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**Bulletin of quick information
from the Secretary General for Communications**

IT HAPPENED IN THE MONTH OF JULY ...

On July 2, 1967, Msgr. Giuseppe Carraro presided at a celebration that marked the beginning of monastic life at the cloistered convent of Servite Sisters, Priestly Oblates of Verona. The nuns came from the cloistered convent of Discalced Servites of Carpenedo (Mestre, Venice) and included: Sister **Maria Giovanna** (who later returned to Carpenedo), Sister **Maria Marcella**, Sister **Maria Gabriella**, Sister **Maria Arcangela**, Sister **Maria Serafina**, Sister **Maria Annunziata**, Sister **Maria Gesualda**, Sister **Annamaria**, and the foundress, Mother **Teresa Maria Lavagnoli**.



Minor Servite Art
Monte Berico - Vicenza
Hymn to Life

FAMOUS SERVITES

Gregorio M. Alasia was born at Sommariva del Bosco (Cuneo) in 1578. He entered the Order of Servants of Mary on April 28, 1596. Count Raimondo della Torre Valsassina, the Lord of Duino had made a contract with representatives of the Order to establish a Servite Priory in Duino. There would be a school attached to the priory to stem the tide of Protestantism. In 1601 Fra Gregorio, who had not yet been ordained to the priesthood, was sent to Duino to oversee construction of the priory and become its superior. He was the first Catholic priest to confront the problem of texts in Slovenian that were absolutely necessary for the Catholic apostolate. He compiled an Italian-Slovenian dictionary that was published in Udine in 1607. Only one copy of this work still exists in the Ljubjana Library. The dictionary includes a brief Slovenian grammar, conversations in Italian and Slovenian, prayers, and four Slovenian hymns for feast days. Fra Gregorio left Duino in 1612 and moved to Sommariva. Later (1615) he moved to Rome where he died at San Marcello in 1626.

From the Pentecost Homily Of Pope Benedict XVI (June 12, 2010)

Today we are celebrating the great Solemnity of Pentecost. If, in a certain sense, all the liturgical solemnities of the Church are important, Pentecost is uniquely so. This is because, having reached the 50th day, it marks the fulfilment of the event of the passover, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus through the gift of the Spirit of the Risen One.

[...]In today's liturgy we perceive another connection. The Holy Spirit is Creator, he is at the same time the Spirit of Jesus Christ, but in such a way that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God. And in the light of the First Reading we may add: the Holy Spirit gives life to the Church. She is not born from the human will, from man's reflection, from his ability or from his organizational capacity, if this were so she would have ceased to exist long ago, as happens with all that is human. Instead the Church is the body of Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The images of wind and fire, used by St Luke to portray the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 2:2-3), evoke Sinai, where God revealed himself to the People of Israel and granted it his Covenant. "Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke", we read in the Book of Exodus, "because the Lord descended upon it in fire" (19:18). Indeed Israel celebrated the 50th day after the Passover, after the commemoration of the flight from Egypt, as the feast of Sinai, the feast of the Covenant. When St Luke speaks of tongues of fire to represent the Holy Spirit, this Old Covenant is called to mind, established on the basis of the Law received by Israel on Sinai. Thus the event of Pentecost is represented as a new Sinai, as the gift of a new Covenant in which the Covenant with Israel was extended to all the peoples of the earth, in which all the barriers fall from the old Law and its heart appears holier and more unchangeable; in other words as love, which the Holy Spirit himself communicates and spreads, a love that embraces all things. At the same time the Law is expanded, it is opened, even though it becomes simpler: it is the New Covenant which the Spirit "writes" in the hearts of all who believe in Christ. The extension of the Covenant to all the peoples of the earth is represented by St Luke with a list of peoples, that is considerably long for that epoch (cf. Acts 2:9-11). With this we are told something most important: that the Church was catholic from the very outset, that her universality is not the result of the successive inclusion of various communities. Indeed, from the first moment the Holy Spirit created her as the Church of all peoples; she embraces the whole world, surmounts all distinctions of race, class and nation; tears down all barriers and brings people together in the profession of the triune God. Since the beginning the Church has been one, catholic and apostolic: this is her true nature and must be recognized as such. She is not holy because of her members' ability but because God himself, with his Spirit, never ceases to create her, purify her and sanctify her.

GENERAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIATS

VATICAN CITY / BRAZIL

From the *Osservatore Romano*, June 8, 2011

"The Holy Father has appointed Bishop **Francesco Biasin**, Bishop of Barra do Pirai Volta Redonda. The diocese is 4,768 sq km, with a population of 804,000 – 604,267 of whom are Catholic. There are 51 priests, 82 religious and 2 permanent deacons. Until now Bishop Biasin has been the bishop of Pesqueira (Brazil). He succeeds Bishop **João Maria Messi**, O.S.M. The Holy Father accepted Bishop Messi's resignation – he had reached the prescribed age limit.

MARIANUM PONTIFICAL THEOLOGICAL FACULTY – ROME FT MARIANUM

On June 1, 2011, the Congregation for Catholic Education appointed Fra **Salvatore M. Perrella** President of the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty for a three-year term (2011-2014). He succeeds Professor **Silvano M. Maggiani** who served three three-year terms. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Fra Silvano for the work he has done and offer our congratulations and best wishes to Fra Salvatore. May his service benefit both the Order and the Church. On June 27th 2011 Fra **Paolo M. Zanini** has been elected vice President.



PROVINCES AND COMMUNITIES

PIGRIMAGE FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING SERVITES



Fra **Rhett M. Sarabia**, the General Secretary for Ongoing Formation, has organized a 13-day pilgrimage for English speaking Servites (May 23 – June 4, 2011). The pilgrimage will visit the Servite communities in Italy that are most important for our history and spirituality. This pilgrimage was

proposed at the 2007 Ariccia Chapter: *To promote spiritual progress among friars of all ages and a clear understanding of the world we live in, the Secretariat will organize courses of updating (aggiornamento) for groups of friars in various areas of pastoral concern.* (General Chapter 2007, no. 37b). The purpose of our pilgrimage was to create a spiritual experience through visits, prayers, meditations and discussions on the places where the Saints and Blesseds of our Order lived. Our journey began in Rome where we visited the four major Pontifical Basilicas and were received in audience by the Pope. From Rome we traveled to Florence, Siena, Faenza, Forli, Ravenna, Viareggio and Pisa. On June 1st the group went to the Hermitage at Ronzano and from there we visited the Servite Basilica in Bologna, the Motherhouse of the Servite Sisters of Galeazza and members of the Lay *Diakonie* at the home of **Lorena and Giorgio**. Afterwards we headed for Vicenza and Monte Berico. We visited the Basilica, the Mission Institute and Sant'Elena priory in Venice. On our way back we stopped in Todi and celebrated Mass on the tomb of St. Philip Benizi. We also visited the magnificent convent of the Servite Sisters of Reparation (*Riparatrici*) in Todi. We would like to thank Fra **Camille M. Jacques** our spiritual tour guide, Fra **Eugene M. Smith**, our translator and Fra **Giuseppe M. Zampiva**, our driver.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - MEXICO

Fra **J. Gerardo M. Torres Ornelas**, the Prior Provincial, invited the whole Servite Family in Mexico to join him in a pilgrimage to the Basilical of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The organizers of the pilgrimage were surprised to see so many buses arriving early in the morning: 80 came from Aguascalientes, 40 from Celaya, 40 from Guadalajara, 40 from Cordova and Orizaba, 10 from Maravatio, 15 from Xochimilco, 6 from Amozoc and others in smaller groups. In all there were more than 300 people. A small group from the Marian Center at Divina Providencia and Xochimilco helped and extended hospitality to the pilgrims who came from farther away. These volunteers from the capital feel they too are part of the Servite family even if they have no legal links. Their bonds to us are cultural and spiritual.

VENETIAN PROVINCE - ITALY

Fra **Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica**, the Prior General conducted the canonical visitation of the Venetian Province (June 9 – 30, 2011). He was accompanied by Fra **Gino M. Leonardi**, the responsible General Councilor. The visitors first met with the Provincial Council and those responsible for the Provincial Secretariats. Afterwards they visited each priory of the province

and held discussions with individuals and communities. These calm and frank discussions provided an insight into the praiseworthy work being done by so many of the friars – even the older ones. The visitors met other members of the Servite Family and the cloistered nuns of Carpenedo, Verona and Arco. In Udine the Prior General presided at a Promise Service for Signora **Eilers Biasutti** of the Secular Order. The ceremony took place during the crowded Corpus Christi Mass in the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace (June 24).

VENICE, ITALY - SANT'ELENA



The Servite community at Sant'Elena is celebrating a Jubilee Year (2011 – 2012). In 1211 during the Fourth Crusade the relics of St. Helen, the Mother of the Emperor, Constantine, were brought to Venice by Canon Aicardo, the superior of St. Helen's monastery. The monastery later passed on to the Servites. St. Helen's relics are under the altar in the chapel dedicated to her. This monumental complex of buildings housed Fra Paolo and so many other theologians who served the Most Serene Republic of Venice (La Serenissima). Led by its prior, Fra **Carlo M. Serpelloni**, the community is sponsoring a series of religious and cultural events (concerts, meetings, discussions ...) to commemorate the translation of St. Helen's body and to publicize the importance of the Servite presence in Venice over the centuries.

RIO DE JANEIRO – BRAZIL

Since February Fra **Joacir M. Borges** has been living at the Provincial House in Rio de Janeiro. He has finally received permission to enter and reside in Mozambique. He bade farewell to his relatives in Santa Catarina and left for Mozambique on June 3, 2011. He is part of a two-year collaboration (primarily in formation) between the Brazilian and Spanish Provinces in Mozambique.

MONTREAL – CANADA

The "Vocation and Servite Life" study group held its sixth meeting on Servite Spirituality. The topic was "Living with Mary and Protecting the

Environment." The meeting took place at St. Donatus Church in Montreal. Some fifteen interested people attended: sisters, members of the Secular Order, friars and friends. Fra Michel M. Tremblay presented a paper that he and Fra Paul-Andre M. Mailhot had prepared.

BORGHO TOSIGNANO (BOLOGNA), ITALY – PIEDMONT-ROMAGNA PROVINCE

The Piedmont-Romagna Province celebrated its annual Provincial Meeting at the Villa Santa Maria Retreat House in Borgo Tossignano, Bologna (June 7-9). The friars discussed sharing responsibility with lay people and Fra **Giuseppe Zaupa** (Venetian Province) gave a talk entitled: *Lay People and Us*. Lay people who already work with us were present at the meeting. One afternoon was devoted to a presentation of the *Fondo Storico P. Pacifico Branchesi*. Professor Corrado Pin made the presentation. We inaugurated the Servite Studies Center (*Centro Studi OSM*) at Santa Maria dei Servi in Bologna. At 7 PM on June 7 we celebrated a solemn Mass in the Basilica dei Servi to mark the religious and priestly anniversaries of province friars. The Cappella Musicale Santa Maria dei Servi took part in the celebration. On June 8, Fra **Rhett M. Sarabia** (PHI) spoke on the subject for 2011 Ongoing Formation: Preserving the Environment. The last day of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of life in the Province. It began with a talk by Fra **Cesare M. Antonelli**, the Prior Provincial.

Fra Rhett

BENBURB, IRELAND

Province of the Isles: Provincial Chapter

Friars of the Province of the Isles met for a provincial chapter of renewal at Benburb Priory in Ireland (June 20 – 24, 2011). Fra **Bernard M. Thorne**, the Prior Provincial, presided. Twenty-two friars attended the chapter but for reasons of health or distance some ten others could not be present. Non-friars in attendance were Sister **Michelle Reilly** of the London Servite Sisters, **Mary Stephens** of the Servite Secular Institute and **Pat Clarke** of the Secular Order. Father **Brian McLaughlin**, CSSp, who will be the facilitator at the next elective chapter, was there as was the guest of honor: Fra **Hubert M. Moons** from Monte Senario. Fra Hubert gave excellent conferences based on the *Legenda de Origine* and the Servite Constitutions. He spoke about "See, Judge, Act." Fra Hubert also spoke to members of the Secular Order and friends invited for Mass and dinner on the last evening of the Chapter. The chapter urged all our communities to put Fra Hubert's insights into practice and to discuss them in conventual chapters over the coming year.

VICENZA, ITALY – MISSION INSTITUTE

The Higher Institute of Religious Studies (*Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose – ISSR*) is affiliated to the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty and is located in the Mission Institute in Vicenza. The ISSR had organized a two-year Master's program devoted to Sanctuaries. It is called *Il Santuario, luogo del sacro, meta di pellegrinaggi e centro di civiltà* [The Sanctuary, a Sacred Place, the Goal of Pilgrims and a Center for Civilization]. The course is both interesting and unique. It is intended primarily for those who do pastoral work at Sanctuaries but would also benefit professionals in history, art, culture and religious tourism. The courses cover various aspects of sanctuaries: liturgy, worship, popular devotion, Mariology, art and culture. The course includes legislation regarding sanctuaries; how sanctuaries are managed; guided tours of the principal sanctuaries in Italy and Europe. Contact with the ISSR or with the responsible, fr. **Gino Alberto M. Faccioli**, can be made at the following e-mail address: teologia@monteberico.it

UDINE, ITALIA

Our Udine community is organizing a city retreat for priests, religious and lay people. The theme of the retreat is: *The Beatitudes – a Source of Spirituality*. Msgr. Carlo Ghidelli, Archbishop emeritus of Lanciano-Ortona and teacher at the Northern Italy Theological Faculty in Milan will conduct the retreat which will be held in the new rooms at the Delle Grazie University Residence from September 5th to 10th, 2011. For more information please write to Fra **Cristiano M. Cavendon**, Prior of the Udine Community.

VALINHOS - BRAZIL

Here in Valinhos we are continuing our work of evangelization through the media. This month we provided television coverage for the Assembly of Brazilian Bishops meeting at the Aparecida Sanctuary. One evening during the Assembly I presented a program entitled "*The Church in Communion*." It focused on the challenges of evangelization and the urban apostolate. As a Servite I emphasized the need for Marian formation in all the programs – this is vital if we are to spread devotion to our Mother and the Mother of God. We are continuing our missionary journeys throughout Brazil; the project is called "Caravan of Life." We celebrate a Mass of Healing and promote devotion to St. Peregrine.

Fra **Rinaldo M. Stecanela**

THE SERVITE FAMILY

SERVITE CLOISTERED CONVENTS

On June 24, 2011, the nuns of Arco (Trent) met in Chapter and unanimously elected Sister **Anna Maria Di Domenico** as Prioress. Fra **Angel M.**



Ruiz Garnica, the Prior General, presided at the chapter.

Earlier, on June 16, Fra **Franco M. Azzalli**, the Vicar General, presided at an election where Sister **Maria Francesca D'Amico** was reconfirmed as Prioress of the cloistered convent of Sant'Angelo in Vado.

GITEGA – BURUNDI, SERVITE SISTERS OF CHIOGGIA

Water for everyone – but at what price. An impressive new plant will soon begin operating in Gitega. It will provide drinking water for all the outlying areas. This was made possible by donations from the German government. A new aqueduct will soon reach Bwoga and there are fountains where people can draw clean water. This is important for their health and will combat intestinal infections and typhoid – a scourge that claims so many victims (especially infants) every year. But there are still problems. The government has raised the price from 20% to 300% for each cubic meter of water. This rise in price may have been revoked. We can only hope and we can only hope that the promise to bring electricity to the whole population will be kept.

ANNIVERSARIES

Our heartfelt congratulations to Fra **Reinhold M. Bodner** (TYR) on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on July 1, 1961.

An innocent smile

