



**LIVE
THE PRESENT
WITH JOY
for a Future
of Hope**

**Pontifical Institute
Religious Teachers Filippini**
Communicating
Nº 1

July - September 2025

Dear Sisters,

The months of July, August, and September, have been deeply immersed in “*General Chapter*.” After a full year of preparation and study, the Chapter took place during most of July. Following its conclusion, many of the sisters from our Mission countries remained in Rome, some lingering until mid-August. Their presence helped keep the Chapter spirit alive.

The Chapter Delegates continue to stay in touch through WhatsApp, “*Maestre Capitolo 2025*.” Although it is not as active as it once was, it is clear that the sisters worldwide desire to remain connected. As you read through this bulletin, notice that echoes of the Chapter resonate from several Entities.

Every September, the Province of Saint Lucy gathers to renew our commitment to our Mission. It is referred to as *Genesis Day*. This year, as part of the day’s program, a few of their Chapter Delegates were invited to share their reflections so that the entire Community might share in the grace of the experience.

Although I had originally planned to offer my own reflection on the Chapter in this letter, I felt it would be even more meaningful for you to hear directly from some of our Chapter Delegates. Their words capture the same spirit that continues to unite us across the world and give living expression to the grace of the Chapter. What follows are excerpts from the reflections of our American Delegates.

Sister Helen Sanchez recalled the incredible joy that comes from being and sharing with our Sisters from all over the world.

“It stands out as the most memorable part of my summer journey. Hearing the mission stories of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Brazil, Albania, India, and England was not just enlightening but also touching. The faithful courage and joyful attitudes of the Sisters spoke more than their words and photos. And then to enjoy the generous hospitality of our Italian Sisters confirmed the outgoing charism our Community has shared through the centuries. The meditations, talents and laughter expressed each day continued to reveal the spirit our Foundress instilled three centuries ago and which still radiates in our worldwide ministries.”

Sister Marie Antonelli was especially moved to visit the region where our Mother Foundress was born and where she lived out her vocation among the people.

“It strengthened my belief in what, together, we can accomplish for God’s glory and for the good of those we are called to serve as Religious Teachers Filippini. And one of my greatest moments was attending the audience with the Holy Father. It was an experience I will treasure forever. As I kissed his ring, I felt great joy and could feel the presence of God.”

Sister Alice Ivanyo reflected:

“Immersed in an intense regimen of prayer, we prayed incessantly to the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and all the Gifts of the Spirit...

A similar dynamic bore fruit with regard to the attention that was given to the Living Word of God. Each day, our first order of business in the Chapter Room was Lectio Divina. Again, the fruits of this practice were strong and vibrant, convincing each member that listening to and praying with the Gospel of the day is truly our daily bread.

Praying the Jubilee Prayer and singing the Jubilee Hymn each day allowed the message of hope to sink deeply into our consciousness. Walking through the Holy Door at St. Peter’s, meeting Pope Leo, and celebrating Mass at the crypt of our Foundress were true highlights of these blessed days. We strive to live out the truths that were expressed, the spirituality of communion that was shared, and the gift of our vocation within the enduring theme: Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” (Is.40:31)

Sister Laura Bezila, inspired by the Feast of the Transfiguration, focused on three words: **Vision, Listening, and Presence**.

These were her sentiments regarding Listening: With the help of interpreters and much forbearance, we listened to each other in three major languages: Italian, English, and Portuguese. There were other languages spoken as well, Tigrinya amongst our Ethiopian and Eritrean Sisters, and Hindi and various regional languages amongst our Indian Sisters. As vital as crossing the language barrier was, however, we were being called to even deeper listening. We were asked to listen for the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit, often revealing Himself through the words of Sacred Scripture. So yes, there was much talking and listening at times, but there were also periods of silence and recollection. Such moments were not burdensome, but freeing as they set helpful conditions for reflection and the interior work of ongoing conversion.

These words concluded Sister Laura's reflections:

Peter, James and John went up the mountain with Jesus and while he was praying, his face changed in appearance. Moses and Elijah appeared. The voice of the Father was heard. “After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.” (Luke 9:36)

The experience had changed them.

Sisters, as we enter the most critical part of our Chapter, **implementation**, may this experience also change and raise each of us to a new level in our **spiritual** and **fraternal living**; may it enliven our **mission**, and **moving forward**, may we find renewed strength in the hope that unites us.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

General Superior



Sacred Heart Province, Italy

Inauguration of the "Saint Lucy Filippini" Nursery School in Castel Giorgio

On the morning of Saturday, September 27, the community of Castel Giorgio gathered with great enthusiasm to celebrate and to bless the newly renovated Saint Lucy Filippini Municipal Nursery School. Thanks to this renovation, the school can now offer an additional service for families by accommodating children from eight months to three years old.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mayor Andrea Garbini of Castel Giorgio, Mother General, the Provincial Superior, the teaching staff, and the children and their parents.

The day began with a warm welcome by Sister Lucia Tondoni, Director of the Nursery, followed by an address from the Mayor of Castel Giorgio, Andrea Garbini, whose efforts brought this project to life with the cooperation and support of Sister Virginia Iamele, Provincial Superior. The perseverance and hope of parents who hope and desire what is best for their children to grow in love and faith have also been a driving force for this new direction of the Program. Additional speakers expressed congratulatory sentiments and gratitude for this special gathering.

The program concluded with the special blessing of the renovated school by the parish pastor, Don Marco Gasparri, followed by a variety of refreshments for all participants, including the children.



This event reflects a commitment to supporting families, and ensuring that the youngest members begin their educational journey in an environment filled with care, love, and joy. Nurturing them in the best way possible is the mission of the Maestre Pie and a shared responsibility of the entire town. Children are our future.

The guiding light of Saint Lucy's presence has blessed this town for years. We pray that through her guidance and our continued efforts, we may keep reaching out to families, and together embrace the children entrusted to us.

Jubilee of Hope 2025 – Montefiascone

In this Jubilee Year, we experienced a "special" week, under the guidance and gaze of our Holy Teacher, Saint Lucy Filippini, who continues to speak to her daughters and sons throughout the world. From September 14th to 21st, everyone gathered around her to celebrate this Jubilee year in a very holy manner.

On Sunday the 14th, the urn containing Saint Lucy's body was transferred in solemn procession from the Crypt, her sanctuary, to the Co-Cathedral of Santa Margherita in Montefiascone, amidst a huge crowd and songs of joy. The celebration was presided by His Excellency Alfonso Amante, Rector of the Pontifical Lateran University, who came to pay homage to Saint Lucy out of bonds of friendship.



Throughout the week, the afternoons were filled with solemn celebrations. The faithful flocked from the parishes where Lucy began her educational mission; they came from Marta, Arlena di Castro, Capodimonte, Valentano, and Bolsena, to once again intercede for help and protection.



On Sunday, September 21, His Excellency, Orazio Francesco Piazza, Bishop of Viterbo, confirmed 70 boys and girls. During his homily, with moving and touching words, he entrusted the entire population and those to be confirmed to Saint Lucy, so that she may be a Light to our path in these challenging times.

Before returning to the Crypt, her sanctuary, Bishop Piazza requested that Saint Lucy's urn visit two places of suffering: the nursing homes of Villa Margherita and Villa Serena. In these two places, there was great joy and emotion in meeting the Holy Teacher who accompanied them throughout their lives.

On the way home, from these visits to the Nursing Homes, Saint Lucy's urn passed by the school to greet and bless the students, who have enjoyed her special protection for more than three centuries.



We thank Don Marco Del Canuto, Pastor, for initiating and offering this holy event. What an extraordinary and unforgettable experience it has been for both the adults and children of Montefiascone and the surrounding areas to witness during this Holy Year. It helped fulfill the repeated theme of this Jubilee, "Pilgrims of Hope!"



Over three centuries, Saint Lucy continues to bless her people. "Holy Teacher, guide us, grant that we may once again bring Jesus' message to the world!"

Saint Lucy Province, USA

A Joy-filled "Come and See"

On July 19, 2025, the Motherhouse of the Religious Teachers Filippini at Villa Walsh, was blessed to host a truly special *"Come and See"* social gathering for young women, directed by the Sisters. The event was filled with joy, laughter, and a deep sense of purpose as we welcomed the following young women; Hannah D'Cruz, Isabella Formosa, Maria Isabel Phung, and Joann Molina, who were eager to learn more about religious life and community living.



Held in the peaceful setting of Villa Walsh, the gathering offered a relaxed and welcoming environment where participants could connect with one another and share their questions, hopes, and faith journeys. The Sisters, with their gentle presence and inspiring words, guided the group through moments of prayer, reflection, and open conversation.

It was more than just an informational session; it was a heartfelt encounter. The young ladies expressed how uplifting it was to spend time with others discerning similar paths, and many shared how moved they were by the sisters' personal stories and wisdom. There were also plenty of light-hearted moments: games, casual conversations, and shared meals, reminders of the joy found in community life.

We are deeply grateful to each sister who helped make this event a success, and to Sister Luciana D'Cruze, whose leadership continues to inspire and encourage.

Let us keep these young women in our prayers as they continue to listen to God's call in their lives.



FIAT DAY 2025

A FIAT Day for young women took place on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Immaculate Conception Church in Spotswood, New Jersey. The event was offered by the Diocese of Metuchen and was attended by diocesan Priests, Sisters from several religious communities and young women from parishes throughout the Diocese. It was a day of prayer, presentations and activities meant to help the women appreciate God's call to consecrated life and to realize the countless blessings that come from giving your "FIAT", or "YES", to His call.



Sister Anna Nguyen, SCC, Delegate for Religious in the Diocese of Metuchen, planned the day. Sister Barbara O'Kane, MPF with her brother Reverend John O'Kane, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, were the main presenters, sharing their vocation stories as family members encouraging one another to trust in God's goodness and experiencing the lasting joy and sense of fulfillment that He gives in return. Each of the Filippini Sisters present, Sister Luciana D'Cruze, Sister Josephine Galasso, Sister Helen Sanchez, Sister Margaret Mary Hanlon and

Sister Mary Louise Shulas, shared a brief account of their own call. Sister Luciana and Sister Josephine also took part in an impromptu skit. The girls appreciated the chance to speak with the Sisters throughout the day. The Sisters and young the women enjoyed the icebreakers and activities provided by Sister Barbara. This was another way to showcase the value of community in religious life and that each vocation is a personal gift from God.

Father John O'Kane, Monsignor John Fell, diocesan Director of Seminarians, and Father Gilbert Starcher, diocesan Vocations Director, added their gratitude and support for religious Sisters so much needed in the world today. As the power of prayer was emphasized throughout, this FIAT Day concluded with a Holy Hour of Adoration, praying the rosary led by Sister Helen, and the opportunity for Confession and Eucharistic Liturgy. Hopefully these young women and many more will be inspired to continue to discern God's plan for them. May our prayers help them to give their FIAT if God calls them to a religious vocation.



Mater Christi Region, England

Moving Forward as Pilgrims of Hope

As pilgrims of hope, we renew our strength to move forward through Communal Prayer, Lectio Divina, Adoration, Evangelization and Fraternal Love.



During this Jubilee year, the Diocese has been encouraging that we gather in small groups to meet and share Christ.

Some people are new comers to the area and the church. The sisters, in an effort to make all feel welcome, invited the Indian community from our local church area to greet, pray, and share fellowship. Together, the sisters planned this activity and contributed their ideas and talents. Father Saju, a Franciscan, presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Mater Divinae Gratiae, Vice Province Sao Paulo – Brazil

Vice-Provincial House, São Paulo

Sister Maria Helena de Carvalho, MPF, Vice-Provincial Superior, upon her return to São Paulo, shared her experience of the General Chapter 2025 with the Maestre. She emphasized that the event was deeply inspired by the Word of God, the invocation of the Holy Spirit, moments of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, the celebration of Holy Mass, and days of retreat. All activities took place in a fraternal and synodal spirit.



The Maestre were grateful for the news and praised the Lord for this great gift of grace and blessings upon the entire Institute. The sisters now await the Acts of GC 2025, which will offer guidance for the new six-year term. All expressed heartfelt thanks to Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, the General Council, and the Chapter Members for the valuable work carried out with love and deep faith.

“Joy of Living Together” Project

On August 21, 2025, the elderly who participate in the “*Joy of Living Together*” project attended a conference led by psychologist Natália Menizes Aguilar Parente. She addressed the theme: “*Loneliness, Memory Loss, and Life Stories.*”

During the session, she offered valuable insights to help the elderly face the challenges of aging. She also encouraged the participants to share their personal stories and life experiences. The event concluded with delicious refreshments. Participants expressed their gratitude to Natália Menizes and the Maestre Pie Filippini for organizing such a meaningful gathering.



“Luciane” Project – Miracatu, São Paulo

On August 23, 2025, the “*Luciane*” Project celebrated “*Family Day*” with great joy. The day began with a moment of prayer, followed by performances of songs, poems, and dances. Parents joined their children in games, and a festive lunch was shared.



It was a day of celebration and togetherness, an opportunity to rediscover the beauty and value of family life, to spend meaningful time together, and to create shared memories. All participants greatly appreciated this enriching experience.



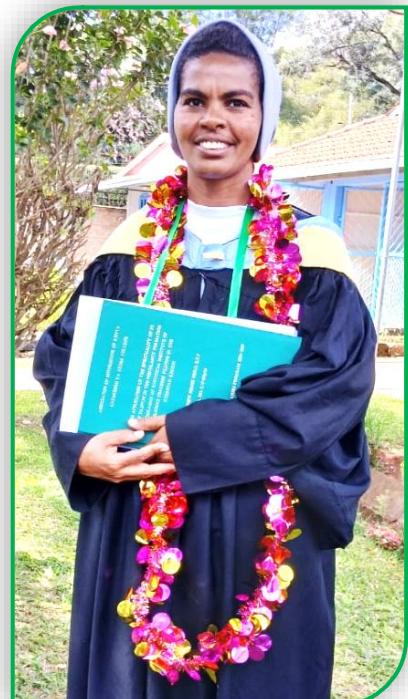
Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia

News Updates from the Region:



At the end of August 2025, we had our Annual Retreat preached by Abba Musie Dory. It was a wonderful experience of prayer and renewal. After Retreat the community spent time together to share and discuss the work of the General Chapter 2025.

These moments of togetherness were also enriched with the joyful event of Sister Nigisty Berhe's return home from Chemichemi Ya Uzima Collage, Nairobi, Kenya, with a dignified graduation of Religious Formation for Formators.





After the beautiful summer season, the New Year program has begun. Sufficient rains of this year provided us with a very good crop of wheat. We thank God for the peaceful rains that make our surroundings beautiful.

September is also a busy se

ason, with late registrations and the reopening of our schools. By the grace of God, our schools are filled with hundreds of children!



The construction of our Kindergarten experienced some delays because of lack of supplies. Now they have started again. If everything moves in the right direction, hopefully, our building could be ready in five months. We look forward to that day when we can send a photo of the completed building. In the meantime, we thank God for all the blessings God pours upon us



Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea

Annual Gathering – September 6, 2025

The Regional House in Eritrea hosted the Annual Gathering for all the Sisters of the Region on September 6, 2025. The day began with Lauds, followed by a time of Lectio Divina. The central theme of the gathering was "*To Be Apostles of the Word.*"

Father Jemil Araya, a Combonian missionary, shared an inspiring reflection, reminding the Sisters: "*We are not called only to be teachers or doctors; we are primarily called to evangelize. You and I are Apostles of the Word.*"

Offering a deep and insightful explanation on the concepts of Enculturation, Acculturation, and Inculturation, Father emphasized the importance of adaptability and wisdom in our apostolic mission, especially in these challenging times. He also encouraged the Sisters to embrace new forms of evangelization beyond the traditional classroom setting. *“Go out into the streets, into families and villages, and proclaim the Word of God”* he advised.

In the afternoon session, Sister Qidusan Tewelde (Regional Superior) and Sister Saba Andemariam (Delegate) the sisters who participated in the General Chapter, presented a comprehensive summary of the General Chapter. As a result of the mandate from the General Chapter, following the Eucharistic celebration and lunch, the Sisters participated in group discussions focused on how to incarnate the Word of God in our daily life. The gathering was a moment of deep spiritual renewal and a recommitment to the mission and to promoting the Word of God.

Temporary Oblation – September 20, 2025

What a day of great joy and gratitude for the Mater Misericordiae Region, on September 20, 2025, Sister Ariam Debesay, a former student of the Maestre Pie, made her Temporary Oblation, dedicating herself fully to the service of God in the footsteps of Saint Lucy Filippini.



The Eucharistic celebration was held in the community chapel, attended by her immediate family, invited sisters, priests, and friends of the congregation. The main celebrant, Abba Mehreteab Solomon, congratulated Sister Ariam for embracing the consecrated life and reminded her of the responsibility in fulfilling her “yes” to the Lord.



The celebration continued with a joyful dinner and a cultural program featuring a play, poems, songs, and traditional dances, each expressing the community's gratitude to God. Sister Sosuna, a junior sister, composed a song titled *"I Am Following You,"* dedicated to Sister Ariam.

Entrance into Novitiate – September 27, 2025

On the Feast of the Holy Cross (September 27, 2025, according to the Ge'ez calendar), the community joyfully witnessed the entrance of three postulants into the Novitiate: Senait Kibrom, Lidia Samuel, and Gewra Simon. During the same celebration, Hawariat Sbhatu was welcomed into the Postulancy.



The day began with the Eucharistic celebration, followed by Adoration, during which the Postulants were received into the Novitiate. The whole community gathered in

prayer, thanked the Lord who continues to call the young people to follow him.

After the ceremony, the Sisters from Asmara, along with the aspirants, accompanied the new novices to the novitiate house. The day concluded with a traditional coffee ceremony, joyful singing, and dancing, a celebration of new beginnings and God's blessings.



Queen of Peace Region, India

Regional Assembly – Post General Chapter 2025 “Return, Renew, Recommit”

For the first time, the sixty-four Professed Sisters of the Queen of Peace Region, India, had the opportunity to gather in one large group for a Regional Assembly at the Mother House at Janampet. The gathering lasted for three days, September 26 to 28. Though the sisters left behind their apostolic responsibilities for a short time, they attained a treasure of great value, the desire to return to their roots, to evaluate and deepen their spiritual and community life in the Region, and to be renewed from the outcome of the General Chapter.

Officially opening the event, Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, sent a letter praising the sisters for their willingness to attend this gathering, a sign of their intention to continue to grow in their life of communion and commitment.

The program was animated by Sister Mercy Chakkia, MPF, who was re-elected a General Councilor for a second term at the General Chapter. Under Sister Mercy's direction, she shaped the gathering using the same model used at the General Chapter, to allow the Sisters this enriching experience. The theme she chose was

“Return, Renew, Recommit” and built everything around these three words, to give direction to the gathering.

By God's providential presence, sisters experienced the accompaniment of God these days. The scripture readings of the week, the Word of God from the Book of Ezra and Haggai, spoke of the Rebuilding of the Temple at Jerusalem. These three days were truly days of **returning** to our sources, **renewing** our life based on the Word of God and **recommitting** ourselves once again for the better fruitfulness and effectiveness of our religious life and apostolic work.



On the first two days, we had group studies on different topics from our Constitutions and Rules e.g., Prayer Life, Community Life, Ongoing Formation and the Evangelical Counsels, assigning different moderators to animate the presentation of the studies. Everything was very organized, and it helped each of us to rebuild our life from the light of our Constitutions. In our discussions, Sister Mercy grouped us according to age into three circles, and spoke to us about our responsibility as senior members of our Region.

On the first two days, we had group studies on different topics from our Constitutions and Rules e.g., Prayer Life, Community Life, Ongoing Formation and the Evangelical Counsels, assigning different moderators to animate the presentation of the studies. Everything was very organized, and it helped each of us to rebuild



On the third day, we also enjoyed the real presence of Mother General among us via video, where all could see and speak a word of “*love*” to her. At the same time, Mother applauded us personally for all the time, energy and cooperation we gave to this “*spiritual growth*” endeavor and reinforced her gratitude for our willingness to participate in this re-commitment.



The presence of Sister Mercy, leader of this gathering, and her personal, rich, experience gave us the Reinforcement to move forward and “*recommit*” to a deeper level of community living. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Mother General for allowing Sister Mercy to share this enriching experience in the Region. May God bless all our efforts to be faithful in every situation of our lives.

