

*Mother Maria Auxiliadora de Godoy*



The twelfth General Chapter, held at Rocca di Papa in 1986, elected Mother Maria Auxiliadora de Godoy its sixth Superior General. The third of fifteen children, Mother Auxiliadora was born on October 1, 1931, in Viradouro, in the State of San Paulo, Brazil. She entered the Congregation in 1951 and made her first profession in 1954. She served in various missions as a language teacher in both elementary and secondary schools, principal and local superior. In 1970 she became Provincial Vicareess of the San Paulo Province and subsequently held the office of Provincial Superior in the Parana Province for nine years and in the San Paulo Province for five years. Mother Auxiliadora's first term as Superior General was characterized by great missionary zeal. She sought and opened new missions in Chile, in the interior of Brazil and, in response to the direct appeal of the Holy See, sent Apostle missionaries to Albania, the country from which they had been expelled by the communist regime in 1946.

Attentive to the Church's constant call to collaboration in the New Evangelization, Mother Auxiliadora also travelled to Africa to investigate the possibility of missionary activity on that continent. Under her direction a spacious addition to the Center of Spirituality building at Rocca di Papa was constructed to provide a place of prayer and programs of on-going formation to Apostles from around the world. Reelected by the thirteenth General Chapter in 1992, Mother Auxiliadora immediately promoted programs for deepening the Sisters' understanding of the chapter document, *The Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Church today: Charism and Mission*. During this era, Mother Auxiliadora also initiated a revision of the General Directory, which was approved by the 14th General Chapter in 1998, (at which Mother Auxiliadora was elected to a third term) and the *Ratio Institutionis and Vademecum for Financial Administration*, approved by the 15th General Chapter in 2004.

Mother Auxiliadora continued missionary expansion in the late 1990s, succeeding in opening missions in Benin and Mozambique in Africa. She also initiated the revision of the Prayer Manual and began the process of restructuring the Italian provinces.

Upon completing her term in office, Mother Auxiliadora spent a year serving the mission in Maputo, Mozambique. She has since returned to Brazil and is now superior of the community at Colégio Divino Espirito Santo in Esp. Sto Do Pinhal, in the San Paulo Province.