



# CONGREGATION LIFESTREAM

WE ARE DIFFERENT YET ONE

*“The way of Jesus...to walk united with our differences.”*

-Pope Francis

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Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, Casa Santo Spirito, Via dei Bevilacqua 60, 00165, Rome Italy



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**PSALM OF PRAISE**

**135<sup>th</sup> Year of the Congregation's Foundation**  
**September 24, 2020**

Give praise to the Lord for he is good* His mercy endures forever.	education of the youth* His mercy endures forever.
Let us acclaim God's glorious deeds for our Congregation's existence these past 135 years,* His mercy endures forever.	Let the Bulgarian experience under the communist regime Embolden our desire to serve in times of hardships* His mercy endures forever.
Let us thank the Lord for Fr. Andreas Amrhein's courageous act in founding our Congregation* His mercy endures forever.	Let the initial hospital and parish ministries in Windhoek, Seoul and Daegu Inspire us to care for those who hunger for Christ's healing touch* His mercy endures forever.
Let us glorify the Lord for Mother Birgitta Korff and all our prioresses general* His mercy endures forever.	Let the various ministries of Torres Novas, Norfolk and Nairobi Be a collective response to the signs of the times.* His mercy endures forever.
Let eternal peace be rewarded to the Ringseis sisters and our deceased benefactors* His mercy endures forever.	Let the home of our sisters in Haus St. Benedict serve as a mirror of God's grace and fidelity of our sisters to his call* His mercy endures forever.
Let the blood of our martyrs in East Africa and North Korea Purify us from our weaknesses and failures* His mercy endures forever.	Let the communities of Jinja, India and Argentina established 25 years ago Lift up the hearts of our sisters in praise and thanksgiving* His mercy endures forever.
Let the first mission field in Peramiho and Ndanda Be to us a reminder of the Sisters' zeal for service* His mercy endures forever.	Let the Lord's loving presence be among our Sisters in Angola and Madrid* His mercy endures forever.
Let the development of the congregation at the Tutzing motherhouse Manifest to us the Lord's wondrous deeds* His mercy endures forever.	Let the golden jubilee of the Casa Santo Spirito Crown the years ahead with God's goodness and kindness. His mercy endures forever.
Let the blossoming of our Congregation in the international field Encourage us to affirm our plurality and differences* His mercy endures forever.	Give praise to the Lord, for he is good* His mercy endures forever.
Let the early foundations in Olinda, Sorocaba and Manila Show to us our original focus on the	Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Spirit, As always before so now and evermore. Amen.





## ENCYCLICAL LETTER: *FRATELLI TUTTI* OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

(Conclusion of the encyclical. For the entire text, refer to

[www.vatican.va/content/vatican/it.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/it.html))

284. At times fundamentalist violence is unleashed in some groups, of whatever religion, by the rashness of their leaders. Yet, “the commandment of peace is inscribed in the depths of the religious traditions that we represent... As religious leaders, we are called to be true ‘people of dialogue’, to cooperate in building peace not as intermediaries but as authentic mediators. Intermediaries seek to give everyone a discount, ultimately in order to gain something for themselves. The mediator, on the other hand, is one who retains nothing for himself, but rather spends himself generously until he is consumed, knowing that the only gain is peace. Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls”.<sup>[283]</sup>

### *An appeal*

285. In my fraternal meeting, which I gladly recall, with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, “we resolutely [declared] that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings. They result from a political manipulation of religions and from interpretations made by religious groups who, in the course of history, have taken advantage of the power of religious sentiment in the hearts of men and women... God, the Almighty, has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want his name to be used to terrorize people”.<sup>[284]</sup> For this reason I would like to reiterate here the appeal for peace, justice and fraternity that we made together:

“In the name of God, who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the

values of goodness, love and peace;

“In the name of innocent human life that God has forbidden to kill, affirming that whoever kills a person is like one who kills the whole of humanity, and that whoever saves a person is like one who saves the whole of humanity;

“In the name of the poor, the destitute, the marginalized and those most in need, whom God has commanded us to help as a duty required of all persons, especially the wealthy and those of means;

“In the name of orphans, widows, refugees and those exiled from their homes and their countries; in the name of all victims of wars, persecution and injustice; in the name of the weak, those who live in fear, prisoners of war and those tortured in any part of the world, without distinction;

“In the name of peoples who have lost their security, peace and the possibility of living together, becoming victims of destruction, calamity and war;

“In the name of *human fraternity*, that embraces all human beings, unites them and renders them equal;

“In the name of this *fraternity* torn apart by policies of extremism and division, by systems of unrestrained profit or by hateful ideological tendencies that manipulate the actions and the future of men and women;

“In the name of freedom, that God has given to all human beings, creating them free and setting them apart by this gift;

“In the name of justice and mercy, the foundations of prosperity and the cornerstone of faith;

“In the name of all persons of goodwill present in every part of the world;

## SR. ILLUMINA LEE ELECTED PPIORESS OF SEOUL



Sr. Illumina Lee was elected Prioress of Seoul on October 15 for a first term of office of five years, in the presence of M. Maoro Sye, Prioress General, and the assembled delegates of the priory chapter.

Her installation as prioress will take place on November 16 on the feast of St. Gertrud, the patroness of the Seoul Priory. To install her is Sr. Rosemarie Hwang, the out-going prioress.

Sr. Illumina made her first profession in 1979 and her perpetual profession in 1986. After her final vows in Daegu priory in February 1986,

she narrates, *“I was involved in the ministry among the poor workers in a factory area near the capital city Seoul. After that, I got an opportunity to study and received a master's degree n pastoral ministry at the Maryknoll School of Theology in New York.*

*In 1993, I returned back to the rural village near the Seoul city to minister among the poor women and their children.*

*In conclusion, I was assigned as a priory treasury, formator, novice mistress and also worked in a small church and became a superior of a local community for five years and half.*

*From 1999 to 2003, I was assigned to Nairobi Priory as the priory treasurer and I returned back to Seoul in 2003.”*

## SOROCABA EXPERIENCES 115 YEARS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

SR. URSULA FUCHS, OSB

To celebrate the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sorocaba Priory is to experience the presence of God and his faithfulness. On September 28, just after the death of our dear Sr. Assumpta Baptistela, we celebrated the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Sorocaba Priory dedicated to St. Scholastica in a simple way because of the restrictions during this time of pandemic. Though simple, great honor and dignity was not missing.

As written in the Old Testament, we started our thanksgiving with a prayer vigil the day before with an alumnus blowing the trumpet and

announcing the jubilee celebration. We listened to the meaning of the jubilee which is: to thank, to forgive, to return and to step into the future that belongs to God.

*SOROCABA, next page*



*Sr. Ursula*



*Sisters' Choir*

*SOROCABA, from page 4*

The highlight was the eucharistic celebration presided by the Archbishop of Sorocaba Júlio Endi Akamine. We were happy to welcome all the staff of the St Scholastica family. The participation of some civil authorities and friends honored us. As a sign of deep gratitude, we ended with snacks and drinks.

Archbishop Júlio Endi Akamine gave this homily: To celebrate an anniversary of 115 years means to realize that God's faithfulness guides our whole life, our struggles and sufferings, our achievements and innovations, our educational commitment, our formative mission, our service to

the poorest, in short, everything we do and suffer for Jesus Christ. Christ is the meaning of this Educational Institution. Without HIM, this school loses its nature, its meaning, its identity. Without Christ, the school is lost in itself and is unable to accomplish what is expected of it. This school is a formative community gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. As an educational community, St. Scholastica School is committed to the society of this city of São Paulo, Sorocaba to train children and young people as ethical citizens committed to build a better world.

**CARUARU EXPERIENCES 100 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE**

SR. EMANUELA MELO DE SOUZA



The presence of our Sisters in Olinda since 1903, was so significant that it gave birth to a new missionary project, the Colégio Sagrado Coração, in Caruaru, in a new region of the same State Pernambuco. In August 1920, Father Osvaldo Brasileiro took the initiative to go to Olinda to talk to Mother Prioress Ermentrudis Hellmann about the possibility of sending the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing to Caruaru in order to start a missionary work in catechesis and education.

M. Ermentrudis informed M. Birgitta Korff, who considered it positively, to start this new branch of Olinda Priory. Then the dream began to come true. Mother Prioress together with Sr. Gertrudes Alencar and Sr. Clothilde Funk went to Caruaru to get acquainted with the place of the future mission field.

The Sisters returned to Olinda with joy and hope. They liked the place and the city of Caruaru. Soon, the Priory Government started planning the details. Unbelievably, in the same month, on August 16, 1920 to be exact, our pioneers arrived in Caruaru. Three German sisters Sr. Emerita Miller, Sr. Clothilde Funk, and Sr. Illuminata Dempfle formed the first community together with one Brazilian, Sr. Gertrudes



Alencar, women of courage and great faith. Soon, on September 8, they opened the School. *“The social traits of Caruaru, in the first half of the last century, were marked by the life of the countryside. The population was basically rural, following a very simple lifestyle”.*

Thus, hundred years ago, the situation was quite different: the Colégio Sagrado Coração, or as popularly called the “School of the Sisters, Colégio das Freiras”, started in some rooms where cotton was sold and cereals were kept. The pedagogical activities started with the Primary School and private lessons of music, painting and crafts.

Thanks to the commitment and dedication of the Sisters and a good team of collaborators. Our school developed not only in its physical space, but also in keeping alive its characteristic of excellent teaching and education. Many generations of traditional families from Caruaru and other cities of the region have passed through the “Sagrado, Sacred” (short name nowadays) and are proud to be its alumni, repeating and repeating: *“We have learned a lot in this Benedictine school!”*

*CARUARU, next page*

*CARUARU, from page 5*

Sr. Maria José Vasconcelos, the current directress, the Sisters, technical staff, teachers, students, employees and alumni put together a special video, which tells the story of the school, praising and thanking God for the hundred years of service. Yes, we sing a new song to the Lord "because his love endures forever. In your hands o Lord, we put the past. We give to you the present, and the future, which belongs only to you in whom we trust – beloved SACRED HEART."

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to celebrate the centenary planned so lovingly. It was not possible to have the big celebration. Everything happened and continues to happen in a virtual way. The teachers encouraged the children to congratulate their school and the

little ones expressed their feelings for the college beautifully through letters, videos and a variety of creative signs of love and appreciation. The youth were not behind. They also expressed in their own way what their 'Sacred' means to them. Former students, former teachers and former employees posted beautiful messages on social media.

We are proud of everything that has been created and achieved in these hundred years and we thank God who has given his blessings and growth to it and our sisters for their tireless, joyful and effective work over these decades. We pray that God's blessings will continue to rest on this work.

## PANDEMIC RELIEF EFFORTS



SISTERS' LEMONADE STAND  
BENEFIT: Coronavirus Relief

SR. ROSANN OCKEN, OSB

**NORFOLK.** Every year the Norfolk community chooses a special project for our annual "bazaar". This is normally an indoor event with guests filling our cafeteria. Because of Covid-19 we took a much simpler outdoor "Lemonade Stand" approach. Tables flanked our long north drive filled with items for donation to benefit coronavirus relief efforts. The sisters work all year sewing, crocheting, knitting, weaving, etc. We raffled three beautiful quilts made by the sisters. We also had what we call a "white elephant" section of used books and items, donated from our friends. We were so very grateful for the amount of people who participated and for what was collected. The proceeds have been given to local organizations helping the poor, as well as Catholic Charities and the Francis-Siena House in Omaha who are known for their work with the poor.

We are also most grateful for the anonymous benefactor who gave a donation for our international missions to benefit the poor affected by the coronavirus who are served by our sisters.



Shoppers / Sr. Rosann w/ Archbishop George Lucas

BREAD (Begetting Relief and Express Assistance for the Deprived)

SR. CONSTANCE TECSON, OSB

**MANILA.** The BREAD (Begetting Relief and Express Assistance for the Deprived) program of the Manila Priory is its immediate response to the escalating hunger, poverty, and joblessness of the Filipino people caused by COVID-19. This is spearheaded by the Priory House Community.

The daily challenges of living the new normal at this time and the risks of being infected by the virus did not stop the Sisters from working hard to extend their hands to the needy. The Priory House community was divided into three groups to take charge of the feeding program schedules. Each group has to prepare their menu and to do what are needed: the purchasing, cooking, packing, and distributing to the people. Every Wednesday, the Sisters distribute packed meals

*BREAD, next page*

*BREAD, from page 6*



*Readying food bags for distribution to the poor*

to the hungry people outside the Chapel. On Saturdays, they do a mobile food distribution and give out some relief packs. They distribute 150 to 200 food packs per feeding or 350 to 400 packs per week. Our thanks go to Sr. Rosann Ocken and the Norfolk Priory who helped us through a donation to sustain this project. We also get donations in cash or in kind from friends and alumnae.

**STUDY OF THE BIBLE**

SR. CRISTINA DE CRISTO, OSB

Our Recife community in the Olinda Priory devoted the month of September for bible study. We started already at Vesper's time on August 31. The community gathered before the Chapel and entered in solemn procession with the Bible singing Shema Israel. Novice Laiane carried the Holy Book and Sr. Fidelis the candle. Sr. Consuelo made a profound introduction about the development of the reading of Holy Scripture through the desert father up to the discovery of Lectio Divina much appreciated in our days.

During the whole month of September a display of Bibles in different languages and different editions at the entrance of the chapel reminded us of the Word of God incarnate in all languages and cultures.

Every Sunday Morning our community studied the Book of Deuteronomy guided by the wise orientation of Sr. Lucida. This study is proposed by the Brazilian Bishops' Conference (CNBB). During the evening recreation we had short celebrations with poems, messages, and interesting facts about the Bible.



*Sr. Lucida enthroning the bible*

**STUDY OF THE RB**



Sr. Aquinata Böckmann went online in giving lesson on the Introduction to the Rule of St. Benedict to the formandeas of Manila Priory on September 22.

**JUNIOR SISTERS ON EXPOSURE**

M. Maoro, while in Daegu Priory, took time to be with the junior sisters on international exposure. One is from the Windhoek Priory and the rest from Jinja community/Generalate district.



*Back row from l-r: Sr. Goretti (Windhoek), Sr. Evelynne, M. Maoro, Sr. Lumen Choi, Junior Directress  
Front row: Sr. Rose Marie, Sr. Regina*

## CASA SANTO SPIRITO

SR. MARIALUZ DUNGCA, OSB\*

**SUMMER CONCERT.** The Casa Santo Spirito Community came together for a summer concert held in the big hall on August 23. The said concert was a night of showcase of musical talents of our sisters, together with the guest Korean priests in solo, duo, trio, and choral performances. They rendered classical music pieces made famous by composers like F.Chopin, G.F. Handel, T.Albinoni, C. Kummer, J. Pachelbel, E.Lecuonad and F.Carpi. Their musical giftedness and skills exhibited through playing different string and wind-pipe instruments like the piano, flute, clarinet, recorder, violin, guitar and zither were greatly appreciated and well applauded. In the latter part, Fr. Giovanni and our Korean Sisters serenaded the crowd with two Korean gospel songs.

M. Mauro closed the fruitful gathering with her words of gratitude for all. Compline capped the night as God graced each one with a joyful and peaceful heart.

**WORLD DAY OF CREATION.** The Casa Community was in solidarity with the church in expressing its participation in the celebration of the World Day Prayer for Creation on September 1. The Casa community unified its liturgy from Lauds to Vespers. In the Holy Eucharist there was a choreographed offertory integrated with the prayers of the faithful representing four elements: fire, earth, water, wind by four of our sisters coming from different nationalities. A short film/video on Seasons of Creation was integrated in the midday prayer. Vespers/Compline was held in the garden in communion with nature.

The whole day was a day of gratefulness and reverence of God through his creation as a concrete manifestation of his great love for us.



\*Sr. Marialuz Dungca returned to Manila, her home priory, after finishing her diploma course on Formators for the Priesthood and Consecrated Life at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.



*Sr. Cecil (l) and Sr. Rosaria (r)*



*l-r: Sr. Marie Bruno, Sr. Regina, Fr. Atanasio*



*Junior sisters*



*Korean Choir*



*Offertory representing the four elements*



**SPIRITUALITY AND INTERCULTURALITY**  
**RETREAT OF CASA COMMUNITY WITH FR. TIM NORTON, SVD**  
 SR. REGINA TESCH, OSB



*Fr. Tim Norton*

The Casa Community in Rome had their retreat guided by Fr. Tim Norton SVD on Spirituality and Interculturality from October 16 to 24. During those seven days Fr. Norton led us through seven themes of Interculturality.

On the first evening we started with introducing ourselves with our name, age, our place of origin, number of siblings and our position in the family among the siblings. This simple exercise made us aware, how we are all molded by the place, the time and the family in which we were born. At the same time, we could appreciate our richness in the community being from so many diverse places of the world and from different age groups. We saw our congregations of the Divine Word and Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing connected through the encounter and mutual inspiration of their founders. Both have as foundational elements in their Constitutions the unconditional gratuitous love of God, the call to follow Jesus through profession and mission.

The journey of the retreat began with remembering our own personal life stories in an attitude of prayer, for it is only in God that we discover our true identity. Through a greater acceptance and appreciation of oneself we can come to the acceptance and appreciation of others. Knowing our true place in the world allows us to make room for others.

We remembered our baptism, the sacrament through which we became part of the church and sisters to all humanity and creation, which is not exclusive separating us from the rest of humanity, but inclusive in so far as we are to be

a light for the world. As missionaries we are not the ones bringing God to the place, but rather helping to discover the working of the Holy Spirit in the place.

The images we have of God are shaped by the context in which we live. In reflecting on the changing images of God throughout our lives we could re-live our faith journey.

We looked at the parts in us, which need reconciliation, the ethnocentrism and prejudices present in all of us. Bringing them to our consciousness helps to deal with them in a proper way. Naturally, we all think and judge according to the culture, in which we were brought up. The sin of ethnocentrism fails to recognize our unity and true identity as God's children. It can be an individual sin or of a whole community, which places their own culture in the centre failing to see others as children of the same God. Through incarnation also Jesus grew in a specific culture, was thus ethnocentric, but without sin. As disciples of Jesus we are called like him to go beyond our own culture and to continually broaden our mindset.

Interculturality is often expressed in sharing at table. We reflected in the story of the early Christian community, in particular Acts 10, where Peter is prompted by the Spirit to have table fellowship with the Gentiles and baptize them. Back in his community he is questioned and has to justify his behaviour.

Again and again Fr. Norton enriched his input with personal stories and his rich experiences. He witnessed that intercultural living is not something which can easily be achieved but a process to be undertaken intentionally, with patience, perseverance and the readiness for compromises. Not only through words but also through his radiation of joy and humour, he led us to the conviction that there are not problems of intercultural living, but joy and challenges. Thank you, Fr. Tim, for the inspiring guidance through this retreat, which may help us to become ever more, what we are, the body of Christ.



**BEATITUDES OF RECONCILIATION**

*(shared by Fr. Tim Norton, SVD in one of his retreat conferences)*

Blessed are those who are willing to enter into the process of being healed, for they will become healers.

Blessed are they who recognize their own inner violence, for they will come to know non-violence.

Blessed are they who can forgive self, for they will become forgivers.

Blessed are those who are willing to let go of selfishness and self-centeredness, for they will become a healing presence.

Blessed are those who listen with compassion, for they will become compassionate.

Blessed are those who are willing to enter into conflict, for they will find transformation.

Blessed are those who know their interdependence with all of creation, for they will become unifiers.

Blessed are those who live a contemplative life stance, for they will find God in all things.

Blessed are those who strive to live these beatitudes, for they will be reconcilers.

*(Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, Kansas)*

**NEW WEBSITE TEAM**



The new website team is composed of Sr. Regina Tesch, as head, Sr. Marie Bruno Shin and Sr. Eunhye Cha.



*Sr. Abraham Sr. Leticia Sr. Raphaela Sr. Germana Sr. Leya*

Sr. Rosalina Fajardo from Rome back to Manila, her home priory  
Sr. Abraham Kang from Seoul Priory to Bulgaria/Generalate District

Sr. Leticia Saraza from Bulgaria/Generalate District back to Manila, her home priory

Sr. Raphaela Mlwilo from Windhoek Priory back to Peramiho, her home priory

Sr. Germana Kim from Daegu Priory to Windhoek Priory

Sr. Leya Lukose from Jinja/Generalate District to India/Generalate District.

**REST IN PEACE**

+Sr. Leoni Joseph Manimala, 71, who died in Punalur, India on September 10.

+Sr. Assumpta Baptistela, 84, who died in Sorocaba on September 27.

+Sr. Heriberta Erhard, 88, who died in Haus St. Benedict/Tutzing on October 7.

+Sr. Elgiva Fallert, 106, who died in Presidente Prudente on October 22.

**THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED.  
THE GENERALATE**