

*Prayer
plays a crucial role
in building strong character
and maintaining a solid
spiritual foundation as we seek
to become digital disciples.*

Rose Pacatte, fsp



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CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

THE KIND AND MERCIFUL STRENGTH OF MEEKNESS



Dearest sisters,

I could not overlook the fascination of the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the 59th World Day of Social Communication which will be celebrated in 2025: *Share with meekness the hope that is in your hearts* (cf. 1Pt 3:15-16). Above all, I was attracted by the sequence of the terms *sharing-meekness-hope*, a paradigm - today more than ever - of authentic "human" communication. Yes, because "communication is (...) more of a human achievement not simply a technological one", as Francis underlined in 2014, with his first *Message* for World Day of Social Communication. He surprisingly chose a parable different from those usually used to talk about communication, that of the Good Samaritan, which helped us think about communication in terms of proximity and sharing.

Communicating is sharing, it is sharing something that belongs to us, that is intimate, that is important. In such a dark moment in the history of humanity, in a phase of such heated and uncontrolled conflict at all levels, only through gentle sharing can we find the way to give new spirit back to communication and allow it to become communion, to open peace processes, to bear witness to the hope that lives in the heart.

Meekness, and not arrogance, is *the virtue of the strong*. Pope Francis says that it takes "real courage to be meek! We must move forward with meekness. This is not the time to persuade, to argue. If one has a sincere doubt, yes, then one can dialogue and clarify. But don't respond to the attacks." His words seem to echo what was stated by the late Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, an eminent biblical scholar and pastor: "Meekness is the ability to understand that in personal relationships - which constitute the true human level of existence - constriction or arrogance do not take place but rather persuasive passion, the warmth of Love".

Meekness comes from the "warmth of love", which is radiated by those who struggle every day with themselves to maintain a

meek gaze, to learn to speak with everyone, to give value to everything, even to what seems of little or of no value, even to fragility.

Our thoughts turn to the image and words that have spanned the centuries, the words from the Sermon on the Mount, pronounced by an ever surprising and transcendent Messiah: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Mt 5:5). For the meek, the earth is not a space of contention nor violence, but of communion and sharing; it is a place that offers us life, and the conditions for fulfilling it.

The good news was proclaimed by Jesus on the Mount! This good news was proclaimed by his "triumphal" entry on a donkey colt unlike the arrogant conquerors mounted on proud horses.

It was the good news that he left for future remembrance and solemn teaching for his disciples, present and future, putting on the servant's apron and the bending down to wash dirty and tired feet.

The Good News offers indications on how to inherit – and not occupy – the land.



The land is given as an inheritance, as a blessing, by God, a blessing to be witnessed, even in days like ours, where arrogance, oppression, the desire for power and conquest seem to prevail. Witness is essential precisely in days like these. Faith also depends on it, because you cannot announce Jesus, who speaks of God in meekness, humility and mercy, and do so with an arrogant style, with strong tones, with worldly attitudes...

Where there is meekness, peace is possible. Where, through the presence of the Spirit, we educate ourselves to become meek, we collaborate in sowing the Kingdom, in making the hope of a new world germinate, in which the promises of God are fulfilled.

Evangelical meekness is the fruit of the

Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22-23), it is a gift to be invoked and welcomed *each day*, a *daily* commitment to creating the conditions for developing it.

Once again, I return to Cardinal Martini who, in the book *Blessed are you! The promise of happiness*, carries out interesting considerations on meekness, the daily “teacher” of life, offering very concrete indications that can be useful - to me, first of all, and to you - to characterize the relationships between us and others with meekness and a desire for peace with others.

We do not always need to have the last word in discussions. Sometimes we don't resign ourselves to letting the other end the conversation. We want the final word for ourselves. It would be nice to learn the blessedness of those who, at a certain point, know how to remain silent in humility, perhaps letting the other prevail, because it's not that important to win.

Don't respond to evil with evil. By “evil” I do not only mean physical violence but also those small menaces of conversation to which we are often tempted to respond with equally small malice; all the insinuations to which we would like to respond with our own insinuations; all the little offensive allusions, which unfortunately embellish our speech and that of others and to which we are tempted to reply with other offensive allusions. All this goes against Christian meekness, against the spirit of peace, against true humility; it clouds the heart, aggravates the mind, averts prayer, fills the imagination with confused and heavy emotions.

Meekness is also a method of coexistence. Maestra Thecla has often invited us to be inspired by the actions of the Master, who is “humble and meek of heart”, seeking the last place (cf VPC 76), responding with humility and meekness to rejections and insults: “We remember well that the words humble and kind, in response to rudeness, are seeds that will germinate and produce much good” (VPC 25).

If we cultivate attitudes of meekness, conforming ourselves to the Master and welcoming the signs with which He manifests Himself in our lives, we form a spirit of goodness and peace, we are not fussy, we do not hold grudges or hatred, we do not wait to be paid back for our expressions of kindness, love or mercy (which are the fullness of meekness). And we will face with serenity what life offers us at every moment, because our hope is in God: He holds everything in his hands and leaves us everything as an inheritance.

Blessed are we who journey with humble tenacity “the path of evangelical meekness allowing the Spirit the possibility of regenerating us into new life” (Pope Francis). Blessed are we if *we share with meekness, in community and in the exercise of our mission of communication, the hope that lies in our hearts.*

Dearest, as always, I confidently await the gift of your reflections and sharing on what I have proposed.

With affection, in communion of joy and hope.


sr Anna Caiazza
superior general

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

October, November, December 2024

1-4 October 2024	Final Visit to France	Sr. Anna Caiazza
15-18 October 2024	International Book Fair (Frankfurt)	Sr. Anna Caiazza
18-20 October 2024		Sr. Bruna Fregni
18-27 October 2024	European Junior Encounter	Sr. Clarice Wisniewski
4-25 November 2024	Fraternal Visit in Pakistan	Sr. Anastasia Muindi
4-19 November		Sr. Micaela Pae
		Sr. Annamaria Gasser
27 November - 5 December	Fraternal Visit in West Africa	Sr. Anna Caiazza

CONGO D.R.

THE NEW STATUTES OF THE PAULINE COOPERATORS IN KINSHASA



The first two days of August, a group of Pauline Cooperators of the Daughters of Saint Paul, together with four members of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master and a member of the Society of Saint Paul of Kinshasa, met to explore the content and journey through the new Statutes of the Pauline Cooperators, approved *ad experimentum* (2022 / 2027) by the Superiors General of the Pauline Family.

Alternating listening, personal reading, group work, sharing and prayer, the participants (22 people) rediscovered that being Pauline Cooperators is not a commitment like many others, but emerges from a specific call: it is a vocation in the Church. A vocation lived as brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family, within their specific vocation as lay people committed to the announcement of the Gospel in the world of social communication.

Immersing themselves in the text of the new Statutes, the group explored already established values, grasped new values, and applied and assumed still other values as a guide and handbook for their own vocation.

At the end of the two days, evaluating the work done, the participants were unanimous in feeling the joy and responsibility of the Pauline vocation lived as a lay person in the Pauline Family, noting that a new and rich path is opening up for the Pauline Cooperators as well as for our Congregations.

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL IN KISANGANI

The community's Jubilee Year in Kisangani opened on July 28, 2024, with a Mass celebrated by Mgr. Leonard Ndjadi Ndjate,



during which Mr. Jules Mulamba made his promises as a member of the Pauline Cooperators. The Daughters of St. Paul arrived in Kisangani in 1975. The names of Sr. Elisea Scarpa, Sr. Anna Maria Scifo, and Sr. Celina Simula are recorded in the annals of the congregation as the first members of the Pauline Family in Kisangani. The mission of the Daughters of St. Paul is to evangelize through radio, television, newspapers, books, films, and the Internet to form men, women, children, young people, and the elderly on the levels of human, moral, Christian, and religious development. The Pauline Bookshop on Boulevard du 30 Juin, in the commune of Makiso, is full of resources on culture and spirituality. The Golden Jubilee will extend through July 2025, during which numerous religious and cultural activities will be organized.

INDIA

MEETING BETWEEN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE PAULINE FAMILY IN INDIA



On July 20, 2024, the provincial governments of the Pauline family in India met at the Provincial House of the Society of St. Paul in Bandra, Mumbai. Joby Mathew, SSP, Provincial of the Society of St. Paul organized the meeting.

Seventeen members enthusiastically participated in this initiative, which had not been held for many years. It signaled a significant step towards greater unity and collaboration within the Pauline Family in India.

Various issues of significant importance were discussed during the gathering:

- Common motivations for mission
- Growth in spirituality and study of the charism
- Formation and apostolate

The event was also an opportunity to confront and clarify some of the difficulties and misunderstandings faced by members of the respective provinces, thus effectively strengthening family and charismatic ties.

The encounter concluded with a resolute commitment to meeting at least once a year and a solid determination to implement the new collaboration program, thereby ensuring the progress and success of their collective efforts.

INDIA

VOCARE - COME AND SEE



To create awareness and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially in the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (part of the Vicariate of Southern Arabia), "Jesus Youth," an International Catholic Movement approved by the

Holy See, organized a vocation promotion camp this summer "Vocare-Come and See." Fr. Anthony Xavier, a Jesus Youth priest from the Archdiocese of Nagpur, India, led the entire camp experience.

Combonian Sr. Helen Wahura, Redemptorist seminarian Fr. Arun George, and Pauline sister Delsey Joseph helped guide the sessions. The camp, aimed at boys and girls, covered topics such as the love of God, discerning one's calling, understanding God's plan, and various kinds of Christian vocations.

All facilitators shared their vocation stories, adding a personal and human touch to the sessions. The camp also included praise and worship, ice-breaking sessions, and a panel discussion where participants could ask questions. About 100 registrants attended on the first day, and 80 returned on the second day. The camp was a significant blessing for a small country like the Sultanate of Oman, offering many an opportunity to learn about vocations under difficult circumstances.

The hope is that the Church will grow through these movements and that the Lord will send good laborers into His vineyard.

PORTUGAL

2024 LISBON BOOK FAIR



The participation of *Paulinas Editora* in the 2024 Lisbon Book Fair, Portugal's most important literary event, was met with notable success. Their presence not only increased sales, but also significantly strengthened the awareness of the Pauline brand, in a year in which the initiative surpassed one million visitors, according to official figures released by the organisation.

Paulinas Editora has been widely reported in the media, in particular by Agência Ecclesia, Rádio Renascença and Jornal Sete Margens, who have praised the quality and diversity of the books presented. Their participation did not go unnoticed and was often mentioned in reports and articles about the Fair. The positive impact of the brand was also underlined by its constant presence on social media networks and on television programs that followed the event.

Establishing their position as a point of reference in the Catholic publishing market, *Paulinas Editora* has received numerous awards for the quality of its titles and the relevance of the topics covered. Its contribution to religious and spiritual literature has been widely recognized, reaffirming their commitment to the dissemination of Christian values and the promotion of culture.

SPAIN

BOOK FAIR IN MADRID



From May 31st to June 16th, the 83rd Annual Book Fair took place in Madrid.

Every year, the Pauline Bookshop in Madrid actively participates in this important event with a vast exhibit of books for all ages and needs. The presence of authors in the Pauline booth proves to be an added perk to the event. This year, too, the authors, with their signed copies, were able to establish cherished contacts with the vast population of Madrid.

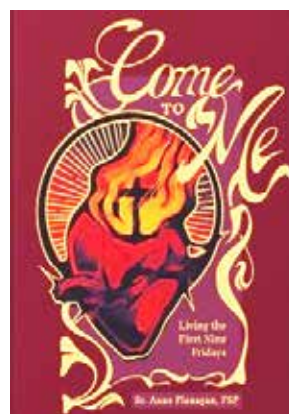
The Madrid Book Fair is very large, there are more than 300 booths. Even if the presence of the Paulines is a simply a tiny seed

in the midst of a vast field, it is well known by the people who express their gratitude and appreciation for the sisters' participation and for the content of their publications.

The sisters are grateful to the Lord who offers them this opportunity each year to bring his Gospel to many people who are eager to enrich themselves and grow through good reading.

UNITED STATES

COME TO ME



Come to Me: Living the Nine First Fridays, by Anne Flanagan, fsp (Pauline Books and Media, Boston) received high recognition this year from two professional organizations: the Association of Catholic Publishers in *Excellence in Publishing*

Award (first place in the category of Prayer), and from the Catholic Media Association, another first-place award, again in the category of Prayer.

In Sr. Anne's book, the nine First Fridays become a path of discipleship and prayer at the school of Blessed James Alberione. The book is in fact an introduction to Pauline Eucharistic-apostolic spirituality. Each month the reader is introduced to a new virtue or quality of heart that is attuned to the Heart of Christ through a reflection, an example of a saint, and a guide to Eucharistic adoration, developed according to the Pauline Way-Truth-Life method. The virtues culminate in the formation of an apostolic heart.

The text includes the history and biblical theology of the Sacred Heart and an appendix of prayers. Prayer groups are already starting to use the book as a springboard for faith sharing and worship.

With Pope Francis' announcement of a forthcoming document to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, *Come to Me* offers a precious opportunity to present the Eucharistic spirituality of the Pauline Family in an attractive way.

ITALY

MOVING THROUGH LIFE: YOUTH MISSION OF THE PAULINE FAMILY

“Is it possible that by running from one part of the city to another and enduring a very busy schedule, that one can find themselves? I cannot help asking myself this question since, having returned from a mission, what deeply remained in me was not the aftermath of tiredness but heartfelt serenity.”

With these words Maria Cecilia describes her experience on this mission: *Moving through Life*.



What was this event? It is a popular mission on the Word of God carried out by the *In the footsteps of Paul* animation team of the Pauline Family with 13 young people from different areas of Italy, in Guardia Piemonte, the province of Cosenza, from the 18th to the 25th of August 2024.

The first part of the week embodied moments of reflection, prayer and formation. Retracing some episodes of the life of Saint Paul, fulfilling various activities and listening to some testimonies, we asked ourselves how to move through the moments of our lives, and we asked ourselves what it means to be a missionary.

In the second part of the week, we experienced the actual mission: we animated various moments of adoration, had sharings on the Gospels, and participated in activities and games for children, young people and adults. Above all we met people who perhaps wanted to encounter someone. Lucia

writes: “Having a large heart means meeting and serving those brothers and sisters that the Lord places at my side, discovering that they are there waiting for me and there they will teach me to love.”

Our life is a pilgrimage, a journey that pushes us beyond ourselves, a journey in search of happiness. The Christian life in particular is a pilgrimage towards God, our salvation and the fullness of every good thing.

Our goals, achievements and successes along the way, if they remain only material, will, after an initial moment of satisfaction, still leave us hungry, longing for something greater. They cannot completely satisfy our soul, because we were created by One who is infinite; as a result, we have an innate desire for transcendence, a constant restless drive towards the fulfilment of higher aspirations, towards “even more”.

Pope Francis



**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST:
HARMONIOUS INTERCULTURALITY
AS COMMUNICATION OF THE
GOSPEL IN THE LIFE AND MISSION
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF SAINT PAUL**

NEVILLE CHRISTINE FORCHAP, FSP



Interculturality is a new paradigm. It has the potential for a blessed intersection of faith, mission and life. This thesis explores the integral role of harmonious interculturality in the vocation of the Daughters of St. Paul today. Sr. Neville

uses a missionary cultural hermeneutic approach, a combination of theological-ecclesiological and sociological-historical approaches, to provide diverse contexts for valuable, and sometimes challenging, discussions on interculturality.

The first part of her thesis is structured around Fr. James Alberione's method "Truth, Way and Life", and outlines the teachings of Jesus and his intercultural journey, characterized by the Incarnation and encounters with the Gentiles. For example, the Canaanite woman (Mt 15.21-31), despite the prejudices and hostility between Jews and Samaritans, humbly approaches Jesus for her severely possessed daughter. At first, he seems to ignore her, but then moves from silence to conversation and recognition of the woman's great faith, granting her daughter instant healing. The meeting shows a path that goes beyond prejudice and ethnocentrism, towards openness, intercultural wisdom and love.

The second part of the thesis analyzes the historical-social context of Father Alberione and that of the Daughters of Saint Paul today. It deepens the theological role of culture and roots intercultural harmony in a shared charism.

The conclusion of the thesis considers the role of education and scholarship in promoting harmonious interculturality. It provides ideas for the formulation of a practical guide for intercultural life and mission. Interculturality is synodal, walking together as sisters

in the full beauty and richness of the Pauline charism and our cultural diversity: listening, dialogue, learning, forgiving, enriching our communities and our mission and being enriched. Harmonious interculturality in the Congregation is a gift for the Church and for the world. It is an attractive witness to the Gospel.

**FORMATION FOR THE
CONTEMPORARY FAMILY TO THE
CONSECRATED LIFE THE
CHALLENGES OF THOSE IN
FORMATION AND THE FORMATORS**

HOBINANDRASANA M. B. RAKOTONJATOVO, FSP



I was a vocationist for three years in a city in Madagascar, before welcoming the opportunity to go to Rome to further my studies in the field of formation. In those three years as a vocationist, I met

many young women with diverse problems and difficult life situations, especially in the family. These challenges which the young woman who felt a call to consecrated life experienced, touched on relationships with parents and relatives as well as the problems imbedded in society. Often, I asked myself: "How can we help them on their formative journey towards consecrated life? Do we continue to say 'no' to their desire for religious life or can we do something more to help them?"

Currently almost all families experience crises, and the role of parents is very important for the formation and education of young people. Even more so when these young women enter a formative journey in religious life, they have to face many challenges, together with their formators.

In the first part of this thesis, the current situation of the family is considered: the problems that are experienced and which one must face in regard to formation and education, and at the same time some pointers are offered to help the family formators to best carry out their task.

In the second part of the thesis, we consider the reality of consecrated life today:

who are the young people discerning this state of life, what difficulties and fragilities do they face, and some recommendations for discernment are proposed.

In the third and final part of the thesis, we address the challenges of formation in general and in particular, formation in consecrated life. Suggestions and modalities are offered to accompany both those in formation and the formators themselves.

The points of reflection embrace the reality of Africa, and in particular that of Madagascar.

SMARTPHONE USE AMONG DELHI NCR SCHOOL STUDENTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL MEDIATION

PATRICIA MICHELLE MATHIAS, FSP



On July 20, 2024 Patricia Michelle Mathias, Daughter of St. Paul, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in Mass Communication on *The use of smartphones among students of Delhi NCR Schools:*

the importance of parental mediation, at Sharda University, Greater Noida, NCR Delhi, in

the Faculty of Communication. Today, smartphones have become indispensable devices thanks to the multiple uses that are made of them, from communication, education, business, shopping, entertainment and more. While on the one hand, the smartphone is a godsend for many, on the other hand it has turned into something divisive. Children, teenagers and adults have become addicted to its various applications. In the case of children and adolescents, parents intervene with various restrictions, instructions, or the monitoring of their use of these devices so as to decrease their negative influence.

This process is called parental mediation. The aim of Sr. Patricia Michelle's research is to discover the types of mediation used by parents to help their children become more aware of how to use their smartphones and to determine whether their mediation has a positive impact on adolescents in managing the problems related to an unbalanced use of smartphones.

Delhi's adolescents are mostly between eight and twelve years of age, thus the research was conducted with surveys and interviews with parents and teenage students from the Delhi area.

The study also recommends mediation sessions for all educational institutions, teachers, parents, and students, right from their initial years of childhood.

SHARE WITH GENTLENESS THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOUR HEARTS

(CF. 1PT 3:15-16)

The theme of the upcoming World Communications Day draws attention to the fact that today too often communication is violent, aimed at striking and not at establishing the conditions for dialogue. It is therefore necessary to disarm communication, to cleanse it of aggression. From television talk shows to verbal wars on social networks, there is a risk that the prevailing paradigm is that of competition, opposition, and the will to dominate.

For us Christians, hope is a person, and He is Christ. And it is always linked to a community project; when we speak of

Christian hope we cannot disregard a community that lives the message of Jesus in such a credible way as to give a glimpse of the hope that it brings, and is capable of communicating the hope of Christ with deeds and words even today.



MARY, APOSTLE OF DESIRES



HOLY DESIRES

Holy desires are born from living faith and a loving heart and are the first step towards good works. It is like the seed that germinates, it pushes the small root into the ground looking for nourishment and this root that develops into a small plant, which will grow and bear fruit. If [these holy desires] attain prayer, they already bear very precious fruit.

There are many empty, sterile, strange, and evil desires; just as there is idle, even sinful criticism. For this St. Paul wrote: "shun youthful passions."

Instead, there are the desires of God "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" and to the desires of the loving soul: "O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you."

St. Paul had ardent desires: "being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves." "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better"

In Psalm 42/41:2, we read: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God."

Therefore, good desires are to be cultivated: "My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances" says the Psalm.

Under the guidance of Joachim and Anna, and nourished by Holy Scripture, Mary grew like a promising olive tree; she was like the seat of all virtue. By reading the Scriptures and learning from the living word, those sighs became the apostolate of desires for the coming of the Messiah and for the redemption of humankind.

EFFECTIVE APOSTOLATE

Doctors and Theologians of the Church confirm that the coming of the Savior was accelerated precisely because of the ardent desires of the Most Holy Virgin.

Ven. Vincent Pallotti summarizes these desires and writes: "It was established in the loving decrees of God, that the Righteous, and especially the Queen of all Saints, with their mortifications, fasting and *desires*, would accelerate the Incarnation of the Son of God. And so it happened, in spite of the fact that the world was full of sin and unworthiness."

In Willam's *Life of Mary* we read this very touching passage: "In Mary's existence everything served to draw the Word of God into her womb: especially the fact of her virginal consecration to the Lord." It can certainly be said that, at the temple, Simeon, just and fearful, awaited the salvation of Israel; Anna, night and day begged the Lord to hasten the coming of the Messiah; but Mary desired his coming most of all.

Mary, in her solitude, offered herself as a sacrifice for the salvation of Israel and the entire world. She was like a dove moaning (for humanity) on the ruins of a great building. Mankind emerged beautiful from the creative hands of God, had been defaced by original sin. And her moaning was heard by the Father who re-established the building in Christ.

Simeon cried out earnestly and received a communication from the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Savior with his own eyes. Anna prayed, sighed, and fasted in the Temple: and she immediately recognized the Messiah when Joseph and Mary showed up with the Child for purification. They thanked the Lord with great faith and joy.

These holy desires, in Mary, lasted from the Immaculate Conception until the moment in which, having pronounced her *Fiat*, the Son of God became incarnate in her womb.

In fact, "when the time had fully come" (Gal 4:4). The Archangel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin to announce that the moment prophesied by the *man of desires*, Daniel, had arrived to offer Mary Divine Maternity. It was humanity's great hour. God grants holy desires, hears the sighs of the righteous when they groan at the altar of God. How many souls, in the silence of the cloister, in intimate communications with God, perhaps even amidst anguish and pain, make themselves heard by the Lord! The heart of the heavenly Father is moved with pity for these children who put all their trust in him and repeat: "Your kingdom come."

"Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek."
"You have granted him his heart's desire."

When Mary appeared on earth, the dawn appeared: "bright as the sun", herald and giver of the Sun of justice Christ Jesus, "Christ, the Sun of Righteousness."

She, as a child, was the Bride of the Cantic who called her Groom Jesus Christ: "Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock... Let my beloved come to his garden... O daughters of Jerusalem, my beloved is mine and I am his...."

Giuseppe Forlai, igs

...WE CAN SAY WE HAVE SEEN
A SAINT



I met Prima Maestra Thecla in 1955, when she came to Brazil together with Primo Maestro. I was an aspirant at the time, so I met her personally and later heard many testimonies and read her writings.

During my time of formation, I heard a lot about Maestra Thecla, about her faith, her prayer, her courage in leading a modern congregation that used the means of social communication for evangelization. A congregation that was fully in line with the needs of the times, and that used the most suitable and effective means of communication.

The day before Prima Maestra's departure we were all gathered in the courtyard to say goodbye to her and listen to her final message. She shared only a few words, stressing the importance of taking advantage of the years of formation to prepare ourselves well for the Pauline mission and to become saints, a fundamental condition for the effectiveness of evangelization with the means of social communication. Afterwards, observing that beautiful group of young people, we were more than one hundred aspirants, Maestra Thecla surprised us with an unexpected question: *Do you want to give a day of your life to Primo Maestro?* Proud to be able to offer this gift, we responded in chorus: Yes. I don't know if Primo Maestro's life was extended because of our offering, but God certainly took it into account.

If our admiration and love for Maestra Thecla was great, even before meeting her, you can only imagine our feelings after seeing her simple, serene attitude and her bright smile in person! We joyfully said to ourselves: *We were blessed, we can say we have seen a saint.*

Thinking of Maestra Thecla today at the helm of a modern Congregation, whose mission is to bring the message of Jesus to everyone through the use of the media, we imagine a person involved in social media and present in the digital world 24 hours a day. But we know that Maestra Thecla wasn't like that, she didn't live *for communication*, but she lived *communication*. She didn't have a degree, but she was a great communicator, an unforgettable guide for her daughters. This is precisely why we admire her; and from where her sublimity comes forth.

Thecla had not attended a faculty for a degree in communication, but she lived the truest, deepest communication, that communication founded on the Word of God, on the wisdom of God. Prayer, contemplation, a life lived in love were the source of her wisdom, goodness, foresight, and apostolic creativity. From this source, which is God himself, her teachings acquired a contemporary, current freshness and newness which continues to guide us today. This is what I appreciate and admire in her today, her way of communicating that was born from a lived faith, a simple, frank, sincere, genuine, and tender style of communication, but at the same time a strong, active, courageous, creative, far-sighted spirit. More than communicating thoughts, she communicated herself.

I ask for myself and for all the Daughters of Saint Paul in the world this same style of communication, to mirror this beautiful, intense and fruitful life.

Natalia Maccari, fspH



Maestra Thecla on a visit to our sisters in Brazil

THE GIFT OF THE MISSION



Our catechism teaches us that, by virtue of baptism, we are all called to a mission. This faith in mission begins in the family and continues to unfold its meaning and purpose in our journey as Christians. When we talk about vocation, I often hear that “the family is the fertile ground of vocations”. This may be true, as my parents were the first ones who taught me to make the sign of the cross and pray every time the church bells rang for the Angelus. This is where my faith in God was born. I grew up in the Philippines in a simple and large family and was educated in the values of prayer, unity, service, love, generosity, responsibility, simplicity, and other values that are part of human growth and strengthen personal identity.

As a teenager I was active in the parish as a member of the choir and the Legion of Mary. When I was in elementary school, I always met the Franciscan Sisters in church. They were responsible for the Catholic high school where my brother and sisters studied. I was fascinated by one of the Sisters because of her friendliness, kindness and simplicity. I didn’t know that this simple attraction towards religious life was an initiative of God. It all started one summer day, when I met the Daughters of Saint Paul for the first time during their mission in our city. The parish priest asked me to accompany one of the Sisters on their house-to-house visits. Subsequently, a Sister came every month to bring the *Homelife* magazine to our school and finally every Sunday I listened to a radio program called *Word and Songs* hosted by a Pauline Sister. Thanks to these unforgettable meetings I learned about their life and their mission. I loved reading their magazines and always looked forward to their radio show.

Being active in the parish, my best friend and I had the opportunity to accompany the sisters, as requested by our parish priest, to spend the weekend on a community trip to the beach near our house. But what was supposed to be a time of rest and leisure, unfortunately turned into a terrifying experience for

everyone. I almost drowned due to the strong waves, I thought I would die at that moment. I felt myself being tossed by the waves and my body rolling further into the water. When the sisters reached the shore however, they found me prostrate on the sand: “It’s a miracle I’m alive!”, I exclaimed, “God saved me.” That experience remained impressed in my memory and made me think that perhaps the Lord had greater plans for me.

I attended a university run by the Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres. During my free time I went to visit the Daughters of Saint Paul in their community in Tuguegarao and I was able to know them and their mission better. For five years I enjoyed teaching and making a living for myself and my family. I lived a normal life, as a young working professional, experiencing the good things and challenges in life. Along the way, I met people and built relationships, I deepened my spiritual life through prayer and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

One day I felt a pull within me, something that drew me to give of myself and serve God in others. Remembering the experiences I had with the Pauline Sisters, I went to visit them and shared my thoughts and desires with the superior who accompanied me in my vocational discernment. I decided to resign from my job and offer private tutoring, a choice which disappointed my parents, who had other plans for me. Faced with the dilemma of understanding God’s will in my life, I decided to stop teaching full-time for a year to deepen my discernment.

With the guidance of my former parish priest I let myself be guided by the Holy Spirit to see where the Lord was leading me. I officially entered the Daughters of Saint Paul in 1998, courageously undertaking formation. After my first religious profession, made in 2001, I was involved in various apostolic and religious experiences that helped me to more deeply discern my vocation through prayer, ongoing formation and spiritual accompaniment in preparation for my definitive yes to the Lord. I also continued my studies in theology and was subsequently sent to Rome to prepare for perpetual profession. In the Pauline Year 2008 I finally made my definitive commitment to Jesus and embraced a life of love and service as a consecrated religious among the Daughters of St. Paul.

Gemma Gamab, fsp

PRAYER IN THE DIGITAL AGE: CHARACTER AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION



Recently, a spiritual writer asked, “What is the role of prayer in building strong character and maintaining a solid spiritual foundation in this digital age?” This reflection examines the profound role of prayer in shaping our human character and fortifying our spiritual base as we navigate the fast-paced world of technology.

First, let’s define two key terms: Character and Digital Discipleship.

- *What is Character?* “Character” refers to the moral and ethical qualities that define us as individuals. Character includes honesty, integrity, compassion, and resilience, which

guide our thoughts, decisions, and actions. The more we practice these human values or ideals, the more they are transformed from values into virtues: habits of being. It becomes “natural” to act with mercy and justice and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

- *Digital Discipleship* means seeking to live out our faith in the digital realm, using technology as tools for evangelization and spiritual growth, thus promoting human dignity and the common good in society.

Here are four ways in which prayer can play a central role in building strong character and a robust spiritual foundation to become effective digital disciples:

1 - PRAYER BUILDS VIRTUE

Prayer is a powerful means of forming and nurturing virtuous character traits or human values. Through prayer, we cultivate virtues such as patience, humility, and love, which are fundamental to facing the challenges and complexities of the digital world with grace and integrity. As we pray, we open our hearts to the transformative power of God’s grace. Let us allow God to mold us into the image of Christ. Pope Francis stresses the importance of cultivating virtuous character traits: “The measure of a society’s greatness is given by the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing but their poverty!” (July 25, 2013). This is especially true in a



society invaded by digital technology, information, and entertainment that can distract us from the needs of the poor.

2 - PRAYER BRINGS CLARITY

Prayer helps us navigate the ethical and moral dilemmas presented by technology. In a world where the lines between right and wrong often blur, prayer provides a way to discern what is right and good with clarity and understanding God's will for our lives.

By seeking divine guidance in prayer, we develop a deeper understanding of God's values and priorities, which then inform our choices and actions as digital disciples. Pope Francis often reminds us that we need discernment when making decisions.

3 - PRAYER BUILDS RESILIENCE

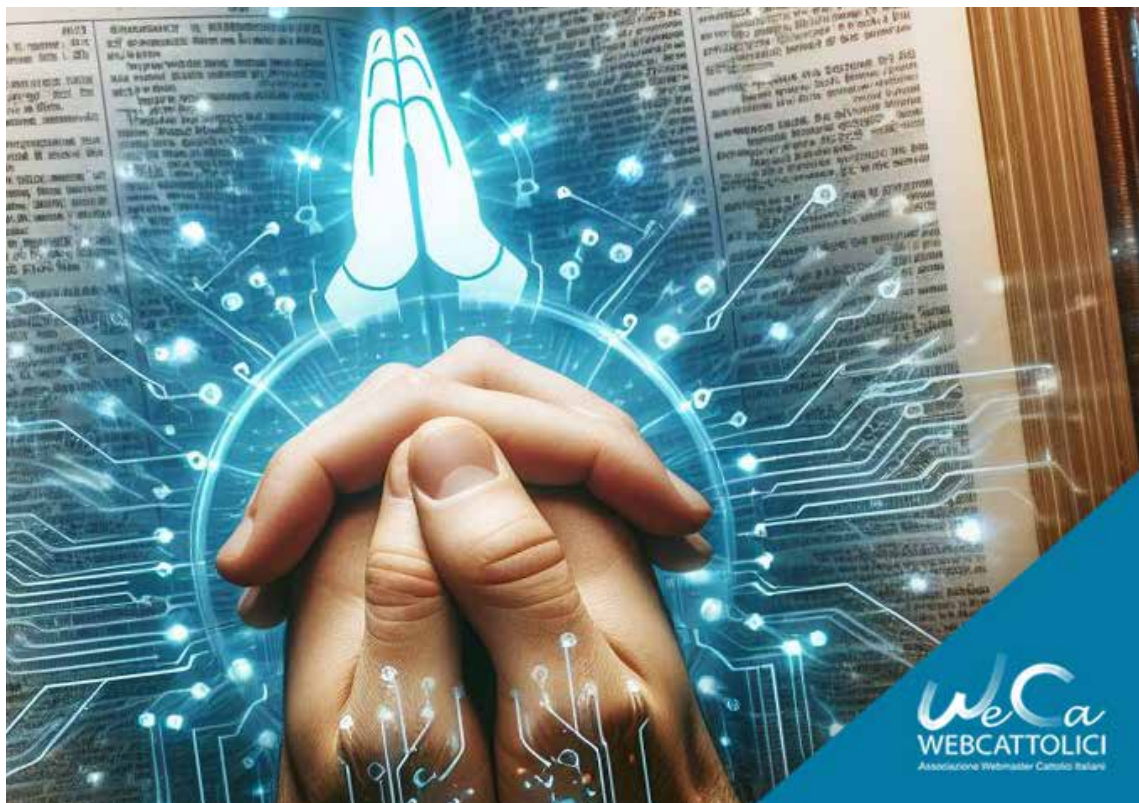
Prayer strengthens our spiritual base and gives us the resilience to resist the digital world's temptations and pressures. Through prayer, intentionally seeking quiet moments to pray and reflect, we tap into the inexhaustible source of God's grace. Grace enables us to resist temptations, overcome challenges, and persevere in our commitment to live out our faith online.

Prayer is a source of strength and comfort in times of temptation, helping us to remain firm in our convictions and steadfast in our commitment to God. St. John Paul II said, "True holiness does not mean escape from the world; rather, it lies in the effort to incarnate the Gospel in everyday life, in the family, at school, at work, and in every social and political activity." Nov. 9, 1996

4 - PRAYER GIVES US A SOLID FOUNDATION

Finally, prayer plays a crucial role in building strong character and maintaining a solid spiritual foundation as we seek to become digital disciples in today's technology-driven world. However, the digital world can be a source of distraction, temptation, and even harm if not approached with care, caution, and discernment. Let us beware of the dangers of excessive screen time, online negativity, and the erosion of authentic human connection in our digital interactions. Instead, let us use technology to spread God's love and truth, spend time with family and friends, care for the earth, build community, and foster deeper communion with God and each other.

Rose Pacatte, fsp
WECA Tutorial



ITALY

THE PAULINE FAMILY CELEBRATES THE JUBILEES OF CONSECRATION

It is always good to find ourselves together as a family in our common home, the sub-crypt of the Queen of the Apostles Sanctuary, with sisters and brothers, friends and all those who shared this moment of anniversary celebrations to thank the Lord for his fidelity in these past 25, 50, 60... years. This celebration was an expression of lives given with much commitment, keeping in their hearts the desire to “be Paul alive today”. “The Pauline Family evangelizes like Paul. It serves the Church in the work entrusted to it by the Divine Master: “go and teach the nations”. Teaching is evangelization, according to the precept of Saint Paul to his disciple: *Opus fac evangelistae - do the work of an evangelist*, (2 Tim 4.5), fulfill your duty to



bring the Gospel; repeat the happy message of salvation, peace and justice that Jesus Christ brought to men of good will. Saint Paul the Apostle is our Father, Master, Protector. He did it all. (...) The life of the Pauline Family comes from the Eucharist; communicated by Saint Paul (Fr. Alberione, 1954; cf. CISP, 145). We thank God for his faithfulness and all the brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family for their remembrance in prayer.

NIGERIA

BLESSING OF THE THECLA HOUSE, IN CALABAR



It was a moment of great joy for all the Daughters of St. Paul in Nigeria, when on September 12, 2024, the Thecla house and community of Calabar was blessed by Msgr. Joseph Effiong Ekuwem, metropolitan archbishop of the diocese, in the presence of the auxiliary bishop Msgr. Christopher Naseri. Priests, religious and lay faithful showed up for the event in large numbers, joining the entire community in thanking God for the presence of the Pauline Sisters in Calabar, a city in Nigeria. Calabar is the capital of the state of Cross River, in the south-eastern part of the county. Don

Charles Etim, vicar general of pastoral care, expressed his profound gratitude to God and the general government of the Daughters of Saint Paul for their sacrifices and their support of the religious in this region. He prayed that our mission would inspire and draw many hearts to the Lord.

The permanent presence of the Paulines has had a notable impact on the hearts of the people. Many said that finally “the Sisters are ours”, for they realize that they need the Pauline apostolate in this part of the country. The Sisters of the community wrote: “We are grateful to the Lord, to the general government and to all the sisters of the West African Delegation for their help and prayerful support. To God be the glory!”



WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY



On the fourth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated on July 28th, Pope Francis invited us to stay close to older people and rediscover their precious contribution “in the family, in society and the Church.” From his @Pontifex account, the Holy Father urges us to stay close to older people: “By recognizing the irreplaceable role that they have in the family, in society, and in the Church we too will receive many gifts, many graces, many blessings.”

Celebrated every fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly was established by Pope Francis in 2021. This year’s theme, taken from Psalm 71, *In old age do not abandon me*, underlines how loneliness is, unfortunately, a bitter companion in the lives of many elderly people who are often victims of the throwaway culture.

JUBILEE PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Spes non confundit, Hope does not disappoint is the title of the Bull of Indiction (proclamation) to the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 written by Pope Francis. The Holy Father’s opening greeting is original and beautiful, “to those who will read this letter, let hope fill their hearts.” It immediately explains the tenor and purpose of the letter, going beyond the formal norms for the Jubilee Year. It reads, “The coming Jubilee will be a Holy Year characterized by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it also help us to rediscover the necessary trust in the Church as in society, in

interpersonal relationships, in international relations, in the promotion of the dignity of every person, and respect for creation. May our believing witness be a leaven of genuine hope in the world, a proclamation of new heavens and a new earth, where we can dwell in justice and peace among peoples, convinced in the Lord’s promise: *Hope does not disappoint*. As of now, let us be attracted by hope and allow it to spread to those who desire it.”

The Jubilee Logo is very beautiful. It depicts four stylized figures representing humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. Each figure embraces the next to indicate the solidarity and brotherhood that can unite peoples. Note that the first figure is clinging to the cross. It is the sign of the faith they all embrace and the hope that can never be abandoned because we always need it, sometimes greatly. The Pope will open St. Peter’s Holy Door on December 24 and close it on January 6, 2026.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

MEN AND WOMEN AWARDED WITH THE FIRE WITHIN AWARD



The *Fire Within Award* - *Women and men who change the world*, was established by the Archdiocese of Milan and by Elikya, a social promotion association that has been operating in various areas of the civil and religious world since 2012.

The winners of this third edition are: Fr. Claudio Burgio, founder and president of the Kayrós Association as well as chaplain of the Beccaria juvenile prison in Milan; Carlo Alberto Caiani and his wife Sara Pedroni, who with their three children have been welcoming foster children at the Somaschi Fathers’ farmhouse in Vercurago (LC) for almost twenty years; Blessing Okoedion, a Nigerian woman who survived trafficking and denounced her tormentors and is now engaged as a cultural mediator and interpreter; Sr. Nabila Saleh who lived for thirteen years in Gaza and who, due to the war with Israel, took refuge in the Latin Rite parish for six months, taking care of the most vulnerable who were victims of the bombings; finally Franco Vac-

cari, president and founder of “Rondine Citadel of Peace”, an organization committed to overcoming armed conflicts in the world.

A memorial award was then dedicated to Sr. Luisa Dell’Orto, killed in 2022 in the capital of Haiti where she was the backbone of “Casa Carlo”, a center that gathers hundreds of street children. It was rebuilt in 2010 after the earthquake that devastated the Caribbean island. The meaning of the *Fire Within Award - Women and Men Who Change the World* is to recognize those who, with their generous commitment to the good of the individual and society, have become witnesses of hope, illuminating the path of those they have met.

TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION: OVER 12 MILLION MINORS INVOLVED GLOBALLY



Almost 50 million people in the world are victims of various forms of modern slavery. Of these, over 12 million are minors, forced mainly into slave labor - which includes sexual exploitation, work, and illegal activities, with forced marriages a growing trend.

These data are reported in the XIV report Little Invisible Slaves Dossier by Save the Children, released on the International Day against Human Trafficking, observed on July 30. What makes identifying and supporting victims of trafficking and exploitation difficult, Save the Children explained, is the marginalization and isolation to which criminal networks or individual traffickers and exploiters force them.

Trafficking in persons and human migration intersect. Migrants find themselves in particularly vulnerable situations because they are at risk from various forms of exploitation in the countries of transit and arrival.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

GIFFONI FILM FESTIVAL 2024

The 54th annual *Giffoni Film Festival* dedicated to children and youth cinema in the province of Salerno/Italy opened on Friday, 19 July, attracting many participants from every corner of the world. One hundred films were competing, and many people in atten-

dance. The 5,000 “jurors” from 33 nations participated in the 54th international event which began as a film festival, but which now extends into the multicultural and multimedia ambient. Over 100 films were competing from all over the world with 50 international directors present at the event. The 2024 festival had the theme: *The illusion of distance between enthusiasm and amazement*, immersing oneself in an atmosphere that has all the magical ingredients that can “improve the world”.

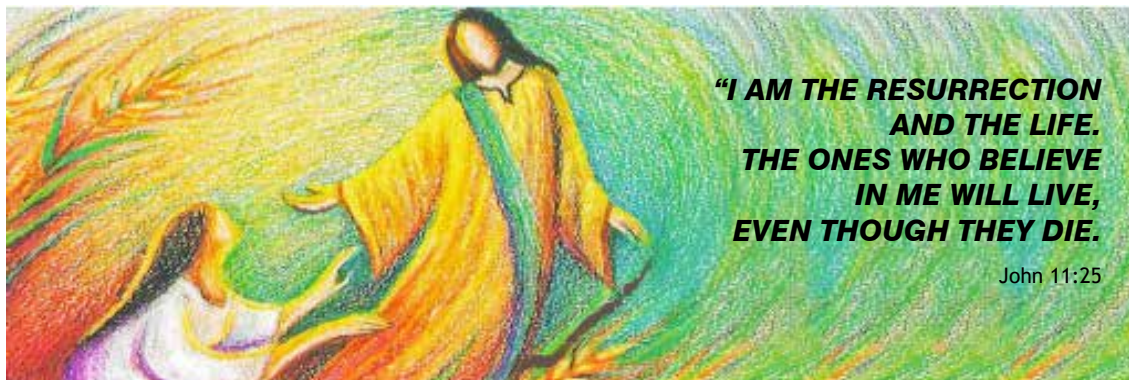
Cutting the ribbon and inaugurating the new Alberto Sordi Gallery was the president of the Campania Region in Salerno, Vincenzo De Luca. (The *Alberto Sordi* Gallery was built to serve as a Testimony of the Times Museum which will collect the history and memory of the town and commune of Giffone, in the province of Salerno.) Vincenzo De Luca while speaking to the young people at the Festival, launched a message of peace: and also a warning to avoid the alienation of social media, to live authentically, and to escape the logic of the herd.

27TH RELIGION TODAY FILM FESTIVAL



There were 64 films competing, coming from 32 different countries, which animated the Religion Today Film Festival from September 18th to the 25th. This international film festival that has thrilled the city of Trento and beyond for 27 years, brought tourists and artistic works of global scope to the city. This event spoke about faith, religion and pointed our gaze towards current events, involving the young generations. Religion Today has become a window for reflection into the future: a look at how cinema is evolving together with society, how artificial intelligence and enjoyment interact, giving rise to a real revolution through means and content which are increasingly within the user’s reach. The audience becomes creators and protagonists, shaping the market.

The international appeal of the festival was confirmed with more than 20 directors and writers participating in the event. Great attention was placed on the scholastic world with matinees dedicated to students, Master classes and in-depth events with big names from the national scene, such as the cartoonist Andrea Artusi.



DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Sr M. Silvana Carolina Candian 99 years old - 09.07.2024 São Paulo, Brazil
Sr M. Imelda Anna Toschi 100 years old - 14.07.2024 Albano, Italy
Sr M. Elizabeth Euphrasia Ittikunnath 92 years old - 18.07.2024 Mumbai, India
Sr M. Consolata Manding 77 years old - 27.07.2024 Pasay City, Philippines
Sr Anna Marcella Vignuolo 98 years old - 27.07.2024 Roma, Italy
Sr Aparecida M. Fernandes De O. 84 years old - 29.07.2024 Curitiba, Brazil
Sr M. Rosalba M. Teresa Branca 89 years old - 05.08.2024 Rome, Italy
Sr M. Lucis Vincenza Chionna 98 years old - 12.08.2024 Albano GA, Italy
Sr Lucila Nelie Bavaresco 85 years old - 18.08.2024 São Paulo CR, Brazil
Sr M. Paola Kizhakayil Aley 83 years old - 07.09.2024 Mumbai, India
Sr M. Carla Prandini 95 years old - 11.09.2024 Albano TM, Italy
Sr Rosa Morreale 75 years old - 12.09.2024 Rome DP, Italy
Sr M. Regina Kazuko Inagaki 93 years old - 26.09.2024 Kanagawa, Japan
Sr M. Bernarda Justina Branzuela 95 years old - 28.09.2024 Pasay City, Philippines

PARENTS OF THE SISTERS

Sr Tecla Kim Kyoung Hee (mother Choi An Ye Agnes) from the community of Seoul-Miari, Korea
Sr Judith Hidalgo Mejia (mother Maria Concepción) from the community di Prague, Czech Republic
Sr Bruna Fregni (father Umberto) from the community of Rome CG, Italy
Sr Eloine Corazza (father José) from the community of Rio di Janeiro, Brazil
Sr Elisabete Corazza (father José) from the community of Luanda, Angola
Sr Domenica Kim So Hyeong (mother Her Ohg Kyeong Helena) from the community of Seoul Mairi, Korea
Sr Domenica Kim So Hyeong (father Sang Ohg Francesco) from the community of Seoul, Mairi Korea
Sr Juliana Torres Moreno (mother Ramona Moreno) from the community of Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela
Sr Rosette Thomas Kurichullil (mother Miriam Thomas) from the community of Mumbai, India
Sr Irene Rotter (father Alfred) from the community of Nuremberg, Germany
Sr Bernardetta JU Min Hak (mother Hwang Young Hee Maria) from the community of Daegu, Korea

PAULINE FAMILY

Sr M. Cecilia Caterina Serri sjbp, 94 years old - 29.06.2024 Negrar, Italy
Sr M. Josefina Socorro De La Rosa Rivera pdm, 86 years old - 29.06.2024 Mexico City, Mexico
Don Renato Giancarlo Buldrini ssp, 88 years old - 03.07.2024 Alba, Italy
Sr M. Battistina Menina Nerina Villella pdm, 88 years old - 19.07.2024 Rome, Italy
Sr M. Olimpia Maria Musumeci pdm, 85 years old - 22.07.2024 Rome, Italy
Sr M. Elvira Agnese Perlini pdm, 94 years old - 26.07.2024 Sanfré, Italy
Sr M. Francesca Angela Corraine pdm, 83 years old - 27.07.2024 Sanfré, Italy
Sr M. Paola Luigia Amico pdm, 81 years old - 29.07.2024 Sanfré, Italy
Sr M. Candida Adele Ghigi pdm, 96 years old - 10.08.2024 Sanfré, Italy
Sr M. Candida Michiko Caterina Harada pdm 96 years old - 12.08.2024 Tokyo, Japan
Sr M. Silvana Venera Rapisarda pdm 86 years old - 17.08.2024 Acireale, Italy
Sr M. Norbertha Norberta Ekka pdm 69 years old - 21.08.2024 Nemcare in Guwahati, India
Sr M. Pierângela - Ilida Dalla Riva pdm, 79 years old - 16.09.2024 São Paulo, Brazil
Sr Grazia Maria Salaris Vitalia sjbp, 88 years old - 19.09.2024 Verona, Italy
Sr M. Giannina Maria Baldissera pdm, 85 years old - 25.09.2024 Istrana, Italy