



# Informationes

*Sorores Divini Salvatoris*

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## Salvatorians celebrate 50 years of its Foundation in Sri Lanka



The Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Saviour in Sri Lanka reached the Golden Jubilee of foundation on February 24, 2004. However we celebrated this event on March 27, during the time of the General Visitation. It is indeed a significant landmark in the annals of Salvatorian History not only for our Province but also for the whole Salvatorian family.

His Lordship, the late Bishop of Chilaw Dr. Edmund Pieris O.M.I. extended an invitation to the General Administration in Rome, to begin a Mission in Ceylon in order to get the Salvatorians to the Government Hospital, Kurunegala. The IX General Chapter in November 1953 approved the establishment of the Mission. Following the Chapter, the General Superior, Mother Olympia Huel with two nursing Sisters visited Ceylon. In answer to this mission sixteen volunteer Salvatorian missionaries reached our shores. They took over the administration of health care apostolate under the able leadership of Sr. Johanna Feder. Through the instrumentality of our dear pioneer missionaries, the mission progressed and the foundation began to take root in God's own mysterious ways. "Unless the Lord builds the house, In vain do the builders labour!" (Ps: 126-127).

We owe our gratitude to consecutive Generalates for their gracious support offered us throughout our journey. It is quite opportune for us to look back to those early years of our foundation not because we have reached fifty years, but because the Lord had been faithfully journeying with us through out.

We as a Province raise our voices to render praise and glory to the Lord at this time for he has richly blessed and graciously carried us in His plans showering his abundant blessings upon us. The two missionaries who are still alive rejoice with us, while those pioneers who have reached their homeland in heaven join in sharing the praises of the Lord bringing blessings from above.

It is indeed a privileged time. A grace filled period. It is an invitation for all of us to look into our own lives. It is an occasion for rejoicing. We celebrate this event in order to share our joy together with others forging ahead to a future with deep conviction, unflinching courage and genuine commitment.

The Jubilee set the Sisters in the Province on a specific journey that took us on two parallel tracks, an internal renewal and the external preparation. We needed to prepare ourselves as a Province adhering to the voice of Leviticus in the Bible.

**“You shall send abroad the loud trumpet through all your land,**

**You shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty through the land.**

**To all its inhabitants, It shall be a Jubilee for you” (Leviticus 25/ 9-10 )**

The time was a period of searching internally, while we needed to plan to celebrate externally. Therefore the administration in the Province decided to form a Jubilee committee in the Province, which would programme the plan of action. Each individual Sister could be incorporated into the preparation and contribute to enrich one another in the process. The committee planned together with the Provincial Administration and then with the community Superiors, first to prepare the Sisters spiritually. The Spirituality team in the Province worked in consultation with each community taking the Sisters through an inner process of transformation and conversion. The reflective sharing and praying was the beginning of a change of heart for each sister. While this process was forging ahead, the preparation for the actual celebration was taking shape. There were a few teams who undertook certain responsibilities while the Jubilee committee headed and coordinated the overall progress of the plan of action. The Sisters were committed and made much sacrifice for the preparations to reach the climax.

Some Sisters busied themselves digging into historical documents while others searched materials of the Founders to pen something specifically Salvatorian for the Sisters and the general public. As a result many articles were provided to the media

and in the Jubilee souvenir booklet. This area of work became a soul-searching process. “Quo Vadis” – where are we Salvatorians? The liturgy, the festive meal and other areas of work were led by those coordinating teams of Sisters who undertook to complete the task as a whole.

Members of both the Lay Associates and the Angel Sodality contributed articles in writing as well as volunteering in the preparation of banners and putting up a pandol at the entrance to the convent. They also produced a jubilee plaque on which ‘Divine Saviour’ was engraved.

The General Superior Sr. Therezinha Rasera with two of her councilors Sr. Graced Mary Croft and Sr. Rani Fernando were with us to take part in the celebration. Sr. Luigia Paulcci one of the pioneer missionary had the great opportunity to be with the Sisters in the Province during this time. They were our special invitees. There were two Bishops who concelebrated at Jubilee Mass with invited priests and other visitors. Leaders of the Lay Associates and parents of our Sisters were among the guests who brought much happiness and joy to the celebration.

The Liturgy was organized in three languages so that every participant could join in a meaningful manner. His Lordship Bishop Marcus Fernando was the main celebrant at the Jubilee Mass. In his homily he thanked the Salvatorians while he stressed the need for “**right**” **discernment**” in choosing our Missions, so that the province may not lose touch with the Salvatorian Spirit. We need to be leaven to the masses of today in our own soil.

As part of the celebration, two retreats will follow in May and August. A Jesuit Priest prepared the sisters for the retreats. We still look forward to the initiation of the programs to be conducted by the Vocation Promotion team in consultation with the respective parish communities during which time we will have the opportunity to share our Life and Mission. Beginning in May 2004, a specific day is allocated each month to a specific parish community. This program will continue until February 2005.

Our journey is a process of continual conversion in order to launch a fresh start in all our missionary efforts. We as a Province dedicate ourselves to bring life to the full by promoting and defending life in all its forms adhering to the Mission and Identity Statement in the Province.

*By Sr. Georgina Fernando*



# Basic Values for Salvatorian Institutions

*Elaborated during the European Leadership Meeting in Rome*

*“... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Jn 10:10*

## **The Human and the Divine Image**

- ◆ In their mission and action the Salvatorian Sisters are rooted in their faith in God, who is the origin and goal of their lives.
- ◆ In their actions they are guided by confidence in the Scripture statements that God is “walking with us” - confirmed through His own Son Jesus Christ. Our ideal and example is the unlimited love of Jesus for humankind.
- ◆ This fundamental orientation includes deep respect for the human being and all creation, which is expressed by all our collaborators – men and women – through their attitude in their work environment.
- ◆ For us the gift of life begins with conception and continues after death. We are concerned with the salvation of the whole person.

## **Identity**

### **Nobody is excluded from our commitment for the good of humankind.**

- ◆ We are fully committed to work for justice and peace and the good of those people who are entrusted to us.
- ◆ Our common mission strengthens us and binds us together and is confirmed by the quality of our relationship with each other.
- ◆ We encourage and thus strengthen one another in our mission, which we also translate into work and action. Thus our mission becomes much more than mere duty.

### **The realization of the Salvatorian spirit in our inter-relationships**

- ◆ In our actions we are guided by openness, as well as mutual respect and confidence.
- ◆ This means: listening to each other, searching for solutions together, if possible – making decisions jointly and keeping them transparent on all levels.
- ◆ The care for the individual person also includes giving enough space to offer assistance with personal accompaniment and spiritual events.

### **The realization (introduction) of the Salvatorian values under difficult social and economic circumstances**

- ◆ The Salvatorian values of love, faith, humanity, respect for life, justice and hope are influencing our work in all spheres.
- ◆ Especially in times of difficult social and economic circumstances, we are following F. Jordan’s vision and are searching to collaborate with others, in order to improve the quality of life of those for whom we care.

- ◆ The continuing decrease of resources is motivating us to deal carefully with energies and materials and to adopt efficient forms of organization.

### **Professional competence and humanity – with restricted financial resources**

- ◆ In our work we are competent and responsible from a technical, human and economic point of view.
- ◆ Efficiency and human care/attention cannot exclude each other.
- ◆ We are responsibly handling the personal time at our disposal and are using these resources for technical and spiritual ongoing formation.

### **Inter-action and collaboration as an instrument for mutual encouragement**

- ◆ Each SDS-Institutions forms a value-based community. Exchange on a national and international level among collaborators of different institutions is key to the realization and introduction of our common values.
- ◆ Religious members and their collaborators are jointly contributing to the life of the Salvatorian value-community.
- ◆ All those in leadership positions bear a special responsibility as models for their collaborators.
- ◆ Mutual understanding, exchange of technical information, transparency and openness as well as the deepening of the Salvatorian values constitute a bridge to good collaboration and mutual encouragement within and among the individual SDS Institutions.

### **Ongoing formation and transmission of value-concepts having as a background the Salvatorian Charism**

- ◆ Ongoing formation informs the collaborators about Salvatorian ideals and goals and creates the possibility of personal confrontation with these ideals and goals.
- ◆ Collaborators, men and women, are invited to strengthen their own faith-position, in order to be able to talk about value-concepts that they experience in daily life.
- ◆ This kind of ongoing formation is offered on a regular basis, and all collaborators are making use of it.

Rome, May 2004



# We give thanks to the Lord

For the 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Religious Consecration

S. Nita Abeyratne (SL)

For the 40<sup>th</sup>. Celebration of Religious Consecration

S. Karlyn Cauley (USA)

S. Elisabeth Vetter (USA)

S. Pierina Cristini (It)

S. Carla Pizi (It)

S. Laurina Kokubona (Tan)

S. Wieslawa Garecka (Po)

S. Dominique Boonen (Be)

S. Maria Vanhamel (Be)

S. Hermine Baumgartner (Au)

S. Gisela Schupp (Au)

S. Doris Zweytick (Au)

S. Dominika Kahr (Au)

S. Daniela Meyer (Ge)

S. Bonita Burkhardt (Ge)

S. Appollonia Hinlereder (Ge)

For the Golden Jubilee of Religious Consecration

S. Alice Gindt (USA)

S. Marie Ensslin (USA)

S. Isabella Schuller (Au)

S. Beata Huber (Ge)

S. Gonzaga Brodhun

S. Hadwiges Haake (Ge)

S. Michaela Feder (Ge)

S. Priska Gawellek (Ge)

S. Rita Cantow

S. Lucina Bogner (Ro)

S. Philomena Braunhofer (Ro)

S. Theresia Bauer (ST)

S. Czeslawa Wojcik (Po)

S. Wladyslawa Przebinda (Po)

For 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious Consecration

S. Hilmar Wittich (Ge)

S. Aleydis Van Lierop (Be)

S. Frances Marie Lendle (USA)

S. Germaine Vandenberg (USA)

S. Joan Stanczak (USA)

S. Rose Ann Ritger (USA)

S. Winifred De Lille (USA)

S. Ervina Turak (Hu)

S. Gertulia Berényi (Hu)

S. Sigisberta Balassa (Hu)

S. Ermentrudis Jüugens (Ge)

For 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religious Consecration

S. Berchmana Scheller (Ge)

S. Siegmunda Ahrens (Br/SC)

S. Ceciline Ruff (USA)

S. Margaret Shekleton (USA)

For 75<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of Religious Consecration

S. Georgina Ginter (USA)

We sing the glory of the Lord forever

For the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Salvator School in Wien-Kaisermühlen

For the 75<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of presence of Salvatorian Sisters in Poland

For the 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of presence of Salvatorian Sisters in Sri Lanka

For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mater Salvatoris School in Horrem

For the new Administration Team of India District:

S. Grace Mary Cherian: Unit Superior

S. Deepa Joseph: Vicaress

S. Anthonila Kanaparathi: Councilor and Treasurer

S. Lilly Kurian: Councilor

S. Leenamary Joseph: Secretary

He makes our name great, so that we'll be a blessing!

For the Final Profession of vows

S. Anita Mwadi (Con)

S. Virginie Kasang (Con)

S. Astrid Kateni (Con)

S. Sylvie Ditemb Nakachez (Con)

S. Elisabeth Wurzer (Au)

S. Erika Moser (Au)

S. Ellen Sinclair (USA)

S. Mary G. Yamay (Tan)

S. Ruth J. Kisibo (Tan)

S. Sophia C. Muhiba (Tan)

S. Sebasteen Alexander (SL)

Because His love lasts forever

For the First Profession of vows

S. Regis Mary Vanakka (In)

S. Jincy Cyriac (In)

S. Rincy Jose (In)

S. Santhi Polamarasetti (In)

S. Barbara Hofer (ST)

S. Angela Cöppicus (Ge)

S. Ana Marie Mahatma (Con)

S. Antoinette Mandola (Con)

S. Christine Ayembe (Con)

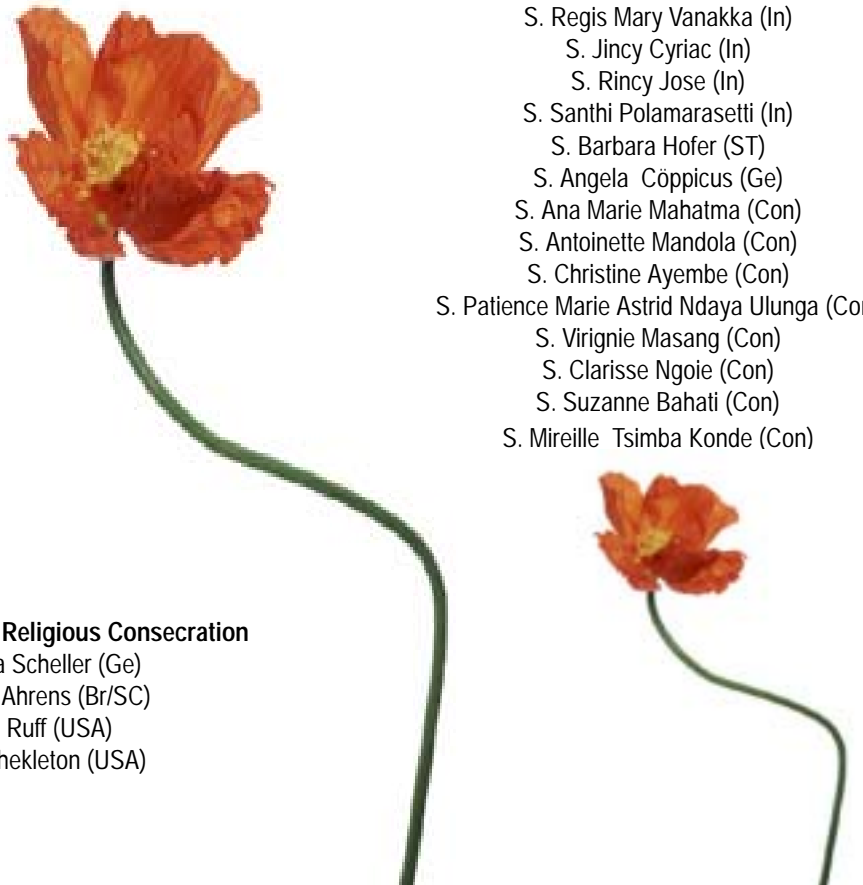
S. Patience Marie Astrid Ndaya Ulunga (Con)

S. Virignie Masang (Con)

S. Clarisse Ngoie (Con)

S. Suzanne Bahati (Con)

S. Mireille Tsimba Konde (Con)



# International Finance Commission Meets

Our International Finance Commission held its annual meeting May 25-27, 2004 in the Conference Room of Villa Maria. All members of the commission were present: S. Martha Gloria Mesa Garcés, S. Dolores Ryan (Rome), S. Jeanette Clarke (USA), S. Lucia Graf (Austria), S. Renate Schürmeyer (Germany), S. Shiroma Kurumbalapatiya (Sri Lanka), Mr. Hartmut Velde (Consultant) and Dr. Frank Probst (Consultant). The entire Generalate was also in attendance. Professional Translators aided the communication among the commission members.

After S. Therezinha welcomed the members of the commission, S. Martha Gloria presented the specific objectives for this meeting: To study and review the unit financial reports; to study suggestions for the assessment, 2005-2007, and to study how to finance future plans of the Congregation, especially the mission units.

## **To meet these objectives, the Commission:**

- Received reports regarding *Salvator Mundi International Hospital and Villa Maria*;
- Studied and reflected on the financial reports of the units, their assets and their needs;
- Discussed the needs of the Congregation and studied possible adjustments to the unit assessments in order to meet our needs;
- Received in-put from S. Renate and Dr. Probst on the topic of "Policies for Investment Management" as well as from Dr. Alvero Merli, a consultant for another Congregation, who spoke about his work in raising peoples' awareness of the mission and in raising money for these missions.
- Reviewed and approved the 2004 budgets of the *Ente Giuridico Casa Generalizia (Legal Entity in Italy)* and of the Generalate.

As a result of all of the study and reflection, the International Finance Commission made several recommendations to the Generalate for consideration and decision. The recommendations were in the areas of the future planning for *Salvator Mundi International Hospital and Villa Maria*, in possible adjustment to the assessment of the units, and a few adjustments in the manner of reporting the finances of the units and the Generalate.

In addition to the work, the commission prayed together and enjoyed a festive meal together one evening.

In evaluating the meeting, members of the commission expressed their gratitude for the openness of the Generalate and of all the members to discuss difficult issues, the excellent translations that helped the members communicate clearly, the presence and active participation of the lay members. The members expressed their concern that they do not have first hand experience of the units most in need of financial assistance, and about the preparation of other sisters to replace those who, in a couple of years, will complete their service on the commission. In closing, in the name of the whole Generalate, S. Therezinha thanked the International Finance Commission for their recommendations and advice which will help the Generalate make future decisions for the fulfillment of our mission.

## S. Irene DeMarrais

### Native American Indian Sisters Dies

On September 16, 2004, S. Irene DeMarrais died peacefully at St. Annes Salvatorian Campus, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. While the province has passed through the death/resurrection experience with many sisters, S. Irene's was unique because she was a Native American Indian – the only Native American member of the Province. S. Irene was born into the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (Sioux) Tribe.

Along with many of our sisters,

S. Irene ministered to her people over the years.

In keeping with S. Irene's wishes, the province agreed that S. Irene would be buried on her home reservation, with her "people". After her funeral in Milwaukee, S. Irene's remains were taken to Sisseton, South Dakota (about 550 miles north and west of Milwaukee). S. Marion Etzel, Provincial Superior and S. Patrice Colletti participated in S. Irene's funeral in Sisseton. Here is a summary of the account that

S. Marion and Patrice shared with the sisters in the province. The wake for Sister Irene took place at St. Catherine's Parish "... S. Irene's body was dressed in the traditional dress and bone breast plate...Her eagle feather blended beautifully in her hair. The eagle feather, considered a symbol of God present in the world, is worn only by Native Americans specially honored within their tribe...Before burial, Sister Irene's eagle feather was appropriately removed and passed on to the next honored member chosen by the tribal members... Several quilts, all sacred to the family, covered the backdrop behind Sister's casket ...Since tobacco, which is considered sacred, was used during the ritual, cigarettes were placed at the back of the hall for all who wished to partake."

Following an all night vigil, S. Irene's body was taken to St. Peter's church, also in Sisseton, for the funeral mass. After mass, the funeral procession traveled "to the gravesite, on top of a windblown grassy hill in a family burial site in a pasture about 30 miles northwest of Sisseton. It was here that S. Irene was born and spent her earliest years. It is also here, at this burial site, that her father and other family members are buried...Sister's casket, covered with a bright red, black and yellow Native American blanket, was gently lowered into the grave, amidst the sounds of prayers from the priest, and traditional honor songs and burial songs from a local Dakota drum group... Throughout the two days, we skirted rain, sometimes heavy, and high winds. During the time of the burial, like a miracle, the sun shone brightly and an eagle soared overhead."

After the burial we returned to Sisseton for a final meal. More than 300 people were served. The family had provided two cakes, each decorated with memories of S. Irene. One cake displayed a picture of the memorial card that the province had created for her. The second cake displayed a picture of her in ceremonial dance during her 1988 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration. "At the conclusion of the meal, family members helped one another to distribute flowers, ...and to give us one final tribute: precious star quilts, one for each of us, from the family."

"Throughout our days, many people stepped forth to tell us about how Sister Irene served the people. In addition, people thanked us for the service rendered by our sisters, ...for so many years at the orphanage, school and hospital. Adults, who had spent their childhood years at the orphanage, thanked us for the love and upbringing we sisters had provided..." S. Marion and S. Patrice mention frequently in their letter that they were considered part of the family during the entire funeral and burial.

"After a few hours of sleep, we came back to Milwaukee... The wind and the rain blew at our backs as we began the trip back home. We didn't mind because we were full of gratitude for the privilege of witnessing and walking with Sister Irene's people."

# International Joint Charism Commission

From June 7-11, the second meeting of the first all-Salvatorian Family commission was held at Villa Maria in Rome. Attending the meeting were:

## ***Sisters of the Divine Savior***

- S. Grace Mary Croft - Generalate
- S. Rozilde Binotto - Brazil
- S. Franziska-Maria Gruber - Germany
- S. Anna Maria Pelka - Poland
- S. Sebamalai Pieris - Sri Lanka
- S. Carol Thresher - USA

## ***Society of the Divine Savior***

- Fr. Mario Agudelo Roldán - Generalate
- Fr. Arno Boesing - Brazil
- Fr. Friedrich Emde - South Germany
- Fr. Thomas Malal - Congo
- Fr. Krzysztof Wons - Poland

## ***Lay Salvatorians***

- Janet Bitzan - USA
- Rosemarie Boecherer - Germany
- Sylvie Brunzel Lauri - Italy
- Dianir Clari Mariani - Brazil
- Etienne Sourbron - Belgium

As the meeting began, the group paused to remember Fr. Donald (Earl) Skwor who passed away since our meeting in 2002. Fr. Donald's passionate commitment to all aspects of our Salvatorian life and mission will be keenly missed by everyone but especially by this Joint Commission.

The week was an intense mixture of study, discussion and future planning as well as practical updating of the Salvatorian Bibliography.

Quality study time revolved around two important areas:

## **Lay Salvatorians and the Key Elements of the Charism.**

Carlos Alfonso Matiz, Lay Salvatorian from Colombia and a member of the coordinating team of the Commission, prepared a paper on this topic. Unfortunately, Carlos was unable to personally present the paper because the Italian government would not grant him a visa to attend the meeting. Despite his absence, the Commission found his thoughtful reflection excellent. It is a first step in relating the Key Elements to the diverse lifestyles of members of the Salvatorian Family.

## **Inculturation of the Salvatorian Charism.**

The Commission spent one day studying this topic under the guidance of S. Carol Thresher and S. Sebamalai Pieris. S. Carol helped the group to reflect on the significance of cultural influences in the practical living out of our Salvatorian charism. S. Sebamalai shared the experience of the Congregation's Asian units (Sri Lanka, India, Philippines and Malaysia) in a reflection process on the inculturation of one of the key elements of the charism. As a result, the Commission felt that much work needs to be done in this area. It has significant implications in how the values present in our charism are truly embraced by Salvatorians around the world. It also presents us with the important question: Does the

formation process, both initial and ongoing, really impact members at the deeper unconscious level of value formation?

Father Mario Agudelo led the group through a process to comment on the First Rough Draft of the Salvatorian Family Charter. Members of the Commission had been asked for input at the beginning of the writing process. Three members of the Commission (Fr. Mario, S. Grace Mary and Sylvie) are also on the writing committee. The Commission found the first draft very well done and praised the work of the writing committee. They also offered some minor suggestions to strengthen the work.

Significant time was spent updating the Salvatorian Bibliography which is located on the International Website of the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers at [www.sds.org](http://www.sds.org). Fr. Donald Skwor's initial model continues to serve as a basic structure for the bibliography. It will continue to be updated. Abstracts of all the entries will exist in English, German, Portuguese, French, Italian, Polish and Spanish. Fr. Rafal Ziajka coordinates the technical aspect of this work.

## **Future plans for the work of the Commission include:**

1 - Publishing a Second Booklet: Salvatorian Key Elements: Charism, Mission, Spirituality, Identity, Part II. Articles were chosen for a small volume from quality unpublished papers that approach the theme in a more popular fashion.

2 - Researching and writing articles on those Key Elements of the Charism that have not been explored in depth yet.

3 - Supporting the worldwide reflection process on the Second Draft of the Salvatorian Charter with a view toward greater inculturation of Salvatorian values.

4 - Arranging for more translations of the First Booklet: Salvatorian Key Elements: Charism, Mission, Spirituality, Identity, Part I and also the Key Elements Pamphlet.

At the end of the meeting the Commission decided to submit a one-page progress report on its work to the General Synod of the Society, the Congregational Council of the Congregation and the International Board of the Lay Salvatorians. It also asked our Generalate Representatives and the Lay Salvatorians to present a brief verbal report on our work as a Joint International Commission of the whole Salvatorian Family.

*S. Carol L. Thresher, SDS*



# SALVATORIAN MISSION IN ARTEMIS

We arrived on June 17, 1998 in Artemis, at the invitation of Diocesan bishop, Dom Eduardo Koaik.

On June 24, on the occasion of the Patron feast of St. John the Baptist, we started our work. Father Orivaldo Casini, Coordinator of the Region São Pedro, presided at the Eucharistic Celebration and officially introduced us to the community.

From that day the Sisters began their activities, carrying out different tasks in the Chapel 'Curada São João Batista', that already offered Catechesis for children, the Eucharistic Celebration every Saturday celebrated by Father Orivaldo Voltolini, SDB, and social feasts like: the game of Bingo; the Feasts of the Patrons Saints: 'São João Batista', 'Nossa Senhora Aparecida' and 'São Roque', and Liturgies of the Word, presided at that time by S. Cecília, of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Chamberry. The Vocation Promotion Group of the Province, some Sisters of the various Communities and Lay women and men, promoted a "Missionary Vocation Week" in order to get to know the local reality better. The theme was: "The Holy Spirit, the animating force of our Commitment with Life and Hope".

The Vocation Week started with a Eucharistic Celebration, presided by Father Jocimar Bitencourt, of São Pedro. The period from 4 - 7 September had been reserved for the family visits in Artemis, in the "bairros": Jardim Taiçaba, Congonha, Itaperú. Meetings took place with young people, women, men and children, paying particular attention to the sick people. These days were full of grace, because through the missionaries (men and women) we could know the reality better.

Through this mission and with S. Rosângela C. de Oliveira's arrival, the Sisters continued visiting other "bairros" like: Lago Azul, Colinas and Itaperú. They visited all the families, Catholic as well as non-catholic. This activity helped us to understand those whom we are treating. In November '98 preparation for the first Community Assembly began, developing and posing questions in order to know the yearnings and challenges of the people. Family groups, who were organized according to streets and blocks, answered the questions. This was the beginning of the 'Street Groups' created by the Sisters.

Other groups that already existed such as "Catechesis and Ministries of Eucharist", also answered this questionnaire. On December 5, 1998, at 14:30, these groups gathered in the Chapel in order to make a list of the responses that on the December 12 1998 would be presented to the Assembly in the Chapel 'Curada', to choose the priorities. The Assembly started with a reflection presented by S. Rosângela about "Community – a place of Experience of God, experience of Brotherhood and Defence of Life". The priorities that the people chose were: 1. Formation of Leaders; 2. The Organization of the different Pastorals: Liturgical and biblical texts, Youth pastoral, Family pastoral and Child Pastoral and the reconstruction of the Church. After this assembly, we concentrated on the 'Street Groups', constructing 22 groups in Artemis, Jardim Itaiçaba, São Roque, Itaperú and Colina. Many families became involved and started to go to mass on Saturdays.

In 1999 we organized the Fraternity Campaign: "Fraternity and Unemployment". First we reflected together with the coordinators of the Groups who afterwards did the same in their respective groups. Sisters Rosângela and Dorotea Tooda visited and met all the families of Lago Azul, starting the 'Street Groups', through reflection and prayer in the families. In the same year the Eucharistic Celebrations were started in the Chapels: - N. Sra Aparecida (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month) and - São Roque (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month). And the liturgies of the Word, guided by S. Cristina Martino and Lay women and men: in the Chapel N. Sra Aparecida (on Fridays) and in the Chapel S. Roque (on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month). In April '99, we started the work of Bioenergetics, coordinated by S. Rosângela and sent 6 people of the community to take part in the course of instruction. Every Wednesday, the people can be treated using this alternative health treatment.

We have also started a course of "Medicine made at home" incorporated within the Child Pastoral. On May 30, 1999 we received a Pastoral Visit from Dom Eduardo Koaik. He met the Pastoral Council, composed by the Coordinators of each Pastoral, in the Chapel São João Batista

In August '99 the catechists had three reflection days with the theme "Psycho-pedagogy of catechesis". Since then, this formation course takes place yearly. We also participated in the Catechesis meetings on the diocesan and regional level. In November '99 the Liturgy of the Word began. Now this is celebrated once a month in the Chapel São José, in the bairro Itaperú. In December '99 we celebrated the first Eucharist, organized a group of adolescents who met weekly and every year a group of young people is prepared for Confirmation. There are efforts so that these and other young people participate each year in the events and meetings of the youth at the diocesan level.



In the year 2000, we created a Group of candidates in preparation for Baptism guided by S. Cristina. They had three meetings in the evening with these themes: The Kingdom of God, Community and Sacrament of the Baptism.

In March 2000, we created a group of lay people (five people) for the leadership formation, sending them to the Theology School for Lay People, in São Pedro, for a two-year course meeting every Tuesday. Since then, each year

interested persons are being sent to this formation program.

On August 5, 2000 we organized the week of the Family Pastoral, animated by five couples. The couples spoke about the "Spirituality of the Couple", and the closing was celebrated with the "Sertaneja" Mass. The Family Pastoral is one of our priorities. The group meets every Monday, for formation and orientation. The activity the group is doing together with the families of the baptized children happens through visits. Each year the Family Week takes place, with talks, celebration and mass. Also in this month of August we started the Child Pastoral that is being accompanied by S. Rosângela and three leaders. The third Saturday of every month children are weighed. The Patron Saints feast is being celebrated with the participation of people who belong to the three communities. Through this a greater union among the communities has been achieved and the financial situation has been improved. In November the Liturgy Group was reorganized and the activities have been distributed in this way: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – couples; 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday-catechists, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday-street groups, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday-com In February 2001, we had a meeting of 23 young people who discussed about the great needs of the youth today, their dreams and challenges. Most of them thought that the great challenge is the family that has less and less structures. The dream is that all the people may have work and that their human dignity should be respected. On February 16, 2001 we held the Community Assembly, with 57 people who chose as a priority for the year "The Family and Greater Solidarity with those most in need", creating in this way the Social Pastoral Group that is working with the poor. Monthly, about twenty families receive the "cesta basica" (supplies of basic necessities).

On March 24, 2001, sixteen men started the demolition of the old Church. On April 2, 2001, we started the reconstruction work and women and children cleaned the bricks for reuse for the new Church. In the same month the Construction Group for assisting in the decisions regarding the construction of the new Church was established. In that period we also had with us the novices, Maria Nenê e Francisca Jean, doing their apostolic experience in our community. They participated, with positive results, in all the pastoral activities, especially with the catechists and the youth. In September 2001, the Sisters transferred to another house, rented for six months and during this time the Parish House was renovated.

In the month of October, we began the first Fridays Hour of Adoration with the participation of priests and the people. At the end of the year first group participating in the Theology Course for Lay Persons concluded their course. In the years 2001 and 2002, every month we promoted fund raising for the church construction. In March 2002, in the entire district, the community was occupied with the drug problem. For this reason, the Sisters are helping the young drug addicts in an alternative way, sending them to the Recuperation Centre "PAREVI". The sisters visit them regularly, help them through "cestas basicas" and financial contributions. In April we started a reflection on the place of the lay people in the Church and Society in defence of Life.

The social pastoral group meets monthly for reflection about assisting a greater number of needy families. The last Thursday of every month, the street groups meet in the chapel for the closing of that month and preparation of the meetings for

the following month. We have already prayed and reflected regarding the following themes: Baptism; the Acts of the Apostles; our Vocation. At the end of 2002, the stained glass windows and the doors of the Church were installed, thanks to the miracle of sharing. On December 10 of that same year, four more lay people finished the theology course for lay people, in the city of São Pedro. On this occasion the Parish Council gathered for the preparation of the Community Assembly that would take place February 14 and 18, 2003, in two steps, to guarantee better participation of the people.

Since February 2003, S. Lúcia Tooda has been part of our community. In her pastoral work, she is working in the Church São Francisco de Assis, bairro Jupia, in the city Piracicaba, with the Parish Priest, Father Ricardo Martins. At the beginning of the year, a reflection about mission and spirituality took place: service, dialogue and listening. On the established days, the

Community Assembly took place, also deepening the themes mentioned above. The participation of the people was

**"Community – a place of Experience of God, experience of Brotherhood and Defence of Life"**

beautiful! All left the assembly having a task to do in the groups and reflecting

about the following questions: 1. In participating in the Pastoral, has there been a change in my life? 2. What is the greatest necessity that has to be worked on in our community? In the second meeting on February 18 the groups chose the following priority: "Work with Youth". Since April, S. Cristina accompanies the people in moments of prayer in the Chapel N. Sra Aparecida. In June and July, we received the novice Maria Zélia for her practical period in our community. She lived with us and shared our life and mission. She accompanied the Sisters in all the family visits and reflections in the families. On June 13 we organized the game of Bingo in favour of the missions of the lay people SDS, in Maranhão and in Brotas/SP. There is a very good relationship between the SDS lay and Sisters. Every two months, S. Rosângela gives them Salvatorian spiritual formation and they had numerous formation meetings. We had also the opportunity to assist Father Aramis and the youth when he spoke to them about specific themes: the Youth and the Church; Commitment with the Sacrament of the Confirmation. In August, the construction of the Church was finished. We started the celebrations and the liturgical activities in the new Church. At this moment there are 80 people who are the active leaders in the community.

The community has grown in these last years with the arrival of the sisters who accompany the people. The people feel well received and started to return to the Church and to commit themselves to the pastoral activities. Many people have participated in the street groups. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer." (Acts 2, 42). The community makes the effort to bring young people to the Church, but it is necessary to discover alternative ways of participation, of service and support of the young people in the community. This is the greatest challenge. But we have the certainty that God doesn't abandon the work that he started.

*Sisters of the Community N. Sra. de Guadalupe - Brazil-SP*