**Servants of Mary in Chile and Bolivia**

As a result of the general restructuring and re-organization of Servite communities the Order is now represented by two Provinces in South America: The St. Peregrine (Brazilian) Province and the Santa Maria de los Andes Province. There are also two other communities in Colombia.

The present Santa Maria de los Andes Province is composed of diverse communities that began in the first half of the twentieth century. These communities did have something in common: they were all subject to the jurisdiction of the Venetian Province. In our next issue we will describe the Servite communities in Argentina and Uruguay. In this issue we will talk about Servites in Chile and Bolivia.

In 1937 the Servants of Mary began their apostolate in Chile – specifically in the Aysen Mission named after Lady: Missio de Maria Regina. The first foundations were at Puerto Aysen in 1937 and Coyhaique in 1939. On February 17, 1940 Aysen became an Apostolic Prefecture. Later in 1955 it became an Apostolic Vicariate.

Between 1949 and 1961 four communities (domus) were established at Chile Chico, Chaiten (1950), Cochrane (1961) and Puerto Montt (1963). In 1964 there were eighteen friars from the Venetian Province working in these communities.

At the same time the Servite presence expanded in central Chile. In 1939 a foundation (domus) was made at Santa Bernadita in Santiago; in 1951 the foundation became a priory. The Santa Teresita foundation was established in 1947 and became a priory in 1950; a community was established at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Quellon.

At almost the same time the Servites established a community in Bolivia. At the request of the Bishop and the Apostolic Nuncio four friars from the Venetian Province founded a house (domus) in Oruru dedicated to Our Lady of Socabov – 3700 meters above sea level. Further foundations were the priory in La Paz dedicated to the Immaculate Virgin (1950) which became a parish in 1954 and a school (Escuela de Nuestra Señora del Socabov) in Oruro (1968).

In 1950 the situation in Chile and Bolivia was as follows: The Missio de Maria Regina in Aysen consisted of three communities; The Chilean Commissariat in Central Chile counted three communities; the communities in Bolivia were under the jurisdiction of the Argentina-Uruguay-Bolivia Commissariat. In 1956 the mission in Aysen was raised to the rank of a comissariat and the communities of the Chilean Commissariat (Central Chile) became part of the Argentine Commissariat which was renamed "Plata."

In 1955 the Servites established a new community at Peñaflor which in 1956 became an Apostolic Seminary. In 1956 a Liceo (high school) was established at the Santa Teresita community in Santiago and in 1959 the community established a seaside camp at Quinteros some 150 km from Santiago. A major seminary was opened at Santa Bernadita Priory in 1967-1968.

In 1964 the South American Servite communities were reorganized. The Plata Commissariat was divided into two entities: The Argentina-Uruguay Commissariat and the Chile-Bolivia Commissariat. In 1969 the Central Chile-Bolivia Commissariat and the Aysen Commissariat both raised to the level of Vicariates. Only one year later there was another reorganization: the two Vicariates were joined as a single Chile-Bolivia Vicariate. In 1970 there were some fifty friars in the Vicariate. Nine of these friars were local and the remaining religious were from the Venetian Province.

In 1972 the Servites closed two houses (domus) one at Chaiten and one at Puerto Montt. In 1973 a fire destroyed the church and house in Cochrane. They were subsequently rebuilt. In 1974 the Servite community in Peñaflor was closed. In 1979 a formation community for pre-novices was established in Santiago and named Santa Maria de la Annunciacion. In 1980 there were still some 50 friars in the Vicariate and ten were local.

In 1983 the decision to close the priory in La Paz was suspended. On June 27, 1983, Seven Holy Founders Priory was opened as a house of formation in Cochabamba. In 1991 Santa Maria de la Annunciacion Priory in Santiago was closed as was the house (domus) in Chile Chico. In 1996 the Vicariate counted thirty-five friars (five of whom were outside the jurisdiction). Half of these religious were local.

In 1997 and again in 2000 the religious community in La Paz, Bolivia, was suppressed. On February 17, 2001, the community at Puerto Aysen was closed.

In 2003 a Servite Community was established in Lima, Peru and the Vicariate’s name was changed from Chile-Bolivia to Andean. At the same time negotiations began with the Rio Plata Delegation which led to the merger of the two jurisdictions into a single entity: a new province – Santa Maria de los Andes. This province includes eleven communities in four countries.
1. Conference of European Servite Provincials

The Conference of European Servite Provincials met at our priory in Denia (Spain) May 24-25, 2016. The following friars were in attendance: Sergio Ziliani (Coordinator); Hubert Moons (representing the General Houses); Paolo Orlandini (Provincial of the Santissima Annunziata Province); Pietro Andriotto (Provincial elect of the Piedmont-Romagna Province); Lino Pacchin (Provincial of the Venetian Province); Colm McGlynn (Provincial of the Province of the Isles); Fero Bachorix (Provincial Councilor of the Tyrolese Province). On the afternoon of the first day Fra Antonio Nofuentes (Socius Provincial of the Santissima Annunziata Province) took part in the discussion as a representative of the Spanish Delegation.

2. Province Ann: Meeting “La Santissima Annunziata ‘Dedicated’ by Florence to every man …”

A meeting was held in Florence (June 3-4, 2016) at the Santissima Annunziata Priory. The meeting was titled “La Santissima Annunziata ‘Dedicated’ by Florence to every man …” The meeting marked the 500th anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1516. It was promoted and organized by the SS. Annunziata community in close collaboration with Amici della Santissima Annunziata ONLUS [Friends of the Santissima Annunziata – Non-profit Organization] and Ambasciatori Mariani ONLUS [Marian Ambassadors – Non-profit Organization]. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity for its many participants to learn and appreciate many important facts about the SS. Annunziata. There were three sessions. The First Session (morning of June 3rd) was devoted to history: “Gli ‘incroci’ della Storia attorno alla Dedicazione del 1516” [Historical Context of the 1516 Dedication]. The Second Session was held in the afternoon of June 3rd and was devoted to artistic and devotional aspects for an understanding of devotion to the image of the Santissima Annunziata: “Arte e devozione, il volto ‘Internazionale’ della SS. Annunziata” [Art and Devotion, the International Image of the Santissima Annunziata]. The Third Session took place on the morning of June 4th and discussed new points of view on the place of this Sanctuary in Florentine life, “Prospettive per un luogo da riscoprire” [Prospective on a Place that Merits Re-discovery]. Acting as Presidents of the three sessions were: His Eminence, Cardinal Betori, the Archbishop of Florence; Simonetta Brandolini d’Adda of the Friends of Florence Association; Fra Rhett M. Sarabia, Vicar General of the Order of Servants of Mary. The moderators were Elisa Bonini (Amici della SS. Annunziata ONLUS) and Fra Emanuele M. Cattarossi. Fra Paolo M. Orlandini, Prior Provincial of the Santissima Annunziata Province greeted the participants and Cav. Emanuele Albano (Servite Secular Order) represented the Associazione Ambasciatori Mariani ONLUS.

The following speakers presented papers:

Cristina Acidini (President of the Accademia delle Arti e del Disegno): Leo X and the Santissima Annunziata During the 1515 Visit to Florence; Giovanni Cipriani (University of Florence): The Medici and the Santissima Annunziata During the Sixteenth Century; Lamberto M. Crociani (Servite): From the Temple to the Eternal Jerusalem. Architectural and Theological Evolution of the Florentine Sanctuary from the Thirteenth Century to the Current Structure; Nicola Salvioli: Restoration in the Giambologna Chapel. Professionals Working for the Artistic and Cultic Repair of a Valuable Site; Antonio Natali: The Small Cloister of the Ex-votos. A Modern Workshop; Dora Liscia Bemporad (University of Florence): Cult and Devotion in the Silver Ex-votos at the Santissima Annunziata; Maria Cecilia Fabbri: Beyond Florence. The Success and Distribution of the Sacred Image of the Santissima Annunziata Through Copies; Gianluigi Simone: Let no one try to uncover it” the Ritual Silver Overlay on the Non-man-made Image of the Santissima Annunziata between the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Century; Isabella Gagliardi (University of Florence): The Sanctuary and Its City; Sergio M. Ziliani (Servite): The Santissima Annunziata. Its Importance, Meaning and Prospects in the Life of Today’s Florence; Simonetta Bracciali: A Site to Recover. The Architectural and Civic Restoration of the Santissima Annunziata Site; Franco M. Azzalli (Servite): Conclusions.
3. **PROVINCE PRF: Chapter of Elections and Election of the Provincial Council**
Friars of the Piedmont-Romagna-France Province held their quadrennial Chapter of Elections and elected the following officials: Fra Pietro M. Andriotto (Prior Provincial), Fra Claudio M. Avallone (Socius Provincial); elected to the Provincial Council were Fra Johnas M. Murallon, Fra Venanzio M. Ramasso, and Fra Cesare M. Antonelli. We wish them success in their future service.

4. **PROVINCE ISL: Chapter of Elections and Election of the Provincial Council**
Friars of the Province of the Isles held their quadrennial Chapter of Elections at St. Mary’s University College Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, London and elected the following officials: Fra Gabriel M. Bannon (Prior Provincial), Fra Vincent M. Coyne (Socius Provincial); elected to the Provincial Council were Fra Paul M. Addison, Fra Christopher M. O’Brien, and Fra Peter M. Conniffe.

**PROFESSIONS, ORDINATIONS, ANNIVERSARIES**
Congratulations to Fra José Antônio M. Flesch (BRA) on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood: July 3, 1966.
Congratulations to the following friars on the occasion of their first religious profession: Aníbal Andrés M. Montoya Hoyos (MEX), Carlos Andrés M. Ramírez Valencia (MEX), Juan Pablo M. Muñoz Arce (MEX), José M. Lucero (SMA) and Arnol M. Jiménez Saavedra (SMA), June 16, 2016.
Congratulations to the following friars on their ordination to the priesthood: John Thembo M. Tsongo (EAF), July 3, 2016; Thimothi M. Kabriyel (IND), Stephen Raj M. Arockia Samy (IND), Anbarasan M. Thaines (IND), George Thomas M. Perianayagam (IND) July 8, 2016 and Serilus M. Subin (MEX) July 30, 2016.
UNIFAS

UNIFAS Ninth Assembly met at the Compassionist Servite Sisters’ Santa Maria Casa di Spiritualità in Rome (June 1-4). The assembly asked the Servite Center of Communications to change the title of that portion of COSMO that reports their activity. Previously it was called SERVITE FAMILY; they would prefer UNIFAS. We discussed this with members of the Secretariat and agreed to use the title UNIFAS instead of SERVITE FAMILY. Henceforth that will be our practice. The UNIFAS Council has provided a logo.

1. UNIFAS: IX Assembly

UNIFAS Ninth Assembly met at the Compassionist Servite Sisters’ Santa Maria Casa di Spiritualità in Rome (June 1-4). The meeting had as its theme: Mercy. On the evening of June 1st participants began to arrive from all over the world: Europe, Africa, Asia, America. It was a genuine pleasure to meet again. The President of UNIFAS greeted everyone. Then each of the participants introduced himself and described the group to which he belonged. Led by Fra Camille M. Jacques and Fra Souriraj M. Aralananda Samy the second session (June 2nd) was a day of spirituality. Reflecting on two parables (The adulteress, John 8, 1-11 and the Prodigal Son, Luke 15, 1-3 and 11-32) the speakers discussed the idea of mercy in the teachings of Pope Francis and in the hagiography of the Order. They saw it as a Servite characteristic – something that would point each of us towards the works of mercy and pardon.

On the morning of June 3 we broke up into language groups for discussion. It provided an opportunity to share and reflect on our experience. In the afternoon the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of UNIFAS presented reports. This was followed by a valuable exchange of ideas and observations. The final day of our meeting (June 4) was devoted to promoting collaboration and exchange between the members of the Servite Family. We also considered proposals for the next UNIFAS Convention in 2018 in Asia (the Philippines). The morning concluded with the election of members of the UNIFAS Council for a four-year term (2016-2020). The following were elected: Marie Thérèse Connor (LON), Maria Zingaro (SMN), Margherita Palazzi (REM), Martin McNicoll (OSSM CANADA).

On afternoon of June 4, 2016, the UNIFAS Council met once more in the same location and confirmed Sister M. Elizabeth Torres Martínez (NAP) as Secretary of UNIFAS. After discussion the Council considered nominations. It asked the President to conduct the required consultation on a candidate to be treasurer of UNIFAS. Afterward Sister Celine Mary [Selvi Antony] (PIS) was appointed Treasurer of UNIFAS.
2. UNIFAS-MEX: Pilgrimage to the Guadalupe Basilica

As is our annual custom the Servite Family in Mexico made a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, May 28. Buses from various parts of the Mexican Republic began arriving at the shrine; they came from El Paso (Texas), Guadalajara, Aguascalientes, Celaya, Orizaba ... Many friars, sisters, lay people from the Secular Order and the Secular Institutes took part. There were some 1,000 pilgrims; 700 met at Divina Providencia Priory for breakfast and dinner. Members of the Secular Order and parishioners served the breakfast and dinner with great joy and enthusiasm. It was an occasion of genuine fraternity for all who took part.

At 10 o’clock all the pilgrims gathered in the Calzada de Guadalupe to begin their journey to the Sanctuary. Our walk was enlivened by hymns and prayers to Our Lady. Once we arrived at the Holy Door we said the requisite prayers to obtain the indulgences of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. At noon the Prior Provincial and ten friars concelebrated Mass at the main altar. Friars and Sisters led the liturgy. After Mass some of the pilgrims took the occasion to visit the Basilica, its surroundings and the center of Mexico City. Others went home. The majority met once more at Divina Providencia for dinner. At the end of the day we thanked God for this day of sharing and fraternity with all the Servites who live in Mexico.

3. GAL: General Chapter of Elections

The Sisters Servants of Mary of Galeazza celebrated their General Chapter of Elections in June (10-22) 2016. The following sisters were elected: M. Loretta Sella, Prioress General; M. Anna Kwon, M. Fiorenza Matteazzi, M. Elane Da Costa Oliveira, M. Elisabeth Jansen – General Councilors. M. Fiorenza Matteazzi is the General Secretary and M. Norberita Sandri is the General Treasurer. We wish them all success in their service.
On May 31, 2016 (Feast of the Visitation) we, the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, Servants of Mary of Pisa, inaugurated Villaggio della vita Mater Misericordiae [Mother of Mercy Village of Life]. The foundation is at Cecina in the province of Livorno. The name honors this Jubilee Year: The Year of Mercy. Who can better sing the Mercy of God than the Mother of the Lord? No one understood the mystery of God made man better than Mary. Everything in her life was formed in the presence of Mercy made flesh. Our vocation and charism comes from her; and in her we find continual inspiration to serve our suffering and needy brothers. In this way we prolong the active presence of the Lord’s mother in the world. We want to serve life. We want all our houses to experience the tenderness of God and Mary’s sweet, maternal care. Mercy is the fundamental law in everyone’s heart. It is the way that joins God to man. It opens our heart to the hope of being loved. Our Villaggio della Vita cares for elderly couples. We hope to keep them together up to the end in a family atmosphere. It is an ongoing witness of love and faithfulness in a world bereft of family values. We follow in the footsteps of our seven founding sisters who trusted their lives to providence. We are confident in the success of this project. The Lord’s will be done. We thank the Lord who allows the little to accomplish great things. We are especially grateful to Signora Tecla Iacopini. She generously donated the land in memory of her son. We have used this property in Cecina since the 1960s for social and charitable work for the needy. We are convinced that she continues to bless us from heaven as we carry out the works of mercy according to the signs of the times. The building is 3,000 square meters and has 19 apartments – each of which is 60 square meters. There are two multi-purpose rooms, gardens, a covered porch, a work-out room, areas for common services, walkways, etc. …We thank everyone who has helped us carry out this project. We thank God for everything. May Our Lady guide us on our journey of life and service.