

# Spinellian



## Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary

*"A big heart to cultivate God's kingdom" MT Spinelli*

### Our Sisters

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### WEBSITES:

[www.asjmoz.org](http://www.asjmoz.org)

### International website:

<http://samuelb.org/augustiniansisters/>

### Dear Friends,

Well, as we come to the close of 2020, I'm sure each of us can say 'what a year it has been!'

However, rather than focusing on the COVID-19 virus that has so altered our lives and, in some cases, touched our loved ones, I would like to think that COVID-19 has given each of us an opportunity to recognize how God has been faithful to us.

Even when many of us could not attend mass – the internet which we use to fear as perhaps being an instrument of distraction, became an instrument of God's message. Many had only Mass on TV to give spiritual nourishment. Others were helped by friends and family phone calls to check in on them. So many graces that came unannounced that we need to sit and reflect on. During my moment of prayer, as I reflect on the past year and the season of Advent-Christmas we have begun, I realize that the whole of the 2020 year has been our **Advent** season as we have been waiting day by day, month by month to be freed from what, at times seemed a prison! Perhaps we were given the opportunity to spiritually feel the same as the Israelites who waiting for hundreds of years to be freed from their slavery. Now, we have the opportunity to live a **Christmas** -joyfully, gathered with family and celebrating the crossing over to the land of milk and honey. May each of you, enjoy a Christmas that once again gives moments of celebration knowing that God's plans are for peace and not disaster.

Sr Lorraine Testa (asjm) Delegate, Australia

ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELED  
FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO  
CORONAVIRUS  
PANDEMIC

## Prayers

### North Sunshine convent

Tuesdays: 7.00pm

Rosary & Vespers

### Sundays: 6.00pm

Adoration &  
shared prayers

All welcome

### Avondale Heights

### 2020 Reflections

with Sr Connie:

St Martin De Porres Parish

thank  
you!

To all those who have supported

Financially

Spiritually

Coordinating the collections of missionary donations –  
Bev, Carmen, Mary Borg, Maria Cauchi and the many  
others who support us. Even if you think that you help only  
a little, in our eyes, your little is a lot!

## Mission Funds

Donations can be  
transferred directly into the  
Augustinian Mission fund.

Bank Details:

The Augustinian Sisters

BSB 033 085

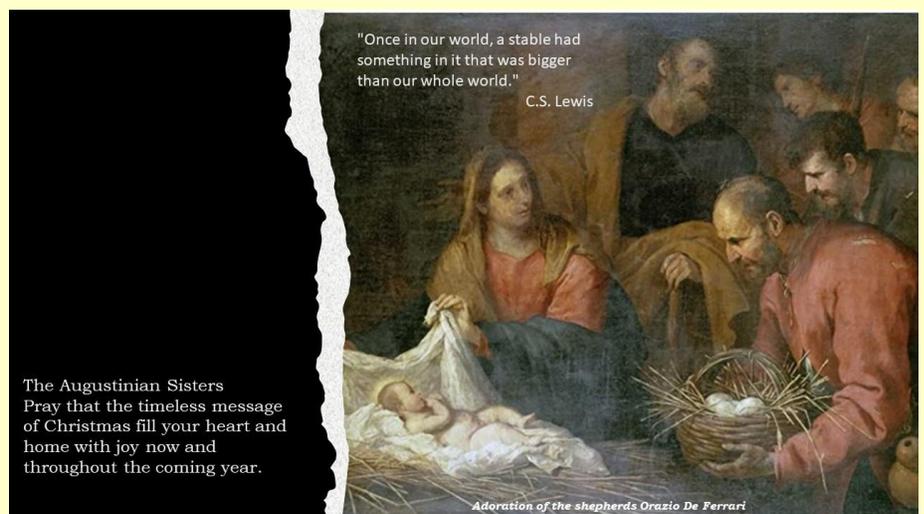
Acc Num 139570

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>



"Once in our world, a stable had  
something in it that was bigger  
than our whole world."  
C.S. Lewis

The Augustinian Sisters  
Pray that the timeless message  
of Christmas fill your heart and  
home with joy now and  
throughout the coming year.

Adoration of the shepherds Orazio De Ferrari



# Novitiate, Brazil

Thank you for your donations that are helping with the construction of our Novitiate

*Though without windows or flooring our sisters still take an opportunity to celebrate mass in thanksgiving for the progression of works.*

## Construction continues...

***“... 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

Our community in Brazil sends their sincere thanks to each of you that continue to support the Novitiate building works. With the prayers and financial help that is being received the building now has walls!

Building takes a long time, however, slowly, slowly this work will come to completion and our novices will finally have a place to call home.

*Next issue : Easter 2021*

*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.*

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## *Knowing more about Mother Teresa Spinelli*

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### **How is Maria Teresa's spirituality relevant to our times?**

Maria Teresa Spinelli lived two centuries ago but she is still undoubtedly a relevant model for us today. First and foremost she lived through different states of life: daughter, wife, single mother, teacher, nun and foundress. Thus she can serve as an encouragement to every woman but also for men.

She can be a model for teachers today in the sense that she gave individual attention to each and every child, knowing what to expect from each one because she knew them one by one. This can be taken for granted today as the must be, but two centuries ago the reality in schools was very different.

Teresa can also be a model for today's parents. She was fully conscious of the responsibility of what being a mother entailed: the child is yours but different from you, he will never be exactly what you dreamed for him to be. One must also learn how to strike a balance between a natural sense of possession and a healthy detachment.

She can also teach us how our life can be lived as a total gift to the other. Teresa lived in this way both in her matrimonial life as well as a religious.

One cannot forget her courage in being a pioneer in the sphere of education and formation. She fought for an education for girls and women, convinced of their potential. Teresa strongly believed that even as a mother and housewife, it is necessary to use one's intelligence. Since children spend their time mostly with their mothers, women must have a good education so that they could in turn educate their children well.

Teresa is a point of reference for every man of every time who finds himself crushed under life's sufferings. She lived her own sufferings not in helpless resignation but by embracing the cross, knowing fully well its redemptive value.

<https://universeoffaith.org/maria-teresa-spinelli-her-life-story>

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

***M. Teresa Spinelli***