CANONICAL VISITATION
On 8th March, we had the joy to welcome Mother Angela and Sr. Salete for a Canonical Visitation scheduled from 10th March to 10th April. Unlike other Canonical Visitations we had ever known, this one was different and had a new approach. The Visitators had beforehand the Priory members arranged in to small groups based on their monastic date of profession. So during the time of the visitation, members of each group confined in the Priory House where together with Mother Angela and Sister Salete worked as a team. The atmosphere was good and renewing. Together, looking introspectively into the Priory’s progress and challenges since the last General Chapter was enjoyable. The two days assigned to each group passed out so quickly such that even though having attained the desired goal, each group would have wished for more time. Looking at the directives of the previous General Chapter, we were able to assert the Priory’s progress into this regard. The Novitiate members too had their day with the Visitators. The formation and Vocation Promotion teams also had a day to meet with Mother Angela and Sr. Salete. Apart from working with the groups, they visited each Community for a first-hand experience of the life of its members.

On 10th April we had the official closing day of the Canonical Visitation. Nonetheless, the Visitors were still on their final touches. In the morning, they met with the sisters working in our Schools and FACHO. They shared the concrete situation in the learning facilities: progresses, challenges and concerns. In the afternoon, the hour to conclude had come! Many sisters gathered in the Community Room to receive the summary report of the visitation from Mother Angela and Sister Salete. It was quite impressive. M. Angela concluded her speech with the words of St. Paul, “Rejoice. Become mature, be encouraged, be of the same mind, be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss” (2Cor 13:11-12).
Mother Angela and Sr. Salete, we dearly thank you for enkindling in us the fire of our Missionary Benedictine calling and all that together with you we were able to achieve.

**Benedictine Family Meeting**  
*(ASG, Priory House)*

On March 18, the traditional Benedictine Family Gathering was held in Rio Doce. As in previous years, Professor, Fr. Bruno Carneiro Lira, OSB, was the main speaker who sustained his hearers in suspense, teaching on the family relating to the Benedictine Spirituality. About 200 people mainly parents, teenagers, children, teachers and fans of the Rule of St. Benedict were present. Among the presented items in addition the teaching of Fr. Bruno were various games. Indeed, all were satisfied and appreciated the cordial reception. They likewise rejoiced to partake in a delicious bean stew offered by the sisters.

**Commissioning Ceremony**  
*(SSC, Caruaru)*

In the afternoon of 07 March, we had a commissioning ceremony for the members of the Missionary Childhood Association and the Missionary Youth Movement. The teachers had invited Sr. Caritas to lead in the celebration held in the Chapel of Colégio Sagrado Coração, Caruaru. The kids were attentive in every moment and to every gesture during the occasion. They participated quite well.

For the final rite in the celebration, all received a ring made of *Tucum* (a palm tree used in making rings), a symbol of the commitment of the Church to the poor. God is on the side of the poor and has a preferential love for them. Therefore, having been commissioned, they have the mandate to exercise a preferential option for the poor, which impels them to strive to promote the human dignity. Our wish for them is that they be true missionaries who make Jesus Christ known and loved. It is our hope that they generously share their possessions and sacrifices with those in need.

**A Cultural Event**  
*(Comunidade São João XXIII, Ouro Preto)*

March 14, usually a normal learning day in FACHO *(Faculdade de Ciências humanas de Olinda)*, was taken over by the celebration of an historical figure in Brazil, Castro Alves. He was born in 1847 and was a great Brazilian Poet and playwright. We celebrate him in the college! With the daily rush of events, the day seemed to pass by without paying attention to the significance of that date. Nonetheless, it was not the case in FACHO. Coming to the college, and taking a glance at the executive auditorium, there were lecturers, students and other requested persons preparing the place for the event. It was the ‘*I Poeme-se - Poem yourself*‘, The musical group of the Medellín band brought everyone present to a familiar and comforting light feeling of the classic blues. Although the students doing literature had organized this, students from other faculties like psychology and pedagogy participated. As the students gathered in the anteroom ready to stage their presentation, one could already
sense the depth of art blended in psychology. The literature students, some lecturers and psychology students recited wonderful poems. The Musical bands played sweet melodies, some of which were known to the audience but magnificently presented, they still touched the spectators to the core of their beings. The congregation was highly delighted and the entertainments left imperishable memories in all those who honoured the occasion.

A DEMONSTRATION IN HOSPITAL DEFENSE (HMSV, Barbalha)

After a thorough data analysis of patients attendance in the hospitals in Barbalha, which by far exceeded the financial support from SUS, several meetings were held in Barbalha and Fortaleza in Brasilia, to look into the welfare of the three hospitals in Barbalha namely: Hospital São Vicente, Hospital do Coração and Hospital Santo Antônio. This hatched the idea of a peaceful match in support for the noble cause of continuing to save life and avoiding suspension of the services provided by the hospitals. On March 31, the peaceful demonstration began in front of the Hospital Santo Antônio and proceeded up to the Hospital São Vicente. Men and women from all walks of life took part in the walk. As usual, the common people turned up in big numbers as well as persons in high authority positions. This included the directors of the hospitals, doctors, hospital staff, businesspersons and politicians hailing from the region. To crown it all, the presence of the Mayor of the city, Mr. Argemiro Sampaio added weight to the event. The multitude spoke in one voice emphasising that it was of great importance to maintain the services rendered by the hospitals, not only to the people from Ceara, but also to patients from the neighbouring States. All participants saw the impossibility of terminating services in Oncology, Neurology and Cardiology departments. Shortly before the crowds dispersed, the Senator, Mr. Eunício Oliveira popped in and made a public announcement that new allocations of funds for the Hospitals in Barbalha will be made. The walk seemed to have achieved the desired goal! We hope that his promise will soon be realized. All for the glory of God.

BENEDICTINE YOUTH DAY (01 APRIL) (Comunidade Sagrado Coração, Caruaru)

The seventh anniversary of the Benedictine Youth Day, took place at the Colégio Sagrado
Coração (CSC). We delighted at the presentation of the young people and the trainers from the three schools. The presence of FACHO, represented by two lecturers and six students added a great joy to the occasion. Although it was their first time to attend, they naturally fitted in the group. A good number of the sisters were also present. This included Sr. Regiane and Sr. Nicoli, junior sisters from Sorocaba who are in our Priory, preparing for final profession together with Sr. Vanderlany. To this group, Sr. Consuelo presented a portrait of St. Benedict and the Benedictine values, showing their relevance to the youth of today.

The youths appreciated the event and found it interesting. However, they wished it would have been an overnight event, with some other activities added especially swimming. On the side of the trainers, the turn-up of participants was far less to their expectations and something has to be done to improve it. They pointed out that propagation, which is a key to the success of any event, was lacking in the case of the Benedictine Youth Day. As a way forward, showing videos that highlight it would possibly be a good investment in the social network.

All in all, the meeting was good. The young people from the three schools and the college interacted well, familiarized with each other and shared moments of prayer and reflections.

EASTER CICM (Bairro Novo, Olinda)

The 8th and 9th grade students gathered in the Chapel to take part in the liturgy of the Word of God prepared by Mr. Wilson (a teacher) and presided over by Fr. Lima, our Chaplain. It was a moment of deep spiritual experience. Sr. Inês, our director and the members of the Staff were present. In his address to the students, Fr. Lima related the Easter account to their lives. He then went round the Church sprinkling the people with Holy water. As the ceremony was ending, the coordinator Mrs. Nilza gave motivating and encouraging words and wished a Good Easter all.

The children of Preschool and Elementary School, had a whole day to participate in some Holy Week skits, prepared to the level of their understanding. The teachers in Religious Education prepared a celebration of Light, Jesus’ triumph entry into Jerusalem, the washing of the feet and the Last Super. All took place in the open air staged by the parents and teachers who played the role of Jesus and His disciples in the skits. The Kids were fascinated! They remained attentive and silent in all the scenes and joyfully participated in every thing. They expressed the climax of their joy at the scene of Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem where they sung and waved branches. It was a very exciting, dignified and beautiful Easter
celebration. Happy Easter and may Jesus resurrect in each one’s heart.

THE MISSION IS NOT OURS!
(Comunidade de São José, Casa Caiada)
From 21 to 23 - Sr. Dircilene participated in the II Missionary Seminar, which took place in Colônia Salesiana in the city of Jaboatão dos Guararapes, sponsored by the Regional Missionary Council. The theme was “Northeast people on Mission: The Gospel is the joy for an outgoing Church!” In his address on Mission, His Lordship, Bishop Magnus, stressed that only when we are filled with joy and ready availability to reach out, can we reflect Mission. There are many difficulties in the missionary work, nonetheless, the encounter with the Risen Lord makes us joyfully go out for Mission. The initiative, the going out and the motivation for Mission is the work of the Trinity God, who in His permanent, continues motion, generates dialogue, communication, love and communion. God is life and freedom, who in history has manifested himself as a merciful Father. Therefore, we need not to be afraid to place our lives and gifts at the service of others and allow ourselves to be touched by their pains and sufferings.

Our Experience in Sebatião Laranjeiras
(Comunidade São Bento)
It’s barely a month since our community was transferred from Legoa Real to Sebatião Laranjeiras. Already, we are aware that the Catholic faithful make 30% of the population. Although one can locate many Churches in the area, it still calls for the reawakening of the Catholic faith. Hence, we believe that this is our primary task in the region. We are here to support our brothers and sisters who are wavering in their catholic faith.

The people are friendly. Every now and then, we get visitors from the society; people who want to extent to us a gesture of love in the form of plants, fruits food, etc, which they bring along. We are grateful. However, the high consumption of alcohol is a big challenge and our concern. A great number of men and women are alcoholic! It takes the grace of God, in whose Name we carry out the Mission, to make them sober.

CONGRATULATIONS, MOTHER PRIORESS!
On April 22 we celebrated the feast day (birthday) of our Prioress, Sr. Madalena Mendonça. Indeed, it was a delightful moment for the entire Community, as the spirit of joy, peace and familyhood filled the atmosphere. The beautiful decorations in all the common places gave a reason for a smile as one beheld the wonders of creation.

The Holy Mass was at 9 am, a suitable time for the sisters from the outstations to participate. Likewise, the brother of Sr. Madalena together with his wife and their two sons could make for the celebration. This added our joy in the celebration. It was a lively Holy Mass. Since it was still within the Easter octave, the songs had the joyous tone of Easter. The celebrant, Fr. Policarpo, OSB, gave a short and inspiring homily.
Following the Holy Mass, we had a reception at the parlour. Sr. Madalena cut the birthday cake. Along with it were the soft drinks the sisters distributed to the people. After the festive meal, we had a lively program of entertainments. Groups based on the different communities presented their items. The art of presentation revealed a great creativity of the sisters. We ended the festive and fraternal day with the 1st Vespers of the Divine Mercy Sunday. We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ may continue blessing and sustaining Sr. Madalena in her services to our Priory.

**THE UNTIRING MISSIONARY**
*(Nossa Senhora das Graças, Buíque)*

Sr. Edith Lemos, already over 80 years of age, is an untiring missionary. She is a member of the Buíque Community. Occasionally, she assists in the celebration of the liturgy of the word in the Church of our Lady of Aparecida. In addition, on every Thursday she joins the Prison Pastoral Group, made of about 12 lay members of the Church. They visit the women’s prison in Buíque, which has more than 300 inmates of different age groups. It is striking to note the high number of the young pregnant women in this confinement! At the moment, six of them have new-born babies. The Prison Pastoral Group, basically holds one to one conversations with individual inmates, and in group, they pray the rosary and give to them catechesis. Once a month, the priest goes there to celebrate the Holy Mass. Sr. Edith holds the inmates so dear to her heart. After every visit, she returns home burdened with cares and concerns over the condition of those women prisoners. Nevertheless, she is ever grateful to God for opportunity given to the inmates to get spiritual assistance.

**Departed From Our Midst!**

Farewell, Sister Mirtes, OSB!

So soon, you went away from us. An icon of humility, gentleness and love you were! None could predict that your hour to go and be with your spouse for all eternity had come. That evening of 9th March, He who loved you with an everlasting love came for you. Our loving memories of you, Sr. Mirtes, are unforgotten. Farewell beloved! Intercede for us.

**Abbreviations**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMSV</td>
<td>Hospital Maternidade São Vicente de Paulo</td>
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<tr>
<td>CICM</td>
<td>Comunidade Imaculado Coração de Maria</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCS</td>
<td>Colégio Sagrado Coração</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASG</td>
<td>Academia Santa Gertrudes</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUS</td>
<td>O Sistema Único de Saúde (The Unified Health System)</td>
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