

*In the same charism
with responsibility*



n. 3 - 2023

**COMPANY OF SAINT URSULA
SECULAR INSTITUTE OF SAINT ANGELA MERICI
FEDERATION**

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International Pilgrimage

**MALTA “IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL”
JULY 17 to 21, 2023**



***Journey of the
federated Companies***

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TO THE READERS

In the Footsteps of St. Paul with a Merician Gaze

Taking a trip to Malta and rediscovering St. Paul made us further understand Angela Merici's charism as a biblical woman, with her feet on the ground and her gaze turned to heaven, able to embody the Gospel message in her writings.

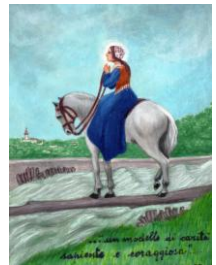


Thus we try to rediscover the resonance in some passages:

*For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.... **I live now not I, but Christ lives in me.*** (Letter to the Philippians)

*Let them have **Jesus Christ** for their only treasure, for there also will be love.* (Fifth Counsel)

*Then keep up your courage, men; **I trust in God** that it will turn out as I have been told.... Not a hair of the head of anyone of you will be lost.* (Acts of the Apostles)
*Rejoice, because, without doubt, **what I say to you will be so.*** (Ninth Counsel)



*And they should never ever doubt this. Although at times they will have troubles or anxieties, nevertheless this will soon pass away and be turned into gladness and joy.... They will never be abandoned in their needs. **God will provide for them wonderfully.*** (Fifth Counsel)

Let us not fix our gaze on visible things but on the invisible, because visible things are momentary, but the invisible are eternal. (Second Letter to the Corinthians)

Let them set their hopes on high and not on earth. (Fifth Counsel)

Desire the celestial joys and treasures, long for those joyful and new feasts of heaven, those blessed and everlasting triumphs. (Fifth Counsel)

Exult and rejoice, for in heaven a new crown of glory and joy is prepared for all of them, one by one. (Fifth Counsel)

Rejoice in trials, be strong in tribulations, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones; exercise hospitality. (Letter to the Romans)

Be happy... (Rule, Ch. IX) Always let your principal recourse be to gather at the feet of Jesus Christ, and ... to offer most fervent prayers. (Last Legacy)

God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something. (First Letter to the Corinthians)

You must give him infinite thanks for having granted such a singular gift especially to you, for how many great persons, and others of every condition, do not have, nor will be able to have, such a grace! (Rule, Prologue)

These three things, then, remain: faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love. ” (First Letter to the Corinthians)

Be happy, and always full of charity and faith and hope in God.... having charity always burning in our hearts. (Rule, Ch. IX)

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each one. (Letter to the Colossians)

In speaking, that their words be wise and reserved, not harsh, not rude, but compassionate and leading to concord and charity. (Fifth Counsel)

And now let us greet one another and exchange with each other a kiss of peace:

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

(Second Letter to the Corinthians)

I embrace you, and to you all I give the kiss of peace

(Last Legacy)

Caterina Dalmasso

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

CASTAWAY AND GUEST IN MALTA (Acts 27:1-28:14)

Mons. Adriano Tessarollo
Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Council of the Federation



The idea of a short trip to Malta at the conclusion of the six-year term, before the summer Assembly of elections, arose from two simple considerations: meeting the sisters of the Company of Malta,

especially Doris Cordina, and learning about the conclusion of the book of the Acts of the Apostles, which tells of Paul being shipwrecked and a guest in Malta for about three months before departing for Sicily, Calabria and then reaching Rome via the Appian Way.

We were guided by chapters 27/28 of the Acts of the Apostles, which I briefly summarize.

For two years Paul was in prison in Caesarea. Eventually the Roman procurator Porcius Festus handed Paul, accompanied by Luke and other prisoners, over to the centurion Julius to be transferred to Rome by ship.

On this difficult and adventurous voyage, the ship set out from Caesarea, touched Cyprus, passed Cilicia and Pamphylia, arrived at Myra in Lycia then, again amidst a thousand difficulties, reached Cnidus; from there it passed south of Crete.

While skirting Crete, the ship was struck by a terrible storm. The wind blew so hard that the sailors could not steer the ship. Thus began 14 days of wandering without seeing the sun by day or the stars by night.

During those long days those on board lost all hope of being saved. Paul spoke up to assure them that no one would lose his life; only the ship would be lost: "For this night an angel of God came and

said to me, 'Do not be afraid, Paul! You must present yourself to the Roman ruler Caesar. And God will save everyone who sails with you.'"

Around midnight on the 14th day of storm, wind and fog, never seeing sky or land, the sailors noticed the water getting shallower! For fear of smashing against some rocks in the darkness, they dropped their anchors. The next morning they saw a bay and decided to try to steer the ship to the beach. Upon reaching the shore, the ship hit a sandbar and ran aground. Then as the waves hit it hard, the ship fell apart. The officer in charge of the prisoners said, 'Those who can swim jump into the sea first and swim to the shore. The others jumped afterwards and clung to some wreckage of the ship.' They did just that, and in this way all 276 people who were on the ship reached the shore safe and sound, as the angel had promised. They learn that the island was called Malta.



But Let's Listen to Luke's Account

"On the fourteenth night, as we were still being driven about on the Adriatic Sea, toward midnight the sailors began to suspect that they were nearing land. They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on, they again took soundings and found fifteen fathoms. Fearing that we would run aground on a rocky coast, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. The sailors then tried to abandon ship; they lowered the dinghy to the sea on the pretext of going to lay out anchors from the bow. But Paul said to the centurion

and the soldiers, ‘Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.’ So the soldiers cut the ropes of the dinghy and set it adrift. Until the day began to dawn, Paul kept urging all to take some food. He said, ‘Today is the fourteenth day that you have been waiting, going hungry and eating nothing. I urge you, therefore, to take some food; it will help you survive. Not a hair of the head of anyone of you will be lost.’

“When he said this, he took bread, gave thanks to God in front of them all, broke it, and began to eat. They were all encouraged, and took some food themselves. In all, there were two hundred seventy-six of us on the ship. After they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea. When day came they did not recognize the land, but made out a bay with a beach. They planned to run the ship ashore on it, if they could. So they cast off the anchors and abandoned them to the sea, and at the same time they unfastened the lines of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail into the wind, they made for the beach. But they struck a sandbar and ran the ship aground. The bow was wedged in and could not be moved, but the stern began to break up under the pounding [of the waves]. The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so that none might swim away and escape, but the centurion wanted to save Paul and so kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to the shore, and then the rest, some on planks, others on debris from the ship. In this way, all reached shore safely.

“Once we had reached safety we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary hospitality; they lit a fire and welcomed all of us because it had begun to rain and was cold. Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire when a viper, escaping from the heat, fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, ‘This man must certainly be a murderer; though he escaped the sea, Justice has not let him remain alive.’ But he shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm. They were expecting him to swell up or suddenly to fall down dead but, after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

“In the vicinity of that place were lands belonging to a man named Publius, the chief of the island. He welcomed us and received us cordially as his guests for three days. It so happened that the father of Publius was sick with a fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and, after praying, laid his hands on him and healed him. After this had taken place, the rest of the sick on the island came to Paul and were cured.

“They paid us great honor and when we eventually set sail they brought us the provisions we needed. Three months later we set sail on a ship that had wintered at the island. It was an Alexandrian ship with the Dioscuri as its figurehead. We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days.”

Then Paul's journey would proceed to Reggio Calabria, Pozzuoli, and via the Appian Way to the Appian Forum and the Three Taverns. Here he was allowed to stay in a rented room, where he continued to spread the word of God while awaiting his trial, which never took place because his accusers never arrived from Palestine.

The Sites of St. Paul

We celebrated Mass in **Medina** at St. Paul's Cathedral, which commemorates the place where the Apostle would have



been received with every humane consideration by the governor Publius and the Maltese. The small church at the archaeological site of St. Paul Milqi would be built where the governor's villa had

been located, where the illustrious castaway would have been initially housed.

From Luke's narrative St. Paul then moved to what is now **Rabat**, the capital of the island. In the city is the place, much revered, where the Apostle of the Gentiles is said to have lived during his three-month stay on the island, together with his companions Luke, Aristarchus, Trophimus and others: it is a cave turned into a chapel, the Cave of St. Paul.

Perhaps it was the prison where the apostle was held, enjoying the freedom to proclaim the Gospel. He would testify to the episode, of Publius' father: "Publius' father had to lie in bed stricken with fevers and dysentery; Paul went to visit him and after praying laid his hands on him and healed him. After this event, other islanders who had diseases also flocked and were healed." Following this event, Governor Publius was converted and was the first bishop of Malta.



Over the centuries, St. Paul's Grotto has become a pilgrimage destination, a place of worship and prayer, and its natural elements have been recognized as having miraculous qualities. In the

18th century, in memory of St. Paul's stay on the island, a white marble statue representing the Apostle in the act of preaching was placed in the Grotto.

Today it is accessed from the church dedicated to him down a flight of steps. It still preserves its rock walls, alternating with Baroque-style architectural elements. Also named after the Apostle are the church built nearby, now a minor basilica, and the catacombs, which preserve various Christian memories. It was precisely the hospitality of the Maltese that enabled Paul to evangelize the island, and therefore his shipwreck represents the beginning of Christianity for Malta, which celebrates him with the title St. Paul Shipwrecked on Feb. 10.

+ Adriano Tassarollo

We Too Were Welcomed in Malta...

Our pilgrimage group visited Malta July 17-22. St. Paul had sojourned there after a shipwreck on the way to Rome, narrated by his companion Luke (Acts of the Apostles).

The Maltese “showed us extraordinary hospitality,” said Luke. We pilgrims were also welcomed, by our sisters in the Company of Malta. Their directress, Doris, beamed with joyful smiles. Bishop Adriano Tessarollo and their assistant Father Ugolin offered Mass for us all in the Church of St. Francis.

Centuries of conquests on this island south of Sicily mark its languages, food, architecture, fortifications, and genetics. We tasted Maltese specialties, family recipes of volunteers, at lunch one day. These ladies host visitors to raise funds for their parish.



From Valletta, we went by bus to Rabat, where Paul and Luke spent the winter (60 CE) and Paul healed the governor Publius’s father. We saw the underground Roman prison where Paul was held (an air-raid shelter in WWII). Although a prisoner, Paul was ever an apostle and converted many. According to tradition, Publius led these early Christians as their first bishop. The Maltese memorialize Paul everywhere.

Catholicism is the official religion of the Republic of Malta, with 360 churches (plus shrines) in its 246 km² / 95 mi².

The Cathedral of St. Paul in the city of Mdina is one of many churches we visited. It commemorates the apostle's healing of Publius's father.

On the smaller island Gozo, we prayed in a tiny Marian shrine, now a chapel in a larger church built around it.

The blue, blue, blue



Malta), in joyful *camino insieme*.



Mediterranean waters captured our gaze whether on shore, on the ferry to Gozo, or in small boats touring Valletta's Grand Harbour.

Don Adriano offered reflections twice daily on St. Paul, based on Acts 27-28.

Our 32 pilgrims represented 10 Companies (plus

*Mary-Cabrini Durkin
Company of Canada*

The Emotional Joy of Doris and of the Company of Malta



*Dearest sisters and brothers,
I cannot properly express my great joy at
seeing all of you around us on July 18
last year in St. Francis Church.*

*I was told that it was not a dream, but
what was happening was reality and was
a gift from God for which we must thank
Him immensely.*

*I had last met you on the pilgrimage to
Sicily.*

*I am very happy that the sisters from
Malta, including the Assistant, were able
to experience the existence and vitality of
the international Company and not just
read a few pages in the newsletter.*

*United together is St. Angela's desire,
but experiencing it in reality increased
the enthusiasm and joy
seen on each of us.*

*It was a true testimony of our unity, as true sisters and brides of Jesus
Christ, the Lover of us all, who prayed to the Heavenly Father that all
may be one, so that the world may believe that He was sent...*

*We thank Monsignor Adriano Tessarollo very much for celebrating the
Mass together with our Assistant and for being the spiritual guide for
the pilgrimage.*

With much affection.

Doris Cordina and the sisters of Malta

Malta: Encounters... Reflections... History...



Monday, July 17, and Tuesday, July 18, 2023

It is said that a journey begins when you start planning it.

For me, this was also the case on this occasion. In the summer of 2022, while we were engaged in the convention with the Company in Rome, the 2023 project began with a proposal for a trip/pilgrimage to close the Federation's six-year term. The project sketched out in Rome then found fulfillment with the receipt of the email containing the proposal for a pilgrimage to Malta, in the footsteps of St. Paul. I immediately embraced the idea of being there because the few months of St. Paul's life spent on that island have always attracted and intrigued me. Moreover, the centuries-long presence of the Knights of St. John, also known as the Order of Malta, awakened in me memories of readings done over time on the subject and consequently the desire to see in person what they had built on the island. Like any journey, it always starts from home and goes toward a destination. This trip was no different.

The pilgrimage started one morning, meeting with Kate, arriving from her home in Vernante, then Franca from Cuneo and finally the joy of meeting Nelly, Carmela and Maria, whom we loaded aboard the minibus in Turin.

Already from the very beginning we experienced the joy of meeting each other, of keeping each other company. Then the arrival at Linate airport enlarged the group with meeting the other participants in

the pilgrimage, who had arrived from all over Italy and also from Slovakia and the USA with the always very nice presences of Maya and Mary-Cabrini. We also had with us Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, who would lead us in the footsteps of St. Paul. These encounters immediately set the right tone for the pilgrimage.

Being together, even if only waiting for a plane that would take us to our destination, is already a good way to start: hands greeting each other, joyful hugs, eyes meeting. Then the announcement of our plane and departure to our desired destination.... Malta, we arrive!!!

After landing, a first taste of Malta, passing by bus through the dry Maltese countryside, full of prickly pear plants, dry stone walls to shelter the countryside from the sea wind, and then glimpses of beaches

with blue sea and golden sands and views of a few

watchtowers that, as we would find

out in the following days, were built by the Knights of Malta to protect the island.



On to the hotel, a really nice facility with all the amenities, which is no bad thing after a somewhat hot trip. We settled into the rooms, enjoyed dinner, rested and were ready to start our Maltese adventure the next day.

After the day of travel, the next day began our adventure to discover the Maltese land and its infinite beauty.

We met our guide and driver and departed for Valletta, Malta's capital and main port.

On our first day in Malta, we had planned a meeting that I would call wonderful: to meet, finally in person and no longer via email or WhatsApp, with our sisters who live in Malta.

Some I did not know personally; but it was a dream come true to meet their Directress Doris Cordina in person.

Doris has represented for me for so many years the Company's world vision, and now seeing her, talking to her, even if only for a few minutes, re-inspired me to believe in the beauty of the worldwide Company.

The meeting with Doris, so full of hugs and mutual smiles, was crowned by the Holy Mass celebrated in the Church of St. Francis, by our Monsignor Adriano Tessarollo and the spiritual assistant of the



Maltese Company,
Father Ugolin Xerri.

St. Francis Church was built in 1598 and completed in 1607, so it has seen the passage of much local history. It has a simple, classical façade and is rich in Baroque

decoration inside. Very beautiful indeed, but I think for each of us, more important than the beauty of the church was the meeting with the Maltese sisters.



After greeting to Doris and the sisters, we left for a sightseeing tour, accompanied by our guide.

Then we visited from the outside of the **Palace of Parliament** (a very important place for Malta, which only gained independence from England on September 21, 1964, becoming a member of the

Commonwealth as the State of Malta). The Palace of Parliament also tells a little about Italy as it was designed by architect Renzo Piano, the pride of Italy for the countless projects he has completed around the world.

Then, again from the outside, we visited the ruins of the **Old Theater**, Castile Square and the Triton Fountain.





A brief stop in front of **St. John's Co-Cathedral** allowed us to enjoy the austerity of the façade, so desired by the Knights of St. John, Order of Malta, leaving us with a foretaste of the interior that we would see the next day, in Baroque style and with the presence of great works of art, such as Caravaggio's beheading of St. John. The morning ended with a brief stop at the **Barraca gardens** from which there is a wide view of Valletta's old port, full of fortifications erected to defend the island at the time of the Turkish invasions.

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We then moved on to the fishing village of Marsaxlokk, where

an excellent seafood lunch was waiting for us. After finishing lunch we were still able to enjoy the view of the fishermen's



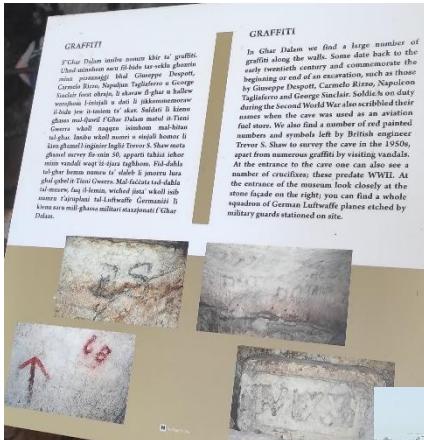
harbor, where a number of boats in typical Maltese colors were anchored.

These boats are typical of Malta, have very bright colors, with yellow, red, blue and green stripes, and pick up on a Phoenician



tradition, always having two eyes painted on the bow of the boat... They are called *luzzi* and certainly do not go unnoticed.

In the late afternoon, we then moved by bus to visit the **Ghar Dalam** Grotto. This cave houses evidence of the earliest and oldest human settlement on the Maltese islands, dating back some 7400 years.



Inside are remains of animals from the earliest ice age. The cave was also important during World War II as it was used as an air raid shelter.

Also connected to the cave is a very interesting museum of the artifacts found in the cave itself.

Having finished our visit to the cave and also given the super hot weather of the day, we were very pleased to return to the hotel for a rest and dinner.



After dinner, we found ourselves on the hotel rooftop, from which there was a wonderful view of Valletta, and together we ended the day with a time of prayer, which was very nice and cemented even more our desire to live in unity every day of the year the way that St. Angela intended for each of us.

Carla Alberti

St. Paul Expanded the Boundaries of the Faith...

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

The first stop of the day was **Mdina**, the "old walled city" also called the "silent city," which originally formed a single urban center together with Rabat, from which it was later separated by the Arabs.

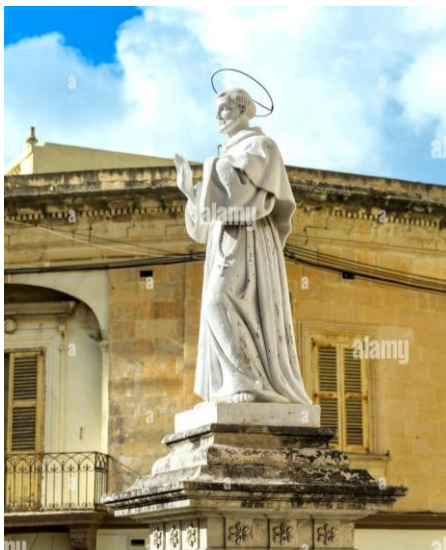
Mdina was the island's first capital until 1530, when the



Knights of Malta, having arrived here, abandoned it and moved to

what is now the principal city, Valletta. Founded circa about 3,000 years ago by the Phoenicians, Malta was later occupied by the Romans who called it Melita. Later, under Arab rule, it was named Mdina ("City").

After a walk through the charming streets of the town, we stopped at the **Baroque cathedral dedicated to St. Paul**. Here our assistant, Bishop Adriano Tessarollo, celebrated Holy Mass, helping us to reflect on some fundamental aspects of the great apostle of the Gentiles.





Behind the altar we were able to admire a painting depicting the Conversion of St. Paul and a fresco of the shipwreck of St. Paul, both painted by Mattia Preti.



Along the route from Mdina to Rabat we placed our feet on the eight-pointed Maltese cross, one for each of the eight languages into which the Knights of Malta were divided.

It was a huge thrill when the guide explained to us that the Rabat area is closely linked to the

introduction of Christianity, thanks to St. Paul.

Tradition in fact, testifies that in A.D. 60. St. Paul the Apostle, on his way to Rome under arrest and shipwrecked on the island, stayed for three months in a cave under the walls of the ancient Roman city.

In this very cave, the guide told us that while he was lighting a fire, St. Paul was bitten by a snake, remaining unharmed. The fame of this event spread



quickly, so much so that the Roman governor Publius decided to turn to him, entrusting him with the life of his gravely ill father. St. Paul healed him, and

this fact prompted the Roman governor to convert to Christianity.

This visit was in my opinion a valuable opportunity to deepen the meaning of our pilgrimage and to extend the metaphor of the journey to our whole life.

I felt a deep sense of gratitude to St. Paul, whose resourcefulness and courage expanded the boundaries of faith even to the pagans. Listening to how the apostle at the time of the storm encouraged his fellow travelers, assuring them that no one would be lost, awakened in me a deep gratitude for his faith and a lively desire, which turned into prayer, to be able to follow in his footsteps.

Another important stop was a visit to the Rotunda of Mosta, that is, the



monumental
church of **St. Mary,**
dedicated to the
Assumption,
which can hold
up to eight
thousand people.

With a circular structure inspired by the Pantheon in Rome, the dome represents the third widest in Europe, thanks to its 37-meter diameter.

During World War II, on April 9, 1942, a bomb fell inside the cathedral, where about three hundred people were standing, who miraculously remained unharmed. Since then, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, has been considered both a religious holy day and a civil holiday.

For lunch we were hosted inside an oratory. The various dishes were served to us in containers that replicated the typical boats of southern fishermen. Everything was simply delicious! At the conclusion of the lunch, coffee and some local sweets could not be missed. The best thing was the welcome we were given!



Our journey then continued to Valletta, where the previous day we had omitted a visit to the **Co-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist**, a true jewel of history and art.

The rectangular Baroque interior was decorated by the Grand Masters and enriched each time by the Gioja, or gift, that each Knight had to offer upon

entering the Order.

The ceiling was frescoed between 1662 and 1667 by Mattia Preti "Il Calabrese" with paintings of the life of St. John the Baptist, the Order's patron saint. The side chapels were intended for each of the Order's Langues and it is here that the Grand Masters are buried.



In this very church we had the immense good fortune to be able to admire two of Caravaggio's greatest masterpieces: the first, "Beheading of St. John the Baptist" was intended to decorate the altar of the saint. It is one of Caravaggio's most valuable works not only for its visual composition, color contrast and sense of spectacle and at the same time piety, but also for being the only painting signed by Caravaggio.

Opposite the "Beheading" hangs the magnificent "Saint Jerome" showing the Doctor of the Church at work, in the shadow of death represented by the skull on the desk, but protected by the halo around his head.



As the last stop of



the day, a maritime tour of the Grand Harbor on traditional boats awaited us.

It was a truly unique adventure and enhanced by the joy of sharing it together with so many sisters belonging to other Companies and our Assistant.

Rosanna Scapin

*For Me, to Live
Is Christ and
to Die Is Gain...*

Thursday, July 20, 2023

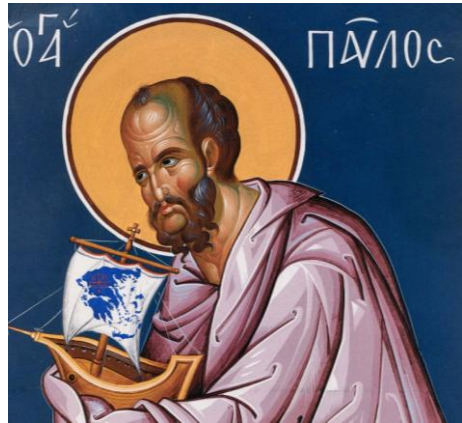
We left for the tour of Gozo Island. From the bus between the hotel and the port of Cirkewwa for the ferry crossing, we could see to our right the small island



After a few kilometers, we saw Selmun Castle, not the residence of the Grand Master but rented out to Knights as a vacation site; the money raised was used to



beach on the Maltese island.



with the statue of St. Paul, placed there in 1960, the anniversary of the Apostle's shipwreck in 60 AD.



ransom Christian slaves. Passing through the village of Mellieña ("mel" means salt; in fact there are several desalinators in this area), the guide explained to us that on September 8 each year there is a big public festival in remembrance of the liberation from the Ottomans. In addition, Mellieña Bay is the second largest

Continuing we saw one of the 13 towers built by the Knights, called St. Agatha's,



Painted all red, very striking.

Meanwhile, here on the right appeared the island of Comino, with crystal clear waters perfect for snorkeling, famous in fact for the Blue Lagoon.

We embarked for the island of Gozo. Being 14 km long, 7 wide and with 32,000 inhabitants, it is the second-largest of the seven islands of the Calisese group, only 90 km away from our Sicily. It is rich in churches, as many as 50, including the Church of Our Lady of Loreto, St. John the



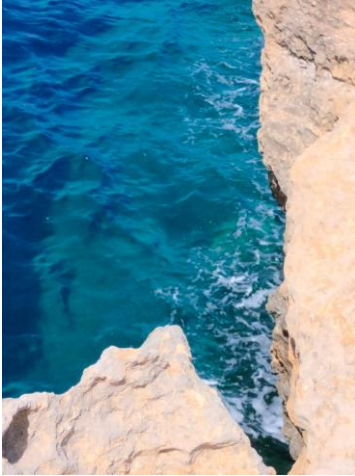
Baptist and the Assumption, and more than 350 chapels.

The soil is more fertile than that of Malta Island, and in agriculture tomatoes and onions excel. In winter it gets as low as -6°C and in summer over 40 degrees; the capital is Victoria (a name given by the British when the archipelago passed into their hands in 1800 after French rule), but in Arabic it was called Rabat. All the buildings, houses and churches are made using the characteristic



local stone, yellow-white in hue, and the houses have colorful, ornate, wooden balconies outside the façade, where the bedroom is normally, a typical Arab custom.

After the crossing of about 20 minutes, the guide took us to



After this stop, we headed northeast until we reached almost the center of the island, at an altitude of 700 meters, where the Ta-Pinu (meaning 'of Philip') sanctuary is located. It owes its origin to the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption back in 1545. Work on the new church in neo-

Romantic style began in 1920, and after twelve years it was consecrated; works by Agostino Camilleri, a famous Maltese sculptor of the 19th century, can be admired there.



Dwejra, 14 km west of the port. While doing some shopping among the stalls with local products, we were able to admire a historic observation tower over the sea, the little chapel dedicated to St. Anne and the cliff overlooking the blue-green sea, a splendid paradise for swimmers and divers.





On his apostolic journey to Malta in 1990, Pope St. John Paul II also went to Gozo, celebrating Mass in the churchyard of the shrine. In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI donated and laid a golden rose in front of the image of Our Lady brought from Gozo to Malta for this special occasion.

Here we celebrated Holy Mass with readings and liturgy proper to the Solemnity of the Assumption.

Mons. Msgr. Tessarollo urged us to renew our faith, to hold firm to our hope and to go forward

confidently on the earthly journey, not alone, but in the company of the saints, praying, *"May the Lord grant us the light to understand what is best for us, the strength to live it and the joy of faith."*





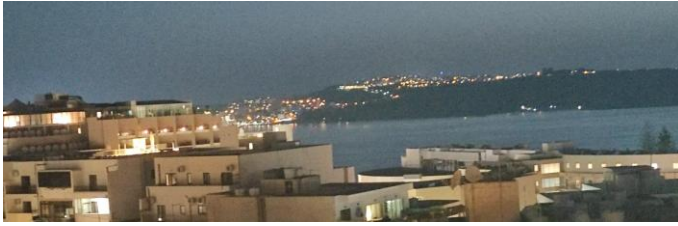
We then made a short stop in the capital Victoria, strolling through the charming little alleys, then passed through Xlendi, a fishing village, where we had lunch on a terrace overlooking the small harbor and beautiful



bay that attract so many tourists, tasting various specialties.

Thus refreshed in spirit and body, the bus took us to the ferry for the return to our hotel.

After dinner, we found ourselves on the panoramic terrace of the hotel to pray Vespers together and for a beautiful time of sharing, thanking Jesus, St. Paul and St. Angela for the gift of these days spent together, only three actual days of stay, but very full of encounters, sisterly exchanges and emotions, that is, life as Company.



Msgr. Tessarollo commented on the second letter to Timothy Ch.4, where St. Paul experiences the prospect of being about to be *"poured out as an offering"* because he was about to leave for Rome...like Jesus who shed his blood on the Cross as a ransom for many.

Paul has one certainty: *"The Lord will deliver me from all evil and take me safely to heaven in his kingdom."*

Also Msgr. Adriano continued the intense meditation at the end of the pilgrimage, recalling among other things St. Paul's farewell speech in Ch.20 of the Acts of the Apostles, when he knew that he had fulfilled his ministry and was facing persecution and death, in which he felt he was continuing the witness of the Lord.



For ourselves we (who have lingered if only briefly in this place where for about three months the presence of the apostle Paul launched the Christian proclamation through word and signs) prayed for the *parrhesia*, that is, the Christian courage, which comes to us from Christ, to face and look at our future even in the face of hard times, personal

setbacks, sense of loneliness, or experiences of being abandoned by some person who leaves us.

This kind of preparation for the so-called Christian death that has nothing tragic and fearful has its pain as it did for Christ, but knows how to live our consecration daily.

Our life is dedicated as a sacrifice of oblation, as an offering to the Lord, in the events of life even in moments of suffering, as for St. Paul, when his own people did not understand it.

It is the concrete meaning of our life unfolding in the midst of joys, sorrows, labors, hopes, prospects and fears, but the fixed point is: *“I know in Whom I have put my trust, I am certain of His love, He will deliver me even in the final moment.”*

In our daily lives we are preparing what the Lord has in store for us at the conclusion of our journey. May the apostle Paul preserve this gaze for us! St. Angela would speak of *“contemplating the blessed triumphs.”*

It is the journey of faith of those who have dedicated a life to following Christ, without fear of being disappointed because they do not reach those human things that one thinks are the object of one's living.

Paola Cameroni



National Eucharistic Congress in Lubumbashi – DRC



Thousands of the faithful, priests and bishops representing 48 dioceses in the DRC gathered for the 3rd National Eucharistic Congress, which took place from June 4 to 11, 2023 under the theme, "Eucharist and Family."

Around our father-bishops, we generously revisited the wonderful experience of the early Christians led by the Apostles: *They were assiduous in the Apostles' teaching, fraternal fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.*

This National Eucharistic Congress was a true school of faith, deepening the knowledge and love for the Eucharist and its intrinsic connection with the family. It was also a privileged time of intense prayer for a numerous people united by belonging to the same nation, the same God and Lord, and in communion with the universal Church.

After the solemn opening presided over by Monsignor Marcel Utembi, Archbishop of Kinshasa and president of CENCO (National Bishops' Conference of Congo), on Sunday, June 4, 2023, Agathe Kiloba and I were able to participate in a three-day Theological Colloquium, full of lectures that helped us to better understand the mystery of the Eucharist and the profound meaning of the Christian family.

All the Daughters of St. Angela of the diocese participated in the various activities proposed during the week. Each day opened with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, recalling Christ's request to participate in the life and commitment of the One who is truly "bread broken" for a new world.

The last day was devoted to catecheses given in various languages by our father bishops in the city's parishes.

Tuesday, June 6, there was a procession with the Eucharist for popular veneration. Passing through the streets of Lubumbashi, our bishops prayed that God, present in the Blessed Sacrament, would bless the whole city and the entire country. A river of light accompanied this unforgettable procession of praise to God.



On Friday, June 9, the Stations of the Cross took place in

the heart of the city, ending with adoration in front of the Cathedral.

In a great outpouring of love and faith, we worshipped the Love handed over on the Cross and the many crosses of this world.

The closing Mass was held on Sunday, June 11, on the occasion of the



Solemnity of the Blessed Sacrament. On this occasion, 2,000 young people received their First Communion and 13 couples received a certificate of blessing from the Pope for their 50th wedding anniversary.

Seven Daughters of St. Angela attended the meeting for seminarians and consecrated persons, and on Saturday, June 10, we had the joy of receiving a visit from Pope Francis' envoy, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, who urged us to remain faithful to our consecration.



What lessons should we learn as consecrated persons from this 3rd National Eucharistic Congress?

By joining us in the Eucharist, the Lord makes us joyful witnesses of brotherhood and sisterhood and true encounter with all people without distinction. He makes us prophets to denounce the unworthy situations of humanity

due to injustice and exploitation of the world and our common home, the Earth.

Joy is now the deepest feeling that inhabits us, our mission in a land of violence, sadness, tears and divisions.

By placing himself in our fragile hands, the Lord promises us his presence and power. He counts on us. We fundamentally count on him, and we make this excerpt from the prayer for this 3rd Eucharistic Congress our own in faith:



*"Through the mystery of the Eucharist, Lord,
help us to recognize that we are always brothers and sisters,
to commit ourselves to building the Church-family in our midst,
and always to welcome more fully the gift of your Son Jesus
in the memorial of his death and resurrection,
which nourishes our filial and fraternal life.
We ask this through Your Son Jesus, our Lord."*

*Mélanie Tshiyamba
Company of DRC - Lubumbashi*

Synod on synodality...

The priority of listening...

*... The Church is taking a ‘break’ for listening...
for listening to the Spirit, for listening to everyone...*



The Holy Spirit sets off a profound and varied process within the Church community: the “commotion” of Pentecost. Something odd happened at Pentecost: everything had been organized, everything was clear...

That morning there was an uproar, everyone speaking in every language, and everyone understanding... A variety in which it was not clear what everything meant... And after this came the great work of the Holy Spirit: **not unity, no, but harmony**. The Spirit unites us in harmony, the harmony of all differences. If there is no harmony, the Spirit is not there. That is how he works....

The Holy Spirit is the harmonious composer of salvation history. **Harmony** – we need to be careful – does not mean “synthesis,” but “a bond of communion between dissimilar parts”.... The Church: a single harmony made up of many voices and the work of the Holy Spirit. That is how we should think of the Church.

Each Christian community, each individual is distinctive, but this distinctiveness must be included in the symphony of the Church, and that **symphony** is made “just right” by the Spirit....

The Holy Spirit is the protagonist. We are not here to form a parliament but to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who *blesses* the Father and *welcomes* those who are weary and oppressed.

So let us start from the gaze of Jesus, which is a ***blessing and welcoming gaze***.

The Church with doors open to all, all, all!

(Pope Francis)

We Are Also Learning to Live Synodality

The Church advances, journeys together, is synodal.... The Spirit is always the great protagonist of the Church's life.

Synodality is not a chapter in an ecclesiology textbook, much less a fad or a slogan to be bandied about in our meetings. Synodality is an expression of the Church's nature, her form, style and mission....

The word "synod" says it all: it means "journeying together."

A synodal Church is a Church of listening, in the awareness that listening is more than hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn...

"Keep walking". "Doing Church Together." "Be an open Church." And finally, "to be a 'restless' Church in the anxieties of our time..."

(Pope Francis)



In practice, the Synod teaches us that **the process is more important than the conclusions. Synod does not look only at immediate issues, but turns its gaze to what we are called to become in the medium to long term.** In the great challenges and issues that challenge everyone, deciding and choosing together is a guarantee of faithfulness to the Lord and communion.

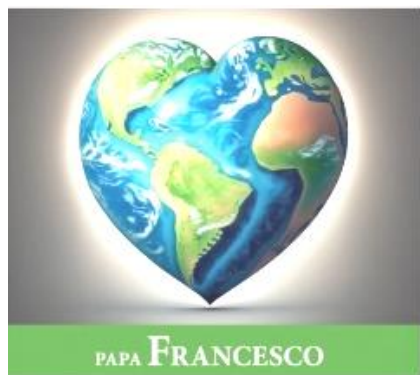
The Company, too, is always in synodality: it walks together, it has a common goal, it is assisted by the Holy Spirit, it has a way and a method to follow that is included in the Merician whole:

Even with my blood: I beg you to be in harmony, united together of one heart and one will...

The Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us all truth.

... And above all to obey the counsels and the inspirations that the Holy Spirit continually sends in to the heart...

If you faithfully do these and other similar things, as the Holy Spirit will dictate, according to the times and circumstances, rejoice, be of good will... (Angela Merici)



From LAUDATE DEUM
by the Holy Father Francis

1. **“Praise God for all his creatures.”**

2. Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’*, when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my

heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the **world in which we live is collapsing** and may be nearing the breaking point....

In the Light of Faith

62. The Bible tells us: **“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good”** (*Gen* 1:31). His is **“the earth with all that is in it”** (*Deut* 10:14). For this reason, he tells us that, **“the land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants”** (*Lev* 25:23). Hence, **“responsibility for God’s earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world.”**

63. At the same time, **“the universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible richness of God.”** Hence, **to be wise**, **“we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships.”** Along this path of wisdom, it is not a matter of indifference to us that so many species are disappearing and that the climate crisis endangers the life of many other beings.

64. Jesus **“was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty** that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attraction full of fondness and wonder....

65. Hence, **“the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise, because the risen One is mysteriously holding**

them to himself and directing them towards **fullness as their end**. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.” If “the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely... there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.

” The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?

Walking in Communion and with Responsibility

67. ... To recognize, in other words, that human life is incomprehensible and unsustainable without other creatures. For “**as part of the universe... all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect**”....

68. ... “**God has joined us so closely to the world around us** that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement.” Let us stop thinking, then, of human beings as autonomous, omnipotent and limitless, and begin to think of ourselves differently, in a humbler but more fruitful way.

69. I ask everyone to accompany **this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world** that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values....

70. ... Yet what is important is ... the need to realize that there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes.

73. “**Praise God**” is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.

***Laudate Deum on the climate crisis is addressed to
all people of good will.***

Today we want to be these people of good will!

Toward Jubilee 2025



The Jubilee Logo

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples.

The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope.

That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency maneuvers to stabilize the ship during storms.

It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross.

The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: **Pilgrims of hope**, represented in green letters.



***We must fan the flame of hope** that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.*

The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire.

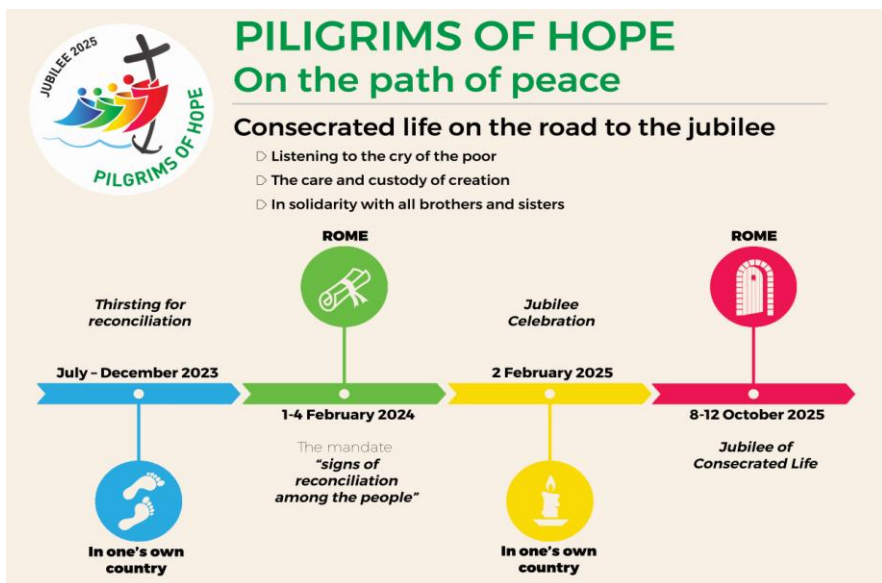
That is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.

*This will indeed be the case if we are capable of **recovering a sense of universal [brotherhood and sisterhood]** and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity....*

**... The Holy Year can be celebrated with deep faith,
lively hope and active charity.**

Pope Francis

consecrated life - toward Jubilee 2025...



1525- 2025= 500th
anniversary
of Saint Angela's
pilgrimage
to Rome

Jubilee with Saint Angela

A good Jubilee journey...
as spouses of the Son of God
and queens in heaven...

pilgrims of hope on the path of peace



*Placing their **hope** and the ir loive in
God alone*

- ❖ *I have this undoubted and firm faith, and this **hope** in the infinite divine goodness...*
- ❖ *Be happy, and always full of charity and faith and **hope** in*

God...

- ❖ *Let them not lose **hope**...*
- ❖ *Let them put their **hopes** up there ...*
- ❖ *Act, get moving, believe, make efforts, **hope**, cry out to him with all your heart...*
- ❖ *Be happy, and have a lively faith and **hope**...*
- ❖ *Let them seek to spread **peace** and concord wherever they are...*

+ *Wherever they are, let them be builders of **peace**...*

+ *Our very being takes the form of faith, of **hope**, and of charity...*



- ❖ *Witnesses of charity, of faith, and of hope at the heart of the world...*

let us sing and let us pray

Pilgrims of Hope

Refrain:

Like a flame my hope is
burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no
ending,
on life's path I trust in you.

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and
people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and
daughters
find a home in your dear Son.

Refrain

God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Refrain

Raise your eyes, the wind is
blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and
many
who will find the way in him.

Refrain

Text – Pierangelo Sequeri
English translation – Andrew
Wadsworth

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the **faith** you have given
us in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother, and the flame
of **charity** enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the
blessed **hope** for the coming of
your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform
from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos in the sure
expectation of a new heaven
and a new earth, when, with the
powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of
Hope**, a yearning
for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace
of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally
blessed, be glory and praise for
ever. Amen

Franciscus

Caring for and Conserving Creation



This statue of Saint Angela is in the College of Saint Ursula,
Kingsgrove, Australia;
image edited by the Ursulines of the Roman Union

Contemplating the Beauty of Creation

In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too.

(Pope Francis)

Living on this earth contemplating and caring for it like Saint Angela...

She was a peasant, secular, with her feet on the ground and her gaze turned to the sky.

Pilgrim by land and by sea... She knew and contemplated *the sand of the sea, the drops of the waters, the multitude of stars.*

She taught us *to obey God and every creature for love of God...*

Let us pray with Pope Francis for peace



Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.

Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say:
"Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost."

Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength daily to be artisans of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.

Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.

In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred" and "war" be banished!

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother/sister," and our way of life will always be that of Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

*Let them seek to spread
peace and concord
wherever they are...*



*To all I give the kiss of peace, asking God to
bless you...*

(Saint Angela Merici)

Attention: News from the Companies will be covered in the next issue of *In the same charism*.