



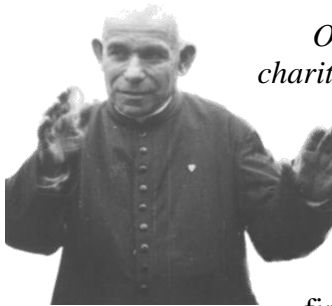
Little Missionary Sisters of Charity



Birth of the Vice-Delegation *"Our Lady of the Assumption"* Cape Verde

Prot. MG 40/22

DURING THE BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.... ANOTHER *"CHRISTMAS"*...



O Missionaries of Charity, you are sisters called by the hand of God to spread charity in the hearts of the sick, of the abandoned...! Go, sow the charity of Jesus Christ with your words, with your works, sacrifice yourselves, make a holocaust of your life...!" (Don Orione)

BRIEF HISTORY OF A SOWING

February 1979: the LMSC plant the first missionary *"tent"* in African territory, and the first community that opens is precisely in Cape Verde as a mission dependent on the Province *"Our Lady Aparecida"* (Brazil).

The first community opened in Ribeira Grande on the island of Santo Antao with the first three missionaries: Sr. Ave Maria Caldeira, Sr. M. Norma dos Santos Abrahao, Brazilians, and Sr. M. Blanca Bentancur, Uruguayan.

People still remember (until today!) their presence and their service, not only in the various pastoral care of the Parish, but also in visiting lepers, prisoners, sick people in families, and their commitment for the promotion of young girls.

The first Cape Verdean vocations began to arrive immediately. Since then, the presence has become increasingly significant in the Church and among the people, opening in the following years two other Communities on the Island of Santiago: in the capital Praia and in San Martinho. Currently the Communities are made up of Cape Verdean Sisters.

After several years of discernment by the various Provincial and General Councils, the need was felt to give this reality the possibility of growing with more autonomy. After the Provincial Chapter of 2002, aware of the challenge before us, it was finally decided to take an important step: to give birth to new Vice-Delegation in Cape Verde starting from March 5th, 2023.

We trust in Divine Providence which always sustains our life and our mission, and we are hopeful with the Sisters who will be part of this new reality, trusting in their sense of belonging to the Congregation, in their missionary enthusiasm and in their great responsibility and generosity along these almost 44 years of presence.

May Mary, our Celestial Foundress, *"Our Lady of the Assumption"* and St. Luigi Orione, bless and intercede so that the charism of the LMSC continues to be ever more fruitful and prophetic in Cape Verde, and may the Lord grant us the gift of many good vocations.



SOME STATISTICS

PERSONS			
Cape Verdean Sisters	11	In Cape Verde	7
		In Brazil	1
		In Italy	2
		In the Philippines	1
Young girls in initial formation	1	Pre-novice	1

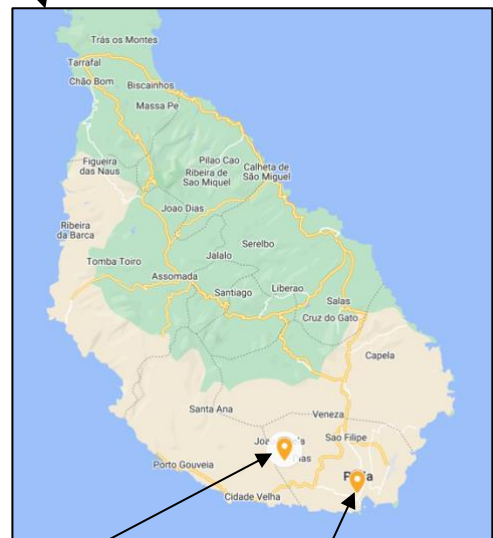
COMMUNITIES AND WORKS/SERVICES	
Community “N.S. do Rosario” Ribeira Grande – Island of Santo Antao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOUSE OF THE VICE-DELEGATION • Nursery school • Teaching in public schools • Pastoral of the parish
Community “Mae da Divina Graca” Praia – Island of Santiago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching in public schools • Pastoral of the parish
Community “Mae da Divina Misericordia” Sao Martinho Grande – Island of Santiago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery school • Pastoral of the parish



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE VICE-DELEGATION AND OF THE COMMUNITIES



Island of Santo Antão: Community of Ribeira Grande



Island of Santiago: Community of Sao Martinho

Island of Santiago: Community of Praia

SOME ORGANIZATIONAL NOTES

After accepting the proposal of the Provincial Chapter and having listened to the Provincial Superior and Council of the Province “*Our Lady Aparecida*”, the General Council defined some organizational indications for the new Vice-Delegation “*Our Lady of the Assumption*”, to be implemented in the three-year period “*ad experimentum*”. This organization concerns some areas of the life of the Sisters and of the houses in Cape Verde: incardination, animation, formation, youth pastoral care for vocations, economy, etc.

It was also decided that the headquarters of the Vice-Delegation “*Our Lady of the Assumption*” will be in the community of Ribeira Grande, on the Island of Santo Antao, to be the first house of the Congregation in Cape Verde.

INCARDINATION OF THE SISTERS

All Cape Verdean Sisters in perpetual or temporary vows, pre-novices and novices, will be incardinated to the new Vice-Delegation from the date of creation (March 5th, 2023).

Some special cases:

- Sr. M. Rufina still remains incardinated to the Province “*Our Lady Aparecida*”, as current Councillor and Provincial Vicar, until the end of her mandate. After that, she will be able to freely decide her incardination to the Vice-Delegation.
- Sr. M. Iolanda Mendes remains incardinated to the Delegation “*Mother of Divine Providence*” (Kenya/Philippines/Tanzania).

List of religious incardinated to the Vice-Delegation “*Our Lady of the Assumption*”:

Sisters of Perpetual Vows
1. Sr. M. Antonia Joana Silva
2. Sr. M. Claurita Goncalves de Brito
3. Sr. M. de Lourdes Goncalves
4. Sr. M. Evanilda da Conceicao Borges Tavares
5. Sr. M. Filomena Silva
6. Sr. M. Joana Baptista Lopes (in Rome)
7. Sr. M. Leoniza de Brito Tavares
8. Sr. M. Rosa Delgado Rocha (in Rome)
9. Sr. M. Vitòria do Rosàrio Lopes
Pre-Novices
Hérida Tavares Moreno (in Brazil)

ANIMATION OF THE VICE-DELEGATION

Responsible

The Vice-Delegation will report directly to the Superior General and Council, and the **General Councillor Sr. M. Rosa Delgado Rocha** has been appointed as Responsible for animation. Her main task is to establish links with the General Council and take care of the unity and communion of the Sisters and Communities in Cape Verde, among themselves and with the Superior General. Similarly to what was done at the beginning of the Vice-Delegation in the Ivory Coast, the General Councillor will try to maintain contact with the Sisters and visit the Communities when possible, listening to their needs, holding meetings, even virtual ones, helping with planning. She will also be responsible for gathering the Council of the Vice-Delegation whenever something needs to be proposed to the Superior General and Council.

The Archive of the Vice-Delegation will be created according to what is indicated in *the Vademecum of the Secretary*, which will be kept under lock and key in the House of the Vice-Delegation by a Councillor of the Vice-Delegation.

Council of the Vice-Delegation

The General Council has set up a small Council of Vice-Delegation made up of the local Superiors of the Communities present in Cape Verde.

The Council is coordinated and presided by the Responsible and has the task of collaborating in unity, in the experience of religious life, in the good running of the works and services and in the economy of the Vice-Delegation. They will implement the Project of the Vice-Delegation, which will be approved by the General Council, and will be responsible for its implementation.

The Council of the Vice-Delegation is made up of:

Sr. M. Rosa Delgado Rocha	General Councillor Responsible
Sr. M. de Lourdes Goncalves	Councillor
Sr. M. Filomena Silva	Councillor
Sr. M. Vitoria do Rosário Lopes	Councillor

FORMATION

Permanent formation

The Responsible, after listening and talking with the Sisters of the Vice-Delegation, will draw up the plan of the Permanent Formation that may help the Sisters to be faithful to: communitarian meetings, monthly retreats, annual spiritual exercises, participation in meetings of formation or updating organized by the Local Religious Conference or by the Church, jubilees and charismatic itineraries, etc.

She will help in choosing the place for the spiritual exercises and any journey of formation organized by the Congregation in Italy.

The General Council will approve the program.

Initial formation

◇ Previous accompaniment:

The local Superiors in Cape Verde are responsible for accompanying the young girls with vocational concerns who approach our homes, following the guidelines present in the YFP for this stage.

The Community will collaborate with spiritual support, respect and witness of life.

◇ Pre-novitiate stage:

The pre-novitiate will preferably take place in Cape Verde. It will be the responsibility of the General Council, after listening to the Responsible and of the Council of the Vice-Delegation, to discern the most suitable person for this formative stage. The insertion of the candidates in another reality of the Congregation will not be excluded.

◇ Stage of the Novitiate:

The General Council, in agreement with the Provincial Superior and the Council of the Province "*Our Lady Aparecida*", has decided to give continuity to the novitiate in Brazil, at least for the three-year period "*ad experimentum*" of the Vice-Delegation.

Therefore, the postulant Hérica, currently in Brazil, will begin the canonical year of Novitiate with her companions in the month of March 2023. For the second year of Novitiate, it will be evaluated at that moment whether it is convenient to have it done in Brazil or to be inserted in a community of Cape Verde.

First professions will take place in Cape Verde, the Superior General will delegate those who will receive the Vows.

YOUTH VOCATIONAL PASTORAL

All the Sisters are responsible for the YVP, first of all with the testimony of the Orionine consecrated life lived with joy, generosity, fidelity to the charism and with fraternal communion.

The Communities will be involved in the initiatives of the YVP of the local Church and will also develop their own Project with initiatives of the Congregation in order to promote the Orionine vocation among the young people who are in contact with us. The Council of the Vice-Delegation will present the Project for its approval on the part of the General Council.

ECONOMY AND ADMINISTRATION OF GOODS

The Communities will remain faithful in everything concerning the economy, reporting and the transparent and faithful use of the assets, as they have done up to now. During the first year of the three-year period "*ad experimentum*", they will send the six-monthly report of each Community directly to the General Treasurer, as was done before with the Province.

After the XIII General Chapter, it is hoped to be able to organize this area by appointing a treasurer in the Council of the Vice-Delegation. She may prepare the six-monthly balance sheet and budget of the "*Vice-Delegation*" starting from January 2024.

During the three-year period, all legal documents of the properties, banks, etc., owned by the Congregation in Cape Verde, will be verified. The Province "*Our Lady Aparecida*" has made itself available for any guidance and help in the economic field that the new Vice-Delegation may need during the three-year period "*ad experimentum*".

FROM THE HAND OF THE FOUNDING FATHER

Let us start this new stage in the journey of this mission of the LMSC:

- with great trust in Divine Providence which always guides us and precedes us;
- with the hope that pushes us towards the horizons of the works of mercy that we have as an identity;
- **from the hand of Don Orione** who invites us once again to "*love everyone in Christ, serve Christ in the poor, renew Christ in us and restore everything in Christ. Always save, save everyone, save at the cost of every sacrifice, with redemptive passion and with a redemptive holocaust*".



We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of the Province "*Our Lady Aparecida*" and to the foresight with which they were able to sow the charism. How significant is this photo of Sr. Ave Maria looking far out over the sea...! The feelings of joy for the new stage entrusted to you and the strength of prayer with which it will be supported and accompanied by us all, are the climate that will accompany all of us today and always.

May Mary, "*Nossa Senhora da Assunção*" intercede and be the shining model to follow on the path of the Vice-Delegation. We take refuge in her Heart and we abandon ourselves to her maternal protection. **Deo gratias! AND MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!**



Sr. Mabel Spagnuolo
Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo
Superior general

Rome, Generalate House, December 25th, 2022.