

**Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano
Visits the Communities of the Sacred Heart Province, Italy**



This past spring Mother General, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, visited some of the communities and schools of the Sacred Heart Province, Italy. This is just a glimpse of her visits:

Pescara - School of Saint Lucy Filippini

Mother General's visit to Pescara community and School took place very close to Mother's Day. She was delighted to see how each class from Nursery School through Grade Five honored their mothers in a unique and creative way. Through songs, memorized poems, artwork, compositions and heartfelt letters, each teacher helped the students express their love and gratitude. The care, the creativity, and the quality evident in every presentation made it especially impressive.



Mother General was so impressed to witness another memorable moment that took place before lunch throughout the month of May. The entire student body honors our Blessed Mother by gathering around her statue in the school entrance. They sang a Marian hymn and prayed a decade of the rosary. Equally inspiring was the visible presence of Sister Enza, Sister Daniela (Principal) and Sister Adelaide who are very present in the life of the school.

Tarquinia, School of Saint Lucy Filippini

Mother General visited the Parish of Saint Lucy Filippini in Tarquinia, on the occasion of the First Communion Mass of 19 children on Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day. Sister Maria Pia Maurizi and the lay Catechists prepared the children with great care to receive this sacrament. It was evident from the reverence and confidence with which the children conducted themselves during Mass, that they were well prepared for the sacrament they were receiving. Both the support and availability of Sister Bruna Biancone and Sister



Demetria Celi at school and Sister Maria Camicia at the house, help keep alive our Mission in the town of Saint Lucy's birthplace.

Following the Mass, a traditional procession in honor of Saint Lucy Filippini pursued.



Carefully planned, it featured a flower-filled float, a band playing familiar hymns, and the first communicants leading the way. The procession inspired prayer and devotion among those lining the streets and those watching from their windows. It was a great memory for the children to recall their First Communion Day. It was an honor for Mother to be present for this annual event, especially in this year of Saint Lucy's 100 anniversary of beatification. Mother expressed her

gratitude to the Pastor, Don Pavel Hrabovsky, who takes advantage of every event to promote devotion to Saint Lucy.

Scurcola Marsicana



Mother General was invited to Scurcola to participate in a special Mass commemorating Saint Lucy's one hundredth year of her beatification. The church was filled with members of the parish organizations, the laity of Saint Lucy Filippini and the parents and children from our Nursery School. The five -year-old children of the Nursery

School formed the choir for the Mass. With full voices they took their direction beautifully from Sister Teresa Belmonte, with Sister Mebrak and the teachers boosting them on the sidelines!

Following the Mass, the Laity of Saint Lucy gathered for supper and the conversation turned to a remarkable historical review of the Filippini sisters



who served in this Region of Scurcola for two hundred and eighteen years. Mother General was so delighted to learn the extraordinary legacy that the Maestre Pie hold in Scurcola.

Castel Giorgio, Santa Lucia Filippini

In September 2025, Mother General participated in the dedication of the newly renovated space in Castel Giorgio, through the collaboration of the town with the Maestre Pie. This beautiful new space allows the school to welcome infants from three to six months of age expanding its ministry to even younger children and their families. Returning this June to the same place, Mother General was delighted to see how thoughtfully and creatively the space is being used. Watching eight little babies in high chairs, lovingly cared for in such a clean polished and nurturing environment was heartwarming. And each age group receives this same careful and loving attention.



The Director, Sister Lucia Tondini, commitment to excellence reflects throughout the program. The lay collaborators cooperate and also believe in these same high standards and generous spirit, while Suor Marisa Cantrucci and Suor Settimia Bassimelli offer their prayerful support and witness for the fruitfulness of this ministry.

Torre Del Greco, Villa Lucia

Mother General's visit to Torre del Greco took place while the children were preparing for their annual "*Spectacular*," and Mother was able to observe the culmination of a year of hard work of Sister Irena Montesano and her dynamic lay staff. It was inspiring to see how even little children learn to respond from the very beginning to the gentle guidance of teachers who combine kindness with high expectations.



Visiting each classroom afterwards gave Mother the opportunity to appreciate more closely the different approaches that take place and the success results that is often unseen by others. Mother highly appreciated the good work that occurred behind the closed doors.

Mother was especially grateful to Sister Irena who generously devoted the entire day to help her better understand both the rich history of Villa Lucia and our long-standing presence in this area that she visited for the first time.



Otranto, Santa Lucia Filippini



The seven-hour journey was well worth every mile as Mother General arrived in one of Italy's most beautiful seaside communities, where our sisters are celebrating one hundred years of faithful presence this year. Meeting with the Most Reverend Francesco Neri, Bishop of Otranto, it was evident that he desires this centennial year to be celebrated in a meaningful way. Our sisters have contributed so significantly to the history of this local Church.

Although the Elementary school has now closed, the Nursery School continues to flourish and enjoys an excellent reputation among the people of the town.

The lay staff who now direct the program faithfully preserve the spirit of our charism and continue its important mission. Sister Raffaella Genovese, the Superior, lovingly oversees the needs of the Nursery and supports the ministry while Sister Antoinette Merola continues, after thirty-one years, to devote herself to teaching and loving the little children entrusted to her care. And Sister Carmela Piacquadio makes certain that the sisters are well fed!



Mother General was so impressed by the dedication and hard work of the sisters who carry forward Saint Lucy's mission, oftentimes in quiet fidelity. May God bless the good that the Maestre Pie continue to accomplish through so many years in this land where it all began.

