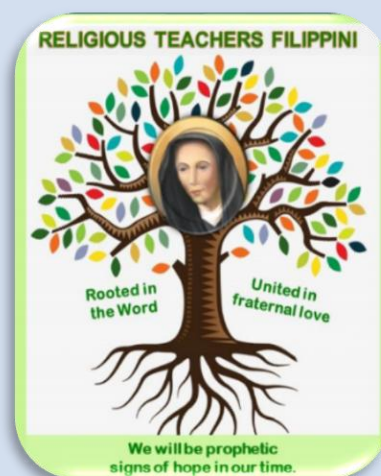


***Pontifical Institute***  
***Religious Teachers Filippini***  
***Communicating... No. 23***  
***Generalate***  
***January – March 2025***



Dear Sisters,

This quarterly bulletin continues to serve as a meaningful way for me to remain in closer communication with you. It has been a helpful vehicle in updating you and keeping you informed of important matters that affect all of us. This time, I write to reignite a cause that has been dormant for some time, the promotion of the holy and inspiring life of our Founder, Cardinal Mark Anthony Barbarigo, with the hope of advancing his cause for beatification.

Our recent study and reflection on the Cardinal's life reminded us how deeply blessed we are to have a Founder who was holy, dedicated, and visionary for the Church of the seventeenth century. From his youth, Cardinal Barbarigo led his holy life solely centered on God, a life of virtue, humility, conviction, and tireless service. We recognize that without him, Saint Lucy Filippini could not have achieved her extraordinary mission. The Cardinal was truly her father. Even today, we carry in our hearts this deep sense of gratitude. Now, we are given another opportunity to express this appreciation tangibly.

In February, I received an unexpected letter from Don Giorgio Ciucci, member of the Tribunal in the Diocese of Viterbo, inviting me, together with members of the General Council, and Sister Virginia Iamele, Provincial of Sacred Heart Province, to a special meeting. Also present at this gathering were Bishop Francesco Piazza, Bishop of Viterbo, and the Superior General and Council of the Sisters of Divina Amore. We were pleased to learn at this time that the Diocese of Viterbo is committed to reviving and advancing the cause of the Cardinal's beatification.

While much of the groundwork was completed some years ago, there still remains a process to move it forward. A key step is the appointment of a postulator. We are endorsing Dr. Paolo Vilotta, whom we met at a subsequent meeting. He comes with much experience, and we are confident in his dedication to this mission. Mother Nicolina Bandiera and Sister Emanuela Vanich were also present at this meeting since they have been dedicated to this cause and always remain a significant resource for us.

But the heart of this effort lies not only in official appointments, it lies in you. We cannot move this forward without your interest, prayers, and participation. This effort will be strongly endorsed at our General Chapter, and upon the delegates' return, you will hear more specifically how you can be involved.

This is a shared endeavor among the Diocese of Viterbo, the Sisters of Divina Amore, and the Maestre Pie. Together, we are called to renew and more widely spread the legacy of Cardinal Barbarigo. You can begin today: share his story, speak of his holiness, encourage others to pray through his intercession. If someone is ill, offer them the prayer we say to the Cardinal, invoking his intercession for healing. A miracle is needed for his beatification, and our prayers can help bring this about.

Even before these recent meetings, the topic of forwarding Cardinal Barbarigo's cause had been presented by some Maestre in Part 4 of our Chapter Study, "*Moving Forward*." They offered excellent suggestions for ongoing initiatives. I invite you to consider what part you can offer in supporting this blessed cause.

Bishop Piazza has organized a special Mass on **May 25, 2025**, at Saint Lucy's Crypt to bring together the three groups dedicated to this mission. This date, the Sunday before the Cardinal's anniversary of death (May 26), will mark an important public moment of prayer and unity. During this Mass, a sister from the Divina Amore community will also make her solemn vows, a further sign of the Cardinal's enduring legacy of holiness and vocational inspiration.

Sisters, we have much to hope for and much to contribute. Let us renew our commitment with energy, devotion, and deep faith. Join these efforts that are beginning here by considering to celebrate the Cardinal's anniversary of death on May 26, and invite your students and laity who minister with you to become part of this effort to promote our Founder, Cardinal Barbarigo.

May the Cardinal intercede for us and bless our efforts as each of us continues to fulfill our Mission to know, love, and praise God.

*Sincerely in the Lord,*

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF*

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF*

*General Superior*





From the Vatican, January 10, 2025

Dear Sister,

I thank you so much for your kind Letter of December 16, 2024 and for the contribution that, on behalf of the Pontifical Institute of the Maestre Pie Filippini, you sent me for the works of charity on the occasion of Holy Christmas.

I greatly appreciated your attention to those in need. Thank you for having extended your hand to them. May the Grace of God fill you with joy and peace.

I wish you a happy Jubilee Year. Please, continue to pray for me; I will pray for you. May the Lord bless you and may Our Lady and Saint Lucy Filippini watch over you.

Fraternally,

On the occasion of Christmas and the birthday of His Holiness Pope Francis, Mother General, on behalf of the entire Institute, expressed warmest wishes and asked Pope Francis for his Apostolic Blessing on each Maestra. The Holy Father responded cordially to the message, thanking us for the generous offering to be used for works of charity that he provides.

United with Pope Francis, we raise prayers for peace, we implore the grace of the Jubilee Year on the whole Church and on every Christian, We insistently ask and pray for the gift of holy vocations.

### **A Warm Welcome to Our Eritrean Sisters**

On the afternoon of January 18, Mother General, Sister Virginia, Provincial Superior and sisters of the Provincial House had the joy of welcoming four Sisters from the Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea, into our midst: Sister Aster Fisehay Solomon, Sister Huriya, Tekle Tesfay, Sister Sara Embaye Welday, and Sister Mibrak Surafiel Tafla.

Some of these sisters have previously spent time in Italy for various reasons, and now return in response to Mother General's invitation. They come sharing stories of hardships endured in their homeland, and challenges marked by suffering and deprivation, especially since their mission in the school and the clinic was taken



over by the government. Their love of mission and the people they serve keeps them searching for ways to continue to make a difference. Despite these trials, they arrived in Rome with joy and a generous spirit, ready to offer themselves in service wherever needed.

Sister Virginia set aside a special evening where the sisters received a formal welcome that began with praying Vespers, followed by a special prepared supper. Mother General was also invited to join the sisters. The later part of the evening included the sisters sharing native songs and dances, and concluded with special sentiments of thanks from Sister Mebrak, the former Regional Superior.



Presently, these sisters are spread about, two serving at the Provincial House, one at Volto Santo, and one at our Pensione in Rome. In their leisure time, they are also trying to improve their Italian language skills. We ask God's blessing upon them as they continue to share their gifts in new surroundings so generously.

## **Sacred Heart Province, Italy**

### **“School, Laboratory of Hope”**

### **Formative Meeting for the School Teachers**

*From the testimony of a participant –*

I cannot find a better expression to summarize this day of grace and communion that we have experienced, if not in the words *"It is God who works in you both to will and to act for his good pleasure"* (Phil 2:13).



Finding ourselves among so many colleagues on the journey under the guidance of Saint Lucy Filippini, in the Provincial House in Rome, Via delle Fornaci, welcomed as daughters / sons, with gestures and words: *“Come, whenever you want, with your families, with your loved ones. The House is always open!”* was an experience of love and respect intensely lived by us who work every day in our beloved school.

Accepting the suggestions of Don Antonio Scigliuzzo, creating a work group among colleagues, communicating, collaborating, seeing with our own eyes the various realities, each of us with our own expressions of school life, all coming together in the same path oriented towards the good of the children and their families was truly exciting.

Don Antonio bluntly spoke of everyday family difficulties. He reminded us that people must be educated, not managed, and, above all, that the work is easier if, among colleagues, there is a sharing of intent. Every day children face many challenges: isolation, exaggerated and incorrect use of technology, violence, psychological pressure, etc. For this reason, teachers must be close to them, walk with them, and offer them help and support.



The day ended with the Jubilee visit to Saint Peter's Basilica and with a moment of prayer for our Holy Father.

Thanks to Mother General for her encouraging presence and to Mother Provincial for organizing the meeting. All the teachers of our school in Montefiascone thank the Lord for this day of fraternal communion.

### **Formative Meeting - Association of the Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini**

The third Meeting of the year, held on March 23, 2025, invited the lay group to reflect on this Holy Jubilee Year, centered on its theme *“Pilgrims of Hope.”* Recognizing the family as a laboratory of hope, His Excellency, Monsignor Emidio Cipollone, spiritual guide of the group, presented the theme *“The Jubilee in Our Home”*. After a brief historical overview, Monsignor Cipollone focused on the core of his message, outlining **six essential steps** to authentically celebrate this time of grace:



1. Living “forever” as a couple
2. Believing in life and the future
3. Transforming wounds into slits of light and love
4. Overcoming the temptation to withdraw or isolate
5. Transmitting values from parents to children, and from grandparents to grandchildren
6. Rediscovering the dialogue that connects past, present, and future



He also offered **concrete actions** for families to live the Jubilee in daily life:

- Read the Word of God and pray together
- Practice mercy: visit the sick and the elderly who are alone; forgive and reconcile
- Participate together in Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation; offer fraternal correction; encourage children to discover and follow their vocation
- Make a family Jubilee pilgrimage
- Bear witness: talk about the Jubilee at work or among friends
- Encourage others to live the Jubilee experience by sharing resources or teachings

In conclusion, he emphasized the urgency and grace of the moment with the words:

*“Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*  
(2 Cor. 6:2).

During the second part of the meeting, participants shared reflections, personal experiences, and suggestions. These exchanges continue to strengthen the group's spiritual and fraternal bonds, despite their geographical distances.

## Saint Lucy Province, USA Community Assembly

The Province of Saint Lucy welcomed Sister M. Peter Lillian DiMaria, O.Carm., Director of the Avila Institute of Gerontology in Germantown, New York, as the presenter for our Community Assembly on February 22, 2025. Securing a seasoned and qualified speaker on the topic of aging and life transitions evolved from the Provincial Chapter held in October 2024. Sister M. Peter has over forty-five years of experience in the continuum care ministry as a Carmelite Sister for the Aged and Infirm. Sister M. Peter has served her community in many administrative positions and has lectured many times on



Alzheimer's disease, palliative care, geriatric spiritual care, family care issues, stress reduction, leadership development, and team building.



Sister M. Peter spoke to the Sisters on various aspects of aging gracefully in religious life. She began by reminding the Sisters that, *"We have so much on our minds... we lost the art of being present to the Lord and to each other."* She further explained that *'transitions can be easy or not, when we take the time to look, we see that Grace came along to help us through it...How do we let go and see God's grace?'* Sister M. Peter described the seasons to religious life: *'Spring, explore the Fiat; Summer, live the call; Fall, discover the beauty of the call; Winter, understanding the meaning of letting go to make room for the holy.'*

Sister M. Peter explained that our brains have a creative side and an anxiety side. To rid ourselves of the anxiety we need to be creative, to choose to be happy rather than miserable. We influence others when we are anxious and when we are calm. She explored the tension we often feel between "doing" and "being." While each Sister in community, no matter her age, is familiar with this dynamic, the tension increases as we age and we come face-to-face with the prospect of less-active or even in-active ministry. Sister M. Peter asked us to explore, questions such as *"Do we live in community or are we living community? Do we retire from community? How do I live the 'mission' of religious life when my age and/or health do not allow me to work as actively as before?"*

Sister M. Peter concluded her presentation by emphasizing that healthy aging requires good living habits. She noted, *"Successful aging requires the ability to maintain low risk of disease and high mental and physical function, and engagement in life."* She also suggested the formation of *"transition teams"* to provide extra assistance to the transitioning Sister. Those on the teams would need to possess good listening skills, the ability to assist the sisters in setting goals and managing stress, and aid the sisters in navigating the inevitable transitions that come with the passage of time. Sister M. Peter ended with *"Religious life is very resilient. We have to be thankful for all we have. All we need to age well is in community. God is asking us to let go what was so that we can begin to BE. Trust the Lord!"*



## Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio Honored



The Amerigo Vespucci Society of Long Branch, New Jersey, honored Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio, MPF, Ed.D. with the Mother Cabrini Award at their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Founded in 1875, the Amerigo Vespucci Society is the oldest Italian-American Mutual Aid Society in the United States. Sister Elizabeth received this award for her contribution over the years to the mission of education.



Sister Elizabeth currently serves as the principal of Saint Jerome School in West Long Branch, New Jersey. An experienced educator in both Catholic and public educational institutions, Sister Elizabeth has taught at the elementary and high school levels and has served as a Director of Religious Education in the Diocese of Trenton. Sister Elizabeth is a distinguished adjunct member of the Department of Education at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, New Jersey.

In the realm of public education, Sister Elizabeth's tenure as an assistant superintendent of schools, principal and director of various programs underscores her commitment to educational innovation. As the co-founder of the New Jersey Virtual School, Sister Elizabeth spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives in online education, collaborating with state and county departments to provide educational opportunities for both juvenile and adult populations in the justice system.

The legacy of compassion and dedication of Saint Lucy Filippini and Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini continues to inspire generations. In her closing remarks of gratitude, Sister Elizabeth shared, *"The message of Saint Frances is crystal clear: To be bearers of the love of Christ in the world – this is the gift of the Holy Spirit to the people of God, a gift concretely revealed and expressed through the lives and testimony of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and Saint Lucy Filippini."*



The Province of Saint Lucy congratulates Sister Elizabeth Dalessio for this distinguished honor. Truly, Saint Lucy's light still shines!



## **Mater Divinae Gratiae, Vice Province Sao Paulo – Brazil**

### **Our Family is Growing!**



February 16, 2025, was a day of spiritual retreat for the Sisters of São Paulo. During the celebration of Vespers our Postulant, Maria Vanessa de Sousa Araújo, made her entrance into the Novitiate. After the ceremony, the participants gathered to celebrate this festive occasion. It was a moment of great joy and gratitude. The Sisters thank the Lord for this gift of vocation and implore the faithful God, Maria Vanessa's holy perseverance.

In Mother General's letter of congratulations to the new novice, she reminded Mary Vanessa, *"Thank God for giving you this precious gift of vocation. Begin this new commitment with a deep sense of gratitude because it is God who calls us to this way of life."*

### **Beginning of the School Year Saint Lucy Filippini College, São Paulo**

On February 5, we were blessed to celebrate two Holy Masses for the beginning of the new scholastic year 2025.

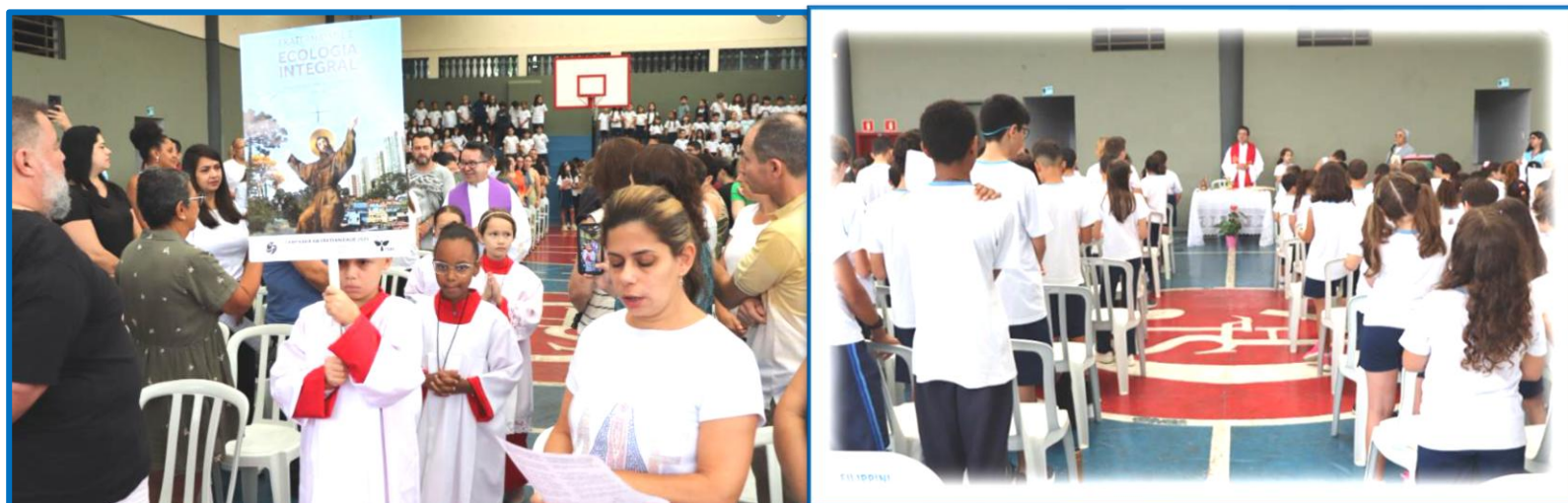
The educational community of the "Saint Lucy Filippini College," São Paulo, lived these inaugural events in a spirit of prayer and communion.



The New Year was dedicated to the Lord, asking for light and strength for the challenges they will have to face. The first celebration, led by Don Renato, religious assistant, involved the students of the morning shift; the second celebration, those of the afternoon shift.



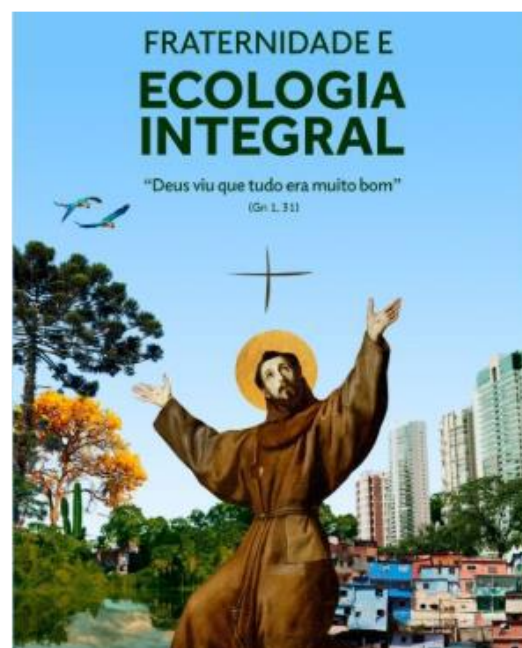
Our entire religious community reaffirmed its commitment to the educational mission, a means of evangelization with love, faith, and knowledge. Following the inspiration of Saint Lucy Filippini, we continue in the certainty of having a year in which we will learn, grow, and achieve higher goals. Prayer makes us strong, and divine blessings will help us to walk a path of light and wisdom.



## Lenten Season Fraternity Campaign

On March 25, the annual “Lenten Season Fraternity Campaign” began at Saint Lucy Filippini College, with the Eucharistic Celebration, led by Don Renato, the School’s religious assistant, students, teachers, family members, and the sisters from the community participated.

The theme for this year is: “*Fraternity and Integral Ecology*,” which draws inspiration from the Holy Scripture: “*God saw that everything was good!*” (Gen 1:31).



During the Lenten Season, this theme will be a point of reference for study, reflection, and sharing of concrete gestures regarding the care of our “*Common Home*.” This initiative of the entire Brazilian Church receives our un-failing participation.



## Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia

### Lenten Recollection Days

**On March 9, 2025**, the sisters organized a Recollection Day for Catholic students in Adigrat in the Missionaries of Africa compound. Around 150 children participated in the prayer session. It was really appreciated by the small children. The day was animated by the sisters with prayer, music, talks on the season of Lent and Stations of the Cross, which was led by the students



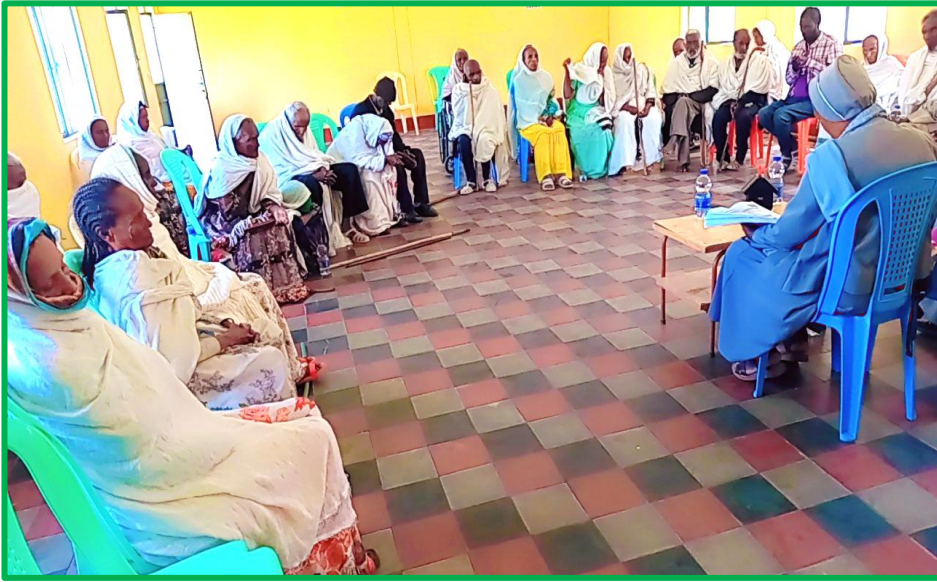
**On March 15, 2025**, teachers of the various schools came together for Lenten Recollection Day at Saint Justin De Jacobs Spiritual Center in Goala. Father Samuel Abraha from Salesians of Don Bosco gave a very deep and inspiring talk on the spirituality of the Season. There were almost eighty participants from different schools including the sisters. Everyone was enriched and grateful for the day.



**On March 23**, another day of prayer was organized for “Daughters of Saint Lucy” group in Adigrat, which was led by Sister Kahsa Abraha.







During this Season of Lenten, the sisters of the Region took up various initiatives to live this holy season meaningfully. Prayer Sessions, Recollection Days, visiting the elderly and sick people. The students loved praying Stations of the Cross every Friday.

## Visible Signs of God's Providence

Our blind center received help for their children from the Salesians of Don Bosco and their benefactors. They attended a workshop on Trauma healing, for two days, with the help of the Catholic Secretariat and our sisters. They always express gratitude for all the benefactors and the Institute. May God bless all those who share their wealth with others.

## Watch this Building Grow

*We are grateful to God, our Institute, and special gratitude to Mother General and her Council. We have the privilege of starting the construction of Saint Lucy Kindergarten. Our children have suffered for many years, spending the day in very tight quarters. At the same time, the government continuously complained that our program was below standard because of the lack of proper space and facilities. In a few months, this problem will be solved.*

*We know that it is not easy to raise money, but by the hard work and sacrifice of Sister Mary Beth Lloyd and so many benefactors, the project is on its way. We pray and hope to see our children in dignified classrooms in the near future.*



*Watch this grow!*



## Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea

### Temporary Oblation

“Mater Misericordiae” Region, Eritrea, celebrated the Temporary Oblation of the two Novices, Aldina Denaday Petros and Kisanet Ghide Semra, on February 22, 2025. The Regional Superior, Sister Kudus Tewelde, received their Oblation on behalf of Mother General, in the presence of the Regional Councilors; Sister Saba Andemariam and Sister Merhawit Tesfaslassie, and the sisters of the Region, priests and sisters from other religious congregations, family members, and friends.



This special day was a day marked with joy and grace. The Eucharistic celebration was celebrated in the Saint Lucy Chapel of the Regional House. Father Haile Pawlos, the main celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy, reminded everyone of Saint Lucy’s mission in Eritrea and recommended that each Maestre be a model of Saint Lucy in this present time.

After the Eucharistic celebration, all the invitees joined the felicitation ceremony and the dinner. The event was adorned with special dancing of Kunama and Bilin. The young girls in the initial formation prepared the entertainment that included drama, songs, and cultural dances, giving thanks to God for this special day.





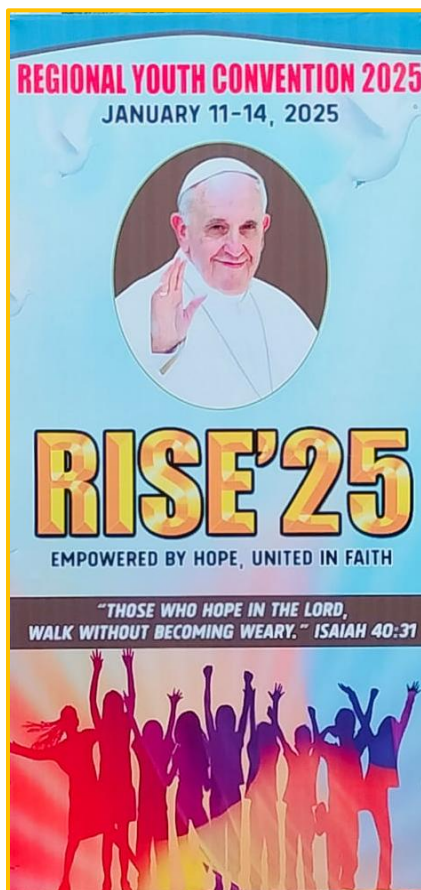


We thank God for blessing the Region with the gift of Sister Aldina Denaday Petros and Sister Kisanet Ghide Semra and continue to pray that the Lord send more laborers into His Vineyard.

## Queen of Peace Region, India

### Catholic Youth Convention! Empowered by Hope, United in Faith

**Theme: “Those who hope in the Lord, walk without becoming weary”  
- Isaiah 40:31**



“RISE’25,” the Catholic Youth Convention in Hyderabad, India, called together the Catholic youth of Andhra and Telangana states to renew the spirit, celebrate fellowship, and grow in Christ. Sister Pramila, together with the Postulants and the Youth of Munagalapalli Parish, participated in the Convention

The Youth Convention, organized by the TCBC (Telugu Catholic Bishops Conference) Commission for Youth, was a transformative experience for over 1,000 youth who came together in faith, fellowship, and formation.

The convention was held from January 11th to 14th, 2025. The highlight of the inaugural day was the Pontifical High Mass celebrated by His Eminence Most Rev. Anthony Cardinal

Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad. His presence, along with the bishops of the Telugu region, added great spiritual depth and solemnity to the occasion.

The convention was a comprehensive formation program that addressed various aspects of a young person’s life - spiritual, social, physical, emotional, and psychological. It empowered the youth in their faith journey and equipped them for modern day challenges.



Key topics included:

- Importance of Sacraments – Deepening the understanding of faith and its sacramental foundations.
- Cyber Security – Addressing the digital challenges faced by today's youth.
- Pro-Life Movement – Advocating for the sanctity of life.
- Digital Evangelization – Preparing young Catholics for new-age evangelism.
- Youth Movements & Jubilee Year 2025

The four-day convention was not only a celebration of faith but also a renewal of commitment to the mission of the Church. It was a time of learning, sharing, and growing as a community, a generation of young Catholics, strengthened in hope, walking without weariness towards a future anchored in Christ. It was a beacon of inspiration, reinforcing the message that youth are not just the future of the Church but its present strength.

It was indeed a renewal and enriching experience for all the participants



## Children animate the Way of the Cross

On April 18, Good Friday, the children from Munagalapalli Parish, India, along with our sisters prayed the way of the cross. The older children took the leadership role of animators, while the little children participated devoutly.



It was a wonderful occasion for the sisters to gather all the Catechism children of the parish to give them an experience of the Passion of the Lord. It helped them to meaningfully celebrate the Paschal Mystery. The children were extremely grateful for having such a richly spiritual experience for the first time.

