

Familia Comboniana

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COMBONI MISSIONARIES OF THE EHART OF JESUS

800

October 2021

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Journeys by the General Council

Fr. Tesfaye Tadesse

9-10 October: Roma (to participate in Synod events)

11-19 October: DSP (Centenary of the arrival of the Comboni Missionaries in Elwangen)

Fr. Jeremias dos Santos Martins

1-11 October: Kenya (Apdesam Ascaf meeting)

22 October- 8 November: Portugal

Fr. Pietro Ciuciulla

5-11 October: Kenya (Apdesam meeting-Comboni Study House)

31 October-7 November: Chad (ASCAF Chapter delegates)

Fr. Alcides Costa

6-14 November: Mexico (meeting of America and Asia Chapter delegates)

Bro. Alberto Lamana

8-19 October: DSP (Centenary of the arrival of the Comboni Missionaries in Ellwangen)

Perpetual professions

Sc. Felizardo J. J. Ntsicuzacuenda (MO) Nampula (MO) 11.09.2021

Sc. Elias Samuel Elias (MO) Nampula (MO) 11.09.2021

Sc. Sirak Medhanie Ghebrenigus (ER) Asmara (ER) 18.09.2021

Sc. Mina Albeer Tawfik (EGSD)	Cairo (EGSD)	14.09.2021
Sc. José Jeremias Salvador (MO)	Cairo (EGSD)	14.09.2021

Ordinations to the priesthood

Fr. Alionzi Ronald (RSA)	Ombaci (UG)	04.09.2021
--------------------------	-------------	------------

Holy Redeemer Guild

October	01 – 07 RCA	08 – 15 TCH	16 – 31 RSA
November	01 – 15 SS	16 – 30 T	

Prayer intentions

October – Together with all the missionaries of the world, we thank the Lord for the opportunities he gives us of serving the neediest and we pray that we may always be able to do it with love. *Lord hear us.*

November – That God may welcome into his peace all who have died due to the pandemic and console their relatives and all who mourn them. *Lord hear us.*

CURIA

Campaign for disinvestment in the mining industry

On 10 September, at the Generalate in Rome, a meeting was held to reflect on the campaign for disinvestment in the mining industry being conducted by the ecumenical movement “The church and the Mining Industry”, also taking into account what we are reminded of by the Final Document of the Amazonia Synod: “It is necessary to seek alternative economic models that are more sustainable and more nature-friendly With a sound spiritual basis”.

The moderator of the meeting was Guilherme Cavalli, the contact person in Europe of this campaign which is an appeal to all ecclesiastical institutions to review their financial investments in relation to the multinationals involved in the mining of minerals which causes enormous environmental damage and endangers the lives of the local populations.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that the ecological and social crises are closely connected. This is particularly true in mining activities: the large corporations enrich themselves at the cost of the sufferings of the weakest while many

populations live in contaminated locations or are forced to seek other places to live.

EGSD

Celebration of perpetual vows

On 14 September, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the Egypt-Sudan province witnessed the perpetual vows of two of its members: the Sc. Mina Albeer Tawfik who completed his theological studies in Nairobi, Kenya, and then returned to Egypt, his native country, to receive his first missionary mandate, and the Sc. José Jeremias Salvador, a Mozambican who completed his theological studies in Cape Coast, Ghana, and was assigned to this province to study the Arabic language and Islamology.

The celebration took place at the shrine of Cordi Jesu, founded by St Daniel Comboni, though the present structure is an enlarged version of the original one. The shrine was the first to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart on the African continent and the celebration was held there especially to remember the love of God for his people which every missionary is called to incarnate by his work.

Neither was it by chance that it was celebrated on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Cross was point of reflection and inspiration for St Daniel Comboni. On 12 May 1875, he wrote to Cardinal Alessandro Franchi: "That all the works of salvation are born and grow at the foot of the Cross is a fact proved by the constant experience of nineteen centuries". Our world of today is also experiencing the Cross in the many forms that constitute the crosses that each one of us must bear. The words of St Daniel Comboni inspire us when – in the same letter – he writes that "the divine Heart of Jesus will, in his infinite goodness and mercy, put right everything that has gone wrong, just as He, by His grace, has always guided and will continue to guide the Holy Work".

This deep experience of Comboni leads the works of salvation born at the foot of the Cross to converge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus which puts all things right. It is in the light of these two faces of the same coin that we may better understand the lifelong commitment of these two confreres of ours.

The celebration was attended by most of the Combonis in Egypt and some priest friends. The vows were received by Fr. Richard Kyankaaga, representing the Provincial Superior. A number of family members and friends of the two scholastics were also present. With unforgettable joy, the Institute in general and the province in particular raised their thanksgiving to God for the gift of these vocations. With gratitude to God, we ask Him to continue to guide those who have embarked upon this arduous undertaking so that they may definitively follow Christ as Comboni did and that He may inspire many more to commit themselves to the sequela along the way of the Comboni charism. May our Founder, the great missionary of Africa, intercede for us and keep us united as one in the Comboni Family.

60th anniversary of priestly ordination

The month of September has been a month of countless blessings for the province of Egypt-Sudan. On 8 September 2021, Fr. Giuseppe Benito Cruciani, the oldest member of our province, celebrated his sixty years of priesthood. The main celebration took place on 12 September at Aswan where Fr. Benito is living. Among those attending were Catholic-Coptic priests, our confreres, the Comboni Sisters and a large number of the faithful. A few days earlier, a celebration had been held at Luxor together with the clergy of the diocese and Bishop Emmanuel Bihoy. On 19 September, the celebration was held at the parish of Zamalek, in Cairo, with the participation of confreres, Comboni Sisters and many friends. For the occasion, the main celebrant was the Apostolic Nuncio to Egypt and the Arab League. During the same celebration, the Sc. José Jeremias Salvador was ordained deacon.

Fr Benito was ordained in 1961 and then worked in Italy for eight years; he was then sent to Khartoum, Sudan, where he remained until 1991. From that time on, he remained in Egypt where he worked in almost all the communities. He was, therefore, in Africa for 52 years without interruption.

There were 25 confreres in his class of 1961, ten of whom are still in active ministry. Unfortunately, it was not possible for them to meet and celebrate their ordination anniversary together due to the measures required by the pandemic.

We wish Fr Benito and all those of his year a fruitful anniversary and plentiful blessings from God so that they may continue to serve Him and the mission with undiminished zeal and fidelity, as ministers of the riches of the love of God and of faith.

Provincial Assembly

The provincial assembly in preparation for the Chapter for the area of Sudan has been held in Bahri. In the province of EGSD, the two areas hold their assemblies separately. The meeting, which was held from 10 to 12 August at the provincial house, concentrated on three themes: the situation of the communities, especially as regards the challenges posed by the pandemic; preparation for the XIX General Chapter, following the outline of the questionnaire proposed by the preparatory commission in Rome; a review of what was implemented by the six-year plan. It was expected that Father General, Fr. Tesfaye Tadesse, would attend but, unfortunately, he had to wait longer than was foreseen for his visa (which was actually granted a few weeks later).

In conclusion, the assembly formulated some recommendations for the future discernment of the province, especially with reference to five guidelines: sustainability, the requalification of our houses, vocations promotion, the formation of the local clergy, opening the task of teaching at CCK to other Institutes.

Visit of the Superior General to Sudan

The Superior General, Fr. Tesfaye Tadesse, came to visit Sudan from 21 August to 11 September. He thus completed his visit to the province which he commenced in October last year with his visit to Cairo.

During the first week Fr. Tesfaye preached a course of spiritual exercises for some confreres and other religious. He afterwards visited the communities of Masalma, Comboni College, Kosti, El Obeid and Port Sudan, staying for at least two days in each community. The visit was for him a return to his first mission where many Christians still remember him, despite the passing of a score of years since he left Sudan (which he visited in 2010 as Assistant General).

At the end of the visit, during which he had a meeting with some of the bishops of Sudan and a day retreat with the Comboni Sisters at Villa Gilda, Fr. Tesfaye met with the Provincial Council.

Before leaving for Rome, he shared his observations with the conferees present in Khartoum. His encouragement of the confreres was very much appreciated by those who have had the good fortune to lie and work there where Comboni died and the Institute was born, a land where challenges are still encountered. The confreres of the area have expressed their deep appreciation for Fr. Tesfaye's visit. The Sudan bade him goodbye with a warm "*arrivederci!*". (Fr. Richard Kyankaaga, *mccj*)

Inauguration of the new CIEC headquarters

The Comboni Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (CIEC), now officially registered as the C-Hub Limited Company by Guarantee, the property of Comboni College of Science and Technology (CCST) and Comboni College Khartoum (CCK), on Saturday 28 August inaugurated the extension of its headquarters. The extension includes another floor with a space for co-working, three offices, a kitchen and a veranda. The enlargement was made possible by the support of the Ballano family of Bilbao (Spain) and the Comboni Missionaries in Spain.

The event was honoured by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to Sudan, the Italian Ambassador, the Vice Head of Mission of the Spanish Embassy, the Provincial Superior of the Comboni Missionaries in Egypt and Sudan, the Head of CSI Human Resources of the Haggar Holding Company, the Marketing and Commerce Executive of the Indian Embassy in Sudan, the Commissioner for Cultural Heritage of the African Union, the Architects, the Headmistress of the Sisters School of Khartoum, the Technical Consultant of the German Company for international cooperation (GTZ), representatives of the UNEP and the Ministry of Transport and some members of the staff of the CCST.

The Secretary of the Administration explained the reasons why the College created the Start-up incubator, its adherence to the concept of social entrepreneurship and its mission to promote a type of integral ecology that includes environmental, economic, social, cultural and daily life (human ecology), dimensions of human development in that they are closely interconnected and centred

upon the human person. This mission is achieved by supporting the creation of micro-businesses by young entrepreneurs with the aim of promoting sustainable and communitarian development and also social inclusion.

The director of C-Hub conducted the event and presented the members of the staff and the methodology of the work. The team leader presented the ongoing projects and others being prepared by the C-Hub.

Concluding the event, the diplomatic representatives of Spain and Italy unveiled a commemorative plaque as an expression of gratitude to Carmen and José María Ballano who made this project possible.

ERITREA

Perpetual profession and diaconate

On 18 September 2021, the scholastic Sirak Medhanie pronounced his perpetual profession in the Comboni chapel at the Delegation house in Asmara. Fr. Habtu Teklay, Superior Delegate, presided at the Eucharistic celebration at which Sirak's parents were present along with all the confreres of the delegation, the students, the Comboni Missionary Sisters and other religious. Fr. Habtu emphasised the meaning of consecrated life: Sirak consecrated his life as an offering to God and the missions, like the poor woman in the Gospel who gave all she had.

After the Eucharist, the Combonis and Sirak's family shared a fraternal meal.

The following day, Sunday 19 September, Sirak was ordained deacon by our confrere Mons. Mengheseab Tesfamariam, Archbishop of Asmara, at the parish of Kidane Mehret Sembel where our scholasticate is located and where Sirak worked among the youth for the previous three years.

Fr. Habtu thanked the parents of Sirak for encouraging him in his vocation and the confreres who accompanied him in his formative journey from the moment he entered the minor seminary in 2009. The parents are Orthodox Christians: his father encouraged him and exhorted him to be faithful to the call he received from God and said he looked forward to his priestly ordination.

In his homily, the Archbishop reminded the faithful present to be supportive towards their servants in the Church. He then thanked Sirak's parents and the Comboni Family. (*Fr. Habtu Teklay mccj*)

ITALIA

ACSE: the resumption of activities

Acse, the Comboni Association for the Service of Emigrants and refugees (which, in the category of Roma Accoglie Bene, won the V edition of the Roma Bpa Prize – best practices award) is resuming all its activities in Rome even though some of them will be rather limited. As indicated on the website, those availing of ACSE services need to have been vaccinated. The course of Italian, English Informatics and the personally attended workshops for dressmaking are only for those vaccinated. For the non-vaccinated and other cases, details are available online.

On Sunday 26 September, World day for Migrants and refugees, we gathered in St Peter's Square to convey our voice of our greetings to the Holy Father. Our migrant friends were present with the flags of their various countries.

For the Feast of St Daniel Comboni, as usual, a Mass will be celebrated at the ACSE headquarters (Saturday 9 October), followed by a small agape, as an occasion to meet again and renew our relations.

We renew our thanks to all those who give of their time and energy in the various activities of the Association. (*Fr. Venanzio Milani, mccj*)

MOÇAMBIQUE

Perpetual profession and ordination to the diaconate

On 11 September, the Mozambican scholastics Felizardo João Jone Ntsicuzacuenda and Elias Samuel Elias gave their lives to God and to the service of the mission by professing perpetual vows in the Comboni Institute. The provincial superior Fr. António Manuel Bogaio Constantino received their vows and presided at the

Eucharistic celebration in the chapel of the Comboni pre-postulancy in Nampula.

Even though the gesture was simple and celebrated with just a few people due to the pandemic, there were moments of profound spiritual and missionary interior life, especially when the two young men expressed their desire to follow Christ and serve the Church according to the charism of St Daniel Comboni.

The following day, 12 September, Felizardo and Elias were ordained deacons at the hands of the Archbishop of Nampula, Mons. Inácio Saure, a Mozambican Consolata missionary. The ceremony was held in the open air, in the atrium of the Nampula novitiate. Besides some Comboni confreres and Sisters, several family members and friends of the two young men were present. The Eucharistic celebration was enlivened by the choir of the parish of Santa Cruz and the friends of the Comboni community.

In his homily, Mons. Inácio emphasised that a deacon must place himself at the service of the Word and of the most forgotten of society, the poor and must follow Christ without aspiring to have a career and without seeking privileges. During the celebration, there were moments of great joy and gratitude to God for having granted the grace of these two young deacons.

As on the previous day, the ceremony was followed by a fraternal meal and a brief moment of conviviality between those attending.

PORTUGAL

Fr. Carlos Bascarán honoured by the Futebol Clube Maia

A group of people connected to the old football team of the Futebol Clube met on the afternoon of 22 September at the Comboni Seminary in Maia, Portugal, to honour Fr. Carlos Bascarán on the first anniversary of his death. Fr. Carlos played for Maia Futebol Clube during the period when he was studying Theology at Oporto and was a prefect at the Seminary from 1966 to 1970.

The Spanish Comboni Missionary was a native of Oviedo and fell victim to the Covid-19 on 22 September 2020, at Santa Rita, in the state of Paraíba, in North East Brazil. He was 79 years old and spent most of his life in that country. Fr. Joaquim Fonseca – a companion of Fr. Carlos in the community and as a virus patient –

preside at the Eucharist and, in his homily, remembered the missionary and the work he did: “He was a priest who was good at football and at saying Mass”, he said, repeating the headline of an article by Rede Globo on the presence of Fr. Carlos on the team of the Ferrovie di João Neiva. Also present at the celebration were Fra José António Fonseca Santos, a Capuchin friar from Amial, Oporto, a team-mate of Fr. Carlos.

After the Eucharistic celebration, the group commemorated the former footballer with a simple ceremony: an olive tree was planted and a commemorative plaque was unveiled in the space close to the seminary football pitch with the inscription: “A priest footballer of F. C. Maia, Carlos Bascarán Collantes (1941-2020), a friend whose memory the fans keep in their hearts”.

During the commemoration, there was the presentation of the “Projeto Legal” (<http://projetolegal.org.br/>), one of the social works dearest to Fr. Carlos. Since April 2014, the Project has taken care of more than 160 street children of Marcos Moura, in the Commune of Santa Rita, providing them with food and education.

Fr. Carlos, besides being an excellent footballer, was also a skilled musician. He would use the ball and music as a missionary way of being with his people. A humble and cheerful man with a long white beard, he abandoned his sandals only when he put on his football boots.

He was studying chemistry at Oviedo University when he chose the Comboni missionary life which he pursued in Portugal, Spain and most of all in Brazil.

TOGO

Silver Jubilee

From 14 September 1996 to 14 September 2021: 25 years as an ordained priest for Fr. Justin Dosso-Yovo which the province of Togo-Ghana-Benin celebrate joyfully with a Mass celebrated at the provincial house.

Due to the worldwide pandemic, only the confreres from Togo attended, together with some lay-people friends of Fr. Justin who presided at the celebration expressing his joy and his pride as a Comboni missionary. Right from the start and throughout his

missionary life, Fr. Justin felt that the influence of some Combonis was very important, especially that of some confreres such as Fr. Bruno Gilli who, on that same day, 14 September, was celebrating his birthday and whom Fr. Justin mentioned several times, underlining the great contribution he gave to his formation and his missionary life.

While thanking the confreres and the provincial, Fr. Justin recounted the many difficulties he had to face during those 25 years of missionary and priestly life saying: "I reached the conclusion that Jesus is the centre of everything. I feel I am very much a Comboni". Speaking at the end of the Mass, the provincial superior Fr. Timothée Hounaké emphasised that the meaning of the priestly life is the giving of oneself: "Like Jesus, we are called to become Eucharist, a gift for others". The ceremony was followed by a fraternal agape.

IN PACE CHRISTI

Fr. Gianluigi Pitton (27.02.1943 – 18.05.2021)

Fr. Gianluigi Pitton was born at Barco di Pravisdomini (PN) on 27 February 1943. He pursued the course of priestly formation in the diocese of Concordia-Pordenone and was ordained a diocesan priest in 1968. He served the Christian communities as chaplain of Roveredo in Piano, Fossalta di Portogruaro and as parish priest for some years at Vacile di Spilimbergo. It was during that period that he asked to become a Comboni missionary.

He entered the Venegono novitiate in 1989 taking temporary vows on 18 May 1991 and perpetual vows on 15 March 1995.

In 1991, he was assigned to the province of Malawi-Zambia where he remained for eight years. In 1999, he moved to Uganda where he remained until 2006.

In that same year, he returned to Italy and did a Sabbatical year which included the Renewal Course. He was then assigned as superior of the community of Cordenons until 2011.

"I have a very positive impression and memory of Fr. Gianni (as he was known to his friends and in community)", writes Fr. Benito Buzzacarin in his testimony. "I had never known or seen him before I

was assigned to the Cordenons community after returning from Sudan. I was immediately struck by his modesty, his habit of expressing himself with few words always speaking in a low, almost imperceptible tone. He was the superior of the community and, the following year, before returning to Uganda, he would pass on to me that little-desired duty of guiding it. He had a remarkable way of approaching others: he was always respectful and almost afraid of being seen as giving directives or orders as required by his post as superior.

In Uganda, he carried out his beloved mission in a fruitful way. A visible sign of this empathy of his with the Church in Uganda was the series of booklets he wrote describing small matters of daily life in which the protagonists are always the little ones (whom he held in a unique affection), the disadvantaged and the poor”.

In 2012, Fr. Gianni again left for Uganda, assigned to the parish of Rushere. There, too, he lived his apostolate and ministry with great intensity. He was always very attentive to the most vulnerable and needy people such as prisoners, street children, the women and young people to whom he often willingly provided scholarships so that they could attend school. Some diocesan priests with whom he had remained friends went to visit him and so came to appreciate his missionary work to which they then contributed most generously. Having returned to Italy early in 2021, he went to the community of Padua for a period of quarantine while waiting to be assigned to a community. However, while visiting a diocesan priest friend in Pordenone, he fell ill during the night and had a heart attack. He died on 18 May 2021. His funeral took place at the church of San Pietro Sclavons in Cordenons, in the presence of Mons. Giuseppe Pellegrini, Bishop of Concordia-Pordenone, 45 concelebrating priests and Fr. Fabio Baldan, provincial of Italy.

Fr. Buzzacarin again writes: “We Combonis – and I say this with deep conviction – owe him a debt of gratitude, not for his ‘exploits’ (which he instinctively avoided) in some sector of the missionary life, but for his Christian and priestly witness”.

Fr. Lorenzo Caravello (28.12.1935 – 13.07.2021)

Fr. Lorenzo was born on 28 December 1935, at Padua (Italy) and was already grown up when he entered the Institute after gaining a

diploma in accounting and administrative sciences. He did the novitiate in Florence where he took first vows on 9 September 1961. He then went to Venegono scholasticate. He pronounced final vows on 9 September 1963 and was ordained priest on 28 June 1964. A year later, in July 1965, he was sent to the Comboni missions in Burundi where he stayed for ten years, first at the parish of Cibitoke (Bujumbura). In a letter to his parents dated March 1968, we read: "Here, everything is going well as usual; one works and one is happy ... we are finishing the famous building for the catechumens (5 fine big rooms). Next month we shall commence teaching religion as well as reading and writing. I will probably go to start a new mission, that of Kabulantwa (in practical terms, the present mission of Cibitoke is to be divided in two, creating a daughter mission) ... and I know the beginning will difficult; however, no matter; all for the Kingdom and the glory of Jesus Christ".

Having been expelled from Burundi in 1975, he went with Mons. Bartolucci to the Vicariate of Esmeraldas, in Ecuador, and remained there for the rest of his life except for a brief period in Peru as socius of novice master at Huanuco novitiate.

In the Vicariate of Esmeraldas, Fr. Lorenzo rendered untiring service to the people including that of official exorcist of the vicariate. The poor were his missionary *raison d'être*: it was to them that he devoted his attention, his prayers and his unreserved assistance.

He was also a great animator of community events: he always took an active part in community meetings, being involved in the planning decisions and evaluation of the life of the community and of the parish. He enjoyed the esteem of all the parish groups, especially those he accompanied personally. Fr. Seraphin Kakwata could write in his testimony: "I had the honour of giving Fr. Lorenzo the Holy Anointing and blessing" and of being with him right to the end together with the provincial superior Fr. Ottorino Poletto.

The Sc. Larzon Alexander Angulo Burbano, who had known Fr. Lorenzo since 2008 when he was parish priest of "El Carmen", at Manabí, describing the ten years of friendship and the many lessons he had learned from Fr. Lorenzo, recalls that, one day, after praying Vespers and the Rosary, he asked him how long it took to become a saint: "Even just a minute, depending on how much you love", was the reply and Larzon never forgot it.

“Fr. Lorenzo was a simple and charismatic person with his feet firmly on the ground and his eyes fixed on heaven, one who radiated joy, the result of the deep Eucharistic and Marian spirituality he lived in daily life”. These are the words of Fr. Sergio Ivan Paucar from whose testimony we draw the following remarks.

When he spoke about his missionary life in Burundi, he used to make the young novices fall in love with the ad gentes mission of the Church. After his African experience, Ecuador welcomed him with open arms for the rest of his life. He gave himself completely to the service of the people, even during the pandemic. At the Sanctuary of the Merced, where he served until the end of his life, he was always to be seen in the confessional or outside listening and speaking to all those who turned to him in their thirst for God: lay people, priests and religious.

During the entire period he spent in Latin America, he exercised the ministry of exorcist in which he could feel with his hands the suffering of the people. He loved to share these experiences with his fellow priests so they could assist him with their prayers.

His humility made him careful despite the praise and wonder of the people and it was wonderful to hear him speak of spiritual matters as he did so in such a simple way that everyone could understand.

Fr Lorenzo died on 13 July 2021. With great sorrow and despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the people of Esmeraldas, for whom he had lived in his later years, gathered to say their farewells to one who was a father, brother and a son of Saint Daniel Comboni, from whom they had received so much.

Fr. Alfred Putz (07.12.1938 – 09.09.2021)

Alfred was born on 7 December 1938 at Koglhof, close to Birkfeld, in eastern Styria. He was one of the first boys who, in 1950, after the war and the occupation of the house, to be admitted to the seminary of Unterpremstätten, near Graz. He was also among the first Austrian candidates to enter the Bamberg novitiate, having completed secondary school, in 1958. In September 1959, the new novitiate at Mellatz was opened and inaugurated. A few months earlier, the novices of Bamberg had already moved to the new house. They took their first vows on 29 September 1959 and immediately returned to Bamberg to start their studies at the

theological faculty. On 15 February 1964, Alfred consecrated himself to God and the mission, taking perpetual vows. On 5 July 1964, he was ordained priest at Graz.

His desire to leave for the missions was immediately granted and he was assigned to Peru. He began his missionary work in the parish of San Pedro, at Huanuco, where he later became parish priest. The parish had many villages in the mountains. With particular love and care, he accompanied the Legio Mariae and its apostolate.

In 1971, he was recalled to the province and assigned to the community of Unterpremstätten, to work in Missionary Animation, the distribution of the magazine *Work of the Holy Redeemer* and accompanying benefactors and friends.

During that period, he collaborated with Fr. Alfred in the Aktion Missio project. Together with other missionaries, we visited the deaneries, parishes and schools of Styria, celebrating missionary Masses and seeking to promote the new vision of world mission according to the Second Vatican Council. We organised conferences, retreats for the youth and round table conferences with the aim of kindling the missionary spirit in the Church of Styria, something which is still today our special mission.

When our seminary in Unterpremstätten was sold, Fr. Alfred was entrusted with the task of accompanying the construction of the new seminary in Messendorf, in the outskirts of Graz.

Under his guidance and initiative, a lively missionary parish grew up (part of the house was let to the diocesan missionary centre), with youth groups and lively and well-participated liturgical celebrations. The foundations of the life of the parish life of Messendorf, in constant development, were laid by Fr. Alfred. Both the parish and the house at Messendorf owe to him their present shape and their fame. With his calm, well-balanced and, at the same time authoritative manner, he succeeded in carrying out a great work.

A new type of mission faced Fr. Alfred when he was again assigned to the province of Peru in 1990, this time to Arequipa, the second-largest city of the country. There he worked firstly at the parish of "Espíritu Santo", in the district of Alto Selva Alegre. In 1994, he was given the new parish of "El Buen Pastor", in the far outskirts of the city. This move to the outskirts proved to be a great challenge for the new parish priest. As well as a house for the community, a new chapel and a new parish hall had to be built. Fr. Alfred took up this

new task with dedication and commitment, winning the hearts of the people.

Fr. Alfred was always open to new pastoral developments. In those days, many Peruvian parishes introduced *the new image of the parish*, the so-called NIP. Fr. Alfred devoted all his energy to this new sort of pastoral.

In 1997, he returned for good to the DSP and, up to his demise, he worked with love and commitment in his beloved Styria.

Besides his duties in the community and in pastoral work, he was also involved in the province as a member of the Provincial Council and the secretariat for evangelisation and in administration. More than once he showed he was a conscientious bursar and a prudent community superior.

About a year ago, he was diagnosed with very malignant cancer. He lived this period conscientiously and peacefully, in his own community and supported by his confreres and many friends. He was happy and grateful to be able to spend the final months of his life in his community and not in a hospice. He died on 9 September 2021, at Graz-Messendorf. (*Fr. Alois Eder, mccj*)

LET US PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD NOSTRI DEFUNTI

THE MOTHERS: Lia, of Bro. Alberto Parise (C); Geltrude, of Fr. Giulio Albanese (C); Ivona Nalongo, of Fr. Richard Kyankaaga (EGSD).

THE BROTHERS: Dennis, of Fr. Michael Donald Barton (SS); Primo, of Fr. Enzo Bellucco (CN); Luis Gonzaga, of Fr. Armindo Silva Dinis (P).

THE SISTERS: Egle, of Fr. Francesco Pierli (I); Negist, of Fr. Sebhatleab Ayele Tesemma (ET).

THE COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS: Sr. M. Guglielmina Ravasio, Sr. María del Pilar Díez Saenz, Sr. M. Francesca Mazzocchi.