



THE PEOPLE IN HER HEART

Returning to Rome from her trips abroad, Maestra Thecla spoke enthusiastically about the customs, climate and natural beauty of the countries she visited, but at the same time she always underscored the sufferings and moral miseries of the people. "If only those multitudes of people could know the Lord!" she exclaimed.

Aware that indigenous Daughters of St. Paul could approach their own people more effectively, she encouraged the sisters to work hard for vocations. "Let us always be generous," she urged them. "In this way the Lord will send us vocations because there is so much good to be done in the world."

Her presence, her illuminating words and above all her profoundly missionary heart had the power to infuse the sisters with the joy and courage they needed to make sacrifices in view of a heavenly reward.

She took a special interest in *Così*, a weekly magazine for young women published by the Daughters of St. Paul to combat the spread of pornographic reading. She told the periodical's editorial staff: "Make sure this magazine is beautiful! It should be so appealing to young women that they will abandon the empty magazines they are reading. *Così* should provide them with the formation they need to become good wives and mothers. Society today needs people who are Christians through and through." And she sought to help the small editorial team in every way possible, even going so far as to put at its disposition a variety of gifts that could be used as prizes for various contests sponsored by the magazine, or as awards for its most faithful subscribers. She was always delighted to receive a copy of each new issue when it rolled off the press.

As far as apostolic activities were concerned, her word was final. When the sisters would consult her about financial problems linked to

various projects, she would say: "If the initiative does good, then go ahead. As for the [economic aspect], don't get agitated. If we have faith, divine Providence will help us. Our first goal in the apostolate is not profit but to do good to people."

Prima Maestra was always ready to use the most up-to-date instruments for the apostolate, even if these were costly. Sr. Rosaria Visco recounts:

M. Thecla's zeal for the cinema apostolate led her to support the production of a series of short catechetical films. A total of 52 of these were made and then dubbed in various languages. The whole initiative was far from easy but she never lost heart and she strongly urged everyone to persevere. Knowing that Primo Maestro was an ardent advocate of this project, she often said: "If Primo Maestro wants it, then that is a sign that it is the will of God. After all, we are apostles of communication so we must use these means to proclaim Christ to the people!"

We should not forget that although the catechetical films were produced by the Society of St. Paul, M. Thecla did not make distinctions because both Institutes were striving for the same goal.

Sr. Assunta Bassi confirms:

When problems came up in the apostolate, I would often discuss them with M. Thecla and I can say that she was never doubtful or concerned about things that could have been a source of anxiety on the human plane. When considering an initiative or a suggestion, she would always ask me: "Will it do good? Is it what Primo Maestro wants? Is he in agreement with this?" If I could say *yes* to these questions, then she had no doubts at all and would declare: "Then do it! We must do good with the press! We must disseminate the books that do the most good. We must make Jesus Christ known!" These were statements she often repeated.

AN ALL-CONSUMING PASSION: COMMUNICATIONS



The fifth daughter of Celeste and Sabino Duarte, I was born on 18 June 1949 in a little town on the slopes of the Monchique Hills, a very beautiful corner of Portugal. Our family was a big one—seven children, plus many cousins living in the same area. Numerous though we were, my father often said that no child of his would ever lack love and this was true. In fact, our family atmosphere was saturated with affection. Mealtimes were always festive occasions for us. Even though Dad barely knew how to read, he was a born leader and he distributed the family work load very fairly among us.

I attended school only up until the fourth grade because at that time very few children from the rural areas were able to continue their education beyond the elementary level. We were a farm family and life was hard. With great effort, we managed to eke out a bare existence from the land.

The atmosphere at home was rich in faith. My whole family prayed together, especially the rosary, which we recited every day. At the age of seven, I began to attend catechism classes in the parish and I also participated in the Catholic Action movement.

When I was a teenager one of the coordinators of our local CA group said that a girl had to start praying to the Lord 20 years in advance to obtain the grace of having one of her sons become a priest. Since I was already dreaming of getting married one day, I immediately began to pray for that intention. It

never entered my head that God might want *me* for himself!

It wasn't easy for me to understand and accept the Lord's call to the religious life. During a 3-day retreat I made during Lent 1968, I felt his pressing invitation to live in greater intimacy with him. That summer, at a parish-run summer camp, I began to carry out a serious vocational discernment. Luckily suitable accompaniment was provided. Afterward, I returned home and resumed my studies. When I finished school, I left the clean, pure air of the countryside in order to find a job. I sold periodicals at a newsstand in town so as to continue my education, taking a two-year accelerated course that would enable me to earn my high school diploma.

That diploma was my priority and everything else took second place, including my uncertainty about what I wanted to do with my life. I made new friends, became involved in the local Catholic Action group and even got engaged.... But at a certain point I began to experience once again the interior restlessness and dissatisfaction—the sense of incompleteness—that I had felt before and that no person or thing could satisfy. I became convinced that the Lord was calling me to be a missionary. I talked about it with my spiritual director, who said bluntly: “The missionary life—yes, that is good, but in your own surroundings and near your family. You don't have to leave your native land to be a missionary.” However, I wasn't so sure about that. I became more and more certain that I would never be able to devote myself to the domestic life.

The love I felt burning within me could not be limited to a husband and family exclusively. So at the age of 25, after a fierce struggle with myself, I made the decision to give myself to God. It had taken me a long time to reach this point but in compensation I never wavered in the least once my decision was made.

I am very grateful to the Lord for waiting so patiently for me to accept his invitation and even more for his presence in my life. Today I understand more than ever the meaning of the phrase I heard way back at my entrance into the Congregation: *the grace of a vocation*.

Why did I become a Pauline? Out of an all-consuming passion for communications. At the time when I made my decision to become

a religious, I was working as a telephone/telex operator in one of the best hotels in Algarve. I was fascinated by the fact that I could sit in a small room and communicate with the whole world. It was an indescribable emotion—a true passion. I felt as if I had been sent to an immense number of people and that I carried them all within me, and this feeling has never left me.

I entered the Congregation in August 1974 and made the first stage of my formation with two other young women who had entered ahead of me. Because I had been accustomed to an independent lifestyle, it was not easy to learn a new one. A few months later, only two of us candidates were left. I heard the sisters speak about groups of 40, 50, even 80 novices and I was envious because I too wanted to be a part of a large community. After three years of carrying out the propaganda apostolate, my co-novice and I were sent to Brazil and there my dream was realized. For four years, I was part of a large group of FSPs from many different countries: Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Portugal. The experience surpassed my dreams and even today I remember it vividly.

I returned to Portugal in 1983 and immediately ran into a major problem. I discovered that it was necessary to re-adapt myself, almost begin all over again, above all when it came to my new activity: running the circumscription's publishing sector.

The Daughters of St. Paul had arrived in Portugal in 1950 and had immediately begun to publish books, some of which were very successful. But they carried out the publishing apostolate sporadically, along with many other apostolic activities, so it moved ahead mainly through the good will of the sisters rather than as a result of apostolic planning. In Brazil, I had been assigned to the publishing department so that I could organize this apostolate in my own circumscription when I returned home.

The period following my re-entry was difficult. I had to take responsibility for projects and contracts; get to know the laws of my country concerning printing and the dissemination of printed material; find authors, translators, collaborators; contact typographies; produce a book catalogue and distribute it.... My "office" was my bedroom, but my dreams went far beyond that small space.

Those dreams finally "flew out my bedroom window" and were realized when a small building on our property consisting of 8 mod-

est rooms was set aside for the publishing apostolate. There was finally enough space for editorial offices, administration work and even a storeroom! At last the sector could expand to welcome its first two collaborators.

That was a beautiful time, characterized by intense passion for the apostolate. Sr. Dulce Tramontina arrived from Brazil to take charge of graphics work and she was soon joined by Sr. Delfina Repetto from Italy. Pauline publishing in Portugal was entering a whole new stage of development, requiring many adaptations. The humble but persevering efforts of our small sector resulted in editions that gained the respect and trust of the public and of local Church officials. As time went by, our publishing projects expanded to include mini-media and a variety of CDs. In planning our initiatives, we allowed ourselves to be guided by the Gospel, the needs of the people and of the Church, and current events, striving to view everything from the pastoral perspective, as our Founder had recommended so strongly.

Over the years, I also carried silently in my heart another dream: to collaborate with our sisters in the missions. I knew for a fact that places we cannot reach personally can be reached through the instruments of communication. My dream was to send books and other material to our sisters in Africa and I never gave up this dream, even though at that time it seemed impossible to realize.

But in 2003, the year in which Fr. Alberione was beatified, this dream too became a reality thanks to the new apostolate building constructed by our circumscription. Today, from this building, we can carry out the Pauline mission not only for the benefit of the people of Portugal but also for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa.

In 2005 we had the great joy of publishing the *African Bible* in Portuguese as a joint project with our sisters of Mozambique and Angola. The introductions to the various books of the Bible and the explanatory notes were taken from the edition published by the FSPs of Nairobi, Kenya.

I am very happy with my life. If I were to go back in time, I would repeat everything I've done up to now—only I would do it better!

I am profoundly grateful to God, to my family and to the Congregation. We truly have an inexhaustible charism!

Sr. Eliete Maria Duarte, fsp

ITALY

UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN US...



The month-long course of spiritual exercises inspired by Fr. James Alberione's spiritual-apostolic experience recorded in the text *Donec Formetur Christus in vobis* opened on 23 October.

The course, which is being held for the 9th consecutive year, offers participants an intense immersion in the "overflowing riches" of the Pauline spirituality. As in previous years, this session too has a strong international flavor since members of the Pauline Family from seven different countries are participating in it, including—for the first time—two Annunciationists.

PLUNGING INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE PAULINE CHARISM



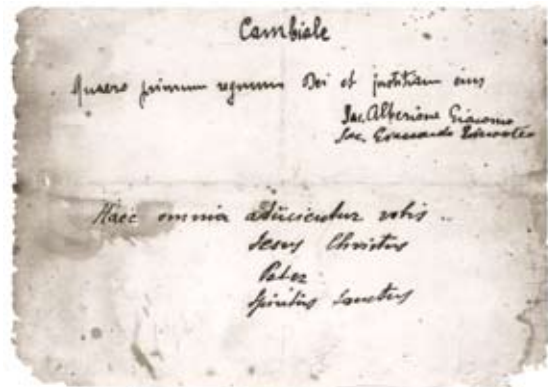
The 2011-2012 course on the Pauline Charism officially began on 27 September in the bedroom of Blessed James Alberione, now preserved as a museum. We hope this new academic year will give its 19 participants the chance to experience for themselves what our Founder felt.

The students, who come from all over the world (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ko-

rea, Philippines, Japan, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Rwanda and the island of Tonga), represent 6 branches of the Pauline Family tree. For the first time, a member of the Jesus the Priest Institute is participating in the course.

A spokesperson for the group testified to everyone's feelings, saying in heartfelt tones: *"We want to live this first year of preparation for our Centenary as a 'favorable time' of grace by striving to get to know our specific charisms and helping one another through mutual acceptance and the sharing of ideas. We truly feel that we are a single Family and it is as the Pauline Family that we want to get to better know our mission and the apostolate the Lord has entrusted to us!"*

A NEW MUSICAL VERSION OF THE PACT FOR THE PAULINE CENTENARY



The new musical version of the *Pact* or *Secret of Success* that the Intercongregational Commission for the Celebrations of the Pauline Family asked Fr. Paolo Lanzoni, ssp, to compose was performed for the first time in honor of the Paulines making their perpetual professions during the Eucharistic Celebration for the Feast of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo. To favor the dissemination and use of the new hymn in all the Institutes of the Pauline Family, its rendition by the Paulus Choir has been posted on the www.alberione.org web site. The lyrics, a revised version of the *Pact*, faithfully preserve the content of this prayer, so dear to the hearts of all Fr. Alberione's sons and daughters. Both words and music are easy to follow and well adapted to assembly usage. The motivation behind this initiative was the desire to contribute to the preparations for the Centenary of the PF by bringing up to date, in a spirit of creative fidelity, a prayer rooted in the beginnings of our Family, presenting its meaning afresh in the context of the Third Millennium.

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

THEME FOR WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2012



Silence and the Word: Path of Evangelization: this is the theme chosen by Benedict XVI for World Communications Day 2012, which most countries celebrate on the Sunday before Pentecost (in 2012, 20 May). Commenting on the Pope's choice of theme, a representative of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications said, "It is clearly the desire of the Holy Father to associate the theme of the next World Communications Day with the celebration of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops which will have as its theme: 'The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.' The extraordinarily varied nature of the contribution of modern communications to society highlights the need for a value which, on first consideration, might seem to stand in contradistinction to it. In the thought of Pope Benedict XVI, silence is not presented simply as an antidote to the constant and unstoppable flow of information that characterizes society today but rather as a factor that is necessary for its integration. Silence, precisely because it favors habits of discernment and reflection, can be seen primarily as a means of welcoming the word."

WORLD MISSION DAY 2011

The month of October, dedicated to the missions, finds its high point in the celebration of World Mission Day, which this year fell on 23 October and revolved around the theme: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn. 20:21). In his message for this day, Pope Benedict XVI reminded everyone that "the universal mission [of the Church] involves everyone, everything and always. The Gospel is not the exclusive possession of those

who have received it. It is a gift to be shared, good news to be passed on to others. And this gift-commitment is entrusted not only to some, but to all the baptized." He then went on to say that evangelization is more than ever urgent in our secularized age, in which many people live as if God did not exist. World Mission Day offers us, as Paulines, a precious opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocation as communicators of the Gospel to the whole world.



THE POPE PROCLAIMS A YEAR OF FAITH



Speaking about his decision to proclaim a "Year of Faith," Pope Benedict XVI said the purpose of the Year is "to give new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead people out of the desert in which they often find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Christ." He also said he would prepare a special Apostolic Letter to illustrate the meaning of this year, which should be celebrated from a missionary aspect: as a year of outreach to the people of our time in the spirit of the new evangelization. The Year will begin on 11 October 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II, and will end on 24 November 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Pope explained that the Year will be "a moment of grace and commitment to a more complete conversion to God, to strengthen our faith in him and to proclaim him with joy to the people of our time. Blessed John Paul II already clearly indicated the new evangelization as an urgent need. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council and in the footsteps of Pope Paul VI, who launched its implementation, John Paul II vigorously supported the Church's mission *ad gentes*, that is to say, to all the peoples and places where the Gospel has not yet put down roots."

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

**2004 NOBEL LAUREATE
WANGARI MAATHAI DIES**



Environmentalist and political activist Wangari Maathai died of cancer on 25 Sept. 2011 at the age of 71. Her death was announced by the Green Belt Movement, the environmentalist organization she founded, which up to now has planted more than 40 million trees in a battle to slow down the deforestation of Africa.

In 2004, Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize—Stockholm’s recognition of her tireless efforts in the areas of sustainable development, nature conservation, defense of the rights of women and children, and insistence on greater transparency in government. In the last years of her life, Maathai dedicated her time and energy to striving to help transform Kenya into a multiethnic, democratic society, for which she was slandered, persecuted, arrested and beaten.

**MIDDLE EAST:
A LIGHT OF HOPE**



Richard Martin, the owner of a British-based design and marketing company, is the founder of *Children of Peace*, a non-partisan, multi-faith, multi-cultural non-

profit organization that focuses on building friendship, trust and reconciliation between Israeli and Palestinian children and their respective communities. The unique feature of the aid agency is that it assists projects for children aged 4-17 in areas such as the arts, health, education and sports, without making any distinctions with regard to nationality, religious affiliation, ethnic group, culture or sex.

The idea behind *Children of Peace* is to offer local communities in Gaza, Israel, Jordan and the West Bank a completely new approach to resolving the area’s many conflicts. Its hope is that if Jewish, Muslim, Bedouin, Christian and Druze children can get to know and interact amicably with one another by studying and playing together in an atmosphere free of distrust, fear and prejudice, then they can help to break the spiral of violence in which the adults of the region are trapped, paving the way for a new era of peaceful and equitable co-existence.

**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED
TO THREE WOMEN**



The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded jointly to three courageous women: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia; Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist, and Tawakkul Karman, a Yemeni human rights activist. Sirleaf is the first woman president of an African country; Gbowee is an activist for peace, and Karman works to defend women’s rights and promote democracy in Yemen, a country which in the last few months has been troubled by serious socio-political conflicts.

The prize was awarded to the three “for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in the peace-building process.”

As Daughters of St. Paul, we rejoice at this recognition of the particular contribution women can make to civil and societal progress in the contemporary world.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN RENEWED!



Here is some information about our website, www.paoline.org, which has been completely renewed graphically and structurally. The site has been redesigned so as to make it easier to navigate, give its various sections greater visibility, offer its visitors updated information and make the latter easier to access.

Greater space has been given to the section "Daughters of St. Paul in the World," which now places at the disposition of navigators an abundance of material concerning the Congregation. In addition, a greater effort has been made to help visitors get to know Sr. Thecla Merlo, Co-Foundress of the FSPs. In view of this, a special "mini-site" has been set up containing documentation (writings, film clips, pictures) that reveal her personality and activities. This material is available in different languages.

Below is a brief rundown of the website's homepage.

The **masthead** displays the areas of service and the navigation instruments (*accessible version, map of the website, feed rss, languages, search engine, reserved area, webmail, newsletter, links*).

The **left column** contains the main navigation menu (*who we are, our locations, the Pauline mission, the Pauline spirituality, General Government, news, prayers, multimedia gallery, documents, events, sites for the week*) and also highlights content useful across the board:

- the data bank of our *international catalogue*
- instant search of the data bank concerning the *FSPs throughout the world* according to websites, communities and vocation ani-

mators (this section and been completely redone graphically and structurally to facilitate the search for and visualization of specific data)

- the *PaolineOnline Information Bulletin* and *our deceased (Called to Eternal Life)*
- the link to the site on the *Centenary* of the Pauline Family

The **center column** offers visitors a new, dynamic space entitled *Today's Focus*, which highlights different categories of material (videos, documents, photos, audio and written texts) drawn from the website itself or from external sources.

This is followed by a *news* section, divided into three subsections:

- *News about the Pauline life*
- *News about the General Government*
- *News Flashes*

Each subsection has its own archive and search engine for advanced searches.

The **right column** offers special interest information:

- the *Thecla Merlo* bannerhead, which gives the navigator access to the new mini-site
- the *MediaCenter*, which contains videos, audio material and pictures
- an area entitled *Sites for the week*, which provides a preview of the homepages of the sites targeted and reference links
- a space containing the latest material from the *Documents* and *Prayers* sections.

The renewed website, which will go online on 26 November, the Feast of Blessed James Alberione, can be accessed via www.paoline.org.

The problems and glitches that always go hand-in-hand with the launch of a new initiative will doubtlessly arise in this case too and as of now we apologize for the inconveniences this might cause. We ask your patience and assure you that they will be dealt with, little by little, as they emerge.

Anyone who wants to help improve the website by informing us about these dysfunctions should please contact us at the following email address: sicom@paoline.org.

Happy navigating to all of you!

Cecilia Mazzocchi, Seed
Emiliana Park, fsp

**14TH ANNUAL
RELIGION TODAY FILM FESTIVAL**



Launched in Italy in 1997, *Religion Today* is an annual film festival dedicated to promoting interreligious dialogue through films. An itinerant festival, it was held this year in the city of Trent from 14-26 October 2011 and revolved around the theme: *Poverty: A Problem or an Opportunity?*—tackling the subject from not only its social dimension but even more from its cultural, spiritual, ethical and theological aspects, since these involve religion more directly and could be an opportunity for deepening interreligious dialogue.

**THE WORLD OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY IN MOURNING**

Over the last few months, the world of information technology has lost three of its most illustrious representatives.

*Roberto Busa, sj,
pioneer in computational linguistics*



“If you navigate the Internet, it is thanks to him. If you use a pc to send emails and write texts, it is thanks to him. If you are reading this article, it is thanks to him.” With these words, the *Osservatore Romano* paid homage to Fr. Roberto Busa, who paved the way for hypertext. Born in 1913, Fr. Busa was one of the precursors in the usage of computers for linguistic, literary analysis and bibliographic research. He published his *Index Thomisticus* (a tool for performing text searches within the massive corpus of Aquinas’s works) with the technical collaboration of IBM. The project, begun in the 1940’s, eventually produced in the 1970’s the 56 printed volumes of the *Index Thomisticus*. In 1989 a CD-ROM version followed. Fr. Busa died on 9 August 2011.

Steve Jobs: the Talent of “Mr. Apple”

A brilliant innovator, Steve Jobs was only 56 when he died on 5 Oct. 2011. A complex personality, he was one of the lead players and symbols of the Silicon Valley personal



computer revolution—a technological revolution, certainly, but also a revolution of customs, mindsets and cultures.

“By making computers personal and putting the Internet in our pockets, he made the information revolution not only accessible, but intuitive and fun,” President Barak Obama said in a statement following the death of Jobs. “He was brave enough to think differently, bold enough to believe he could change the world, and talented enough to do it.”

*Dennis Ritchie,
the Father of Unix and “C”*



Dennis Ritchie died on 12 Oct. 2011, a week after Steve Jobs. He was 70 years old. Less well known than Jobs, Ritchie was nevertheless one of the most creative minds in the world of digital technology. An

American computer scientist, he helped shape the digital era by co-creating, with long-time colleague Ken Thompson, the C programming language and the UNIX operating system, both of which led to enormous advances in computer hardware, software, and networking systems and stimulated the growth of the computer industry.

**USING THE RADIO TO SAVE
EX-CHILD SOLDIERS**

“Robert, we love you! Come home!” This is just one of the many messages broadcast by Radio Wa, the Catholic radio station of the Lira Diocese, located in northern Uganda. The messages are aimed at children who were captured by the *Lord’s Resistance Army* (LRA) and forcibly trained as soldiers. If they succeed in escaping their captors, many of these children do not return home. Because of this, Radio Wa is ready and willing to transmit to these ex-child soldiers the affectionate messages of their families. The station’s broadcasting radius reaches even heavily-forested parts of the country and as a result more than 1500 escapees have returned home, heartened by the hope of rebuilding their lives in a new and better way.



Foto: Emmanuel Alves, fsp

DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Sr. Mary Nazarene Prestofillipo, age 91 - 14.09.2011 - Boston, USA
Sr. M. Letizia Concettina Di Michele, age 92 - 21.09.2011 - Caracas, Venezuela
Sr. M. Fides Leontina Scurti, age 85 - 27.09.2011 - Rome, Italy
Sr. Timotea Tai Hee Park, age 59 - 12.10.2011 - Seoul, Korea
Sr. Giuseppina Adelina Gagnolati, age 89 - 26.10.2011 - Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Sofia Eiyu Yokoyama, age 81 - 07.11.2011 - Tokyo, Japan
Sr. Gaetana Silvia Seffino, age 97 - 10.11.2011 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. Paola M. Alberta Giaconi, age 91 - 22.11.2011 - Alba, Italy

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. Domina Yun (Father, Man Su (Joseph), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Roseane Gomes Barbosa (Father, Julio Coelho) of the São Paulo IA community, Brazil
Sr. Mary Bernardine Sattler (Father, Bernard) of the Redwood City community, USA
Sr. Cecilia In A Kim (Mother, Jin Seang Anna) of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Annette Margaret Boccabello (Mother, Margaret Ann), of the Boston community, USA
Sr. Bernardetta Tomoko Koo (Father, Masanori Paolo) of the Tokyo-2 community, Japan
Sr. Laura Rhoderica Brown (Mother, Jane) of the Boston community, USA

PAULINE FAMILY

Fr. Lorenzo Stefano Costa, ssp, age 83 - 18.09.2011 - São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. M. Guadalupe M. Belén Andrade Reyes, pddm, age 50 - 26.09.2011 - Mexico City, Mexico
Fr. Francesco Gavino Campus, ssp, age 77 - 20.10.2011 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Sr. M. Angelica Bruna Merli, pddm, age 93 - 22.10.2011 - Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
Sr. M. Josephine Antonietta Sumobay, pddm, age 74 - 12.11.2011 - Antipolo, Philippines