



BRAZIL

TRANSFORMING SOLIDARITY

Our community has been in Gravatá for more than 17 years, as a community inserted among the ordinary people and we sought from the beginning to work socially and pastorally, for leadership formation and in different ways of evangelization. Nowadays, beyond the pastoral work with children and catechesis, we have participated in some public policies of municipal councils for Assistance and for Children.



Two years ago we recognized the need to dedicate ourselves more intensively in our parish work in communities which have been abandoned and are affected by the

lack of access to basic rights. Then the idea arose of creating the Artvida Project and drawing up a plan to request financial assistance from the Insieme fund. The purposes of this Project were, in the beginning, to develop the skills and self-esteem of the women of the neighborhood, the children and teenagers, mainly recovering the humanization of relationships where precariousness and poverty had taken away dignity and the right to dream of a new future. Our presence with these young people seeks to give them a new perspective because they are exposed to threats of drugs, prostitution and other vulnerabilities.



In the weekly meetings we guide people in human formation and we develop some handicraft workshops; with the children we have a playroom suitable for them, and this work is made possible by the union of several forces: from Ursuline sisters with the desire to transform, from the Christian Laborer Circle with the offer of the space, from volunteer lay women and artisans with their generosity and work, from our Institute with



the efforts and financial help to realize this kindness where we are. In this way, through art and togetherness, we develop the aspect of beauty by recognizing the beauty of the people and the beauty of what they produce, and we keep the flame of hope alive so that they can build a future different from that of their parents.



The political dimension integrates all our actions and becomes indispensable, especially in the political context of Brazil, where conservatism and extremism threatens so many human rights. Therefore, in partnership with the CEB's (basic Christian communities), we seek to encourage lay leaders to participate in this political formation in order to grow with this sense of citizenship, assuring human and political rights by integrating them into an incarnated spirituality. This year a friend named Tiago had a wonderful experience and wanted to share with us the process he went through:



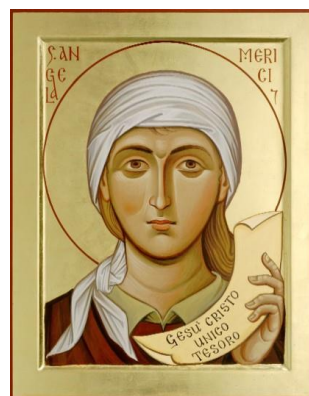
"My name is Tiago, I'm 26 years old and I'm a young son of rural workers. I am engaged in service to our Catholic Church. I have been a choirmaster, catechist, EJC (meeting of young people with Christ) and have done other pastoral work since I was 11 years old. Based on my evangelical principles, by which I seek to care for the poorest and fight against inequalities and all other types of violence, I began to look with some criticism at the positions of representatives of our Church to-

wards state programs for the care of basic goods for the most needy. Gradually I took a distance because I understood that the Gospel asked me for something else. And, on the point of leaving the Church, it was Sisters Gabriela and Veluzia who showed me and led me to Catholic movements that are aligned with this need for living that I had missed. They introduced me to the basic ecclesial communities. I am immensely happy to be able to live my Christian spirituality and Marian devotion in a complete way, with my whole self, feeling welcomed and encouraged to spread the love of Christ."

wards state programs for the care of basic goods for the most needy. Gradually I took a distance because I understood that the Gospel asked me for something else. And, on the point of leaving the Church, it was Sisters Gabriela and Veluzia who showed me and led me to Catholic movements that are aligned with this need for living that I had missed. They introduced me to the basic ecclesial communities. I am immensely happy to be able to live my Christian spirituality and Marian devotion in a complete way, with my whole self, feeling welcomed and encouraged to spread the love of Christ."



Sr. Gabriela Andrade OSU



St. Angela be with us and pray for us

Happy feast of St. Angela

27 January

USA CENTRAL

URSULINE OF DALLAS IS MAKING THE MOST OF THE "SEASON OF CREATION."



Maluza Escamilla's Spanish V Class at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, TX, recently planted a tree in front of the school. The project was in response to Pope Francis' call to take care of Mother Earth and be environmental stewards. Students reflected about the experience in essays they wrote in Spanish. The strategic imperatives of Ursuline Academy ask us to "demonstrate environmental stewardship".



With Sister Lois's inspiration and guidance, the Spanish V class "event" was registered on the website. All students wrote a one-page article with pictures and takeaways as part of their assessments. The class also produced a 5 min video of the experience.

Below is a snapshot of the site:

<https://seasonofcreation.org/es/events-es/>



"This project will help to share the message of 'take care of the common home' because we are helping the school's environment," junior Ale Chapa said. "The tree symbolizes what people can do to help the environment." The tree's a Red Bud, so the leaves will turn pink in the spring.

The video with St. Francis song as a background and Spanish subtitles can be watched anywhere with a Microsoft platform with this link:

<http://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e4f2e8bc-ee89-4a91-83fa-27e5a27323d7>

"We said a peace prayer with Sr. Lois (Castillon)," senior Annmarie Melsheimer said. "We also named the tree Paquito in honor of Pope Francis."





The Spanish V is a new class at UA this year and has a particular focus on “serviam” in Spanish. Our very first project was to respond to Pope’s **Francis** call to “be responsible with our mother earth and take care of our common house” by signing UA to be part of the global effort “season of creation” -ending this “season of creation” on Oct. 4 with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

It all started with Sr. Lois’s email sent to all faculty about the international “Season of Creation”, it inspired our class. Students researched the site looking for opportunities for **using different languages**- found suggestions and resources for celebrating the season of creation around the world. The class project chosen was to “plant a tree”. We found these ideas great to incorporate and participating with students’ articles and a video production.

We are very proud to have contributed to this call. We are thankful to Sister Lois, in Dallas and also to Sister Ann Marie from England and Sister Moekti from Indonesia, who from Rome sent the initial invitation to Sr. Lois!

The students who participated in this project were:

Anya Agarwal '19
Ale Chapa '20
Sophia Fernandes '19
Annmarie Melsheimer '19
Monet Stover '19
Natalia Walls '20

Maluza Escamilla



MEXICO

"CHILDREN CRAVE A WORLD OF PEACE"



In the "Union School", PROVINCE OF MEXICO, we help children to grow in a peaceful environment. Our programs include diverse activities designed to work with the entire Educational Community.

Through the continuous practice of values we help children to form their conscience and nurture their hearts. We encourage reflection and we make use of every experience that sensitizes them to the damage caused by aggression and how we ourselves can continually be aggressors. Thus, they themselves have expressed their desire for a world of peace.

One activity, promoted by the government, once a month, is the so-called "Orange Day", whose objective is to train people in gender equality, promote respect for the integrity of women and value their equality in dignity, rights and opportunities. We emphasize the

essence of the Woman of being a gestator of life, tenderness, delicacy and love, among other values, so necessary in our current society. It is precisely this that we try to sow in our students to cultivate their spirit and to help them understand that ALL men and women have in their essence the divine call to be defenders and generators of life.



The school joins different projects promoted by the Ministry of Education such as the project called "Puebla lives" which aims to promote coexistence free of violence.

The "Union School" has joined the Ursuline commitment to JPIC and the call of the Holy Father towards the care of our common home, carrying out, year after year, the "Campaign for the Care of the Environment" with a series of activities that are mentioned below:

Gallery of paintings: Students express their need to rescue our planet and do so through different drawings that invite visitors to raise their awareness.



Playful Recycling: Students and parents were given the task of implementing their creativity by

making toys with waste materials and at the same time achieving a playful space with their children.

Motivating readings: We have shared different readings, to be heard by children and adults, inviting them to care for animals, plants and the environment in general.

Dancing and singing: These have been another form of expression of love and care for our planet.

Staging: The students, through presentations, sensitized the audience to avoid the felling of trees and others.

Parade: The creativity of parents and children was set in motion and original creations were made with recycled materials they had at home.

Collection of materials for recycling: With the collaboration of the parents' committee, the collection of different materials for recycling was carried out.



At "Unión School", we hope that by collaborating with our small grain of sand we contribute to the formation of a better humanity and we will revitalise our planet a little, from such a serious illness.



CROATIA

Ecology has an important place in our educational institutions. It is particularly alive when we celebrate the international Day of the Earth, the Day of Water and all that concerns ecology. Through different activities sisters have encouraged children and grown-

ups to develop an ecological sense of love for nature and environmental protection.

Some of the goals:

- develop eco curiosity and a responsible attitude towards the environment
- encourage admiration and respect for nature
- develop sensitivity to everything that threatens the environment
- enrich knowledge by adopting the concepts of ecology and environmental protection



tection

Children in our kindergartens have made containers of natural materials for different sorts of waste (green for glass, yellow for plastic, blue for paper, red for batteries...). So they learn to recycle and separate the waste.

They tried to make their own recycled paper and they succeeded brilliantly. At the initiative of the children, we added tinsel and drops of fragrant oil, and they all enjoyed the look and smell of their paper.



Save the Earth, ride a



“Save the Earth, ride a bike”. Under this slogan we had several workshops. Children were taught that the bike was the healthiest vehicle. It does not pollute the air!

After the children had heard about the history of the bike, they got to know its parts and then the traffic signs they can come across in traffic. They made their own signs and they drew an imaginary road and then played and practised through the play their behaviour (as a pedestrian or a bike rider) in different situations on the road. Riding a bicycle does not pollute the environment; we keep our health and the health of our Earth.



Sr. Jasminka Pomper OSU



FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN

**BEAUGENCY:
THE PARISH PRESBYTERY AS A
PLACE OF WELCOME**

The Association Oasis du Val, in link with JRS Welcome « Jesuits Refugee Service » for welcoming migrants, was begun at Christmas 2016, to welcome refugees, migrants and those in urgent need to a place to stay.



Our Community actively supported this project and we are close to those responsible for it;

we contribute through sharing food and helping with planning.

Christians, Muslims and non-believers took the step of deciding to found it together. Bishop Jacques Blaquart, Bishop of Orléans, and Mr. David Faucon, Mayor of Beaugency, welcomed this initiative.

Since the Communities of our Province of France/Belgium/Spain have chosen to pool their investments, it has been possible to support the Association Oasis du Val financially; this fund has recently enabled Mr R. to pursue legal proceedings to accompany his disabled son in France. After 2 years, Mr. R. found work, a home; He willingly shares with us his faith and his Hope.

Facilitating the living together of people of different cultures is one of the challenges that the members of the Association experience on a daily basis. Participation in events organized in the garden of the "presbytery", such as Neighbors' Day, allows each one to share their gifts.

The experience of Sister Marie Béatrice with her 36 years in Senegal and Cameroon has often been a great help both in support in French and in relationships with the people welcomed.

This approach is a symbol that together things are possible.



Sr Marie-Odilia Jaugey OSU



SLOVENIA

At a Caritas day centre for homeless people, we decided to produce things with the visitors of the centre, in order to sell these things during Advent at the market place in Klagenfurt.

So volunteers, homeless people and employees were busy from autumn onwards making jams, candles, knitwear, ashtrays, syrups, teas and various other products.



From the first week of Advent, we went every Thursday at 6.00am to the market. In addition to the sale, we also had a lot of fun and we had the impression that we also lightened the mood of the other market vendors with our joy and laughter. We found it a good opportunity to work together and thus to strengthen our community.

With the proceeds we would like to organize a trip together ...

Sr. Grete Traussnig OSU



24 January International Day of Education



<https://en.unesco.org/news/general-assembly-proclaims-24-january-international-day-education>

TAIWAN

"WENZAO ESTABLISHED ANGELA SHARING CENTER TO SHARE LOVE AND CARE"



Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, the only university devoted to language education in Taiwan, has 52 years of history and more than 9000 students on campus. This semester has seen the birth of a center, full of warmth and solicitude—The Angela Sharing Center.

This is in response to a society where there is too much waste of resources, too big a gap between rich and poor and too much lack of concern, so we wish to encourage sharing instead of donations, generosity instead of self-sufficiency, and cherishing of property instead of consumption.

We share food, daily necessities, service and spirit. The whole school, teachers and students, enjoy being volunteers in the Center.



There are missions and activities like the Ursuline Exhibition to allow teachers and students to understand the Ursuline spirit.



Happiness Sharing: We cooperate with outside social service groups, teachers, students and alumnae, to offer bread and daily necessities to needy students. We also collect sharing from the campus to help those in need from outside



In addition we have an NPO Charity Sale to help Disabled Foundations to sell their products. There is a big Volunteer Group of teachers and students. They clean the Center and its goods, make hand-made articles and take care of visitors.

We also provide a Word Lottery for visitors. They can pick out a word when they come and we hope the word will help them to know more about the Bible.

There is a prayer tree in the Center; everyone may write their prayer on a leaf. We hope that prayer will become an important element in the Center and the visitors' minds.

In the Angela Sharing Center we practice the love of Jesus and Pope Francis' desire to care

for the weak brothers and sisters and pay attention to environmental issues.



Through the bright sparks of The Angela Sharing Center we transfer the love of Jesus throughout the campus so Wenzao may become an image of heaven.



Sr. Hsu, Ya-Mei OSU



**DO YOU
REMEMBER?**

8 March –International Women’s Day

**GETTING TO
EQUAL**
International Women’s Day 2019

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/10/announcer-iwd-2019-theme>



Please ensure that for any photos you send in for the JPIC Newsletter, and for any other publication from the Generalate, you have permission from the persons concerned to put them in the public domain.

Thank you!

Thank you very much
for your contributions!

We are looking forward to hearing from you for the next edition of JPIC Newsletter. Please send your contribution to your JPIC Promoter.

