



To Provincials and Superiors of Preprovinces
Their offices

Subject: World Gratitude Day 2026

Dearest Sisters,

At the beginning of the Lenten journey that brings us to the light of Easter, I am pleased to contact you in view of the next World Feast of Gratitude 2026 which, as already communicated, will be celebrated at the "Sagrado Corazón" Province of Ecuador (ECU), from 23 to 26 April 2026.

This annual event, so dear to our family tradition, offers us once again the opportunity to express, in an atmosphere of prayer, joy, and hope, our gratitude and filial affection to our dearest Mother, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, the center of unity and communion of the Institute.

The celebration of the Feast of Gratitude 2026 takes on a very special meaning, as it takes place in the context of the recent canonization of Saint Maria Troncatti, a passionate missionary, mother, and artisan of peace and reconciliation. We welcome this gift as a grace for the entire Institute, which invites us to renew our missionary zeal and creative fidelity to the charism, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the First Missionary Departure.

In this horizon of faith and gratitude, we will experience the Feast of Gratitude 2026 with **the theme:**

"Be missionaries everywhere"

We will allow ourselves to be enlightened by the **Word of God**: "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). This evangelical invitation, born from the parable of the Good Samaritan, profoundly challenges our vocation as FMA, called to be a *sign and expression of God's foreseeing love*, a presence that becomes closeness and care, especially where life is most fragile.

The logo of the Feast

The logo for the 2026 Feast, proposed by the Ecuadorian Province, eloquently expresses the meaning of this celebration. It was designed to visually convey the celebratory sense of gratitude surrounding the figure of Saint Maria Troncatti, highlighting her main attributes.

The central axis of the logo is the image of Saint Maria Troncatti, placed at the heart of Mary Help of Christians. Its composition creates a symbolic frame that refers both to the Ecuadorian Amazon, the territory where she carried out her missionary work, and to the spiritual protection that constantly accompanied her. This integration is intended to reflect both the geographical context and the charismatic framework of her mission.



*Siate
missionari
ovunque*

"Va' e anche fa' lo stesso" (Lc. 10, 37)

Festa della Riconoscenza Mondiale 2026
FIGLIE DI MARIA AUSILIATRICE

The logo is completed by a ring of five stars surrounding the crown of Mary Help of Christians. Each star represents the FMA's presence on the five continents and is associated with one of the traditional missionary colors: white, red, green, yellow, and blue. This element explicitly recalls the universal nature of the Church's mission, "called and sent," thus reinforcing the missionary dimension of our charism.

Journey of preparation

In preparation for the Feast of Gratitude, the "Sacred Heart" Province of Ecuador proposes a celebratory Triduum, divided into three *Lectio divina*, which will lead us to contemplate the figure of Saint Maria Troncatti as:

- Mother
- Missionary
- Artisan of peace

The materials will be made available on the Institute's website, along with the hymn, prayer intentions, the Entrustment to Mary Help of Christians, and community outreach proposals.

Sign to share

As a visible sign of communion, each Province and Preprovince is invited to send a photograph of the Educating Community, according to its continental membership, which expresses one of the following attitudes:

- Maternity (Asia)
- Missionary spirit (America)
- Artisan of peace di pace (Europe)
- Good Samaritan: closeness (Africa)
- Good Samaritan: hospitality (Oceania)

Please send the photo in landscape format, with a good resolution (not less than 1 MB, approximately 20x15 cm) to the address amministratoreweb@cgfma.org, by the second week of April.

Gesture of solidarity

As on other occasions, this year as well, we are invited to participate in a gesture of solidarity that highlights the communion of goods and the family spirit of the Institute.

The Ecuadorian Province proposes that the financial contribution be allocated to the "Saint Maria Troncatti Complex" (SMT), which includes the construction of the memorial chapel, the development of the social work, and the care and management of the historical archive. The contribution raised, thanks to the generosity of the Provinces, will be used for this project and for the needs of the Institute.

Program of the Feast

The outline program of the Festival, which we will be able to join via live streaming at certain times, will be as follows:

- 23–25 April 2026: *Triduum of preparation*
- Friday, 25 April 2026: *Celebration of Vespers and Vigil with the SYM*
- Saturday, 26 April 2026: **WORLD FEAST OF GRATITUDE**

Further details on the program and live broadcasts will be communicated through the Institute's official channels.

We thank 'Sacred Heart' Province of Ecuador in advance for their generous availability and joyful commitment in preparing this family event. This event unites us beyond geographical distance, and further strengthens our unity around Mother, conveying to her our affection and gratitude as FMA and as Educating Communities.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you for your dedication, both at the provincial and personal levels, in preparing for this anniversary. We are confident that the **2026 Feast of Gratitude** will help us renew our **missionary "yes,"** following the example of Saint Maria Troncatti.

I greet you with great affection, also on behalf of the Sisters of the General Council, wishing that this family time may be a truly graced experience.

Rome, 18 February 2026

Sister María del Rosario García Ribas
Vicar General