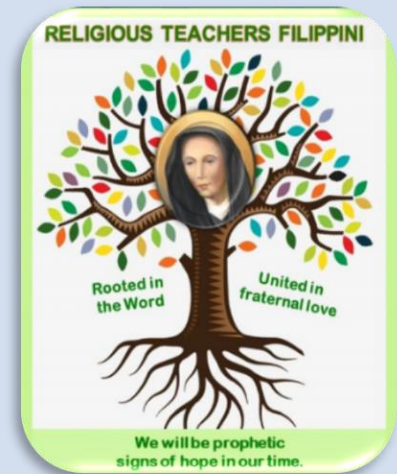


Pontifical Institute
Religious Teachers Filippini
Communicating... No. 17
Generalate
July – September 2023



Dear Sisters,

Many of you personally expressed your appreciation for the opportunity to delve more deeply into the lives of our Founders, Saint Lucy, and Cardinal Barbarigo these past two years. Thank you! The depth of your responses to Cardinal Barbarigo's study reflects how responsibly each entity cooperated and explored the review of his life. It is impossible to forward the entire text that each entity submitted, however, I am extracting a small section from each entity's study for you to grasp the richness of the responses.

Sacred Heart Province - Italy

Today the Cardinal asks his daughters to die to themselves and to follow Jesus, the Master with greater humility, faith, and apostolic passion. His poverty leaves us speechless. He was able to give up everything, but especially his time. He asks us to overcome the temptation to close in on ourselves because of old age, illness, and discomfort. There is so much more for us to give even in our elder years, precious years that the Lord gives us to surrender ourselves to Him and to love without limits...

"Love" was the inspiration that guided the Cardinal's whole life, and this is his precious legacy to us. His was a strong love, a demanding love that today he passes on to us. This love was the path that led him to holiness. We must take the same path, deeply immersed in faith, charity, and apostolic passion. Briefly said, this is the legacy that the Cardinal has transmitted to us: the need to live our life in light of the Spirit; the importance of ongoing formation; following the Cardinal's attention and concern for the poor; be attentive to the formation of young people and families; live our commitment to spread the faith.

Saint Lucy Province - USA

In this year's study, we were able to learn more about the Cardinal's life and how God planned that he and Saint Lucy would collaborate to do His work. They were strengthened by the Eucharist, the center of both of their lives. In mentoring Saint Lucy, Cardinal Barbarigo by his life, exemplified the charism she embraced; she "*forged ahead and lived and loved and worked passionately for Jesus*" under the Cardinal's guidance and care. Both the Cardinal and Lucy, unafraid in their mission, challenged the evil and

wrongs in society. It was their deep faith and strong values that sustained their holy work.

We have been impacted by the inspiring examples of those who have walked before us in holiness. They have helped form us into the religious women we are today. By the example of our Founders, we have been nurtured and encouraged in our vocation, thus enabling us to persevere through our challenges. This inspires us to be selfless, and to use the gifts God has given us for His work in the vineyard. We look to God and our Holy Founders, Cardinal Barbarigo and Saint Lucy Filippini, to rekindle our fervor and zeal, looking beyond ourselves with hope, fortitude, courage, and compassion to continue our legacy and mission.

Mater Christi Region - England

The re-study of the life of Cardinal Barbarigo deepened our appreciation of his holy life. The Cardinal greatly influenced Saint Lucy as we realized better how these two persons of the Church had one commitment.

They shared similar visions that were Christ-motivated.

They were tremendous lovers of the poor, the needy, the hungry, the underprivileged, the sick, the homeless.

They were watchful shepherds and had compassion for all.

They did not cave into the ills of the times.

They were promoters of reform and defenders of the Faith.

They believed in strong and spiritual foundations.

They were evangelizers of the Word and bearers of peace and joy.

They led lives of intense prayer, recollection, and devotion to the Eucharist, the Passion, and Our Blessed Mother.

They were participants in the sufferings of the Crucified Christ, through misunderstandings, wrong judgments, and jealousy.

They suffered many hardships but never abandoned their goals.

They were marvelous teachers and with zeal established schools of Christian Doctrine especially for the poor.

They demonstrated the importance of a unified community and set a good example by their lives of charity, poverty, humility, gentleness with firmness, integrity, uprightness, generosity to the needy, courage, and conviction for the love of God.

Mater Divinae Grazie Vice province - Brazil

For each of us, this study was a moment full of graces and blessings. The spiritual richness of the Holy Cardinal gives us a feeling of shame for not having acquired a deeper knowledge of his life and work. We recognize that Saint Lucy carried on with wisdom the work of the Schools of Christian Doctrine for girls and women, but it was Barbarigo who was the founder of this Holy Work. To him our affection, devotion, and gratitude for leaving us this great legacy. After this study, we feel compelled to generate God in people's hearts because it has been a constant commitment of our Holy Founders always trying to carry it out with much love, putting our Charism into practice.

Mater Boni Consilii Region - Ethiopia

The re-study of the life of Cardinal Barbarigo deepened our appreciation of his holy life.

It deepened our understanding of his goodness and holiness. Since we love Saint Lucy very much, and he was the man whose influence played an important part in her life, we got the opportunity to know and love him more than before. The following are some points which attracted us the most:

- ❖ His special compassion and generosity for women, poor girls, and orphans.
- ❖ His consuming love for Christ and his urgent desire to make the Lord known and loved.
- ❖ His fraternal charity, his readiness to do the will of God.
- ❖ His encouragement to the Maestre and the love he had towards them...
- ❖ His holy awareness for the needs of the Maestre for their physical condition and spiritual guidance...
- ❖ His fervent enthusiastic zeal for the service of God with prayerfulness and love of mortification. "The Church of Christ is not a garden in which to rest, but a vineyard in which to labor."

Mater Misericordiae Region – Asmara

The life story of Cardinal Barbarigo deeply touched us. We especially admired his prayer life and mission. Cardinal Barbarigo's strength was drawn from his intense prayer and recollection. We, too, realized the importance of deepening our prayer since prayer is the key to a fruitful life.

The Cardinal was ingenious in finding ways to improve the morals of society. In our day, too, it is indispensable and needed to help society, especially the youth who already experience in many cases depression and hopelessness. Learning from our Founders, we realize more the power of love. Like them, we must deepen our love of God and love of neighbor. The lives of Saint Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo, through a total consecration in service of total love, gravitate toward two poles – God and youth. As faithful daughters, may we, too, remain faithful and watchful shepherds of those entrusted to us.

Queen of Peace Region - India

The sisters of India expressed the gifts and expectations the Cardinal would have of us today:

- ❖ The gifts of Evangelical transparency, the gift of living the incarnation of Christ's teaching, and the gift of charity.
- ❖ Be attentive and do not make theology arid and detached from its practice.

- ❖ The Saintly Cardinal wishes that his daughters be women who live a deep interior life, which is indispensable for the accomplishment of good. He expects us to live the way he lived with simplicity and humility, sustained by our life of prayer.
- ❖ The Cardinal who was very meek and serene asks that his daughters follow in his footsteps.
- ❖ The Cardinal wanted the Maestre to be “*shells*” filled with God to whom they were consecrated, and then “*canals*” distributing water everywhere, irrigating dry fields that are ready to receive the seeds of life to be transformed into delicious, mature fruits. *Live in Christ and give in Christ.*
- ❖ The Cardinal would expect us never to separate our prayer from our activities and studies. He would expect that we continue to renew our spirit with holy meditation, prayers, spiritual reading, and holy silence. In this way, we will receive graces and spiritual consolations from the Lord.

Sisters, we pray that exploring Cardinal Barbarigo’s life more intensely has enhanced our appreciation of his role as our Co-founder. May our lives continue to be enriched by his influence.

The Cardinal and Lucy, two persons, one commitment! Imagine if we could all make the same commitment and work towards their common goal. You can make it happen! God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF
Superior General

TWO PERSONS – ONE COMMITMENT



Saint Lucy Province, USA Mother General's Visit

The excitement began on August 17, 2023, when Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd, and Sister Mercy Chakkiath, General Councilors, arrived at Villa Walsh. The sisters warmly and enthusiastically welcomed them on the mansion porch. From that moment on the welcomes and the hospitality that ensued remained permanent throughout their visit.

Two days after their arrival, on August 19, the Saint Lucy Province was blessed to witness the Final Profession of Sister Luciana D'Cruze, with the Solemn Eucharistic Liturgy celebrated by the Most Rev. Kevin Sweeney, Bishop of Paterson. It was Sister Ascenza's wish to be present for this occasion. This prompted her visit at this time. Sister Ascenza received Sister Luciana's Oblation and welcomed her as a fully professed community member.



Following the Liturgy in Saint Lucy Chapel, the sisters and family members were invited to a festive dinner. Their attendance manifested the response and joy of this event. What an exceptional day for the Province!

The very next day, the General Administration together with Sister Patricia, the Provincial Council, and many sisters attended Sister Dolores Toscano's farewell celebration at Saint Ann Church, Raritan. The presence of Bishop Checchio also added to the extraordinary tribute rendered to Sister Dolores by the Parish.



On August 22, a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Saint Lucy Chapel, Villa Walsh, for Michael Prudenti, brother of Sister Lucy Prudenti of happy memory and a beloved friend and great benefactor of the Religious Teachers Filippini. Sister Ascenza addressed the family, friends, and sisters who attended and spoke of Michael's longtime relationship with our community and his generosity to the Province over so many years. The sisters' participation in Michael's funeral allowed us to fulfill one of his long-time wishes and prayers. Sister Ascenza repeatedly expressed her appreciation to everyone who added to this gesture of indebtedness to Michael.



The Annual Superiors' Meeting was held on August 26th. Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, welcomed Sister Ascenza again and invited her to introduce the year's Province Study, *Fratelli Tutti*, to the group. With the use of online resources, Sister Ascenza encouraged the sisters to study *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis's encyclical and stressed that many of the ideals of *Fratelli Tutti* must first be nurtured within our local communities. Sister Mercy, General Councilor, also addressed the local Superiors,

giving them a greater insight into our mission in India. The sisters responded very enthusiastically and attentively to her presentation. This was not only Sister Mercy's first visit to the United States, but she is the first Indian Councilor for the Institute.



Saint Lucy Province gathered to celebrate their annual Genesis Day on September 9, with the General Administration present. The celebrant, Msgr. Thomas Gervasio, added to making this a very special event.

In her address to the sisters on that day, Sister Ascenza inserted the short film, "*What the Road Said*." The "*Road*" presented many challenges and also responded to these challenges. Sister Ascenza advised that the sisters replace "*the Road Said*" with the voice of the Holy Spirit since the advice of the *Road* was so Spirit-filled.



On September 14th, Sister Ascenza and Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd were present at the Villa Walsh Academy's opening Eucharistic Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Sweeney.



After the Mass, the Bishop blessed the renovated library renamed “*The Sister Patricia Pompa Media Center*” to honor Sister Patricia’s years of devoted service to the Academy.

Following the unveiling, the thunderous applause from faculty and students confirmed the great joy that Sister Patricia was recognized for her many years of dedicated commitment.



The events continued with the Recommitment Ceremony of the ASLF members on September 23rd. Sister Ascenza addressed the Associates of Saint Lucy Filippini in their morning session. Liturgy was celebrated midafternoon with the Reverend Monsignor Paul Bochicchio as the celebrant. Sister Patricia spoke to the Associates at the close of the Eucharistic Liturgy and together both Sister Ascenza and Sister Patricia were part of the Acceptance and Re-commitment Ceremony.

A premature “*Bon Voyage*” celebration was held on September 30, for Sister Ascenza and Sister Mary Elizabeth (*Unfortunately, Sister Mercy had to return to Rome earlier*). The morning began with the Eucharistic Liturgy celebrated by the Most Rev. Arthur Serratelli followed by an enjoyable dinner. Adding to the festivity was a creative memory-laden rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas, created by Sister Helen Sanchez, and an original poem summarizing the events of their time spent in America written by Sister Patricia Pompa. Sister Ascenza’s response to this event was a repeated expression from the time of her arrival, “*Thank You!*” Her expression of thanks concluded with these lines: “*Gratitude is the common thread that we celebrate today. May we always find reason to be grateful and let gratitude be the word that sums up our entire lives!*”

In Sister Mary Elizabeth’s words of thanks, she shared touching examples of appreciation that stemmed from her Mission experiences.

Amid all of the celebratory events of this visit, Sister Annette D'Antonio and Sister Ann Marie Mecca were called home to the Lord a few weeks apart. Although these were times of sadness for the Province, each of their Masses of Christian Burial held in Saint Lucy Chapel commemorated their faith-filled lives. Both Sister Annette and Sister Ann Marie were each blessed with many God-given gifts which were highlighted in their tributes. Sister Elizabeth Toft eulogized Sister Annette and Sister Marie Antonelli honored Sister Ann Marie. In expressing her sympathy, Sister Ascenza conveyed the void of their loss to the Province.

In addition to the varied events and activities planned in the Province, Sister Ascenza, Sister Mary Elizabeth, and Sister Mercy were able to visit several of our convents. These visits with the sisters were well-received and memorable. Sister Ascenza spoke with admiration of the efforts the sisters generate to keep the mission flourishing in these challenging times.

Among these visits, they also had the opportunity to visit their new mission in Colonia. The Province has been blessed with another mission where teaching God's Word is central to their presence there.



Their departure for Rome, although already extended, came much too soon.

On October 8, the sisters extended their love and gratitude to Sister Ascenza and Sister Mary Elizabeth for a much-appreciated visit and offered prayerful best wishes for a safe return to Rome.



Mother General, Sister Mary Beth, and Sister Mercy thank Sister Patricia, Provincial Superior, the Councilors, and the Sisters for their genuine hospitality and for the many events that occurred during this time that added to a very profitable visit.

“Let us give thanks to God in all circumstances.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Sacred Heart Province, Italy

Feast of the Patronage of Saint Lucy Filippini

Montefiascone

On August 21, 1932, Pope Pius XI declared Saint Lucy “*Patroness of the Diocese of Montefiascone.*” Since then, it has been a very solemn event in the Diocese.

This year the Feast of the Patronage was celebrated on September 17, 2023. The solemn Eucharistic Liturgy was presided by His Excellency Mons. Orazio Francesco Piazza, Bishop of Viterbo, and concelebrated by His Excellency, Mons. Fabio Fabene, Secretary of the Dicastery of Causes of Saints. A large number of the faithful as well as students, parents, teachers, and catechists participated.

The Bishop re-proposed Lucy's path to holiness, indicating her as the Saint who lived to the fullest the charism she received. In addressing the Maestre Pie in particular, the Bishop recalled: “.... *It is precisely the difficulties of the present time that can bring out the power of God. Don't be afraid, don't close yourself off; you have an extraordinary charism for today, to instill hope, for the benefit of communities, of social realities, a charism that makes the announcement of the beauty of the Gospel alive before our eyes... cultivate enthusiasm because with Christ we can do all things...*”

“... Saint Lucy, in walking the streets of the city and the Diocese of Montefiascone as a Teacher and Missionary, she left considerable memories of her holiness in those places where she laid the foundations of the schools and the communities of the Religious Teachers, finally she ended the course of her mortal life in the same diocese, therefore her body is still preserved with much devotion in the cathedral church of Montefiascone...” (Pius XI) *Decree of Declaration of Saint Lucy Filippini “Patroness of the Diocese of Montefiascone,” Rome August 21, 1932.*

These words of the Pontifical Decree inspired the afternoon itinerary on September 17th, “*Walking with Lucy.*” On this same day, those who attended retraced the history and salient places of Saint Lucy’s apostolate. From the Belvedere terrace in front of the ancient Roman Gate... through the long corridors and frescoed spaces inside the “Barbarigo” Seminary... listening devoutly in the Church of the Divine Love, and to the Chapel of the Maestre Pie. It concluded in the solemn and intimate atmosphere of the Crypt. The participants followed with intense emotion in these historical-cultural-spiritual experiences offered by a team of extraordinarily competent and experienced guides.



Meeting of Local Superiors and Principals Provincial House

On August 23-25, 2023, the local superiors and the principals of the schools of the Sacred Heart Province had an interesting training conference on the dimensions of spirituality and the practical management of the school communities.

The spiritual aspect was entrusted to Father Gerardo Battaglia, who presented the theme "*Clothe yourselves with Sentiments of Mercy.*" (Col. 3, 12-17) With depth and clarity, he commented on the Pauline text: *what it means to be Christian, what are the attitudes that the Christian is called to live, and what he must commit himself to.*

He shared reflections on the task of the Superior: *she is the first to be called to clothe herself "with feelings of mercy, goodness, humility, meekness, patience... If anyone has to complain about others... Saint Paul is so concrete! He knows that everyone has complaints about others, he knows that this happens in social life. The Christian life is not exempt from it. What is important is to react in a Christian way to the complaint, 'bearing with and forgiving each other.'*"



The day was charismatic! The participants were invited to dream together. In a world full of violence, abuse, anger, discontent, selfishness, etc. the family of Saint Lucy recognizes the needs of these times and wants to commit itself to strengthening a culture of mercy, tenderness, compassion, and forgiveness. Only an attitude of meekness and a strong sense of mission will be able to bring elements of change and communion into our communities (*Instructions...*).



Sisters were also updated on the practical management of the schools, the new regulations, provisions, and responsibilities. It was a three-day event filled with dialogue and discussion, learning and sharing, which gave each participant renewed energy to face the school year with confidence and serenity.

Honoring Our Lady of Sorrows – Castel Giorgio TR

Last year, in conjunction with the celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Saint Lucy, a women's group was formed under the guidance of the Maestre Pie in Castel Giorgio, women who are committed to praying the Rosary and spreading love to Our Lady. The members of the Association enlivened all the Marian festivals during the year with very meaningful celebrations: e.g., every evening in May they prayed in front of an icon located on the main street of the town.

An intense triduum of prayer was held from September 14, 2023, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a devotion so deeply felt in the parish community. During the Eucharistic Celebration, the Celebrant's homily was a profound catechesis, which led to the contemplation of the Mystery of the Passion and Death of the Lord.

In the previous days, other initiatives were carried out, including "A Night for Mary," a Marian vigil of prayer, listening, and singing, interposed by the presentation of symbols: the Word, a sword (about the prophecy of Simeon), the Cross - decorated with a white cloth, which recalled the Shroud.



Friday, September 15, the Holy Rosary was recited in the four streets of the town. This was animated by the women belonging to the group "Addolorata."

On September 16, after the Eucharistic Liturgy, the participants were invited to maintain an atmosphere of prayer, and moved to the garden of "Saint Lucy Filippini" to experience the salient moments of the Passion of the Lord, through the sacred representation of the "Seven Sorrows of Mary."

Starting on the external staircase of the school, the protagonists, deeply understanding the event they proposed, dramatized the various scenes:

- Jesus ascends to Calvary carrying the heavy cross, and behind him the soldiers and Mary accompanied by the women.
- Jesus falls, gets up, and continues the "Via Dolorosa"; the Mother bends to kiss the earth bathed in the blood of her Son.
- Jesus is crucified; at his feet is Mary with John, the beloved disciple.
- Jesus dies, and the Mother welcomes him in her arms.
- Jesus is taken to the tomb.

Tears of emotional and intense participation were visible on the faces of those present. Sunday, September 17th a solemn and devout procession was held with the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows along the streets of the town, accompanied by a banner painted by the well-known local artist, Stefano Conticelli.

School, a Good for Everyone: “Let's Listen to Each Other” Frascati RM

On October 5th, Mayor Francesca Sbardella and the councilor for school policies, Matteo Filipponi, brought the greetings of the Municipal Administration of Frascati to the first meeting of the *"Let's Listen to Each Other"* project, organized by Prof. Federica Marcoccia, at the Institute Maestre Pie Filippini, the first school in the area to take part in the initiative created by the "Autentica" Association.

In the meeting held by Dr. Athena Abbas, President of the Association, the students of the high school were given an experience of ISL (Italian Sign Language) and the communication possibilities that the latter offers to society as a whole.

Experimenting with ISL finger typing and the main communicative expressions, the students reflected on the importance of inclusion, awaiting the second meeting in which they will have the opportunity to interact with a deaf teacher.



Mater Divinae Grazie – Vice Province, Brazil

Saint Lucy Filippini College, San Paulo Visit of the Bishop, Vicar of the “Education” Sector

On September 20, 2023, the College of Saint Lucy Filippini School had the joy of receiving the visit of His Excellency, Monsignor Dom Carlos Lema Garcia, Episcopal Vicar of the *"Education and University"* sector. It was a rich day, with a dynamic program.

In the meeting with the teachers of the Primary School, the Bishop underlined the purpose of the Catholic School. He stressed the importance of knowing and living the charism of Saint Lucy Filippini, an excellent educator, to transmit to the students her spirituality based on evangelical and human values.



Subsequently, he held a meeting with the Principal, Sister Maria Moreira de Souza, MPF, the Vice-Provincial Treasurer Sister Maria Eduarda Moreira de Carvalho, MPF, three Coordinators, the Pedagogical Orientator and Vice-Principal, Flora. They shared the situation of the current world with the Bishop and the failure of families to search for God, the difficulties that require them to collaborate tenaciously in the education of students today, and their looking with hope toward the future.



The high school teachers expressed their concerns about the students, lack of interest and commitment in their studies, which reveals a weak perspective on life. The Bishop encouraged them to continue with faith and hope, to feel and love teaching as a mission.

The Bishop took time to speak with the students who were divided into three groups; first to fifth grade, sixth to ninth, and High School students. To the latter, His Excellency gave orientations based on the Gospel, in faith and in Christian coherence, from which love for others, respect and hope arise. He presented them with the testimony of the "*contemporary*" apostle of youth, Carlo Acutis, who sanctified himself by intensely living the love and devotion for the Eucharist.



At the end, enriched by the various meetings, the Bishop and Father Renato, Religious Assistant of the School were invited to join the sisters for dinner.

Mater Misericordiae Region – Eritrea

Various Summer Activities

Sisters of Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea, had a two-day workshop with Brother Gebreyesus Habete, FSC, on the theme *“To Be Faithful and Alive Religious.”* The reflections were very challenging, *“...it is impossible for a man to despair who remembers his helper, who is God. Since prayer is man’s strength, if we have deep faith in God and are faithful to prayer, we will know where to focus our attention and are given the grace to cope with our present situation.”* The sisters were greatly encouraged to move forward with a renewed spirit even while experiencing difficult situations.



Some sisters of the Region completed their two-year Catechism Course at Kidane Mehret Catechetical Institute. Before receiving their Diplomas, Archbishop Mengestab Tesfamarium with the help of the Director of the Institute, Dr. Rute Habte, assigned each of them to various parishes for two months of pastoral experience to prepare the children for Holy Communion and Confirmation. At the fruitful completion of this experience, the sisters were awarded a Diploma on September 16, 2023.



The Archbishop congratulated each of them and wished them a more successful apostolate wherever they may be assigned to serve the people of God. He reminded them that they should always remember Jesus’ command to Go and Teach... (Mt 28:18-20) and that Education at all levels is the most powerful weapon that enables change in the world.



Queen of Peace Region, India

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

To celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, three villages that surround the Regional House of the Queen of Peace Region India, C.M Palli, Kavuagunta & K.P Gudem, where our sisters are serving in collaboration with the Missionaries of Saint Francis De Sales Fathers and seminarians, offered a significant spiritual preparation for their people. The faithful in these villages were instructed and guided to have three days of special prayers, the rosary, reflections, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The seminarians and our Sisters, Sister Lourdes Mary Prodduturi and Sister Louise Mary Bathula, preached each day on the themes:



- **Mary, the Mother of God Is Our Mother**
- **The Immaculate Conception of Mary**
- **The Virtues of Mary**

Each day with the help and inspiration of the sisters, the members of Legion of Mary decorated the statue of Our Lady creatively and led the faithful in special prayers.

Father Vellangani, the Seminary Rector, organized different priests to celebrate the

Eucharist. The people participated with great devotion and love for the Blessed Mother



In imitation of Mary, modeling her virtue of Charity, the members of the Legion of Mary in C.M Palli Village extended their generous hearts and hands to a very poor and disabled mother and her son.



The feast of “*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*” on September 8, was celebrated so enthusiastically and devoutly. The faithful processed with lighted candles through the streets of the villages reciting the rosary and singing hymns of the Blessed Mother. The procession was followed by the solemn Eucharistic Liturgy in Mary’s honor. The women were deeply grateful for this experience to honor the Blessed Mother in such a special way on her birthday.

