



# SUORE DOMENICANE di S. Caterina da Siena

## FOGLIO INFORMATIVO

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### PROVINCE OF LATIN AMERICA

#### FINAL PROFESSION OF SR. M. LUCIA DUACASTELLA

*“Leave your country.....for a country which I shall show you” Genesis 12”*

With great joy I emitted my Final Profession on 7th February 2009. It was a beautiful event preceded by a retreat and a meeting of the Province. These were two moments that allowed me to feel accompanied by the entire Province and Congregation.

The ceremony and the feast were very affectionately prepared by the sisters and many lay friends, who did their best so that everything might reflect the joy, the praise and the communion of what we were going to live.

We chose to celebrate the feast in La Consulta, where I had made my first experience and my novitiate: it is the community that had seen my journey of search, of growth, of docility, and that now was there to accompany my definitive “yes”.

I lived the celebration with trust, peace and joy, discovering, even during the preparatory time, the depth of each gesture, of each word. I was accompanied by the figure of Abraham who, called by God, started moving towards an unknown land, supported by a promise of life and fecundity.

On the previous days, during the retreat, we meditated the Gospel: the woman who broke the pot and poured the perfume on the feet of Jesus. I discovered that, with a simple gesture, she had converted into perfume the whole story that united her to Jesus, the trust, tenderness and love; she had converted her whole being into perfume, aiming at transforming herself into surrender.

To emit the perpetual vows means, for me, to express in a gesture (kneeling down and putting my hands on those of the Prioress Provincial), and in few words (the formula of profession), the entire story, the trust, the abandonment in God for the future, the intimacy experienced and savoured with Jesus, the experience of being a loved daughter, the passion for being sent and, finally, my life in the hands of Jesus and of my sisters. This was an expression of my transformation into perfume and surrender.

The numerous signs of proximity and joy on behalf of the community, of my family and friends, of the sisters and many other people present in different ways; the enthusiasm of the feast with dances in the gymnasium of the school, led me to the experience that the answer to a call, with one's own offered life, is a gift for each and everyone.

Once back in Peru, I celebrated a thanksgiving moment of prayer with the community of Callao of Paramonga; it was also a moment of sharing and toast for the mercy of God and my “yes” to his call.

The promise of God to Abraham continues to animate my journey and that of the people with whom I go on sharing my life and my joys, inviting everyone to look beyond, to let ourselves be guided, to trust a promise and a love that are beyond any imagination, thus allowing us to go on with our journey of faith.

**Sr. M. Lucia Duacastella**



#### AGRELO 2009: RETREAT AND PROVINCIAL MEETING

From January 28 up to February 5, 2009, we experienced very beautiful meeting days with the Lord and our sisters.

Particularly for me, a postulant, EVERYTHING was new, starting from 6 days of silence up to a fraternal sharing among many sisters.

We started our retreat with the invitation, by Fr Brian Pierce, to live the present moment “in the presence of God and in simple attention”; to look at everything with love. I think that these

words sum up the experience of those days. I learned how to look at things, and the Lord offered me the gift of seeing many things within a short time and in a simple way. During those days, I learnt what it means to be brothers and sisters and what sharing means, starting from silence; I learned what taking life to prayer means, as well as what it means to turn our life into prayer; to go deep into our Dominican identity and into the way by which the charism is born anew in each person, in each sister and brother, giving a particular and unique touch to each one.

It was a grace also the sharing with sisters whom we knew only by name. I knew that our Province includes four countries: Argentine, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, but it was difficult for me to imagine how they were situated...now each of my sisters has a face and the reality they live in does not escape from my heart. I experienced that the sharing of our LIFE, the dreams, the joys and sorrows encourage us, give us strength and fill our life with hope. This is because we are never alone, whether we are sad or rejoice. I thank the Lord, above all, for the testimony of my senior sisters, for their sharing and fidelity, for their constant searching, for their being a living Gospel, because I discover the freshness of the Gospel in their life.

This was my experience, which I have asked to share with you. With a warm embrace.

**Elisa** (postulant).



## PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

**19<sup>th</sup>** March: Sr. M. Razia Barkat, Sr. M. Lilian Raphael, Sr. M. Agnes Anton, Sr. M. Sabina Chanan e Sr. M. Rose Daniel celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Religious Profession.

The weeks before the celebration were lived with trepidation because of the Country's tense political atmosphere. Thanking God, just a few days before the celebration, the atmosphere was sufficiently cleared, allowing a serene function, with the participation of the parents and all the invitees. The Nuncio and his secretary arrived from Islamabad by car on 18<sup>th</sup> evening and, according to their desire, they were accommodated in our convent. In the evening, they participated in the celebration of Vespers with the community. Father James Rossini, who has been working with Sr. M. Razia Barkat in Kabul for one full year, came from Italy for the occasion.

The Eucharist was celebrated in the Cathedral, presided by the Nuncio and concelebrated by the Vice-Provincial of the Dominicans, the Vicar of the Bishop (His Excellency the Bishop being in Hyderabad for the Episcopal meeting), and about thirty Dominican and Diocesan Priests. The Cathedral was ultra-packed with relatives, friends, sisters, etc. The Nuncio himself read and handed over to the sisters the parchment with the blessing of the Holy Father.

The festive lunch was ready in the premises of the Sacred Heart School for all the participants (including the policemen).

The community of Faisalabad mobilised all its energies to prepare and realise the celebration. The aspirants and the co-workers proved really marvellous with their untiring co-operation.

We are thankful to God for his help and protection, for the spiritual gifts with which He enriches us, giving everyone of us the occasion of renewing our "YES" to the Lord with deep gratitude, together with our five Sisters.

**20<sup>th</sup>** March: A seminar on St. Catherine of Siena was held in the hall of the Sacred Heart School. The seminar was organised by the vice-Province of the Dominican Fathers, in collaboration with us and with the other Congregations of Dominican Sisters in Pakistan.

After an introduction by Sr. M. Tahira Hadayat, the following three topics were treated:

1. The life, the writings and the spirituality of St. Catherine (Father Jamshed Albert OP).
2. St. Paul in the life and writings of St. Catherine (Sr. Roshan, Missionary of the School).
3. The love of Catherine for Christ Crucified and His passion (Father Raphael Mehnga, OP).

The programme started at 09,00 and was concluded at 13,30 with a simple fraternal agape in the same hall. Soon after lunch, the organisers left for Multan, to repeat the seminar in the Convent of the Missionaries of the School, on 21<sup>st</sup> morning. It was beautiful to feel members of the great Dominican Family.

**F**or almost one month we enjoyed the supply of electric energy for the whole day, but now, with the arrival of heat, it has started once again to play hide-and-seek, a thing that paralyses all the activities, making life heavier and difficult. Patience! Everything is grace!

## DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

### IBADAN: ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF JOHN AND OF THE DE PACE FAMILY

February 20 was a memorable day, full of joy: it was the day in which we welcomed among us Giovanni Serafin (a cousin of Sr. M. Consuelo) together with Constance and Stefania De Pace (father and sister of Sr. M. Simona. Their coming brought many changes in our premises, Their experiences in our community can be compared with our journey of faith. Before their arrival, the weather was quite favourable, with an abundance of water and electric energy, but after two or three days everything went on upside-down: hot weather, lack of water and electricity. Despite this unfavourable situation, they felt at home and carried on their work joyfully. We were able to see in them the fulfilment of what Jesus calls us to, namely to take our daily cross and to follow him. Their patience and their heroic courage challenged and spurred us to sacrifice our time and to offer a helping hand in their work of flooring some paths, of renewing the terrace and of carrying on some electric work.

To express appreciation and gratitude, the community organised a wonderful recreation: the guests put on African garments and we entertained them with dances and dramas. The moment of their departure was painful. We shall never forget the simplicity of Stefania and her quickness in saying "I am sorry": we shall never forget the loving presence of "Papà" and his open arms ready to embrace us every time he met us; we shall never forget John with his jovial and friendly way of causing us to laugh. We pray that the Lord may reward their generosity.

The Church invites us to a journey of prayer, fast and alms-giving. This year we are throwing the focus on our awareness and self-knowledge, a thing that will help us to love and serve God in our neighbours. The love of God questions us and demands an interior work, so that we may always be ready to tell Him "YES". During this Lenten season, the Gospel encourages us to offer ourselves to God, who loves us and offers himself to us. Our Sisters Anthonia and Gloria, through the grace of God and in obedience to the Lord, have made a step forward in their call to the mission: they will soon fly to Italy for further study on religious life and to serve God in the neighbours, wherever obedience will send them. We pray that the Lord may assist them with his strength to fulfil his holy will.



### JUNIORS MEETING

**ABATETE:** Every opportunity is a new experience, and every experience is a moment of learning. February 20-23, 2009, were memorable days for us Juniors Sisters, who had three newly professed sisters added to our number. On the arrival day, we were warmly received by the sisters in the Abatete Community, Anambra State. We were moved at the sight of the beautiful decoration of flowers and ribbons, which beautified every angle of the community.

On the second day there was a presentation delivered by Rev. Sr. Maria Teresa Cavallo, op, on the aspect of the life and mission of St. Dominic: Preaching as a channel to proclaim the Word of God. She said that to preach is more than to say something or to inform. To preach is to communicate with passion, to give to others what one has contemplated and enjoyed. She stressed the reality that preaching is a transmission of faith that involves the whole human person. She emphasized that the channel of preaching is not limited only to words, but extends to music, service, welcoming attitude, dancing, encouraging attitude and, more importantly, preaching with our whole beings (lives).

We were offered the opportunity to witness the final profession of the Benedictine nuns of St. Scholastica, Umuoji, a town close to the Abatete Community. We gave thanks to God for the life of the five sisters who offered themselves totally for the love of God and humanity. It was indeed a moment of thanksgiving for the gift of our vocation.

On the third day, we shared our thoughts on the letter of Mother Viviana. It was a challenging moment and a reminder of our lives as missionaries. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to look inwardly and to question our life of preaching as Dominicans. The concrete example of our sisters who are already living missionary experiences, encourages and tells us that we, too, can make it, if we want. It calls for generosity of heart and availability.

Furthermore, we made a trip to the Governor of Anambra State – His Excellency, Peter Obi. He welcomed and entertained us kindly. It was a privilege to hear one like him challenging our lives as religious. A man full of life and wisdom. Our meeting with him was really an 'eye opener'. We concluded the section by sharing and evaluating the programme of events. It was, indeed, a joyful and beautiful reality to be together as sisters. It was a moment that we, juniors, will never forget!

In a very special way we thank our Delegate, Sr. Margaret Hussain, OP, for making sure that the meeting would take the shape it ought to. We, the juniors, appreciate her motherly love, care and concern.

From: *Sr. M. Gloria, Sr. M. Veronica, Sr. M. Francisca, Sr. M. Ijeoma, Sr. M. Anthonia, Sr. M. Angela, Sr. M. Sylvia, Sr. M. Jacqueline and Sr. M. Ngozi, OP*

## DELEGATION OF FRANCE-SPAIN

**GAILLAC, 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH ,2009**

On the rather cool, but already sunny spring morning of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009, four Dominican Sisters set on their journey towards the oriental Pyrenees: Sr. Siméon and Sr. Paul, were invited to represent the Congregation -in the absence of the Delegate Sr. Elvira and Marie Christophe- : Sr. Georges-Marie in answer to a personal invitation, and Sr. M. Romina, who offered her service as a driver.

The Saint Joseph's Hostel at Prades was ready to celebrate a double anniversary: its foundation by the Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament, in 1889, and the arrival of the Dominican Sisters in 1958. The Congregation assumed the tutelage of the Institute many years ago.

The Eucharist was celebrated in the church of Prades and presided by the Bishop of Perpignan. In his homily, Monsignor Marceau stressed the dignity of the whole human being: "let us not undersell man". A happy coincidence of dates allowed the Parish priest to announce that Sr. Siméon was celebrating her birthday, an applauded piece of news.

The assembly was then invited to visit the Hostel for a convivial aperitif in the courtyard, before the snow-clad Canigou, surrounded by peach trees in flowers: this rural decoration accompanied the feast. Sr. Simeon was surrounded by her old pupils: grown up mothers, fathers, as well as grand-mothers and grand-fathers. Some of them had come from afar to participate in the feast Sr. Georges-Marie and Sr. Paule also were very happy to see known faces afresh. Sr. M. Romina noticed the past life of the hostel, which was abundantly illustrated with panels. It was a joy to listen to persons speaking with emotion and gratitude about the sisters they had met there, particularly Sr. Théophane and Sr. André, but also Sr. Gemma and Sr. Clementine. "They were very kind and we were very happy with them in the hostel". The closing speech remembered Sr. Saint Bruno and Sr. Jeanne Françoise.

At lunch time, we enjoyed a cold buffet accompanied by "moscato", in a very warm room. Finally we decided to take our way back to Gaillac-Albi.

We cannot close this article without mentioning an extract of the prayer to St. Joseph, which was read at the end of the Holy Mass. "Saint Joseph, you chose to live in the shadow, with delicacy and discretion. In silence and in prayer, Joseph, you strengthened your faith day after day without ever stopping along the way of your life".

We render thanks to the Lord for each of our sisters who dedicated themselves to the service of the youth in silence, prayer, shadow....after the imitation of St. Joseph.

***Sr. Siméon e Sr. Paule***



### **My experience at the WORLD SOCIAL FORUM in BELEM (BRAZIL) 2009**

27<sup>th</sup> January/ 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2009

Sharing my experiences.

'...As I looked, I saw that there was a huge number, impossible for anyone to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language ...' (Rev. 7:9.)

This verse of the Book of Revelation best describes my experience during the ten days of the World Social Forum in Belem, Brazil 2009. It was the gathering of a huge number of people from every nation, race, tribe and language. People who, though different because of the unavoidable diversities, were united in Someone and something that cannot be divided– God and our common human heritage – Imago Dei.

I saw many people, moving like the sea. I felt that they might be confused, since they looked so much different from one another. But no, the smiles, the movement of the lips, trying to utter words of kindness and welcome, dismissed my fears. Soon I was to experience that the things which bind us together are more than the few ones which separate us, since we are the human race, created by the same God.

The unfolding of events during the Social Forum was even more diverse, but all of them pointed at one issue – How every human person can feel the world to be his/hers, not minding if the person is from the North or South, from the First or Third World. In unison, all the voices were made one, saying one thing: Another World Is Possible!

One major issue, felt by all peoples gathered in Belem, was that of the current Financial Crisis – A clear sign that the Capitalistic Structures of the world have failed. The question now is: where do we go from here? Which direction has to be taken and by whom? Is there another way out? Is another World Possible? In summary: is there any ALTERNATIVE to our present predicament?

Most of the answers to the above questions pointed at the need to give the Economic power of the world to the people. To empower each human person, every nation with the fullness of development. To transform the world into that which every human person is – a social being who cannot survive in isolation. To achieve this, we need a Net Work of peoples, nations, languages with the same ideology, moving towards a socialistic environment. Only in this way will another world be possible.

Other themes were also treated, like: Protection of the environment for the good of the human race, the harshness of the Western world towards migrants of the third world, the issue of trafficking in persons and the sex industries, the enslavement of international Debts policy; marginalization and discrimination of peoples, especially women; the wars raging nations like Gaza, DRC and many tribal wars in the world; the unstable political situation, especially in most of the African countries. Who is benefiting from all these and who are the victims? Considering all the above themes and many other situations of the present world, there was a general conclusion that the world, as we look at it today, is not only in a Financial/Economic crisis, but also in a series of many other crisis, which should not be paid lesser attention than that paid to the Financial/Economic crisis.

From a Dominican point of view, what do I feel and think about all this? As I reflect, one word continues to come to my mind: ‘Preaching Justice...’ Yes, this is our call, the preaching of the Truth right from the grassroots, from the beginning of our formation as Dominicans. I feel that the Truth of God’s Justice is what we, as Dominicans, are called to preach, today more than ever, as our contribution in making another world possible.

The preaching of Justice should penetrate all our Dominican life and overflow into all our ministries. I feel strongly the call to educate the mind, especially the minds of the youth to be more just and true. This should be done right from the years of their initial formation, from the time they are being prepared for their preaching mission. When the mind and intellect are not educated to be just from the start, it becomes more difficult to practise justice with the passing of years. One can give only what one has or receives. For this reason, I suggest that even at our various formation stages and in the branches of the Dominican family, especially during these years of our Jubilee celebration, the issue of preaching justice should be more emphasized.

Finally, I believe that it is when each human person submits to a just and true way of thinking, acting and living, that each human person can enjoy the fullness of Peace. Yes, because JUSTICE shall march before and then PEACE will follow.

*Sr. M. Paulina Chioma Ogbonnaya, O.P*  
Regional Promoter for Justice and Peace  
Dominican Sisters Africa



**BARI- 5<sup>th</sup> March** - We have experienced the joy and the beauty of receiving and welcoming an invitation from the ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue group of seminarians from the Regional Seminary of Puglia, residing in Molfetta (Bari).

Every Thursday the seminarians, divided into ecumenical, liturgical, pastoral groups, etc., go deep into themes inherent to one’s own group of belonging. For this purpose, Father Damien Bova, Prior of the community, Father Rosario Scognamiglio and the undersigned, Sr. M. Consuelo, were invited by the ecumenical group to speak respectively on “Relation between pilgrims and the Basilica of St. Nicholas, ‘Institute of Ecumenical Theology” and the “Ecumenical Centre”.

We were invited also to share the supper in a large refectory, in front of a beautiful surprise, at least for me: the sight of 180 seminarians, plus the professors and formators. It was a scene I had never seen before: a group of numerous youths, on their journey to priesthood, impressed me a lot!

After supper, the ecumenical group (50 seminarians), welcomed us to one of the beautiful classrooms, which looked like small “*Aulae Magnae*”. After a joyful initial prayer, my two dear confreres soon offered me the opportunity to start the meeting. Before touching the talk on the meaning and activity of the ecumenical Centre, I presented the motive of our opening a community in Bari, namely that of collaborating with the Dominican Fathers: to prove that, if we want, unity is possible, thanks to the experience of our Congregation. Thus I made a synthesis of the Congregation’s history and of our restored unity.

Then, through a Power Point, I showed the activities of the Centre: they are limited, if compared to the demands and possibilities, but with the desire of animating a powerful development.

In turn, then, the Prior and Father Rosario exposed the requested topics. The youths were very much attentive and the meeting flowed to an interesting debate, above all at the question about the relation between the Dominican charism and ecumenism.

I must say that in this region of Italy, and in its history, there is a particular sensitivity for the ecumenism. It was beautiful to verify that many youths desire to walk along this furrow, of which we know when the sowing is done, but we do not know the hour of harvest.

While the greeting rite, made up of thanksgiving and complementation, went on, I collected many requests of prayers from the youths, asking the grace of being helped to live coherently the vocation, which they perceive. I forward these requests to you, dear sisters, who are aware of the many needs in the Lord’s vineyard. *Sr. M. Consuelo*

**A serious mourning** for the Diocese of Bari. Late on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> March, while returning to the seminary after a meeting at Bitonto, the rector of the seminary, Monsignor Anthony Ladisa, who was sitting in the first line on the evening of our meeting in Molfetta on 5<sup>th</sup> March, breathed his last in a road accident, probably due to a sudden illness. In the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup> April, while our F. I. was going to be published, the funerals went on in the Cathedral, with the participation of an immense crowd of people, priests and seminarians. Monsignor Vito Angiuli, a companion of his in the seminary, and the Episcopal Vicar of this diocese, expressed very well our feelings. He thanked Don Tonino for being his faithful friend, the parish-pastor, a priest with many offices at regional and national level (vice-director of CNV), a guide indicating secure ways to the youths, a man at everybody’s side with a witty character; a man of God who did never step behind unduly.

The participation in the mourning was very dense, but the common question was: “What does the Lord ask us through this sign, this sudden loss? Let each one answer this question, but Don Tonino will surely continue to follow the youths from heaven and to implore vocations in the Church.



## Closing of the diocesan process on the presumed miracle attributed to the Servant of God Theresa Solari



As already mentioned through the F. I. of last month, while the centenary year of the death of Mother Theresa Solari is drawing to his conclusion, a unplanned , though desired event has come to fill us up with joy and hope.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, morning, the Diocesan process on the miracle attributed to Mother Theresa Solari, which started on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007, came to its conclusion in the hall of the “*Cancelleria Arcivescovile*” of Genova .

The miraculous event is about a child whose birth (June 2005) was in serious danger of life and who, despite a delicate surgery courageously effectuated on the newly born child, in the Hospital of Giannina Gaslini in Genova, seemed to be destined to a life with grave limitations. The intercession of Theresa Solari, implored trustfully by the parents of the child and by their close friends, obtained the complete healing from God, with the consequent functioning of all the physical organs in full normality and in regular growth.

The conclusion of the process took place in the presence of Monsignor Luigi Palletti, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of Genova, as “specialiter” appointed by Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco to preside this 19<sup>th</sup> and last tribunal session of Fr. Luigi Nuovo C. M., delegated Judge, Can. Vito Chiesa Promoter of justice, the notary Don Andrea Fasciolo, a group of sisters from the General Curia and the communities of Genova Ave Maria and Genova Quinto. Some lay persons were also present, among whom the father of the healed child. Having the integrity and authenticity of the original acts and their certified copies been verified, duly signed and stamped, Sr. Felicita Torre, the vice-scrutiniser, was appointed as bearer of all the certified documentation to the Congregation for the causes of Saints in Rome. Then the parcels were sealed: the one containing the original acts of the process will be kept in the archive of the Archiepiscopal Curia, the other two were handed over to the appointed bearer who took the oath of fulfilling her task faithfully

Once the canonical acts were concluded, Monsignor Luigi Palletti greeted all those who were present reminding us all *that holiness is not reserved to a few : it is a call given to every baptised person. In her wise magisterium, the Church shows us some figures as models of holiness, figures who practised the virtue in an exemplar way. What is important for us to know is that the practice of virtue leads us to the full possession of the Kingdom promised by God, and into which Baptism has already inserted us.* He concluded saying: *We are happy that this phase is close to the goal and hope that the Church may indicate one day Mother Theresa Solari as testimony of holiness to be venerated; meanwhile we rejoice at the sight of the good she operated during her life , leaving behind an up-to-date visible sign with the presence of the Dominican sisters.*

This event was lived by the participants with intense emotion, because the simplicity of the acts carried on brought to emergence the depth of their meaning: God’s love calls all of us to holiness and the Church is happy to encourage all earthly pilgrims, showing to them the masters of life to be followed out of those who already live in the embrace of God.

A lady who was present, ex-teacher of the sisters’ nursery school, witnessed: *“I am happy for my participation in this moving moment: it has offered me a great joy, which I shall keep in my heart as a precious gift. During this celebration of the centenary year, I have experienced a strong sensation of peace and serenity. Every time I participated in its functions I returned home always enriched with something precious to share with others. This, to me, is a true miracle of Mother Theresa Solari, who taught us how to think and take care of our neighbours, above all the needy children; to love them as Jesus taught us, and to take them as an example in our journey of holiness towards God. I thank Mother Theresa for her example of love and charity, an example that helps us to grow in faith”.*

## **From the General Curia**

### **March 2009**

Here are some pieces of news already foreseen in the calendar of the previous F. I.

**March 5:** Some sisters of the General Curia, Sr. M. Juana, Sr. M. Laura and Sr. M. Carla, were present for the conclusion of the process on the miracle attributed to Mother Theresa Solari, an event narrated in the preceding pages.

**March 13:** The volunteers Constance and Stefania De Pace came back from Nigeria, glad for the time spent in Ibadan, despite the heat and the fatigue demanded by the work. Sr. M. Gloria Eze and Sr. M. Anthonia Nwabueze came to Italy with them. They will go deep into themes on the theology of Consecrated Life, in the Claretianum.

**March 9-19:** Sr. M. Christophe visited the communities in Slovenia to know the place and to share moments of life with the sisters. It was for her an experience of intense fraternity and of acquaintance with the reality in which our two communities live. On her way back, she stopped in our communities of Venice, Ponte della Priula and Trebaseleghe, communities which she had never seen before.

**28 March:** Sr. M. Celina came back from Nigeria together with the volunteer John Serafin, the electrician with golden hands, who has been able to solve many problems in the convent and hospital of Ibadan. Sr. M. Veronica Ilegbunem came with him for a specific updating in the nursing field, which she will effectuate in our health care centre, Turin.

**March 20-21:** Sr. M. Juana, as member of the Commission for Justice, UISG/USG, participated in the first International Conference on the theme: “Life, family, development: the role of women in the promotion of human rights”, a theme inspired by the invitation addressed to the women by John Paul

II with the Encyclical Letter “Evangelium vitae”, so that they might promote a new “feminism”. The Conference was held in the residence of the Pontifical Council for Justice and peace.

**Sunday 22:** The Prioress General went to Fiano to conduct a recollection Day for the parents of the children in the nursery school, helping them to penetrate and to live the Word of God.

**March 26 and 27:** The Prioress General, Sr. M. Celina e Sr. M. Laura participated in the Council of administration in our Health Care Centre, Turin.

**March 31, afternoon:** The prioress General went to greet the Juniors during a Congress organised by USMI at Rocca di Papa.

## **Calendar for April 2009**

**April 1:** Sr. M. Josephine Raphael returns to Pakistan after some years spent in Italy to update her formation for the sanitary field.

**April 5:** Sr. M. Alessia Spinelli, after a period of convalescence, following a knee surgery, goes back to Ibadan.

**April 15-17:** The Prioress General will preside the 56<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of USMI, which will be held in the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, with the following theme: “Which prophecy of religious life, today, in listening to the Word?”.

**April 19:** Sr. M. Judith Aguka will emit her Final Profession in the Church of “The most Holy Name of Mary” at Abatete, Nigeria.



*“For him who has understood our Easter, that Christ was immolated  
and that we need to celebrate the feast, eating the flesh of the Word,  
there is no moment in which he does not celebrate Easter,  
which means passage:  
in fact, with thought, words and every action  
it always passes from the things of life to God  
and hurries towards its city (Origene, against Celso 8, 22).*



*To all the readers of our F.I. :*

***Wishes for a Holy Easter***

