



SUORE DOMENICANE di S. Caterina da Siena

FOGLIO INFORMATIVO

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DELEGATION OF THE FRONTIERS

From the diary of a journey to the ecumenical Rome

January 24, at 14, 30: departure for Rome. All the students from the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey are ready to go to the airport of Geneva. They wait enthusiastically, since many of them have never been in Rome. An intense week is in store for us. We dedicate the first day, January 25, to a meeting with the members of the Pontifical Council for the promotion of the unity of Christians and with the members of the Council for the inter-religious dialogue, who have presented to us the work that they carry on in the ecumenical field. We have a special session for the emerged questions on Saturday, January 30. Cardinal Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for the promotion of unity of Christians, has welcomed and greeted us. In the afternoon, we participate with the Pope in the second Vespers for the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, in the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls, for the closing celebration of the week of prayers for the unity of Christians.

On January 26, we visit St. Peter's and the tomb of Pope John Paul II. An interesting and new experience for me has been the visit to the Necropolis under the Basilica of St. Peter, where we pray before the relics of St. Peter. It has been a very beautiful moment for all of us. In the afternoon, we visit the Centre Pro Union with the presentation of the programmes and the work that they carry on in it. I have found very interesting an activity for children, namely a brief explanation on ecumenism, on different Christian Churches, games and a feedback to verify what the children have understood. To me, this is an efficient way to overcome "fears of diversities", and for a future "basic" ecumenism.

After this meeting, we move around Piazza Navona, Fontana di Trevi, Piazza di Spagna and Piazza del Popolo.

The audience with the Pope on Wednesday 27 has been a special moment. Four of our students enjoy the privilege of greeting the Pope personally, remaining deeply impressed and happy. After the catechesis and during the presentation of the groups present in the audience, our group has emerged with a song in the Zwahili *Masiti Amen Siaku*. After this, we encounter the pastor and some members of the Valdese Church in Rome. We visit the catacombs of St. Callisto; we meet some members of *Propaganda Fide*, the community of St. Egidio in Santa Maria in Trastevere. We meet also some General Superiors of USMI, of the Focolari Movement and Vatican radio. We visit the Angelicum, where we have a very interesting exchange of questions and answers, thanks to the intellectual vivacity of our student, together with the competence and preparation of Fr. Charles Morerod.

We visit also the Dominican Sisters of St. Sisto, where we meet Bishop Farel (who takes care of us Catholic sisters in Bossey) and where they had invited our superiors General. Sr. M. Lilian Raphael, representative of Sr. M. Elvira, who at present is in Uganda, presents the charism and the history of our Congregation. Sr. Laura Restelli and some sisters from via degli Artisti are also present. There is a moment of prayer ending with the song of "Salve Regina". The students appreciate this moment of fraternity.

Sunday 31, after the holy Mass in the Parish of Transfiguration and after sharing our lunch, we move towards Fiumicino and...Geneva!

It has been an intense, interesting and provoking week for all of us.

Our journey to Rome had the following perspectives:

1. To give to the students the possibility of growing in the knowledge of the Catholic Church that is committed to the ecumenical journey, though it is not part of the World Council of Churches;
2. To meet representatives of this Church;

3. To Visit places of the old Christianity, when the Church was not divided.

I have felt that it is beautiful to collect some reflections, by asking the students to answer the following two questions:

- What is your personal experience of this journey to Rome?
- Which ecumenical progresses seem to have been promoted?

Here are their answers. I thank **Simana Stefania Iordache**, Rumanian Orthodox, who has helped me in the interview

† It is my first visit to Rome. I like the city because it is full of life and because it conjugates antiquity with modernity. I think that it is important for us to visit Roma because it introduces us to the old history. From the ecumenical viewpoint, I can say that this visit has made me to understand the contemporary situation of the Catholic Church in the ecumenical dialogue. To me, the encounter with the members of the Pontifical Council was too formal; the encounter with the Superiors General was positive and interesting, because I saw how the Catholic Church and the religious commit themselves to the society in a practical way. (**Iryna, Geek Catholic Church, Ukraine**).

✓ The Pontifical Council for the promotion of unity of the Christians impressed me, for the presence of many priests committed to dialogue with different confessions and Christian Churches, though I found the meeting to be too official. For the Institute of Bossey, it is important to see the centre of decisions taken in the Catholic Church. To me, the closing prayer of the week for the unity of Christians was too "Catholic". I expected an ecumenical prayer, with the participation of other Christian confessions. (**Abbè Cristophe, Roman-Catholic Church, Belgium**).

! Our visit to Rome was a practical opportunity to learn more about the Catholic Church, to learn how it is organised and how it goes ahead. From this viewpoint, the visit was perfect. However, since nothing can be perfect on earth, I wish to say that we did not get sufficiently clear answers in our meeting with the various commissions. I expected to find in them the answers, which I cannot find in books and our study in Bossey. I appreciate, and will not forget, the opportunity of knowing the organisation of the Catholic Church. (**Father Efraim, Greek -Orthodox, Syria**).

2 I realise that Rome has enriched me with the history of the Roman Empire, of Italy and of the Catholic Church. In my opinion, Rome is one of the greatest cities in the world! From an ecumenical point of view, it is vital for all Christians to understand how the churches function. Thus, coming to Rome, has helped me to understand better how the Catholic Church functions. (**Honathan, Church Disciples of Christ, USA**).

✚ The catacombs and the Necropolis of the Basilica of St. Peter have impressed me most, because I have seen how the Christians of the first centuries lived and witnessed their faith. It was very important for me to see the places of the old Church in Rome and to meet representatives who work in the ecumenical context; to see how the Catholic Church is involved in the ecumenical dialogue. I am happy to have seen that the commitment to the ecumenical formation is lived also in the Universities. (**Valentine, Roman Orthodox Church**).

† The visit to Rome was the opening of a door to the immense heritage that Christianity in general and the Roman Catholic Church in particular possess. A week could only help to have a glance at these resources. However, it exerted a great influence in my life. As they rightly said in Vatican II, I could ponder what it means to say "spiritual ecumenism". The real ecumenism lies in the heart of believers and it transcends all the external signs that seemingly give exclusivist approach. Our visit to Rome helped me to understand that which is common in all believers, but remains hidden in all confessional and denominational encounters. (**Thomas, Pentecostal Church, India**) (<http://lnx.domenicanecaterina.org/cpg1418/index.php?cat=56>)

At the end of the *Graduate School*, on February 5, many students travelled back to their original Country, some of them did not because they intend to go on with Master. After living and sharing together this experience, with its difficulties and joys, dialogues and confrontation to understand better the church we belong to and the churches of our friends/ companions, we can say that we have learned a lot from one another. However, a question arises in our heart, "*Why are we divided? Why do we live divided when, despite our differences, we share the same journey in the following of Christ the Lord? If we, frail and sinful creatures, feel sorry for this division, what does our Lord Jesus Christ "feel", He who prayed the Father for us so that we may be one?*"

May the Lord grant us to be one! *Sr. M. Sonia Mele.*

Tamai: A week of spirituality in our Concordia-Pardenone Diocese [16 January/14 February.]

From half January, our Diocese organised a series of formation meetings for all the pastoral workers in the parishes.

They organised four meetings for the catechists of our Forania di Pasiano, with the theme, **“To announce starting from the heart...”**.

In these meetings, we reflected on the figure of St. Paul, before and after he became Christian, trying to understand our Christian roots. This will help us to announce, or to communicate from the heart, the Gospel message to the recipients of catechism. In every meeting, we read the Word of God, made a brief reflection accompanied by an appropriate 15 minutes film and followed by personal and group work, called “laboratory”. They underlined the attentive listening to the interlocutor, without cultivating any prejudice, rather with a positive attitude, believing that any experience, if well oriented, becomes a meeting point with Christ. The person, whom we welcome like this, becomes a secure guidance of one’s own definitive journey. At the end, we highlighted the importance of the attitudes of the catechists when he announces the Word of God, for instance a look that communicates peace, trust and serenity, considering the situation that man faces daily.

At the same time, we had six meetings of deepening, open to everyone, on the theme, **“The Church is born from the Eucharist”**.

Four speakers guided us during the meetings. They transmitted to us substantial and strengthening theological-ecclesiological contents. Four animators were there for two more laboratory meetings, in which they were involved: singers, liturgical animators, catechists, readers, etc. All this was very useful for the sharing of our pastoral parish experiences. The reports on our deepening work made us to taste the sense of Easter in the life of the Church born from the Eucharist. “O Church, you live of Easter”. They made us to reflect on the Holy Spirit who helps and redeems the Church in the most difficult moments of history, “A Church redeemed by the Spirit”. It made us to taste also the journey that the Church will have to make with today’s youths, who are far from the Church, and nourish not too clear ideas on life, “Church and Youths-meeting spaces”. Finally, a saved Church sent to announce the received salvation to those who have not yet received it, “A Church sent to announce salvation”.

Everything was truly useful and enriching. In fact, we do need an updating, to the end of journeying according to the signs of the times.

To crown these moments of grace offered by the Diocese, our parish organised a week of spiritual exercises, guided by our Dominican confreres, Father Marino, Father Raffaele, and by two sisters from Iolo, S. Elena e Sr. Ivona, on the theme, **“Stay with us, o Lord”**.

Continuing on this theme, we went on deepening the presence of Jesus in us. We reflected on how we can make him known to others who do not accept him for various motives. It was a time of personal and communitarian spiritual benefit. We thank God for the opportunities he has offered us, and ask the Holy Spirit, who knows how to change everything into good, to help us in living correctly the received gifts. *The community*

DELEGATION OF FRANCE/SPAIN

Time does not run away, it is back in our hands.

January 31 1907 –January 31 2019, Sr. Roseline is 100 years old!

At Gaillac, on a beautiful sunny Sunday, we celebrated the birthday of Sr. Roseline.

Our sisters from Albi and some parishioners shared our thanksgiving. The Priest in Gaillac concelebrated the Eucharist.

A rich variety of flowers decorated the altar; a mimosa, from the French Riviera, added beauty to the elegant composition of flowers; a sister of ours from Guadalupe adorned the altar cloth.

On her feast-day, Sr. Roseline had the joy of feeling surrounded by her nephews from Paris, by some faithful friends from Toulouse, from Albi and Carcassonne, together with an avalanche of messages.

"We saw the step of our God crossing those of man"

at Gaillac, on January 31, 2010.

Sr. Siméon

UGANDA

“HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL”

The 23rd January 2010 was a joyful day. It was the day of my consecration to God as a Dominican Sister of St. Catherine of Siena.

The Eucharistic Celebration took place in our community of Namugongo, presided over by the Vicar Provincial of East Africa, Fr. David Adiletta op with other fourteen co-celebrating priests from different parts of Uganda.

In attendance were also the religious men and women from around Namugongo parish, my relatives and friends.

I made my profession in the hands of the newly elected Prioress General Sr. M. Elvira Bonacorsi op who blessed the occasion with her presence, and Sr.M.Georges the assistant general. The Dominican sisters from both communities of Uganda attended and participated actively in the preparations for the day; this showed the communion and unity within the two communities of Kakumiro and Namugongo.

After the day of profession, I was delighted to participate for the very first time in the assembly of the communities in Uganda. The assembly was characterized by: Lectio Divina, group works, sharing the concrete life of the two communities, animated moments of recreation etc.....It was a very good experience for me.

I would like to thank all of you, members of the Dominican family, for your love, care, support and constant prayers. As I begin my apostolate in Kakumiro-my community- I continue asking for your prayers as I also pray for all of you.

Thanks very much for your prayers and everything. *Sr. Maria D.Nalubega op*

DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

MAFOLUKU COMMUNITY

“The bones shall rise again”, God says through his prophet Ezekiel. The sisters of our community have gone for their spiritual retreat, and here we are to share the fruit of our solemn retreat.

Second February (Feast of the Presentation) was a special and remarkable day for us, a splendid day in our Archdiocese. The feast of the religious was well organised and all the representatives of each congregation in the Archdiocese were present there. Our community went to our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Lagos, to rejoice with other religious and our Archbishop Cardinal Anthony Okogie. They chose us to carry the gospel to the Altar, while other congregations had to do other things during and after the Mass. During the mass, the parish priest gave us the gospel and we carried it to the altar dancing and singing the Alleluia. It was wonderful to see us sisters, the daughters of St. Dominic, carrying the Gospel to the Altar, in the light of Christ, knowing fully well that the Gospel is the food we eat and the water we drink for nourishment along our spiritual journey. This reminds us, that as Dominicans we should never forget our source and root, namely the gospel of Christ that always enlightens the darkness of our lives.

Double Blessing For Us

The Lord has added a member to our number in the community. We have received the privilege to have Sr. Alessia Spinelli OP amongst us. Sister Pauline Ogonnaya OP and Sister Juliana Okafor OP accompanied her to our community. We were on the highest mountain of joy, when we saw her and we welcomed her with our traditional songs, accompanied with our local instruments. Thanking God and our Congregation, today Sr. Alessia Spinelli (Nne anyi) is one of us. Beloved sisters in Mother Géline, honestly, God sent her to us at the appropriate time: our community was in need of her. Her presence means tranquillity for each of us. May her bring us love, peace and unity.

International Meeting For Religious

It was a wonderful experience for the two young sisters in our community to attend the National Women Religious Meeting held in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, on 5th - 7th February 2010. It was

really an experience that we shall not forget.. The words of the Nuncio were touching and challenging. He used a smile to pass the message across all of us present at the Nunciature, in Abuja. He said that he used to see women/Ladies carrying handbag: "What do they carry in their bags?" An answer came from the audience, 'mirror, body-cream, face-powder'. Then he asked us, 'what do you carry in your hand bags? We answered, "We carry the Bible, the Rosary etc." From this answer given to him, he passed the gospel message to us, 'let the Bible be your mirror, let it reflect the lives you live". He passed the truth to us like a joke. Indeed, it was food and drink for our spiritual life. Another touching point was on the theme, "The word of God in the life of Religious", a beautiful topic. A question we religious should ask ourselves is : Where is the place of the Word of God in my life and in your life? It was a nourishing and enriching message.

Educating The Mind

Valentine celebration booms in all four corners of the world. Looking at how some people see and live this celebration, we cannot help to question and educate the concept of people about February 14 (Valentine Day).

We did our Valentine celebration on February 15. We looked into the spiritual aspect of this celebration and its conformity with the sharing of gifts. We tried to give a lot of insight on the meaning of Valentine Day to our teachers, non-teaching staffs and students. It was unique to see the unity between our workers and us. This makes us to reflect on the document; "The Church in the Modern world"..

PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

The beginning of our preparation for the Assembly of the Province polarises our attention and energies. God willing, the Assembly will take place on 10-12 April at Faisalabad and its theme will be, **"Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is trust worthy"** (Hebrews: 10,23). We chose this Biblical Text out of the many texts proposed by the communities.

We organised a Seminar and Fr. Iftikhar Moon OP guided it, in the Noviciate House, on February 19 – 21, to the end of introducing the communities to the atmosphere of the Assembly.

The communities of Faisalabad, Miss Haq Home, Warispura, Chak Jhumra, Francisabad, Chak 75/B, Quetta and Khushpur participated in the seminar. We shall repeat the same seminar on March 6, with the participation of Lahore, Johar Town, Saleem Colony, Jamke Cheema, Chak 10/4L and Karachi communities. This second Seminar will follow a meeting of the Principals to introduce them to the new Plan proposed by the Government of Education.

'Formation and mission will be at the centre of reflections during the Assembly, therefore, also during the Seminars.

We have rejoiced at the news that, God willing, Sr. M. Elvira e Sr. Suzanne will be among us in April and will live with us the always-newer experience of the Assembly. Their presence will surely be of wise guidance and encouragement.

During the month of February, the Province has lived a succession of diseases and surgical operations among the sisters, as well as among their relatives. We welcomed dear Sr. M. Suzanne Niamat, who arrived just in time from France to participate in the funerals of her brother who passed away suddenly, leaving behind his wife and small children. We have been offering these sufferings to the Lord that He may accept them as a source of graces on the Province, as well as on the Nation, which goes on living hours of intense trial.

Here is a piece of news from the Rawalpindi/Islamabad Diocese: Bishop Anthony Lobo, from a long time already very ill, has resigned and his Auxiliary Bishop, Msgr. Rufin Anthony, has succeeded him in the guidance of that Diocese.

Sr. M. Jamila Emmanuel, back from Afghanistan for a family visit, shares with us some aspects of their activities in that suffering Nation. She says that the relatives of the children assisted in the Institute, free of charge, are very happy and grateful for the dedication and motherly care offered to the children in a family atmosphere, with respect for every person, even for the mentally disadvantaged ones. This atmosphere favours a gradual improvement of the behaviour and development of the assisted children. May the Lord assist our sisters in their committed activity, so that they may be a source of serenity and true peace also for the children's families.

{ | { TESTIMONIES { | {

Sharing

A light is extinguished on earth...A NEW STAR SHINES IN HEAVEN

On remembering Sr. M. Noela, I spontaneously think of the Biblical sentence, "Wisdom has carved its seven columns". I like to think that our dearest Sr. Noela is one of them.

Which are the peculiarities of the columns? We find them in an exquisitely angelic trinomial: prayer, silence, meekness. Rooted in adamant faith and in a challenged spousal state, "she has defeated death". "Death, where is your sting?". Once again, life has defeated death, which has not been able to extinguish Sr. Noela's meek and very sweet smile, a motive of tenderness and emotion for those who came to give their last final farewell to her.

She was born at Porto Torres, on January 24, 1914. With rare balance, she succeeded in combining her Sardinian nature with meekness and condescension, fruit of a constant filing work, which the wise and faithful spouse knows how to put in action in order to please her partner. I remember and imagine Sr. Noela in her daily "pilgrimage" among the benches of the chapel, like a vigilant sentinel, armed always and only with her smile and her white rosary. The rosary has always truly been for her "the sweet chain that binds us to God. With and through her, the unending chain of "Ave" has bound up with God an unimaginable portion of humanity that will never know the "team leader".

She expressed her spirit of service in the school, where she was an attentive and caring educator of children in the nursery classes for many years. She sprang up punctually wherever they requested her presence.

Whenever we jokingly intimated her not to die because she had to cut off the winning post of 100 years, she smilingly answered, "Everything will happen according to the will of God". I sometimes invited her to go to her and my Sardinia, which she had left half century before, and she answered, "If God wants it".

Her very much loved God wanted her with Himself forever; the time of "wedding with the Lamb" arrived for the wise virgin with the burning lamp. The spouse was ready and God went near her with a magnificent crown". *Sr. M. Isabella Orrù, Community of Bologna* (From "Vita di Famiglia". Art. Partly adapted).

Calendar of the General Curia: March 2010

March 1 - 6: the Prioress General will be in France for matters concerning the Delegation.

March 2 - 16: Sr. M. Juana Segura will visit the Delegation of Nigeria. Sr. M. Lucia Duacastella, from the Province of Latin America, will leave for Ibadan to join the mission entrusted to that community.

March 4: Sr. M. Laura Restelli will come back to Rome after a few days' stay in Albi.

March 8 - 13: meetings of the general council

From March 18: Sr. Marie-Georges Pelmar will be offsite up to a date, which is to be determined

March 27: Sr. M. Lillian Raphael will participate in the PBK Directive Council

March 29 - 31: meetings of the General Council