



# OUR LADY OF SORROWS 2015

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In this time, I read again the interesting book of M. Adele Cattari: "Magdalene Gabriella of Canossa".

One chapter is dedicated to "The Figure of Our Lady of Sorrows in the spiritual journey of Magdalene of Canossa." M. Adele writes that all those who would have followed Jesus in the footsteps of Magdalene, would also share in the vocation to the spirituality of God's will.

In Mary, every action is directed towards the Gift of herself to the will of the Heavenly Father; this must also be the same for the Lay Canossians; every action should be carried out in loving participation or in spiritual "company" with the Mother of the Lord.

The devotion to Mary, understood in this way, is not an end in itself, but becomes a staircase to reach God and concentrate in Him alone all the emotional and effective potential of a Christian, seen in his/her totality.

The offering of ourselves to the Father in order to fulfil our earthly mission till the end  
through Mary's help!

Magdalene writes in the Novena in preparation for the celebration of the Purification of Mary:

"We prepare ourselves to fulfil God's will in everything,  
imitating Mary's heroic perseverance,  
her humility, modesty and charity."

Magdalene has a strong and effective mentality of faith, that takes the Gospel and its demands seriously. Don Libera helps her to understand that the more her Marian devotion in her life will be richer, the more her mission will be beneficial and fruitful.

I believe that this reflection is precious for each one of us.

Even we, men and women, who have chosen to follow Our Lady as Lay Canossians and who live in the twenty-first century of this world, completely different from hers, can reach this very important goal: to discover God's plan through the web of daily events which, in the light of faith, are never trivial because they are fragments of God's will.

May Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, and St. Magdalene bless us and help us in our daily life.

*Adele Cremonesi*

# CANOSSIAN CHARISMATIC FAMILY. WAKES THE WORLD!



In the Basilica of St. Peter, the 30th of November 2014, opened the 'YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE'. This event affects the whole church and not only consecrated persons because every consecration comes from the church, grows in the church and the church is consecrated. It is a year to thank the "glorious past", to experience the "present with passion" and "the future with hope." Pope Francis writes a letter addressing not only the consecrated people but also the laity that share the same ideals, spirit and mission. The various institutions can be considered are a larger family, a "charismatic family" ... Laity who feel called, in their own secular condition, to participate in the same charismatic reality. I also encourage you, the laity, to live this year of consecrated life as a grace making you more aware of the gift received. Celebrate this gift with the whole "family" in order to grow together and respond to the calls of the Spirit in today's society. In the occasions when consecrated of different institutions meet each other, make sure that you be present as well, as an expression of the unique gift of God, so as to learn from the experiences of other charismatic families, from the other lay groups and enrich and sustain each other. (Ch. 3)

The Canossian family has a glorious past to tell. In Italy there is already talk of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the "Lay Canossian" name. But history conserves the lay presence around Magdalena, starting 207 years ago when Magdalena gave the first indications in welcoming in the Rigaste S. Zeno house, five abandoned girls and with them there were not consecrated people but laywomen who devoted themselves voluntarily. In Magdalene's dream, lay people were always there to extend as much as possible the charitable and educational actions. In reality there were always lay Canossians, even if not holding this same name, giving rise to many initiatives. So history is glorious!

Today we are identified as "Lay Canossian" with the Lay Canossian Family. Also recognized by the Church. This recognition is not just to have a name, but to increase the sense of service to others. To be called by name means facilitating the identification of who we are, why we exist in the Church and in society, and this name immediately calls our presence. A presence lived with passion because many are the passions of the men and women: the suffering, the rattle, the cries for help raised to the heavens or enclosed in the hearts of suffering children, teenagers, young, married, elderly, sick. These passions, full of suffering, require our passion, intensively dedicated without limits, because the Cross and the Lady of Sorrows asks us to respond to such unquenchable Charity.

Lately we see many parts of the world that are torn by wars that they did not even suspect would happen. Many families with internal wars that neither spouses suspected. Social tensions, hidden sufferings that live with those that have a heart of stone, that take away hope. This is where a presence is needed: live and let live the future with hope! Our future mission is to restore hope to those that are surrounded by evil and do not know how to get out. We are animated by hope through the Blood of Christ. A Blood that enables charity to circulate in our veins. Charity illuminates others having hope of receiving our help, offering above all else the possibility to listen and prospect a solution with the "creativity in charity" as indicated by Pope Francis in this year of Consecrated Life. Let us wake up the world with the hope that emanates from the Charity of Calvary!

*Father Giorgio Valente*

# ARGENTINA E PARAGUAY DAYS OF CHARISMATIC ANIMATION

From 21st March to 26th April 2015, excluding Holy Week, the Annual Days of Charismatic Animation took place during the weekends. Each participant received the Provincial Plan of Formation, elaborated by an "ad hoc" Commission made up of Lay Canossians and Sister Animators. This Plan for Argentina and Paraguay, following the guidelines given by the International Coordinating Team of the Lay Canossian Association, is divided into two parts: Initial Formation and On-Going Formation. We will begin to put this Plan of Formation into action this year according to the Annual Project of each group.



The charismatic animation of the Lay Canossians took place through two meetings in the North: one in Encarnación, Paraguay and the other in Jardín América, Argentina; two meetings in the Centre: one in Quequén and the other in Berisso and two in the South: one in Punta Alta and the other in Luis Beltrán, Patagonia (Argentina).



More than a hundred Lay Canossians and a few other invited guests took part together with the Sister Animators in the formation session and lunch or supper.

The meeting began with a reflection on the charismatic experience of St. Magdalene: "Look, and act according to the Model", using terms that permitted each one to understand the depth of our Model and His incarnation in our life situations so as to transmit it where we live. Following this reflection, the Plan of Formation was presented: its content and its methodology. The work of putting the Plan of Formation together was described by the members of the "ad hoc" Commission.



All the Lay Canossians with Promises and those in Initial Formation received the Provincial Plan of Formation during a meaningful Para-liturgy that concluded the day.

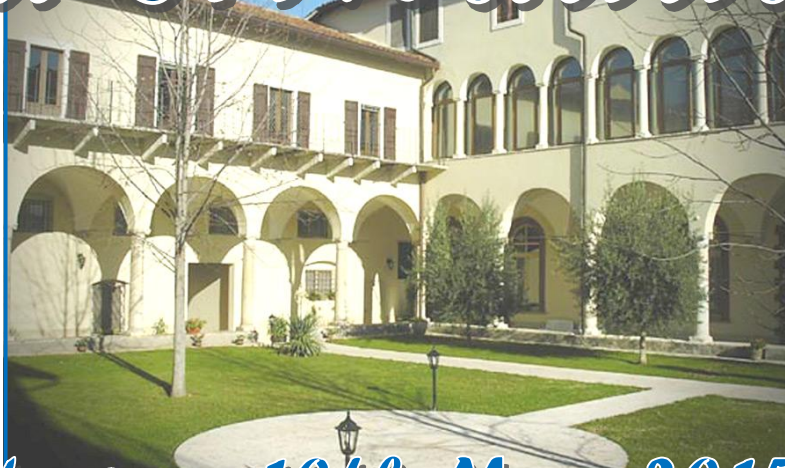
This gesture wanted to stress the importance of Formation, on a group and personal level, so as to be faithful to our call.

Every meeting, without exception, took place in an atmosphere of enthusiastic and serene participation, where the joy of being together could be clearly seen in the Family spirit that was dominant. This atmosphere gave everything - reflection, formation and recreation – a sense of celebration that renewed, strengthened and united each one of us. This experience opened us to go towards others and share with them the richness of the Gift the Lord has given to us ... and also discover the new calls He makes ...

Once again we had the chance to demonstrate and share our joy of belonging to the Association as well as showing our appreciation and gratitude to the International Coordinating Team for the work it does for us and the material it elaborates which is of great help for us in our Initial and On-Going Formation.

*Alida Mórtola Duhalde LC, Argentina*

# Festa S. Maddalena



*Verona, 10th May 2015*

For her feast, St. Magdalene, gathered together consecrated and lay people in her convent in Verona, today the Mother House of the Canossian Sisters, to relive her charism.

Being present in the ancient and attractive places where St. Magdalene dedicated her whole life to the Lord and to her neighbour, induces us to meditation and the desire to imitate her. Two very good Canossian speakers guided us through a reflection on two themes which would afterwards bring the participants to share their insights:

"The heart of the Charism" (Marisa Gini), a Secular Missionary of St. Magdalene

"The challenge of the Charism today" (Eugenio Bertolotti), FS Lay Canossians.

Then group work followed and people were asked to reflect on and to answer two basic requirements for a good Christian:

What place does the Word of God have in my daily life?

As Lay Canossians are we committing ourselves to implement the new evangelization?

All the answers of the various groups underlined the fundamental importance of Sacred Scripture, as an essential requirement of an authentic faith incarnated in daily life through coherent behaviour towards God and our neighbour, in particular towards women and the weakest.

Times change, yet today St. Magdalene is still a well of gushing water; the important thing is to be aware that we are thirsty, that we want to drink, that we desire to search for water and continue our journey. Magdalene's charism is still relevant to our time, though it is continually changing very fast. It is necessary to be credible believers!

The most touching aspect of this beautiful day spent in Verona was the presence of many young people who, through their faith and enthusiasm, made our gathering more lively and authentic and gave us the chance to exchange experience among the participants, just like many grains of mustard seed ready to be transformed into flourishing and fruitful trees in God's field, always under the loving guidance of St. Magdalene, with our spirit turned towards the "Paron" as St. Josephine Bakhita used to say. The day could not have been concluded in a more beautiful setting than the Basilica of San Zeno where we took part in the celebration of Mass, the greatest gift of this special day.

*Sr. Maria Rosa and the Lay Canossians of Nova Milanese*



# THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY. TWELVE MONTHS OF JOY!

John Paul II had compared the Holy Year to an "invitation to a wedding feast", referring to the last Jubilee which the Church celebrated in 2000.

It will be twelve months of joy. The main goal will be the remission of sins, reconciliation, conversion, but also solidarity and more attention to our neighbour.

Pope Francis opened the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy reminding us of the synthesis of the Mystery of our Christian faith: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." (n. 1).

The Holy Year will open on 8th December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (n. 3) and the fiftieth

anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (n. 4) and will close with the liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King on 20th November 2016. (n. 5).

The Pope desires that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out

to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and the tenderness of God! (n. 5). "For his mercy endures forever" this is the refrain repeated after each verse in Psalm 136. Pope Francis urges us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise. (n. 7).

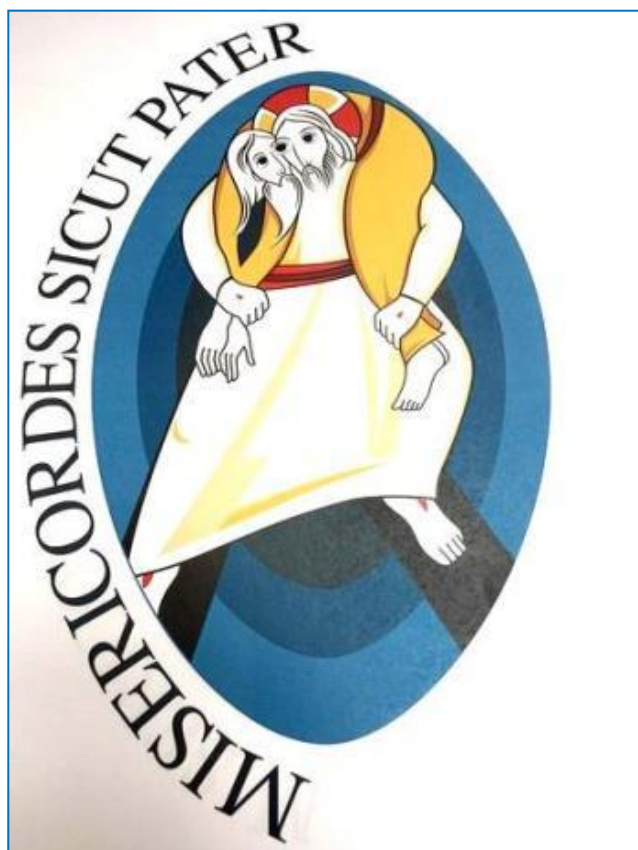
Mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling our hearts with love and bringing consolation through forgiveness. In the parables of mercy, God is always presented as being full of joy, especially when he forgives. Jesus made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith.

The beatitude to which the Pope invites us to aspire in this Holy Year is: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." (Mt 5:7) Just as the Father is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each

other. (n. 9).

Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident.

In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there



are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy. (n. 12).

We want to live this Jubilee Year in the light of the Lord's words: Merciful like the Father: it is a programme of life, as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace.

In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. (n. 13).

The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life.

This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice.

Judge not, and you will not be judged ... to know how to accept the good in every person ... to forgive and to give. (n. 14)

During this Jubilee we are invited to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. (n. 15).

May the words of the Apostle accompany us: "He who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness." (Rm 12:8) (n. 16)

May the sweetness of the countenance of the Mother of Mercy watch over us in this

Holy Year so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness.

The Magnificat, sung at the threshold of Elizabeth's home, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from generation to generation.



We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary.

Let us address to her the prayer ever ancient and new in the words of the Salve Regina so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes towards us and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.

Our prayer also extends to the saints and blessed ones who made divine mercy

their mission in life. (n. 24)

It will be an Extraordinary Jubilee Year, therefore, dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. (n. 25)

May these brief quotations from the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy be for us, Lay Canossians, an invitation to read it and to meditate on it in full, to participate in what the various Dioceses throughout the world will offer during this Holy Year and to review again our formative journey of 2010-2011, all dedicated to reflection on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.



# TWO STATIONS

## JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

On the way to the cross, Christ meets His Mother, Mary. Mary gazes more and more through her Son's eye: love makes us see in the same way. Mary accepted and realized the work of the Holy Spirit to the point that the Word became flesh in her. And it is only through synergy, and collaboration with the Holy Spirit, that we are able to see our reality and the whole of our life in Relation to Christ, better still in Him.

Since in Him all glances coincide, otherwise suffering and pain are a temptation to which people succumb. Only love is able to unite us so closely with Christ so as to see in His maltreated and suffering flesh not only our destiny but also the meaning with which He changed evil into good.

To become like Christ in suffering means being able to see good where no one else sees it. Mary begins to learn the wisdom of the cross, the sword that will pierce her heart (cf Lk 2:35), that is, the saving meaning of suffering, of complete failure, of death. The exterior eye sees a man beaten and humiliated to the point of death while the interior eye united to Christ sees the transfiguration from the abyss.

"Mary, a lamb, seeing her own Lamb dragged to slaughter, followed him together with other women, consumed by sorrow, cried out to Him thus: My Son, where are you going? For whom have you taken up this race? Perhaps there are other wedding feasts in Cana and you are rushing again to change water into wine? Can I come with you, O Son, or rather, can I stay with you? Speak to me a word, O Word, do not pass me by in silence, you who preserved me pure: in fact, you are my Son and my God."  
(Byzantine Liturgy, Office of the holy passion)

"You will be wounded by the sting of uncertainty and your thoughts will lacerate you in every way; the One you heard being called the Son of God and that you knew to be born without human intervention, you will see crucified, suffer unto death, subjected to cruel torture invented by people and, finally, see him implore and suffer while saying: Father, if it is possible, let this chalice pass from me. A sword will pierce your soul."  
(Origen, Homily on the Gospel of Luke XVII,7)



## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Humanity finally obtained what it wanted, that is, to kill Christ, and God too obtained his will, that is, take away evil from the world and the sin of humanity. But precisely for this reason Christ had to die. And to die he had to be crushed under the weight of sin.



While he was crushed under evil and took its burden on himself, He was raised up like the serpent of Moses. Christ dies only because death may think it has defeated him.

But in truth, it is He who has taken on all of this and made it burn in the love of the Father. Christ died in our place and now death is no longer the end of everything for us. We have been given the grace to die with Him a death similar to His in Baptism.

With this death is no longer definitive, it is entirely within time and for this reason it is behind us. In front of us we have that which has already been lived in Baptism, that "small resurrection" and in the Eucharist, eternal life.

The gaze on Christ Crucified is the gaze on God's mad love for humanity. He gave Himself up because He loved us so much to consider us worthy of His entrusting Himself to us.

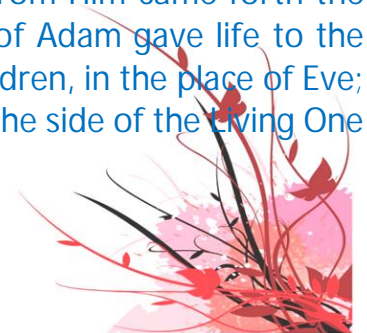
We laid down our death on Him so that He would die but we would live. Christ, pierced on the cross, is the image of God who, through his grace, we have been able to mould with our hands. We have moulded his death, while He washed us in his blood giving us life.

Christ falls asleep only for a moment and immediately, from the side the new Adam, our new humanity is born.

"Christ slept on the cross and Baptism came forth from Him; the Groom slept and his side was pierced during his rest, bringing forth the Bride, as it happened with Eve, in Adam.

The silence of the sleep of death fell upon Him on the Cross, and from Him came forth the Mother (baptism) who brings to birth all spiritual beings; the Lord of Adam gave life to the New Eve during his sleep so as to serve as the mother of Adam's children, in the place of Eve; water and blood to model spiritual sons and daughters coming from the side of the Living One who died to give life to Adam."

Giacomo di Sarug, Homily  
LIPA, CENTRO ALETTI



# Laudato si'



At the conclusion of his Encyclical Letter, "Laudato si'", Pope Francis proposed two prayers: "The first we can share with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator, while in the other, we Christians ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus."

In his wonderful and surprising "Prayer for our earth" the three "thats" underline the beauty of the world. From time to time, and gradually, we are called to take care of it, protect it and at last to foster it, until "beauty is sown", says the Pope.

His message is clear: a wonderful world has been given to us. We have the duty not to ruin it and the duty to leave it intact to future generations. The real threat to its beauty is not pollution but injustice.

## A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,  
you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness  
all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace,  
that we may live

as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and  
forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey  
on it,

that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each  
thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.

## A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your  
creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful  
hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and  
your tender love.  
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our  
Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human  
eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's  
love  
and accompany creation as it groans in  
travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of  
infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.  
God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your  
sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and  
money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good,  
advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.

Pope Francis invites us not to say "What do I care" anymore. He underlines a way of behaving to be followed and one to be avoided.

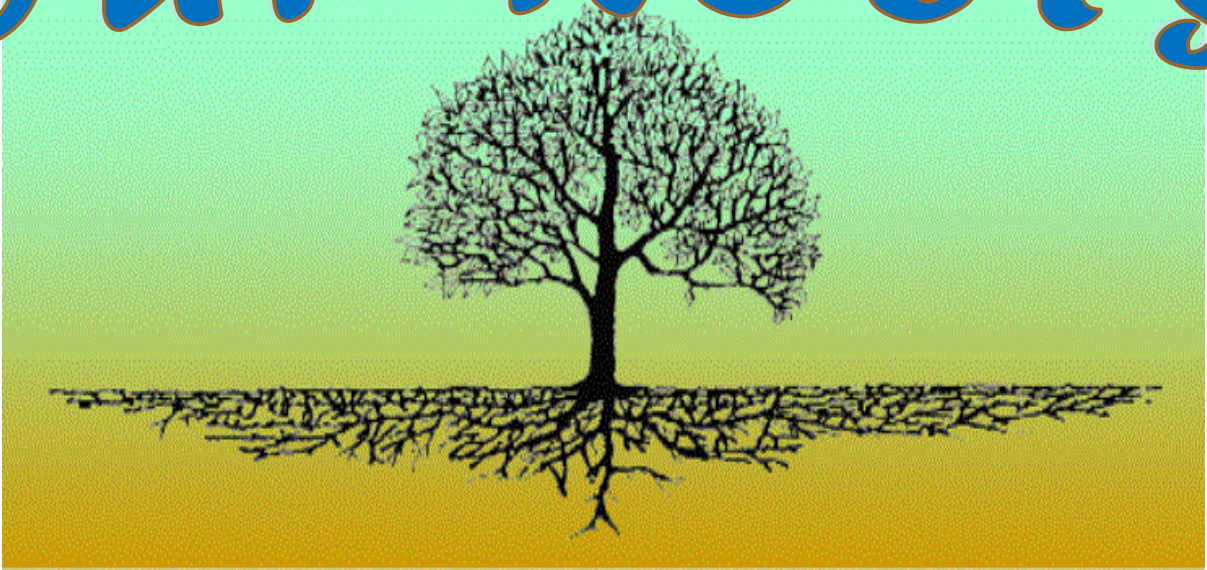
The first is the attitude of the guardian, the one who takes care of others and does not consider creation and creatures as resources to be abused, but like a garden to be cultivated. Instead, the second is the attitude of the one who discards everything that is not useful for himself/herself.

No one of us may assume Cain's attitude: "Am I my brother's guardian?"

No one of us may say anymore: "What do I care."

*Adele Cremonesi*

# Our Roots



Magdalene of Canossa permeated all her Institutions with the vital sap she drew from Christ Crucified and Our Lady of Sorrows, Mother of Charity at the foot of the Cross.

Her only goal was to root deeply in charity, in generous self-sacrifice and gratuitous, joyous self-gift, the persons following her apostolic projects.

In drawing up the essential guidelines of the Institution of the Tertiaries she stated: "Being encouraged by the blessings which the Lord has bestowed up to now on the little works of the Daughters of Charity, the writer wishes that the Queen of Heaven be more greatly glorified and would like to implement the Plan now, in order to extend somehow also the Institute to accomplish what the Institute as such cannot pursue."

At the conclusion of the Plan she wrote: "(The writer) would like that this Sodality be established to the greater glory and service of Our Lord Jesus and of our most Holy and amiable Mother of Sorrows."

goal was well defined right from the first outline of the Plan of the Tertiaries:

"... to practice and spread the devotion of Our Lady of Sorrows, to sanctify oneself carrying out one's duties ... and perform the works of charity in one's own family and outside ...".

Even the operational limitations of the Institute of the Daughters of Charity urged Magdalene to implement the Institution of the Tertiaries, the aim of which was to overcome them:

"... though the Plan of the Institute of the Daughters of Charity stretches far and wide, it can only respond to the smallest portion of the needs of the Dioceses where it is established ...".

Magdalene presents two reasons: the Rules are a necessary protection but they bind the Daughters of Charity and restrict their work and the need to be self-sufficient conditions the Sisters' numerical growth.

On the contrary:

- The Tertiaries had no other bonds but Charity, so it would be easy for them to move about.

- They could reach "where the Institute cannot" and spread rapidly, as one could easily join this Sodality and "at the same time care for the spiritual welfare of many souls."

It is crystal clear that the Foundress was constantly fixed on the Glory of God and on making Jesus loved by the greater number of people possible coming from any status and condition.

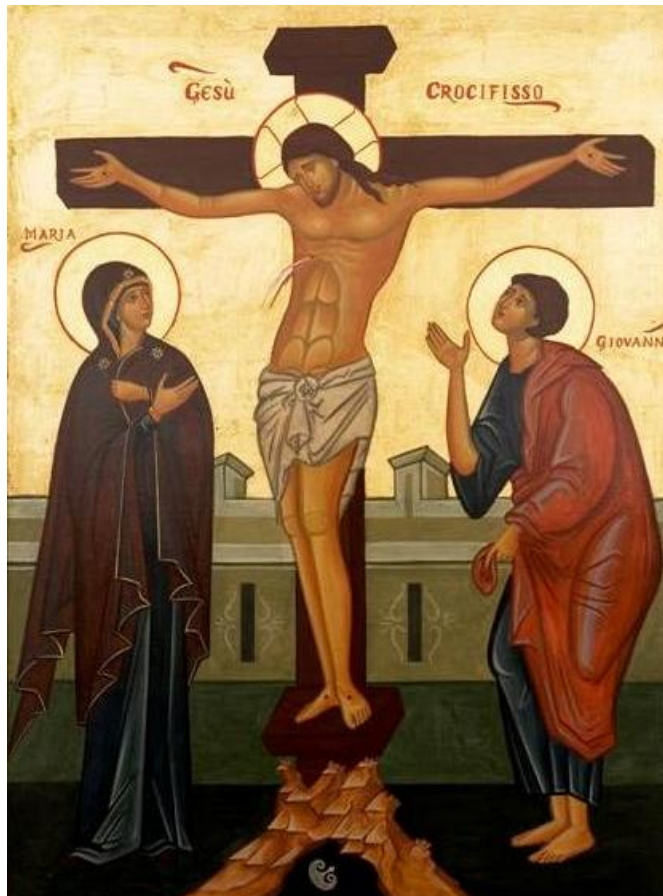
Her deepest longing in her apostolic life was to prevent sin and this guided her life. Therefore the Tertiaries, too, should " ... perform those charitable works which prevent, impede and remove sins, which cause the most bitter and deep Sorrows to the Mother of God."

With regard to the beginnings of the Institution of the Tertiaries, Magdalene wrote to Cardinal Zurla as follows:

" ... I think that a little at a time, by this means, it would be possible to remove, at least as much as we can, ignorance and moral disorders and to revive the Christian spirit in families and in villages."

Real good, that is, the salvation of souls, was Magdalene's constant yearning. She was determined to achieve it or to facilitate it at all costs.

She followed this criterion even when replying to Mr. Zoppi who had manifested to her the urgent spiritual needs of his Diocese of Massa.



She wrote to him on 19th February 1825: "Your description of the spiritual needs of your people aroused in me a pleasant idea ... to reach the heart of the adult ladies through the Tertiaries that you know and in this way be useful to even these people ...".

Magdalene always looked beyond her actual field of action. Christ on the Cross had communicated to her a thirst that not even death could quench: from Heaven she still urges her Daughters to continue the good work

she has begun.

True, authentic devotion to Mary must be an imitation of Mary to be lived in a concrete way. The Tertiaries ought to practice some virtues proper to the Daughters of Charity, like docility, patience, meekness, gentleness, not only in view of their own sanctification, but also because these virtues are indispensable in dealing efficaciously with the youth.

*M. Maria Nicolai*

VI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION-CONGRESS  
LAY CANOSSIAN FAMILY  
24th-31st July 2016

VI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
LAY CANOSSIAN FAMILY  
30th-31st July 2016  
S. Fidenzio, Verona  
Theme: "INSPICE ET FAC"

*In the heart of the world with the joy of the Gospel*

1. PARTICIPANTS

a. PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONVENTION-CONGRESS LAY CANOSSIAN ASSOCIATION

We would like to remind the members of the Lay Canossian Association that, according to Art. 18 of our Statutes, the following members will take part in the Convention-Congress. Members by right:

- the two Superiors General and the reference General Councillors
- the International Coordinating Team
- Provincial Coordinators

and other members:

- the Provincial Sister Animator and the Provincial Father Animator
- a Delegate for each Province and Delegation, elected or nominated by the Provincial Assembly according to the Provincial Regulations, whose number must not be inferior to the members by right.

b. PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONGRESS OF THE LAY CANOSSIAN FAMILY

At the end of the Convention ALC, the VI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE LAY CANOSSIAN FAMILY will be held and the representatives of the Lay Canossian Brothers and Sisters and of the Secular Missionaries of St. Magdalene will take part in it.

2. FORMATION FOR THE CONVENTION-CONGRESS

We forward to you the PLAN OF FORMATION for this coming pastoral year (September 2015- June 2016) in preparation for our Convention-Congress 2016.

3. PREPARATION OF THE DVD

As in 2011, we invite every Province and Delegation to present a short DVD. We believe that the sharing of your life and activities is important.

You may divide the DVD in TWO PARTS:

First Part: presentation of the life of the Lay Canossians of your respective Province and Delegation

Second Part: you may choose and develop one of these three themes:

- How do we live "INSPICE ET FAC"?
- How do we live "in the heart of the world"?
- How do we live the attitude of joy?

NB. Please send both the scripts of the respective two parts of your DVD: it is very important.

Duration of DVD: maximum 10 minutes

Deadline for the DVD and both Scripts: 15th April 2016

Please send your DVD and Scripts to: [laici@canossian.org](mailto:laici@canossian.org)

# ON GOING FORMATION PLAN 2015 - 2016

The International Coordinating Team presents the Plan of On-Going Formation for the period from September 2015 to June 2016, time that precedes the very important appointment of our Lay Canossian Association: the Convention 2016. Thus, if in the last three years our formation helped us to deepen the richness of the Convention 2011, this year our formation will consider the future Convention: "INSPIRE ET FAC: in the heart of the world with the joy of the Gospel."

The material offered to you will have the same form as previous years, a monthly scheda divided in various parts:

- Initial Prayer
- Biblical Aspect regarding the Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross
- A work of art, with a very short comment related to the Biblical theme.
- Charismatic Aspect: Magdalene's writings will guide us to rediscover the Spirituality of the Cross
- In search of Gospel events: we will listen to the witness of those who joyfully lived personal situations which recall Jesus' passion, death and resurrection
- Formation to leadership: characteristic features of the one who, as a Lay Canossian, guides a group and/or takes the responsibility at the different levels in Coordinating Teams in the Association
- Questions for reflection: the aim is to favour personal reflection and/or sharing and discussion in the group
- Final Prayer

The scheda of the month of September, as usual, will be characterized by the charismatic aspect and linked to another meaningful event of the Universal Church: The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. We will deepen the theme of mercy starting from the "Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, *Misericordiae Vultus*, and from Magdalene's writings about mercy.

The formative scheda of May, instead, will be a scheda that will be gradually build up together in our annual formative journey through your sharing and contributions. We would like to produce an International Scheda, written in full communion with everyone. It should be like a formation puzzle because everyone is formed and, at the same time, everyone is a formator, in which each group will place its piece of the puzzle composed of answers, questions, experiences, witnesses ... We await for your contribution.

May your work be fruitful! We are aware that a long journey always starts with the first step and we are sure that the Lord, who is infinite mercy, and our Saints, Magdalene and Bakhita, will journey with all of us.

MONTH	INITIAL PRAYER	BIBLICAL ASPECT	WORKS OF ART	CHARISMATIC SOURCES	IN SEARCH OF GOSPEL EVENTS	FORMATION TO LEADERSHIP	QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION	FINAL PRAYER
SEPTEMBER	Charismatic Scheda: "Mercy in Magdalene" linked to the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee <i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> . Formation to leadership: "A person of faith and prayer"							
OCTOBER	Psalm and a Gospel text Mk15: 33-35	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "My God, why have	E. Munch "The dead mother and the child"	A guided reading of some passages taken from our	A joyful witness of the Gospel: abandonment	Section prepared by Adele. "A person of communion	Questions for personal reflection	-Prayer according to the theme of the monthly scheda or according to



		you forsaken me"		charismatic sources regarding the spirituality of the cross (Memoirs, Letters).		"	and/or sharing in the group	the Liturgical Year - Seven Sorrows of Mary - Prayer of the Convention
NOVEMBER	Psalm and a Biblical Text Lk 23: 34-35	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "Father, forgive them"	A. da Messina "Ecce Homo"	"	...forgiveness	"A person expert in humanity"	"	"
DECEMBER	Psalm and a Gospel Text Lk 23:39-43	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "Today, you will be with me in Paradise"	F. Corradini "Today, you will be with me"	"	...words that save	"A person open to the universality of the Church"	"	"
JANUARY	Psalm and a Gospel Text Jn 19: 25-27	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: " Woman, this is your son. This is your mother"	Anonymous "Crucifix in San Damiano"	"	...taking care of oneself	"A person of apostolic zeal"	"	"
FEBRUARY	Psalm and a Gospel Text Jn 19: 28-29	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "I am thirsty"	A. Martini "Thirst"	"	...need	"A person of great honesty and capable of discernment"	"	"
MARCH	Psalm and a Gospel Text Lk 23: 44-46	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"	M. Grunewald "Crucifixion"	"	...God's will	"A person who dedicates himself/herself to the Lay Canossian Association with all his/her heart"	"	"
APRIL	Psalm and a Gospel Text Jn 19:30. 38-39.41-42	The seven words of Jesus on the Cross: "It is accomplished."	F. Marocco "Breath"	"	...faith in the resurrection	"A person who is flexible and promotes the union of hearts".	"	"
MAY	<p>Final Scheda for sharing. Feed-back and sharing:                      the answers regarding the section: Questions for reflection;                      the witnesses regarding the section: In search of Gospel events.                      Formation to leadership: "A person who knows how to keep his/her eyes fixed on the Lord so as to obtain His constant help in the service of the Lay Canossian Association."</p>							

# FRI DO ABEL DA CRUZ VERDIAL

Together with our Canossian Fathers, we thank the Lord because He chose and called FRIDO ABEL DA CRUZ VERDIAL fdcc, DILI, TIMORLEST, to the Canossian Family, and now he will be consecrated as his Priest forever on 19th September 2015, in the Cathedral of Dili, Timor Leste.

Let us pray so that the Lord may bless and preserve him in His love, in His fidelity and in the service of His people, particularly our most suffering brothers and sisters.

Best Wishes P. Frido. The Lord is with you!

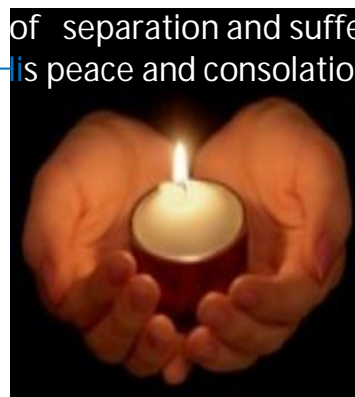


Congregação Filhos de Caridade Canossiano  
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Ordenação Presbiteral  
Diac. Frido Abel da Cruz Verdial, FdCC  
  
Preside Husi  
Ex. Rev. Dom Basilio do Nascimento  
Bispo da Diocese de Baucau  
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Dia, 19 de Setembro, 2015  
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Dia 20 de Setembro, 2015  
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We entrust to the Lord, in a special way, our sister GIUSEPPINA PANGALLO, Theberton, Australia. She became a Lay Canossian in 1989. May the Heavenly Father welcome her into His Kingdom of great light, peace and infinite love.

May He bless and comfort her family in this time of separation and suffering with His peace and consolation



# Mamma Marta for her son Matteo

The many messages and your real presence here with me make me repeat once again thank you, Lord, for having given me Matteo, someone to be put aside according to the mentality of today, but able to be a real man in the most noble sense of the word. He knew how to establish relationships with simplicity and immediacy, eliminating every barrier and difference. Aware of his limits, he was always ready to say thanks and sorry. I believe it is not a coincidence that, while we were on the phone for the last time, I saw on the TV screen in front of me the words of Pope Francis that said: "Today I received a kiss from God" which is precisely what I hope for him and for us.

I would now like to address my sincere thanks to some people and, even if I cannot mention all their names, I hope each one feels it addressed to them personally. Thanks to all his friends, adults and children, who knew how to laugh with him. Thanks to the artists who, with humility, were by his side helping him to realise his dreams. Thanks to all the doctors and hospital staff, so that the Spirit of God may always guide their actions with expertise and conscience, but especially with a big heart. Thanks to the family and to the person who donated him a new heart that allowed me to have him with me for another 14 years.

Thanks to UILDM. May it continue to be a reference point for those who are sick and their families. Thanks to the Canossian Family who helped us to see the Cross as the throne of Love on which Christ still remains nailed today and the silence of Mary who stood firm even on Calvary; this has allowed me to overcome these difficult moments. Thanks to the community of the Croce Bianca. May you always be more and more a family of families.

And lastly, my greatest "thank-you" to Betty who dedicated her life to Matteo.

Mamma Marta

## The death of my son

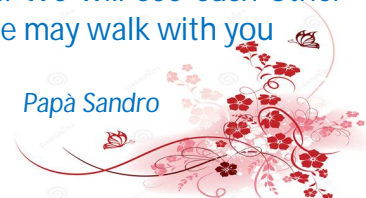
Above all in the last two years, our family has experienced being within the wounds of Jesus. The Lord Jesus showed us His wounds in the body of Matteo. In our family we touched, caressed and medicated these wounds. Jesus was there hidden in this son of mine, hidden in all those who suffer.

On the alter we adored the Body of Jesus, Jesus really present in the Eucharist, the living Jesus. The Risen Lord was so glorious. He no longer had the signs of wounds and scourging in His Body ... nothing! Now Matteo, after having passed through the door, I am sure is so glorious too.

We loved him every day of his life, every hour and every minute, and he loved us with an even greater love. In moments of serenity, he too loved so lightly like the flight of a butterfly, especially his mother and sister.

We took gentle care of "the wounds" of Matteo here on earth, and he, from Heaven, he showed us his body finally transformed and now says to all of us: I am waiting for you! We will see each other soon. May the Lord bless all of you and may His love descend on you so that He may walk with you

Papà Sandro





Lord, give us saints!  
Not only men and women consumed with zeal  
and overflowing in generosity,  
who not only face risk  
to uphold justice,  
but people of God, people for whom God is everything.  
Lord, give us saints!  
Not only people who love other people  
attentive to all miseries and ready to serve,  
but men and women in love with You,  
who live only for You;  
men and women whom one cannot look at without seeing You,  
people who can eradicate the world from its materialism  
and capable to impose your presence.  
Lord, give us saints!  
We need saints, great saints.  
Choose them, Lord.  
You can raise up saints: take them from all lands,  
from among the poor and the rich,  
among the illiterate and the learned,  
from the laity and from among the priests,  
from among the consecrated as well as from the worldly.  
  
Lord, give us saints!