



Suore Missionarie Comboniane



HISTORY & SPIRITUALITY

COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS
PIE MADRI DELLA NIGRIZIA

Reading Guide



COMBONI MISSIONARY SISTERS
PIE MADRI DELLA NIGRIZIA



**A course dedicated to all the Sisters
who are part of this history.**



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The Beginnings

Introduction

In this first module, we will talk about the experience of Daniele Comboni, and then we will focus on the beginnings of the foundation of the “Pie Madri della Nigrizia”. (PMN) This name is indicative of the very charism that they are called to make concrete in their lives, as women of the Gospel, Mothers of humanity; therefore capable of welcoming in their hearts the joys and sorrows of the peoples with whom they are called to share their lives; guardians of the weakest constantly committed to respecting, preserving and allowing life to grow... Tender and strong women who know how to stand at the foot of the Cross beside Mary, the woman par excellence, who accompanied her Son to the extreme breath of life of his fulfilment.

Topics:

- HS1. A brief meeting with Comboni and the “candidate”
- HS2. Looking for a Formator
- HS3. In Africa with Comboni

HS1. A Brief Meeting with Comboni and the “Candidate”

The origins of the foundation of the “Pie Madri della Nigrizia” (PMN)

One of those missionaries who almost paid with his life for having dared to go to Sudan in 1857 was Daniel Comboni who, together with a group of 5 missionaries, left Verona with the idea of creating a missionary station in Africa, Sudan... they all died in a short time and the only one left alive, Daniel Comboni, had to return to Italy so as not to perish of the fever.

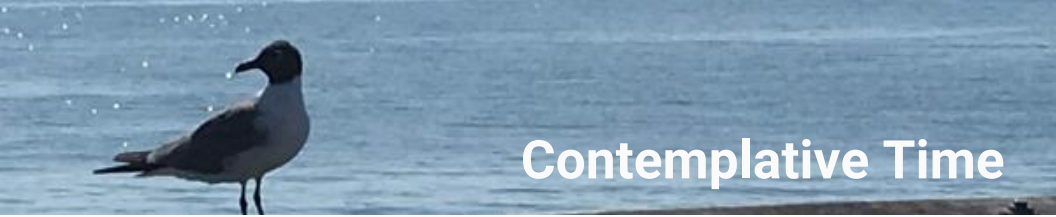
Video: A history to continue by European Province
Reading

In Italy, thinking and rethinking the missionary method they had used up to that point, the “Plan for the Regeneration of Nigrizia”, as they called the centre of the African continent, came to him as a divine inspiration. It was 15th September 1864. AMN, 10 pp. 11-15

Profile: “The candidate”: Maria Caspi

On 31 December 1971, Comboni accompanies Maria Caspi, the candidate, to Montorio, Veronese (Villa Zago) to start the missionary institute for women.

Video: Presentation by Maria Vidale, cms – Responsabile, Studium “Madri Nigrizia”



Contemplative Time

“My Lord, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for sure where it will end. Nor do I know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am really doing it. But I believe that the desire to please you does indeed please you. And I hope to have that desire in everything I do. I hope I never do anything outside of that desire. And I know that, if I do, you will guide me on the right path, even if I know nothing about it. Therefore, I will always trust in you, even though I seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are always with me, and you will never leave me to face my dangers alone”. Amen (Thomas Merton)

Reflection

Let's spend some time in meditative prayer, reflecting on your call from God as you prepare to learn about the history of our Congregation.

Write in your Journal

What has caught your attention most so far? Share in two paragraphs with two or three sentences maximum.



Maria Caspi



M. Giuseppa Scandola



Maria Colpo

The transfer from Montorio to Verona

The transfer from Montorio to Verona took place on 14th September 1872, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Three young women arrived from Montorio: Maria Caspi, Maria Teresa Scandola and Teresa Caviola. They were soon joined by a fourth, Maria Rosa Colpo (AMN, 10), who was already at S. Maria in Organo among the pupils of Laura Astori. Continua

Presentation by Maria Vidale, cms – Responsible, Studium “Madri Nigrizia”



Reflection

What has caught your attention the most so far?



HS2. Looking for a Formator

Introduction

The generous donations of two very pious people enabled us to open in Montorio Veronese, four miles from the city, a women's house, ... which we have entitled: Istituto Pie Madri della Nigrizia (Institute of the Pious Mothers of Nigrizia); and it is presided over by a wise and pious director, adorned with the virtues and endowed with the gifts of mind and heart that are necessary to correspond to such a sublime and important mission.



Read [AMN 20, p. 56-62](#)

The first formator

Unfortunately, unflattering and even offensive rumours have been spread about the first formator. It is therefore only fair to do her justice, not least because Daniel Comboni would never have entrusted the formation of his future missionaries to a person unsuitable for the task.



Read more [AMN 20, p. 59-63](#)

Video: Presentation in IT by Maria Vidale, cms – Responsible “Studium Madri Nigrizia”

Maria Bollezoli

You can read this episode in AMN 20, pp. 56-57

Video: Presentation in IT by Maria Vidale, cms – Responsabile “Studium Madri Nigrizia”



Beginning of the Noviciate

On the 8th December 1874 it was possible to proceed with the ceremony of vesting, presided over by Luigi di Canossa, Bishop of Verona and Superior responsible for the Institute of Missions for the Nigrizia.

From the Annals of the Good Shepherd, eight novices had presented themselves to receive the habit and the Rules. It was not, in fact, a question of the Rules of the Institute since it was not yet approved by Rome but of a provisional text that Fr Antonio Squaranti had prepared using some already existing ones. Continue reading AMN 20, pp. 67-72

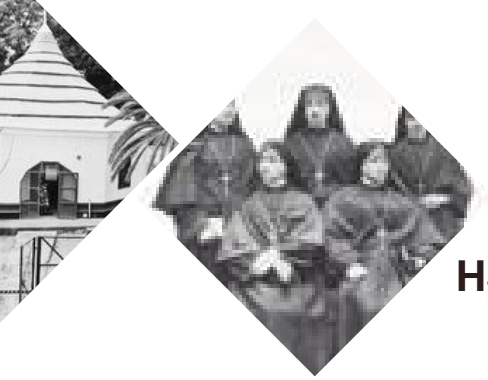
Video: Presentation in IT by Maria Vidale, cms – Responsabile “Studium Madri Nigrizia”

Think back on your feelings and concerns on your first trip (mission, living together, retreat, postulancy).

- Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s passage in your life and in the history of the PMN Institute.

Write in your Journal

- What has it stirred in your heart to touch these experiences with your hands?



HS3. In Africa with Comboni

Introduction

We continue to deepen our history in this third session by taking a closer look at the first PMN expedition.

- Comboni is nominated bishop of Central Africa.
- The first professions are made.
- First expedition to Africa of the PMN.

Video: [The first departure of the Sisters to Africa](#)

Nomination of Comboni Bishop

Comboni was appointed bishop on 2nd July 1877 and on 12th December of that year he left with a new missionary expedition, accompanied for the first time by his nuns. They were five Comboni Missionary Sisters: Maria Caspi, Giuseppa Scandola, Concetta Corsi, Vittoria Paganini and Teresa Grigolini. Two years later, he organized two new missionary expeditions, always with female personnel of his Institute. In a very few years there were already 15 Comboni Missionary Sisters working with Comboni both in Cairo and in Sudan.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition had retired after 12 years of service and the mission was left in the hands of young missionary sisters who had to discover for themselves how to live the mission and religious life in this new context.

Readings

IT – Video: Comboni obispo | Read more [AMN 20, pp. 81-90](#)

Read this full episode in [AMN 20, p. 90-102](#)

Video: The first community in Africa (Berber, Sudan)

Second expedition (1879)

Please request fervent prayers for this new-born Verona Institute, which is destined to create in Central Africa all the feminine works of the Catholic apostolate in Central Africa which are so abundant in Catholic Europe: God chose the weak things of this world to confound the strong etc., etc., as the Apostle said. (W. 5752)

Read more [AMN, 20 pp. 111-121](#))

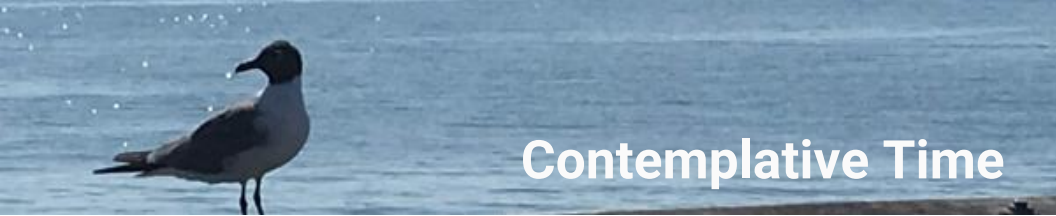
The Founder takes his leave (1881)

Our founders have felt in themselves the compassion that Jesus felt when he saw the crowds like sheep without a shepherd. Just as Jesus, moved by this compassion, offered his word, healed the sick, gave bread to eat, gave his own life, so the founders have placed themselves at the service of humanity wherever the Spirit sent them, and in the most diverse ways: intercession, preaching the Gospel, catechesis, education, service to the poor, to the sick.... The imagination of charity has known no limits and has been able to open innumerable paths to bring the breath of the Gospel to cultures and to the most diverse areas of society. (cf. Apostolic Letter VC, 2014)

Readings

Read [AMN, 20 pp. 145-150](#) | IT- Video- [Gli ultimi giorni del Padre](#)

Read this episode in [AMN, 20 p. 145-150](#)



Contemplative Time

The beginnings of the first Italian Women’s Missionary Institute speaks not only of “glory” but above all of vision. It speaks of women in love with the Gospel with vision because it prepares the future by creating spaces for others to continue acting and embodying God’s longing through commitment.

- What is your longing and commitment to the present?
- Share in two paragraphs with two or three sentences maximum.

Write in your Journal

What has it stirred in your heart to touch these experiences with your hands?



La Madhia

Introduction

In this special module, we will enter into a historical moment of the congregation, la Mahdia, while these events are taking place, we have to take into account the whole reality of the nascent Institute, how it continues its journey and the important events taking place at the same time in Verona and Egypt. It is important to situate the Mahdia within the whole historical journey of the Institute. We will follow the imprisonment and suffering of the missionaries in captivity, made prisoners of the Mahdi. We will look at what happened between 1882 and 1883, how the cities of Obeid and Denle were taken by the Mahdi and what was the fate of the Comboni Missionaries of these missions and how the arrest took place in different circumstances and processes.

Topics:

HS4. Threat of an Islamic insurgency in Sudan.

HS5. Difficult moments : Talk of War

HS6. A drop-by-drop martyrdom

HS4. Threat of an Islamic insurgency in Sudan



Charles Gordon - Pasha



The Mahdi

Gordon, Charles George

called Gordon Pasha British General (Woolwich 1833–Khartoum 1885). He fought on several fronts, Crimea and China before entering Egyptian government service as governor of the province of Equatoria (1873–76) and then governor-general of the Sudan (1877–79). A few years later in 1884 he returned, sent by the British government to evacuate Egyptian civilians and troops stranded in the Mahdi revolt.

Profile

The theme of a Messiah from the offspring of the Prophet, with strong political overtones, with demands for justice, political liberation and domination over enemies has been a predominant idea running through eschatological literature. Read: AMN 18, 19–26

After Comboni's death: Forward the mission continues

Video | Readings

The mission continues, and in this moment Maria Bollezzoli's role is fundamental. It is here that we discover the great missionary in her, the PMN trainer.

Follow the story in [AMN 22, 11-20](#)

Write in your Journal

What feelings are awakened in your heart?

HS5. Difficult Moments : Talk of War

Introduction

Our history records the witness of these first women missionaries and evangelisers, together with Daniel Comboni, pouring into African lands the balm of love with which they were impregnated and spreading its perfume in these distant lands. The command of Jesus Christ to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mt 16,15) were the words that motivated and touched the hearts of these young women and together with Comboni they set out on the great adventure preaching the gospel not only with words but with concrete gestures of dedication and solidarity.

Objective

- To read history in the pure light of faith, in order to keep alive the historical memory and the legacy of our martyrs, the founding pillars of the Congregation, as a source of inspiration and a reason for hope in today’s reality.
- To keep alive the Comboni charism and spirituality in order to: Look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion and embrace the future with hope.

Readings

Follow the story in AMN 18, pp.27-35

“We wish to recall the courageous witness of our saints and of those who, even without being canonised, have lived the Gospel radically and have given their lives for Christ, for the Church and for his people” (DA 98). The story continues in AMN 18, pp.27-35



Video: Mahdia (2) By the Jubilee Team (1872-2022)

Amalia Andreis, pmn to her father:

“I cannot begin to tell you how upset I am about the sad gossip that has spread about me. At some time or another, you will come to hear about it, but don’t allow it to sadden you. Death is a sacrifice which we have to make to God; as our Saviour suffered death, and death on a Cross for the glory of the Divine Father and for the salvation of our souls, so we too have to be resigned to that great step and make with love that sacrifice”



Leggi pure AMN 18, 41





Witness

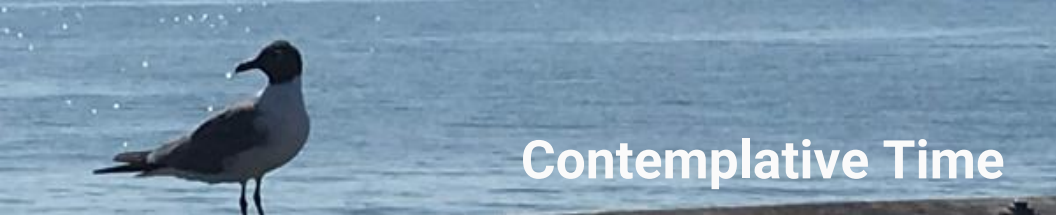
“We all suffered from fever and dysentery, without clothes, full of disgusting insects, sleeping on the bare ground, three of us left us: Sr Eulalia died on 27 October, Gabriele on 31 October, Sr Amalia on 7 November”. (Fr. Giuseppe Ohwalder to Fr. Giovanni, 26 December 1882).



Reflection

- What feelings are awakened in your heart?
- What does the witness of these martyrs invite you to do?

Lord Jesus Christ, we are afraid to spend our life.
But you have given us life to spend it;
it cannot be economised in sterile selfishness.
To spend one's life is to work for others, even if they do not pay;
to do a favour which will not be repaid;
to spend one's life is to throw oneself even into failure, if necessary,
without false prudence; it is to burn one's ships for the good of others.
We are torches that only make sense when we burn;
only then will we be light. Deliver us from cowardly prudence, that which makes us avoid sacrifice, and seek safety.
Life is not spent with pompous gestures and false theatricality.
Life is given simply, without publicity.



Contemplative Time

Write in you Journal

- Are we authentic companions and successors of our martyrs, are we consistent with the example of their lives, do we continue to live their choices, their radicalism, their martyrdom witness?

HS6. A Drop-by-Drop Martyrdom

“A people or church that forgets its martyrs does not deserve to survive”. Pedro Casaldáliga.



Introduction

Keeping the memory of Teresa Grigolini, Concetta Corsi, Eulalia Pesavento, Amalia Andreis, Fortunata Quasce, Elisabetta Venturini, Maria Caprini, Caterina Chincarini, and all their fellow prisoners, is to accompany from the inside every step, every event, every torture, every gesture, it is to read in their lives faith, hope and charity. A story with lights and shadows, but with great strength born of vulnerability and fragility. God’s grace is manifested here.

This living memory is nourishment for our spirituality and challenges us to remain faithful with gratitude and commitment, in all circumstances of vocation and mission.

Let us enter into this sacred land of our sisters with bare feet, and grateful hearts.

Objective:

To hand over with witness and fidelity to God and mission, the legacy of our martyrs to new generations and thus continue to write the history and the passage of God in our lives and in the life of the people.

Withdrawal from Khartoum

“After a journey of 33 days, not without danger and inconvenience, our people arrived in Cairo on 14 June.... The married Moors stayed in a rented house, the boys and girls retired to the Mission’s establishments”. (Nigrizia, julio,1884, p.127)
Follow the story in [AMN 22, p. 55 -86](#)



Elizabethta Venturini

Elizabethta Venturini, pmn


From her diary

“With the fall of El-Obeid, Major Gozzi noted, the whole of Kordofan, except for some mountainous regions of Nuba, remained the uncontested territory of the Mahdi. In fact, having established in that city the headquarters of his government,[...] he dedicated himself to the political preparation of the extension of the revolution, to conquering Khartoum and to implementing his plans for the reform of religion and of the submission of the world to Islam” (p.220)
Leggi [AMN 18, 69-98](#) | [AMN 11, 51-83](#)



Teresa Grigolini, pmn

Reading Teresa's story, we are infected by the strength and generous charity of a woman who has overcome the litany of abandonment, humiliation, sacrifice, disappointment and loneliness.... And yet, from this mountain of sadness and pain, there shines for her a hope, the hope of a God who does not abandon her: "Mother, be calm and fear nothing, for the Lord never lets those he loves perish"

Readings:  (IT-AMN 6, p. 198).
Teresa Grigolini – I suoi ricordi AMN 1
 Read also AMN 6 p. 198ss



Reflection

"The body was in pieces, but the moral pains were much more unbearable. The great weakness had caused us to lose a little of our intellect.

At the beginning of our captivity we prayed fervently and our minds were always fixed on God.

We were happy to suffer for the cause of the Kingdom of Christ.

We felt that the Lord was with us and our hearts were filled with peace and sincere joy.

Then night fell, a night without stars: it was the agony of the spirit, with no shadow of comfort.

At the beginning, the kicks and beatings were sweetness to be endured: the idea of being able to witness with blood our love for Christ, so longed for in the period of our formation, sustained us and gave us strength and courage.

The education to the Cross received from our founder and the desire for martyrdom, which seemed so close to us, encouraged us to endure everything.

But the long-awaited death did not come and we were in the clutches of the Mahdi.

Then, almost insensibly, prayer bloomed on our lips: united we began a triduum to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, asking him to save us from the teeth of the beasts and to help us to remain faithful”.

(Tutti sapevano che ero stata suora” pag. 150)

- What would you like to share about what has touched your heart and challenges you the most?
- Express it creatively: with a drawing, a poem, write your own psalm, etc.

The runaway (1885-1891) – Video

As soon as Fr. Bonomi achieved the liberation, he was concerned about those who had remained in slavery. He sent guides and camels to the place in sufficient numbers for the liberation. They chose Fortunata, because she was African and at great risk of being sold into slavery, and Maria Caprini, who had been in prison the longest. They travelled day and night to put more and more space between possible persecutors. At a certain point the sisters, in order not to fall off because of fatigue, tied them to the camel.

On 22 October 1885, a telegram from Dongola announced to Cairo that the two sisters had arrived safely in Abasce, and the same day the news was sent to Verona. The last to be released were Caterina and Elisabetta with P. Ohrwalder, 29 November 1891.



Readings

AMN 18 pp. 99-151 | Read also IT- AMN 11, pp.85-106

Write in your Journal

At the end of this module on the Mahdia and following step by step the testimony of the sisters, could you make a resolution to go deeper and confront your own life in the light of the legacy left by our sisters, that they may be a light in your Comboni vocation.

- To what does the witness of their lives invite you today?
- What feelings dwell in your heart in all that our sisters have lived during this time of captivity?



Expansion in Africa

Introduction

This period in the history of the institute can be called a period of gestation, which leads us to see how after the death of the founder, who had left a difficult legacy to manage, the Pious Mothers of Negritude began to walk on their own, despite the difficulties encountered with the founder's successors, towards the official birth of the congregation and the definitive approval by Fide propaganda of the Constitutions. The Spirit continued to write its history in spite of these crooked lines.

Topics:

HS7. Lights and shadows in Egypt

HS8. The Institute recovers from the past to look to the future

HS9. An uphill journey

HS7. Lights and Shadows in Egypt

Objetives:

- To see how this period of birth and consolidation of the Institute of the Pious Mothers of Negritude developed amidst disappointments and hopes in preparation for further expansion in Africa.
- To discover how the decisions made by Bishop Sogaro influenced the development of the Institute of the Comboni Missionary Sisters.

Readings

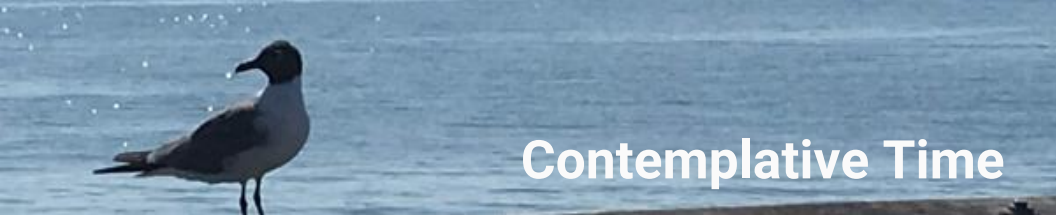


Opening New Communities in Egipt. AMN 22, pp. 97-104
The result of the Apostolic Visit: The revision of the Rules
AMN 22, pp.137-153

Profiles

First General Superior (1898-1901) –
Read IT AMN 2 - [Video](#)





Contemplative Time

Suggested music: Flight of the Falcon by Pat Metheny Group ([click here](#))

Be aware of all the history that has preceded you and of the people who have been part of it... with their lights and shadows they have been creating the way for you and so many others to be here today as Comboni Missionary Sisters.

You can dedicate a quiet moment to pray Psalm 121 with the text of the bible or listen to this song of the Comboni Missionary Sisters.

Write in your Journal

With what word or phrase could you define this part of the congregation's history and why?

HS8. The Institute recovers from the past to look to the future.

The young Institute of the Pie Madri della Nigrizia found itself in a phase between the devastation of the traumatic experience of the sisters imprisoned in Sudan, and the apostolic zeal inherited from the foundress, which would give rise to new missionary initiatives. The major concern during this period was the final and clear approval of the Constitution, which at this point had to be revised and rewritten several times until its final approval in 1912. This period of our history tries to show, understand and assimilate the whole journey of our first sisters, after Mahdia, towards the outbreak of the First World War.

Readings



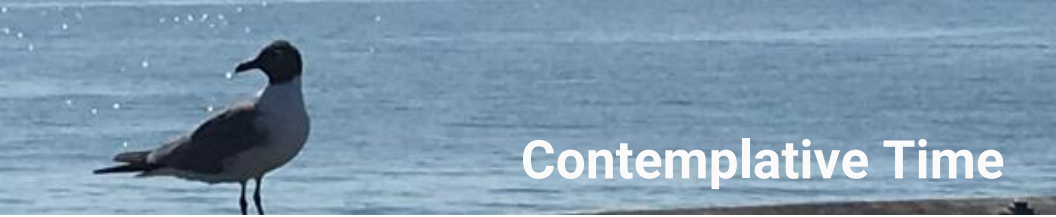
Costanza Caldara and her contribution to the final achievement of the Constitutions.

- Approval of the Institute by the Holy See. IT-AMN 25, p. 95-98
- Approval of the Constitutions. IT-AMN 25, p. 119-121
- Divulgative Version IT- AMN 25
- The struggles of the First World War. IT – AMN 25, p. 139-143

Second General Superior (1901-1931)
Video | Read IT AMN 25



C. Caldara



Contemplative Time

Prayer of Abandonment - (Charles de Foucauld)

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.

Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.

Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Write in your Journal

- How would you define this period of time in the congregation?



HS9. An uphill journey

This third section of the theme “Expansion in Africa” invites us to think and reflect on the difficulties experienced by the congregation at a very particular moment in its history. At the helm of this boat, we find a Superior General, Sr Costanza Caldara, who wanted to be faithful to the charism of the founder, whom she herself had known at a very young age.

Objective:

- To be aware of the great missionary impulse towards the interior of Africa and other areas in a changing historical moment.

Readings

- Storia della Congregazione. AMN 20, p. 80-88
- L’arrivo in Eritrea AMN, 25 p- 178-185
- The VI General Chapter is convened. IT-AMN 25, p. 253-259
- Pierina Stoppani (Third Superior General) – Her death. IT-AMN 27, p.155-166



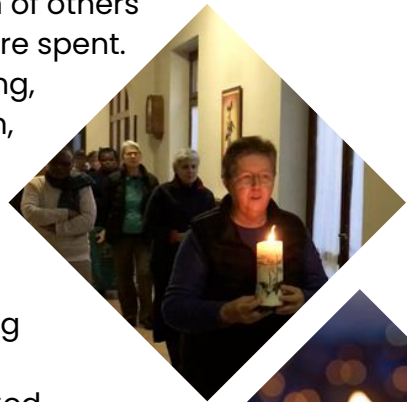
[Video click here](#) | The story continues : [Video 1](#) | [Video 2](#)



Contemplative Time

In a moment of silence he looks at the history of the congregation in this period. A history of salvation for all of us. A history in which the Lord has been guiding us, taking us by the hand... and she is grateful for being part of this history that continues today in all of us.

It's time to keep walking
It's time to keep walking,
beyond shadow and doubt,
beyond death and fear,
drinking borrowed words,
trusting in the strength of others
if perhaps one's own are spent.
It is time to keep walking,
to welcome the pilgrim,
tell your story,
listen to theirs
soothe sadness,
share table and life.
It's time to keep walking
with our eyes open,
to discover the living God
who comes to meet us
made friend, bread and word.
So let's get moving.
(José María R. Olaizola, sj)



Write in your Journal



- You can share what was perhaps more unfamiliar to you at this stage and what you have discovered as "new".





Mission without Borders

St. Daniel Comboni was convinced of the enormous evangelizing potential of women, so he wanted his missionaries to be open, courageous, generous, capable and women of God. Our first sisters understood that our Founder's missionary passion for Africa was not only of a geographical nature. He was speaking of that mission that Jesus initiated and that we are called to continue. Although the new openings created controversy in the Congregation, were we founded only for Africa or also for other parts of the world? It is clear that the mission of Jesus and the concept of mission as understood by St. Daniel Comboni does not refer only to a geographical concept, a prophetic vision clearly understood. Africa is where there is a need to proclaim Jesus.

Topics:

HS10. New openings in Africa

HS11. Broaden the Horizon



HS10.New openings in Africa

Objective:

- To remember the steps taken to obtain the final approval of our constitutions, because this fundamental step in our history, consolidates the institution of the PMN.

Readings

Cammino fatto ai tempi di Sr. Costanza Caldara e il loro contributo all'ottenimento definitivo delle costituzioni.

- The news that changed a life. [IT-AMN 32, p. 7-8](#)
- Good news spread by Raggio. [IT-AMN 32, p- 22-26](#)
- The First Newsletter of the Congregation - [Video](#)

Reflection

In a moment of silence he looks at the history of the congregation in this period. A history of salvation for all of us. A history in which the Lord has been guiding us, taking us by the hand... and she is grateful for being part of this history that continues today in all of us.

Write in your Journal

- You can share what was perhaps more unfamiliar to you at this stage and what you have discovered as "new".

HS11. Broaden the Horizon

In July 1937 the 7th General Chapter was held and the time of expansion to other continents began. In March 1939 the first steps towards Asia were taken, twelve Comboni Missionary Sisters left for Palestine to work in the hospitals of Karak and Amman, where they also opened a community in Jerusalem.

During this period, the Congregation also suffered the devastations of the Second World War, when the borders in Italy were closed. While in Verona, in Buccinigo d'Erba and also in Asmara, where some novices had already been sent since 1939, the new Pie Madri della Nigrizia began to profess.

Readings



Opening in Asia [IT – AMN 32, Pg 35-38](#)

The tree begins its first fruits [IT-AMN 32, Pg 107-115](#)

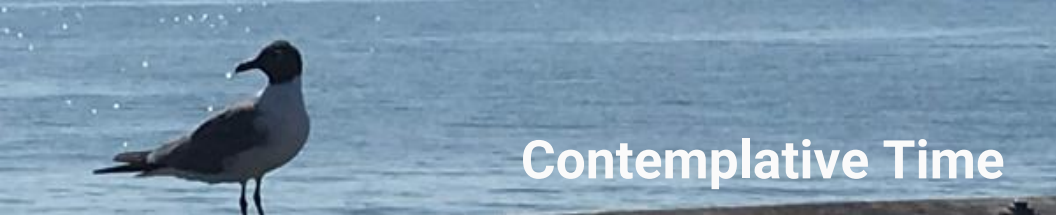
The Congregation Spreads around the World

[EUROPA](#) | [AFRICA](#) | [MEDIO ORIENTE](#) | [AMERICA](#)

M. Carla Troenzi

It is important to remember that in 1928 the informative process for the canonisation of Mgr. Daniel Comboni began in Verona, and also from 20 to 24 July 1931 the 6th General Chapter was held, where the Chapter decided to create new provinces, those of Bahr el Gebel, Bahr el Ghazal and Eritrea. At this General Chapter, Sister Pierona Stoppani was elected Superior General, but she died on 3 January 1933, while visiting the communities in Africa. In response to this unforeseen event, a new elective General Chapter was convoked in writing, with the prior authorisation of Propaganda Fide, in May 1933, where Sr Carla Troenzi was elected as the new Superior General.





Contemplative Time

PASSIONATE

We would like to live passionately. Passionate about you and the mission, May our hearts burn when we listen to you, may everything around us heat up. May our hands be like fire, May our hands be like fire, May our touch kindle love. We would like to live passionately.

Passionate for so much love, May there be no frontier to stop us, in this impulse to give everything today, And to love in God's time. We would like to live passionately, Passionate and in communion, Walking always on the way, as a cenacle of God's heart, Walking together towards the future, Faithful to the One who called us.



(By Sr. Marta Vargas. CMS)

Write in your Journal



- What did you discover about this period that you didn't know before?

HS12. Common Cause: In the same Boat

In the period from 1959 to 2001 the Congregation expanded but at the same time experienced very painful moments, such as the expulsion from Sudan (1964), the rebellion of the Simba in the former Zaire (1964-1965) now the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Mozambique (1964-1974).

And yet the difficulties never stopped our missionary zeal. New communities were opened, more and more on the frontiers, and an attempt was made to update the thinking and work of the Congregation according to the directives of the Second Vatican Council.

Objective:

- To learn first hand about the historical events experienced and suffered by some of our sisters.
- To see the long journey made by the congregation in these years and to feel how the Spirit has been guiding history, in spite of certain “crooked lines” in it.

Readings



- Vatican Council II: IT-AMN 33, p. 31 – 37
- Expulsion from Sudan: IT-AMN, p. 43 – 55
- The tragedy of Congo: IT- AMN, p 56 – 77
- IT – Mozambico / Storia della Provincia del Mozambico / A cura di Combonifem
- IT – R.D.Congo / Storia della Provincia della RDC / A cura di Combonifem
- IT- Europa / Storia della Provincia di Europa / A cura di Combonifem
- IT-Kenya / Storia della Provincia del Kenya/A cura di Combonifem



Video: You can watch some of the videos that talk about our tumultuous history in some of the countries on the African continent:

Memoria Liberazione - Congo | Colpo di Stato- Uganda | Expulsion – Guerra Mozambico | Guerra Sud Sudan

Witnesses

Pastora del cambiamento | M. Federica Bettari
Spiritualità Comboniana | Sr. Adele Brambilla

Reflection

THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

What a long way you have come in so little history! Recall your personal history through these events that the congregation has experienced, or through people you have known... Meditate calmly on what attracts you most to what is now your family, the Comboni Missionary Sisters.

Write in your Journal

- Which character from this period has had the greatest impact on you?
- What did you discover about this period that you didn't know before?



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