



SPINELLIAN

*"A big heart to cultivate God's
Vineyard"*

Venerable Mother Teresa Spinelli

Augustinian Sisters



Servants of Jesus and Mary

Our Sisters

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Dear friends,

I write after my usual quarterly visit to the Phillipines. Though this time it was a very quick visit, barely 2 weeks, I am pleased to say that our sisters, our orphanage, and our school are all showing ongoing growth and progress.

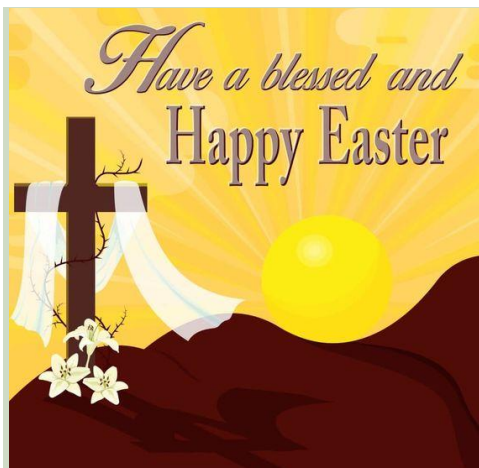
Hopefully over the next two months, all being well, we will start our renovation in the nursery. At this stage we are trying to source a builder who will not charge a large amount for services as we want to use as much donation money as we can on the children and not on building expenses. However, every person deserves their wages, and this will be done justly giving what is expected. It may mean that our project is built in two stages but eventually it will get done!

Our Mother Foundress' dream to spread God's word is truly finding new avenues. Earlier this year our Indian sisters have sent a community to Indonesia to begin ministry there. Though still early we pray that this will be another opportunity to enlarge our Augustinian family.

The other exciting news is that God willing, our Congregation will be looking towards opening a mission in Vietnam. Together I with Mother Provincial and Sr Veronica Gerarda (Provincial Councilor) will visit Vietnam in July to speak with the local Bishop in Ho Chi Minh city and explore ways we can serve the people of God there. Please pray for this venture to succeed as there will be many obstacles however, we believe God is calling us to this and so we are certain that God will be with us as we proceed.

We continue to look to our Venerable Mother Teresa Spinelli continues to inspire us to have a *'big heart to cultivate God's vineyard.'*

Lorraine Testa (asjm) Delegate, Phillipines



The Augustinian Sisters Continue to be every grateful for your ongoing support. All of us send our prayers and blessings for Easter.

Mission Funds

Donations can be transferred directly into the Augustinian Mission fund.

Bank Details:

The Augustinian Sisters

BSB 033 085

Acc Num 139570

Alternatively anyone of our sisters or Bev Tessari can receive your donations

Thank you to all our benefactors that help us support our Mission projects.

Our 'donations policy' may be viewed on:

<https://www.asimoz.org/asim-overseas-donation-policy.html>

Meet our new born arrival



Nancy Abigail Spinelli.

She was found New Years Eve in a paper bag and hung on the gatepost of an old lady's home. When the lady went home, she found a paper bag. In the bag was found a newborn, umbilical cord still attached, covered with only a piece of cloth.

Thank God, a kind lady called the council officials who then reported the find to Child Protection. As in many of these cases, Child Protection contacted us to see the availability of us taking in another newborn. We responded 'yes' immediately and decided to make sure the nursery can accommodate another child.

As is the norm, because Nancy Abigail is a 'foundling' – no parent/s and abandoned, the sisters name this newborn Nancy Abigail and takes on the **Spinelli** surname.

Our Sisters have been busy ensuring Nancy Abigail is in good health taking her to doctor's clinics and hospital appointments. Thus far, Nancy Abigail has no obvious health problems. With God's graces Nancy Abigail will settle in and, despite her beginning, grow loved and cared for.

This is just another example of how your donations are helping us care for those who are abandoned and forgotten. Thank you.

Knowing more about Mother Teresa Spinelli



PART 2

Maria Teresa Spinelli was an Italian woman who journeyed from a separated woman to a head of school. She became foundress of the Congregation of Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary. In October 2016, Pope Francis advanced the cause of sainthood. He remarked that Maria Teresa Spinelli lived a life of heroic virtues and declared

her “venerable”. Universe of Faith interviewed [Sr Marta Gadaleta](#) to get to know more who this woman was.

How did she find the strength to integrate her suffering and live for others?



SR MARTA: “Maria Teresa Spinelli was always an optimistic woman who never cried over the misfortunes which befell in her life. She lived her physical and psychological sufferings with a strong faith, leading her to grow evermore in believing in God’s providence. Living her faith in an authentic Christian way could not but be transformed in love for God and love for neighbour. The more she experienced God’s love towards her, the more she desired to pass it on to others.

Her attitude towards others was not judgemental or proud, assuming that she had an inherent ability to help others. In her one could see the Gospel put in practice. Her sufferings led her to understand the needs of others.”

How did Maria Teresa live the experience of her daughter’s anorexia?

SR MARTA: “First and foremost we cannot say that her daughter was anorexic. We do not have the required information so as to establish what her sickness really was. What we do know is that this girl was in good health before joining the Benedictines. She was so eager to accomplish many penances and reform the monastery, that probably, due to these physical privations, she put her mental state at stake. This is similar to what happens with anorexia.

This was an awkward situation for Maria Teresa Spinelli in the sense that her daughter was a cloistered nun who strictly speaking could never leave the convent. She thus asked the Congregation for the Religious the permission to take her daughter to her own convent of active life, seeing to it that her daughter would never leave the cloistered part of the convent. Teresa was conscious that due to the severity of her daughter’s sickness, it would be physically impossible for her to take care of Maria Domenica alone. Thus, she humbly asked permission to her sisters not



only to accept her with them in the convent but also to physically help her with whatever the situation would entail.

Teresa also felt extremely preoccupied with the spiritual health of her daughter. The thought that her daughter, due to her sickness, could live cut off from the grace of God, troubled her. She prayed fervently and with great faith so that her daughter would return to reason. Teresa attained this during the final days of her daughter's life on earth.



Welcome

Sr Maylaflor has been transferred to Australia. She comes who many talents! Sr Maylaflor will initially be residing in our Avondale Heights convent.

We, as a community welcome her and thank her for her generosity in accepting this transfer.



BON VOYAGE & Thank you

Sr Kathy who has been with us for 2 months and returns to the Philippines

God is so good that He willingly gives me everything without receiving anything in return.

Venerable M. Teresa Spinelli



Srs Eva Mae, Yolly, Sr Lorraine, Sr Luv Luv and Sr Nonette (Formation Mistress)

Please pray for:

Sr Eva Mae, Sr Yolly and Sr Luv Luv who will be making their **FINAL PROFESSION July 6, 2024.**

This important event will take place at our Convent in Tagaytay.

We acknowledge that we stand on land for which the Wurundjeri people are the traditional custodians, we remember their forebears with respect and commit ourselves to working for reconciliation and justice.