



Spinellian

Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary

"A big heart to cultivate God's kingdom" MTSpinelli

Our Sisters

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the 2020 year. I know it has been some time since a newsletter from me has been sent. The only reason I can offer is that time was always taking me away from the task!

So, this 2020 year I hope that my resolution to re-ignite the newsletter will be one I will not walk away from.

The Augustinian Sisters have been very active and, Thank God, has been showing signs of growth in the various ministries the Congregation has.

To remind all readers, our Congregation is present in 9 countries:

Italy

Malta

America

Australia

Brazil

England

India

Philippines

Republic of Congo

Each country has its own apostolate: teaching, health clinics, pastoral care, orphanages, catechism, youth work and hospitality to name but a few.

What we are sure of is that none of our apostolates would be possible without the ongoing support of all of you. We are forever grateful and know that every day all our communities throughout the world pray for each of you.

Sr Lorraine Testa (asjm) Delegate, Australia

Prayers

North Sunshine convent

Tuesdays: 7.00pm

Rosary & Vespers

Sundays: 6.00pm

Adoration &
shared prayers

All welcome

Avondale Heights

2020 Lenten Reflections
with Sr Connie:

Tuesdays:

10.00am -11.00am

St Martin De Porres Parish

Last month we had the special event of celebrating Sr Renata's **90th** birthday. Sr Renata has been serving in our Australian community since 1964 – that's 64 years! The communities have been so blessed to have Sr Renata in our community who now is the last of the 'pioneer' sisters.



Her quiet but faithful service to the Parish of St Bernadette's has been a great witness to all who see her fully dedicate herself to ensuring the Church is always looking liturgically correct. And what of the many weddings flowers she organized over the past 64 years!! May God continue to bless her for the witness of religious life she is.

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.asjmoz.org/asjm-overseas-donation-policy.html>

Vocation news



Novices and Junior Sisters, Brazil

A forest that quietly grows

Pope Francis concluded recalling the precious contribution of all those communities of consecrated life that form a great network of charitable works and of mission; of monastic life, in which the roots of Europe are planted and that continues to attract many vocations; of parishes, working on the ground and filled with evangelical potential for our time; of the commitment of countless priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and bishops devote themselves with integrity and dedication to the service of the young. Their efforts, he said, are "like a great forest that quietly grows".

Pope Francis Vatican News 06/06/2019

Taal Volcanic Eruption ~ Philippines



Photos of our convent covered with volcanic ash. Tagaytay Formation House & Orphanage. Jan 2020

***“... treat them as princesses
endowed with an eternal
destiny.***

***Lavish on them all the love,
care and respect due to them
...”***

*Venerable Mother Teresa
Spinelli*

Founder
Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and
Mary

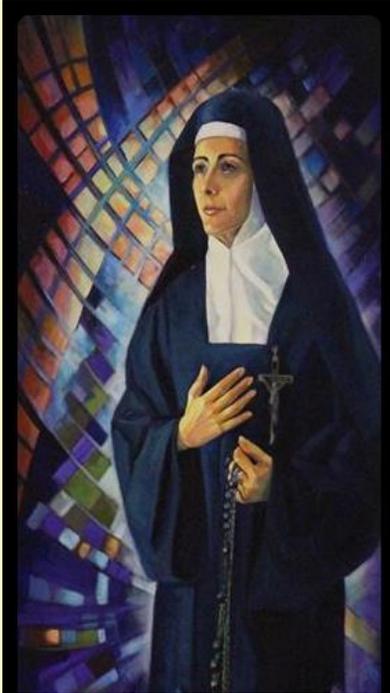
The beginning of the 2020 year wasn't a very good one for our sisters in the Philippines. Our Orphanage and Formation house which is situated in Tagaytay, Philippines felt the full force of the volcano which is very close in distance to us.

A close look at the images shows the volcanic eruption, the trees and playgrounds covered with ash. Fortunately, we were spared from joining the many people who lost their houses and income because of the damage the volcano caused.

However, for safety reasons all sisters and children residing in the orphanage had to be moved to our convent in Laguna – some 2 hours away. Though this convent provided safety and a home for living, it is definitely unsuitable to house 24 children and 15 sisters so we are hoping that as soon as it is safe to return to Tagaytay we will. Please keep our sisters and the kind people around us there who are helping in the clean-up in your prayers.

*Next issue: highlighting our Mission work
in Brazil.*

Knowing more about Mother Teresa Spinelli



Although she was often beaten and threatened by her husband, Teresa managed to suffer in silence and offer everything for his conversion. But the neighbours filed a report to the authorities and the young woman was ordered to live separately from her husband. Teresa found herself once more living with her parents where she gave birth to Maria Domenica. Her financial status led her to go and work as a 'wet nurse' with a noble family. Later she became a governess of their daughter.

Sometime later she returned home to care for her elderly parents who were ill devoting herself at the same time to prayer and to works of charity.

On the first day of November 1820 she had a vision and received the call for evangelisation. She wished to open a school at Ferentino where she was already well known, but while praying she heard a voice telling her 'it is not in Ferentino that I desire you, but in Frosinone.' Invited by the Town Council, Maria Teresa opened her first school for

girls in Frosinone in 1821.

On the 23rd September 1827 she founded the **Congregation of the Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary**, with the specific purpose of the education and Christian formation of youngsters.

After a life dedicated to the service of God and her fellow humans, she died on January 22, 1850.

Through her daughters, the Augustinian Sisters, the seed sown by Teresa has grown over the years into a huge tree that has spread its roots into the five continents, to continue the mission begun by this simple woman filled with courage and the love of God.

Sr. Maria Teresa Spinelli was declared VENERABLE Rome, 11th October 2016
We pray that the near future will see her raised to sainthood.

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

M. Teresa Spinelli