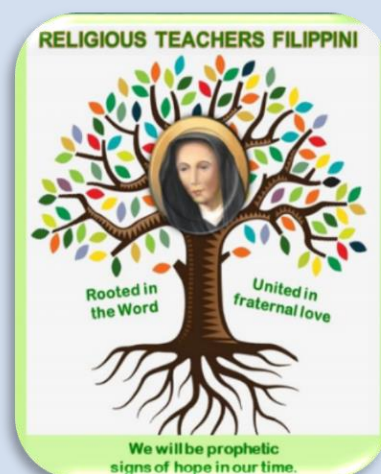


**Pontifical Institute**  
**Religious Teachers Filippini**  
**Communicating... No. 2I**  
**Generalate**  
**July – September 2024**



Dear Sisters,

*The summer months pass quickly thus by the time you receive this 21<sup>st</sup> bulletin, school will already be in full swing. I hope you haven't lost the stored energy of your summer months and are enthusiastic that you can help transform your small part of the world with your God-given gifts. For those of you who are no longer in Mission, remember how important your prayer and sacrifice are for them, a force that keeps the sisters energized in their active Mission.*

*Among the possible topics I could share with you in this quarter, this time I want to briefly focus on our mission in Eritrea. During the years that I have been the Superior General the Eritrean government hasn't allowed me a Visa. How I regret this lost opportunity to personally meet with these sisters. As much as we both attempt to communicate, catching the right time becomes another challenge since they have no certainty when their Wi-Fi will be operating. It differs with very small intervals for its use. They have expressed a sense of being orphaned! Further, these past years, they have suffered the loss of both their clinic and schools resulting in the deprivation of any steady income.*

*The General Council is very grateful to Sister Mebrak Surafiel, former regional superior, since we delayed appointing a new Regional Superior for almost three years, hopeful that the government would allow our desire to visit them. Since this hasn't happened, after consultation with the sisters' desires, we did appoint a new regional superior, Sister Kudusn Tewelde Gide. Eager to know Sister Kudusn,*



*in August we invited Sister to spend a month with us in Rome to allow the space to help guide her in this new role. In addition to preparation sessions at the Generalate to achieve our goal, Sister Virginia Iamele, the former Regional Superior in Eritrea, also offered guidance to Sister Kudusn. Sister Kudusn further participated in the three-day Superiors' meeting of the Sacred Heart Province.*

*During intervals of her stay, Sister Kudusn enjoyed visits to the Provincial House, Volto Santo, and San Gemini re-connecting with the Eritrean Sisters who serve in these*

homes. There was so much joy and excitement in their exchange with one another during this visit.

Every Maestre who visits Italy has one great desire, to visit Saint Lucy's birthplace in Tarquinia and pray at the crypt of Saint Lucy in Montefiascone. Sister Kudusana fulfilled this desire. Her four-day visit to Montefiascone allowed her to spend long stretches of time in the crypt with Saint Lucy. Surprisingly, in this short tract of time, a strong bond was created with the Montefiascone sisters, even though Sister Kudusana only spoke her local Eritrean dialect while the sisters solely spoke Italian!



Sister Anna Macchia, superior at Volto Santo, invited the Eritrean Sisters to a special farewell dinner with Sister Kudusana the guest of honor. In addition to an Italian menu, Eritrean food of many sorts was also prepared for them. The atmosphere in the dining room was filled with joy, laughter, Eritrean song and dance, and above all the love that poured from our elderly and infirm

sisters. Undoubtedly, it is a treasured memory Sr. Kudusana carried home in her heart experiencing the love that can exist between our two cultures.

Sister Kudusana's departure was filled with mixed emotions. So much was gained during her stay, she experienced a different part of the world that opened new roads and insights. Yet, there also was an excitement returning home to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross, (In Eritrea celebrated on September 27<sup>th</sup>) which is a very special, sacred event in Eritrean culture. This is also the date she assumed her new leadership role. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, only a few days later, in my absence, Sister Kudusana was excited to receive the Oblation of Sister Shewit Araya's final Oblation, an event the community was awaiting.

My motive in sharing these thoughts with you is a reminder to embrace this Mission and all of our Missions in prayer. May the Lord keep our sisters safe, and may their lives and all their energy and sacrifice continue to give God honor, glory, and praise.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF*

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

General Superior





## “Sacred Heart” Province - Italy Formative Meeting “Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini”

In the first week of September 2024, the Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini gathered at the Sacred Heart Provincial House for their annual gathering. The SYNOD and JUBILEE 2025 were the main topics of reflection during this meeting. His Excellency, Monsignor Emidio Cipollone, (better known to the Group as *Don Emidio*) spiritual guide of the group, accompanied the members once again during these days of their continued formation.



He shared that Pope Francis asks that 2024 be dedicated to prayer, and the Pope invites the entire Church to prepare for the Opening of the Holy Door. Don Emidio stressed, *“As Christians and as the Laity of Saint Lucy, we are invited to bear witness by becoming authentic “Pilgrims of Hope” who walk towards the Lord: He opens his arms of forgiveness to us, merciful arms also extended towards our brothers and sisters, who are still waiting for the announcement of the Gospel to be brought to them.”*



Don Emidio highlighted the importance of relationships in human experience: relationship with the Lord, between people both men and women, in the family, in the ecclesial, religious, and civil community. It is in relationships that faith is transmitted and animated. All charisms and ministries are active.

Saint Paul states that charisms are different, and every charism, even the simplest, is given by the Lord to respond to the needs of the Church and its mission. When charisms are shared, they create new congregations and new associations.

Greater trust in the Holy Spirit, greater courage, and greater creativity are needed to ensure that the gifts received can be adequately put at the service of the mission of the Church. The synodal Church is a Church that listens. It is capable of welcoming and accompanying and is perceived as a home and family where no one is out of place or excluded. Pope Francis stated: *“Never can a Bishop, or any other Christian, think of himself without others.”*

*“How can we be a missionary Synodal Church?” (the Pope added be merciful) We must open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit and ensure that the Synod is an exercise in symphonic art: all together with different ministries and charisms. It is the Holy Spirit who ensures that*







*the Church is perpetually faithful to the mandate of the Lord Jesus Christ and perpetually listening to His Word. The Spirit guides the disciples to the whole truth (Jn 16:13): He is also guiding us, on our journey as LAY PEOPLE, to answer this same question “How can we be missionary Synodal Church?” We could add “...how to be a community, a missionary and merciful group?”*

*This needs to be the commitment of this new year for us: “LAITY of SAINT LUCY FILIPPINI... on the move!”*

## Young People and the Summer Group...GrEST! - Bitonto

Many forms of meeting are implemented during the year with our children and young people of the school and parish groups of Bitonto. One of these undoubtedly, for 20 years now, is the GrEst.

It is a 7-week summer experience that perceives young people and children as protagonists in an adventure of play, prayer, and human-Christian formation. Jesus Christ, Lucy Filippini and Dante were the undisputed guides of this summer 2024, entitled “*ViaVai - Mi indichi il sentiero della vita!*” (“*ViaVai - Show Me the Path of Life!*”) The GrEST, in fact, is a point of arrival ... and departure for the new year. The Young People will meet regularly for human, ecclesial, spiritual and “pedagogical” formation.



## Saint Lucy Province, USA Sister Luciana D’Cruze Honored

On Saturday, July 6, 2024, at the two-day celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and gathering of the Probashi family, the Catholic Bangladeshi Community of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut honored Sister Luciana D’Cruze, MPF as the first Bengali American Sister. The hope and pride at the event were felt not only by the Bangladeshi Community and the D’Cruze family, but also by the Religious Teachers Filippini present at the ceremony who also honored her.





For the last forty years, the Bengali Christian immigrants in the United States have made an effort to hold on to their culture, heritage, and language, and at the same time, they endeavored to assist new immigrants to



assimilate successfully into their new environment and give children exposure to their traditions and culture. This year was the celebration of the organization's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition, they were honoring both Sister Luciana's recent religious profession and Father Stanley Gomes, for his priesthood and his role of spiritual father and pastor of the Bangladeshi community. The Most Reverend Bishop Shorot Francis Gomes of Sylhet, Bangladesh attended this ceremony as a guest of honor.

The day-long celebration began with a procession into the auditorium in national dress, followed by the National anthems of the United States and Bangladesh. After a choral group presentation and candle-lighting ceremony, the president of the Probashi Bengali Christian Association, Mr. Gabriel Taposh Gomes, greeted everyone, and Mr. Joseph Bikash D'Cost gave a keynote speech.



Sister Marianne McCann, M.P.F. spoke at the occasion as the representative of the Religious Teacher Filippini. She noted that *"although Sister Luciana has lived in the United States for the last 30 years, she loves and respects her Bengali roots and traditions and still speaks the Bengali language with her family. You, her extended family, and the immediate D'Cruze family have given her a legacy in the Catholic Faith, in the Bengali cul-*

*ture, in the close ties to family that she now brings to us and enriches us, the Religious Teachers Filippini. Her tireless work in our community and in the parish in which she serves is richer for everything that all of you insured and that you handed down to the children in your families."*

Sister Luciana, addressed the Bengali community, her family, her friends, and many sisters from the community. Her closing words echoed her happiness: *"My heart rejoices. I began flourishing the day I gave up those old limitations I had placed on myself and accepted God's plan for me."* Sister Luciana noted: *"God keeps extending my family through this vocation. In addition to my blood family, I have three further families. You, Probashi Bengali Christian Association, my home Parish of Saint Gerard Majella, and our community the*





*Religious Teachers of Saint Lucy Filippini.” In closing, she expressed, “I praise God for the amazing adventure, a living pilgrimage He has sent me on—and I’m grateful to be journeying through it with all of you! This journey would have been impossible without the love, support, and encouragement of each of you here tonight. Thank you so much for your important role in my life!”*

The talks were followed by a brief slide show prepared by the nephew of Sister Luciana focusing on her journey to the Religious Teachers Filippini. This event was another opportunity for the community to express its joy in embracing another culture’s richness.

## **Tenth National Eucharistic Congress**

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, elevates the golden Monstrance on an altar in the center of the stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, as a powerful holy hour began the Congress’s first revival night filled with prayer, powerful speakers and praise and worship music.



July 21-24, 2024, were days filled with breathtaking moments of grace for the five Filippini Sisters in attendance. Daily Liturgies and rites in various languages, nightly processions, Adoration, and workshops were offered to 60,000 plus participants: clergy, religious, families, and youth from all over the USA. Speakers consisted of Cardinals, Bishops, Religious, and Laity from different regions of our country.

Sister Roseann Fernandez and Sr. Anne Louise Abascal from our Rio Rancho, New Mexico parish stated, *“We were very fortunate to be witnesses to this spiritual, uplifting event. Traveling with many religious in our group was inspiring and gave hope for the future. We are now the mission country!”*

Villa Walsh’s Sister Elaine Bebyn remarked: *“Seeing 60,000 people in the stadium kneel or sit in complete silence before the Blessed Sacrament, or a whole park in the middle of a city come to a complete standstill and adore in silence as the Blessed Sacrament passed in procession was amazing.”*

Sister Luciana D’Cruze of St. John Vianney Parish in Colonia, New Jersey, praised the Congress as a wellspring of blessings which re-enforced her commitment to serve God as a Filippini Sister, while Sister Helen Sanchez of Villa Walsh saw our Catholic Church hopeful for the future, ready to impact our country and world. This was an event to be cherished and promoted!





## Associates of Saint Lucy Filippini ( ASLF) Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



“What great work the Lord has entrusted to us women!” Saint Lucy’s cry, “ Love God,” was the mission entrusted to the Religious Teachers Filippini, which has been transmitted to the Associates of Saint Lucy Filippini. January 13, 2024, marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our ASLF. What began as a dream has come to fruition, with 124 members in the USA and Australia. To celebrate this milestone, 85 Sisters and ASLF gathered in Grace Ann Café at

Villa Walsh on September 21, 2024, as other Sisters and ASLF joined via Zoom. Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, welcomed the group. Sister Lucy Battistuz, Co-Director, narrated stories of the ASLF beginnings, with a Prayer History of Thanksgiving and a Power Point, combining song, history and prayer.

Colleen Maddy of New Mexico, author of the book on Saint Lucy, *Clothed in Virtue*, spoke via video of her ASLF journey. The audience enjoyed stories of the journeys of four more ASLF women: Sister Diana Yodris, Janice Santanello, Louise Toussaint, who encouraged us to pray for 100 vocations, and Chris Pardo, who like Jeremiah, the reluctant prophet, said “No” at first, and has now been an ASLF for 40 years. ASLF “Pioneers” were honored with a tribute and flowers. Many Sisters and women were honored for their years with ASLF.



Sister Lucy challenged, “To continue Saint Lucy’s mission, recruit woman to become ASLF. If each brings in one ASLF or encourages one vocation, Saint Lucy’s spirit will be alive and well.” A catered dinner and homemade desserts were served, followed by Liturgy in Saint Lucy Chapel. Bearers of a collage of all ASLF led the entrance procession, with Michele Felver as cantor, accompanied by

Edward Ginter, organist. Bishop Arthur Serratelli celebrated Liturgy, with Monsignor Paul Bochicchio, concelebrant. Bishop Serratelli compared the call of Matthew, to be friend and follower of Jesus, to the individual intimate call of the ASLF, challenging us to imitate our Foundress, who spoke to others of



Christ's love for them, and displayed it in her own life. By our acts of charity and prayer, we can create a new world.

Sister Patricia accepted Lisa Bronski, Christine Forman, Amanda Prascask and Charuca Velarde as new ASLF, then recommitted 126 women. Sister Patricia thanked those who celebrated this 40-year milestone and those who made the day possible, praising the Sisters who sparked the original ASLF vision: Sister Giacinta Basile, Sister Lucy Battistuz, Sister Geraldine Calabrese, Sister Jane Feltz, Sister Elizabeth Parente and Sister Anita Sibilia. The ASLF seed has yielded abundant fruit, through their love of the Eucharist and Our Lady, through their service to the Church, and their concern for the things of God.

## **Vice Province “Mater Divinae Gratiae” Sao Paulo – Brazil**

### **Meeting of Religious, CRB, Brasília Region**

On August 10, 2024, Sister Geralda Coelho and Sister Ione Honória de Souza participated in the Meeting of Religious of the CRB, (Conference of Religious of Brazil), Brasília Region. The Meeting



was organized to celebrate and reflect religious consecration, in the light of the Word of God. Religious men and women from different Congregations that operate in the Episcopal Region of Brasília were present.

The month of August in Brazil is dedicated to vocations in the Church: Vocations to Priesthood, family, Religious, Catechists, and committed Lay People.

In harmony with the theme: “*Church: a symphony of vocations*”, each participant presented the charism of their Congregation. Later they prayed the “*Lectio Divina*” using the Gospel passage: *Luke 4:16-20 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me and consecrated me....”* Each religious freely shared his/her experience of faith. Among the interventions, the one that struck us: “*The people, after having listened to the words of Jesus, were amazed by his wisdom.*” Today we need to ask ourselves: *Do our announcement and our life provoke in the people this amazement and nostalgia for heaven?*” The meeting concluded with festive refreshments.

## **Meeting of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion Parish of the Holy Apostles**

On August 17, 2024, Saturday afternoon, the Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion of the Parish of the Holy Apostles gathered to celebrate the month of vocations, with the theme “*Church: a symphony of vocations*”.



The group invited Sister Geralda Coelho to give a presentation on *Consecrated Religious Life* to those present. Sister Geralda motivated the participants to live their lay vocation more deeply in the parish and urged them to pray for vocations. During the sharing, a Minister shared a very beautiful experience: One day she arrived at the home of a sick person, bringing Holy Communion. The person who came



to open the door, let her in and went to notify the sick person who responded: "*Let him come in, it is my Lord who comes to meet me.*" Sister Geralda encouraged the participants to continue with zeal this precious mission and to thank the Lord for this grace of being able to serve the Lord in the person of the elderly and the sick.



## Mass in Commemoration of the Day of Consecrated Religious Life

On Saturday evening, August 17, 2024, the Church in Brazil celebrated Vespers on the feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. The Religious of São Paulo were invited to also participate in the Solemn Mass in the Cathedral of the "Sé." His Excellency Monsignor Odilo Pedro Scherer, Archbishop of São Paulo, presided over the Eucharistic Liturgy, concelebrated by Monsignor Angelo Ademir Mezzari, RCJ, president of the Episcopal Commission for Ordained Ministries and Consecrated Life, of the CNBB (National Conference of Bishops of Brazil). Present were Sister Raimunda Dias de Lima, Sister Ione Honória de Souza, and Sister Brigida Schwback, formator, with the junior sisters:



Sister Kamilla Mota de Santana and Sister Dianiéle Mascena Miranda. It was a moment of deep spirituality and thanksgiving, as well as the joy of celebrating together, sisters and brothers, with many Religious Congregations.

The Religious thanked Monsignor Odilo and Monsignor Angelo, for their welcome and loving attention to Consecrated Life that included young people in formation.



## Age Does Not Prevent Us from Continuing to Evangelize

On October 5, 2024, Sister Sebastiana Grillo was invited to present the theme: “*Jesus is the Bread of Life*” (Jn 6:35-50) to the children who are preparing to make their First Communion. There were approximately seventy children who belong to the Parish “*Our Lady of the Ó.*”



Sister Sebastiana using posters and a video, developed the theme explaining foods that nourish their bodies, however, they yet continue to feel hungry. While Jesus is the Bread that nourishes the heart, those who feed on this bread will no longer be hungry, and they attain eternal life. Sister Sebastiana encouraged the children to prepare well and to remain faithful to Jesus and the Church.



## Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia “New Year with New Blessings”



The Ethiopian New Year begins on September 11, which is the end of the rainy season. The crops are harvested and the scholastic year begins. It is at this time that the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated very solemnly throughout the country, a feast in which the families gather.

In comparison to previous years, this year the community was very fortunate and blessed. In the months of July and August, we received sufficient rain and this has nourished our hope for a better year. We were blessed with very good crops of grains. Let us give thanks to God, who through this abundant harvest has bestowed so many blessings on the entire country!

Another blessing, school has begun and each of our three schools are overcrowded with students. Little by little, after a very sad and difficult period of war, activities are slowly becoming alive again and the children are releasing more positive energy.





As a Family united in his Name, we praise the Lord together and remain united in prayer for those who are still displaced. With each passing day, we implore a more stable atmosphere of Peace.

## **Mater Misericordiae Region – Eritrea Joyful Days in the Regional community**

### **A New Administration in Misericordiae Region**

On September 27, 2024, there was an exchange of the new Administration in the Mater Misericordia Region. The sisters from the local houses gathered in the Asmara Regional House. After Morning Prayer and breakfast, the previous Regional Superior, Sister Mibrak Srafiel with her Counselors, Sr. Kudusun Habtemariam and Sr. Astier Fishaye, presented the sisters with reports of their ten years of service. The sisters were very grateful for their generous service and expressed their gratitude. The Sisters wished them blessings for their new assignments.



The new Regional Superior, Sister Kudusun Tewelde with her Counselors, Sr. Saba Andemariam and Sr. Merhawit Tesfaslassie, officially began their service on this same day, September 27, 2024. May our Mother Mary with her Son and Saint Lucy, help them to do His Will and be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Following this gathering, the sisters proceeded to the Chapel for a Mass of Thanksgiving, with Abba Mihretab Pavonian as the main celebrant. The dinner that followed,

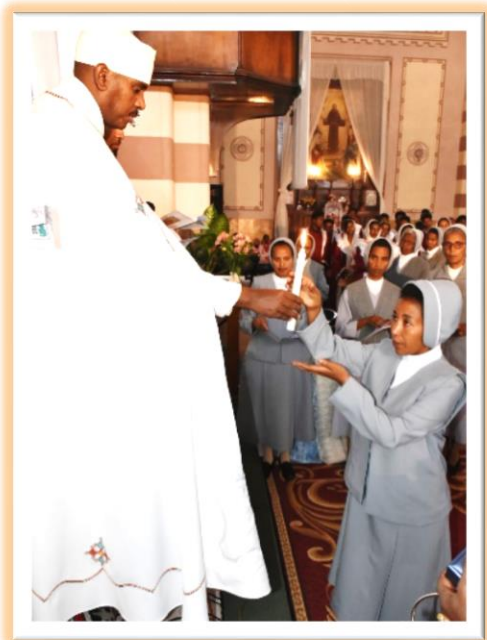


was accompanied by entertainment from the Postulants and Aspirants. The Sisters of the local houses offered gifts to the previous administration, Sister Mibrak and her Counselors as well as a gift to the new Regional Superior, Sr. Kudusun Tewelde, a sign of gratitude for her acceptance of this new role. The day's celebration sincerely expressed thanksgiving for all the Lord's blessings on this Region.





## PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF SISTER SHEWIT ARAYA



September 29, 2024, ushered another day of great celebration, the final Profession of Sister Shewit Araya. In the presence of the newly elected Regional Superior, Sister. Kudus Tewelde, with her Counselors Sr. Saba Andemariam and Sr. Merhawit Tesfaslassie, all the Sisters of the Region, other religious congregations, priests, the faithful members of the parish, parents, family, and friends were all present for this special day.

The Eucharistic celebration was in their Holy Saviour Parish. The main celebrant was Father Fisehay from the Eparchy of Segeneiti, who is the parish priest

and spiritual father of Sister Shewit Araya. After the Holy Mass, all the invited accompanied Sister Shewit with joyful songs until they reached the Regional house where the ceremony was prepared.

During the dinner, there was entertainment that included drama (play) songs and cultural dances that expressed their gratitude to God for what has done for them. Late in the evening, all the Sisters gathered together to open the gifts of Sister Shewit and expressed their joy of being together for this special event.





## Queen of Peace Region – India

### Reaching Out to the Youth Among Us



In the surrounding villages of Janampet, the Sisters at our Regional House work together with the Missionaries of Saint Francis De Sales, (MSFS), Fathers who also live on the campus. On September 10, 2024, a Youth Gathering was organized on the model of synodality, *"Pilgrims of Hope."* Convinced that our youth are the future of our nation and need to be guided, with the help of the Fathers, seminarians, and our sisters, this day was set apart for them.

A good number of youth from different villages participated in the various events of the day, which included spiritual talks, play, and arts and crafts. There was also time for the youth to interact with the animators.

The Munagalapally Community also organized a youth and children's gathering together with their Parish Priest. The youth and children enthusiastically involved themselves in all the events of the day and were further enriched by this experience.



Youth and children were always at the heart of Saint Lucy's ministry. We her daughters, following her example, try to encourage and engage them. Whenever these opportunities come our way to uplift the Youth of our time, we are ready to participate





## **‘Yellow Day’ Saint Lucy School, Kerala**

“*Yellow Color Day*” was celebrated in the kindergarten in Saint Lucy School in Kerala, on September 11, 2024. The teachers and the children were fully decorated in yellow.

Yellow, the color of sunshine, stands for hope and happiness. It signifies freshness, positivity, intellect. and joy. The children engaged in many different activities based on the color. It was a joy and picture to see all children dressed and decorated in yellow. They benefited from the entire day with fun activities and enjoying the presence of one another.



## **Berat, Albania**

### **“Stella del Mattino” Kindergarten and Primary School**

The celebration of “*Week of the Italian Language in the World*” has become an annual challenging custom.

From the beginning of the Sisters' time in Albania, the Italian language has been studied and practiced with great interest, and the parents were always very satisfied to see their children open up to Europe and the world. Learning another language, in fact, is not only personal enrichment but constitutes an open door to the life and culture of other people.





On the occasion of the "Week", the schools of ZVA Berat participated in the "Zecchino d'Oro - Albania" activity, enthusiastically presenting the songs of the Italian Zecchino d'oro event.

The interpretation by the Albanian children was excellent, in the presence of the new Italian consul in Vlora, Dr. Achille Provenzano, and the ZVA Educational Director of Berat, Mirela Buhuri. The participation of the Authorities gave great importance to the event, both for the teachers and for the students!

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In the second half of September, the school was animated by an extraordinary activity. The primary school students and the children of the kindergarten participated in a simulation of evacuation in case of fire. Representatives of the police and fire brigade explained what behaviors to take and the correct measures to implement in case of an emergency. They demonstrated how first aid is provided.



The students were curious and fully involved. They followed every gesture with interest and asked pertinent questions. This activity was not only entertaining but it made the students more aware of the importance of safety measures.

The entire school staff participated, guiding carefully and making sure that the instructions were followed. This was another unforgettable day full of lessons to learn!



