

75th Anniversary of foundation
Brief review of the main events
1936 - 2011

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (PIME)
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75 YEARS OF GRACE

The desire to know and to make known always something more about our history led us to search for the most important events which have marked our journey starting from the beginnings.

It is a quick presentation, which however, may not fail to reawaken, above all in the most senior Sisters, memories of the bygone times - moments, facts, persons - arousing deep sentiments and emotions.

Thereafter, all of us, going through the various events can grasp how the Lord has led, year after year, the journey of our missionary family. As a result, being faithful to the grace of origin, we could be able to live our specific part in its salvific mission.

Let us read these facts considering ourselves part and parcel of this history which the Lord has woven making use also of each one of us, and let us renew our indebted gratitude to Him.

8th December 1936

After long years of patient waiting, today, eighth December 1936, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in a small rented house in Via Cesare Melloni 15, in private form, humbly and silently the new Congregation of Sisters of the Foreign Mission Institute was started.

(Mother Dones, Chronicle)

1937

At Boschetto - the first anniversary (8th December)

The community meeting in the morning was followed by the recitation of the act of consecration, recited for the first time a year ago, in front of the same picture of the Immaculate which is now kept in the Novitiate (Diary of the Community).

The tiny seed was humbly sown and the grace of God made it fruitful (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1938

Canonical erection of the Institute

[25th March] His Eminence Cardinal Ildefonso Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, condescended to issue the decree of the canonical erection of the new Congregation with the name "SUORE MISSIONARIE

DELL'IMMACOLATA' [Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate] and approved its Constitution ad experimentum ... Thus started the period of six months of postulancy...The first vestition took place a little later.

How not to thank the Lord for everything? (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1939

Visit of Msgr. Grassi who promised a place in India (16th June)

The Bishop of Bezwada, His Excellency Msgr. Domenico Grassi, was in Italy during that time. He had heard about the new missionary Congregation of Villa Boschetto and wanted to know it. With his blessing he assured the Sisters that, on returning to India, he would have prepared a place also for them...This promise overwhelmed the Sisters with enthusiasm (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1940

*Profession of the first Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate
3rd October: profession of Sr. Maria Igilda.*

15th October: profession of the other Sisters of the first group.

Msgr. Balconi himself presided over the ceremony on 15th October.

God had willed the project and the Monsignor saw it being realized [...] Before the Eucharistic Jesus whom the celebrant held up in front of each one, the newly professed pronounced the holy vows (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1941

The difficult situation due to war

The government restrictions made life difficult (Historical chronicle of the Institute). From today (1st October) bread is rationed. Our Mother is busying herself to get potatoes, in order to supplement all the rest that was lacking. But in the meantime she inculcates in us love for the spirit of sacrifice (Diary of the Community).

1942

40th Anniversary of the profession of Mother Dones

Despite so many hardships we would not forget 28th October, which marked the 40th anniversary of the religious Profession of Mother Dones. She would have liked to spend the day in silence, but then had to yield to the wishes of her daughters (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1943

Pastoral visit of Cardinal Schuster (4th March)

The Sisters' desire was great to have their Pastor among them, in that place. He was welcomed with the joy of devout daughters [...]. As a monk he knew the importance of obedience and wished to recommend them to love this virtue, indispensable to the missionary Sisters (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1944

Death of Sr. Rosaria Cereda (28th March)

Rev. Mother, deeply moved, gave the sad news to the community. This was the first flower from this mystical garden entrusted to her, which the Lord had plucked to transplant it in Heaven. Immediately prayers of suffrage were raised on her behalf (Diary of the Community).

A tomb is a homily and a remembrance; it is a pulpit and an altar; it is a commitment and a bond (Msgr. Balconi, What I have I give you).

1945

Opening of the House at S. Siro - Milan (18th October)

A great event: the departure of Rev. Mother and four Sisters to Milan ... happy, yes, but not without a certain commotion.

On 6th November Mother Dones with two other Sisters went to greet the Cardinal. Immediately he encouraged to bless the house, known all over with the name "Villa Triste" [sad villa]: "From henceforth we shall call it Villa Santa" [holy villa].

At the S. Siro community the recreations were marked by a spontaneous gaiety: they narrated facts, events and anecdotes; they played games and cracked good humored jokes encouraged by Mother Dones who was always present for the recreation (Diary of the Community, Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1946

The first perpetual profession (12th September)

Today, is a great event because it is the first perpetual profession taken place in the Institute. We thank the Lord wholeheartedly for many graces granted to us and to the Congregation in these ten years (Diary of the Community).

1947

The first request for Sisters to the Mission (23rd July)

The Bishop of Bezwada [Msgr. Grassi], gave charge to his Vicar

[Msgr. Bianchi, who was in Italy for the General Chapter], to request to send at least four Sisters to his mission...The great news was soon announced to the communities of Milan and Monza (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1948

Passage of Mother Dones to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate

9th January: Rev. Mother, helped by Sr. M. Igilda, put on the habit of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate. It was a deeply touching moment for the two: Rev. Mother was giving up the habit she had worn for many years; Sr. M. Igilda was seeing her joining the religious family, she who had been Mother and Teacher during the difficult years of foundation.

10th January: Memorable date for Rev. Mother and to the Congregation. Mother Dones, with a voice that was sure and clear, pronounced the formula of perpetual vows according to the Constitution of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate (Diary of the Community, Historical chronicle of the Institute).

Permission to enter India (25th March)

Comforting news: the Missionary Sisters are granted entry permit to India. Ten years ago, His Eminence the Cardinal had issued the decree of the canonical erection of the Institute. After a decade the roads to the missions were opening (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

First departure to India (30th August)

[At Genoa] Rev. Mother embraced the daughters who were leaving... Sr. M. Igilda greeted and kissed them fraternally with the nostalgia of not being able to go with them. On all, hovered the blessing of the Monsignor, who was deeply moved (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1949

Death of Sr. Paola Barlassina (3rd June)

Unfortunately a very painful page of sacrifices and renunciations opened in India... On 3rd June, Sr. Paola slept in the Lord leaving the small community of Gudivada in deep anguish. It was the first seed thrown in the Indian soil (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1950

Mother Dones accompanied the second group of Sisters to India

The news [of the decision] was given at Boschetto on 12th September...that evening the supper and recreation were marked with manifestation of deep sentiments and cheerfulness. Such circumstances cannot be described; one should live them to be able to savor them within the context of the present moment (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1951

Arrival of Mother Dones to Gudivada (11th August)

One can imagine the commotion of the much longed meeting [with the Sisters] after the painful vicissitudes they had passed, in those years in their mission (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1952

Death of Fr. Manna (15th September)

He had given his authoritative and impassioned support to the foundation of the new religious family. The Sisters remember him with filial devotion (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1953

The first departure to Pakistan (30th October)

Rev. Mother announced the names of the Sisters assigned...It was a deeply touching moment for all... Immediately a preparation for the departure began (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

The first General Chapter

On 20th August, Holy Mass of the Holy Spirit marked the opening of the extraordinary event...Then they proceeded to the secret ballot to elect the Superior General. ... It resulted in the reelection of Mother Giuseppina Dones (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1954

The first departure to Brazil

Taking into account all the reasons [of the request], the Superiors believed that they should arrange soon for a departure to Brazil, even at the cost of hardships and sacrifices... On 27th June Sr. Chiara, Sr. Concetta (Celestina) Sr. Filippa and Sr. Leontina left from Genoa (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

Our Sisters, who were in Asia until yesterday, now pass on to

America... Pedrinhas could be the first starting point for a more complex work, very vast and evidently more missionary (Msg. Balconi, What I have I give you).

1955

Erection of the Delegation of India

The Institute feels the need for organizational structures.

On 10th January Rev. Mother announced the appointment of Sr. M. Luigia [Clara Bellotti] as Superior Delegate of India with the responsibility of the communities of Pakistan (Diary of the Community of Milan).

The first Indian postulants begin the novitiate

The novitiate of Bhimavaram, on 8th December, Feast of the Immaculate, gave the first new novices to the Institute. They received the religious uniform from the hands of His Excellency Msg. De Battista (Annual Report).

1956

20th Anniversary of the foundation

Magnificat anima mea Dominum! [My soul magnifies the Lord!] Behold the hymn of thanksgiving which springs forth spontaneously from our heart on the 20th anniversary of our beloved Institute. [...] The remembrance of our 20th anniversary lived in the intimacy of our Communities, may keep alive in all a desire to make the verse of the psalm come true: *"Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum"* ["How good, how delightful it is for all to live together like brothers"] (Annual Report).

Publication of the first issue of "Sicut Lilium". It was a simple periodical, which, as said by an aspirant, aroused the desire to know better the Institute which published it (cf. Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1957

Starting of our presence in Rancio di Lecco

[The Sisters] left on 22nd May, who were awaited with great desire by the missionaries. At last they had the assistance which would have made their daily life easier (Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1958

The Congregation becomes international

On the Feast of Epiphany [6th January], the first Indian novices made

the religious Profession (cf. Annual Report).

Epiphany. The day was spent in holy joy remembering our Indian Sisters, who, precisely today made their Profession (Diary of the Community of Milan).

The year closed with wonderful news. On 19th December two of our Indian Sisters reached Genoa, on board the ship Australia: Sr. M. Pauline and Sr. M. Florence... they will attend the faculty of medicine in the University of Padua (Annual Report).

1959

Visit of Msgr. Balconi to India and Pakistan

The year 1959 was cherishing the great, almost unexpected joy of the visit of His Excellency Msgr Balconi, our venerable Superior, whose memory will remain indelible. He reached Bhimavaram on 11th January...

An event very dear and greatly longed for, to our Sisters of Bangala was the visit of His Excellency Msgr. Balconi, who arrived here on 11th February (Annual Report).

1960

Beginning of the presence in USA

The departure of the Sisters was fixed on 31st January.

At the airport of Malpensa... the hustle and bustle did not give us time to think of the separation. But when the final greetings were exchanged, when the flight took off, the gaze of the two Sisters remained on ground was fixed up in the sky, until it was possible to spot the plane, almost wanting to transmit to the dear Sisters on board the feelings in their heart... (Annual Report and the Historical chronicle of the Institute).

Erection of the Delegation of Brazil (25th March)

Sr. M. Marta [Iole Pirozzi] was appointed Superior Delegate of Brazil (cf. Annual Report).

Erection of the formation house in Assis

The novitiate in Brazil was erected and it was inaugurated on 21st April 1960.

Sr. Raffaella [Annamaria] Fornasiero wrote: "The Bishop of Londrina had accepted to preside over the ceremony... The church was crowded with people... The Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate were in full attendance with the aspirants and the Mother Delegate,

Sr. M. Marta Pirozzi... everything spoke to me of Boschetto, of the days spent anxiously waiting to take flight to far away countries" (cf. Historical chronicle of the Institute).

1961

25th Anniversary of foundation

The 25th year of the Foundation of our Congregation was closed with very successful celebration of the Immaculate Feast. ... In all the Houses of Italy and of the missions it was celebrated in the best way possible. Sincere thanks to the Superior General and the Rev. P.I.M.E. Fathers who contributed to make our Jubilee very solemn. Above all let us raise our hymn of thanksgiving to God... (Annual Report).

1962

The Congregation is recognized as of Pontifical Right

*This is the day which the Lord has made, a day which will remain memorable in the history of our Congregation: the official announcement that we are granted the **DECRETUM LAUDIS** by which the Congregation is declared as of Pontifical Right on **2nd April 1962** and the Constitution is approved "ad experimentum" (Diary of the Community of Milan, 21st April).*

1963

Profession of the first five Brazilian Sisters (6th January)

On the feast of Epiphany, the first group of Brazilian Sisters has reached the ideal by taking the vows (Annual Report).

2nd General Chapter (17th - 19th August)

The General Chapter was an event of great importance. On 19th august it gave the Congregation the new Superior General: Mother Luigia [Clara] Bellotti, who shouldered the heavy responsibility. As it is known to all, our Mother Giuseppina Dones had openly relinquished this responsibility: all were deeply moved by her gesture (Annual Report).

1964

Profession of the first Bangladeshi Sister (6th January)

Sr. Germana Barbe arrived from Pakistan to India and returned with Rev. Mother who went on visit to those Communities. Also Sr. Adelaide [Golapi], the first Sister from Pakistan, returned with them after having completed her novitiate with us (cf. Annual Report).

...She will be of great help to our Sisters but she is too lonely. We would require many more local Sisters; we hope to have them in

future (Mother Bellotti, Circular letter, 27th January).

1965

From the North to the South of Italy

11th February: inauguration of the Sacred Heart Novitiate House, in Merate. The novices and postulants were transferred there.

14th March: opening of the Community of "Madonna della Rocca", in Cornuda

31st October: opening of the Community of "Angeli Custodi" (Gurdain angels), in Busto Arsizio;

17th November: opening of the Community of Gela, for the administration of the Clinic "S. Barbara".

19th November: opening of the Community of "S. Giuseppe" in Rome. It was another year of uncountable graces which the Divine bounty does not fail to lavish on us (cf. Annual Report).

The Institute is recognized as juridical Entity

After long negotiations carried out for about two years, finally on 21st December 1965, with a decree of the President of the Republic, our Congregation is legally recognized (Annual Report).

1966

Erection of the Delegation of East Pakistan

On Sunday, 11th December we celebrated the appointment of Sr. Giuditta (Carmela) Corti as the Mother Delegate of Pakistan (Annual Report).

1967

Death of Mother Dones (8th May)

...her departure was greatly felt and her memory cannot be forgotten. She endured the uncertainties, the burden and the difficulties of the beginnings...

All the Communities had deeply touching expressions of mourning and affection for her. From Heaven she will continue to watch over us with motherly love (Annual Report).

1968

Beginning of our presence in Hong Kong (11th September)

On 28th August Sr. Olga [Maddalena] Pirodda left for Hong Kong. On her journey, she will have a halt in India to visit briefly that mission field and will proceed with Sr. Annamaria [Theresa] Pathickal. They are the first two Sisters who go to prepare our new field of apostolate (Mother Bellotti, Circular letter, 30th August).

1969

Death of Msgr. Balconi (10th April)

Yesterday His Excellency Msgr. Balconi slept in the Lord peacefully...

We have special obligations of gratitude towards him because he laboured a lot for the realization of our Institute. Thereafter he always followed us with lot of love and with great sacrifices (Mother Bellotti, Circular letter, 11th April).

1969 - 1970

Special Chapter - 3rd General Chapter

As the Chapter came to an end, the work of research on our origin began...

Following the reflections done together...a desire emerged in us quite insistently to have a wider and deeper information on the planning, the birth and development of our Institute... we deliberated that... a Sister, who possibly had seen and suffered the planning, the birth and development of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, PIME, may be entrusted with this responsibility (United in Christ, no. 4, open letters).

1971

Beginning of the presence in Cameroun (Africa)

29th October: Mother Clara and Sr. Ernestina left for the new mission in Africa.

First Christmas in Ambam ...I have passed several Christmas feasts in the mission land; and yet, I confess to you that I could not restrain a deep commotion during this Christmas in Ambam. I adored and thanked Christ who had given me still a great privilege (Mother Clara, Correspondence).

1972

Mother Igilda's visit to India (20/10/1971 - 11/3/1972)

This interlude in my life, of four months spent in India, [...] was a small missionary consolation precisely to me that I never cease to thank the Lord for this undeserved gift (Mother Igilda to her sister Igilda, 22/2/1972).

All the Sisters in India cherish a strong remembrance of her, a remembrance mixed with admiration (United in Christ, no.6, from India).

Liturgy of the Hours

The Liturgy of the Hours has been introduced in all the Communities, using the psalms in choir and a booklet prepared by us with the antiphons and prayers from the new "Liturgy of the Hours" (United in Christ, no.5, Communications).

1973

Preparation and study of the post-Chapter documents

[From 1971 to 1973] all the Sisters were engaged in personal study of the post-Chapter documents [based on the revised Constitution]. They were also the object of reflections in Communities as well as in summer courses (Report to the General Chapter 1976).

1974

Profession of the first Chinese Sister (15th September)

[Sr. Goretti] is the first Chinese Sister of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate. Let us pray and hope that soon other young girls may follow the same way (United in Christ, no.14, First Profession).

1975

Publication of the *NOTES ON OUR ORIGIN*

Sr. Igilda Rodolfi, with an exemplary diligence wished to collect the memories of a specially important and fruitful period of time. This period constitutes the prelude to the foundation of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, who derive their origin from the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Msgr. Aristide Pirovano, Preface).

It is wonderful to see from a distance of time, how Providence moves persons and changes events. Providence almost seems to have fun in entangling the skein even to the point of not finding the end. They are the games played by God (United in Christ, no. 13, Reflecting on the origin).

1976

4th General Chapter - the research on the "Founders" begins

The Chapter...decided to refer to a special commission in collaboration with the General Council, the further study for a historical-spiritual research putting in evidence: 1) the "mediation" which the Holy Spirit willed to use in giving rise to our Institute; 2) the components of our charism so as to be able to define better our identity and the spirit of our Institute (Chapter Deliberation).

1977

Initiatives for the ongoing formation

The first initiative was the preparation of "Biblical-liturgical aids" in order to facilitate greater knowledge of the Word of God... The first experiment in using these aids and for the celebration of the Word of God was done with the Superiors of the communities in Italy... From January 1977 they were used in all the communities in Italy and gradually introduced to various Organisms (Report of the Superior General at the 1st Assembly, Italy and London).

The first revised Constitution

The Superior General personally presents and hands over the new Constitution to the Sisters... (United in Xt., no. 29.30, Communications). For the first time every Sister could have the text of the Constitution in her hands.

I assure you that at the moment of handing it over I felt within me a great joy. I saw in this little brown booklet a great gift of God and I would have liked to embrace Rev. Mother or to clap the hands... (United in Christ, no. 30, from Brazil).

1978

A committed study of the Constitution

As [the Constitution] was presented to all the members of the Institute, it was welcomed with satisfaction and all were engaged in studying it. The study was followed by reflections and deepening of the various aspects of religious missionary life with the help of various material and questionnaire (Report to the General Chapter, 1982).

1979

The first Assemblies in the Regions and Delegations

Assemblies were announced in 1978 and they were held in the early months of 1979... to evaluate our personal and community life, our presence and apostolate in the local church, with the desire of corresponding more and more to God's plan on us (Circular letter of Superior General, 1/10/1978).

1980

The first Inter-Chapter assembly (India, 4/2 - 1/3)

It was the first time that we held this kind of Assembly according to the norms of the Constitution, fixed in the General Chapter of 1976. Certainly, also the decision to hold it in India had its specific results (Report).

Beginning of our presence in Guinea Bissau

The Sisters leaving for Guinea Bissau went to the Shrine of St. Celso, where the picture of the Blessed Virgin blessing Jesus taking leave of her is placed ... Thus a tradition of the Institute was revived (United in Christ, no.43, News in brief).

1981

Preparation for the General Chapter

... The result of the Chapter depends much on its preparation... The fact that we are members of this family, each one of us has her share of responsibility (United in Christ, no.50, Letter of Rev. Mother).

1982

The official starting of Aspirancy in Bangladesh (25th March)

The Lord does not fail to bless this mission of ours and gives local vocations to the Institute. The local girls want to share our project of missionary life. In fact some girls are beginning aspirancy in Dhaka (United in Christ, no.52, Report of the visit to Bangladesh).

5th General Chapter

8th September: historical date as we began our 5th General Chapter and a memorable date for the enthusiasm and sense of responsibility which every Chapter Delegate felt.

20th September: the closure of this Chapter (which drafted the final text of the Constitution). It was not merely concluding the Chapter works which had involved us quite seriously, but above all continuing our journey with a new spirit... (United in Christ, Special issue, January 1983).

1983

Handing in the Constitution approved with a Decree on 6th August

I cannot let go unnoticed a moment so important in the history of our Institute: the gift of the revised Constitution. I already experienced the joy of handing in to some of you... I hope all of you can receive it soon... (United in Christ, no. 57, Letter of Rev. Mother).

1984

Beginning of drafting the General Plan of Formation

In order to realize what was reaffirmed in the Chapter Deliberation on formation, [we begin] the first Draft of the General Plan of Formation (From the Report of the Chapter 1988).

1985

Erection of the Delegation of Italy (12th September)

We are in a period of time, in which, the changes in the governing structures are at the centre of our attention and of our prayer (United in Christ, no.64, Circular letter of the Superior General).

The Superior General, with her council... erected the new Organism of the Delegation of Italy (United in Christ no. 64, Circular letter of the Superior General, Decree).

The official transfer of the headquarters of the General Direction from Milan to Rome, Via di Torre Gaia.

Erection of the Delegation of Cameroun (20th October)

The Superior General with her Council... erected the new Organism of the Delegation of Cameroun (United in Christ no. 65, Decree).

1986

50th Anniversary of the foundation

50 years from the foundation! The years passed so quickly like a dream; it doesn't seem to me to be true, and I ponder over again with deep emotions of this great gift God has bestowed on the Church (Interview with Mother Igilda).

1987

Appointment of Coordinators for Hong Kong and Guinea Bissau

Coordinators for the missions of Hong Kong and Guinea Bissau were appointed on 25/3/1987. They were granted the faculties necessary to facilitate relationships among the members and with the Centre as well as to keep contact with the authorities (Report to the Chapter 1988).

1988

6th General Chapter

The topics which engaged us seriously were: Formation, Administration of Goods and the Mission.

The evaluation of the General Plan of Formation convinced us further of the basic importance of formation for a convinced and consistent response to the religious-missionary vocation (Closure of the Chapter).

Beginning of the presence in Papua New Guinea

For the marvellous arrangement of the Providence, our presence in

Papua New Guinea, in Watuluma, was officially started on 8th December 1988, on the Feast of the Immaculate. Thus the starting of this new Community is bound in a special way with that of the Institute (United in Christ, no. 74, Papua New Guinea).

1989

Death of Mother Igilda Rodolfi

At sunset of 21st September, on the feast of St. Matthew, the Apostle, Mother Igilda concluded her earthly journey...leaving the certainty of a "new presence" in the Church and in our Congregation... She was a gift like a fruitful seed consumed in faithful prayer, humble acceptance and the passion for the Kingdom (United in Christ, no.77, Ecco, io vengo... (Behold, I come).

1990

Publication of the HISTORY OF A MISSIOANRY VOCATION

The two texts - Writing A and B - reveal to us deeply the interior life of a person who is dear to us. She, along with Mother Dones, is "Mother" to us, as we have always heard her being addressed. In these pages we feel the echo of our own vocation. Echoes which we come across in the life of our missionary family (cf. Presentation).

1991

The Year of Vocation (1st October 1991 -18th October 1992)

...we welcomed the initiative of PIME to announce a Year of Vocation...

We, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, want to share in this initiative by joining in prayer and by committing ourselves in a profound personal and community renewal. As a result, our life... may be an efficacious witness in order to arouse new vocations in the Church (United in Christ, no. 84, The Year of Vocation).

1992

25th Death Anniversary of Mother Dones

An intense moment for all of us. Her death made us to reflect together once again - especially through the brief profile drafted by Mother Igilda, "Remembering Mother Dones" - on the figure, of this woman, whom the Lord had placed at the origin of our missionary family (United in Christ, no.87, Letter of Rev. Mother).

1993

Erection of the Delegation of Hong Kong

The date chosen for the erection was 18th February 1993, feast of

Blessed Alberico Crescitelli, martyr in China (United in Christ, no.89, General Direction).

1994

7th General Chapter

Three main topics for the Chapter: Charism, communion and mission. Following the process of rediscovering and deepening the CHARSIM started by the Vatican Council II ... the Chapter proposed to the entire Institute the following objectives: to assimilate more and more personally and deeply the values of our charism...to live more and more closely united ... to live with renewed fervour our missionary mandate... (Acts of the General Chapter).

1995

Erection of the Delegation of Guinea Bissau

According to the directives on the structures of government of the 7th General Chapter, the Delegation of Guinea Bissau was erected on 8th December (cf. United in Christ, no.99, Decree).

Beginning of the formative journey in Papua New Guinea

On 15th August, the first stage of the formative journey of our Institute was started in Papua New Guinea. Julia Alfred ... is the first girl from this mission to be admitted to aspirancy in our Congregation (News Letter no.7, Papua New Guinea).

1996

International meeting of Administrators

It was decided to call the meeting of the Regional and Delegate Superiors with their respective administrators. [...] A meeting was organized [on the theme of sharing and administration of goods] in Italian language... in Rome, Torre Gaia from 8th to 25th November 1996; a second meeting was organized in English ... in Bangladesh, after mid-January 1997 (News Letter no. 16, General Direction).

60th Anniversary of the foundation

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute, the December issue of the magazine Missionarie dell'Immacolata was published in English and Portuguese and was circulated to various organisms (News Letter no. 17, General Direction).

1997

Publication of *IF GOD WANTS IT, IT WILL BE DONE*

On the 30th death anniversary of Mother Dones, finally we had the joy of publishing the complete text of her memoirs... It was a felt desire of all of us since a long time to have these Memoirs in our hands... For us, Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, they are a very precious source (cf. Presentation).

Beginning of the formative journey in Cameroun

On 8th September 1997, two young Camerounian girls began their aspirancy in Ambam (cf. News Letter no.28, Delegation of Camerun).

The Association "Amici delle Missionarie dell'Immacolata" was set up

On 3rd November 1997, the Association "Amici delle Missionarie dell'Immacolata" was set up with its office in Milan, via Masaccio 20. Its goal is to sustain the projects undertaken by the Congregation, projects that are already realized or yet to be realized (News Letter no.32, General Direction).

On 1st February 1998 some deliberations were made, which allow the new Association to function autonomously and at the same time in full communion with the Congregation (News Letter no.33, Region of Italy).

1998

Sharing of the laity in the MSI charism

The team in charge of it... got together for the first time on 6th November 1997.

On 28th February 1998 the first meetings were held in Monza and in Pozzuoli with the lay people who wanted to join... We accompanied the moments with prayer, trusting that the Holy Spirit will indicate the path to be trodden (Voce, no. 51 and 52, Vita nostra).

1999

Erection of the Delegation of Papua New Guinea

The Superior General, with the consent of her Council, with the present decree, erected the Delegation of Papua New Guinea...

This decree came into effect on 1st January 1999, the date of the beginning of the mandate of the new Delegation (United in Christ, no.102, Decree of Erection).

Publication of THE UNQUENCHABLE THIRST OF THE APOSTOLATE

On the centenary of the birth of Mother Igilda we were given the possibility of deepening our knowledge of her... An access to the depth of her most beautiful sentiments, her greatest aspirations and the unquenchable passion for proclaiming the Kingdom of God... (cf. Presentation).

The first international course of Formators (Rome, 5th – 31st July)
The get-together of the formators was very enriching: some had several years of experience in formation, yet others were just beginners.

...we hailed from different countries and situations. But the same charism and mission created a common language... (Acts of the Course).

2000

8th General Chapter

Fixing the gaze on Jesus, Apostle of the Father... inspired and nourished by our sources...as one family...having received the gift of charism ad gentes, we reconfirmed our commitment for entire life, for the evangelization of peoples (Acts of the General Chapter, Our project for six- years term).

2001

Profession of the first Camerounian Sister

On 1st October 2011, Sr. Carine, the first Missionary Sister of the Immaculate from the African soil made her first profession.

“By living close to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate, I soon realized that their charism and their life style reflected what I was dreaming of my life to be” (United in Christ, no.104, from Cameroun).

The first international course for the junior Sisters (3/7 - 27/12)

It was attended by 22 Sisters from Italy, India, Bangladesh, Brazil and Papua New Guinea (News Letter no. 70, General Direction).

The evaluation of the programme with the Superior General, sharing with the formators and the junior Sisters of different nationalities, the warm welcome by the community...were for us special moments of blessing (Nirmalecho, no. 179).

Beatification of Fr. Paolo Manna (4th November)

A heart open to the world to form an army of souls in missionary spirit (L'osservatore romano).

Fr. Manna wrote: "No half hearted in giving to the Lord". It is the language of one who has fallen in love. One who loves gives without half-measures. And Fr. Manna gave himself totally... (United in Christ, no.104, Points of reflection).

2002

"The Year of Manna" 15/9/2001 - 15/9/2002

We are at the end of the Year of Manna, with the 50th anniversary of his death. He has a message for each one of us... He reminds us that only missionaries who are holy can convert the world (United in Christ, no. 104, Letter of the Superior General).

Profession of the first three Papuan Sisters

11th February 2002: a memorable and significant date for the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate in PNG as also to the Santa Maria parish, in Watuluma. On this day three Papuan young women became the members of our family (United in Christ, no. 104, From Papua New Guinea).

2003

The non-Italian "senior" Sisters visit the places of our origin

Wanting to continue the experience started on the occasion of the Jubilee 2000... the following Sisters will come to Italy, to deepen their knowledge of the places of origin of our Institute (News Letter no.87, General Direction).

2004

Donation of the HOUSE in JONDINI

Our presence in this valley is to go all the way back along the footsteps already trodden by Giuseppina Rodolfi who wrote: "At Jondini we lived in sweetest, fraternal companionship; they were the most serene and the most joyful months of my life: (From the inaugural function, 11/6/2005).

2005

Towards the identification of the founders

We have reached the end of our journey of reflection on the history of our origin... we have tried to reread in the history of origin, the written testimony and the life lived by those whom we still call today "the protagonists of our foundation"... we are happy on achieving these first results, which have led us to recognize in Mother Dones and Giuseppina Rodolfi the presence of all the elements which define the charism to found (Commission for the historical-spiritual

research, for the identification of the founders).

2006

9th General Chapter & the 70th Anniversary of the foundation

We have just celebrated the 70th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute and experience the great joy of the IDENTIFICATION OF THE FOUNDERS... we commit ourselves... to continue our research and to strengthen our will to live creatively the charism in today's world (cf. Acts of the General Chapter).

2007

40th death anniversary of Mother Dones: publication of *THE REST IS NOTHING*

A few months after the celebration of the 9th General Chapter... these letters of Mother Dones - chosen from among the most beautiful and most significant - will allow us to know better the heart of the Mother who thought of and watched over her daughters far away (cf. Presentation).

The beginning of the project "Things new and old"

Looking for the title suitable for the work which we are about to begin according to the orientations of the Chapter - the process of deepening and the revision of the Constitution... we welcome joyfully the call to be like the scribe who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom of heaven, to be women capable of making a synthesis between the new and old (cf. The name of the Project, Booklet I).

Beginning of the formative journey in Guinea Bissau

On 28th October, the formative journey was officially started in the Delegation for local vocations. It began with the starting of aspirancy by Maria da Fatima da Silva (News Letter no.138, Delegation of Guinea Bissau).

2008

Common formation for the Delegations of Cameroun & Guinea Bissau

[In response to the proposal of the Chapter Acts no. 268], common formation in Cameroun for the Delegations of Guinea Bissau and Cameroun was authorised (News Letter no. 141, General Direction). On 11th March, Sr. Maria Auxilidora left for Yaounde' [Cameroun] to accompany the aspirant Maria da Fatima da Silva (News Letter no.143, Delegation of Guinea Bissau).

2009

40th death anniversary of Msgr. Balconi: publication of *WHAT I HAVE I GIVE YOU*

The decision of our 9th General Chapter [which recognized Msgr. Balconi as co-Founder], has restored to us a father and a witness, whom we need to continue our journey. Since then, rightly a desire was aroused in the members of the Institute to know him... These letters reach us at the most suitable time (cf. Presentation).

Beginning of the presence in Algeria

On 24th September Sr. Serena De Stefani left for Algeria with joy and emotions of this first step towards the opening of one of our communities, in this African country (News Letter no. 159, General Direction).

Towards the formulation of our spirituality

... at the end of the second phase of the Project Things new and old, we propose a contemplative halt to enjoy the fruit, provisional but significant, of our work... We wish that this work can arouse in all a new commitment to live our marvellous vocation with fidelity and gratitude (Things new and old, Booklet V).

2010

Beginning of the 75th anniversary of foundation

Today we begin the 75th anniversary of the foundation of our Institute. We wish centre it on three themes: Remember...in a special way the life and examples of our foundresses... our history and our tradition, the spiritual heritage which we have received...Renew...we need... to regain the possession of the spirit of the foundresses... Look to the future... it is necessary that we turn our attention to the younger generations of our missionary family (Circular letter of the Superior General, 8/12/ 2010).

2011

**Let us celebrate with joy and gratitude
The 75th anniversary of the foundation
Of our missionary family
1936 - 8th December - 2011.**