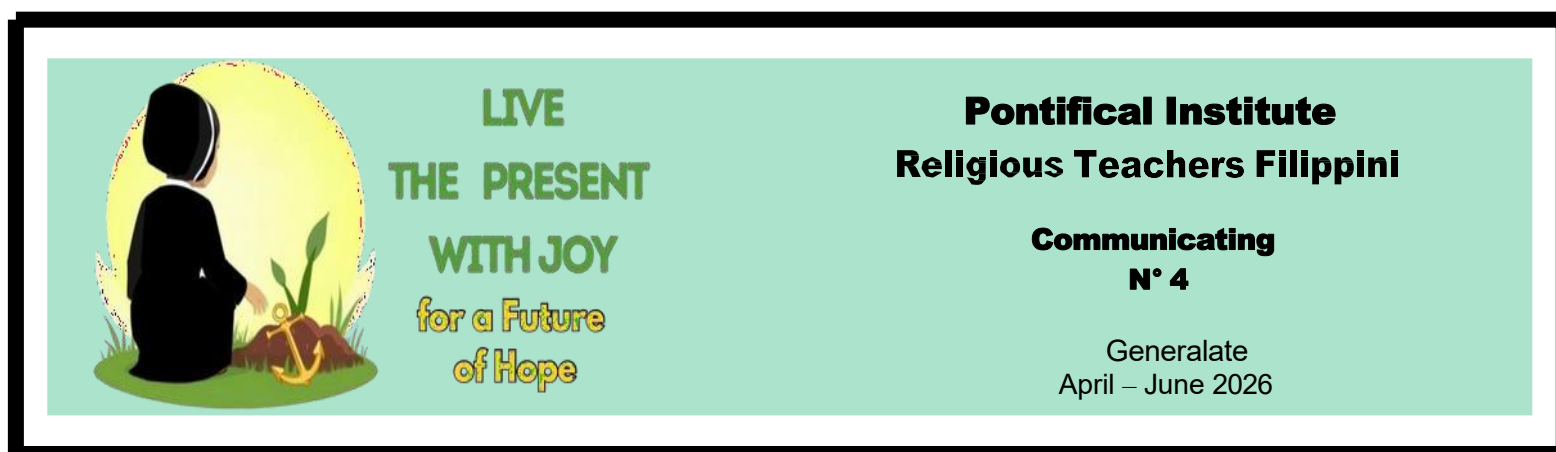




June 2026

Dear Sisters,

One of the joys of writing to you each quarter is the opportunity to share what fills my days and inspires my reflections. Often, my letters recount visits to our various Entities around the world. As I reflected on these last three months, however, I realized I have remained only in Italy. And upon further reflection, it also occurred to me that I rarely share the experiences of my visits to our houses in this active Province. Allow me, then, to give you a glimpse of some of the visits that have filled my days during this quarter in Italy, and share a brief highlight from my visit in some of these communities. Unfortunately, space does not allow me to feature everyone.

Pescara, School of Saint Lucy Filippini:

My visit here took place very close to Mother's Day. I 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 quality ev-



ident in every presentation made it especially impressive.

Another memorable moment takes 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 sing a Marian hymn and pray a decade of the rosary. Equally inspiring is 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: What a joy to be present at the First Communion Mass of 19 children at the Parish of Saint Lucy Filippini on Sunday, 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 Suor 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. What a great memory for the children to recall of their First Communion Day! It was an honor to be present for

this annual event, especially in this anniversary year of Saint Lucy's 100 anniversary of beatification. How grateful we are to the Pastor, Don Pavel Hrabovsky, who takes advantage of every event to promote devotion to Saint Lucy.

Scurcola Marsicana: The invitation was 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





ical review of the Filippini sisters who served in this Region of Scurcola for two hundred and eighteen years! What an extraordinary legacy we hold there! Our name “Maestre Pie” is held in great esteem.

Castel Giorgio, Santa Lucia Filippini: Last September, I participated in the dedication of their newly renovated space 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, I 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.



Sister Lucia Tondini, the Director, whose commitment to excellence is reflected throughout the program is to be commended. The lay collaborators cooperate and reflect 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: Our visit here occurred at the opportune time. The children were preparing for their annual “*Spec-tacular*,” and we were able to observe the culmination of a year of hard work of Sister Irena Montesano and her dynamic lay staff. How thoughtful of them to give us a preview of their performance before it actually happened!

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 us the opportunity to appreciate more closely the different approaches that take place and the success results that is often unseen by others. Good work is occurring behind these closed doors!

We were especially grateful to Sister Irena who generously devoted the entire day to help us better understand both the rich history of Villa Lucia and our long-standing presence in this area that I was visiting for the first time. It was obvious that Sister Angela Panichella, although recently assigned here, is a helpful presence.



Otranto, Santa Lucia Filippini: The seven-hour journey was well worth every mile as we 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. How fortunate we are that our sisters have contributed so significantly to the history of this local Church.



Although the 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!



These are only glimpses of the many special places throughout Italy where our sisters continue to serve and carry forward Saint Lucy's mission oftentimes in quiet fidelity. Saint Lucy is alive in so many different ways and unfortunately, space does not permit me to describe every mission I visited. It would take volumes to capture all the good that the Maestre Pie have accomplished through so many years in this land where it all began.

May Saint Lucy continue to be honored and praised in her beloved homeland!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF
Superior General

Sacred Heart Province, Italy

Young People of Saint Lucy Filippini

"*Get Up and Go!*" is the slogan of the educational and spiritual program conducted this scholastic year 2025/2026 for the young people of Saint Lucy Filippini. Led by Marzia Sadocco, and inspired by Lu&Gi, this new group is designed for upper elementary and middle school students. Its goal is to help young people move beyond passivity and self-focus by encouraging them to take an active role in their lives, build meaningful relationships, and grow in their faith. The program offers a journey of spiritual, personal, and community growth and is divided into three meetings with the theme "*Life, Love, Seek*". The first gathering took place at the students' school, and the final two at the Provincial house on Via delle Fornaci, Rome.



Each meeting was structured around four fundamental pillars: *Moments of Reflection, Catechesis, Prayer, and Practical Engagement Activities*. The re-

sponse from the *Young People of Saint Lucy Filippini* was very positive. The transition from understanding their own lives, to learning to love, to embarking on a journey to seek their future, helped them develop a more mature and informed way of thinking. A gradual evolution in their way of interacting was noted. It went from initial shyness to sincere sharing. The combination of serious content and light-hearted activities helped foster a climate of mutual trust among the children, educators/facilitators, and Maestre Pie.



The "*Get Up and Go*" program doesn't end with its meetings. The children's increased awareness of their value and dignity as individuals, and of the beauty of walking together in the light of faith, is intended to be a springboard for a future journey. Indeed, it planted an important seed in their hearts and made them understand that life must be lived on foot, that the only law that makes it fulfilled is that of Love, and that they must never tire of seeking the good.

The hope for the future is to consolidate this group, offering them ever more opportunities to become more self-motivated in their own growth within the community of the Maestre Pie and experience concrete service in which they put into practice the love received from Jesus, discovered and nurtured during these meetings, so that this becomes the daily style of their lives.

Act of Commitment Ceremony: Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini Rome, Via Trevignano Romano

Sunday, April 12, 2026, was a day filled with light and a moment of great joy for each and every one who is a part of our Laici Program. The day began with both personal and group prayer, and with gestures of welcome followed by the customary instruction of His Excellency Msgr. Emidio Cipollone, who continues to accompany the *Association of the Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini*. What made this day extraordinarily special is that at the conclusion of the day's Eucharistic Liturgy six brothers and sisters pronounced their Act of Commitment thus becoming an integral part of our spiritual family. They were accompanied on their formation journey by the sisters, but above all by the constant, enlightened guidance of His Excellency Cipollone.



Those who are accepted to make this commitment bring the Filippini charism into their own lives (family, school, workplace), living as an adult Christian. Essentially, it is a way to be "*other Lucys*" in the world, living Christian spirituality with the educational passion that distinguishes the Institute.

Here are two excerpts from the reflections, one of a young woman and another of a married couple who made their commitment:



... It wasn't the signature on a bureaucratic document, nor a simple rite of belonging; it was the heart's response to an urgent call, the same one that pushed Lucy to hold nothing back and become an "instrument in the hands of God." "Lord, here I am, send me"... To everyone, I would like to proclaim, "Love God!"...

... April 12th represented the beginning of a long journey alongside Lucy and the Lord Jesus, the center of my life, learning from Him total, obedient love, never shying away from sacrifice, and learning from her charism, patience, and prayer.

I pray to Saint Lucy Filippini that she may safeguard the commitment I have made, that of giving myself with her same inner passion, with her steadfastness in trials, and with her tenderness toward the little ones. (Marzia)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

This married couple expresses their gratitude and their desire to walk together in faith in the footsteps of Saint Lucy:

"... We still cherish the wonderful day spent with the community of the "Laity of Saint Lucy Filippini," who gave us the joy of becoming part of this wonderful family by signing the Act of Commitment. It was an intense experience of faith, brotherhood, and communion; the encounter with our brothers and sisters, and the simplicity of being together, made the beginning of this new journey even more moving.

We entrust this step to the intercession of Saint Lucy, so that she may obtain for us the grace to be witnesses of the Gospel in our daily lives, with charity and perseverance.

We heartily thank all those who accompanied us with prayer, example, and affection. We ask the Lord to always make us available to His will and to live our commitment with fidelity and responsibility. (Francesco and Teresa)



Celebrating with LUCY! **100 years, the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini!**

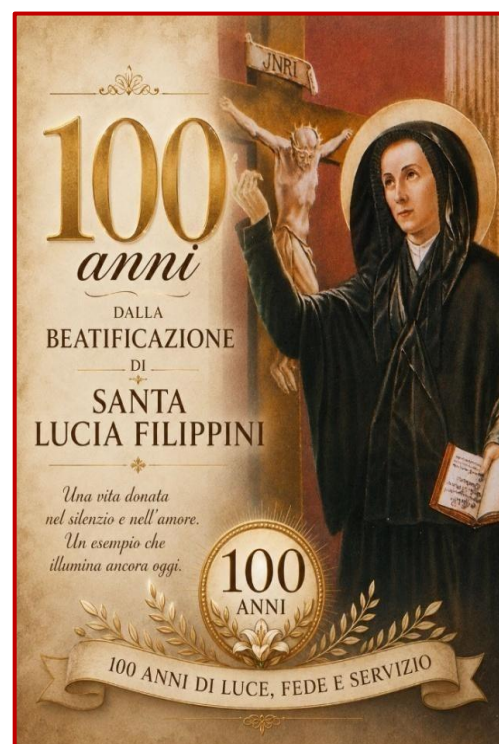
A century after this important recognition by the Church, we remember a woman who dedicated her life to education, the formation of younger generations, and service to others.

Her example continues to inspire generations of educators, students, and communities, inviting us to cultivate knowledge, faith, solidarity, and love for others.

May her message continue to be a light today, capable of guiding the path of those who believe in the value of education as a tool for human and spiritual growth.

100 years of light, faith, and service.

100 years of a legacy that continues to educate and build the future.



(Nettuno, Via Matteotti)



In Bitonto, *"Steps of Peace in the Footsteps of Lucy"* was a journey of prayer, meetings, celebrations, and small gestures capable of uniting the school, families, and the community in one great embrace.

From the Rosary to the Eucharistic Celebration, to the final celebration and the procession through the city streets, every moment expressed peace, service, hope, and the joy of walking together.

Her silent testimony, made up of daily hard work, attention to the young, and service to the community, continues to speak to the present, thanks to the lay teachers who feel they inherit and carry forward this teaching with the same spirit of dedication.

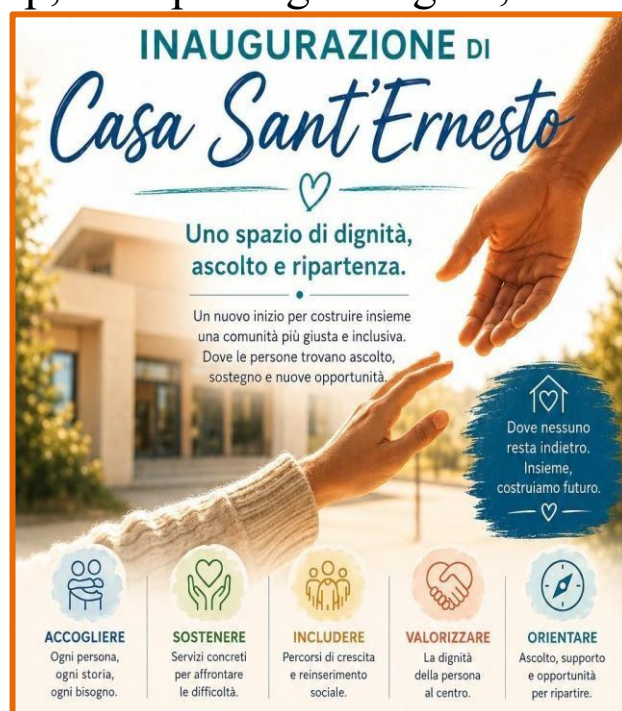
In a rapidly changing world, Lucy Filippini's message remains surprisingly timely: educating with passion, preserving values, and building authentic relationships is still a precious lesson for everyone today, because educating isn't just about teaching... but about lighting lights that continue to shine through time!

"Together to Restore Hope and a Future" – Corese Terra RI

Unfortunately, several years ago, the Sacred Heart Province withdrew its presence from Corese Terra RI, once a thriving center of activity. With generous dedication, many Maestre Pie had carried out a variety of activities there: parish catechism, a nursery school, a sewing and embroidery workshop, an orphanage for girls, and a care and hospitality center for young women attending the local hospitality institute.

The building, now at risk of serious deterioration, after repeated attempts to repurpose it, found a wonderful opportunity, being *"reborn"* as *"Casa S. Ernesto,"* a center for the reception and support of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

This transformation was achieved thanks to the synergy of various initiatives: first and foremost, that of our Institute, which, by donating the



building to the Diocese of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto, made it available for this important project. The diocesan team for social activities, led by the tenacious and tireless Don Antonino Treppiedi, worked to develop the project and raise funds; several local institutional leaders, at the regional and provincial levels, along with highly skilled technicians, worked to secure the necessary authorizations.



At the inauguration ceremony on June 15, His Excellency Bishop Ernesto Mandara, Bishop of the Diocese, expressed his deep gratitude, on behalf of himself and all those who will benefit from the project, especially to the Maestre Pie Filippini, whose donations have facilitated the human-Christian journey of supporting inclusion, autonomy, and

the care of the most vulnerable. He then recalled that the historic building, so dear to the residents and in which everyone has lived in some way, is now being returned to the community with a strong commitment to building concrete paths of growth for the most disadvantaged, and stands as an open door to hope.

We, Maestre Pie Filippini, with this act, intended to participate significantly in the proclamation of the Gospel lived today, seeing in this work the ideal continuity with the missionary spirit that burned in the heart of Saint Lucy always attentive to alleviating the suffering and hardships of others.

To the sisters who, inspired by the apostolic passion of the Holy Foundress, have devoted their energies to the service of the Gospel, leaving a strong mark on that locality, and who now enjoy eternal bliss, we ask you to intercede with the Lord for new workers for his harvest.

Saint Lucy Province, USA

Oasis Day of Prayer for Women

April 25, 2026

The weather was sunny and pleasant the day before and the day after, but on Oasis Day of Prayer for Women, the rain came down from morning till evening. Despite being restricted to the indoors and lacking the beauty of the Villa Walsh grounds in Springtime, the good spirit of the 150 women in attendance was not dampened. Sister Josephine Palmeri's good humor was laced throughout the day and peels of

laughter alternated with songs of praise, moments of silence and words of wisdom from Msgr. Robert Coleman, this year's presenter.

The stunning routine of this annual day for women was enhanced by the many new faces who heard about the wonders of this day and came to experience it for themselves. Coming from parishes across New Jersey, members bragged that they will double their number next year. Unable to keep the richness to themselves, they are compelled to share their joy with family members and friends.



Sister Gina Piazza set the tone for the day by leading the gathering in the *Litany of Belovedness*. Sister Marianne McCann, Provincial Superior, captured the essence of the day in her warm greeting: *Welcome to Oasis, a sacred space set apart just for you. This day is meant to refresh your spirit, restore your strength, and renew your heart. Whether you arrive feeling full or empty, joyful or weary, certain or searching, there is room for you here. May this day offer you rest where you are tired, hope where you are discouraged, clarity where you are uncertain, and deep joy in knowing that you are seen, known and loved.*

Msgr. Robert Coleman gave an unforgettable conference on the glories of the Easter Season, the quest for meaning in our spiritual lives, and the strength of faith that opens every door of our hearts to God. He juxtaposed the visible world with the invisible world and offered guideposts to assist us in our journey to heaven. One



example was an examination of conscience based on *1 Corinthians 13: 4-8*, the pronoun "I" would be inserted in place of the word love.

Following the uplifting Eucharistic liturgy, the women shared their bag lunches and their intimate thoughts with one another. New friendships were forged and old friendships, especially with the many Filippini Sisters in attendance, were rekindled. The table display for the ASLF yielded new applications and the Vocations' table offered invitations to learn more about our Charism and to *Come and See*.

An hour of choice included opportunity for confession, Rosary for Vocations, Stations of the Cross and quiet moments with God and one another. This extraordinary day was concluded with a Eucharistic Holy Hour in the magnificent Saint Lucy Chapel. United in a prayer for Vocations, the hearts and minds of all were lifted in thanksgiving and petition. How fitting that the day would hold many intentions for vocations since this was the original intention of Sister Vilma Cozzini who initiated the day 38 years ago with the understanding that if women understood our life and came to know us better, they would be more inclined to promote vocations in their daughters and granddaughters.



Jubilee Celebration at Saint Joseph Hall May 30, 2026

On the eve of Trinity Sunday, 12 Sisters in Saint Joseph Hall reaffirmed their Perpetual Oblation. Father Ron Sordillo, a steady presence in the Infirmary, celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy. As Sister Marianne McCann, Provincial Superior, called their names, each came forward with a lighted candle and offered it as a symbol of their lives of loving service and sacrifice, as the assembly of Sisters sang, *We are the light of the world*. The well-planned liturgy concluded as the Sisters raised their voices to proclaim, *Astro di Luce*.



The festive dinner was punctuated by a heartwarming talk given by Sister Josephine Palmeri, based on a reflection celebrating family. *Some people in this world have no family. They have no one to clap for them, applaud them. They have no one to listen to them nor siblings who care. They have to wipe their own tears, hold their own hands, and clap for themselves. Sisters, we are your family, we applaud you and we love you.* Sister Josephine related



a brief anecdote about each Jubilarian, highlighting her missionary service, her fruitful apostolate, and her dedicated service to the Province through many years. Sister also illustrated the meaning given to each anniversary year. *The symbol for 80 years, the Oak, denotes enduring, immense strength and deep-rooted love; 75 years represents the Diamond, indestructible love; 70 years connotes Platinum,*



which signifies durability and enduring commitment; 65 years is associated with the limitless ocean of wisdom and loyalty; and 60 years is also depicted by the Diamond. These qualities are clearly evident in the lives of the Sisters that were honored on this day.

Congratulations to our 2026 Jubilarians!

80 years: *Sister Anna Grace Mascolo and Sister Raphael Santitoro*

75 years: *Sister Lorraine Chaudron, Sister Santa Priolo and Sister Helen Sholander*

70 years: *Sister Carmela Falcone, Sister Mary Gintella and Sister Geraldine Romano*

65 years: *Sister Anna DeCarli, Sister Barbara Quandt and Sister Carmela Santarsiero*

60 years: *Sister Geraldine Frisk*

Mater Divinae Gratiae, Vice Province Sao Paulo, Brazil

Celebration of the Centenary of the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini

Together with the entire Institute, on June 13, the Vice-Province and all its communities celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini with a Eucharistic Celebration of thanksgiving for this significant milestone in the history of the Maestre Pie Filippini.

Before the Holy Mass, Sr. Maria Moreira read the historical account prepared by Sr. Emmanuela, recounting the journey toward the Beatification, the miracle attributed to Saint Lucy, and the joyful celebration of her Beatification in St. Peter's Basilica. United in gratitude, all gave thanks to the Lord for the gift of our Holy Foundress and for the grace of her Beatification.



Sr. Elizabeth Venâncio marked this special occasion with the Community of Saint Lucy Filippini in Vilhena, State of Rondônia, where she, too, joined the faithful in praising and thanking the Lord for our Holy Foundress on this solemn occasion.

Together with the entire Institute, on June 13, the day on which we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini, the Vice-Province and all the communities took part in a Eucharistic Celebration of thanksgiving for this important milestone in the history of the Maestre Pie Filippini.

The Vice-Provincial House Welcomes Parish Groups

On weekends, the Vice-Provincial House welcomes parish groups who come to spend time in prayer, spiritual formation, retreats, and preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.



Besides offering a peaceful environment for prayer and formation, our house provides beautiful green surroundings where visitors can enjoy moments of reflection. This ministry is one way of walking together with the parishes and the local Church. Sr. Ione Honória de Souza, MPF, is responsible for coordinating this

mission. In the first two photos, Sr. Ione speaks about the religious vocation to a group of children preparing for First Holy Communion.



Sr. Ione is also actively involved with the **ECC** (*Encounter of Couples with Christ*), a movement dedicated to the formation and support of married couples, especially those experiencing difficulties in their relationships.

Saint Lucy Continues Her Journey in Brazil



On the evening of **June 5**, a Holy Mass was celebrated at the Ecclesial Community of **St. John the Baptist**, patron of the city of Jaru, in the State of Rondônia. The celebrant, Fr. Pedro Paulo Costa, warmly welcomed Sr. Yesu Rani, MPF, who was visiting the city.

In Jaru there is a small chapel dedicated to Saint Lucia Filippini, founded 33 years ago. Located in a rural area, the chapel's faithful had never had a statue of our Foundress throughout all these years.

Sr. Yesu Rani was received with great joy by the community and brought with her a small statue of Saint Lucy. At present, the faithful are renovating the chapel. The gift of the statue was a deeply moving and joyful moment for everyone present.

Saint Lucy Filippini continues to walk with the people of Brazil, and through her presence the number of her devoted faithful continues to grow.



According to local tradition, an Italian immigrant who already knew Saint Lucy Filippini in Italy suggested that the chapel be dedicated in her honor.

Triduum in Honor of Saint Lucy in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais

From **May 13 to 15**, the community in Juiz de Fora celebrated the Triduum in honor of Saint Lucia Filippini, their patroness. The solemn feast was celebrated on **May 16**.



The faithful experienced days filled with prayer that included Eucharistic Adoration. During the celebrations, the centenary of Saint Lucia's Beatification was also commemorated.

Sr. Geralda Coelho, MPF, was present and was warmly welcomed by the parish priest, Fr. Rafael Neves de Oliveira, and by the parish community. During her visit, she also spent time visiting elderly and sick members of the community.



Mater Boni Consilii Region, Ethiopia Pastoral Visit



On the eve of the Annual Feast of the Holy Savior, June 3, 2026, the Holy Savior Parish in Adigrat was honored to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Claudio Gugerotti, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, and representative of the Holy Father for the Eastern Catholic Churches, together with His Excellency Archbishop Brian Udaigwe, Apostolic Nuncio to Ethiopia and Djibouti, and other distinguished guests, accompanied by His Excellency Abune Tesfaselassie Medhin, the bishop of Adigrat Eparchy.



Their presence brought great joy to our parish community and added special significance to the celebration of this feast. The faithful of our parish, together with the clergy and religious, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and as a gesture of respect and

hospitality, our Sisters prepared flower bouquets, which were presented to them by our hostel children.



The following day, June 4, the solemn Eucharistic Liturgy was concelebrated by the Cardinal, Bishops and Priests. Their presence was a source of encouragement and blessing, reflecting the Church's closeness to the faithful and strengthening the bonds of communion among all. A great number of people participated in the joyful annual feast of the Holy Savior. After the celebration, our community of Saint Justin de Jacobis in Gola in the eparchy of Adigrat was graced with their special visit to our home.

Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony

On June 6, 2026, the Kindergarten sections of our schools in Adigrat and Gola celebrated the graduation of their KG3 students in joyful ceremonies attended by children, parents, teachers, and friends. A total of 177 children successfully completed their kindergarten program, 117 graduates in Adigrat and 60 in Gola, marking an important milestone in their educational journey.



In Adigrat, the colorful celebration featured children proudly dressed in their graduation gowns as they received their certificates. Sister Tsege Amare, Director of the Kindergarten, welcomed the gathering, congratulated the graduates, and expressed her gratitude to the teachers and parents for their dedi-

cation and cooperation throughout the year. Outstanding students were recognized with prizes for their academic performance, and parents participated in a constructive discussion, sharing ideas and suggestions that reflected the strong partnership between the school and families.





At Saint Justin de Jacobis School, Gola, the graduation ceremony was likewise filled with joy and enthusiasm as 60 KG3 children celebrated with their families and teachers. Sister Hadas Tesfa, the school Director, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them as they prepared to continue to the next stage of their education, wishing them every success in the years ahead.

With grateful hearts, we thank God for His protection and blessings throughout the academic year, especially in the unstable political situation that surrounds us. As we concluded the school year, joyful celebrations were held in all our schools, Adigrat, Gola, and Sassi. The occasion provided an opportunity for parents and the school to discuss students' academic progress and overall development. Through drama, poetry, cultural performances, and dances, students showcased not only their academic achievements but also their talents, gifts, and skills, reflecting their growth as well-rounded individuals.

Mater Misericordiae Region, Eritrea

Signs of Grace and New Life Visible in Eritrea



The months of May and June were filled with prayer, celebration, and signs of God's grace for the Sisters and communities in Eritrea. They centered on our Blessed Mother and the example and intercession of Saint Lucy.



Each day in the month of May, traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, began with the daily recitation of the rosary to honor Mary's special month. A novena in preparation for the feast of Saint Lucy was also observed and her feast was celebrated at the Mother House in Asmara with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, followed by a festive meal, a traditional coffee ceremony, and short

dramatizations of Saint Lucy's life presented by the aspirants. During the celebration, the Regional Superior, Sister Kudusana Teweld, gave thanks to God for His abundant blessings and encouraged everyone to continue following Saint Lucy's example of faithful discipleship.

The Novitiate community also celebrated Saint Lucy's feast together with a group of women who bear her name. These devoted mothers generously helped organize the celebration, sponsored the festive meal, and donated a beautiful vestment for the chapel valued at 10,000 Nakfa. The community expressed heartfelt gratitude for their generosity and prayed that Saint Lucy would bless them abundantly.



These months also brought joyful signs of new life and growth within the community. On June 2, Selam, a young woman from the Orthodox Christian tradition who had been discerning a vocation with the Sisters since 2024, entered the Aspirancy. After enthusiastically studying the Catholic faith, she received Holy Communion for the first time, a moment she had long anticipated with great joy and gratitude. Her name, *Selam*, meaning "*peace*," beautifully reflects her gentle and joyful spirit.



On June 13, the entire Eritrean Region gathered to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Beatification of Saint Lucy. Sisters, lay teachers, and Saint Lucy families participated in prayer and in the celebration of the Eucharist. The large congregation reflected on Saint Lucy's witness of holiness and her enduring invitation to live her life rooted in God's Word and faithful service.

Adding to these special blessings, on June 21 in the Parish of Kidane Mihret, Sembel, near the Novitiate, an entire family returned to the faith after many years away from the Catholic Church, Through the patient accompaniment of the novices and

their formator, the family received catechetical instruction and was prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. During the celebration, the parish priest reflected on Jesus' words to Zacchaeus: "*Today salvation has come to this house*" (Luke 19:9), reminding everyone that God always welcomes those who return to Him with mercy and love.



The sisters and novices rejoiced in witnessing both the family's return to the Church and Selam's journey of faith, giving thanks to God for these visible signs of His grace at work. Each of these celebrations throughout May and June served to strengthen the faith of the sisters and renewed their commitment to continue to live the Gospel in the spirit of Saint Lucy.

Queen of Peace Region, India

Saint Joseph the Worker – Workers' Day Celebration

On May 1, when the Mother Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, also observed worldwide as International Workers' Day, it is a cherished tradition in the Queen of Peace Regional House to honor the workers who collaborate with us by dedicating this special day to them. This beautiful tradition was initiated by our beloved pioneer, Sister Josephine Di Raimo, and has been faithfully continued by the community every year.



This year, the Regional Community once again gathered all the helpers from the Regional House, Siena Home, and Saint Lucy School for this joyful celebration. The day began with a special prayer service around the altar, animated by the sisters. Although not everyone

present was Catholic, all participated with devotion and reverence. It was a meaningful moment of thanksgiving to the Lord for the humble and valuable service they render to the community. The sisters also entrusted them and their families to the loving protection of their patron, Saint Joseph.

As a sign of gratitude and appreciation for their invaluable contribution, the community shared a delicious meal with all the workers in the dining hall.

Commemoration of the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini

The invitation of Mother General to commemorate the Centenary of the Beatification of Saint Lucy Filippini was enthusiastically welcomed by the Queen of Peace Region. We are deeply grateful to the General Administration for preparing and providing the special prayer service for this significant occasion. Celebrating with the same prayer made us feel more closely united with the entire Institute as we joined together in thanksgiving and prayer.



All the communities of the Region celebrated this memorable day with great joy and devotion. The Regional Community, comprising the Regional Team, the professed sisters, junior sisters, novices, and candidates, each gathered in the Saint Lucy Chapel, Janampet, in a spirit of gratitude to celebrate this important milestone in the history of the Institute.

During the celebration, the professed sisters carried lighted candles in procession to the altar and placed them before the beautifully decorated statue of Saint Lucy, symbolically representing every Maestra Pia serving in different parts of the world. It was truly a grace-filled moment as we honored Saint Lucy, our Mother and Foundress.



For the newly joined fourteen candidates, this celebration became a deeply inspiring experience during their first days with the community. The prayer service concluded with the Hymn to Saint Lucy, when everyone had the opportunity to venerate and kiss the relic of Saint Lucy.

Grateful to the Lord for the countless blessings we continue to receive through the maternal intercession of Saint Lucy, we pray that we may faithfully carry forward her spirit and become "*many Lucys*," just as she desired.



Berat, Albania

Feast of Saint Lucy Filippini

On May 11, our community joyfully celebrated Holy Mass in honor of Saint Lucy Filippini. We were especially delighted by the presence of our new Apostolic Administrator of Southern Albania His Excellency Mons. Flavio Cavallini, ofm, who assumed his ministry on May 9th and this was his first assignment as pastor to celebrate Mass with the small Christian community of Berat, our school teachers, and some former students and their parents.



Following the Holy Mass, was a moment of festivity. The fifth-grade students enacted the mission entrusted to

Lucy during her meeting with Cardinal Barbarigo, highlighting the charism and vision of our Foundress.

Our first teacher, Silvana Ceka, recalled the beautiful moments of meeting our sisters in preparation for Baptism, her first experience as a kindergarten teacher and then as

an elementary school teacher. Two students sang a song dedicated to peace and creation, and a folklore group, sang and danced Albanian folk songs.



On May 12, the school community honored Saint Lucy through songs, dance, and short dramas. We are very happy for the honor that this land also shows to our Mother Foundress.

Peace Day

The Peace Day, now a tradition for 21 years, organized by our school, took place this year under the theme “*Peace and Living Well Together.*”



The students from the elementary and middle schools of the city gathered in the central square and marched, chanting Peace. The march concluded with songs, poems, and slogans. The Mayor of Berat praised the initiative and thanked the schools and teachers who

worked tirelessly to demonstrate their commitment to being peacemakers, not only through their words but also through their daily actions.

The Cardinal's Corner *(Continued from last issue) Prepared by Sr. Emanuela Vanich, MPF*

Mark Anthony was the second of the eight children of Chiara and Agostino Barbarigo, and the first son after Cecilia. After him came Nicolò, Francesco, who died after only nine days, Gradeniga, another Francesco, Marietta, and finally Lorenzo, who lived for just over a year. Their mother died in childbirth two days after Lorenzo's birth, at only thirty-seven years of age. Mark Anthony, the eldest remaining child, was just eleven years old. Births and deaths were frequent in the household, and each event shaped the character and sensitivity of every member of the family.

Agostino, widowed at a young age, would die when Mark Anthony was almost twenty-five years old and had entered the Great Council of the Republic. He had to provide for the future of his children, and in the household, he found the support of several trusted people. There was Madonna Antonia de Puti, the housekeeper and governess of the children; Bortola Nena, the wet nurse, who cared for the younger children until they were about three or four years old; Caterina, one of the *figliole dell'anima* (“daughters of charity”) taken into patrician households out of Christian charity; and a chaplain who, as was customary in noble families, had his own oratory within the palace. There were also numerous servants, among them Carlo, who would become Mark Anthony's trusted companion and protector during his quiet nighttime journeys to bring charity to the poor of the district.

The Barbarigo Palace was a distinguished three-story residence, its main façade facing the Rio dell'Angelo Raffaele. At ground level, a large water gate provided easy access for boats. A spacious garden offered the family room for recreation and a place of freedom. The family lived on the second floor, leaving the first floor for the grand reception rooms where guests were welcomed. Sadly, the palace that we

would have liked to know and visit has not existed since 1818. It appears that, after the Barbarigo family's male line died out, the palace was purchased by other families, who in turn faced the same problem. Eventually, the building fell into disrepair, was abandoned, and was finally demolished.

The Barbarigo family belonged to the parish of Sant' Angelo Raffaele, located very close to their palace. Young Mark Anthony could easily walk there, and he also enjoyed visiting the Church of San Nicolò dei Mendicoli, another sacred place rich in frescoes depicting the life of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, as well as angels and saints. In these churches, perhaps at first instinctively, he came to perceive the profound connection between the biblical message expressed through sacred art, the generous and charitable way of life practiced by his own wealthy family, and the daily struggles of the many people living in poverty in that neighborhood—people deprived of almost everything.

It was here that the first concrete expressions of Gospel charity took root in him. They would characterize his years in the Great Council of the Republic and later his ministry to the Church and the People of God as a bishop. His entire life became a continuous, generous, courageous, and discerning response to the material and spiritual needs that never escaped his attention, embracing places, situations, and individuals alike.

It is said that in prayer Barbarigo asked God to help him now that he had truly seen what poverty was. Throughout his life he would be given many further opportunities to perform works of justice and mercy. It is never repetitive for us to recall his words at Saint Lucy's tomb: "We will do good... we will do good!"

May we too, today, be granted the grace to see and to hear the cries of those who hunger and thirst, so that there may be a new evangelization with new evangelizers.



*Photo taken at the Crypt near Cardinal Barbarigo's remains
on the anniversary week of his call to eternal life.
(May 26, 1706)*