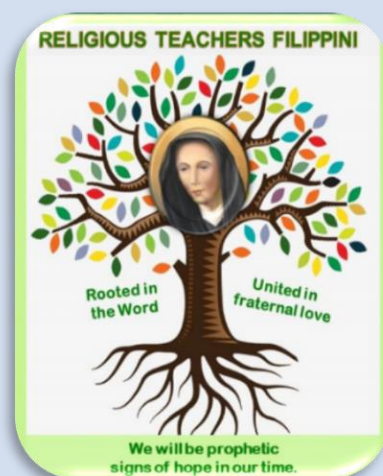


Pontifical Institute
Religious Teachers Filippini
Communicating... No. 22
Generalate
October – December 2024



Dear Sisters,

While contemplating the topic to share with you in this quarter of our bulletin, living in Rome, we are surrounded by one obsession, that of this coming Holy Jubilee Year, 2025, which will already have begun by the time you receive this communication. Because this bulletin reaches different parts of the world, I am uncertain if your fraction of the world has this same passion for this distinctive and holy event.

Despite your experience, I pray the simple thoughts I share will help give deeper meaning to you on the edge of this great celebration that comes every twenty-five years. May these few reflections help to motivate you to become more deeply involved in the gifts this Holy Year offers and encourage you to speak more enthusiastically of the graces this year brings to those groups that you instruct and share the faith. If you are in a position where prayer absorbs your present ministry due to age/illness, offer your prayers daily so that the spiritual benefits of this Holy Year will awaken in others the grace to open their hearts to accept the God-gifts that are offered them, especially in this Jubilee Year when so many blessed opportunities are available.

Through the centuries, the period between the Jubilee Years has changed. When a Jubilee year first occurred in 1300, Jubilees happened every century, but since 1450, they occur every twenty-five years so that each generation can take part in at least one Holy Year. No doubt, we each hold memories of previous Jubilee Years that we have been privileged to participate in. What will you do to make this Holy Year memorable for you? What do you have in your capacity to make it memorable for others?

Unfortunately, most of you will not have the opportunity to be on pilgrimage in Rome during this special year, but the same spiritual advantages are available to you no matter where you are. Without a doubt, your local parish and diocese are keeping you abreast of what is available to make this year a holy experience. As part of your religious witness, you, too, must participate, and also speak and encourage others to join in the special programs that are offered.

In this year of grace, one of the most mentioned privileges is to receive a plenary indulgence for yourself or your deceased loved ones. In your Diocese, the local Cathedral and the shrines identified by your Bishop have these privileges. Your people may need to be educated, “What does it mean to receive a plenary indulgence? What must one do to receive it?” This is your opportunity to evangelize!

I am happy to share with you that in the Province of Saint Lucy, in the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, where there is a sanctuary of Saint Lucy Filippini, the sisters are privileged that the local Bishop has made this sanctuary one of the three sanctuaries in the Diocese where it is possible to receive this plenary indulgence.

Sisters, the purpose of a Holy Year is to increase and strengthen our own faith life and to encourage our personal holiness of life. May this year help us refine and deepen our relationship with God and with others, as we proclaim and live out its theme, “*Pilgrims of Hope!*”

To be mindful of the graces of this special year, I am asking that the Jubilee Year Prayer be prayed each day in our local houses.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF
General Superior



Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia

Mother General's Visit

A prelude to the many blessings that the Mater Boni Consilii Ethiopian Region experienced with the visit of Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano and Sister Mary Elizabeth, General Councilor and Mission Director, from October 9 to 22, 2024, was the blessing and joy of accepting Weini Tesfay Teklehaimanot into the Novitiate on October 6, 2024. Receiving a novice into the Novitiate after many years truly renewed the hope for the future of our Mission.

After five years of war and many other problems in Tigray, it was indeed a great blessing to have Mother General's presence with us once again. As always, Mother General encouraged us and with her motherly affection moved and touched each sister's heart. Every day was precisely scheduled to encounter each member and every apostolic activity of the Region. No sector and no one remained without the attention of Mother's presence except the Zalambessa Convent, which unfortunately is vacant and still in the conflict zone, a result of the damage from our recent war.



In every School and Center, there was a hearty welcoming spirit to express our gratitude to the whole Institute, which Mother's visit represents. We especially wanted to express our grati-



tude during this visit for the Institute's spiritual and material support during wartime. The war experience was an inexpressibly difficult time for the Region and for the people of our land. Each school and center prepared different activities to express our heartfelt joy and appreciation through drama, prose, poems, and local dance for our sisters' concern for us during this dark time in our country. At each of these gatherings, Mother General expressed her motherly, deep, and touching words of consolation and hope to all.





On October 20, 2024, two days prior to her departure, the sisters of the Region came together for a Community Day. The day began with a Prayer Service prepared and led by Mother General and Sister Elizabeth. Mother General addressed the sisters emphasizing the many ways to live our Consecrated Life faithfully and highlighted the importance of the General Chapter for the whole Institute and that we take its preparation seriously.

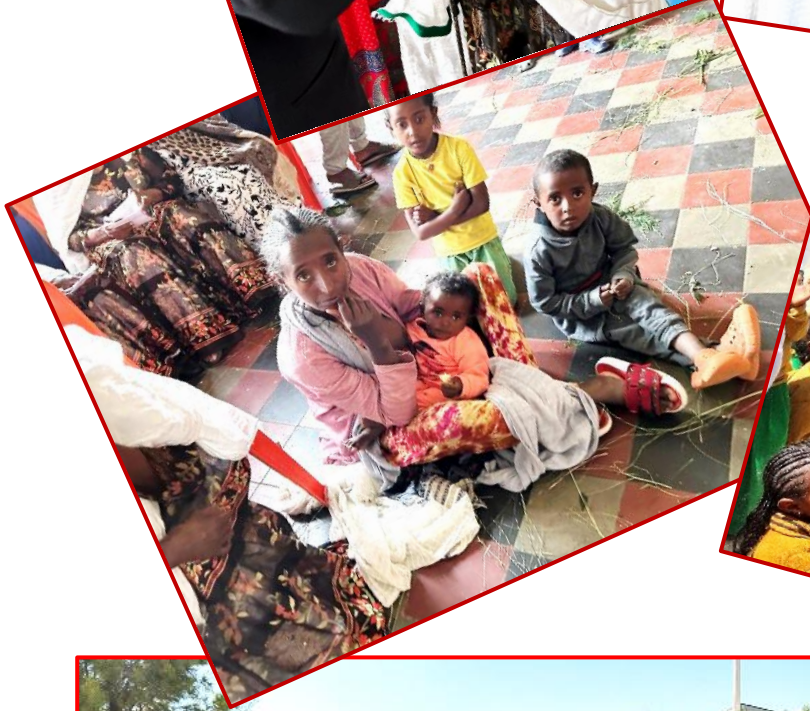
In addition to Mother General addressing the Sisters, Sister Freweini, Regional Superior, gave a full report on the State of the Region, and Sister Letteselassie, Region Treasurer, gave a thorough financial report, outlining the many efforts on the part of the Region to generate income and also stressed the financial needs of the Region.



The day concluded with the watching of the Documentary of Saint Lucy, “*A Light Still Shines.*” Watching it, we felt strongly united spiritually with our holy Founders. It was well-prepared and each member appreciated the hard work done by our sisters and collaborators in this endeavor.

Presently we are experiencing a time of partial peace. It is our time to build bridges of humanity, spirituality, and all kinds of goodness. We thank the Lord for all the graces granted to us in so many ways. Let us hand in hand with our entire Institute “*hope in the Lord, so that we may be renewed in strength.*”





Queen of Peace Region, India Mother General's Visit

The long-awaited day of Mother General's visit to Regina Pacis Region, Janampet, India, finally arrived. Mother was accompanied by Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd and Sister Mercy Chakkiath, General Councilors, on November 12, 2024. It was a day filled with immense joy for the sisters, and also for the children of Siena Home. Their safe arrival and our demonstration of love and welcome were expressed with bouquets and garlands amidst the showering of flower petals. A welcome dance by the candidates who dressed in traditional costumes highlighted the different States of India and the variety and beauty of Indian culture.



The following day, guided by their formators, the Junior Sisters and candidates enacted an extraordinary performance on the lives of the Saints, a tradition started by Sister Maria Alliegro, commemorating All Saints Day. This year the program was delayed until Mother General's arrival.

Saint Lucy School, Janampet

On November 14, Mother General and sisters were invited to the *National Children's Day* celebration at Saint Lucy School, on the Regional House premises. After the children performed a variety of cultural routines to celebrate this occasion, Mother General addressed the children and stressed the importance of this day in their honor.



She reminded them how blessed they are in comparison to children in other parts of the world.

The Principal and Staff also expressed their gratitude for the presence of Mother General and councilors and their appreciation for the generous contributions received for the growth of the school.

On the following day, Mother General inaugurated their *Annual Sports Day* in the school by lighting the Olympic Torch.

Visahkapatnam

The first visit out of Janampet was Visahkapatnam, a five-hour car ride. The Regional Superior, Sister Maria Xavier, accompanied Mother General and sisters on all these journeys.

The first stop was at *Gloria Vidya Kendram*, and then *Nirmala School*, both Diocesan Schools, each with an enrollment



of more than one thousand students. The staff and the students under the leadership of their respective principals gave Mother General and sisters a magnificent welcome, with band, dances, and songs.

In the evening Father Ranta Kumar, the Deputy General Manager of the Diocesan Schools of Visakhapatnam, came to express his great appreciation for our sisters and the great contribution they render to the development of these diocesan schools.



The next day Mother visited the community at Steel Plant Township, where our sisters agreed to work temporarily at the urgent request of the Diocese. It is here that the three communities of Visahkapatnam, and Perapuram came together. During dinner, the sisters expressed their joy and gratitude to Mother and sisters always through dance and song.

Returning to Janampet the community breathed an atmosphere of prayer and also of celebration. The three days of Triduum for the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary were prayerful days of preparation. Each day Father Johnson Puthenpurakkal OFM Cap. gave a conference on “*Mary, Model of Religious Commitment.*” During the evening Holy Hour, on the 18th Mother General accepted the two Postulants, Pavani Kolukuluri and Hepsibha Pallapu into Novitiate.



On 19 November, the second year Novice Lujina Induwar, from Assam, made her **Temporary Oblation**. The presence of Mother added so much to this celebration. Father Bala, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Eluru, presided over the Eucharistic Liturgy and was concelebrated by many priests from the Campus. The assembly included the community sisters and



those in formation, religious from the neighborhood communities, and the family of Lujina. Mother General received her Oblation and welcomed Lujina into the Family of the Religious Teachers Filippini. The Region joyfully praised God for the gift of Lujina's vocation, prayed for her perseverance, and implored the Lord for vocations to the entire Institute.



On **November 20**, Mother visited **Siena Home**, a Home for approximately sixty children, some orphans and others hailing from a poor economic background. Their joy was immense in seeing Mother General and Councilors and expressed it in manifold ways, through dances, songs, skits, and speeches. Mother in her message reminded them how fortunate they are to be loved and cared for so lovingly by the sisters.

On **November 21**, the Community of Janampet and Eluru gathered together with Mother General to celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Mary and to renew our Oblation. It was a unique experience for the community to have the presence of Mother General on this special day in the life of the Community.



Korom, Kerala

The next long journey was to Korom, Kerala. After a two-flight journey, Mother General and sisters arrived at the community house on the evening of November 22.

November 23, was an important day in the history of the community in Kerala, the blessing and inauguration of the *Jubilee Memorial Block* where a third floor was added to the existing school building, providing space and facilities for the 11th and 12th classes, fulfilling new requirements according to the educational system of India. Thanks to the great generosity and support of the many benefactors. Rev. Father Linto



Stanly, the Parish priest, blessed the New Block. Mother General inaugurated the Block by cutting the ribbon in the presence of the community and special guests.

On the evening of this same day, the “*Twenty-first Annual Day*” of the school, Mother General and the sisters were the guests of honor at their “*Spectacular*” event. Mother General’s message on “*Colors*” blended with the theme of their Program that focused on *Colors*.



A visit to the *Pet Station Picnic Spot* was another highlight of Mother’s visit in Korom. Together with Mother, the sisters of the local community, enjoyed and were amused and entertained by the sights of this location. It was an experience of joy and much laughter. The community of Korom thanks the Lord for all the blessings received through this visit.

Munagalapally

On the evening of November 26, Mother General and sisters arrived at the community of **Munagalapally** where the sisters and postulants were eagerly awaiting them. The following morning another memorable event, Mother General inaugurated the third floor of Saint Lucy School. Rev. Father



Edward Joseph C SSR, the Provincial Superior of the Redemptorist Fathers, blessed the newly constructed third floor of the school.



While touring the school, Mother and Sister Elizabeth visited the ‘*Mother Zaira Stitching Center*’ and met the *stitching women*. Mother appreciated learning how the Center is utilized and encouraged them to continue to use these skills productively.



In the evening at the *Annual Day Celebration* of the school, Mother General delivered the opening message and included in her message the theme of the evening’s program, “*Save the Girl Child.*” “*Even back in the 17th century, Saint Lucy Filip-pini, the foundress of our religious community, strongly supported this issue...*” As a part of the program, Mother General unveiled the Memorial Stone for the new part of the school building.



At the Regional House Mother scheduled a meeting with the Formation Team allowing the sisters on each level of formation to share how they continue to approach their responsibilities based on the discussions from her previous visit. Together they agreed on the importance of sharing their gifts and that they communicate often, even amid their busy schedules. She emphasized that they invoke the Holy Spirit to guide their decisions, and reminded them of the great responsibility entrusted to them in forming the future of the Queen of Peace Region.

By the time Mother’s visit came to an end, she had met with each sister individually both at the Regional House and during her visits to the other communities. She spent time with each one, nourishing their spiritual life and encouraging them to move forward with courage and hope.

In addition, Sister Maria Xavier organized Zoom meetings with those five communities that Mother could not visit due to distance, so that they, too, had a chance to converse with Mother and to also be a part of this visit.



The clock moved faster than ever as the days of Mother’s leaving came closer. The evening of November 30, was memorable, too magnificent to describe in words. Sisters and candidates in Formation prepared a wonderful Program to express their love and gratitude. Even the children from Siena Home were present!



Sister Maria Xavier thanked Mother General and the General Councilors, on behalf of the entire Queen of Peace Region for all the blessings received through this visit, for their love and empowering presence, for the sacrifices they made to travel to visit the communities and for generously giving every minute of their time to encourage and



strengthen the sisters. After expressing her gratitude on behalf of the sisters, Mother General also addressed everyone, leaving a message of encouragement to move forward and also one of gratitude for the many blessings of this visit.

On this last day of her visit, December 1, during midday Adoration, Mother General received the renewal of the Junior sisters who were advancing into their 2nd & 3rd year of Juniorate. In her address to them, Mother stressed “*each*

year of your Juniorate brings you a step closer to your final commitment and each year should find you more committed.”

The Queen of Peace Region, thanks Mother General, Sister Elizabeth, and Sister Mercy for this significant visit where every sister felt empowered and encouraged to move forward. The Region is so grateful for their help and guidance. In addition, we implore God’s blessings upon them.



“Sacred Heart” Province – Italy

Saint Lucy’s Invisible Presence... Always in Action!

Due to the decrease in the number of sisters over time, the Institute has been forced to leave some locations that belong to us, yet now in these same places, the name and spirit of Saint Lucy has revived. To our surprise, people who over the years benefited from the presence and work of the sisters are committed to continue to walk in Saint Lucy’s footsteps. Her spirit is still actively present where we no longer minister.

Here are some examples:

Vitulano BN - The Laboratory Experience - In the historic center of the ancient village of Vitulano, in the school/house, that the benefactor Mrs. Amalia Abba-mondi had entrusted to the Maestre Pie, to-day has become the point of reference for Sannio olive growing, the greatest resource of the territory.

Thanks to our very skilled local olive tree specialist, Sebastian Limata, the children of the various schools are involved in the life journey of the olive tree until it produces oil. They can observe, handle, taste...

"We need to educate and pass on our traditions to the new generation and explain quality agri-food" - says Sebastian Limata, designer of this agricultural project. It is important for children to know that extra virgin olive oil is good for our physical well-being and mental health and well-kept olive groves and a beautiful landscape are good for mental relaxation.



Inauguration of the “Saint Lucy Filippini” House – Scandriglia, RI



On December 15, 2024, the people of Scandriglia gathered to honor Saint Lucy Filippini, as they had previously done. The occasion marked the reopening of a historic building that once belonged to the Institute and had been central to the work of the Maestre Pie, who carried out their apostolic mission by teaching in the municipal nursery and primary schools and providing catechism to children and youth.

After years of closure, the building was purchased by His Excellency Monsignor Ernesto Mandara, Bishop of the Suburbicarian Diocese of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto. Following careful restoration, it was transformed into the “Saint Lucy Filippini House,” a center designed to support twelve individuals with disabilities. This initiative, dedicated to the legacy of Saint Lucy Filippini, will involve a team of professionals providing medical and social



assistance, offering residents educational activities, companionship, and the opportunity for social and economic independence.

The inauguration ceremony began with a procession led by the parish priest, accompanied by a musical band. The Mayor, Dr. Lorenzo Ferrante, reflected on the history of the Maestre Pie in Scandriglia, dating back to 1718, when the Institute was first established through the legacy of benefactor Pietro Salvesi.



Mother General and the Provincial Superior expressed deep gratitude to Bishop Mandara and his collaborators, particularly Monsignor Antonino Treppiedi, for their commitment to restoring the site. The Bishop called on the community to embrace and support this project as a work of great responsibility and solidarity.

After the formal blessings and the placement of Saint Lucy Filippini's image in the chapel, attendees toured the renovated facilities, admired the panoramic views, and enjoyed refreshments. The gathering inspired many to recall their experiences within those walls, where they had learned and grown under the guidance of the Maestre Pie.

There were also the descendants of the town who, in the past, had a Maestra Pia in their family. Many sisters, in fact, over the years, chose to live the apostolic mission in the footsteps of Lucy Filippini, among them, we remember Mother Teresa Saccucci, Superior General from 1938 to 1954.

From the hearts of the Maestre Pie who were present, they prayed that Saint Lucy intercede and send new followers to respond to the needs of today.



Corese Terra RI - Dream for the Near Future!

A social project is also being implemented in the Corese Terra RI building, which the Institute sold at a discounted price to the Diocese of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto. In this place, the Diocese plans to welcome, accompany, and train autistic children, a problem that today afflicts many families. It is still just a dream, but with the involvement of the Association of Municipalities of Sabina, it will soon be realized.

We do hope with all our hearts, that this project, too, will be in the name of Saint Lucy!

Anzio RM – A School in full swing!

The school of the Maestre Pie in Anzio was desired by the merit of Pope Pius IX who had great esteem for our Institute present for years in the nearby town of Nettuno RM. Unfortunately, several times, it was on the verge of closure, due to the lack of sisters. Beginning this year, however, a seed of hope has sprouted. A team of lay people, made up of teachers, management, technical and auxiliary staff, linked by their personal experience in this school, wanted to take on the challenge of continuing to keep it alive and operational. With this purpose in mind, linked above all with their generosity and dedication, human resources and appropriate professional qualifications were made available. We consider this a miracle of Saint Lucy! The management group has also applied to open a secondary school course. This was a dream held in the hearts of many sisters throughout the last century and never realized, despite having prepared the large space to make this possible. We hope that, in the name of Saint Lucy, these people are strong and tenacious in carrying forward an activity that can and must be experienced only as a mission. We, the Maestre Pie, collaborate with esteem, encouragement, and above all with our prayer.

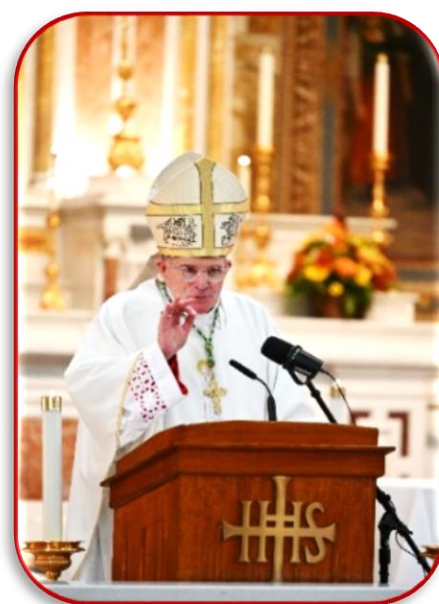


Saint Lucy Province, USA Genesis Day 2024

Saint Lucy Chapel was the setting for our annual Genesis Day gathering 2024, with a welcome address by Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior of



Saint Lucy Province. A presentation followed on the National Eucharistic Congress, held in Indianapolis, given by attendees: Sisters Roseann Fernandez, Anne Louise Abascal, Helen Sanchez (with a PowerPoint visual of the revival speakers), Sisters Luciana D'Cruze and Elaine Bebyn.



The Eucharistic Liturgy was the highlight of the day with our celebrants: Most Reverend Bishop David M. O'Connell, Monsignor Thomas Gervasio and Father Jean Felicien. In his homily, the Bishop noted how Mary's indicating to Jesus that the guests of Cana had no more wine could be compared to our lives as well.



He remarked: *“Where is the wine of our lives? Each one of us experiences loss... We search for meaning... Behind each of us is hope, a desire for the Wedding at Cana in our lives. We come as participants, seeking out a wholeness. This event in Jesus’ life was a “Genesis” moment for Him.”* The Bishop further mentioned: *“There is never enough wine in our lives, so we turn to Mary, the Mother of Hope, who in turn, goes to her Son for us. Because of Jesus and Mary, that which had no life, now does. Every day Christ is pouring Himself out in the empty jars of our lives – we need to receive Him. He is good wine! Death becomes life; sorrow - joy, desperation - hope, fear - courage. Empty lives - fill back up... His glory becomes our hope.”* At the conclusion of his talk, he reminded us that the miracle only begins when the wine runs out.

After a festive dinner, one of the special traditions of Saint Lucy Province is sending a Traveling Statue of Saint Lucy to three of our convents promoting the spirit of Saint Lucy, with the hope of fostering a love of God among our families, and perhaps sparking some interest of the young women to consider Religious Life. The traveling statutes of Saint Lucy were presented to the Sisters at Saint Lucy Convent, Metuchen, Holy Spirit Convent, Pequannock and Saint Jerome Convent, West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Sister Patricia concluded the day with sentiments of gratitude to all in attendance. She encouraged the Sisters to participate in the upcoming Jubilee Year events where and when possible.



Community Day



To celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary, and to reaffirm our Oblation, our annual Community Day began in Saint Lucy Chapel on November 16, 2024. Sister Patricia Pompa, Provincial Superior, addressed the Sisters in attendance, those in Saint Joseph Hall, and those who joined virtually with a warm welcome and apropos remarks for both the Sisters who were marking a Jubilee year, and remembering our beloved Sisters who have been called home to the

Lord in the past year. The following Sisters were celebrating milestone anniversaries: Sister Dolores Toscano and Sister Angelina Del Vecchio (80 years); Sister Marie Roccapriore (75 years), and Sister Laura Bezila (25 years).



In a fitting transition from the joy of Jubilees, Sister Patricia noted that during the month of November, the Church not only calls us to celebrate and remember the lives of the saints, but also to remember all those who have been called home to the Lord. In loving memory of our deceased Sisters, the morning continued with a reflective tribute prepared by Sister Elizabeth Dalessio and narrated by Sister Joan Di Rienzo. Those who died in the past year were fondly recalled to our memories: Sister Assunta Rinaldi,

Sister Elizabeth Szilvasi, Sister Lucille Fitzpatrick, Sister Anna Pompei and Sister Alma Blume.

The Eucharistic Liturgy followed with the main celebrant: Most Reverend Bishop Arthur Serratelli, and concelebrants: Reverend Monsignor Paul Bochicchio, Reverend Joseph Ferraro, Reverend Edward Przygocki, Reverend Steven Bolton and Reverend Ronald Sordillo. In his homily, the Bishop stated that the ways of wealth and the world were not those of consecrated women. *“By living the evangelical counsels, they have built their lives on Jesus, the rock foundation of lasting happiness. Their “no” to the world’s ways to success has been the resounding “yes” to the vocation God gave*



them.” Bishop Serratelli continued in enlightening all how the Sisters “make others know and love God, know and love Jesus, know and love His Church. They have done this by their works...but even more fruitful for God’s people that their hours of zealous Apostolic ministry, more fruitful and more powerful has been their daily living out of their “yes” to God as Maestre Pie Filippini.”

Following the Liturgy, a festive dinner took place in the dining room for all in attendance. A creative PowerPoint presentation was prepared by Sister Helen Sanchez honoring the Jubilarians. A congratulatory letter from Sister Ascenza Tizzano, General Superior, was read expressing her warmest wishes to all the Jubilarians. The dinner concluded with expressions of gratitude by Sister Patricia Pompa for a memorable and grace-filled day!



Vice Province “Mater Divinae Gratiae” Sao Paulo – Brazil

Generations Meeting – “Luciane Project”, Miracatu, SP

On November 19, 2024, a group of elderly women participating in the “Joy of Living” Project in São Paulo, visited the children and young people. They were assisted by our sisters through the “Luciane” Project in Miracatu, São Paulo.



On this special day of celebration, different generations shared their experiences. Each elderly woman chose a child to whom she would give a Christmas gift. Sister Yesu Rani

provided the entertainment with a typical Indian dance, which involved both the children and the women. It was a moment of great joy for both. The assistants of the Project presented passages from the lives of our Founders, together with songs and dances. Young and old ate lunch together and enjoyed the joy of meeting together.



Vice-Provincial House and College “Saint Lucy Filippini”



On December 7, 2024, in the Parish “Santa Croce” of Itaberaba, São Paulo, twenty-one couples celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony as a community. Seven of these couples were our collaborators.



The sisters of the Vice-Provincial House and College “Saint Lucy Filippini” had encouraged them to bless their union with Christian Matrimony, as Saint Lucy would certainly have done. Some were not baptized, nor confirmed, and had not received First Holy Communion.

The intense and meaningful celebration brought great joy both to the sisters and to the “protagonists.” It was a way to nourish their faith, bring them closer to the Sacraments, and increase participation in the life of



the parish community. One of the employees, in particular, completed the sacramental catechesis journey, guided by Sister Ione Honoria de Souza, MPF.

In joy, a choral praise was raised to the Lord for this great gift.

Mater Misericordiae Region – Eritrea

Entrance to the Novitiate and Postulancy

On October 6, 2024, the Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea, had the joy of receiving their Postulant, Betelihem Abib, into Novitiate and two aspirants, Senait Kibrom and Gewra Simon, into the Postulancy. During the holy hour, after praying the psalms and shared

prayer, those present followed the simple ceremony for entrance into the Novitiate. After the ceremony, the sisters who live in Asmara and the aspirants accompanied the new novice to the Novitiate House. All the participants then were invited to the special Coffee Ceremony and desserts. The joyous occasion concluded with songs and dance.



We thank God for blessing the Region with new vocations, and we continue to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send further laborers into the Harvest.



