

## Suore di Nostra Signora delle Missioni

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### To All the Sisters in the Congregation

Dear Sisters

Loving greetings to you. Since the wonderful feast of Easter, there have been some extraordinary events in the world and particularly in the Church. We were deeply saddened by the death of Pope Francis on the day after Easter Sunday. He had appeared in St Peter's piazza on Easter Sunday showing that no matter his state of health he wanted to be with the people. He has left us a great example and legacy of humility, care and compassion for the poor and the deeply personal call in *Laudato Si* to be active protagonists of ecological conversion. "The cry of the poor is the cry of the earth."



After the outpouring of sadness and grief for Pope Francis, we followed the days of the conclave with a deep sense of prayer for those involved to be attentive to the whisperings and voice of the Holy Spirit. Late in the afternoon of 8 May, white smoke appeared and the new Pope appeared on the balcony taking the name of Pope Leo XIV. Being an Augustinian, we feel a certain connection with the new Pope. We pray for him as he begins his leadership of the Catholic Church and that he continues to work for justice for all, to speak out for those downtrodden and unheard, to inspire us to be faithful and enthusiastic disciples of Jesus and to be a presence and dynamic of hope in the world.

I attended the UISG Plenary Assembly with about 900 Congregation Leaders from 5-9 May. It is an enriching experience which always reminds me that as religious women we have the power for such good. Sr Simona Brambilla, MC, gave a very thought provoking presentation which has been shared with you via email. As we prepare for our Congregation Chapter and discuss **RNDM Mission - Presence of Hope**, there is much to inspire us in the presentation and the images of sun and moon that Sr Simona has written about as well as the work of Simeon and Anna. I encourage you to spend time in reflecting on her presentation. Consecrated life can be a transforming hope. How do we participate in that transformation?

Sr Simona also refers to the *Final Document* on Synodality which states that: "Consecrated life is called to challenge the Church and society with its prophetic voice. Across their centuries-long history, the various forms of consecrated life elaborated what we now recognize as practices of synodal living. These include how to practice discernment in common and to harmonise together individual gifts as well as pursue mission in common...Today, many communities of consecrated life are like laboratories for inter-cultural living in a way that is prophetic for both the Church and the world."<sup>1</sup>

We cannot do this alone. We need the Spirit who fills us with transforming love, peace and hope. May our hearts be open and ever attentive. May our giving be generous. Come Holy Spirit! Come Holy Spirit!



<sup>1</sup> XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS, "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, mission," Second Session, *Final Document*, Rome, 26 October 2024, no. 65.

## Transition in International Mission Development Office (IMDO)



We are grateful to Smitha Thomas who has been part of the IMDO team for the past ten years and held the role of the Director for almost six years. Smitha gave herself fully in this role securing the funds needed for various projects across the congregation. She coordinated the Solidarity and Christmas Catalogue fund distribution. Smitha was conscientious in her support to province/region mission promoters, through regular communication and mentoring. She visited project sites, assisted mission promoters in preparing grant applications and reports. She updated the congregation on the work of IMDO through preparing and sharing very

engaging newsletters. She has built up very good relationships with mission partners and agencies. We thank Smitha for her dedication and commitment.

In the past few months Smitha has been working with Margaret Scott in view of the transition of the responsibility of the IMDO. The official handing over will be on 19 June. We thank Margaret for her willingness to take up the work of the IMDO Director and we offer her our support in carrying out this responsibility. Smitha will take some time for renewal before entering into another ministry.



## Update on Rome Finance Office



Mary Mazerollo Aruldass from the province of India North East will join the Rome Finance Office team. She will arrive in Rome by mid-June and will have three months of Italian language learning before she starts working in the Finance Office. We thank the province of India North East for allowing Mary to be missioned to Rome. Mary is a professional accountant and has worked as the province bursar in North East India for seven years. We welcome Mary to Rome community and wish her well in her new ministry.

## Personnel for Balay Euphrasie Formation Centre, Davao

Rita Kyi Kyi Aung from Myanmar has been appointed as a member of the Balay Euphrasie Team in Davao. The needs of the congregation are many everywhere and we are grateful to the province of Myanmar for their generosity so that Rita could be part of the formation team in Davao. She joined the community in Davao in April and has had some orientation to the place before the commencement of the program in June.

Rita has been involved in the formation ministry of the Aspirants, Postulants and as Director of Novices in Myanmar. She was an assistant novice director for three years during the time of the combined novitiate in Cotabato, Philippines. Rita was a province leader in Myanmar for six years. After her term of leadership, she did an MA in Applied Spirituality in Dublin, Ireland. All these experiences and learnings will bring much richness to their working together as a team in Davao.



Rita will continue to work together with Gloria Shongita Gomes, Fulti Mary Sun and Janette Alejandro in the running of the program of the sisters preparing for their perpetual profession. We

wish you fruitful team work as you prepare to welcome the next group of TP Sisters who will be starting their program later in June.

### Prayer Intentions for:

- Pope Leo XIV
- Inauguration of the new mission in Lindi, Tanzania – 6 July 2025
- Peace in Myanmar, Gaza and Ukraine
- Elderly and sick sisters
- Those affected by various disasters
- TP sisters who will begin their formation program in Davao
- Congregation Chapter 2026



### Born to Eternal Life

We give thanks to God for the life of the Sisters who have passed away since our last newsletter. May they know God's eternal peace and love.



Mary Regina McCullagh	13 May 2025	Sturry	UK & I
Mary Teresa D'Rozario	15 May 2025	Dhaka	BANG
Jacqueline Marie Bartush	16 May 2025	Winnipeg, MB	CAN
Marilyn LeBlanc	03 June 2025	Regina, MB	CAN

### ***Pentecost***

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.

This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.

The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.



Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

**Malcolm Guite**

Wishing you all a very happy Pentecost filled with blessings of hope, peace, love and joy

*Josephine Kane, Margaret Maung, Lissy Sebastian, Lucy Wambui, Joicy Madassery*