



December 31, 2025

Dear Sisters,

Today, the last day of the year, 2025, draws to a close. My morning prayer was filled with sentiments of thanksgiving for the year that, in a few hours, we leave behind, followed by personal petitions for the year that lies ahead. In both this prayer of gratitude and petition, you were very present, dear sisters. It is from this place of gratitude and prayerful remembrance that I write this letter today, even though I realize you will receive this letter/bulletin with the new year already underway.

Standing on the threshold of the year's end, also brings a disappointing reminder that this Jubilee Year, this Year of Hope, will also conclude. The major Basilicas in Rome have already closed their Holy Doors, with the final door, Saint Peter's Basilica, to close on January 6. I already sense an emptiness as it approaches its end.

Throughout this year, during my frequent trips to the Vatican area, passing Saint Peter's Basilica, and witnessing the crowds and long lines was a constant reminder of the grace and significance of this Holy Year. The visible demonstration of faith affirmed that the Church is very much alive. The reverence of so many of God's people praying, singing, and processing up Via della Conciliazione to pass through the Holy Door, revealed a deep longing for conversion and reconciliation. What a blessing it was that our Chapter Delegates were also able to share in this experience! These brief reflections touch only a small part of how this Holy Year has moved hearts across the world.

My prayer is that even at a distance, you were able to grasp the sacredness of this Jubilee Year and receive its **Gift of Hope**. If we have truly lived this year as *Pilgrims of Hope*, then perhaps we now understand more deeply how precious and sustaining *hope* truly is, a gift we want to continue to unwrap.

What I take away from this year is this: without hope in our hearts, there is an emptiness, a dark void. May this Holy Year have strengthened within us an enduring hope, so that when the road seems dim and uncertain, we are moved forward

with courage and trust. Without these sentiments of hope, what is there to propel us onward?

*And so, as we begin this year, 2026, we look back with gratitude for all that has been and forward with a renewed commitment and pray with hope for all that lies ahead. We pray for peace, peace within our own hearts, in our homes, and in our troubled world, always mindful that peace begins with me. Let us resolve to carry into this new year the hope entrusted to us during this Holy Year, a gift freely given once again by our loving God.*

As I ended this year in thanksgiving and prayer, I begin the new year in the same spirit, in gratitude and prayer that we, as an international and intercultural community, may continue to walk together in 2026. Let us also be attentive to the words of Pope Leo, who shared this thought in his homily today, reminding us, *“Jubilee is a great sign of a new world. May we go forward this year, and may we be a great sign of hope for humanity and for the world.”*

*Sincerely in the Lord,*

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF*

*Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF  
General Superior*



*With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you, dear sisters, throughout the world, for your prayers, thoughtful greetings, warm messages, and generous gifts shared with us during this Christmas Season. Each expression of love and unity brought us special joy.*

*Know that in every prayer, gift, and kind thought, we felt the strength of our communion. Thank you for this loving sign of unity, remembrance, and sisterly love.*

*Gratefully,*

*Mother General and Maestre at Villa Maria Regina*

## Berat, Albania Visit of Mother General

On Monday, October 27, 2025, Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, arrived in Berat, accompanied by the General Councilors, Sister Mary Elizabeth Lloyd and Sister Mercy Chakkiath. On the same day, guests from Rimini, also arrived, together with Father Giuseppe Vaccarini, the first missionary in Berat - Albania, and a missionary couple. It was a fraternal and spiritual occasion. Together we celebrated the Eucharist and exchanged experiences. Mother General expressed her great joy at our openness to hospitality toward those who first welcomed our sisters.



On Tuesday, Mother General and the sisters were welcomed warmly by the school children. It was a beautiful moment of fraternal reunion. Everyone sang and greeted the sisters, beginning with the American National Anthem, followed by the Albanian National Anthem. Greetings and songs in English filled the morning with joy and enthusiasm.



In the late afternoon, following the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the parish priest, Father Paolo, Mother General and sisters met with the small Christian community of Berat. There was a meaningful spiritual exchange on the journey of the Christian faith.

The following day, Mother General and the councilors visited the school and each classroom. Teachers and students welcomed the sisters with joy and excitement, exchanging greetings and asking questions in English. The children offered the sisters the fruits of their creativity, drawings, paintings,



and handmade gifts. The flowers and plants were placed in the sisters' chapel, while all the drawings and gifts were later displayed in the refectory of the Generalate in Rome, a gesture that was greatly appreciated by the teachers and children.



The teachers and the sisters invited Mother and councilors to a traditional Albanian lunch they had prepared. This was a truly fraternal moment, deeply appreciated by all, marked by simplicity, warmth, and a strong sense of family.

That same afternoon, Mother General and the sisters met with the parents of the school children in an assembly. Mother General addressed the group, sharing her amazement at what she experienced while visiting each class. The mothers were appreciative of Mother General's observations. Assisted by an Albanian translator, many mothers expressed their gratitude and love for the school. It was obvious they were very proud of the school's management and the work of the teachers. In fact, their only concern was,



“Why can't a high school be made possible on these same grounds?” The simple gesture of greeting and shaking hands with several mothers was deeply moving, a sign of appreciation and mutual esteem, which was also conveyed to parents who were unable to attend and expressed their regret at not being present.



In the evening, the sisters accepted a fraternal invitation to dinner with the “*Little Family of the Assumption*,” a religious community who celebrate Mass daily with the sisters in Uznove, a hamlet of Berat. Faithful to their charism, these

sisters welcome children with disabilities both in Uznove and Kuçova. This encounter was another precious moment of mutual understanding and communion, enjoying supper with both the sisters and those they care for.



We thank God, Mother General, and the Councilors for all the goodness and love that filled our hearts and the hearts of all those who shared in these days of grace together with them.

*At the same time, together with the General Councilors, I want to thank the three sisters, Sister Banca Iovine, Sister Maria Bortone, and Sister Rita Baffa, for the dynamic schedule they prepared, making our days in Albania productive. We are amazed at the missionary spirit of these sisters, and the difference that only three people make in a challenging Mission.*

***Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF - General Superior***



## Sacred Heart Province, Italy Province Community Day

November 15th was an unforgettable day for the Sacred Heart Province, marked by four particularly significant events:

- Receiving the Acts of General Chapter, 2025 from Mother General during the “Opening Prayer”;
- Listening and absorbing the Conference by Father Luigi Fabbri, Vicar General of the Diocese of Viterbo,
- Reaffirming our Oblation together during the Eucharistic Celebration;
- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Consecrated Life of Sister Lucia Di Spalatro, Sister Luciana Piccolo, and Sister Maria Caterina Valentini.



This gathering of the Maestre on this special Community Day was truly a welcome and joyful reunion, and an intense community experience. It provided all the sisters present new impetus, and rekindled their hope, knowing that only with the grace of the Holy Spirit will we be able to renew ourselves in our vocational and evangelizing mission.

This special occasion allowed us to rejoice and relive our consecration. An expression of fraternity was visible among us, of love for our Spouse, and one of gratitude to the Founders who always continue to open a path of faith, dedication, and holiness for us.





Father Luigi Fabbri gave an inspiring and thought-provoking conference and presided over the Eucharistic Celebration.

With calmness and depth, Father Luigi guided us through this stage of our journey of ongoing formation, drawing from the Magisterium of the Church and the Acts of the General Chapter. He invited the group to reflect on the questions posed by Mother General in her message:

- What is our mission today?
- What does the world see in us?

*Father Luigi responded, "These two very important questions touch the crux of our identity and mission as consecrated women in today's world, so different from yesterday's, so profoundly changed, that it challenges the Christian community at all levels to find new ways to proclaim the Gospel."*

And he continued:

*"The world waits to see in us, people who speak of a God encountered and deeply loved. Consecrated women who, like Lucy Filippini, develop a spiritual life deeply rooted in friendship with Jesus, who live the following radically:*

- *Consecrated women who, in a society marked by so many divisions, conflicts, and fragmentations, live the ideal and prophecy of "fraternal communion," in which each person is a gift to be welcomed and listened to. A communion that is nourished by collaboration and co-responsibility.*
- *A communion that develops in the richness of diversity, interculturality, and intergenerational exchanges that are an opportunity to grow, a challenge to maintain unity, and to develop the charism."*

Don Luigi suggested re-reading the Founders' experiences as a path to discernment, as Pope Leo urged. He exhorted us to return to the heart of the Charism, to consolidate our spiritual life, especially through prayer and constant contact with the "invisible," to be people capable of re-awakening the world.

He continued by encouraging the sisters to be witnesses to the primacy of God, to build bridges, to spread the culture of encounter, and to be experts in synodality, especially we who live the experience of multi-nationality in our daily lives.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of education. Other important aspects taken into consideration were youth ministry and co-responsibility in evangelization with the laity, both lay associates and teachers.

It is obvious that Father Luigi grasped the main points from our *Acts of the Chapter* and identified critical areas that we need to absorb and embrace moving forward.

The morning session concluded with Liturgy, where Father Luigi's homily provided the sisters with a more meaningful reaffirmation of our Oblation together with the Golden Jubilarians.



The last part of the day culminated with a festive dinner where the Jubilarians continued to be recognized with a special discourse by Sister Fabiana and dance by our sisters from India and Eritrea. It was evident that the day was filled with God's gaze and blessings.

### **Formative Meeting "Lay Associates of Saint Lucy Filippini"**

November 30, 2025, will be remembered as a particularly important milestone in the formation journey of the *"Lay Associates of Saint Lucy Filippini."*



The catechesis, the Jubilee pilgrimage following the Cross, the Celebration of the Eucharist in the Vatican Grottoes: it was a deliberately unified, harmonious journey, intensely experienced by all.

The morning began with the instruction of their spiritual guide, Bishop Emidio Cipollone, who touched hearts and clarified the significance of



this Holy Year. Bishop Cipollone explained that the individual panels decorating the Holy Door were significant: they depict the history of salvation and humanity's journey toward Redemption, through the biblical scenes of Creation, Original Sin, the Cross, and Resurrection, up to the last panel depicting the Pope's opening of the Door at the beginning of the Jubilee Year.

The group "*Pilgrims of Hope*," then made their way to Saint Peter's Basilica, guided by the Cross carried in turn by different participants. Passing through the Holy Door signified a commitment to spiritual renewal, the passage from sin to grace, and the acceptance of the mercy of God the Father,

beautifully expressed in the panels depicting the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan.

Mass was then celebrated in the Vatican Chapel dedicated to Saint Stephen of Hungary. The large group gathered in this small space, one next to the other, and everyone felt even more like people on a journey towards LOVE.



On this day, the participants had a profound experience that restored their strength and courage to unite with Saint Lucy Filippini and, with their lives, to cry out like her, holding up the Crucifix, "Love God, Love God!"

A special "*thank you*" goes to Sister Virginia, Provincial Superior, for her courage in planning the event despite the large number of participants. A sincere "*thank you*" also to the dearest Mother General, always present at the meetings of the "*Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini*" group: her words move, encourage, and make everyone feel more like family.

## Youth Meeting: "Rise and Go... Seeking!"

November 29, 2025 - This is the second meeting with the "Youth of Saint Lucy," continuing the journey we began with pre-adolescents in the 5th grade of primary school, and the 1st year of high school. The theme chosen for this meeting was *SEARCHING*: seeking the Word of Christ, seeking prayer, seeking within ourselves, seeking with the help of others.

The young people gathered at the Provincial House, demonstrating considerable enthusiasm and curiosity from the very first moments; ready and interested in listening and engaging in dialogue, they thus confirmed the successful start to the journey.

The meeting began with a welcome, enriched by dancing and singing, immediately creating an atmosphere of joy and openness.

Subsequently, the group examined the images of famous figures who have left their mark on history, thanks to their relentless *search*: some for scientific, some for educational, some for spiritual pursuits, like the recent young saint, Carlo Acutis, or our dear Pope Leo XIV.

Each expressed their desire to seek hope, love, serenity, friendship, and happiness with others. We are so grateful to Marzia, the group leader.





## Saint Lucy Province, USA

### Jersey City Italian Woman of the Year 2025 Sister Josephine Galasso, MPF



Among the eight men and women who were honored by the Jersey City Columbus Day Parade Committee was Sister Josephine Galasso, a native of that bustling city. It was a triduum of recognition beginning with the Gala Dinner on October 2, continuing at the Hudson County Flag Raising on October 8, and culminating with the Jersey City Columbus Day Parade on October 11. Striving to preserve the rich history of Jersey City's Italian American heritage, the Committee selected the Italian Man, Italian Woman, Italian Medical Professional, Italian Law Enforcement Officer, Italian Firefighter, Italian Educator, Italian Business, and Miss Columbus. Born and raised in Jersey City, Sister Josephine grew up in a close-knit Italian

family, where gatherings were filled with rich traditions, delicious homemade meals, and heartfelt stories. Her family's faith and sacrifices to maintain their cultural heritage left an indelible mark on her. As she fondly recalls, "I am very proud of my Italian heritage," and it continues to guide her life and work



Sister Josephine was presented with a commemorative sash at the Gala Dinner, several citations at the County Flag Raising, and a place of honor on the reviewing stand at the parade. With fraternal support and friendship, many sisters of the community attended the Gala Dinner, and Family and friends added much joy to the occasion with their presence.

A few days later, the moving ceremony of the Flag Raising brought warmth to the cool October day. At week's end, the cheers of the onlookers to the Parade brightened an otherwise overcast and rainy Saturday.

The month of October and Columbus Day are perfect opportunities to celebrate Italian American Heritage and the numerous contributions Italian Americans have made to the United States.

*Tanti auguri* to Sister Josephine and *ben fatto, buoni e fideli servitori* to the many Maestre Pie Filippini who lovingly and diligently served the people of Jersey City for many, many years. Staying true to our roots and celebrating our traditions will keep your legacy pulsating and strong for generations to come.

## Provincial Elections

The Saint Lucy Filippini Province, held their Provincial Chapter of elections at Villa Walsh from October 11 to 13. The sister delegates elected the new provincial superior and four provincial councilors to assist her during her six-year term.

After spending time in prayer and reflection, the sister delegates elected Sister Marianne McCann, M.P.F., as provincial superior. Sister Marianne had been serving as provincial councilor and was also the superior of the local convent at Saint John Vianney Parish in Colonia, New Jersey. The four Provincial Councilors elected were Sister Laura Bezila, Sister Alice Ivanyo, Sister Lesley Draper, and Sister Elaine Bebyn, all of whom were also delegates to the General Chapter in Rome.



During the celebratory meal following the election, Sister Marianne McCann addressed the sisters with a message of gratitude for the honor of their trust and welcomed them to upcoming events in the life of the Province. Sister Marianne further asked for their prayerful support during this transition of administrations. The sisters look forward to beginning a new chapter in the life of the Province.

Gratitude is extended to the outgoing Administration, Sister Patricia Pompa and her Councilors for their six years of dedicated service.

### A Three-fold Celebration in the Province of Saint Lucy

The celebration day for the renewal of our Oblation was enriched with two additional causes for joy. The reception of the Acts of the General Chapter 2025 and



the recognition of two Golden Jubilarians, Sister Elizabeth Dalessio and Sister Donna Gaglioti, elevated the day to a trilogy of gratitude.



Early on Saturday, November 15, 2025, the Sisters of the Province of Saint Lucy gathered in the Spiritual Center at Villa Walsh to participate in a solemn prayer service, during which the treasures of

the General Chapter were highlighted. Knowing that our sisters in Rome were praying the same words extended the fullness of our *Constitutions*, the meaningfulness of the Scriptures, and the fruitful inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Later in the day, Sister Marianne McCann, Provincial, and Councilors, led the same prayer service in Saint Joseph Hall and personally presented the Acts of the Chapter to each sister.



A liturgy of thanksgiving was offered for our two Golden Jubilarians, during which all the Sisters renewed their Oblation. A special meal concluded the day's celebration.



### **SJV Youth Group Christmas Activity**

This Christmas season, the SJV Youth Group has been joyfully engaged in bringing beauty, creativity, and community spirit to life. With the support of families, the youth gathered to create handmade Christmas wreaths for doors and festive centerpieces for holiday tables. Each piece was carefully crafted, showcasing both the talents of the young participants and the warmth and joy of the season.



Beyond being a fundraiser to support the group's ongoing needs, the project also served as a meaningful opportunity to unite families. As parents and children worked together, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, conversation, and the true spirit of Christmas, togetherness, gratitude, and giving from the heart. The handmade creations brought joy to many homes, just as the experience brought joy to all who took part.



## **Mater Divinae Gratiae, Vice Province** **Sao Paulo – Brazil Saint Lucy Filippini, School, Vilhena, RO**

On October 4, 2025, a cultural exhibition was held with the theme: "UNESCO: *International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.*" The students presented the various components of the theme to their parents, family members, and visitors. Everyone appreciated the work presented, as well as the students' commitment and interest.



## **Golden Jubilee**

On December 21, 2025, the community of the Mater Divinae Gratiae Vice Province gathered in a spirit of thanksgiving to the Lord to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Consecrated Life of Sister Geralda Elisabete Venâncio. The solemn Eucharistic Liturgy was presided over by Bishop Carlos Silva, Bishop of the Brasilândia-São Paulo Region.

In his homily, the Bishop reflected on the Gospel of the day (Mt 1:18–24), highlighting the faithful and prompt obedience of Saint Joseph, who trusted the Lord’s call revealed in a dream and welcomed Mary, who had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Drawing a parallel with Sister Elisabete’s vocational journey, Bishop Carlos emphasized her steadfast fidelity to God’s call, noting that, despite life’s challenges and trials, she has consistently sought to accomplish the Will of the Lord.



Following the Holy Mass, everyone participated enjoying festive refreshments. United in gratitude, the community offered praise and thanksgiving to God and implored abundant graces and blessings upon Sister Elisabete.

Sister Elisabete and Sister Inez are two Maestre Pie sisters.

The joyful occasion was shared by the sisters of the Vice Province, priests, family members of the Jubilarian, parishioners, and members of the “*Joy of Living*” Project. Congratulations, Sister Elisabete!



## **Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia**

### **Advent: Preparing for the Coming of Christ**

During the season of Advent, under the leadership of Sister Nigisti Tesfay, the sisters organized a retreat for Catholic primary school students aged seven to fourteen. Nearly 150 students participated in the retreat. Sister Nigisti presented the theme “*Advent: Preparing for the Coming of Christ.*”

Her reflections were based on the message of John the Baptist, who called people to prepare the way of the Lord. Through prayers, Scripture readings, songs, and guided reflections, the children were helped to understand Advent as a time of waiting, hope, and spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus into their lives.



## **Queen of Peace Region, India**

For the Queen of Peace Region, December was a month of joyful celebrations of generous offerings to the Lord and generous sharing with his people.

### **Entrance into the Novitiate** **December 3, 2025**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the community of the Regional House gathered in the presence of God and welcomed the Postulant, Sandhya Nag. Sister Maria Xavier, our Regional Superior, received Sandhya into the Novitiate



during Eucharistic Adoration and entrusted her into the hands of Sister Shiji, the Novice formator. The community prayed for the new Novice that she may be open to the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for our Novice Sandhya, who expressed her desire to follow the Lord in the footsteps of Saint Lucy Filippini, and we accompany her with our prayers.

## **Perpetual Oblation & Silver Jubilee Celebration December 5, 2025**

**“I give complete possession of my heart, my faculties, and my entire self to God.”  
(St. Lucy Filippini)**

On December 5, 2025, our four Junior Sisters, Sister Salomini Sagili, Sister Mounika Thamarapalli, Sister Reena Dung, and Sister Alphonsa Garikimukku consecrated themselves totally to God through their Perpetual Oblation, and our Silver Jubilarian Sister Mary Madalen Meriyala, celebrated her faithful “Yes,” expressing her gratitude to God for His faithfulness.



The solemn Eucharistic Liturgy was presided over by his Excellency, Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru Diocese, and concelebrated with numerous priests. Our sisters from the various communities, family members of the sisters, and other invitees were present for this twin celebration.



Bishop Jaya Rao gave a deeply meaningful homily for our Sisters: *“Today is truly a day of grace. Both moments, Perpetual Oblation and the Silver Jubilee of consecrated life, proclaim to the Church and to the world one profound truth that God is faithful, and His love endures forever.*

*From Isaiah (43:1) ‘I have called you by name, you are mine.’ The Lord has called you. This is the foundation of all consecrated life, not our choice but God’s initiative, not our strength but God’s Love, not our offering but the Lord’s prior gift.*

*Isaiah 43:2, to you, who celebrate 25 years of fidelity, the Lord says, 'I have been with you through the waters, I have walked with you through the fire. God has been a companion from the day He first whispered your name in the silence of your heart. He will be with you until the end.'"*



As the delegate of Mother General, the Regional Superior, Sister Maria Xavier, received the Oblation and welcomed the sisters as permanent members of the Institute.

Mother General Sister Ascenza Tizzano, in her greetings to the sisters, wrote: *"Sister Mary Madalen, today, as you celebrate a twenty – five-year milestone, you are an example of God's goodness to you throughout these many years. We congratulate you because you have cooperated with God's grace and goodness. This is the blessing and the joy of this Silver Jubilee, God's fidelity and your generous response.... To our four Sisters who today become permanent members of the Filippini Family, I welcome you among us, and I pray that the words you pronounced today in your Oblation, will remain strong within you, and that you will never weaken in your promises, promises that I emphasize are a lifelong commitment."*

The Jubilarian and the Newly Professed Sisters expressed their heartfelt gratitude to our Bishop and to all those present. During the felicitation, the candidates in



formation performed a traditional dance in joyful congratulations to the sisters.

With hearts lifted in thanksgiving, we praise Almighty God for His marvelous blessings upon us, and pray that the Lord may continue to call young people to follow the path so faithfully paved for us by Saint Lucy.

## Christmas Celebration with the Elderly December 22, 2025

On December 22, a Christmas celebration for the elderly was held at Saint Lucy Convent, the regional house. From nearby villages, elderly women and men were warmly welcomed by the sisters. Sister Mary Abadassari led the prayer service



before the Crib and reflected on the meaning of Christmas, followed by intercessory and thanksgiving prayers. About 150 women and a few men participated.

After the prayer, the sisters spent time listening to the participants and sharing fellowship. Lunch was served, and each person received a blanket and a small monetary gift. The elderly expressed heartfelt gratitude for the care and attention shown to them and fondly remembered the kindness of Sister Josephine Di Raimo and Sister Maria Alliegro. The day concluded with thanksgiving to God and Saint Lucy.



We are deeply grateful to our benefactors and to Sister Elizabeth Lloyd and her benefactors, whose generosity and kindness made this joyful sharing possible.





