

Newsletter

Adorers

Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity

March

2021



Adoratrices

Esclavas del Santísimo Sacramento y de la Caridad

Summary



A new year begins... 2021. Message of Sister Teresa Valenzuela Superior General	3
World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Trafficking in Persons	4
The area of Liberating Action of the Province of America participates in the Continental Campaign against Trafficking in Persons	7
Provincial Chapters in Kolkata and Mumbai	8
World Day of Consecrated Life. Interview with Sister Gladys Herbas, junior Adorer	9
Beginning of Lent. An Invitation to be "bearers of hope" during Lent. Sister Teresa Valenzuela	12
News in brief	13
Resources	15
Institutional Agenda	16

SUMMARY



A new year begins... 2021



Message of Sister Teresa Valenzuela Superior General



Dear Family of Adorers

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God, and we begin the New Year with her motherly blessings. Saint Luke tells us about the joy of the birth of Jesus in today's Gospel, with the visit of the angels and shepherds in the nativity scene at Bethlehem and never ceased to surprise us when he says, "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them deep in her heart." It is appropriate to turn our eyes and hearts to her

who knew very soon the vicissitudes, perplexities and confusions of life that challenged her at every step to have the strongly determined gaze of faith as a disciple. What an endearing image of this God incarnate who became vulnerable as a child! He invites us from the manger to have compassion and acceptance of all. Let us not get tired. Let us redirect our gaze and sensitivity towards those people and situations that are more vulnerable in our world today who are the present mangers and the realities in which we can discover him helpless and in the openness.

We bid farewell to the year 2020 marked by pain and loss of dear ones and the sadness of forced solitude. In addition, we have experienced the solidarity and dedication of so many people who have understood that no one is "saved" alone and many close and silent presences such as healthcare workers, educators and sisters were present to care for, encourage and accompany

Jesus, the Emmanuel, is in our midst and he illuminates "the path of humanity, of our world, teaching us the importance of taking care of one another and of creation, to build a society based on fraternal relationships (Pope Francis)





The International Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking.

Sister Aurelia Agredano.

The 7th International Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking will be celebrated shortly. It is a day to remember, to pray together and to raise awareness that human trafficking is one of the most serious human rights violations of the 21st century.

In this year 2021, the day highlights one of the main causes of human trafficking - the dominant economic model, with its limits of suffering and contradictions are aggravated by the COVID-19 Pandemic virus.

But ...Why is this day celebrated on 8th February? It is because on the 8th of February 1947, Saint Josephine "Bakhita", a Canossa nun, was born. Pope Francis chose this day that Saint Bakhita may become a light in this dark reality.



And ...Who is "Josephine Bakhita"? She is believed to have been born around 1869 in Sudan. She tells us in her autobiography: "I lived a very happy and carefree life, not knowing what suffering was." When she was 9 years old she was kidnapped, forced to walk 970 km, sold, purchased, even given away, tortured ... and made a slave. So who else can tell us something about this cruel reality called slavery in the 21st century? It is only she who can tell us about her true hope, true strength and the will to survive. Bakhita, not only endured so much cruelty and suffering every day of her life and the physical and psychological wounds that penetrated the depths of her heart and her dignity: yet did not allow it to take over her LIFE. From the experience of her suffering, she knew how to transform it into strength, hope, joy, desire to live,... making the meaning of the name, ironically given to her by her kidnappers, "Afortunada"(Bakhita) a reality.





It is paradoxical, but from a faith perspective, the experience and the life of this great woman and many women with whom we have shared our lives, helps us to understand the message of the Gospel where Jesus told us "unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies... it does not bear fruit".



The fruit has been good and abundant. From the most human point of view sharing some of the journeys with people who have suffered from trafficking, getting close to their lives, to their suffering must arouse in us indignation, pain, impotence, rage... But if we look at them from the perspective of faith and dare to "look in-depth", I believe that seeds of hope, audacity, commitment, freedom... will sprout in us and around us.

Thank you! Saint Josephine Bakhita

THANK YOU! Milena, Joy, Ira, Carmenza, Charity, Elena, Irina... ...and a very long list of names and faces of so many women, men, girls and boys who have suffered and still suffer the violation of their rights as persons. They have dared to transform their suffering from within into daily gestures of life and hope... We are questioned by their lives to have the possibility to change our reality a little bit more.

With these desires the UISG (International Union of Superiors General), Talitha Kum (the International Network of Consecrated Life against Human Trafficking) was born in 2009 in Rome. . It shared the desire to create a "network of networks" to coordinate and strengthen activities against human trafficking in the world. Talitha Kum is a network of networks that wants to unite human forces and resources. It is a network of consecrated women who instead of adding links to a chain that imprison, kindles a light to make this reality visible. They illuminate with dedication and commitment to the path to freedom along with the men who desire and seek every day. With the same goal, we raise our voices in unison: Arise! Sisters and brothers of our member congregations in 70 countries! Their lives are a sign of our times; they and we possess the gift of universality.



5



The Adorers family is part of this great project and, I dare to say it, the development of this great project and it could not be otherwise. By charism and mission, to celebrate this day to open interior space of welcoming and adoration, to listen and to visualize, the faces, names and surnames, of so many women and girls with whom every day we make our way of liberation and the journey from the darkness into the light.

The feast of St. Josephine Bakhita on 8th February reminds me of another date which is very significant in the Congregation, which is 6th February 1844. (And without taking away the prominence of this great woman), I think we can also remember St Maria Micaela, as her autobiography tells us: "Ignacia took Micaela to the hospital of St. John of God, where there was a ward for venereal diseases. The first visit took place on 6th February 1844. She records the date. God was waiting for Micaela there. There she came to know the lives of some women, who had a profound impact on her and finding no other way to help them, she decided to open a house or shelter home where she could welcome them and teach them religion".



We all know that this experience is the beginning of what we are today. Like her, we join so many people who kindle a light of hope and seek a way out of slavery to freedom every day.

The present moment and our daily experience of women who are victims of trafficking from all over the world are revealing to us new forms of trafficking. We are well aware of the crisis caused by Covid-19 which shows us the economic model, the one that dominates our lives and one of the main causes of human trafficking. Today we are invited to undertake changes, both individual and social, to transform our economic model, in which people are at the centre of all commercial and business activity, in which the economy is a means to help us grow and build citizenship in which there is no place for inequality, injustice or trafficking. (Conf. Prayer Day Magazine 2021, Episcopal Sub commission for Migration and Human Mobility CEE).

"The eyes wide opened, terrified, I started trembling from head to toe, I tried to scream but a lump in my throat prevented me from doing so, I could neither speak nor cry".

Saint Josephine Bakhita





The area of Liberating Action of the Province of America participates in the Continental Campaign against Human Trafficking.

The Church and the Consecrated Life in Latin America and the Caribbean have been strengthening networking to respond to the realities of Migration and Trafficking in Persons. By the year 2021, it was proposed to carry out a permanent campaign throughout the continent in which the Church, communities and pastoral groups would reflect critically on Trafficking in Persons in the light of faith.

The organisers of the whole campaign are the CLAMOR network of the Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM) and the Confederation of Religious of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR), networks in which the Area of Liberating Action participates actively.



The opening took place virtually, on the night of February 7, 2021, the eve of the memory of St. Josefa Bakhita, with a ceremony where the presidents of CELAM, Clamor network, CLAR and Caritas intervened, Then began the central act, the prayer vigil, with Eucharistic presence that was present for more than an hour, animated by motivations, reflections of the reality in the light of the word and songs that were giving rhythm to the prayerful moment

having participation of voices from Mexico to Argentina, surpassing more than 7,000 people on social networks.

The active participation of the local communities of Adorers in the vigil was overwhelming, from all the countries joined in with such interest that it was a profound moment of prayer and of projection of our Eucharistic spirituality with all the other congregations, pastoral ministries, parishes and faith groups. From now on, the campaign will continue to generate actions and activities for the whole continent until the month of September, closing with the World Day of Migrants.





Provincial Chapters in Kolkata and Mumbai.

The two Adorers provinces of India have elected their provincial superiors for the next three years.

The Provincial Chapter of Kolkata has elected Sister Lissiamma Joseph as Provincial Superior, while Sr. Lissiamma Thuruthikara is the new Provincial Superior of Mumbai.

After the 8th General Conference, the Adorers' provinces had their Provincial Chapters in the various districts. The two Chapters in India, Kolkata and Mumbai, concluded on February 28th.

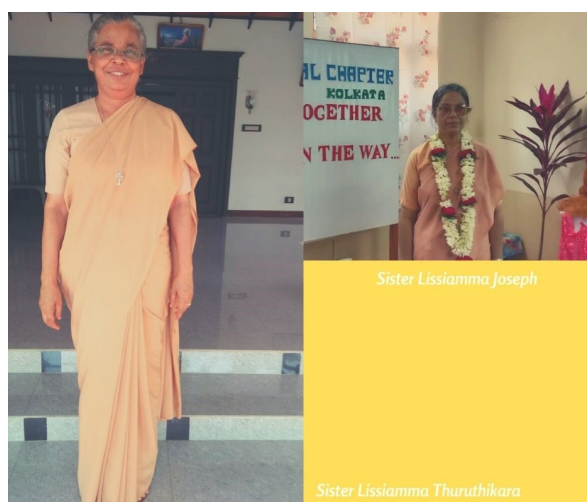
The chronicles of the days of the Provincial Chapter of Kolkata can be followed in the news section of their web page <http://adorerskolkataprovince.org/events>. For their part, the sisters of the Mumbai Province share the day-to-day life of the Chapter, also on their website: <https://adorersmumbaiprovince.org/news-and-events>



XII Provincial Chapter of the Province of Kolkata



VII Provincial Chapter of the Province of Mumbai



Sister Lissiamma Joseph

Sister Lissiamma Thuruthikara



Today we interview ...



World Day for Consecrated Life. We interviewed Sister Gladys Herbas, junior sister of the Adorers.



P. Pope Francis said "The Year of Consecrated Life challenges us about our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us. Do our ministries, our works, our presences respond to what the Spirit has asked of our founders, are they adequate to address their purpose in society and in the Church today?" What do you see as the role of consecrated women in today's society?

R. These times demand coherence from us. Fidelity to the Mission entrusted to us requires us to give answers, that our presence expresses concrete attitudes of closeness and empathy, commitment to those most in need, to be generous with our gaze, listening and companionship.

Our Adorers' presence, the projects that we accompany, far from enclosing us and making us comfortable, demand that we renew ourselves, that we allow ourselves to be animated by the Spirit who animated St. Maria Micaela. Our Congregation tries to respond to the new realities that arise and cry out for liberation. We offer to the

Church and society our Mission of Adoration - Liberation, accompanied by committed lay people who share the charism and enrich the Mission.

I am convinced today more than ever that the role of the consecrated person is to transmit hope, to announce the Good News, to do so with simple gestures and attitudes that humanize and liberate, from the encounter with the other, the empathetic gaze and attentive listening. We are bearers of a great richness that is Faith and this is to be shared.

P. In your opinion, what do you think are the main challenges facing consecrated women in today's world?

R. I think that we are mainly faced with the challenge of giving meaning and transmitting to the world the vitality of our Consecration, making our choice of life in Chastity, Poverty and Obedience a Human Presence of God; being a sign of hope and transmitting the joy of the Following of Christ. In these times where everything is fleeting and relationships tend to be superficial, another challenge is to live the value of fraternity and interculturality, overcoming the search for power that society presents us. We are called to grow in shared service, opening ourselves to the richness of the different charisms that God gives us.



9



Today we interview ...



P. On a more personal level, how would you explain your vocational process to our readers?

R. My vocational process was, and is, an experience of great tenderness from our Good God, through the mediation of concrete people, of simple faith and great strength and fidelity. God was presenting and calling me through women who opened their hearts to me and allowed me to accompany them. I can say with joy that they did great works in me; they are the potters that God has given me, leading me to rediscover Jesus in the Eucharist, human and simple. From there I began a process of Liberation, opening myself and discovering my identity, my being an Adorer.

I began as a layperson; for many years, I shared my life with the Sisters and the girls. I was able to add my gifts, my creativity. I could give myself to service, have my work, my family, an active social life, my place in the world, but something was missing.

Jesus was calling me more and more every day, I tried to turn a deaf ear, but that was when I felt most loved. The call to follow Him, to consecrate my life as an Adorer, was very strong. I began discernment, a beautiful experience of listening to God and to myself. God blesses all paths, gives us the freedom to walk and although some difficulties arose, God has his times and finally, I surrendered.

I had everything a 38-year-old person could need, but I lacked the fullness. I was very happy to give up everything; today I am happier consecrating my life to God for them. There are days that are hard, but the important thing is to keep our eyes on Jesus and to know that we belong to him. Discernment and decision are daily attitudes that help us to follow him.

P. What keys were vital in this process?

R. A big and vital key is faith, a gift from God, which sustains me and encourages me daily. The constant search for an encounter with God, with his Word and prayer, were and are pillars in the process.

Discernment and accompaniment were also vital, it was a process that demanded openness and transparency, with myself, with those who accompanied me and helped and taught me to walk. I consider of supreme importance the witness of dedication and fidelity of so many Sisters Adorers who, through their service, spoke to me about God and taught me the meaning of dedication.

It was very important to work on my personal history and to discover in it the passage of God, to reread it and to embrace it. Vital keys that allowed me to express and live with joy, trust and simplicity, the beautiful path of saying yes to God's call, a response that is certainly a daily one .

“A great and vital key is faith, God's gift, which sustains me and encourages me daily.”



Today we interview ...



P. I understand that Micaela's charism and mission had a lot to do with it?

R. The Adorer charism did its work in me, hand in hand with them, women who were vulnerable but very courageous, who taught me to see beyond appearances, who showed me Jesus, wounded and vulnerable, walking beside me. Charism is a gift that God gives and it is a grace that sustains.

Adoration, the source that drives us to love and serve, makes us go out to the peripheries that surround us, because we do not have to go so far to meet the life that cries out for liberation, it is simply opening the door of our homes.

“ I thank God for the gift of my vocation as Adorer, Handmaid of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity .

Saint Maria Micaela, my great companion on the road, a daring woman who left everything for the love of God, is a testimony of life and an inspiration because she had everything and gave everything for love. She knew how to let herself be found by God and to embrace His Will, to let herself be transformed by God and to be faithful until the end of her life, expressing with her dedication her desire "I have only lived only for God and for them".

P. We are living through a period of vocational crisis in Europe and stagnation in other parts of the world. How can we face this reality?

R. This reality responds to the fact that our society presents other values, is afraid of long-term commitments, anxious for new experiences. The great solidarity that is emerging is perhaps a space of opportunity to face this scenario. To be creative and instruments of God is the proposal.

P. To conclude, we recall this year's motto "Consecrated life, parable of fraternity in a wounded world". What does this message evoke in you?

R. Consecrated life is called to walk with others. I would like to give thanks for the generosity of so many of our sisters and brothers who, day after day, give their lives for those most in need, especially in this time of pandemic; how many are those who, moved by the Spirit, have reinvented themselves, joining forces and risking their own lives to be Samaritans alongside their suffering brothers and sisters. I thank God for the gift of my vocation as Adorer, Handmaid of the Blessed Sacrament and of Charity, and a name full of life and meaning, which completes and drives my humanity.

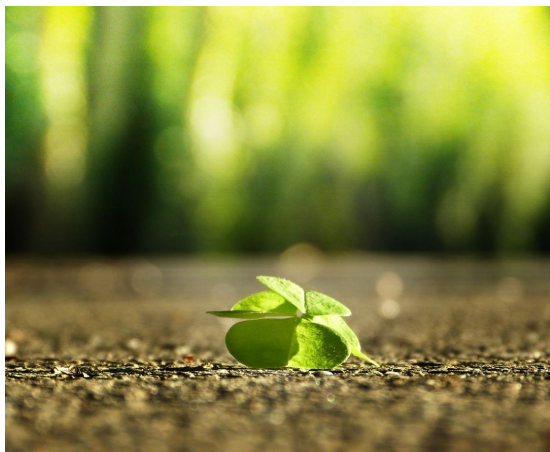


Reflection



Beginning of Lent. An Invitation to be "bearers of hope" during Lent.

Sister Teresa Valenzuela.



"Sister Teresa Valenzuela, Superior General, in her last circular letter (C.2/2021) encourages us to live this time of preparation for Easter and she tells us: Lent comes with the pedagogy and wisdom and invites us to look at God, to turn our eyes and hearts towards God

I share with you some words from the Pope's Message for this Lent. The title is "A time for renewing faith, hope and charity", a time for waiting, for looking again at the patience of God who continues to care for his Creation...Jesus, in the third proclamation of his passion, Mt 20, 17-19, luminously announces hope when he says that he will rise on the third day! How much the world needs this gift of hope!

Our world, the people with whom we share our lives, need us to be bearers of hope, with simple everyday gestures: a smile, a good word, a time of listening and consolation, a helping hand in solidarity... gestures of tenderness that nourish and care for life, in tune with the challenges and the spirit that the VIII General Conference proposes to us. We can embrace and welcome creatively and overcome the distancing to which the virus obliges us ... it is the vaccine for the heart, that of mutual care, we need it as much as we need it for the body

Let us walk together in communion. Let us accompany each other in prayer and keep in communication, let us continue to care for and animate the life of our Congregational Family: community and personal, the mission, those who walk with us. This new experience is being a challenge and a good opportunity. We have noted that there is no "virus" that can prevent us from bearing witness to the "parable of fraternity in this wounded world" (Consecrated life day 2021)

We entrust ourselves to our Mother of Hope and St. Joseph, in this year that the Church dedicates to him, to intercede so that no one lacks "the care of solidarity support", especially the most vulnerable, trafficked women, immigrants... Our prayer goes also for the victims of this pandemic COVID 19.

Happy Easter journey





FIRST PROFESSION OF SR. SAROJINI TETE.

It is with joy that we share the news of the first profession of Sr. Sarojini Tete from the province of Kolkata. We share with you the testimony of Sr. Sarojini Tete: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". Luke 1: 46-47.



FIRST MONOGRAPH: ST. JOSEPHA BAKHITA.

In the context of the celebration of the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking, the General Communications Team is launching a new service for the whole Adorer Family. A monograph brings together the various publications that have been produced on St. Josepha Bakhita. The document contains bibliographical and audiovisual references .



SISTER MARÍA DEL CARMEN ABENIA HAS PASSED AWAY.

Sister María del Carmen Abenia, Superior General of the Congregation from 1981 to 1987, has left us to go to her final meeting with the Father. We are grateful for her mark of fidelity, dedication, love and goodness that she left in so many sisters and women with whom she lived throughout her life. We are especially grateful for the impulse of renewal that she gave to the Congregation to live in fidelity to the charism during her service as Superior General. María del Carmen Abenia lived in the community of Zaragoza, Spain.



WHATSAPP DISSEMINATION GROUP.



The General Communications Team has set up a new communication tool to share information related to the ongoing of the Adorers.

It is a group of diffusion in the messaging tool WhatsApp. To participate in this group, send a WhatsApp message with the word ALTA, your name and country to the number: +34 633784283. If at any time you want to stop receiving messages just send a message to the same phone number indicating it.





1ST SUNDAY OF LENT: I INVITE YOU TO PRAY WITH HIM .

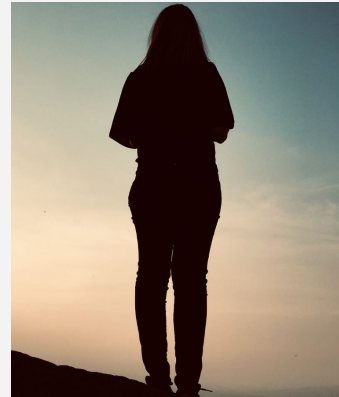
1st Sunday of Lent: I invite you to pray with Him.

On this 1st Sunday of Lent, our Sister Manuela Solé, shared a reflection entitled "I invite you to pray with Him"... [\[Read more...\]](#)



2º. SUNDAY OF LENT. "PRAYER", "ALMS" AND "FASTING".

On the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Sister Chiara Fujita, reflected on this Lenten season in a text entitled: "Prayer", "Almsgiving" and "Fasting "... [\[Read more\]](#)





THE DAILY LIFE OF THE SISTERS ADORERS.

Through the Brochero project (www.brochero.org.ar) we can get to know in detail the daily life of the Sisters Adorers in Argentina. In this audiovisual project, four young people in search of their life project are introduced to the daily life of 11 religious communities... [\[Read more\]](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE .

This day is celebrated on 30 January and is dedicated to commemorating a culture of non-violence and peace in educational centers. On this Day of Peace, schools commit themselves as defenders of peace and understanding between people of different origins and ways of thinking. We share this video produced by the Santa María Micaela School in Valladolid... [\[See more\]](#)

LETTER TO ALL CONSECRATED MEN AND WOMEN.

On the Day of Consecrated Life to be celebrated next Tuesday, February 2nd, the Congregation for Consecrated Life has published a letter by the Prefect of the Congregation, João Braz Card. de Aviz and the Archbishop Secretary, José Rodríguez Carballo, O.F.M. In this link of the General Union of General Superiors, you can read the letter in several languages.... [\[Read more\]](#)

HOMILY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF ST. MARIA BAKHITA.

The World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was commemorated on 8 February, coinciding with St. Josepha Bakhita's feast day. This is the homily of the Eucharist for the canonization of this Saint, a cause of joy for the whole Church and for the Adorers Charism in particular... [\[See more\]](#)



Institutional Agenda



January.



Elaboration of the Plan of Action for the next three years.



Presential and on-line, due to the fact that Sr. Teresa was in Chile and Sr. Rosaura was in Colombia.



February and March.



Support, on the part of the General Team, for the preparation and development of the provincial chapters and the Assembly of Japan.



On-line



25-28 February.



Sisters Fara Galati and Rosaura Patiño accompanied the Chapters of Kolkata and Mumbai in supporting the consultation for the appointment of the respective General Governments .



On—line



3 - 6 March.



Sr Teresa Valenzuela, Superior General, chaired the Assembly of the Delegation of Japan and Sr Micaela Tanigaichi helped in the preparation of the work for the Assembly as translator.

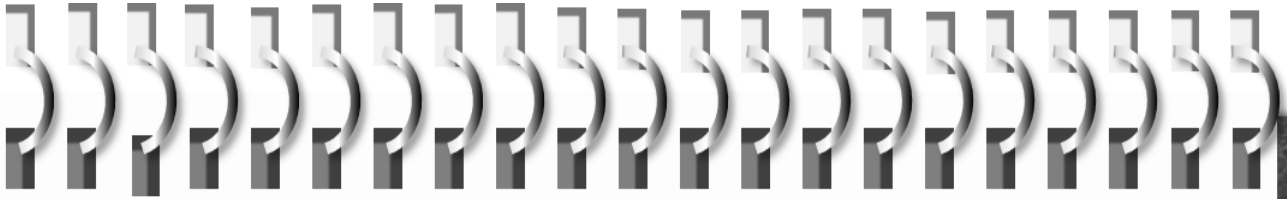



On—line


AGENDA





Institutional Agenda





 6 - 16 March.


 Sr Teresa Valenzuela, Superior General, chaired the Assembly of the Delegation of Japan and Sr Micaela Tanigaichi helped in the preparation of the work for the Assembly as translator.

 On-line.

 Sr. M^a José Palomino, who for health reasons and because of the restrictions of the pandemic, had been working for some time in Madrid, returned to Rome on 4 March.

 Rome - Madrid.

 Sr. Carmen Bosch continues to work in the Mother House in charge of the General Administration.

 Mother House.

AGENDA



17



March

2021



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