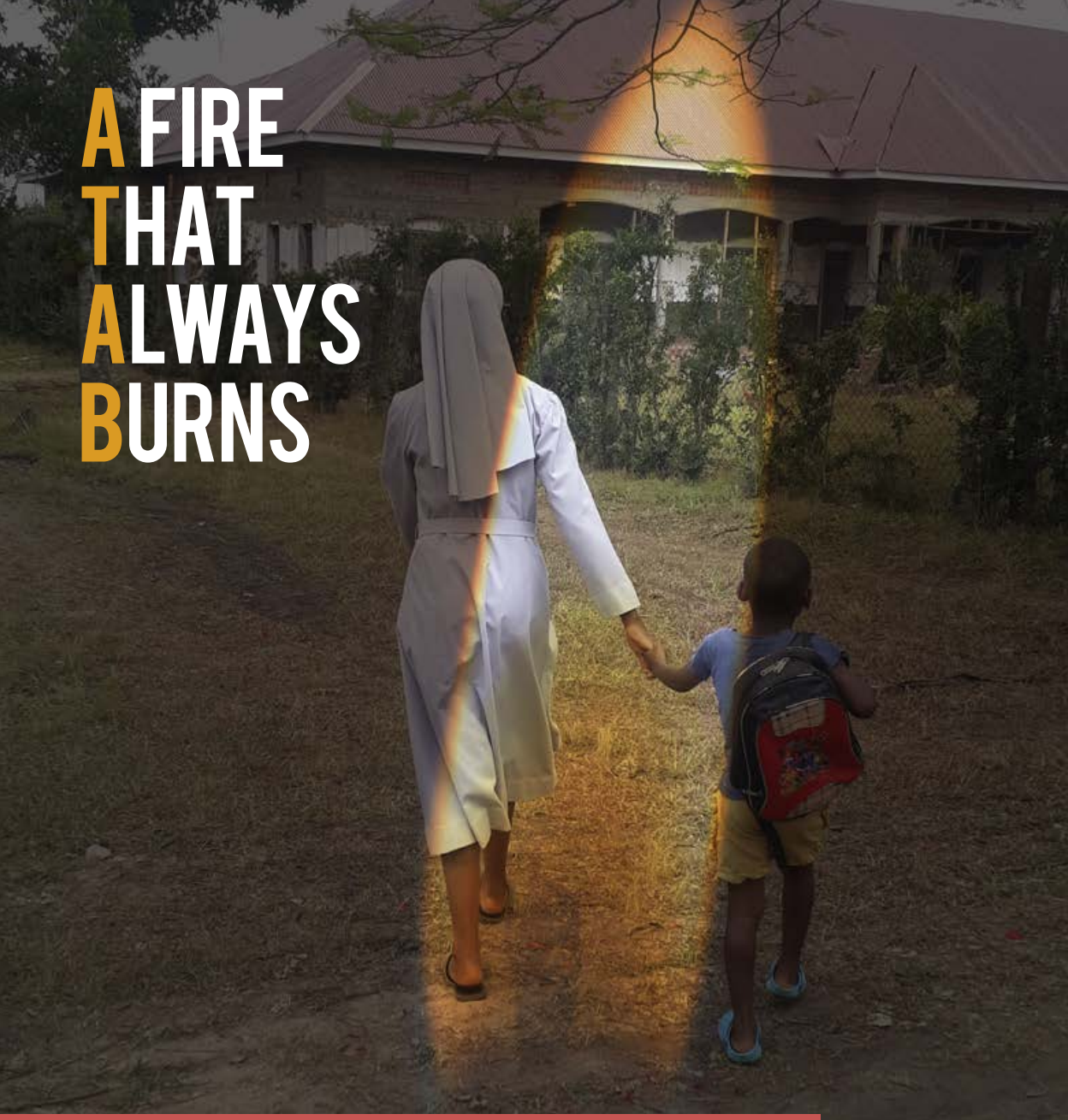
A FIRE THAT ALWAYS BURNS



vita più

N° 22
JANUARY – APRIL 2024

CANOSSIAN CHARTER 2023
SINGAPORE

THE IDEAL EDUCATOR: JESUS AS A MODEL
LA LECTIO

CANOSSIAN EDUCATION A GENERATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE
CANOSSIAN FOUNDATION VOICA

FIGLIE DELLA CARITÀ CANOSSIANE

vita più

Dear friends,

To educate is a magic word, which affects all of us. We have all been educated, in our childhood and youth, until now. In the same way we have all educated others, more or less consciously, with our example, a few words and a thoughtful gesture.

Education is in fact a network of which each of us is a node, therefore being engaged in teaching is clearly an action that affects the whole of society, making it better.

I believe this is precisely why it was a **term so loved by Magdalene, such a clear objective for her, a word so present in her writings**: educating is a magic word **that does not allow anyone to feel excluded**.

Those who, like me, work in that magical world that is school, know so well: teaching is a skill that is refined only with time and with a lot of effort, an ability that is never perfect, an unceasing journey that bring us afar.

Precisely for this reason, sharing our experiences, whether near or far, whether positive or not, allows us to go a little further on this path.

In these pages, in fact, we will read stories, experiences, events, projects that affect schools and education, one of the fundamental ministries of the Daughters of Charity: are you ready for this long trip?

I assure you that, in before such a panorama, we will all be able to repeat with one voice "there is no greater opportunity to show the Lord true love", as our Foundress used to say. Yes, education is truly a magic word.

Because it is wonderful to hear how these steps forward are still in the footsteps of Maddalena's path, to "form for Life", **for this fire that never stops burning**.

Emanuele Pini

VITA PIÙ

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FORMING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

In this year 2024 marking the 250th Anniversary of the birth of St. Magdalene of Canossa, an educator *par excellence,* it is most fitting that the first issue of Vita Più is dedicated to delving deeper into the ministry of Canossian Education, which is our first and perennial ministry. As St. Magdalene says, *"The behaviour of a person in life depends on the education received"*. Through our various educational Institutions, we continue the legacy of St. Magdalene to form young minds and hearts. St. Magdalene's call to us is to be spiritual mothers, *"to welcome the children as we would welcome Jesus Himself"* and to accompany them with a maternal heart.

What kind of education do we need today? The answer lies in the most urgent needs of today, the type of world we wish to create for tomorrow.

We live in a fast-changing global world, a world that has progressed much in technology, in social communication; at the same time there is a loss of the sense of God, a growing indifference to the pains of the other, along with an intolerance of diversities. While some parts of the world are growing and progressing, there are many other parts still underdeveloped, with children devoid of education, women torn of their dignity, with no respect for their rights.

We need a world with God-consciousness, where the values of equality and justice, love and forgiveness prevail, where selfishness gives way to an all-inclusive love without distinction in a culture of sharing. The young boys and girls of today need to grow with respect for every person irrespective of religion, caste or colour. **In a society bombarded by multiple voices and contradicting messages, it is our duty to accompany them to develop the ability to think independently and critically**, to make right choices rather than accepting whatever other people put in their minds through screens, audios and images.

Through our mission of Education let us continue to create leaders for tomorrow who are honest and respectful, good and valuable human beings, equipped with competence, character and conviction, with courage to stand up for what is right. **Young people who will be agents of change, artisans of fraternity and peace, making the dream of St. Magdalene,** *"to reach the end of the world"* become a reality!

Madre Josemary Keelath
General Vicar

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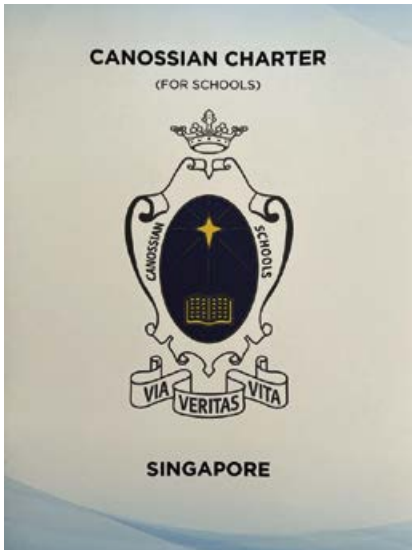
"EDUCATE TO LIFE"

Magdalene of Canossa

CANOSSIAN CHARTER 2023

Our five educational sectors in Singapore are Canossian because they are founded on the intuitions and educational wisdom that Magdalene of Canossa matured during her life. Her first intuition on education came when she was being taught by an irresponsible governess. A noble lady happened to visit Canossa Palace and observed the governess teaching the children of the Canossa family. Magdalene overheard the lady's observation and comment and wrote it down as she found it relevant.

"Surely catechism must not be put on a level with other subjects. It is not good for children to learn it by heart, as they do in the case of history, grammar or geography."



Later, when Magdalene founded her Charity schools, she combined this learning from her childhood with her other insights into her vision of how she wanted her schools to be.

"The Sisters should try to handle each one in the way she is made, valuing the benefit of education in the formation of the heart."

"Due to much work, we will be deprived of the inner spirit, without which the external works will not last…."

St Magdalene of Canossa (on opening a public school in Trent)

Why a Canossian Charter?

To preserve the original vision of the Foundress, the Sisters in Singapore felt it necessary to enshrine Magdalene's pedagogical principles in a Canossian Education Charter. It is the result of a collaborative labour of love and the reflection together with different groups of Canossians who struggle to understand the spirit of the Foundress and the implications of her intuitions.

The first Charter was launched in 2017 after a few years of research and study by a large team of Sisters, educators, alumni and retired professionals. After five years, it was dusted and re-visited by a smaller team with the purpose of giving it greater focus, vitality and visibility. The result was an easily accessible 20-page booklet, providing a summary of what constituted a school in the vision of Magdalene of Canossa.

The Charter was meaningful because it came at a time when many of the Canossian Sisters had retired and withdrawn from active teaching and were no longer visible on an everyday basis. It empowered the lay educators to take on the Sisters' role in actively transmitting

the spirit of the Foundress throughout the school day. This ensured that the schools remained Canossian even if Sisters were no longer leading or teaching in the schools.

A Signpost and a GPS to help in the formation of the heart

Collecting the wisdom of Magdalene and shaping it into the Canossian Charter is one way of providing a common and practical guideline to all educators and co-educators in the task of forming the heart.

For the educators, this succinct and inspirational booklet will serve as a signpost or a GPS towards the vision of the Canossian school, its purpose and its mission. With the Charter in their hands, they will be the 'Magdalene' of today, pointing out what being a Canossian means to students and their families.

What is the meaning of "formation of the heart"?

What exactly does Magdalene mean when she recommends the formation of the heart? For Magdalene, formation of the heart is the real purpose of education. Only when the heart is formed will there be true education of the whole person. In other words, cognitive intelligence, academic learning, intellectual dexterity and thinking skills are all very important and central to the work of schools but, if this knowledge and information does not travel from the head to the heart and become convictions, values, beliefs and habits of behaviour, then education may not be complete. Students are not educated merely by being prepared for examinations, nor should education be driven only by the curriculum. Unless knowledge is accompanied by values, beliefs and moral norms, it remains cold and neutral and can be used or misused for personal gain or for selfish purposes.

Of course, formation of the heart does not end when the student leaves school. Formation of the heart goes on throughout life. However, the school offers a calm and focused place where formation of the heart can take place safely and unhurriedly, with bonding and meaningful relationships taking place with their guides and educators.

Re-visiting the Canossian Charter on 15 April 2023

This revised edition was handed over to the staff of the five educational sectors who came together on 15th April 2023 for a Charter Conversation. Interspersed with inspiring musical performances by students from the sectors, the 200 Canossian educators were engaged in looking through the 5 sections of the Charter booklet and discussing its contents with the help of guiding questions.

They also listened to several meaningful inputs, including a warm welcome, via video, from the newly-elected Superior General of the Canossian Sisters in Rome, Sr Sandra Maggiolo. Sisters Cecily Pavri and Elizabeth Tham also presented a reflection on the importance of the formation of the heart as envisioned by the Foundress. It was a timely reminder of the challenge to educators of the spiritual fruits to be reaped from secular education.

May the legacy of Magdalene inspire us and lead us on. May we light up our lives with her words and her spirit!

M. Liz Tham

A JOURNEY TO TREASURE

The "Formation of the Heart" is the mission so dear to our Foundress St. Magdalene of Canossa. Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of her birth, brings back memories of how Canossian education has shaped me into the person I am today. I will be forever grateful for the kind of education I received from Pre-school to High School at this prestigious institution. It provided me with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to succeed in various aspects of my life, including academic involvement, social interaction and emotional well-being. The Canossian educational charism, rooted in its mission, emphasized a holistic approach to education focused on the formation of the whole person. Being part of the Canossa Educative Community, I have been inspired by our Foundress to selflessly love and humbly offer service, especially to our dear students. Indeed, it has been a worthwhile journey - my formative years as a Canossian student, a teacher and one of the school administrators serving in this institution Canossa Academy - Lipa City for the past 35 years, moulding the minds of young people and soon to be a happily retired Canossian educator.

Educating today signifies preparing learners for the challenges and global opportunities while instilling in them values and personal growth. To ensure that the Canossian educational charism remains, we continue to give quality education that is adaptable to the changing times through offering instruction by trained and competent teachers, not forgetting the values and inspiration drawn from the life of our Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa. Her maternal attitude signifies a nurturing and caring environment among the community members where each one treats the other with love, respect, and understanding. Canossian education aims to develop a compassionate and caring environment where everyone feels important, supported, loved and cared for.

Our goal, as an institution, is the integral formation of our students by focusing on their intellectual development while harnessing creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. We strive to create a supportive environment that fosters academic and personal growth

while inculcating moral values that will form them as S.M.A.R.T. Canossians with a Heart; that means Sharers of God's Love, Man/Woman of Faith, Academically Competent, Responsible Agent of Social Transformation, True brother/sister to the Poor. Integrating faith formation into the learning process helps them develop a closer relationship with God. The mentorship among the learners instils not only knowledge and values but also compassion for the less fortunate of our brothers and sisters through reaching out to them and other forms of assistance. Various projects and initiatives were conducted among our schools to reach out and help others as we fulfil our mission - to be true brothers and sisters of the poor. In addition, we help students cultivate a sense of social responsibility and work towards environmental advocacy, justice, and peace.

Our mission of "making Jesus known so that He may be loved" is alive and will always live in our hearts as we face the challenges of life and work together, to foster a better and just society. The strategies and modalities may have changed over time but what remains constant within us is the richness of St. Magdalene's values and teachings that empower us to be true Canossians for life.

"Sharers of God's Love, Man/Woman of Faith, Academically Competent, Responsible Agent of Social Transformation, True brother/sister to the Poor"

Mrs. Noliza A. Custodio
Canossa Academy – Lipa City Philippines

IN TOGO MAGDALENE OF CANOSSA ALSO EMBRACES THE WORLD OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Canossian Sisters arrived in Togo in 1994 and immediately began working in the education sector, opening a technical and professional training centre in Agoè, one of the largest suburbs of the capital Lomé. **The Centre, called "M. Agata Carelli",** offers Togolese girls and boys a wide range of formation courses in the sectors of economics, management, construction, high fashion and more. The young people who attend this Centre thus obtain the high school leaving certificate, which marks the end of their secondary education.

With Magdalene's intrepid heart, the Canossian Sisters realized that it was important to equip these young people by giving them access to other university qualifications that would allow them to enter the job market effectively. With the intrepid heart of Magdalene, the Canossian Sisters therefore undertook a **university formation program**, first offering a short 2-year course to obtain the diploma of higher education and, a few years later, the Licentiate course to obtain the professional qualification. Today, the M. Agata Carelli Higher University Institute **has existed for over 15 years and has trained more than 1,000 students** in the fields of Secretarial Skills, Management, Accounting, Commerce, Banking, Communication, Human Resources, Marketing and others.

Magdalene feels at home among the students in that phase of their lives in which they make real decisions about their future. Thus, in addition to intellectual formation, where we are surrounded by high-ranking university professors who offer quality formation, we are also committed to "forming the hearts" of these young people, making Magdalene's famous phrase our motto: **"The conduct of one's whole life depends on education."**

To this end, we have our own organization at the M. Agata Carelli University College, which accompanies these young students not only on an intellectual and professional level, but also on a human, psychological and spiritual level, giving them **an integral and holistic education** and preparing them to become leaders.

The week begins every Monday at 7 a.m., with Mass, where a live-

ly choir, made up of the students themselves, leads the service. It is an opportunity for the Chaplain to preach the Word of God, drawing on concrete examples from the lives of students and even members of other religious denominations participate in these Masses, without any problem, because it is a moment to pray and ask for God's blessings on the week that is about to begin.

Every Wednesday, the last two hours of the morning are reserved for conferences in which different speakers are invited to talk about various subjects covering a wide range of topics, such as health, family, wars, violence, the difficulties of young people, employment, development, religions, the Africa of tomorrow. These topics, which are also lively debated, are sometimes proposed by the students themselves.

Every Friday morning, at 7 a.m., there is time for prayer and sharing the Word of God. This hour of prayer, led in turn by the students themselves, is an ecumenical and sometimes interreligious moment that also offers other Christian movements or religious confessions the opportunity to pray and implore God's blessing on the assembly. The concluding prayer is always a brief exhortation from the Sister who is the Director, or another Sister, to encourage, advise and challenge these young people, who need these stimulating moments in their lives to move forward and make informed choices. For us, as Canossian Sisters, it is an opportunity to talk about Magdalene, about the "formation of the heart", but also to "make Jesus known and loved".

In addition to academic activities, several other para-academic activities are organized throughout the year. For example, in January, the Catholic Student Week takes place, organized by the Great Inter-Diocesan Seminary of Togo, together with other Catholic groups operating in the university sector, in particular, the Catholic University of West Africa - Unity of Togo and other university institutions, including ours. This week includes the organization of a series of activities, among which there are sports competitions, karaoke and conferences, and concludes on 24th January, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of Catholic students.

Then, in March, a cultural week is organized to promote culture, with various activities that involve the students themselves, including the presentation of dances, songs, poems, traditional clothes and meals so as to promote talent, with various sports or intellectual competitions culminating in a grand pic-

In Togo Magdalene of Canossa also embraces the world of the university

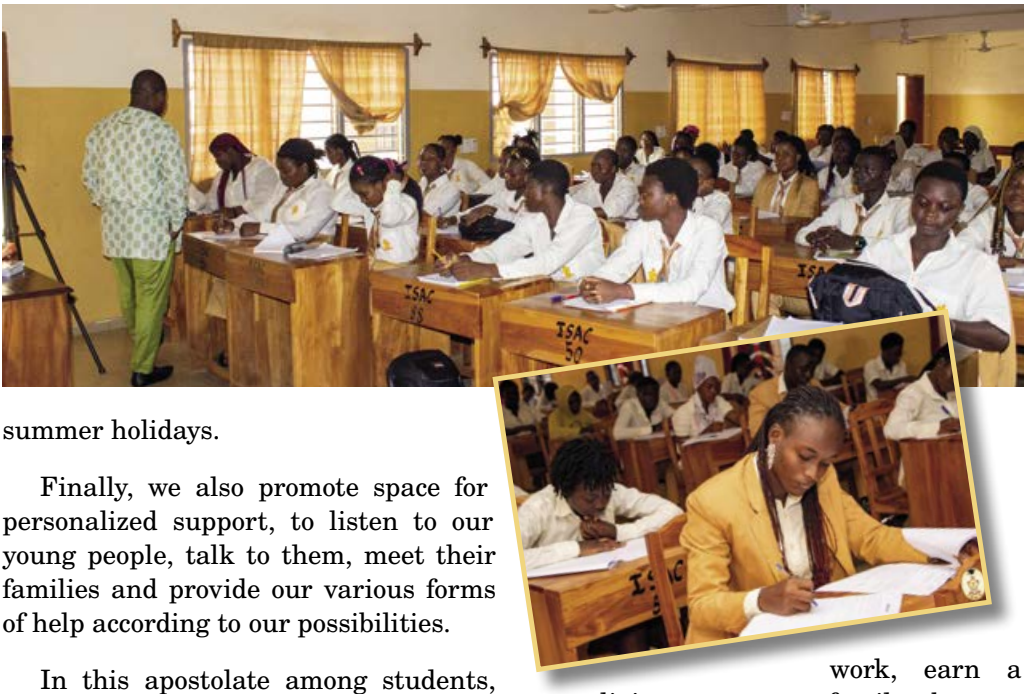
nic where the dishes presented, from different regions or ethnic groups, are shared by all.

Throughout the year, visits to Companies also take place, giving young students the opportunity to meet professionals od various industries, inform themselves and create contacts for their annual work experience. In addition to these visits to Companies, several leisure trips and school trips are organized within or outside the country during the summer holidays.

Finally, we also promote space for personalized support, to listen to our young people, talk to them, meet their families and provide our various forms of help according to our possibilities.

In this apostolate among students, we confirm with Magdalene that "education is the sector that requires the most commitment, but which bears the most fruit". In fact, **working with young people requires a lot of energy, a lot of patience, gentleness and firmness, but above all the faith and hope that, at the end of the efforts made, there is a fruit that has a positive impact on their lives**, which influences their decisions, their choices and their future.

And this is what gives us joy, the joy of seeing that, even in our apostolate, **we are continuing the mission of our Foundress**, Saint Magdalene of Canossa, and that **her charism is illuminating life here too, after 250 years**. Our joy is therefore even greater when we see our students enter the world of



work, earn a living, create a family, become leaders in our society. Thus, we see that this apostolate in the educational sphere is useful, because we see its fruits and believe that Magdalene, from heaven, rejoices with us.

M. Richarde Benissan

A SPACE FOR GROWTH AND FUTURE FOR CHILDREN - THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN BRESCIA

When Maddalena began her work in Verona in **1808**, she thought of **Charity Schools as the first branch of her Institution**: "they will open in the house of the Institute free schools for poor girls to whom, with the Fear of God, they will teach [...] reading according to the normal method and the practical works adapted to their state, according to the uses and products of the respective towns or villages [...]. Special attention must be paid to ensure that they are skilled and excellent in their practical work, because one of the appropriate methods for keeping the poor away from the danger of offending God is to give them the opportunity to earn their living honourably" (St. Magdalene*, Rule of the Daughters of Charity*, Milan 1820, p. 33 and p.97).

The Professional Training Centres are, in my opinion, **the educational realities that best translate Magdalene's charismatic inspiration for today**; for this reason, with joy and dedication, many Sisters and formators throughout the Canossian world are still engaged today in these formative itineraries for secondary schools**. In 2007**, the Professional Training Centres promoted by the Canossian Sisters of the Lombardy Region (Italy) joined forces to form the **ENAC LOMBARDIA FOUNDATION – C.F.P. CANOSSA** to promote **common planning and become a more authoritative interlocutor with the Region**, which guarantees, through financial support, the free nature of the activated courses.

The CFP Canossa of Mompiano, on the northern outskirts of Brescia, has been offering young people the possibility of quality, human and professional formation for forty years. At present, it is frequented by around 600 students in two main sectors: cooking skills and garden cultivation and management. At the end of the three-year course, the Qualification of Operator in the kitchen, pastry, bar and agriculture sectors is issued, with the possibility of access to a fourth year to obtain the title of Technician.

"One of the most significant activities we propose, says Prof. Valentina Zanola, Director of our Centre, *is the* ***Business School****. The students, through experiences such as the Restaurant, the Pastry Shop and the Educational Nursery, can experience the organization and functioning of a real business reality and understand the values and logic of the market*

A space for growth and future for children - The Professional Training Centre in Brescia

in the real world. The course is designed especially for students in the third and fourth years which allows them to acquire an entrepreneurial mentality useful for facing future educational and professional choices with greater awareness."

Dr. Anna Bontempi, who has been coordinating the reception of disabled children and those with Special Educational Needs for more than thirty years, describes the children who knock on our door as follows: ***"The children lack points of reference**, expectations, plans regarding their working future; there is a lot of **fragility, discomfort, manifestation of social withdrawal, disaffection** regarding school; this situation, statistically, has increased following the Covid pandemic."*

The CFP accompanies these young people in their human and professional growth, first of all with **an atmosphere of acceptance**. Children with learning difficulties and those who come from unsuccessful school experiences, the so-called *drop-outs*, find a second *chance* in our Centre.

The characteristics that identify our educational intervention are, in fact, **an environment that is as controlled as possible, attentive to each child in his or her originality and entirety, and an educational dedication that translates into the implementation of methodological-didactic strategies** to promote educational success and prevent situations of school drop-outs or abandoning studies. Teachers of Religion also propose courses of human formation, self-knowledge and openness to the transcendent, educational experiences for inclusion and solidarity.

To get to the heart of our reality, the following is a series of accounts and testimonies from some formators and a student.

Professor. Paolo Pesce, head of the lounge-bar sector, talks about his experience as an educator. *"I have been working here for about thirty years, accompanying the growth of these kids of ours. My job is to help them mature and support them so that they too, can enter the world of work and fulfil themselves professionally. A few years ago, kids were more brazen, while today they are much more fragile, they look for the paternal/maternal figure in us which they lack, they look for someone to confide in, to open up to. With our work, we try to help them face the future in a more serene way. Through the itinerary we offer here at the Centre, **they become more autonomous and gain confidence**. I remember, among so many, a student, an immigrant girl, with a problematic situation, without the support of her father and inserted into a community. We helped her a lot as a school and now she works in a management role within hotel chain Nova Hotel. She was lucky enough to meet the right people in the world of work too. In fact, many companies collaborate with us that don't just look at the professional aspect, but that give trust to young people and*

allow them to gain confidence on a professional and human level.

***To be a good educator the relational aspect is important**; this is why there are many colleagues who are also friends for me and make me feel at home. Ours is **team work and I feel the duty to do my part well, without putting my colleague in difficulty**. Furthermore, they are the kids who, with their stories and their educational successes or failures, involve you, push you to continue. We started off in a small group and the enterprise was small. There was also a good relationship with the Sisters who were part of the group. Sr. Ada, for example, made the pizzas that were sold during the interval or Sr. Antonietta took care of the cleaning, but not only that, since she had a real motherly relationship with us, she encouraged and supported us."*

Since 2013, a **Green Space** has been created next to the Hotel Sector with an orchard, a vineyard, an olive grove and a vegetable garden, three greenhouses and laboratories to train the figure of the agricultural operator who works professionally in the primary sector, with skills and abilities already acquired.

Prof. Giorgio Tagliani, coordinator of the sector, describes its objectives: *"The agricultural and garden management operator course aims to "educate" in the true sense of the Latin term "ex ducere" to bring or to lead out, outside the grey walls of the classrooms, to have as a ceiling the open sky, to permit the person who still knows how to dream and loves nature, the pleasure of sweating during work and concretely seeing the fruit of their efforts, without forgetting the personal cultural and professional formation linked to tradition, as well as to the avant-garde, projected into the future."*

The experience of a student concludes our journey within the CFP Canossa in a beautiful way, showing the fruit of a formative proposal that opens up horizons of a full life and future to young people: *"Initially I chose this school because I didn't have a clear idea of what to do. **The teachers are helpful people who know how to listen**; in fact, every time I opened up to them and expressed my problems, they were always ready to help me and made sure that I always had a smile in class. Four years later, I can say that I have learned to relate to others with tranquillity, without being consumed by anxiety and panic. I am able to face situations with maturity and responsibility; I am also able to respect the principle rules connected with work, such as punctuality, self-presentation, hygiene and respect for the client and for those who work with me."* (A.M.)

I have tried to give a simple picture of our educational reality, there would be many other things to say, but I think that **Magdalene smiles at us seeing how her educational passion for the poorest can still continue even today.**

M. Daniela D'Alessandro

MY LIFE IN MEIKO KINDERGARTEN

How many people do you meet in your life?

I worked for 44 years at Meiko Kindergarten, an early childhood education centre founded by the Canossian Sisters, in Minamata, Japan. During that time, I met many children, teachers, parents, and Sisters. From the time I graduated from university, when I was still maturing as a human being, to the time when the kindergarten was closed, Meiko Kindergarten was a warm and comfortable place for me.

Now that I have left the kindergarten, I feel once again that I was able to grow and develop here, where the foundations of Catholic education are unshakable in any era.

Every day, the children began with a morning prayer and ended with an afternoon prayer. The children prayed not only for themselves but also for others, and this became a matter of course for us all. The parents also helped the children with their hearts, joining their hands to Mary, our Mother, together with the children. They gave their time and energy for the school and lent their hands in a spirit of service.

When we, the staff, guided the children, God was at the centre, and I believe we were all able to fulfil our mission as educators in the same direction.

Praying for others and serving others are the basics of a Christian education. I think the most important reason why both adults and children were able to do these things as a matter of course, was because of our many encounters with the Sisters.

How much we were helped by the Sisters' bright smiles, their behaviour, their kind words and their equal treatment of everyone! Whenever I was worried about the children at school, the Sisters would tell me, "God will protect you." I heard it and recalled it repeatedly and it has given me strength.

Many of the graduates of the preschool also learned the importance of life and caring for others, during their time at the school. I am sure that the graduates felt the same security of being loved and protected that I felt every day in my life at the kindergarten. The Sisters have sown the spirit of God's love in the hearts of all those involved in the kindergarten. I believe that from now on this seed will become a flower, a fruit, more seeds, and a cornerstone of each person's heart. To all the Sisters I have come to know and who have helped me so much, I express my thanks to you for your many years of loving service.

Noriko Motoyama,
da Minamata, Giappone

THE ANUARITE HIGH SCHOOL: A SCHOOL IN THE EQUATORIAL FOREST/EDUCATE FOR THE FUTURE

Anuarite High School is located on the outskirts of the city of Kisangani, a few metres from the Congo River, which gives its name to the nation, the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is a Diocesan school managed by the Canossian Sisters, who took over its direction in 2002 and who, this year, ensure the formation of 832 students in the two different sections, literary and scientific.

The Sister in charge, supported by 30 Professors, tries first of all to offer an integral education based on listening, dialogue, and "personalized" teaching to help the students **become aware of their talents** and make them bear fruit for their own benefit and that of society in which they live. Our community is made up of five Sisters, one of whom is a university student and four at the service of the school and boarding accommodation which has 113 girls. Together, we also try to *"lend a hand"* with love and joy to continue to *"set life on fire"*.

They are all young girls who will be the future *"leaders of the country*, **a country that... is dying economically", due to the greed of foreign powers** attracted by its great mineral riches: **precisely for this reason the students receive a quality education** where the human, spiritual and intellectual aspect go hand in hand with the formation of consciences, to ensure them the ability to evaluate the reality in which they live in an honest, transparent and objective way, knowing how to grasp the potential aspects to be developed and the negative ones to be *"healed"*.

Our mission is therefore to help them grow in the formation of "their heart",

of that sensitivity that knows how to be *"close to those who suffer"* and that knows how to put aside their own interests so that *"the other may live"*. Certainly, it is all a **work of patient waiting for God's times**, a delicacy of spirit, capable of penetrating and grasping that yearning for life that must *"generate and set new life on fire"*.

Sisters and educators work in harmony so that, with the help of *"His Spirit"* this desire for good can be realized, thus contributing timidly, but with great determination, to bring our beloved Congo back to the top.

M. Bruna Piva

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO EDUCATE TODAY?

Educating today means offering students situations that lead them to the **formation** necessary to develop their **potential**, an element of full **realization** and preparation for the conscious exercise of **citizenship**; at the same time it means stimulating them to adopt attitudes of **respect** for differences in interpersonal relationships.

This respect is necessary and indispensable for living in a democratic and pluralist society, therefore it is **essential to develop the ability to learn**, in view of the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the formation of attitudes and values, in order to offer the conditions for integral development of the child's personality and for his participation in society.

How does the Canossian educational charism live and continue to operate?

The Canossian educational style expresses harmony: kindness, patience, firmness, familiarity and respect, gratuity and joy, to be a reference that enhances the formation of just, supportive, sensitive, respectful and joyful people, who develop their own abilities, so as to become **protagonists in the valorisation and defence of life.**

In our Catholic school tradition, we bring the characteristic customs and values of the Church into everyday teaching, so that children develop values and ideas based on biblical teachings, experiencing first-hand love and respect for others, without any form of discrimination or distinction between classmates and school staff. In carrying out this work **we have the full support of families**, regardless of their specific cultures or religions, so that *we may experience the one true God*.

Which goals do we treasure in our hearts or which initiatives can we implement?

We want to share with you some of the **objectives** we aim at, day by day, in order to compare our dreams of Canossian education:

- promote socialization **by enhan-**

cing the creative and cognitive development of the child, giving priority to assistance and teaching using an approach that aims at guaranteeing the right to basic education; through the universal access to compulsory education and the expansion of educational opportunities, within the norms to be respected in the parameters of basic and early childhood education.

- provide **continuous formation** for teachers and other professionals working in the school regarding the school's pedagogical proposal;

- **dialogue** in the discussion of concepts, priorities, actions, methodologies and operational methods, encouraging families to participate in the educational and philosophical process of the school;

- explore the role of children in the process of development and conservation of the environment, through **collaboration** with students and families;

- Instil in students a deep **respect for ethics and for others**, regardless of their social, cultural, economic, religious condition and an authentic respect for themselves too.

Who are the educational figures we can look to as models?

Jesus Christ is the greatest model of an educator for us: his attitudes, his wisdom and his teachings, combined with his sensitivity in reaching out to all people, welcoming them, listening to them, admonishing them and teaching them, have made a new life possible for many. Besides being an educator, he was the one who motivated them to change their lives.

Saint Magdalene of Canossa is the second model of an educator, since she always had in mind the objective of making Jesus Christ known and loved; in addition to this she was the founder of the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, who continue in their mission as educators and evangelizers among disadvantaged children and adolescents in the field of education. In addition to various other education scholars, we can also cite as reference models Emilia Ferreiro, Libâneo, Maria Montessori, Jean Piaget, Paulo Freire, who contribute with their experience and knowledge to an education that is always up-to-date and innovative.

Madalena de Canossa Child Education Centre - Jardim Canossa - Imperatriz MA Monsenhor Quercia School - Canossianas - Araras - SP

A HEART FOR THE EARTH

Compelled by her love for Jesus, St. Magdalene inspired the philosophy of education at Canossa College in San Pablo City with the purpose of serving others with compassion. Rooted in Canossian education, the College has continually enriched its curriculum to prioritize the formation of the heart and empower students to build knowledge and skills for the common good. The college instils in its students the awareness of their significant role in the welfare of the community through attributes such as being sharers of God's love, agents of social transformation and true brothers and sisters of the poor. By understanding these characteristics, students are inspired to engage in simple acts of charity for those in need, fostering a sense of responsibility for others who are created in the image and likeness of God.

In response to Pope Francis' call to strengthen ecological education, Canossa College has integrated environmental literacy into its curriculum. It starts with revising the school's vision and includes a focus on caring for **Mother Earth**, since "*Canossa College in the City of San Pablo is a nurturing community of learners who develop the fullest capacity of their hearts for the service of the Family, Community, the Church, Nation and* **Mother Earth**."

The celebration of the Season of Creation has become a regular event in the school community, fostering reflection and renewal on each individual's responsibility towards God, humanity and nature. Ecological education is interwoven into various subject areas, preparing the younger generations to become stewards

of nature, emphasizing the importance of protection and preservation of the environment. This transformation also cultivates empathy for others, including both people and their natural surroundings, allowing students to value all living beings as their neighbours. As Terry Tempest William (2010) wrote, "*Our sense of community and compassionate intelligence must be extended to all life forms, plants, animals, rocks, rivers and human beings. This is the story of our past and it will be the story of our future.*"

Canossa College has consistently implemented environmentally friendly activities to highlight the responsibility of each individual towards their own environment and community. The schoolwide Ecological Waste Management project is closely monitored for its effective implementation, while promoting a sound practice of garbage disposal. The *"Sapat"* (Sufficient) Mentality introduced by Sr. Lina L. Amante, FdCC, school Directress, is being implemented in the school - most especially by the young generation. Adopting an environmentally friendly lifestyle brings significant positive impact to the environment. The school also organizes activities such as rummage sales, encouraging everyone to recycle and reuse their excess belongings. Despite the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, the institution continues to listen to the needs of the Earth and the poor by operating the Care to Share, Share to Care mobile community pantry.

To actively engage the educative community and raise awareness of their ecological footprint, the school organizes various initiatives like e-waste drives and webinars on plastic pollution. They also encourage the use of personal tumblers and food containers to minimize the consumption of plastic. Earth Hour and other collective actions are promoted to emphasize the importance of individuals coming together to make a significant impact on the environment.

The highlight of the school's Season of Creation 2023 is cantered on rediscovering humanity's intrinsic relationship with the natural world and acknowledging the interconnectedness of creation. Activities such as blessing pets and plants symbolize mankind's love and respect for all aspects of God's creation. The 2023 Eco-Peace Camp provides students with a deeper understanding that humans and nature are interconnected creations of God, promoting respect and a covenant with the Creator.

Canossa College's commitment to these endeavours aims to bring a "Heart-full" smile to Mother Earth, with gratitude and blessings for its beloved children.

Mrs Maria Cecilia Llorente
Canossa College, Science Teacher Philippines

EDUCATIONAL PASSION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

We are in **Catania**, in the South of Italy. Here in Via Passo Gravina a road sign indicates "Canossian School": children and their families enter as if it were their own home. While we welcome them, we see many young people passing in the direction of the university campus, a stone's throw from our house. Far, and yet close. A common interest binds us together: building a better future, at school just as at university. **The educational passion** of our community, **nurtured in the heart and shared daily**, seeks a way to realize a dream: to see young people take care of children in the form of gratuitous service. An experience that can bring about good for both, reawakening the meaning of life as a relationship, acceptance, love given and received. A passion, a dream that becomes reality. The Italian State, through policies aimed at young people, creates *"an important opportunity for formation and personal and professional growth for young people, who are an indispensable and vital resource for the cultural, social and economic progress of the country."* Let us therefore seize this institutional opportunity and get involved, networking with those who believe in the transforming power of educational commitment.

September 2022. The first 12 young university students, aged between 18 and 28, enter our house, in Catania just as in Aci Bonaccorsi. For 12 months, 5 hours a day, together with the educational community they take care of the children, reawakening dormant interests, through play and shared study. They follow their educational needs, in dialogue with the teachers, trying to gain the esteem and trust of the children so as to bring out unexpressed potential. They also offer moments of light-heartedness, a necessary therapy after a time of pandemic left behind them, but still present in its side effects. They are therefore a point of reference for kids who are looking for friendship so they can feel they are someone**. September 2023:** young people increase to 17. An educational resource that has hit the mark.

The children and their families knew the value of an innovative school by the quality of relationships and the teaching implement-

ed, now they know **a "long-term" school** that takes care of study, play, expressive and relational activities, having as its objective a "fraternity open to all". **Social inclusion**, the focus of one of our educational projects approved by the Ministry of Education, is not limited to dedicating attention to those who struggle to relate, but asks everyone to experience welcoming others as the 'ABC' of life to improve themselves and the world. Young people are excellent and are succeeding in so many ways, so much so that they become the **older "brothers and sisters"** who keep the course in whatever helps them to grow, to interact with others, to give the best of self.

Among the young volunteers, some are former students and have willingly returned to where they spent their childhood. In fact, their gratitude is really alive because of the memory of what they have received. "We need that kind of fire today" to reverse the course of our culture which has put the subject at the centre and exposed him to fragility, loneliness, a lack of meaning. We rediscover ourselves open to the other person and with him **we are starting to dream again, to understand that the beauty of life lies precisely in encounter.** Let there be celebration in our hearts! With young people like these we are building inclusive communities that are generators of brotherhood. This is not just hope: **it's already reality**.

M. Santina Marini

THE IDEAL EDUCATOR: JESUS AS A MODEL

I would like to take Jesus Christ as the ideal model for educators in my reflection. A proverb says: "we can't give what we don't have". So, **what we want to teach others has to come not only from our personal knowledge but more importantly from our practice of it.** Several passages in the Gospel present Jesus as a teacher who uses practical examples as well as His own concrete way of life to impart knowledge to his disciples.

In Jn 1:35-42, when two disciples of John the Baptist wanted to know something more about the life of Jesus, He simply asked them to "come and see", without giving them any theoretical explanation of who He was and what He was up to. In other words, Jesus wanted them to make an experience of His life style. He often used every day experiences common to his audience to bring across his teaching.

Those two disciples indeed went and made an experience of Jesus, after which they took the good news to others. Their stay with Jesus confirmed what they heard from John the Baptist, their master, "Behold the lamb of God". Christ did not limit himself to affirming what John had said about him, but helped the two to **live a personal experience with Him,** so as to confirm what they had heard. Now that they were convinced of themselves, they set out as ambassadors of the truth they wanted to bring to others.

"We have found the Messiah" was the message Andrew brought to his brother Simon. This new-found faith of Andrew in Jesus surely derived from his personal experience of Him. We must merit the trust and belief we expect from others. **If we live by what we teach, people will most probably be drawn to our teaching.**

"Actions speaks louder than words", goes the saying. In fact, an active witness to what we want to teach or proclaim is worth much more than whatever verbal explanations we can give to others. If we practice what we teach we won't need too many words to explain our teaching because our way of life will speak for us.

It is obvious to me that our **Lord Jesus Christ is a man of his words**, since He lives what he says. So, it is important to try the same methodology in our system of Christian education because the old principle of *"Roma locuta causa finta"* (Rome has spoken, the case is closed)

seems to be out of tune with our complex and multicultural world of today.

We live in a world where it is not enough to simply quote authority in order to sustain our point of view. On the contrary, today many people easily suspect any teaching that is based on authority without any firm and visible justification. Knowledge is easily available and nobody has monopoly over it. There are many teachers or masters out there and each one claims to possess the truth. So, every teaching is often fact-checked and debated, including matters of faith we deem dear and probably untouchable.

In our Christian teachings we surely have valid explanations about what we believe and seek to impart to others. All the same, our excellent theories must be backed up by a concrete and clearly visible way of life, if we want to stand a chance of being trusted and believed. Often, a simple way of living out our convictions speaks clearly since it bears invaluable witness to our deepest convictions.

"You will know them by their fruits". So, our teachings may only bear good fruits if we ourselves believe and live what we teach. In **Lk 6:43-44**, our Lord Jesus reminds us of this hard reality. Using a simple and down-to-earth example, known to his audience, he reminds us of this obvious fact of life. If we find it difficult to convince those we teach, then, we may need to do some soul searching, an examination of conscience to fully accept and live our own teaching before proposing it to others. It couldn't possibly be otherwise, as it is difficult to give what we don't have ourselves.

An obvious domain where we may need to make a step forward, is the **Christian vocation**, in general, as well as the call to priestly and religious life, in particular. As much as it is obvious that there are many and complex factors regarding the above-mentioned vocations, we must admit that our own way of life contributes in more ways than one to the readiness of people to embrace them.

It is true that the messenger is distinct from the message he proclaims, but **a messenger of Christ has to be Christ-like** to stand a chance of drawing people to Christ. This is due to the fact that the first line of contact is the messenger himself. I believe the two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus because they trusted their teacher.

So, if we want to draw people to God, we must become and remain trustworthy in our Christian vocation, as John the Baptist was in his prophetic vocation.

Surely this is a difficult task but it is the best option for us: "you will know them by their fruits". This was the challenge Jesus gave his audience and we have to make it ours today if we want to follow his model of teaching.

Let us ask for the grace to fully embrace our Christian faith in our daily encounters with others. May we be the "good tree that bears good fruits" so as to bring the teachings of Christ to others through our actions and way of life, wherever we are carrying out our ministry. May God bless and guide us all.

Nicholas Aayire M. Afr.

80 YEARS OF THE MORELOS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

The Primary school "Morelos" opened its doors in 1944, in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, thanks to Mons. Martin L. Quiñonez, initially created to provide a complete Catholic education to children with limited resources. At the beginning, the school was managed by a group of lay people until 1952, after which it went through numerous misadventures, until in 1991 the Canossian Sisters arrived and took it over. They began to repair the building, which was in a state of dilapidation, and a new board of directors was formed. The first Sisters here at Morelos were Sr. Stella Negri and Sr. Catarina Capello, who was also the first Canossian Sister to direct the school. Since then there have been several other directors, both Sisters and lay people, of the Institute. The support of the teachers was of great value, since in those years they carried out their service as a form of apostolate.

At the moment it is only an elementary school

The Morelos Educational Institute (IEM) is an Educational Community, administered by the Congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor, which promotes human-Christian values, excellence and the integral development of its students through cultural and spiritual formation, creating an atmosphere of respect, freedom, brotherhood and peace. As an Institution it offers its students an important educational experience, in a favourable learning environment, with the use of technology and the constant updating of teaching staff.

Furthermore, the Institute offers cultural, artistic, sporting and social activities for the integral development of students. We therefore seek to form the heart of every student and teacher and to have an impact on the families of our students, with the greatest possible joy, knowing that we are loved by the greatest Love and by his Mother Mary, at the foot of the Cross.

Mission

To be an educational community implies being dedicated to the integral formation of the person, imparting culture and knowledge of quality, stimulating with respect an openness to transformation towards harmonious and complete development, paying particular attention to those most in need.

Vision

The mission involves the global and harmonious promotion of the person, so that through positive and mature relationships, in the knowledge of self and the realities that surround us, to the point of discovering God's personal love for the person and his mission in the world.

Which are the founding values of this school?

Excellence: it is a requirement of our

being creatures of God. We are, in fact, called to live fully, since every moment of our life is a response to God's love which invites us to be completely and totally fulfilled. Excellence must be our goal.

Hard work: it is the way to reach the goal. God, who brought us into the world without our collaboration, invites us to collaborate with Him in our development. Hard work is a daily effort to improve oneself, discipline, punctuality, cleanliness, order, respect, care for the environment and responsibility.

Kindness: it is the element that most unites us to humanity; kindness includes all related qualities, such as mutual respect, sincere communication, help and service, loyalty, altruism, acceptance of others and those who are different.

We thank God for giving the Canossian Sisters **the opportunity to plant the seed of education in this land of Chihuahua,** with its arid climate, but with its warm and kind people, hard-working and dedicated to making this school grow. This school has had its difficulties and its successes, but, before the smile of a child, all the adversities were worth it, as our Foundress says: *"education is the harvest that costs the most, but it yields more"*.

Hilda Retiz, Administrator of IEM

A few testimonies

Our life as parents of students at the Morelos Educational Institute began when we asked for information so that the eldest of our children could start Primary school. We were immediately attracted by the drawing with the profile of the Virgin and even more by the words *Excelencia, Laboriosidad y Bondad* (Excellence, hard work and kindness). We didn't need to think twice: it was the right place for us.

Our two children have become part of the Institute and over time, while they studied there, we saw how their values were strengthened and they acquired others such as companionship, empathy and honesty, so much so that, in reality, their hearts were being formed. My youngest son left Primary school with a strong conviction to become a priest and my eldest son with a strong calling to serve and care for people's health. They tell us this is where their callings began to take shape.

As parents we will always be very grateful, first of all to God our Lord, to our Blessed Mother Mary and to the Canossian Sisters for having educated these little ones in love and faith, because during that period of school, gifts and abilities sprouted in our children, who are now teenagers with strong Catholic roots and a faith that continues to sustain them to this day.

After a few years, a dear friend of ours, to whom we had recommended the Institute to his children some time ago, invited my husband and I to join the community of Lay Canossians. We didn't have to think about it too much, as our hearts are grateful to the Sisters and we felt that even though we had left that stage a long time ago, we still had a meaningful bond with them.

Now, belonging to this beautiful community, we are learning to know Magdalene and her charism, as we try to serve the needy in charity. We are sure that

80 years of the Morelos Educational Institute

with God's favour he will continue to enlighten us to do more for the less fortunate children and **we will be there at hand to do his will, if that is what he wants.**

Armendáriz Ortega Family

Dear Canossian Family,

My name is Abril Ramírez Tarango and it is a pleasure to be able to share my story of 13 years belonging to this beautiful community. In 2010, at the age of 23, I started my experience in the Morelos Educational Institute, State of Chihuahua, as a teacher in charge of a class with 33 students and no experience. I confess that it was a very big challenge for me, as I was very insecure when seeing such a large group and such a complicated class due to the many physical and emotional changes. In that period, I managed to learn a lot thanks to the trust that the Principals and Sisters who were responsible gave me, such as learning the values that the school offered, mainly "Educating the heart of the child", which was **something that called me to give my best**. From the second year of my stay in the school, I started to feel more confident and with all the support necessary to form myself better as a teacher. **The Canossian Sisters therefore began to be part of my life** in a very beautiful way, because they supported me in all the phases that I had to face.

All these years have been very meaningful learning experiences, as I have worked with a variety of children and had the opportunity to experience different learning methodologies thanks to the formation provided by the school. An element that has always motivated me to carry out my work with love and dedication, has been **the charismatic formation provided by all the Sisters**; in fact, each one directed me and helped me with every need that arose. Then I was given the opportunity to grow and I accepted a new challenge with great joy, becoming part of the academic team. Shortly after starting to work in this sector, I was invited to go to Argentina for a month, with the aim of learning about other schools, methodologies and strategies that Sisters taught in their scholastic communities, in order to broaden my knowledge and implement them in our Institute. This step also made my sense of belonging grow day after day, seeing **the immense educational and human work that all the Canossian Sisters** carry out. This is **my second family**, in which Saint Magdalene of Canossa and Saint Bakhita have taught me that every day is a new beginning and, despite all the adversities I have had to face, I was able to learn from them that every day is a new beginning, **every day must begin with "Joy, joy as much as possible."**

As a person, teacher and mother, I will continue to commit myself to the Canossian Family, to do my best to help our children continue to grow in a fraternal environment, to support all the needs, especially in terms of affection, that may arise each day. I thank God for putting me in this place, and as long as He allows me to stay here, I will continue to give the best of myself for each of our children and colleagues.

Abril Ramírez Tarango, teacher and assistant to the Academic Director

WELCOME TO THE CANOSSIAN NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL HERE IN TANZANIA

Education is crucial, it is necessary in everyone's life. We want to share with you how much education is important in traditional African society.

The purpose of education is to **help people to subordinate their personal interest to those of the wider community** and to **teach the values**, norms and the most important beliefs. Thus, indigenous education prepares children to play their role in the family, the clan and tribe as a whole. By going to school children can learn the skills that are needed for the world of work. This means they are more likely to get a job in future, earn an income and support a family. The country benefits too; having a more skilled workforce drives economic growth since educated workers are paid more and work efficiently.

Education in Tanzania tries to make sure that the children are:

- equipped and well prepared to cope up with life in the present and the future;
- are able to manage their life and be independent;
- open to creativity and other possibilities;
- capable of developing a sense of belonging and become good citizens;
- able to live the values of honesty, faithfulness, hard work and collaborate in the life of the nation.

As Canossian educators, we try to help them to be holistically formed spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially, so that they are **able to live the Christians values that make them the agents of change in society** where they will be morally responsible.

The main aim of Canossian education is to **make the pupils responsible** so that they may be able to change their life and understand clearly their purpose in life. We also form them to be people of integrity. This goal is supported by the method we use in education: "to prevent, promote and keep in mind the needs and difficulties of an individual so as to accompany and enhance the growth of the whole person".

We consider as special those cases of those most in need since we want to form them to be autonomous. A big challenge we must face is the financial difficulties of many families who probably have just one source in income. Sometimes they are not sure whether they can sustain their children at the secondary level. In all these challenges, such as the political situation, poverty and unemployment, the Canossian Educative Family, tries to support children from 2 to 11 years, offering them all the best services and the best instruction we can provide. We promise to continue to be faithful to the Spirit of St. Magdalene: *"The behaviour of life usually depends on the education received"*.

M. Regina Njao, Tanzania

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR, CALL TO EVANGELIZATION THROUGH EDUCATION

The Canossian Sisters has been serving the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Adams Arcade in Nairobi-Kenya since 1988 through the area of Evangelization forming Catechists and Youth in collaboration with the Guadalupe Missionaries. For various periods of time the service of evangelization was interrupted intermittently. An opportunity came again in 2019 when the parish-owned Guadalupe Primary School was at the brink of closing due to mismanagement.

Towards the end of the year 2019, the Parish priest, Fr Javier Martinez, as the Chair together with the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), after having the tug-of-war with the lay administration, decided to start the school anew instead of closing, bearing in mind and in heart the welfare and education needs of the children of the parish. Fr Javier Martinez and the PPC strongly believe that the children of the parish should receive formal instructions from a school that inculcates the Catholic faith and upholds a values-based education. They also believe that this can only be done if the school is run by a Religious Congregation.

Fr. Javier Martinez carried out research to decide which Religious Congregation could take over the school. He discovered that the Congregation of the Canossian Sisters has a blend of EDUCATION and EVANGELIZATION. It matches with that of the charism of the Guadalupe Missionaries, that is of EVANGELIZATION. Here the story of GUADALUPE CATHOLIC SCHOOL unfolds.

At the end of 2019 the Congregation of the Canossian Sisters had been asked to take up the responsibility of running the school in partnership with the Guadalupe Missionaries. Then Provincial Leader Sr. Mariangela Massenti and the Provincial Council, hearing the knock at the door as a sign of the times, responded positively to take over the school. Sr Sandra Misquitta was sent to be the Head Teacher. The school officially restarted in January 2020. It wasn't an easy task to restart the school whose credibility as an educational institution was losing. She started with four learners and with four teachers. She used to stand near the gate of the Parish on a Sunday or walk in the market nearby

on weekdays with one of the teachers distributing brochures promoting the school. Gradually parents began bringing their children, mainly refugees and/or asylum seekers from Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and a few Kenyans. In March 2020 all schools closed down due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Learning continued though on an improvised internet connection together with take-home instructions ensuring that the learners remained occupied no matter how few they were.

In the year 2021, school reopened and started with 40 learners and five teachers. In 2022, even if the Head Teacher changed to Sr. Lissiamma George Pulickal, the school had enrolled 138 learners. The Parish priest was substituted by Fr Ignacio Flores, who is also the Administrator. Newly-professed Sr Purity Nzambi was added to the teaching staff making the presence of the Canossian Sisters strongly felt. Consequently, by the grace and mercy of God, the registration of the school was received, it is functioning regularly from play school to Grade Six. The first batch of Grade Six took the national exam obtaining 100% results with good grades.

In 2023, the leaners enrolled increased to 148. And the second batch wrote their competence-based curriculum (CBC) assessment and are awaiting the results while we are writing this article. Now parish and local residents have regained trust in the school and admissions have begun to flow again. Due to limited class rooms, the intake of the learners was controlled.

The school's motto is **Faith, Discipline and Excellence**. It is St Magdalene of Canossa's dream of formation of the heart through Christian doctrine and principles. It is evangelization through education. As the pupils learn the Christian principles embedded in the academic disciplines, the parents learn too. The Canossian pedagogy of making Jesus known and loved through education in an environment of a multi-cultural background and ethnicity, making learning together possible notwithstanding economic challenges and pressure to comply with the new competence-based curriculum.

Welcoming 2024 with the 250th Anniversary of the birth of St Magdalene of Canossa, the Head Teacher of the Guadalupe Catholic School will be Sr Carolyne Mueni, forming the hearts of the young learners to be agents of change in society and be the hope of the motherland. To God be the glory.

M. Lissiamma George Pulickal
(Nairobi community)

WE, THE SECULAR MISSIONARIES OF MAGDALENE OF CANOSSA (SMMC)

During this year, as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of St. Magdalene of Canossa, our life as Secular Missionaries of Magdalene of Canossa has been set on fire" … We have been brought back to life!... We are so grateful to God, to the Superior General of the Canossian Sisters, M. Sandra Maggiolo, to the Bishop of Verona who appointed Sr. Maria Angela Massenti as our Extraordinary Commissioner… and to many others…

Many small and great events have taken place…

Here, we will mention only a few:

- Our Central Assembly was convened in Andheri, Mumbai (India), at the end of June 2023.

Our new Central Leaders were elected:

Juliana D'Costa – Central Responsible Person Elveera Monteiro – Deputy Central Responsible Person Valentina Msofe – Central Councilor

- We revised our Statutes, Resolutions and Recommendations.
- Virginia and Joyce (Paraguay and Tanzania) renewed their Temporary Vows in July and August.
- A monthly "Lectio Divina" for our on-going formation was carried out and sent to each one of us.
- The Central Council meetings were held on-line.
- An on-line preparation for the Final Vows of Joyce Cosmas Pallangyo started in October 2023, followed by a more intense one from 28th of November.
- On 6th January 2024 – We shall celebrate the Final Profession of Joyce Cosmas Pallangyo in Arusha, Tanzania.

The events would be too many to be mentioned here… so, we cannot but be FULL OF GRATITUDE, JOY, AND LOVE!

WHO ARE WE?

We, Secular Missionaries of Magdalene of Canossa, are the lay and secular expression of the Canossian Charismatic heritage. Our vocation is a call to be **Canossian, Lay, Consecrated, and Secular women.** That means to live the Canossian charism and consecration in one's ordinary life in the world. Thus, daily life in the world is our path to holiness!

In response to a call from Christ Crucified to love unconditionally, we commit ourselves to living the Gospel radically and to being a prophetic sign of the Kingdom of God in the world. Basically, we are formed into a life of consecration, through the fulness of Baptism and Confirmation, by a **real and complete**

Profession of the evangelical counsels.

The Evangelical Counsels are ways in which we participate in the life of Christ Crucified and Risen. We live the Vows as a proclamation of hope, a breath of Spiritual Life, a journey of "loving without measure" till the end, in the common circumstances of life.

Our consecration plunges us into the mystery of the Church and permeates our actions and work making us totally available to the will of the Father, who wants us to be in, with, for the world but not of the world. (SMMC Rule of Life, n. 14) We are in the world, we listen to it, we uplift it, we love and serve it, we mould it according to God's will, justly and humanely, to sanctify it from within (Paul VI).

The Mission of the Secular Missionaries of Magdalene of Canossa is to make Jesus known and loved, with a particular attention to promote vulnerable women and youth.

Like a mustard seed in the world, we make Jesus known and loved… we promote the human and Christian dignity of women… we organize training courses for and with them… we uplift young women who fall prey to human trafficking…

We are the "mustard seed" which grows to let others find comfort, salvation, and joy. We are a sign of a Church that is the friend of people and can offer comfort in every kind of affliction. We share the longing of creation, in the everyday, secular condition of our people.

In line with the Synodal journey of the Church, we see and find God's seed present everywhere in the world. We water it, we dig around it, we manure it and let it grow according to its intrinsic divine nature.

We are "secular" meaning that we live in the world, sharing with the people the conditions of our time, desires, professional, political, social, and ecclesial commitments, defeats, and successes. We are at the centre of the conflict that disturbs and divides the modern soul. By our vocation and mission, we are at the crossroads between God's initiative and the longing of creation… we listen to the cries of humanity, of the world and of creation and take action according to our possibilities, keeping in mind that the ocean is made up of drops of water!

With Mary, we listen with our hearts to the tumult of the city, the noises, the sound of work, and of human tribulation. With Mary, we embrace their joys and pains, their certainties and fear, their easiness and worries, their contentment and anguish, their laughter, and tears…

With **Mary, "Mother of the Love Crucified"**, we walk setting fire, the fire of love that ever burns because full of the mercy and compassion of our Lord! With Mary, we become hope, trust, life, and resurrection… to everybody and everywhere!

ALBANIA: A SMALL FLAME TO SET LIFE ON FIRE

A little bit of history…

Albania has always been a place of invasions by foreign peoples and, when it was part of the Roman Empire, it welcomed Christianity, brought by Saint Paul, who in the letter to the Romans writes, "So from Jerusalem and its surroundings to Illyria, I have completed the proclamation of the Gospel" (Rm 15:19). The first Bishop of Durazzo, Saint Cesario, martyr in the year 58, was even one of the 72 disciples of Jesus Christ.

From the 15th century, the Turkish Empire imposed the Muslim faith, even with a certain violence; so, the Christians who did not want to give up their faith moved to the mountains in the North, living in hardship. Only in 1912 did Albania gain independence, but after a few years, a period of terrible atheist dictatorship began with the claim of "killing God" in the human conscience. The dictator began to put people in prison, to torture atrociously, to kill men of culture, especially Christians: Priests, Professors in Seminaries and Christian and Orthodox schools.

After the fall of this Regime, the presence of many missionaries, who came from different parts of Europe, tried to reactivate the faith in every possible way. Atheism "killed" God, but God remained alive in the heart of every person like "fire under the embers". Thus, **after about 35 years of freedom, today faith is being rekindled, albeit with difficulty**. For example, in 2017, 38 Albanian martyrs who were raped, tortured and atrociously killed by the Regime, were beatified: the martyrdom of the Albanian Catholic clergy was in fact one of the most dramatic moments in the history of the persecuted Church. All religions were oppressed, but especially the Catholic one, because it was considered the most prepared and the most important in terms of faith and culture, as a manifestation of Western civilization and the free world.

…and a little bit of our history in this land

The Canossian Sisters arrived in Albania from the Province of Southern Italy on **2nd August 1996**, in the city of Kuje, stimulated by the desire to collaborate with the Church and revive faith in

Jesus. The first activity was a comprehensive visit to Catholic families and non, to discover their needs. For several years they were dedicated to the integral education of women and young girls, both in the villages and in the city, with professional courses and a boarding house for students. They then engaged in catechesis and visits to the sick. With the collaboration of Italian and local volunteers, summer camps were then held annually in various places and help with homework after school was also activated for children who would otherwise have remained on the streets and many poor families were helped with support at school for their children.

With the development of society, the needs have also changed. In 2015, a nursery school was opened in Shen Vlash, near Durres, with two sections, and a good annual attendance. **Here St. Magdalene invites us to start from the little ones, from their families: school is not just teaching, but educating in the faith**. Just as Magdalene asked, school means forming the heart from an early age, educating it to know and love Jesus in order to be able to serve and proclaim him in life. The need is truly great, given the history and social reality of this country, but **we try to live this mission with humility, joy and continuity** through personal accompaniment, support in various difficulties and the work of reconciliation to overcome a sense of revenge.

The greatest challenge therefore remains the challenge of educating in the faith, of evangelizing culture, maintaining as a priority attention to the family and the simple language to be used, which must be understandable, acceptable, stimulating. The family in Albania, still somewhat patriarchal, especially in the villages, is a bearer of values, even if it is undergoing a notable change.

And for the future? Enjoying the esteem that the Albanian State now has towards the Church, we are asking for permission to open a Day Centre which includes school for 3-4-year-old children, a recreational centre, language courses, the formation of adolescents, young people and adults.

We entrust ourselves to the Lord who continues to make history with his Church and to our Foundress who never despaired of being a "little flock".

M. Alicia Hengemuhle

TOWARDS FULL PRESENCE… ON-LIFE!

"The digital environment is not a parallel or purely virtual world, but is part of the daily reality of many people, especially young people."

(V. Corrado).

SOME DATA

Suffice it to say that the world population at the beginning of 2023 had reached 8.01 billion people of which 5.44 billion use a smartphone (68% of the world population); There are 5.16 billion internet users (64.4% of the world population) and 4.76 billion social media users worldwide (just under 60%).

The trend is continually growing, year after year. This summary of data also includes those who live the Church and who feel they are the Church: a community of people who continue to inhabit this world and who continually try to "keep up" with technological development in order to respond to the needs of the world of today.

I have always been struck by **Jesus' ability to communicate**, to speak the language of simple people: the use of parables is the most eloquent expression of this. Jesus was not afraid to change his language. In fact, he knew how to speak with the scribes and the Pharisees and also with the fishermen and the little ones. His only intention was to touch hearts and bring the Good News, reaching people where they were. And this is what he continues to ask of us, his children and disciples, missionaries of 2023: "*Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."* (Mt 16, 15-20)

But what is the world like today? How do you reach the whole world? How many continents are there to reach? Which suburbs should be evangelized to be an **"outgoing Church"**, as Pope Francis often reminds us? In that "whole world" **the sixth continent, the digital one,** cannot be excluded, Benedict XVI reminds us.

The Church is a mother and as such she offers us indications about how to be authentic Christians even in this new territory. In fact, there are many magisterial documents that, since 1964, accompany those who work in this "sixth ministry" - I use this term because I know I communicate within the Canossian family.

For this issue of Vita Più, I decided to start from the latest Document published by the Church: **"Towards full presence. Pastoral reflection on engagement with social media"** by the Dicastery for Communication. (31st May 2023)

A LOOK AT THE DOCUMENT

Let's start with the logo, which has two fish. Why?

It was designed by young communicators. These young people participated in the program *"Faith Communication in the Digital World"*, a pilot project of the Dicastery for Communication, which annually selects 16 young professionals from different parts of the world.

The Fish, you can read on the official website, "is a Christian symbol, *its gaze* expresses the dynamics of an *encounter*. This is how our young friends summarized the experience of their journey and their research. Inviting us to work in the digital world for a means of communication made to unite and not to divide, to build relationships and not conflicts."

The Document is aimed at everyone because **the social media environment concerns everyone, no one excluded,** and it is a reflection that aims to promote a common discussion on the involvement of Christians in social media, which have increasingly become part of people's lives.

Inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan, the document intends to initiate a shared reflection to promote a culture of being a "loving neighbour" also in the digital sphere.

Pope Francis has repeatedly indicated **the Good Samaritan** as an icon of the communicator. This is in fact an invitation to go against the grain. The Good Samaritan on the web may immediately appear to be a loser... because the web does not present automatically people who care about others, since algorithms more easily select those who scream the loudest, those who create the most division. The attitude of the Good Samaritan, however, is not high-sounding, he acts in an almost shy way, he intervenes and then disappears. But his testimony persists over time. In depth.

In the context of social media, where individuals are often both consumers and commodities, this pastoral reflection seeks a response based on faith. This response begins with discerning the stimuli we receive and with intentional listening. Attention, together with a sense of belonging, reciprocity and solidarity, are the pillars for building a sense of union which, ultimately, should strengthen local communities, making them capable of becoming drivers of change.

By becoming **"weavers of communion"** through the creativity of love, we can imagine new models built on trust, transparency and inclusion, learning to be present with God's style and bearing the sign of witness.

A website has also been set up to share good practices and mature together a style of discernment. At the following address *fullypresent.website,* one can find some initial indications of what can be done to contribute to a common reflection, such as the possibility of indicating documents from local Churches, academic texts, initiatives and events on a prepared world map.
It is the first step to create more synergy and more communion of intentions.

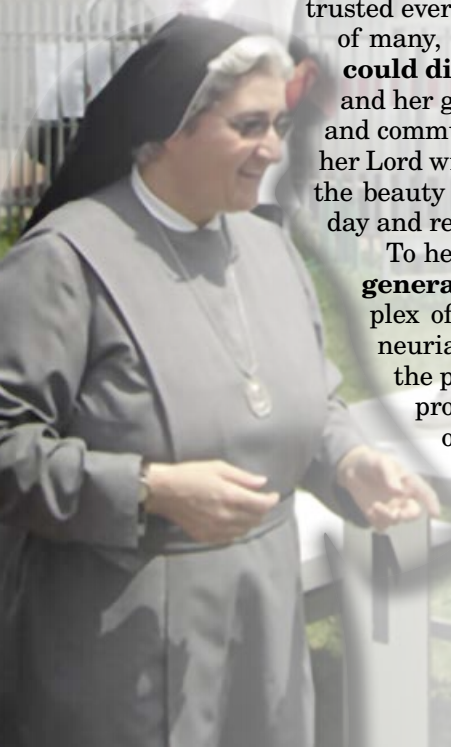
Alice Callegari, EF

A MISSION EMBODIED IN THE LIFE OF M. MARIA PINA LOMBARDINI

"God saves through people" (R. Guardini). Struck by these few words I want to try to recount my experience of an authentic encounter with a witness of a **life lived and embodied in the mission**. When Providence gives you people like this, you really understand that they are there to "save you". In fact, God uses this method to make us feel less alone in carrying out our mission within our communities and with an open heart towards the places where we are called to bear witness.

Thus, I will try to share my memory of **M. Maria Pina Lombardini, a Canossian Sister since 1981**, who lived in the community of Como for almost thirty years. In her way of living the Canossian life within the community rule, she always imposed on herself a rigid personal rule. The first firm point: **community life and the sharing of commitments** by a constant and attentive listening to the needs of the Sisters. In the second place, **the school** in its entirety with primary attention to the students, teachers and parents. Finally, her **testimony "beyond the threshold"** which led her to spend every last ounce of her energy to live her ideal giving value to this "gifted life".

M. Maria Pina loved and embodied a phrase from the Gospel of Matthew that we all remember precisely because of its simplicity, *"Freely you have received, freely give"*. She made it a model of life that was impossible not to perceive when meeting her. *"The gift of life is so precious that it is fullness for individuals and prompted to work so that others may rediscover this gift"*, she wrote in one of her notes **and her life was a precious gift** at the service of those encounters the good Lord put in her way.



Behind her "sacrum facere", she held Providence as her guide to whom she entrusted every moment of her life in an unconditional and, to the eyes of many, even reckless way. She was tireless in this and **no one could dissuade her from this trust**, she did not retreat an inch and her greatness manifested itself when she, in difficult personal and community trials, said: ***"I entrust myself to Him!".*** She loved her Lord without conditions, she was aware that her trust generated the beauty of her vocation, from which she took momentum every day and reconfirmed her promises.

To her, to her **being "for and with" the future of the new generations**, we owe the evolution of the great educational complex of Como. In her *"modus operandi"* she had an entrepreneurial ability not made up only of numbers but of listening to the person and the capacity to grasp new needs almost with a prophetic eye, opening new paths just as it was in the case of starting a High School for Sports and a High School with subjects in English and Spanish. Without fear, she foreshadowed and dreamed of a "good" school at the service of everyone and, in discretion and silence, she sensed the difficulties of families making sure not to deprive anyone of anything.

M. Assunta Ronchetti,
Community of Como, Italy

EVENTS

JANUARY 24

3
121st Anniversary of the death of M. Giuseppina Testera (1903)

6
Feast of the Epiphany

12
126th Anniversary of the death of M. Rachele Tronconi (1898)

18
Beginning of the octave of prayer for Christian Unity

21
Sunday of the Word of God

22
68th Anniversary of the death of M. Fernanda Riva (1956) – Death of Don Luigi Libera in 1800

25
Conversion of St. Paul

27
Remembrance Day, to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust

30
124th Anniversary of the death of M. Claudia Compagnotti (1900)

FEBRUARY 24

8
Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita

11
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

15
Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

16
40th Anniversary of the death of M. Giovanna Zambelli, Superior General (1984)

20
12th Anniversary of the death of M. Ilva Fornaro, Superior General (2012) - World Day of Social Justice

27
Departure of the first six Canossian missionaries for Hong Kong (1860)

MARCH 24

1
250th Anniversary of the birth of St. Magdalene of Canossa (1774)

8
International Women's Day

15
International Day of Social Service

21
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - International Day of Forests

22
World Water Day

25
Annunciation of the Lord

31
Holy Easter of the Resurrection of the Lord

APRIL 24

5
67th Anniversary of the death of M. Angela Zottele (1957)

10
Departure to Heaven of St. Magdalene of Canossa (1835)

16
22nd Anniversary of the death of M. Filomena Annoni, Superior General (2002)

22
World Earth Day

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

AN OFFENSIVE TO PEACE

After the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which began in February, other wars are knocking on Humanity's door, entering with their burden of tragedies and desperation. Last October, after the Hamas offensive, the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians flared up even more in that corner of land where Jesus Christ was born. The Gaza Strip, that small strip of land just a few kilometres long where more than 2 million Palestinians live, has been put to fire and sword and, once again, the hope of Peace has been pushed to the corner.

In fact, Peace is not such a modern concept, given that it has been exalted since ancient times, yet it is always disillusioned, trampled upon, outraged: when will Peace be for everyone and forever? For now, those who Jesus called "Peacemakers" (Mt 5:9) must continue to build it, day by day, educating the world with small simple actions of acceptance and dialogue, to hopefully reject this latest offensive on Peace.

"GENERATION Z"?

If we often hear talk of an "educational emergency", when we talk about violence, drugs, isolated children, we must first of all clarify how this is a phenomenon that concerns not only the school, but the family, society, the various places that contribute to the education of the new generations.

In fact, the emergency shows its effects in the youngest and in the ambit of their lives, but its origin is in the adult generation, in all those who have responsibilities in society. The educational crisis is caused by a lack of points of reference, it is difficult

WHO IS AFRAID OF LIFE?

Goodbye, Indi Gregory. The English girl suffering from a very rare, albeit not terminal, mitochondrial disease, and sentenced by the High Court of London to the suspension of vital treatment, died on 13th November. Despite her parents' desperate attempts to oppose the English court's ruling, the 8-month-old baby died in a hospice for terminally ill patients in England, a few hours after the mechanical ventilator, that helped her breathe, was turned off.

There had also been hopes of taking the little girl to the hospital Bambino Gesù in Rome, who had offered to admit her. Even the Italian Government had granted her Italian citizenship, however the "no" from the British judges was repeated, convinced that "the best interest" of the child was only the suspension of all treatment.

It is the sad ending of a dramatic story on which Pope Francis also expressed his opinion. The director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, made it known that the Pontiff "was close to the family of little Indi Gregory, to her father and mother, praying for them and for her, and addressed his thoughts to all

the children who, in these same hours all over the world, live in pain or risk their lives due to illness and war."

According to the English association "Christian Concern", this case amplifies the urgency of a reform on the legislation regarding the 'end of life' that introduces into the legal system a more compassionate and attentive approach to the person in cases like this, yet the authorities seem to turn a deaf ear and public opinion is distracted. Even in Italy there have been cases of disinterest, if not outright violent protest, towards pro-life movements, such as the throwing of a Molotov cocktail against the headquarters of the Association "Pro Vita & Famiglia" in Rome, again in November.

What we ask ourselves now is: "What is the limit? Who will be next? Who is afraid of life?"

for adults to offer young people reasons for living and an interpretation of reality that makes sense and is capable of orienting, engaging and captivating children and young people.

An adult generation emptied by consumerism, poor in values, superficial in its relationship with reality, tired by a pace of life in which there is little room for the individual, finds it difficult to throw itself into that splendid adventure which is to convey to young people reasons for life and hope.

Hence personal insecurities, fragility, continuous disorientation and difficulty in engaging in social issues for what is often nicknamed "Generation Z", as if it were the last. Leaving aside chronic defeatism, the solution, according to many scholars, is to "re-tie" the relationship with young people through clear and frank communication, to transmit values. It is necessary to say it to them, to repeat it, to believe that this generation is the next one, new and certainly different, but not the last.

HINTS ON LINE AND OFFLINE

Maria Nicolai, *MADDALENA DI CANOSSA: EDUCATOR*

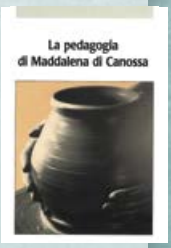
Documentation Series 6, Rome 1993

This volume is characterized by the method of direct documentation, in fact it draws from the genuine sources of the Foundress' writings: letters, plans and rules, published by M. Emilia Dossi. The author of the text retraces the historical development of this educational work, from the first intuitions of St. Magdalene of Canossa to the subsequent achievements in the communities she founded.

The volume offers the Sisters involved in the ministry of education precious indications on research and use of sources and the stimulus for further study in this "singular branch". It also allows us to grasp the preciousness of the school and of every educational activity for the benefit of young people, as privileged means to "prevent the evils of society".

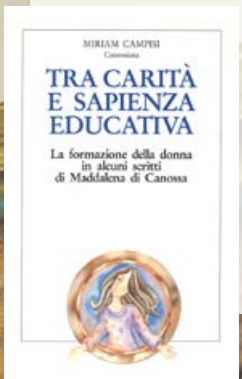
P. Modesto Giacon, *LA PEDAGOGIA DI MADDALENA DI CANOSSA*

Whoever reads this concise booklet, by Fr. Giacon, a passionate scholar of Magdalene, will have the opportunity to follow an itinerary of the Foundress' choices, but will certainly also be fascinated by this adventure.



"Magdalene was not an educationist, in the sense that one usually gives to this name. She was rather a valiant and generous educator, who spent her time not writing her conceptions on education or describing her method, but training girls for life and educators for their future mission." A quick but meaningful read, in a simple, familiar and engaging style. *"May it be an inspiration and guide for you, teachers, Christians in the daily, difficult educational mission!"*.

MIRIAM CAMPISI, *Tra carità e sapienza educativa: la formazione della donna in alcuni scritti di Maddalena di Canossa*



Sr. Miriam's thesis for her degree offers us a further opportunity to reflect on the urgency and validity, even today, of educational commitment, with this careful study of this ministry in St. Magdalene of Canossa and in her "schools of charity".

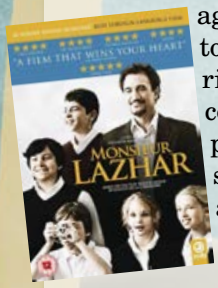
The methods that express this commitment can and must be renewed over time and adapted to different cultural

NURTURING REFLECTION

THREE FILMS, THREE TEACHERS:

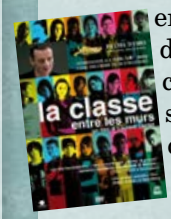
MONSIEUR LAZHAR
(by Philippe Falardeau, 2001)

"Limit yourself to teaching rather than educating": this is the phrase that is particularly striking in the story of this "improvised" but highly humane teacher. In a Primary school in Montreal, after the suicide of a teacher, which occurred right in the classroom, the Principal is unable to find anyone as a substitute. In the end she agrees to entrust the class to Bashir Lazhar, an Algerian immigrant fleeing his country and with a tragic past. The teacher will succeed in establishing a bond with the children shaken by the tragedy. He will help the class to understand that life is made of joy and pain, fragility and strength. Literature will be able to help them, even if, according to his colleagues, it seems to be too high for children.



needs, but Magdalene's passion for the integral education of young women must remain unchanged in our hearts, pursuing the aims that were particularly close to her heart: "the development of the young person's cognitive skills, formation for work and for the family and religious education".

THE CLASS
(by Laurent Cantet, 2008)



The film follows the events of a teacher in a Parisian Middle school dealing with a multi-ethnic class. The key to teaching in such a difficult and violent context is to help children understand what they are doing, especially through direct experiences.

Knowing how to hold discussions, not to give in for convenience and to create solid frameworks, allows this teacher to become a point of reference for his students.

LESSONS OF DREAMS
(by Sebastian Grobler, 2011)

A German film that tells the story of Professor Konrad Koch, an avant-garde teacher who finds himself teaching in a school context based on the strictest discipline in mid-nineteenth century Germany. Professor Koch's teaching method is that of learning while having fun and to teach English he will have his students play football: no corporal punishment, no cane. For Koch, being a teacher does not mean educating in a gloomy way, but rather opening the mind through having fun and also physical movement.

The film is also available at this link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=863iRAE8moA

CANOSSIAN EDUCATION

A generative and transformative force

FONDAZIONE CANOSSIANA VOICA
per una vita migliore

From San Zeno (Verona, Italy) to the world (33 countries), the story of Magdalene of Canossa's educational commitment has reached very important dimensions in time and space, which testify to the commitment and dedication of generations and generations of her Canossian Daughters of the Charity.

«The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and mixed in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened» (Mt 13:33)

Scattered across 33 countries in all continents, today there are about 300 schools of all levels that welcome over 115,000 students accompanied by almost 5,400 teachers on a daily basis.

This current data, projected over 200 years of Canossian educational activity, tell us of the commitment to education that has nourished and contaminated the hearts and minds of generations and generations of women and men in every corner of the world. In addition to improving their living conditions, some of them have also contributed, in various ways and forms, to the promotion and development of their community and their country. Today as yesterday, **education is a generating and transforming force** of every community and human society that wants to improve the living conditions of the people who constitute them.

Education for all. Quality education. Education at all ages

In the period 2014-2021, almost 60% of the projects carried out by the Canossiana Foundation VOICA concerned projects relating to the educational sector: construction of new schools, modernization of teaching laboratories, formation and refresher courses for teachers, professional training for young people and adults and various forms of study support. In 2021, 1004 children were supported thanks to "Distance Support" in 15 countries.

In almost twenty years of activity alongside Canossian communities around the world, the commitment to the education of children, young people and adults has always represented the main part of its actions. While there is no shortage of projects for the creation and launching of new educational realities, in recent years requests for support for activities to strengthen and improve already existing educational and formative proposals have increased.

Among the various experiences, a recently concluded experience of pro-

motional synergy between various Canossian institutions and educational realities deserves special mention, which has contributed to strengthening and significantly improving professional formation in the field of tailoring and fashion, design and modelling in Togo. Thanks to the European program "ERASMUS+" and the project **"ENACPLUS: Moving to Learn 4"** of ENAC_ Ente Nazionale Canossiano ETS, three students and a teacher from the Canossa Fashion Centre of Trento (Italy), accompanied by Sr. Daniela Rizzardi from 27th November to 7th December, carried out an intense didactic-laboratory program with 15 Togolese students and 4 teachers from the Center Catholique de Formation Technique Professionelle "Madre Agata Carelli" CCTP_MAC run by the Canossian Sistrs of Lomè, Togo.

All the activities took place in the four new classrooms built and furnished in 2022 thanks to the **"Formation, Fashion, Future"** project of the Canossiana Foundation VOICA. An experience of contamination and mutual formation, between different worlds and cultures which have as their common denominator the fact of belonging to the Canossian educational world. The legacy, alive and constantly evolving, of generations of Canossian Sisters dedicated to education today, takes shape and vigour in experiences of collaboration and meetings between Canossian realities which are "daughters and sisters". Despite the economic difficulties and conflicts that many countries experience, we continue to sow in the lives of those who live and are formed in Canossian educational institutions.

The important thing is to sow

Sow, sow: the important thing is to sow.
A little, a lot, every grain of hope.
Sow your smile, so that everything around you may shine.
Sow your energy, your hope, to fight and win the battle when it seems lost.
Sow your courage to raise up that of others.
Sow your enthusiasm to inflame that of your neighbour.
Sow your generous enthusiasm, your desires, your trust, your life.
Sow everything that is beautiful in you, the smallest things, your nothing.
Sow, sow and have faith: every grain will enrich a tiny corner of the earth.

Don Ottaviano Menato

Magdalene's birthday is approaching. We still have time, but we also need help to "deliver" our second happy birthday present: provide food for the body and mind for the boys and girls of the ***Children's Educational Centre "Saint Magdalene of Canossa"*** in Encarnacion (Paraguay).

Each of Us can make a small or big difference by giving one's own contribution for ***a gift of love and freedom*** that lights up the lives of these small friends of Magdalene.

Giancarlo Urbani,
Project Manager - Canossian Foundation VOICA

A GIFT FOR MAGDALENE

Children's Educational Center "Santa Maddalena de Canossa",
Encarnación (Paraguay)

Every day around 90 children between the ages of 3 to 5 years old are assured of a pleasant and welcoming place where they can learn basic reading and writing skills, receive nutritional support (breakfast and lunch) as well as various other services to promote and protect their healthy development.

- **18** € medical treatment **for one year**
- **20** € Breakfast and lunch for a child **for a month**
- **80** € n° 1 Kit teaching materials + breakfast and lunch for a child **for a year**

REASON: Maddalena Centro Educativo Paraguay

Canossian Foundation Voica
For a better life...

Address:
via della Stazione di Ottavia, 70
00135 Roma

email: fondazione@canossian.org
C:F: 08069261009
Telephone: +39 06 308280676

How to make a donation:

BANK TRANSFER IN EURO

Banca Popolare di Sondrio – Roma
Code IBAN:
IT83 E056 9603 2110 0000 5128X88
BIC/SWIFT: POSOIT22
In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for payment:
Maddalena Centro Educativo_Paraguay

BANK TRANSFER IN US DOLLARS

BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO – Roma
CODE IBAN:
IT53 D056 9603 211V ARUS 0005 128
Code BIC / SWIFT: POSOIT22
In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for transfer:
Maddalena Centro Educativo_Paraguay

POSTAL ORDER: N. 62011531

In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for Payment:
Maddalena Centro Educativo_Paraguay

BANK CHEQUE non-transferable

In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA

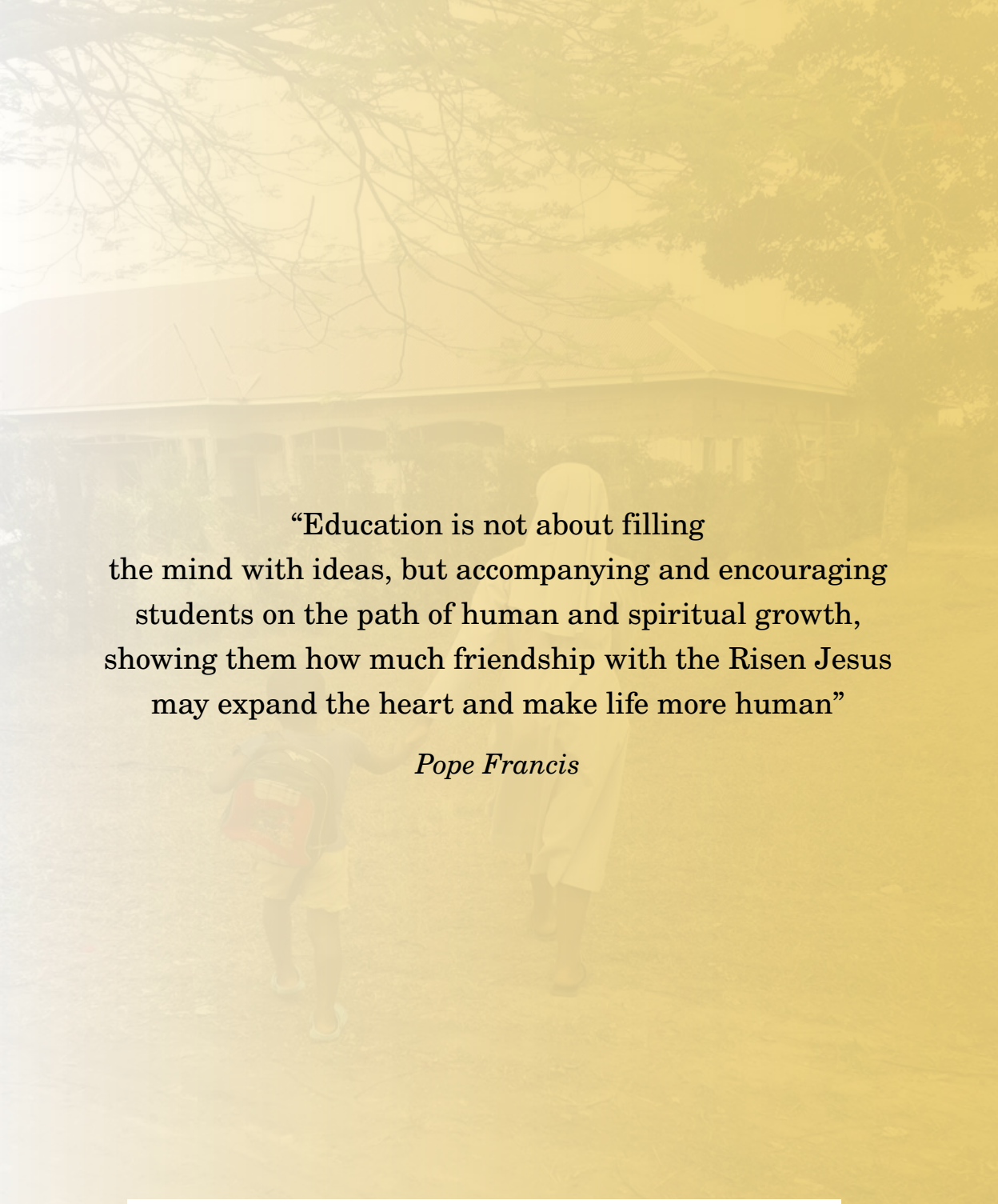
SEE YOU SOON

After reading this issue of Vita Più, here are some questions to transform into life and concretely deepen the points stimulated by reading the articles of our Canossian magazine.

After reading these pages, which three words remain deep in your heart regarding the topic of Education? Which ones and in your opinion for what reason? Is there any initiative, among those described in the various articles, that struck you and that you would like to propose again? Take note and keep it in mind - it will help you.

Which are the particular characteristics of Canossian Education? Which are the essential values? Which are the aims? How would you concretely articulate them in your context, in your time, in your environment, here and today?

Educating is an action that transforms the protagonists, both the person being educated and the person who educates, so how has my educational action (scholastic and otherwise), my relationship with this or that person made me new? Sometimes it is useful to stop and re-read one's journey to re-interpret one's destination. Now try to take a look at that same person: you will see something new because you yourself have been renewed.



“Education is not about filling
the mind with ideas, but accompanying and encouraging
students on the path of human and spiritual growth,
showing them how much friendship with the Risen Jesus
may expand the heart and make life more human”

Pope Francis

FIGLIE DELLA CARITÀ CANOSSIANE

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