EMPOWERING THE MISSION

GO and TEACH

Leaders Guide

EMPOWERING THE MISSION
OF THE
RELIGIOUS TEACHERS FILIPPINI

SUSAN KEATING, ASLF

SR. LUCY BATTISTUZ, MPF

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EMPOWERING THE MISSION

FORWARD

I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers, as I hear of the love and faith you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the holy ones, so that your partnerships in the faith may become effective in recognizing every good there is in us that leads us to Christ. For I have experienced much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the holy ones have been refreshed. (Philemon 1:3-7)

You have refreshed my heart and given much joy to the Religious Teachers Filippini by your love and by the faith that inspires you to participate in the charism of St. Lucy Filippini, in the ministry of Christ the Teacher in our schools and parishes where we are stationed.

St. Augustine said, *No one can love what he does not know*. ***EMPOWERING THE MISSION*** provides the opportunity for you to continue to learn the apostolic passion of St. Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo. Their lives were a total consecration of a service that embodied the love of God and of youth.

I encourage you to continue to strive to pray and to learn all that you can to continue your ministry of living the charism of St. Lucy Filippini as a vibrant gift that will consistently grow and develop in the students and families in your care!

Yours in Christ,

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Sister Ascenza Tizzano, MPF

Provincial Superior

Would that I were in every corner of the earth…to cry out to all…Love God! Love God!

St. Lucy Filippini

PREFACE

During the weekend of March 20, 2015, the charism of St. Lucy Filippini was passed on to 24 new candidates who experienced the ASLF ORIENTATION WEEKEND at St. Joseph by the Sea, South Mantoloking, NJ. A beautiful journey with Lucy began with Sr. Lucy Battistuz and me. Sr. Jeanette De Sena was my mentor. Catholic Education and education are my passion.

The power of this weekend ignited an increase in the powerful passion for Catholic Education within me. It became very clear after interacting with the 24 candidates, Sr. Lucy, Sr. Dolores, their team of sisters, that a clear ministry for lay teachers in our Catholic Schools and ASLF who have credentials in education was needed to embrace the charism of St. Lucy Filippini for her schools. This is warranted because the Catholic Schools of the Religious Teachers Filippini and the parish families were very important in the development of the Catholic Faith in the lives of Catholics 55 and older, including many of the ASLF.

Pope Francis consistently makes it clear that we, as Catholics, are called to evangelize. A clarion call has existed for decades that Catholic Schools need the support of the lay staff and the laity of the parish. The religious staff is not available due to the decrease in vocations, especially for women. In 2014, the Congregation for Catholic Education convened in Vatican City and, again, in Rome in 2015. The outcome was reported in *Challenges, Strategies and Perspectives* that emerge from the responses to the questionnaire of the *Instrumentum Laboris (2014*) and *Educating Today and Tomorrow; A Renewing Perspective (2015*). The financial support is a given critical issue. The recruitment and development of lay staff is also a critical issue. 'Schools…are also living environments, where an integral education is provided, that includes religious formation. The challenge will be to make young people realize the beauty of faith in Jesus Christ and of religious freedom in a multi-religious universe. In every environment, whether it is favorable or not, Catholic educators will have to be credible witnesses. It is the recruitment and the development of lay staff who are committed to and concerned with our Educational Project's evangelical identity and its implementation in the future…and a consistent lifestyle that must be addressed. *At the heart of the global changes we are called upon to embrace, love, decipher and evangelize. Catholic education must contribute to the discovery of life's meaning and elicit new hopes for today and the future.*

This experience is supported by three pillars: Gospel tradition, authority and freedom. Many Catholic school students belong to a multiplicity of cultures, therefore our institutions must proclaim the Gospel beyond believers, not only with words, but through the POWER OF OUR EDUCATORS' LIVES, WHICH MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOSPEL. Teachers, school heads, administrative staff: the whole professional and educational community are called upon to present faith as an attractive option, with a humble and supportive attitude. (Instrumentum Laboris, Vatican City, 2014)

Thus, a proposal was sent by me to Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, Provincial Superior; to Sr. Lucy Battistuz, ASLF Co-Director; Sr. Mary Louise Shulas, ASLF Area Leader and Principal, St. Augustine in Kendall Park, NJ; Sr. Jeanette De Sena, former Central Office Administrator and Principal. The proposal framed a plan for the ASLF to work with the Religious Teachers Filippini in their schools. The purpose was to study and embrace the charism to model the lay teachers and the ASLF ministers to work shoulder to shoulder with the sisters.

The Religious Teachers Filippini staffed many of our parish schools in their prime, especially after WW II when the Bishops of the United States set expectations that all parishes establish a Catholic School. Thus, our faith foundation and the nucleus of our family was our parish and our strong, academically superior schools as staffed by the Religious Teachers Filippini of St. Lucy.

Now, it is our turn to give back to our sisters who gave us the priceless gift of faith and a superior faith-based education. We are successful adults as parents, professionals and, most of all, Catholics because of their ministry. Now, it is our turn to minister in a superior initiative***, EMPOWERING THE MISSION.***

Sr. Ascenza Tizzano directed Sr. Lucy Battistuz and me to present this consolidation of the work as originally designed and implemented through the years. Prepared for the religious and lay staff, EMPOWERING THE MISSION is to be embraced as a living/evolving tool in the schools and Religious Education Programs of the Religious Teachers Filippini.

We present ***EMPOWERING THE MISSION*** to support the continued growth of our precious Catholic schools – the foundation of our Catholic Church - through the Educational Philosophy and the Charism of St. Lucy Filippini and the vision of Pope Francis.

Susan Cerulo Keating, ASLF

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gratitude is the affirmation of goodness. God in His goodness inspired many hands and hearts to share their goodness to form the seamless garment of ***Empowering the Mission***.

We are grateful to:

Sr. Frances Lauretti, MPF, Provincial Superior, who in response to the Chapter of 1988, entrusted the ***Empowering the Mission*** *process* to
Sr. Giacinta Basile, MPF and Sr. Geraldine Calabrese, MPF in 1990.

Sr. Giacinta Basile, MPF and Sr. Geraldine Calabrese, MPF whose tireless energy, love and enthusiasm for St. Lucy Filippini through the years developed goals, philosophy, talks, flyers, newsletters and visited the Filippini schools. Each sister in her own unique way gave flesh to the program and inspired many teachers with the spirit and ministry of St. Lucy.

Sr. Laura Longo, MPF and Sr. Gloria Barone, MPF who produced a DVD, ***Empowering the Mission.***

Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, MPF, Provincial Superior, who encouraged and promoted the process and assisted in editing the guides.

Sr. Jeanette De Sena, MPF who served as an inspiration and sounding board for the endeavor.

The Religious Teachers Filippini and the lay teachers who embraced the process and contributed their ideas, inspiration and talents so generously.

James Baio who enhanced some of the graphics for this project.

Thomas Keating who supported, edited and reviewed the manuscript.

Sr. Mary Louise Shulas, MPF who offered her experience, expertise and willingness to pilot the process.

Susan Keating, ASLF
Sr. Lucy Battistuz, MPF

*CALL TO BE EDUCATORS**

Song: *Come Holy Spirit*.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John 15:16**:** *It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure.*

Leader: As we gather, may the vision and spirit of St. Lucy Filippini whose every action was God centered, guide us.

Reader: *Would that I were in every corner of the earth to cry out and plead with all of every age and condition: Love God, Love God.*
All: Zeal for the Kingdom characterized St. Lucy's every action. We pray that, like St. Lucy, we will spread this love today and every day.

Reader: *The teachers should perform the duty of teaching with diligence and love but also with grace and refinement because a gentle and gracious manner contributes to the success of this work*.
All: We pray that our discussions today may be characteristic of St. Lucy's gentleness and graciousness**.**

Reader: *The manner of the teachers should be lively and enthusiastic.*
All: We pray that today's gathering will generate much enthusiasm for our school**.**

Reader: St**.** Lucy used creativity and flexibility in her teaching**.**
All: We pray that, as the ideas flow today, they be the catalyst for us to build on what was, what is and what will effect many future generations.

Leader: Send us Your Spirit, Lord, that we may be quick to know our needs and awaken in us the zeal to make them happen. Show us the way.

Closing Song to St. Lucy

CHARISM OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

C IS FOR HER *COURTESY* AND *COMPASSION* TOWARD ALL.

H IS FOR HER *HOSPITALITY* FOR ALL WERE WELCOMED.

A IS FOR HER *APPRECIATION* OF EACH PERSON'S GIFTS.

R IS FOR HER DEEP *RELATIONSHIP* WITH JESUS.

I IS FOR HER *INGENUITY* AND *INTEGRITY* IN FACE OF DIFFICULTY.

S IS FOR HER LOVE FOR THE *SCRIPTURES.*

M IS FOR HER KEEN SENSE OF *MISSION.*

All quotes are from *Instructions of the Schools of Christian* Doctrine.

***TO BE USED WHEN EMPOWERING THE MISSION TEAM GIVES PRESENTATIONS.**

Mission

EDUCATION OF YOUTH

FAITH CENTERED FAMI-LIES

IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL CONDI-TIONS

RECOGNITION OF THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN

EMPOWERING THE MISSION

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli said on the eve of the conclave that would elect him Pope John XXIII, *We are not here to guard a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life*. (*Joy of the Gospel Forward ix*) Pope Francis continually encourages the laity through his example and his writings to embrace evangelization. Thus***, EMPOWERING THE MISSION*** continues to inspire the lay school staff, the Faith Formation Centers and Parish Societies to put FAITH IN ACTION as the eyes of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit watch over all that we do each day. The love of Christ the Teacher empowers us to keep the vision and mission of St. Lucy Filippini alive in her schools and in the parish communities to judiciously address their pressing needs in the 21st Century.

St. Lucy wrote, *I entrust to the Maestre of the Religious Schools, that, whenever some place is left vacant because of the death of a Sister, they employ young, honorable, and capable women to replace the deceased, so that the school and religious works will continue.* These words from the *Last Will and Testament of Lucy Filippiini* are a constant inspiration to share the legacy of the charism of St. Lucy Filippini with the laity. In so doing, we inherit from the thousands of Sisters of the Religious Teachers Filippini, past and present, the precious gift of the charism of their educational experience and spirit.

Cardinal Mark Anthony Barbargio (1640-1706) and St. Lucy Filippini (1672-1732) were true visionaries who were centuries ahead of their time. In understanding the importance of and the urgency to free persons from ignorance in creating a strong society, they established the Schools of Christian Doctrine for girls in the formation of the TOTAL person.

Gifted with remarkable intuition and wisdom, they were genuine educators who understood the plight of youth in their times and sought to respond to their needs. Preferentially, they promoted the human-socio-Christian formation of women, with a view toward reinvigorating the family. (Educational Philosophy, Rome, 1991, Generalate p.2)

The Educative Mission of the Religious Teachers Filippini is relevant in the 21st Century, now more than ever. The same social issues that were present at the formation of the Community need to be addressed now. The human condition and its needs are a constant in the course of man's life on earth. These needs are pressing needs warranting serious corrective action. *Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo were deeply touched by the Spirit, who worked in them a radical interior transformation. This compelled them to express the charity of Christ by seeking to alleviate human and moral miseries and by sharing in the ministry of Christ as Teacher.* (*History and Theology of a Charism p.77)*

Thus, the Religious Teachers Filippini *continue to seek to keep its educative ministry timely by adapting to contemporary needs. The updating of teaching personnel through a continuous study of content and method is seen as vital. Priority continues to be given to doctrinal and spiritual formation for a more efficacious catechesis in the school and parish*. (*Ibid., p. 66)*

Pope Francis consistently encourages the laity to take meaningful action *to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth.* Our Catholic Faith, with Jesus at the center of all that we do, will empower us to embrace the example of St. Lucy Filippini and the Religious Teachers Filippini. As the laity, we need to continue to learn more about their mission in order to put FAITH IN ACTION in their schools and the parishes where we serve. In so doing, we join with them to EMPOWER THE MISSION!

One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking you.

Just give me the strength to do every day what I have to do.

Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine.

Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time.

****

THOSE WHO ARE LEARNED WILL BE AS RADIANT AS THE SKY IN ALL ITS BEAUTY; THOSE WHO TEACH WILL SHINE LIKE THE STARS FOR ALL ETERNITY. Daniel 12:3

BIOGRAPHIES OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI AND CARDINAL BARBARIGO

Lucy Filippini was born on January 13, 1672, in Corneto-Tarquinia. She had not yet reached her first birthday when her mother died and was buried in the Church of San Marco. Her father, whom she loved dearly, also died six years later and was buried in the Church of Santa Margherita in Corneto. Now orphaned, Lucy went to live with her aunt and uncle. As a child, Lucy would prepare small altars and pray. It soon became clear that she possessed a precocious intelligence and an inclination toward the spiritual life. Her vision was set on God. Notwithstanding her aristocratic upbringing, she always conducted herself with modesty .

At times, Lucy would seek a serene atmosphere in the nearby Benedictine Nuns' Monastery of Santa Lucia. Lucy visited frequently, drawn there by her desire to be among those whose lives and goodness she admired. It was there that she received her First Communion. There, too, Lucy received the spiritual nourishment of which she never had enough and listened attentively to the explanations of the divine mysteries. The grace she felt can be understood from the joy and enthusiasm expressed later as she led and instructed others. She spoke with much fervor, and her words of compassion and love brought tears to the eyes of her listeners. They were a prelude to Lucy's mission.

Cardinal Marc Anthony Barbarigo, of a noble Venetian family, was born March 6, 1640. He studied to be a lawyer, but decided on the priesthood instead. He was ordained in 1670. His uncle, Cardinal Gregory Barbarigo, called him to lead the Religious Education Program in Padua. Later, as Archbishop of Corfu, he opposed the Governor who insisted on sitting in the presidential chair reserved for the Cardinal at benediction. Recalled to Rome, he received the *red hat* some time later and became head of the Diocese of Montefiascone in 1687. He found the diocese in dire straits both financially and spiritually. In his pastoral ministry, he stressed:

- ***The priority of evangelization***
- ***The centrality of the family in the transmission of faith***
- ***The education of the young***
- ***The improvement of human and social conditions among women in the world.***

In 1688 when Cardinal Mark Anthony Barbarigo visited Corneto for his first pastoral visit to Corneto, he made a lasting impression on Lucy and she followed him to Montefiascone. Entrusting herself to the Cardinal's guidance, Lucy was eager to leave behind worldly things.

Lucy had a special devotion to Our Lady, her spiritual mother, and throughout her life her deep love for Mary and her faith sustained her. Cardinal Barbarigo envisioned her as a key factor to bring about a rebirth of Christian living. He had already begun by establishing a seminary where young priests might study and train for the ministry of the Word.

The next step was to develop a Christian conscience and encourage the practice of virtue in the home; this he resolved to do by opening schools for young ladies, particularly the children of the poor, in whom he saw hope for the future. Lucy would head the schools they founded to promote the dignity of womanhood and encourage a healthy family life. Together, they looked ahead to fulfil their generous, ardent and profound mission of faith and charity. In 1692, teachers were trained to staff the rapidly expanding schools.

The young ladies of Montefiascone were taught domestic arts, weaving, embroidering, reading, and Christian Doctrine. Twelve years later, the Cardinal devised a set of rules to guide Lucy and her followers in the religious life. Many schools were established during Lucy's lifetime. After the Cardinal's death on March 26, 1706, Pope Clement XI, in 1707, called Lucy to Rome to open schools which he placed under his special protection. Here, she completed the work of founding the schools.

To complement the work of the schools, Lucy and her teachers conducted classes and conferences for women, who were strengthened in their faith as they took part in prayer, meditation and good works. Her focus for the social apostolate was to encourage her teachers to minister to the needs of the poor and the sick. Her method of teaching attracted widespread attention. The social apostolate was an extension of the classroom. She testified that the young ladies were the coordinating element that underlies family life: *Having learned in school those things that were necessary, they repeat them to parents and relatives at home and, thus, become so many young teachers*.

Lucy died at sixty years of age, March 25, 1732, on the Feast of the Annunciation. For three centuries, the example of Christian womanhood that marked the lives of her teachers and students was recognized by Holy Mother Church. In 1930, Lucy Filippini was declared a saint of the Church, and given the last available niche in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. The Institute, which bears the name of St. Lucy Filippini, owes its birth to the Cardinal who loved schools and to the Holy Teacher who committed her entire life to the EDUCATIVE-APOSTOLIC MISSION.

For further information, go to www. filippiniusa.org

ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

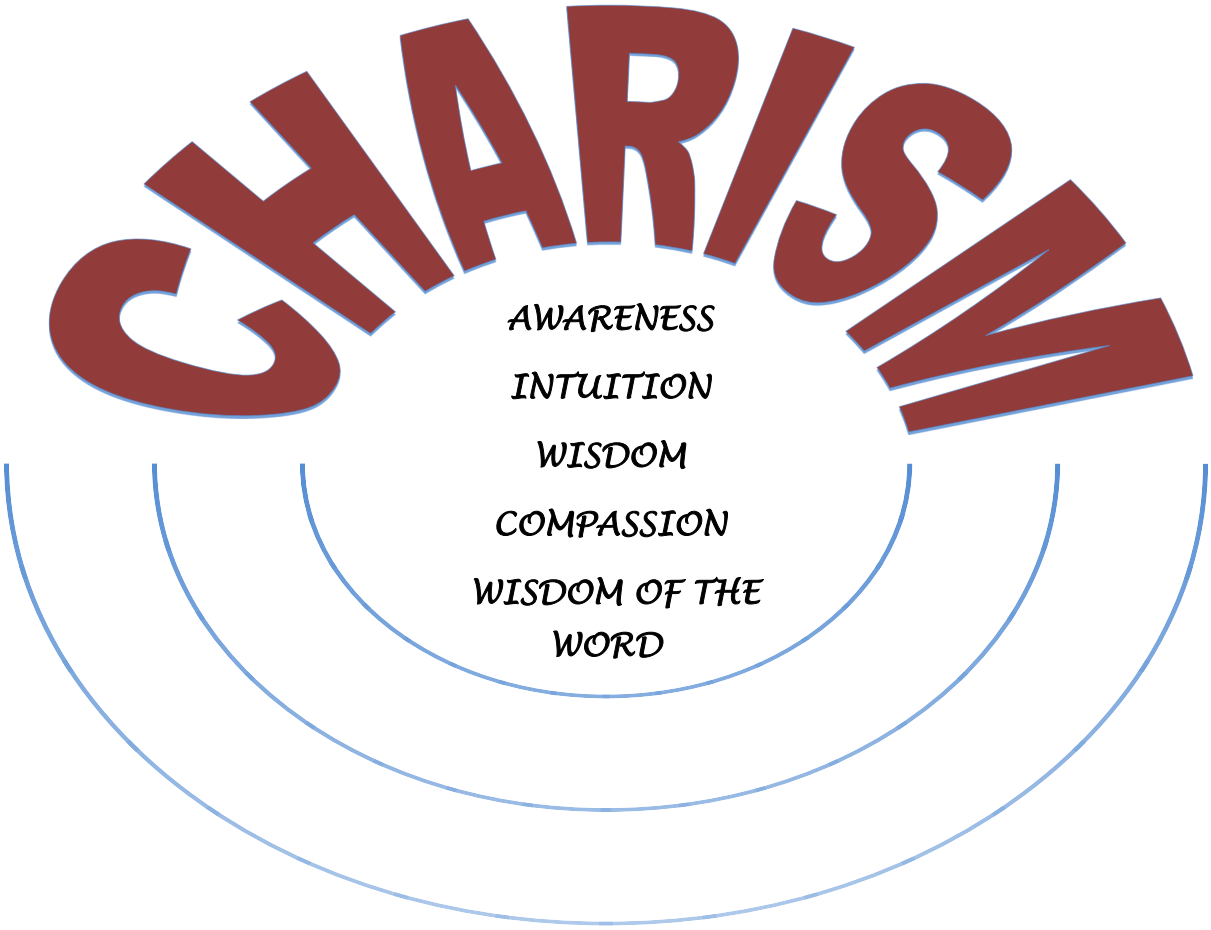
CHRONOLOGICAL FACTS

- Lucy Filippini was born and baptized in Corneto-Tarquinia, Italy,in January 13, 1672.
- Her parents, Filippo Filippini and Maddalena Picchi Falzacappa, were of noble birth. Both died before Lucy was 7.
- She was the youngest of five children: two sisters died in infancy, a sister, Elizabeth, and a brother, John Francis.
- At twelve, the pastor used her gifts and talents to teach the younger children about God.
- As a young child, Lucy's love for Mary was very evident as she made altars decorated with flowers. This love would permeate Lucy's life and her ministry.
- At 16, she was introduced to Cardinal Barbarigo who counseled her in her vocation. In 1688, he placed her in the Monastery of St. Clare in Montefiascone where she discerned what path her life would take.
- At the Monastery, she helped the sisters, counseled the young girls and was noted for her piety. While there, she met Rosa Venerini, who suggested to the Cardinal that Lucy should take over the schools for girls. The decision caused her to struggle. Yet, she acquiesced to the Cardinal.
- Together with the Cardinal, St. Lucy founded schools in the Lake Bolsena area. The first school began in 1692.
- Many women joined her and the Religious Teachers Filippini were formed. A habit was patterned after the priests' cassock, designed by Cardinal Barbarigo and cut by Msgr. Berti. In 1704, the Cardinal wrote a rule for the Maestre and made Lucy the Foundress and Directress.
- The Cardinal died in 1706 at 66, leaving the schools in dire need. Lucy's business sense and creativity provided for the schools and put them on solid ground. At 35, Lucy lost a friend and benefactor.
- Pope Clement XI called her to Rome to establish schools. In 1707, she opened her first school in Rome. She founded schools in Rome, in Montefiascone and in other dioceses.
- She suffered many difficulties through the years, yet always trusted in the Lord. Before her death, Lucy did not know if the schools would survive because jealousy caused some people to discredit her. Her motto became, *If a work is of God that same God will maintain it.* (*Words to Grow and Live By)*
- Lucy died of cancer on March 25, 1732, as the song to Mary, "Ave Maris Stella," was being sung in the nearby cathedral in Montefiascone. She was proclaimed venerable in 1916 by Pius X, beatified in 1926 and canonized in 1930 by Pope Pius XI.

CARDINAL MARC ANTONIO BARBARIGO

CHRONOLOGICAL FACTS

- Cardinal Barbarigo was born and baptized on March 6, 1640, in Venice, Italy.
- Chiara and Augusto, his parents, belonged to the Venetian nobility.
- He was the first born of his five siblings.
- Marc Antonio became a lawyer and member of the Grand Council of Venice.
- Soon realizing that court life did not suit him, Marc Anthonio chose to become a priest and was ordained in 1670.
- In 1675, Cardinal Gregorio Barbarigo, his uncle, asked him to come to Padua to initiate and head the Program of Christian Doctrine in the diocese.
- In 1676, Pope Innocent XI called the two Barbarigos to Rome to introduce the Program of Christian Doctrine begun in Padua.
- He was ordained Archbishop of Corfu in June 26, 1678.
- Pope Innocent XI elevated Marc Anthony to the college of Cardinals on September 2, 1686.
- October 1687, marked his appointment to the Diocese of Montefiascone.
- In Montefiascone he established a seminary, held meetings for priests to update and provide ongoing education, and established Schools of Christian Doctrine.
- He reached out to the needy by visiting the prisons, opening a convalescent home for the poor, founding a hospital for women and establishing an orphanage.
- The Cardinal met Lucy Filippini on January 21, 1688, and brought her to the Monastery of St. Clare, in Montefiascone.
- The Cardinal together with Lucy Filippini started schools for poor girls in 1692.
- The Cardinal and Lucy established and directed a new community called the Maestre who would staff the Christian Schools for Girls.
- As Bishop of Montefiascone the Cardinal, with Lucy, preached parish missions in the various towns.
- In 1695, he assisted and cared for the people of Bagnora and Cellano who were devastated by an earthquake.
- On May 26, 1706, in Montefiascone, Cardinal Marc Anthonio Barbarigo, a penniless man, breathed his last.


CHARISM
AWARENESS
INTUITION
WISDOM
COMPASSION
WISDOM OF THE WORD

THE CHARISM OF THE FOUNDERS

ST. LUCY FILIPPINI AND CARDINAL BARBARIGO

A charism is a gift of grace. It was St. Paul who introduced the term into religious language where it came to mean a gift of grace, as in Romans 5:15-16 and Ephesians 2:4-10.(*Jones, 1968*)

The charisms are for every Catholic, not just for people who are part of a religious movement or order. Charisms are like tools in the hands of a mechanic; they help to make the good work that we are doing more effective. As the laity, we must call for the Holy Spirit to fill us ever more and to use us to effectively bring the Gospel into the world. God will use us through the charism as He needs us. We need to ACT on them out in the world. (*Relit; The Heart of Evangelization, p. 73)*

EMPOWERING THE MISSION is an initiative of the Religious Teachers Filippini that established that the SPIRIT of the Founders had and continues to have its SOURCE in a CHARISM - the charism of St. Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo. Thus, like other religious groups, the religious foundation began with a group who shared a common spirit flowing from the original charism of the founder. This spirit rooted in the charism is a particular grace that enabled them to LIVE a COMMON LIFE and to attempt a COMMON TASK/S.

The charism of St. Lucy Filippini evolved from the WISDOM OF THE WORD. She was TUNED IN to the WORD which was living within her, within others, within circumstances. She LISTENED TO THE WORD. She ACTED UPON THE MESSAGE. From this, flowed the spirit that the Religious Teachers Filippini inherit from the founders to this very day! Now, as present day lay teachers, we are compelled to embrace the spirit of this charism and to model our vocation as teachers as directed by St. Lucy and Cardinal Barbarigo as appropriate to the condition of our schools in the society of today.

One common vision united Cardinal Barbarigo and St. Lucy Filippini. IT WAS THE RESTORATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ESPECIALLY OF WOMEN. Our clear, consistent delivery of education in our Catholic Schools needs to be FAITH-BASED CURRICULUM AND CO-CURRICULUM INFUSED WITH THE CHARISM OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI AND CARDINAL BARBARIGO.

It was the gift of the charism which transformed her and all those who lives she touched. Her charism made her a CONTEMPLATIVE-IN-ACTION. She approached the needs of the times by INTEGRATING PRAYER WITH ACTION. The school would achieve this goal as it educated the women from childhood to old age. Lucy's apostolate included prayer workshops for women, teenagers, engaged women, married women and noble women. She conducted workshops for pastoral ministry such as visiting the sick, caring for the poor and seeking out wayward women. Central to all of the apostolate was the school. It was St. Lucy's docility to God's will manifested to her by the Cardinal which showed St. Lucy her specific apostolate. IT BEHOOVES US TO LEARN ALL THAT WE CAN ABOUT ST. LUCY'S LIFE, HER DECISIONS AND HER WRITINGS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ST. LUCY'S CHARISM AND THE SPIRIT WHICH FLOWED FROM THE FOUNDERS.

Her prophetic, magnetic teaching was the wisdom of her word that proceeded from the depths of her CONTEMPLATIVE NATURE. So, we can say that Lucy was DOUBLY GIFTED: 1. Her natural talent – TEACHING; 2. Her natural bent - CONTEMPLATION. Both gifts were graced by God. Therefore, both are charisms and are used for the enrichment/ evangelization of His people.

As there is an organic, sequential unity between the tree and the fruit, so there is a dynamic and harmonious UNITY between the inner riches of a person and his actions. THE FRUIT OF ST. LUCY'S GIFT OF CONTEMPLATION WAS THE WISDOM OF THE WORD, THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST WITHIN HER. This made her ATTENTIVE to all that happened around her, bringing her INTELLIGENCE to bear on all facts and events. This gave her INSIGHTS to penetrate deeper than apparent truths. She was LIBERATED enough to see new possibilities for the restoration of society through the sanctification of women. Wisdom of the Word set her free to open new horizons to women, challenging them to recognize their dignity, self-worth and, most importantly, the dynamic role they played in society. Wisdom fortified her to follow a course of action manifested to her as God's Will – despite all obstacles. Wisdom led her to establish her rightful independence among people that her dependence on God postulated. Her consequent freedom of spirit enabled her to obey freely for God's sake and to suffer immensely.

From her charisms of GRACED TEACHING AND CONTEMPLATION, flowed her spirit which was rooted in her charisms: her docility/openness to God's Will; flexibility; her absolute unity with God; her single-heartedness; her complete detachment from all that was not Christ; her unconditional love for sinners; her penetrating insights and light to clarify doubt, to proclaim justice, to rule wisely; her boundless zeal; her genuine humility, her warmth and sensitivity.

The TWO CYCLED CHARISMS flowed one from the other, one gifted and nourished the other. Her gift of CONTEMPLATION graced her gift of TEACHING. And her GRACED TEACHING expressed her gift of CONTEMPLATION which is what we call WISDOM OF THE WORD.

Therefore, we proclaim her a CONTEMPLATIVE-IN-ACTION. In today's society, her teaching method is also faith-based academics and co-curriculum INFUSED with the TWO-CYCLED CHARISMS.

The TEACHERS in the Religious Teachers Filippini schools continue the Educative Mission of Christ the Teacher in a spirit of adaptation decreed by the Church and required by history. Pope Francis continually encourages the laity to evangelize as Catholics with a spirit of joy. The teaching community, together with the local Church, is the propelling center responsible for formative and cultural experiences. Each member of the school community is called to evangelize through teaching, through proclamation of the WORD and through witness to the faith professed.

To truly ***EMPOWER THE MISSION***, let us turn to St. Lucy Filippini and ask her to watch over us as we bring her charism forward.

LET US PRAY

O glorious St. Lucy who from your
heavenly home continue to recognize our needs,
bestow your love and mercy upon us
who ask your powerful intercession.
During your life time you did not hesitate
to help the poor, heal the sick, and
open your most sensitive heart
to alleviate their miseries.
Do not let us leave you without
having obtained the graces for which we asked.
Continue to show us that you are a
most loving mother to all who come to you
and confide in your holy protection.
AMEN.

And never has ANYONE WHO HAS PRAYED TO HER BEEN LEFT UNAIDED, FOR ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

…is an aura of the Might of God and a pure effusion of the Glory of the Almighty. Therefore, naught that is sullied, enters into her.

For she is the refulgence of eternal light; the spotless mirror of the Power of God, the image of His Goodness. (Wisdom: 7:25-26)

PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

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.

Let only Your will be done in me,

and in all Your creatures –

I wish not more than this, O Lord.

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. AMEN.

Charles De Foucauld

St. Lucy's Spirit Alive in Us

Philosophy

God-centeredness

Informed consciences

Cultural influences

Faith, Hope, Love

Global solidarity

Aims

Defines School Catholic identity

Blends Human Culture with Salvation Message

Respects uniqueness of the person

Lives communion internally

Remains faithful to the mission of the Church

Promotes the teachers' vocation

Integrates and supports the family in its educative polices

VISION OF A SCHOOL ACCORDING TO ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

A good CATHOLIC Education exerts so powerful and wholesome an influence that it is the safeguard of a CATHOLIC life. The teacher is called to mold young people.

THE SCHOOL SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE THE STUDENTS:

- grow in God-consciousness
- learn the dignity of personhood
- learn to recognize their own goodness and goodness of others
- learn to integrate the secular with the holy
- learn to appreciate human culture, beauty, music and art
- become aware of a sense of mission
- learn importance of passing on their heritage to future generations
- bring the Gospel message home.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A FILIPPINI SPIRIT IN THE SCHOOLS ARE:

- awareness of God's presence
- respect for all individuals
- gentle, disciplined, open and concerned about others
- appreciation for the arts
- atmosphere of dignity, reverence and respect
- encouraging academic environment for students to be critical thinkers, to ask questions, to search for truth
- religious environment to teach children the importance of prayer.

CHARACTERISTICS FOR PARENTS:

- transform their families
- instill the principles of Faith and Morals in their children.

THE SCHOOL SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE PEDAGOGY OF LOVE BY FOCUSING ON THE:

- centrality of the person
- ability to listen
- preference for the poor and neglected
- patient waiting for the transforming action of the Spirit.

THE SCHOOL MUST PROTECT ITS IDENTITY BY:

- promoting the teachers' vocation
- supporting and integrating the family in its educative policies
- living communion internally
- remaining faithful to the mission of the church entrusted to it in the field of evangelization.

Styles and Method

The Teacher

respects the uniqueness of the person,

teaches with docility and gentleness,

yet always with firmness and discipline.

A TEACHER WHO TEACHES IN A FILIPPINI SCHOOL SHOULD BE:

- gentle but firm
- flexible! Open to the "Call of the moment"
- other-centered (Benevolent)
- patient and compassionate
- be well prepared and challenge the students.

LIKE CARDINAL BARBARIGO AND ST. LUCY FILIPPINI, THE FOUNDERS OF OUR SCHOOLS, OUR TEACHERS SHOULD:

- enjoy a personal relationship with Christ through the daily reading of Scripture
- follow His lead as "the Master Teacher" by studying His style and method of teaching as revealed in Scripture
- nurture a greater awareness of God's presence in everyone, in every event, and in everything
- live their particular state of life authentically, zealously and responsibly
- be enthusiastic about their sacramental life
- be very much aware of the awesomeness of their teaching vocation.

Having been called to follow Christ in the company of Cardinal Barbarigo and St Lucy Filippini, teachers should be very well acquainted with these two great educators. Teachers should know and understand their philosophy of education and the vision of school. **Make it your own mission to live this vision!**

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND SCHOOLS OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

- Students develop a sense of dignity.

  They know who they are.
  They are loved and known by God.

- Students exemplify a gentle and non-violent personality. An anti-bullying attitude is evident.
- Students are self-disciplined.
- Students are aware of God's presence at all times, in all persons and in all places.
- Students have respect for life at every stage.
- Students treat every person with respect, regardless of race, color or creed.
- Students are watchful in their speech.
- Students practice acts of kindness .
- Students have a personal relationship with Christ.
- Students possess a special devotion to:

  -Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
  -Jesus Crucified
  -Infant Jesus
  -Blessed Virgin Mary
  -St. Lucy and Cardinal Barbarigo.

- Students live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy conscientiously and enthusiastically with a passion for humanity.

FILIPPINI TRADITIONS… ACTUALIZING

ST. LUCY'S VISION OF SCHOOL

TO GROW IN THE AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE:

- Greet students with *Praise be Jesus and Mary*. Response: *May they always be praised.*
- Begin each change of class with a short prayer.
- Head all papers with ***JMJL*** (Jesus, Mary, Joseph and Lucy).
- Make the sign of the cross when passing a Church.
- Pray when a fire engine or ambulance passes.
- Say a prayer before and after any trip.
- Pray one decade of the rosary.
- Decorate May altars.

TO ACT IN A CHRISTIAN MANNER RESPECTING EACH PERSON:

- Make the practice of courtesy a top priority.
- Maintain dignity at all times.

TO CELEBRATE THE LITURGICAL SEASONS OF THE CHURCH:

- Make Advent a special time of the year by doing ***hands on*** activities to prepare for Christ's coming. Integrate St. Lucy in Advent.
- Journey with Mary and St. Lucy throughout Lent with stories.
- Make October and May special months for Mary, especially through the rosary.

TO CELEBRATE THE SPECIAL DAYS OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

TO INSTILL A SENSE OF MISSION IN STUDENTS BY BEING:

- Aware of their mission in life.
- Aware of the poor and suffering and their responsibility to them. Encourage acts of charity.
- Aware of the Filippini foreign missions.

TO INSTILL A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE LITURGY AND FOR THE SACRAMENTS, ESPECIALLY EUCHARIST AND PENANCE:

- Stress importance of attending the Sunday Mass-EVERY Sunday.
- Encourage frequent confession and receiving the Eucharist.
- Spend at least 10 minutes a week to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

IDEAS TO IMPLEMENT TRADITIONS

PRIMARY GRADES: ST. LUCY'S LOVE FOR THE EUCHARIST

- Read or show a film of St. Lucy's life.
- Read stories from the New Testament about the Eucharist.
- Compose prayers, songs, poems, plays or color pictures showing St. Lucy' s love for the Eucharist.

GRADES 3 AND 4: ST. LUCY'S LOVE FOR THE CHILD JESUS

- Research Advent and Christmas customs in other lands, especially Italy.
- Write a short play on how St. Lucy might have celebrated Christmas.
- Study the times and famous people during St. Lucy's life.
- Write an acrostic using St. Lucy's name.

GRADES 5 AND 6: ST. LUCY'S LOVE OF THE PASSION

- Show a film on St. Lucy's life.
- Research how Lent is celebrated in various regions, especially Italy.
- Write and perform a short Passion Play, walking with St. Lucy and the Passion.
- Choose a Station of the Cross and write an original one.

GRADES 7 AND 8 St. LUCY'S LOVE FOR MARY

- Show a film on St. Lucy's life.
- Research various appearances of Mary, especially those around St. Lucy's time.
- Pray the Living Rosary.
- Write prayers, songs or poetry to Mary.
- Draw a picture of Mary or create bumper stickers.
- Have a St. Lucy/Barbarigo Day.

* **Themes and activities can be adapted in the High School**.

CHECKLIST FOR TEACHERS

1. How does the truth that God is present in every person and in every circumstance determine your behavior as a teacher?
2. How do you reverence and respect each student regardless of race, color, religion or mental aptitude?
3. How are you aware of and open to the needs of each moment?
4. Why do you believe that a disciplined class is a gift to your students?
5. Why do you believe that discipline is ***gentle*** but ***firm***?
6. How are you more interested in what is good for the student then in what is easier or better for you?
7. How do you demonstrate a keen sense of your own dignity as a person made in
8. God's likeness?
9. How do you consciously transmit that sense of dignity to your students?
10. Are you a person of faith? a person of prayer?
11. How do you instill in your students the need for prayer in their lives and an awareness of God's presence?
12. How do you open the hearts and eyes of your students to the needs of the poor; to the homeless; to the issues which affect life?
13. How do you instill in your students a ***sense of mission*** that each has a unique call to build God's kingdom?
14. How do you open the eyes of your students to see and appreciate their own goodness and the goodness of others?
15. How do you guide your students to integrate the secular and the holy and, thus, make all holy?
16. How do you enrich your students with an appreciation of culture, beauty, music and art?
17. How do you impress upon your students the importance of passing on their heritage to future generations?
18. How do you encourage your students to be critical thinkers; to ask questions; to search and research?
19. How do you give your students a sense of ***Church***?
20. How do you share your love and respect for authority, the pope, elected officials and parents?
21. How do you introduce your students to the reading of Scripture by opening their minds and heart to hear God's message? Do you probe and pray with them about the Sunday readings?

21. Have you read St. Lucy's life? Do you share your love for St. Lucy and her love for us with your students?

    Celebrate her special days:
    - Her birthday... January 13
    - Her death... March 25
    - Her feast day...May 12

22. How do you incorporate the four great devotions inherited from

    St. Lucy and her followers as a part of your style of teaching:
    - Observe Advent and love of the Infant Jesus which was always special in her schools.
    - Observe Lent and love of the Passion.
    - Love and reverence for the Eucharist.
    - Love for Mary:
      Recite one decade of the rosary daily.
      Say special prayers during October.
      Prepare an altar to Mary during May.
      Have a May crowning.

23. Do you pray with students beyond the opening day prayer when:
    - beginning of a new activity
    - responding to requests for the sick, the dying, etc.

24. How do you instill in the students the call to be ***courteous*** for courtesy should have top priority in a St. Lucy Filippini School?

25. Do you pray before planning your lessons?
26. Do you pray for your students?
27. Do you dress modestly?
28. Do you address the students in a kind and gentle manner?
29. Are your words carefully chosen?

EMPOWERING THE MISSION

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

In 2015, Pope Francis said, *Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be.* Catholic Schools are communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

The charism of St. Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo was the restoration of Christian family life through Christian Education, especially of women. Centuries later, the charism is more relevant than ever. The clarion call of Pope Francis in *Educating Today and Tomorrow: A Reviewing Passion (2015); World Congress on Education/Instrumentum Laboris (2014)* aligns with the educative ministry developed by St. Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo.

Therefore, as an individual who works with children in a Catholic school**,** I commit myself to furthering the values of Catholic Education through the charism of the Religious Teachers Filippini.

Through the charism of St. Lucy Filippini, I will:

- Strive to be gentle, but firm; flexible; benevolent; compassionate and always well prepared to challenge my students, respecting his/her uniqueness.
- Enjoy a personal relationship with Christ through the daily reading of Scripture.
- Follow His lead as *the Master Teacher* by studying His style and method of teaching as revealed in Scripture.
- Nurture a greater awareness of God's presence in everyone, in every event, and in everything, thus, blending human culture with the message of salvation.
- Live my state of life authentically, zealously and responsibly.
- Be enthusiastic about my sacramental life and live communion internally.
- Teach a Faith-Based curriculum and co-curriculum that is infused with the charism of St. Lucy Filippini.
- Above all, be very much aware of the awesomeness of my teaching vocation in a Catholic School of the Religious Teachers Filippini, remaining always faithful to the mission of the Catholic Church.

Name_____ DATE_____

*IN THANKSGIVING FOR CARDINAL BARBARIGO**

It is a Bishop's obligation to look after the Lord's interests. Cardinal Barbarigo spent his every waking moment and never tired looking after the Lord's interests.

Leader: God of Splendor, our hearts are grateful whenever we see Your greatness and compassion reflected in the lives of Your saints Cardinal Barbarigo's life charges us with hope and energy.

Litany of Thanks:

We thank You, Lord, for the Cardinal who had a tremendous love and compassion for anyone in need.
Response: We pray that we may see our students with His love and compassion.

We thank You, Lord, for his zeal in evangelizing the people of his time.
Response: We pray that we may proclaim the message of Jesus by our lives and words to our students.

We thank you, Lord, for seeking to uphold the dignity of the women of his time.
Response: We pray that we may treat our students and their families with respect and dignity.

We thank you, Lord, for his innovations in education.
Response: We pray that we may be inspired to be creative in our teaching.

We thank you, Lord, for his deep spirit of prayer.
Response: We pray that we may become totally in love with Jesus and immersed in His Word.

We thank you Lord, for His other-centeredness.
Response: We pray that we move out of our comfort zone and stretch ourselves for our students.

Leader: Lord, we praise You for gifting us with Cardinal Barbarigo.

* **TO BE USED WHEN EMPOWERING THE MISSION TEAM GIVES PRESENTATIONS**.

Spiritual Enrichment

PRAYER FOR TEACHERS

Holy Teacher, St. Lucy Filippini, we turn to you in confident prayer. You were faithful in the fulfillment of God's designs.

Keep us, who teach, on the path of mission and obtain for us a word that touches hearts. Inspire us to be like you, contemplatives in action; faithful to God and to the Church; sensitive to the needs of our day.

Let us learn from you to be teachers and witnesses for youth by the holiness of our lives.

Amen.

LECTIO DIVINA (PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE)WITH A GROUP

PREPARATION: Recite a mantra…

READ: Scripture passage... once out loud and second time to yourself.

Underline a line which touches you.

MEDITATE : Think deeply about the line.

How is God speaking to you? Share your thoughts.

PRAY: Ask God about the insight you received.

Write a short prayer in a journal.

CONTEMPLATION: Quietly rest in the presence of God.

VISIO DIVINA(PRAYING WITH IMAGES)

PREPARATION: Open your mind and heart to God.

NOTICE: What do you see? What evokes feelings, color…

What do like or dislike?

MEDITATE: Think deeply about the picture.

RETURN: Look at the picture again with an open mind... Do any new thoughts arise?

PONDER: What reason do you have for your responses? What is The Spirit saying to you ? How is the image connected to your life? How do find yourself responding to your experience.

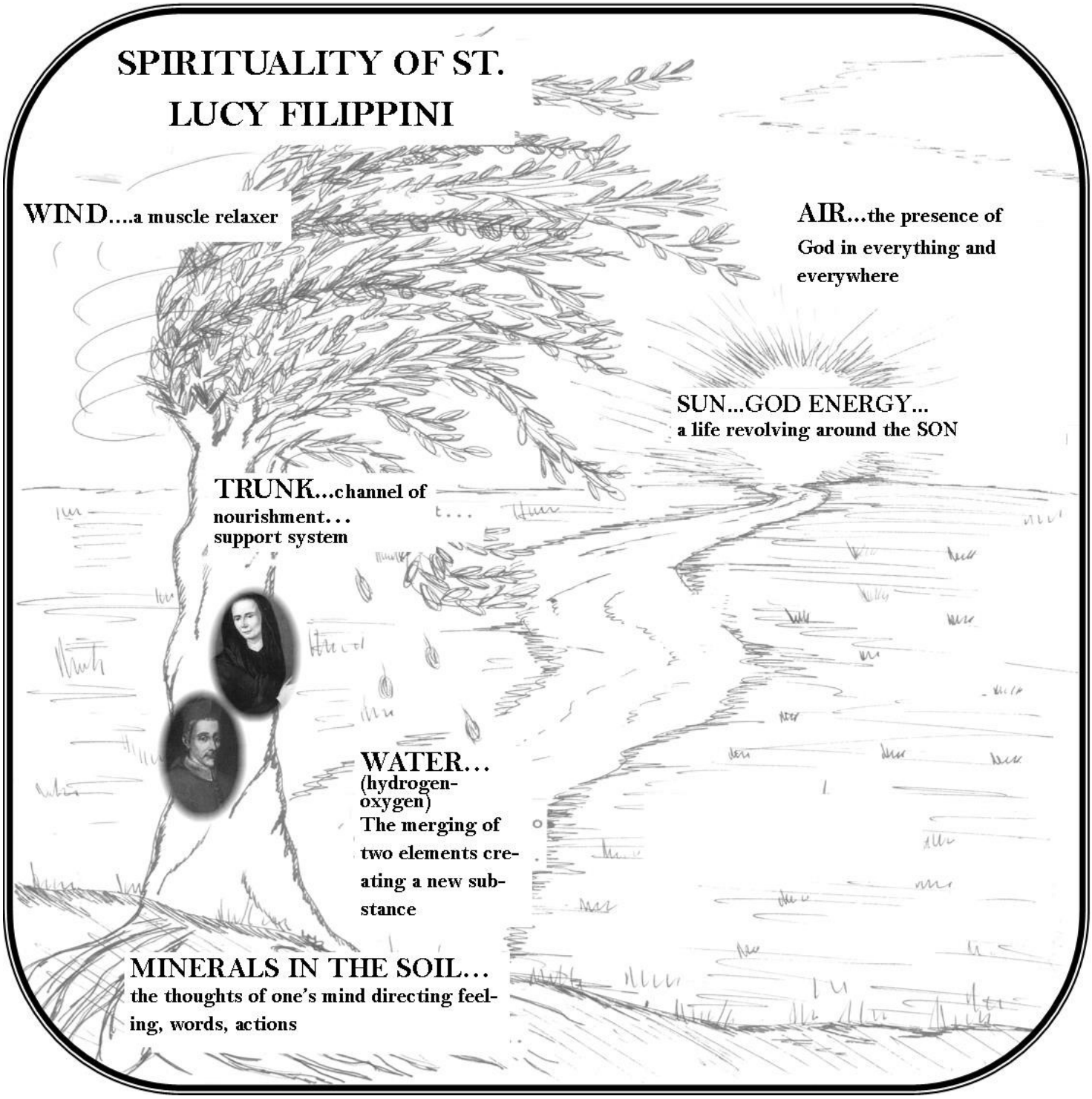
PRAY: Respond to God with gratitude, wonder, confession, song, dance…

JOURNAL: Write what is most important to you.

SYNTHESIS OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

INTRODUCTION

The quality of the life of a tree depends upon its source of nourishment (water, air, minerals, sun). Also important to the life of a tree are its trunk which offers support and the wind which brings out the hidden beauty of its wood. Similarly, the spirituality of St. Lucy Filippini depended upon its sources of nourishment, its rootedness and its openness to the Spirit.



AIR...THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN EVERYTHING AND EVERYWHERE…

St. Lucy became steadily aware of God's presence permeating the world in which she lived and in every experience of life. Receiving gifts creates a presence between the giver and the receiver. The more one receives the gift, the more vibrant the presence and the stronger the intimacy. It was the very air she breathed**.**

There is only Christ: He is everything and in everything. Col.3:11

WATER (Hydrogen and oxygen)…**THE MERGING OF TWO DISTINCT ELEMENTS CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW SUBSTANCE**…

In St. Lucy's life there were many conflicting experiences: joy and pain; consolation and desolation; acceptance and rejection; success and failure...As St. Lucy was able to integrate all these experiences into her life, God was fashioning a new woman, a healed woman, a whole woman.

God will always guide, giving you relief in the desert places. He will give strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden. Like a spring of water whose waters never run dry. Is: 58:11

MINERALS IN THE SOIL… **THE THOUGHTS IN ONE'S MIND DIRECTING FEELINGS, WORDS, ACTIONS…**

St. Lucy's thinking was God-centered and people oriented. Her life and ministry were directed by:

- The primacy of prayer...the harmony between prayer and action ...
- A burning desire to live the social dimension of the each Beatitude...
- An ecclesial sense...openness to the unlimited horizons of the Church...
- Participation in the sacramental life of the Church…
- Love for the Christmas Mystery, the Eucharist, the Passion, the Mother of God…her virtues: humility, confidence, fortitude, gentleness…
- Respect for the dignity of womanhood…
- Sensitive to the poverty of her day…
- Commitment to poverty, chastity and obedience…
- Deep and loyal relationships...
- Appreciation for recreation and exercise...
- A hunger to abide in and go forth from the heart of the Father…

The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had. Phil: 2:5

SUN...GOD ENERGY… A LIFE REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN...

St. Lucy's life was a Eucharistic celebration:

- An expression of praise for the work of creation…
- A profession of faith in the God who is love…
- A listening to and proclaiming the Word of God…
- An offering to all that she was and possessed…
- A surrendering to the Father who accepted her offering and transformed it into the one energy necessary for the kingdom...Love…
- A going forth energized by the power of God's Word and the Eucharist.

Glory be to Him whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Eph.3:20

TRUNK...A CHANNEL OF NOURISHMENT...A SUPPORT SYSTEM…

In life Cardinal Barbarigo gave St. Lucy spiritual, psychological and financial support. In death he was still a source of nourishment for St. Lucy and her young community. The zeal he sparked in them continued to burn and grow in intensity. Christ was his wealth, and this was his legacy to his spiritual daughters.

I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection. Phil. 3:10

WIND…A MUSCLE TONER…

A tree sways with the motion of the wind. The swaying is a natural stretching, creating a beauty in the grain of the wood. It is the wood that is sought to create instruments of beauty. As St. Lucy moved with the Spirit, she became a flexible, grace-filled woman. The Spirit, God's muscle toner, readied St. Lucy to be God's instrument in Montefiascone, in Rome, and in various parts of the world through her daughters, the Religious Teachers Filippini.

Here is my servant whom I uphold, My chosen one with whom I am well pleased, upon whom I have put my Spirit. Is.42

CONCLUSION

As a tree planted near running water produces fruit in due season, a spirituality rooted in Christ, the Living Water, produces fruit: charity, joy patience, kindliness, long-suffering, gentleness**…**

THIS WAS ST LUCY'S SPIRITUALITY.

Text: Sr. Geraldine Calabrese, MPF Illustrations: Sr. Lucy Battistuz, MPF

REFLECTIONS FROM

THE WORDS OF ST. LUCY FILIPPINI

AND

THE INSTRUCTIONS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Choose 1 or 2 each month. Meditate. How have I lived this? What can I do to improve? Take action.

1. *When a work is of God that same God is bound to maintain it*. Do I trust that God will take care of a situation?
2. Give contributions and deny no-one because charity is what maintains the schools.
3. A good CHRISTIAN EDUCATION safeguards CHRISTIAN traditions and virtuous living.
4. The spirit of the teachers must be free from self-interest, especially greediness.
5. Teachers must adapt to the mentality of their students. When they succeed in one assignment, give them more difficult and useful ones suited to their age and need.
6. Prayer and study are needed to teach properly.
7. Mediocrity should not be tolerated by those who are supposed to be leaders and teachers.
8. Outstanding characteristics of a teacher should be peacefulness and flexibility.
9. We must be of one heart and mind; avoid all jealousies, rivalries, resentments and antipathies.
10. Refrain from uncivil, discourteous and vulgar speech.
11. Instill in others the Spirit of God.
12. There is no place in our lives for ridicule, slander or sarcasm.
13. Any good presented in a rough or unkind manner would appear unpleasant and repug nant.
14. Do not use a crude, unruly, unsociable manner but rather use a gracious, affable and courteous manner with everyone.
15. Pray for your students.
16. Be patient with slow learners. Motivate them by using different methods.
17. Be patient, prudent with teenagers and adults. Spare them confusion.
    Encourage them to ask questions. Answer them openly. Have children repeat lessons learned at school to their parents.
18. The teacher should take care of their outward appearance and dress modestly.

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